



The JPC Monthly

February 2025

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY



About five years ago when I left for my sabbatical, I told the Session that it was my goal to surpass Rev. Larry Avent and founding pastor Rev. Mac Foust in time served at JPC. I am not sure why that was a thing that mattered to me. They served 9 and 10 years respectively. This February newsletter marks the conclusion of my 12th year. I am not in any way saying I am a better pastor or that the church is better off but it has been interesting to spend more than a decade together. Allow me a little bit of time to reflect on the past and the future. I firmly believe that God is continuing to do amazing things in and through the people of Jamestown Presbyterian Church.

We have been through a lot as a congregation and community, but we have accomplished great things, too. We have had to say goodbye to some great folks, but new ones have been called by God to worship and serve with us. The Session is trying to keep you connected through the “Did You Know” articles that they write for the newsletter. In a way I guess I am writing my own “Did You Know” article. Take a few moments and reminisce with me.

Did you know that this year when we complete our Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, we will be over 183,000 meals packaged and sent to people in need? This is a remarkable number. In May of 2019 we crossed over the 100,000-meal mark in memory of Fred Werstlein. He was instrumental in bringing this program (then called Stop Hunger Now) to JPC. Consider signing up to be a part of this great day!

Did you know that in the last decade or so we have baptized ten teenagers? Since the Presbyterian Church practices infant baptism this is not normal. In fact, I would be willing to bet that we have baptized more adults and teens in my time here that I have at all the other churches I have served combined. This is a testament to the work of your Christian Education and Youth Programs. The last two confirmation classes had multiple youth say, “I believe in Jesus, and I want to be a part of this community of faith.” The result of this was their believer baptism.

Did you know that since the pandemic and the installation of our cameras, over 10,000 views have taken place of our content. That means that TEN THOUSAND times someone made the decision (or the decision was made for them by COVID) to turn on a phone, tablet, tv, or computer and watch a children’s message, sermon, anthem, funeral, or full service. While that may not be “breaking the internet,” this is still a remarkable number to me! I sometimes complain about technology when it doesn’t work, or it doesn’t sound just right, but this is a great way to reach our church family and the world!

These might be small things. They are probably things you would never even think of. But as I reflect on these last 12 years it is the little things, the moments in time, that warm my heart. As I looked back at the YouTube and Facebook pages to get an estimate for our views, I saw several memorial services that made me smile thinking about those that have gone before us. I also saw one of our earliest broadcasts, the Easter Sunrise Service in the columbarium. I remember that Chris and I did that service and Bill Chase and

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Doug were there behind the camera (which was my cell phone). Through it all I am reminded each day how blessed I am to play a small part in leading this community of faith. I am thankful for each of you and the part you play in making JPC great.

The work is not done. We must continue to work together for God's glory. We are a small but mighty portion of the body of Christ, but make no mistake, God is thrilled to use us! I don't know what the future holds but I know that if we continue to worship and serve the Lord in Jamestown, good things will happen. See you in church!

THE CHOSEN

Study Dates

February 5, 12 and 26

March 12 and 26

April 9



Orange Feather Community School Donations

YTD total: \$234.43



CHAIR YOGA

Our very own Evy Hazenberg will be offering free chair yoga classes Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 pm. Join her in the Fellowship Hall each week for easy movements with breath work. No registration, please just show up! See you then!



LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Come join us in the CLC at noon on Thursday, February 20th to hear some wonderful music from a very unique band. The River Landing Band will be performing for us with their homemade instruments. You heard that right - **HOMEMADE!!** You need to hear and see them to believe the music they can play.

There will be 27 band members so we will definitely need extra food! Please be good enough to bring more than usual to help feed our guests! We understand they like home cooked dishes!

Triad Taijiquan (Tai Chi)



New Beginner's Class

Take control of your health & wellbeing with Yang Hsu Taijiquan. This class is open to all levels of "committed" students who would like to learn about Taijiquan/Qi Gong practices. We will integrate the principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine & Western Medicine to assist our own individual healing processes.

Yang Hsu Taijiquan provides us the opportunity to improve our body awareness, balance, coordination, strength, breathing, immune system and cognitive abilities. You may also improve your ability to sense, gather, store & move your internal vital energy called Qi to enhance our physical, mental-emotional & emotional-spiritual wellness.

Instructor: Michael Gagliano OT/L

Location: Jamestown Presbyterian Church, 1804 Guilford College Road, Jamestown 27282

Day/Time: Every Wednesday starting February 12th; 5-6pm

Fee: non-perishable food item donations for church food pantry.

Contact: Michael Gagliano (336) 508-6801

FEBRUARY BLOOD DRIVE

"The gift of blood is the gift of life"



Our blood drive is Wednesday, Feb 5th from 2:30 -7:00 pm in the CLC. Grab your spot by registering online via the following link: [CLICK HERE to schedule an appointment.](#) You can also contacting Kim Schoepske at dbschoepske5@gmail.com or Brenda Davis at BQDORTDAWG@aol.com. Thank you for saving lives!



2025 PINE NEEDLE SALE

The Men of JPC are having our annual pine needle sale which provides the primary funding for our outreach projects and mission work.

The cost is \$6.00 per bale, delivery included.

Deliveries will be the week beginning of February 24th and should be completed by March 1st. (Please be aware these dates may change due to weather.)

To order, please click on the following link:

[PINE NEEDLES](#)

You can also order by emailing The JPC Men at jpcmensgroup@gmail.com or calling the church office.

Thank you for your support!



DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory/Happy Birthday of Dale Stallings, Mary
Brooke Guernier's mother, by
Jeff and Mary Brooke Guernier

Donation to Avery Snead Preschool Scholarship
Fund
In honor of our best friends
by Lynn Hardy

Donation to Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund
In memory of Lane by
Evangeline Freeman

Donation to JPC Youth Fund
In memory of Bill Roberts by
Jackie Roberts

PLEASANTS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS All JPC youth who are graduating seniors and church members as of January 15, 2025 are eligible to apply for the Lane Pleasants Scholarship. If you did not receive a digital application, please notify the church office or Brian Stroud. The completed application is due online or in the church office by March 15, 2025.



CELEBRATE

CELEBRATE 2025!

Celebrate 2025 is having an interest meeting on Sunday, March 2nd at 8am in the JPC Youth Room! Anyone interested in helping with ideas and planning for this awesome event, please join us!



Did you know that there's a tax-smart way for traditional IRA owners, aged 70½ or older, to give to JPC? It's called a **qualified charitable distribution** (QCD). Some of your fellow members at JPC are already using this method!

What is a QCD? - QCDs allow individuals age 70½ and older to make tax-free donations directly from an IRA to a qualified charity, such as JPC, potentially satisfying all or part of your annual required minimum distribution (RMD). Generally, you can make a QCD from any tax-deferred IRA account, such as a traditional IRA, inherited IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and SEP IRA. However, a direct transfer of a QCD from a SIMPLE or SEP IRA can only be done if the account is inactive, meaning you're no longer contributing to it. That said, the IRS does not allow you to make a charitable contribution from a workplace retirement plan, like a 401(k).

In 2025, you can transfer up to \$108,000 directly from your IRA to JPC. For individuals with more than one IRA, the \$108,000 cap applies per account owner, not per IRA. Spouses who each have an IRA can do their own QCD. You can each give up to \$108,000, provided each of you has substantial amounts in your traditional IRAs.

Because QCDs reduce your RMD, dollar for dollar, they will reduce your 2025 adjusted gross income (AGI) which, along with reducing your income taxes, can help you mitigate surcharges on your 2026 monthly Medicare premiums. The QCD strategy is a good way to get tax savings from charitable gifts for taxpayers who don't itemize because of higher standard deductions. But even if you do itemize on Schedule A, QCDs are a good tax strategy because the distributions don't increase your AGI. Be sure to make all QCDs before taking your remaining RMD for the year for yourself. Also, you cannot deduct the QCD as a charitable contribution on Schedule A.

NOTE: Only transfers of money from your IRA directly to a charity like JPC qualify as QCDs. Most IRA custodians will require you to fill out a form requesting the charitable payout. The custodian will then either send a check directly to JPC or make a check payable to JPC and send it to you for you to mail. You will still need to retain your giving statement from JPC.

There are a few other important QCD rules that you should discuss with your investment advisor and your tax preparer.



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JPC SESSION

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

Class of 2027

Jim Gonsiewski
Kirk Lesley
Peggy Maynard
Kerry Miller
Jenny Rathjen
Dick Whitt