



Sometimes we make things more complicated than they need to be. Take for instance a birthday or a celebration. Our mind gets racing for what we need to buy, and we start thinking through what the person needs and what store to shop at and how much we should spend. Sometimes we miss out on what money can't buy. Maybe we've lost or simply don't trust the art of making cards, creating gifts, planning fun ventures, painting pictures, writing songs, crafting poetry, or just showing up.

Jesus knew the value of working with his hands, walking with people, hoisting children, tending to the sick, finding the lonely, and noticing the lilies of the field and the birds of the air. Maybe he went to his father's carpentry shop and made things for those he loved, maybe he visited shepherds and thanked them for showing up at his birth. Maybe he gave a glass of cold water to one in need and good homemade wine to a wedding party.

Somehow, he knew that his presence, his attention, his showing up in our lives was what was needed. Somehow he knew that the greatest gift he could give in saving, repairing, healing the world was ensuring that nothing would ever be able to separate us from his love.

So he took on the sin of the world, he took on the hatred, the violence, and endured the cross. He was crucified, dead, and buried. He took on the worst we could throw at him, left it in the tomb, and walked out to appear again and again in our lives. He remains exactly what's needed.

And, by His healing power continuing at work within us, maybe He lovingly looks at us and asks,

"What if you are exactly what's needed? What if it's not about what you buy, what you wear, what you've accomplished in life? What if it is just about you showing up, offering kindness, making a card or sending a text that says, 'I love you.'"

How would we live if we made things less complicated, and realized we might be exactly what's needed for the blessing and healing of our homes, our neighborhoods, our world?

All I can say is that I believe you are exactly what's needed and from the triumphant love of Jesus, we are all supplied daily with exactly what we need.

Tom

You're not alone.
God cares about you. So do we.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL CALENDAR

April 1

Egg-stravaganza
10am—Trinity Hall

April 9

Pancake Breakfast
9am—Trinity Hall

April 17

Deacons
7pm—Trinity Hall

Session

7pm—Lounge

April 20

Gifts of Imperfection Book Study
7pm—Lounge

April 25

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers

7pm—Lounge

April 28

Men's Retreat

April 30

Honors Brunch
11am—Trinity Hall

APRIL HYBRID WORSHIP

April 2

Palm Sunday

Communion

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

Matthew 21: 1-17

Overturing Tables and Expectations

Bell Choir - *Ride on, Ride On in Majesty and All Glory, Laud and Honor*

April 6

Maundy Thursday

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

Matthew 26: 17-56

Deserted

JKPC Choir - *How Can It Be?* and

Larry Dawson - *Gethsemane*

April 7

Good Friday (Huntington Beach)

Sunset Service—7pm

April 9

Easter Sunday (8am & 10am)

Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

Matthew 28: 1-10

Resurrection

JKPC Choir - *Christ is Risen* and *Hallelujah Chorus* and

Oberlin String Quartet

April 16

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

Matthew 28: 16-20

Making Disciples

JKPC Bell Choir - *A Bach Pastorale & Psalm 30*

Peg Anderson/Craig Galinski - *Jesus, you're My Place*

April 23

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

Acts 2: 14, 36-41

Repent

JKPC Choir - *10,000 Reasons*

April 30

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan

1 Peter 2: 1-10

Grow Into Salvation

Barbara Ward/Craig Galinski - *This I Pray*

COFFEE HOUR CHANGE

The Coffee Hour following the April 30 worship service will be held in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Small Group

We will return the Tuesday after Easter, April 11, from 7:00-8:00 PM in room 108-109.

no homework

no sign up

no stress

no pressure

Women's
Small Group

WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

March 20, 2023 MEETING

- Approved Motion from the Clerk, seconded by Chris Hoffa: To accept the resignation of Kim Tunney from Session for personal reasons.
- Approved Motion from the Moderator to hold a Special Congregational Meeting on April 16th for the purpose of approving the members of the Nominating Committee.
- Heard discussion on some additional options for growing membership like looking for areas where we can partner with North Olmsted; and surveying members to find out why they came to JKPC, and what keeps them here.
- Heard report from Christian Education that they are planning on having VBS the week of June 26.
- Heard report from Mission Committee that the trip to Spirit Lake may be cancelled or moved. Other teams were accidentally scheduled for the dates in July that we had. They will be discussing options. Guatemala water trip will be August 12-21. Looking at installing 14 water systems. May want to hold another prayer meeting for Nicaragua in a few months. They are planning to survey everyone coming through the Community meal drive through to better plan for the future and would like to see if people prefer a drive through or sit-down meal.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following as new members to our congregation. Please take a moment to welcome them as you see them here.

Kathy Arterburn

Karen Brooks

Alice Luddington-Cantor

Margi Haas

Randy Roth

Jess and Justin Yager

Dave & Karla Zilch

Welcome New Members

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Is God calling you or someone you know to take an important step of faith?

Ministry in the church can be life-giving and life-changing and an important step in our journey with God. As Christians, we are in a continuous process of growth in relationship with God, each other, and self. The Nominating Committee is seeking nominations for those who God may be calling to serve in the ordered ministries of the church as ruling elders and deacons. The Nominating Committee will prayerfully evaluate all of those nominations and present a slate of officers to the congregation later this spring.

What is an Elder?

Ruling Elders, together with the Pastor, constitute the Session. The Session is responsible for the spiritual direction of the church as well as the worship, outreach, and vitality of the church. The Session is the final decision-making body of the congregation. A healthy Session is the core of a healthy Presbyterian Church.

The Session will carry out its program responsibilities through committees and commissions comprised of members of the congregation. These include Christian Education, Spiritual Growth, Membership, Building and Grounds, Mission, Personnel, Stewardship, and Worship.

What is a Deacon?

The Board of Deacons ministers to those in need, the sick, the friendless, and any who may be in distress, in accordance with the Scriptural duties of the office. Deacons serve our congregation through hospitality, outreach, and caregiving. Deacons are part of the leadership of JKPC, ordained and called just like teaching elders and ruling elders. Just as we need leaders who make decisions and help us live out our vision, Deacons are leaders who help us care for our congregation through ministries of hospitality, outreach and caregiving. The ministry of deacons is wide - including organizing caring for homebound members, organizing meal ministry, sending care packages to college students, and organizing coffee hour. Deacons usually meet on the third Monday of the month.

If you have someone you would like to nominate, please reach out to Tom or Susanne.

MISSION

GUATEMALA LIVING WATERS

Well it's that time again. Our Living Waters Team is going back to Guatemala August 12-21. This will be a team of approximately 10-12 people. At this time we still have room for maybe 2-4 more people.

This trip will supply the Mayan Villages we serve with another 140 clean water systems. Each system costs \$40, so if anyone would like to help us out just drop a check into the offering box or the office, make it out to JKPC and write water team in the memo line so it will get to us. If you have any questions or want to come along, please notify Donna/Tim Claiborne at 216-832-1872 or Terry Jones at 440-503-4643.

We would also like to take this opportunity to again thank everyone for all your prayers and to those people who have donated to this water mission and have helped us get this off the ground. THANK YOU!

- The Water Team



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Congregational Life to Host Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon Tuesday, May 2, 2023



Each year the Congregational Life Committee our wonderful and gifted John Knox staff by hosting a luncheon in their honor. This year they will be treated to a relaxing afternoon at John Knox Beach on Tuesday, May 2nd.

Cards are available at the Welcome Desk for you to write notes of thanks. We hope you will complete a card with your messages of gratitude for all the big and little things the staff does to guide us on our journey. Please place your completed cards in the basket next to the cards.

Extra hands are always welcomed so if you would like to help on the 2nd please contact Connie Smith at connie928smith@gmail.com

BOOK STUDY

Short-Term Book Group: *The Gifts of Imperfection*

Thursdays, April 20 through May 11, 7:00-8:00 pm

This four-week study will explore author Brené Brown's ten "guideposts" to living our lives with courage, compassion, and connection with each other. Biblical truths will also be applied to the idea that we are "enough" – brothers and sisters in Christ, each with our own strengths, weaknesses, and our own story to tell.

Click [here](#) to sign up, or contact the office.



STEPHEN MINISTERS

FIINDING PATHWAYS THROUGH GRIEF

Our John Knox Stephen Ministry will be sponsoring our fourth *Finding Pathways Through Grief* - a mutual help support group. Whether it was the death of your life mate, a close friend, or some other special relationship, grief is meant to be shared. A minimum of eight people is needed with our goal being eight to twelve participants. Each person must register through our John Knox Church office 440-777-3744. Since everyone's experience with grief is somewhat unique, you won't find us telling you how you ought to grieve. Instead, what you will find here are friends who care and understand what you are going through. The group is not psychotherapy, but it will help you navigate the difficulties of this new experience. No one has to talk but everyone is encouraged to. We will discuss the issues and concerns common to bereaved people, including:

- * What to make of the anger, discouragement, and guilt experienced in grief
- * How to deal with the unfair expectations of other people
- * Where to look for people you can trust to help you
- * How to manage the holidays and other special occasions in grief
- * Who to consider for additional support if you need it
- * How to take care of yourself physically

Dates and time to be announced. Please contact the office for more information.



EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF BEING A STEPHEN MINISTER

We are planning to have a new training class this September. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tom or Pastor Susanne at 440-777-3744, Marilyn Rep, our Stephen Ministry Coordinator, at 216-265-9168, or any of our Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry is based on the idea that all Christians are ministers. The responsibility for passing on God's love is for all Christians, not just a chosen few. God has given each person gifts for ministry and has called each of us to put these gifts to use. Stephen Ministry is a place where people with special gifts for caring ministry can use those gifts to bring Christ's love to people in need.

FRANCISCAN BENEDICTION

May God bless you with a restless discomfort
about easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for
justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer
from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish so that you
may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that
you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able
with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme Majesty and our Creator,
Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word Who is our Brother and Savior,
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Guide be with you
and remain with you, this day and forevermore.

Amen.

MISC ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRESH TOYS NEEDED FOR THE KNOX NURSERY

Many of our toys are growing old or worn out. We'd appreciate donations of toddler toys that are new or gently used, anything durable and cleanable. We could use a ring stacking set, or shape sorters, or little cars and trucks like Fisher Price or Playskool, or a play market store, or new coloring books (we have MANY crayons!) No stuffed animals, please, they can't be sterilized. Anything you can provide will be greatly appreciated and well-used!

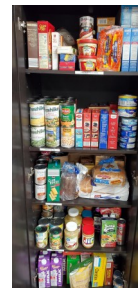
Thank you from Lynne, Claire & The Tots!

FOOD PANTRY REQUEST

With the cutbacks in the SNAP program, our food pantry is being utilized more than ever. We are restocking the pantry every few days.

This month we are requesting donations of pasta, jars of spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables, and cans of fruit.

Thank you in advance for contributing to our food pantry mission.



GEOCACHING ON EARTH DAY

If you have not tried geocaching, you'll get to try it out along with some extra prizes for "finding" the most litter on the church property on Earth Day 2023 (Saturday, April 22). Bring your cell phone (download the Geocaching app) and a small item (of any type) that will fit easily into a 3.5 x 2.5 x 0.75 inch (L x W x H) metal box that we will hide outdoors. Event starts at the church garage (in the North parking lot) at 10am. Fun for all ages! Bring your rake for cleaning up the flower beds also! Lunch will be served at noon. Feel free to stay after lunch, and we'll finish up around 3pm. More information: Valerie Lyons, vlyons2007@gmail.com, text/call 216-236-3898.



DEAR JOHN KNOX FAMILY,

Betty and I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our John Knox Family for all of their love, prayers, well wishes, cards, meals and support to us during and following my heart bypass surgery, being one of the most challenging times in our lives. Following the initial shock of receiving the diagnosis, our minds were put at ease with an early morning visit from Pastor Tom prior to the surgery who led us in prayer and reminding us that we would be in God's hands during the entire procedure. During the surgery and thereafter, we received a continuous outpouring of love, prayers and support from you for which we are both truly grateful and thankful. My recovery is going very well, and I have no doubt that it has been due by the grace of God and prayers answered. I look forward to the time when I am able to return to church to continue our fellowship with each other.

Thank you,

Doug and Betty Dimond

FROM GAIL AND TONY TEPER

Gail and Tony would like to extend a sincere thank you for all of the calls, visits, and cards they received while they were not feeling well and after Gail's surgery. They are all appreciated.

Thank you!

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

This has been an exciting month for youth, children and families. The "Made to Create" event saw children and families creating "Masterpieces" together and being reminded that *they* are God's ultimate masterpiece. The youth had a Youth Mission Event at Common Threads, the resale shop that supports our mission partner, The Hope Center, and the youth led a wonderful worship service the last week in March.

Looking ahead, we are working to bring back our intergenerational services where all ages will worship together. Those Family Sundays are scheduled for: April 9 (Easter), May 14 (Confirmation Sunday), June 4, and July 2 (VBS Sunday). We are excited to be back in the habit of worshipping as an intergenerational congregation.

Also, the soft clothing drive is back! Look for details beginning at the end of April. We will be collecting your clothes, linens, pillows, suitcases, shoes, and more to support youth mission. More info to come!

Do you enjoy working with kids? Are you interested in helping expand our children's Sunday School program? We would love to meet with you! We are hoping to expand our children's Sunday School program to two classrooms. To do this, we need a rotating set of four teachers who can each teach twice a month. You would always teach with a partner, and curriculum and supplies are provided. All volunteers will be trained and background checked. If you are interested in being considered to volunteer in this way, please contact Susanne Bendoraitis for more information.

Thank you for all the ways you support, care for, and are a part of our ministry to youth, children, and families.

Susanne, Justine, and Beckie





Youth Mission Event



KIDS HOPE

KIDS HOPE UPDATE

Kids Hope is up and running at Maple School! Our mentors and their friends have been meeting weekly, getting to know each other, playing games, reading books, doing puzzles, art activities, and just being silly and laughing together! The connections being made are strong and filled with love. The children are so excited when they know that it is their day to spend an hour with their "friend"!

Our prayer partners and their mentors have also been creating a special bond as they begin this new journey. These relationships are also powerful and so vital. Special friendships are being formed through prayer, conversation, and the support that each prayer partner gives to their mentor.

Thank you for supporting Kids Hope and welcoming this program into the fabric of John Knox. Your love and support is so appreciated! There is more to come as we continue to build relationships with our neighbors in love and friendship! Please feel free to contact Athena McGinnis or Chris Hoffa if you want to learn more about the different ways you can become involved with this ministry!





JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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KNOX NEWS



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
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