



The JPC Monthly

March 2025

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY



This week we begin the season of Lent. Lent is a time of preparation and contemplation in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection at Easter. We begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. The service is at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate communion and offer the imposition of ashes. The Season of Lent concludes with Holy Week which of course culminates with the empty tomb on Easter Sunday! We will once again offer 3 services at Easter. There will be sunrise service in the picnic shelter (no communion) as well as our two normal worship slots, formats, and locations.

As I was thinking about what to say about Lent, I read this excerpt from the Book of Common Worship. Remember the Book of Common Worship is a book full of prayers, liturgies, and information to assist pastors and to offer consistency among churches. Instead of reinventing the wheel I thought I would share this with you. The second paragraph talks about Ash Wednesday specifically.

There is one word I thought I might explain before you get going. That is the word paschal. The dictionary definition is relating to Passover or Easter. For us as Christians, this word means everything associated with Easter. The Paschal story is the story of Jesus during Holy Week. It culminates with the glorious mystery of the resurrection. I hope you find these paragraphs informative and helpful for your Lenten journey.

An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111)

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

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During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

It is my prayer that all of us will be drawn to the power of the resurrected Christ this Lenten season. See you in church!



~SPREAD THE GOOD~

Words for Late Winter from your JPC Community Garden Facilitator

Nancy V. Seay

As the facilitator of the Joy House Community Garden and Master Gardener Volunteer, I am happy to offer some advice on planning your own Vegetable Garden. Our JPC vegetable garden is still mostly sleeping but it will soon be a hive of activity!

If you want to have fresh vegetables from your own garden this year, think about how much **space** you have. You can grow edible plants even if you only have pots on your sunny porch! **Sun** is one of the most important factors in placing and sizing your garden. Find your sunniest spot.



Then make sure you have good **soil**. If you're gardening in pots or raised beds, it is easier to import bagged, prepared garden soil. If you are amending soil in-ground, consider doing a soil test to see what your soil needs regarding Ph. Most of the soil in our area is acidic and consists of a lot of clay. We must add organic matter to keep it healthy for growing plants. Organic matter helps with drainage as well as moisture retention. Add 1-2" of compost and till into existing soil each year. In the JPC garden we have two compost piles that provide us with organic matter to add back into our raised beds.

It's not too early to start planting **early spring crops** that can tolerate cold weather such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, kale, mustard greens, onions, peas, potatoes, radishes, spinach, turnips. **Summer crops** such as tomatoes and cucumbers must be planted after the last date of expected frost for our area which is April 8.

Once crops are in the ground, they typically need 1 to 1-1/2" of **water** a week. Plan to supplement if it doesn't rain. **Mulching** will help retain water and control weeds. Watch and **weed** and get ready for your **harvest!** Register for Cooperative Extension classes including *Your Best Veg Garden* at <http://go.ncsu.edu/growwithus> and contact Nancy (336-580-3611) if you want to volunteer in the JPC Community Garden!

LENTEN AND EASTER 2025 CALENDAR

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, March 5

6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

Saturday, April 12

10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13

9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC)

11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17

7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

6:30 am Sunrise Service (Shelter)

9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC)

11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

EXERCISE CLASSES AT JPC

Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday
3:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

HOSTED BY EVELYN HAZENBERG

Tai Chi

Every Wednesday
5:00 PM BEGINNER Tai Chi
6:00 PM ADVANCED Tai Chi
CLC

HOSTED BY MICHAEL GAGLIANO

NO FEE TO PARTICIPATE! JUST WEAR COMFY CLOTHING AND JOIN US!

UPCOMING JPC EVENTS!

Wednesday, March 12

5:30 pm The Chosen Study and Dinner (FH)

Thursday, March 20

6:00 pm Preschool Spaghetti Dinner and Art Show (CLC)

Wednesday, March 26

5:30 pm The Chosen Study and Dinner (FH)

Sunday, March 30

10:00 am Youth Sunday Combined Worship Service (CLC)

Sunday, March 30 - Tuesday, April 1

Yard Sale Set-Up (CLC)

Wednesday, April 2

Chili Dinner and Yard Sale Shopping (JPC friends and family)

Thursday, April 3 - Saturday, April 5

Annual Outreach Yard Sale

daily times forthcoming

Wednesday, April 9

5:30 pm The Chosen Study and Dinner (FH)

A big thank you to those who fixed baked spaghetti and brownies for Open Door Ministry. We received many "thank you's" for a homecooked meal!

THANK
YOU

Wow! What a gift the Chosen Series has been to so many! 50 folks and counting! Thank you to the JPC Congregation for your support. Thank you to Anna and Sammy Henry for the child care. Thank you to everyone helping set up and take down tables and chairs. Thank you to Jay for the hard work preparing such thought-provoking discussions. And an extra special thank you goes out to the women of Congregational Care for providing and cleaning up after the amazing meals: Anne Wright, Linda Honeycutt, Teresa Griswold, Joanne Miller, Mary Hale, Carolyn Hartsell and Pam Hjelmquist. You all are AMAZING!



Children's Church-Since Advent we have been following the program written by Sonja M. Stewart and Jerome Berryman, Young Children and Worship. Presently we are hearing the stories of the parables. Lila King and Julia Smith have been a great help with the children.

During the **Sunday School** hour, Jenny Rathjen and I have started working together with the children. During the Sunday School hour we have begun to expand on the stories heard in Children's Church including a hands on response.

Polywogs and FROGS have been working on various service projects including blankets for the hurricane victims, filling street ministry bags, and creating care bags for our own members.

How can you help? Easter Egg Hunt is not too far away, we could use candy for filling the eggs.



We have been loving the little bit of snow that we have gotten over the last couple weeks! The kids love to tell us about their snow adventures when they come back to school! We are busy getting ready for our Spring Art show! We will have the Scholastic book fair the night of the Art show! We are enrolling for Fall 2025! Let me know if you need an enrollment form. Looking forward Spring!

NATIONAL PUPPY DAY

MARCH 23rd

Why not celebrate one of our favorites of God's many creatures?

Meet Boysenberry! This sweet 3 month old female cutie is currently available for adoption at the Guilford County Shelter just down the road!



ORANGE FEATHER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

YTD Donations
\$426.39

Thank you for your generosity!



Did You Know?

Did you know (or remember) that in 2022 a Vision Team was formed by Session to determine if JPC was fulfilling our mission as God had intended and what we envision JPC to be in the next 5-10 years? As a result of this work, the 2023 Session revisited the Church's Mission and Vision statements and updated them to reflect our current needs and goals. Also, the Session was reorganized to better align with the new Vision/Mission goals and to improve communication and accountability. In 2023, the Ministry teams developed their individual Mission and Vision statements in support of the Church's mission. The Administration Ministry team is currently reviewing the priorities established by Session and the 2022 Vision team to ensure that those goals and priorities have been completed and/or are actively being worked on. It will be exciting to see how much has been accomplished over the past 3 years and what adjustments, if any, can be made to support God's work at JPC.

DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory of Andy Meehan by
Phil & Jan Shoemaker

Donation to JPC Congregation Life Fund
In memory of Karen Robertson by
Nancy Kennon

Donation to JPC Youth Ministries Fund
In honor/Happy Birthday of Krista Hannah by
Brian Stroud

Donation to JPC Pennies for Orange Feather Fund
In honor of Evy Hazenberg for teaching chair yoga by
JPC Tuesday Yoga Group

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

On Thursday, March 20, Leisure Fellowship will be going to lunch at Seafood Shack in Walkertown. We will leave JPC at 11:00 and expect to return to JPC 1:30 -2:00. Lunch will be on your own; however, we need to know how many are going by Monday, March 17 so we can confirm the reservation. Please send email to clgriner@earthlink.net or call/text 336 402-5001. There will be no charge for the bus on this trip.

NOTE: If we have more than 15 going, we will need volunteers to take the others.



YOU ARE INVITED... TO YOUR JPC SESSION COMMITTEE MEETINGS!

Sitting in on a monthly committee meeting is a great way to see how your elected elders are working on behalf of the church and YOU! This also provides first-hand knowledge to see if you would enjoy joining or helping out as needed in that ministry!

Please each committee and chair below, we'd love to have you!

Administration

1st Thursday at 5:30 pm (222)

Chair: Bill Carter nacarter8@gmail.com

Christian Education

2nd Monday at 1:00 pm (222)

Chair: Nancy Seay seaywhat7@aol.com

Congregational Care (includes Connections)

2nd Sunday at 10:15 am

Chair: Anne Wright abwright1@aol.com

Operations (this joint committee includes Admin, Resource and Property)

2nd Monday at 5:30 pm (222)

Property

Meets as needed

Chair: George Wissmiller George@wissmiller.org

Resource Management

2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm (222)

Chair: David Bean dab607@outlook.com

Service (Outreach)

1st Tuesday at 6:30 pm (222)

Chair: Charlie Graham gmandarknight21@yahoo.com

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Visit us on the Web
www.jamestownprez.org

CHURCH STAFF

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Dr. Jon Brotherton, Director of Music Ministries

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Ms. Donna Brotherton, Director of Contemporary Music & Organist

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Mr. Chris Henry, Assistant Director of Chancel Choir

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Mrs. Kelly Thomas, Youth Director

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Mrs. Tara Daniel, Financial Secretary

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Mrs. Jen McNamara, Administrative Assistant

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Mrs. April Bolick, Director of Preschool

jpcpreschool@gmail.com

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