



The JPC Monthly

January 2024

FROM PASTOR JAY



It is with great joy that I wish you, "Happy New Year!" It is hard to believe that Christmas is past and that, in the church, we already turn our eyes to Easter! In our staff meeting today we confirmed that Easter would be over BEFORE April! I am very optimistic for 2024. Even though it is happening fast, great things are happening. I want to first thank you for your pledges. This was the best giving season since I have been here. I am thankful that you trust the Session and me to lead you, use your gifts for God's glory, and help us all grow in our faith.

I am also blown away by your generosity towards the families we are working with through Church World Services and Family Services of the Piedmont. Whether it is clothing, furniture, toys, or whatever else is needed JPC steps up. I am even more impressed that you are talking to your friends and neighbors about what we are doing, and they are getting involved. We have built an amazing little network of folks in the community that are willing to donate all sorts of things. That's thanks to your effort and our Facebook pages. The next step is to invite them to worship with us!

In early 2024 there are a couple of opportunities for you to get involved in new ways. The first is an old tradition that we are changing and bringing back in a new way. Do you remember the old days when cute little children wandered around with buckets to collect "Pennies for Hunger" to benefit the food ministries of Salem Presbytery? I was thinking about that the other day. Most of the kids that collected pennies are now driving or at least in high school. We are bringing back the penny buckets. I want to give you advanced warning because they are not coming back for the same reason. We kind of just stopped doing it because the kids got older and the excitement about sending money to an unknown place waned. Now there is a new generation of children and an exciting new reason to take up the collection. The buckets won't look the same! They will be decorated in orange. You might be wondering why that is? It is because on the third Sunday of each month we will be collecting all of your loose change (we will accept paper money and checks too) for the Orange Feather Community School. The goal is to raise \$2500 annually through your change. Frank Twum – Barimah is working so hard to have a lasting impact on those kids. I talk to him almost every week. Our preschool is in a relationship with Orange Feather. I am excited about this chance to help them consistently throughout the year.

If you aren't aware of Orange Feather or Frank, please ask Pastor Jay or one of the Elders. Frank was sponsored by this church and Rev. George Carpenter over 20 years ago. Now God has brought him back into our lives. I look forward to the sound of change pinging in those buckets once again to help those children. The first official collection is January 21st start cleaning out your car or couch and have your change ready!

The other opportunity I am excited about this winter is the Christian Life Study Series. These will happen once a month from now until the summer. I will be leading you in a lesson of sorts and then breaking into table groups to have some discussion. There is a free dinner included and childcare available. Once again, we are resurrecting something from our past in a different way. The topic this winter/spring is prayer. This will not be a boring lecture or speech on why you are praying the wrong way or not often enough. This is a series designed to bring your prayer life to the next level. Our intent is to teach you different styles of prayer, strategies for praying, and some practices that will open up your communication with the Lord. The weeks will grow on one another but they will be stand alone lessons so even if you miss one you can still come to the next. I promise you will learn something and grow in your faith even if you make just one! You will be hearing more about this all month. Join us for the first one in the Fellowship Hall (even though the CLC is the Christian Life Center) at 5:30 on 1/31. I promise you will love this series!

More than anything get excited! Look and listen for ways to serve the Lord in 2024 because it is going to be a great one at JPC! See you in church!

SAVE THE DATES:
CHURCH-WIDE
Life Center Study
Series
led by Jay Smith
January-May

5:30-7:30pm | *Free dinner and*
 Wednesday evenings | *child care*
 1/31, 2/28, 3/20, 4/24,
 5/22

Hope to see you
there!

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Leisure Fellowship will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall Thursday, January 18, for a covered dish luncheon at 12:00. Please join us with a dish to share. Pat McGill will be joining us to tell us about the types of travel available, why we should travel, and telling us about some of the places he has visited in Europe. He'll be ready to plan your 2024 travel for you. Please join us for delicious food, fun and fellowship.



2023 STAFF LOVE GIFT



The JPC Staff thanks you so much for your generous love gift this Christmas! We absolutely love working here for you, and want to help in any way that we can. We wish each of you a Blessed New Year!

Thank you again!

DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Community School Fund

In memory of Edward Arhin Aidoo, Michael Arhin Aidoo's father,

In memory of Pat Martin

In memory of Jack Hogan by
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In honor of Granddaddy – Doug Wentz by
Michelle Wentz & family

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In memory of Pat Martin by

Carol Yount

Frances Wolfe

Beverly Cox

Jo Brech

Donation to Avery Snead Preschool Scholarship Fund

In honor of Josie and Conner Snead, Avery's nieces, by
Dennis & Joy Snead

Donation to JPC Congregational Life Fund

In memory of Pat Martin by

Janet Hurd

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In memory of Herb & Dollie Smith by
Gayle Smith

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In honor of Grace Group by
Evangeline Freeman

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In memory of Gwendolyn Phelps, Vashti Forrest's
mother, by

Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Girls Night Out Fund

In honor of Ricki Hall and her faithfulness to JPC by
Anne Barts

OUTREACH YARD SALE

Start your end of year cleanout! The Outreach Raffle and Yard Sale is coming! Save the dates March 13th - Chili, Raffle and shop early and March 14th thru March 16th - Yard Sale. All funds raised will benefit JPC Outreach programs. More information coming soon!



JPC KIDS AND YOUTH CORNER



Happy New Year! We are so excited for all that 2024 has to offer!! We had our Cookies and Carols before our Christmas break. It was so fun to see all the children singing and having fun! The children did a wonderful job and enjoyed many cookies. We are hoping for lots of snow in January! We will have Chapel and talk about Jesus growing from a baby to a man.

-April Bolick, Preschool Director (jpcpreschool@gmail.com)



The children of JPC had a busy December! Some of them rode on the JPC float in the Jamestown Christmas Parade! We had Mary and Joseph, an angel, some shepherds and sheep, and a cow representing the manger scene. They all loved throwing candy to the crowd! The children's Christmas musical was lots of fun! It was a wonderful story of how the unfriendly beasts in the stable had their hearts touched by the true meaning of Christmas and how they became the welcoming, friendly beasts to Mary, Joseph, and Jesus! Thank you to everyone who helped with the adorable production - it takes a village!

FROGS will meet next on Sunday, January 21 and POLYWOGS will meet on Sunday, January 28. Be on the lookout for an email about specifics! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

-Grammie Sammie, Children's Coordinator (jpckids1@gmail.com)

YOUTH GROUP

The youth have been hard at work when fundraising for Montreat, Massanetta and other fun events. We had a great Christmas party and even had some alumni come hang out. It was great! A bunch of high school youth are heading to arise over Martin Luther King weekend. Numbers continue to rise and Tuesday morning devotion is going very well, we just have to find a new spot.

-Kelly Thomas, Youth Director (jamestownprezyouth@gmail.com)

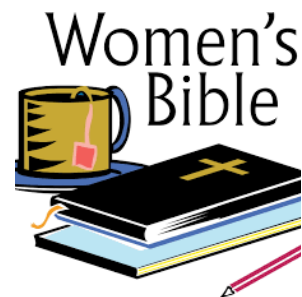
WOMEN'S THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Please join the Thursday Night Women's Bible Study for a study by Adam Hamilton entitled "Half Truths." This five-week study will start Thursday, January 11, 2024 and meet in Room 222. "They are simple phrases. They sound Christian-like something you might find in the Bible. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways." This study will search for the whole truth by comparing common Christian cliches with the wisdom found in scripture.

The cliches include:

- Everything happens for a reason.
- God helps those who help themselves.
- God won't give you more than you can handle.
- God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- Love the sinner, hate the sin.

Any questions, please contact Anne Barts or Susan Shaw.



LADIES MORNING CIRCLE

The Ladies Morning Circle will meet on January 15th at 10:00 in Room 222 at JPC. We will share our experiences of delivering the Grace Group Christmas bags. Also we will talk about upcoming projects. The Woman of the Bible lesson will be Esther. We look forward to seeing all of you.



LADIES THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Begins January 18 at 9:30 in Room 222. We will be studying "GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON YOU: The Imperfect Life of Jacob." Call Vivien Carson or Clarajo Pleasants for additional information. "Please come join us!"



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JPC SESSION

Class of 2024

Vivien Carson
Carlos Frontera
John Martin
Clayton Robinson
Brian Stroud
Joanne Vitelli

Class of 2025

Mike Bryant
Bill Carter
Charles Graham
Angelin Ham
Linda Honeycutt
Becky Robinson

Class of 2026

David Bean
Becky Brown
Nancy Seay
George Wissmiller
Anne Wright