



February 2023
Volume 121

KNOX NEWS

Sunday, January 22 snow fell heavy during morning worship and continued through the day. That evening my dog, Molly, and I took a walk to Walker Park. Snow hung on the trees and created a wondrous quiet. And something about that quiet, freed me to pray and sense God there in the darkness, in the beauty, in the silent night.

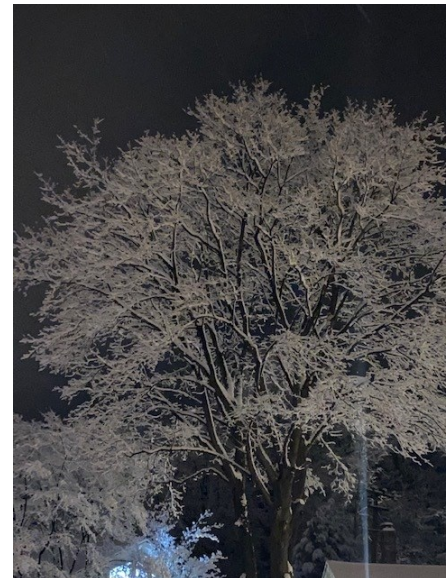
My prayers moved from my family to the violence and heartache of these past few weeks in our nation. My prayers went toward the struggle of our partners in Ukraine, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Cameroon. My prayers went toward the Kid's Hope mentors and prayer partners who were commissioned that morning and will soon begin mentoring children at Maple Elementary in North Olmsted. My prayers went toward all that is ahead of us as a congregation and how we are faithfully being led forward by a gracious and compassionate God.

Even in the darkness, the light shineth. Even in the struggles, God is with us. Even in the doubt, God's promises remain.

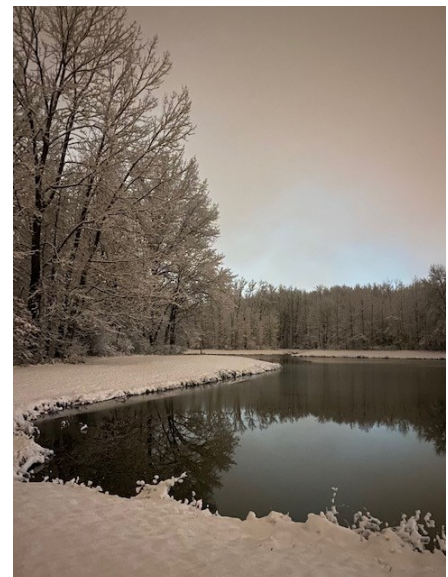
Tom

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight.

Philips Brooks 1868



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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 12

Valentine's Day Party
11am—Trinity Hall

February 13

Session
7pm—Lounge

February 20

Deacons
7pm

February 25

Scouts Spaghetti Dinner
Trinity Hall

February 26

Lenten Offering
7pm—Sanctuary

February 28

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers
7pm—Lounge

Pause Lenten Offering
7pm—Sanctuary

FEBRUARY HYBRID WORSHIP

February 5

Communion

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 7: 1-5
Observing the Splinter While Dismissing the Plank

February 12

Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 13: 31-33
Living My OK-est Life Now
JKPC Choir - *Fairest Lord Jesus*

February 19

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 16: 24-26
Getting Lost
JKPC Bell Choir - *In Christ Alone & On Eagle's Wings*

February 22

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Psalm 51: 10-12 & Matthew 18: 1-9
Change Is Tough

February 26

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 18: 15-35
Forgiveness
Natalie Demas - *Child of Mine*
JKPC Choir - *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Pause.

Create Space for God.

Join us Tuesday nights beginning February 28, 7:00-8:00 PM.

Lent is a time to create space in your life to connect with God.

We invite you to join us for one hour any, or each, Tuesday in Lent. We will make space to connect with God in different ways

each week, including experiential prayer, engagement with scripture, and spiritual practices. This is not a class or lecture, but a chance to take a break from the distractions of life to connect with God. There are no prior requirements or expectations. Come as you are. Join us in setting aside this hour each week during Lent to pause and create space for God.



WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

January 9th, 2023 MEETING

- Heard report submitted by Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, that the month of December saw an increase in regular offering, but the total was still approximately 91% of the budgeted amount for 2022. Loss from Operations for 2022 was ~\$64,600. The loss was offset by funding from the Morris Bequest.
- Heard 2023 budget request from Terry Jones, Chair of the Finance Committee. Based on the pledges received for 2023 and estimated contributions, the projected budget shortfall for 2023 is \$63,870. Session discussed budget request reduction ideas that each committee had prepared and were able to propose a revised budget request that eliminated the budget shortfall.
- Approved motion from Finance Committee to accept the revised 2023 Budget as discussed at this Session Meeting.
- Approved motion from Clerk of Session to remove Todd, Jill and Brent Payne from the membership rolls and transfer membership to Markham Woods Presbyterian Church in Lake Mary, FL.
- Heard report from Membership and Communication Committee regarding the new member class that will be held on March 19th.
- Reviewed 2023 Terms of Call for the Pastors which will be presented to the Congregation at the Congregational Meeting on January 29th for approval.

MEN'S RETREAT

JOHN KNOX SPRING MEN'S RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!

After a long pause, we are excited to announce we're having our men's retreat starting on Friday, April 28, and going through Saturday, April 29. As before, we will be having the event at Beulah Beach just west of downtown Vermillion along the shores of Lake Erie. During the retreat we will be enjoying Christian fellowship, stimulating programming led by Pastor Tom and others, taking a deeper dive into God's word, and discussing how it influences our lives as grounded men. All that have attended past retreats have enjoyed time for group and quiet reflection, and the ability to rest and relax before re-engaging the world. We will be starting the weekend with a dinner (Dutch treat) at Quaker Steak and Lube (5150 Liberty Ave, Vermilion, OH 44089) on Friday at 5:00

PM. After dinner we will head over to Beulah Beach (6101 W. Lake Rd. Vermilion, OH 44089) where we will unpack and have our first program. Additional programming will be held on Saturday. The event will end by 8:00 PM Saturday allowing us to return home for the evening. There will be a nominal cost for the event to cover meals and our overnight stay (watch for more details). Please also watch for a sign-up list on the Welcome Desk outside of Trinity Hall. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!



SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A warm thank you to the John Knox community for your continued support of our food pantry. Your gifts of nonperishable foods and your financial donations have really helped! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please email the office, info@johnknoxpc.org.

During the month of February, the food pantry request will be for protein, jelly, and reusable plastic bags. These items are much needed and often are overlooked when making purchases to donate to food pantries.

Canned Chicken

It's simple to toss this non-perishable item into soups and casseroles or add it to a sandwich or cracker. Its versatility and high protein content make it a popular item.

Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)

Canned fish has vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and protein, and it makes for a quick and easy meal.

Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)

Grab some SPAM or canned ham and drop it into a food donation bin. It's shelf-stable, doesn't require much prep or equipment to eat, and delivers a quick hit of protein to keep individuals feeling full for longer.

Peanut Butter

Kids and adults like it, and it's high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items requested.



MISSION

MISSION 2023

The Mission Committee begins this new year with 40 Partners we are supporting. We are grateful for the funds you will be sharing with John Knox. We are also grateful for your extra gifts to Community Meal, People In Need Fund, and Special Mission.

There will be 3 new Partners added this year - Kids Hope (Mentoring Program), Building Hope in the City (Afghan Program), and Good Knights (Beds for families in need). There will be another Rise Against Hunger Event, two mission trips (Sioux Indian Reservation and Guatemala Pure Water Team), and monthly Community Meal events. All our Mission Partners have people in our church family involved in them either sharing time or connecting with one or more of our 7 Missionaries (Cameroon (3), Nicaragua (2), Guatemala (1), US/INT (1).

Your resources are greatly appreciated, and many are involved in sharing time and talent, but many more are needed. If God is calling you to serve in a particular area, let the office know and you will be contacted.

Thank you for your caring hearts!



John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATES

Christian Education has been grateful to have a good kick off to the new year. Sunday School, Youth Group, and events are back into the swing. We are excited that Children's Choir will be returning to sing in worship on March 5. In order to prepare, children will be learning the song and practicing during Sunday School throughout February. We are excited to see the children singing in worship again!

We are excited to have our Confirmation program starting back up for the first time since 2020. Confirmation is an opportunity to celebrate the youth of our church and their decision to make a public profession of faith. Confirmation is a continuation of the faith journey that began at baptism and continues throughout their whole lives. During this time, youth are given the opportunity to 'confirm' their own faith and become members of the church. Confirmation students will join youth Sunday School to put together a youth led service for March 26.

Each Sunday, we invite families to continue to participate in Children's and Youth Sunday School. Children check in at the family check in area. Youth head back to the youth room for Poptarts and continuing the *Reform* curriculum for Sunday School. The Big Idea at children's Sunday School this season is "Seeing God in Action." As a part of this, children and families are invited to bring in non perishable food items to Sunday School that will be donated to the John Knox Food Pantry. In Sunday School, children will be making valentines and writing messages to remind those who access the pantry of God's Love.

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Thank you for all of your support and care for our children, youth, and families.

Blessings to all and wishing our JKPC families well this February!

Susanne and Justine

WINTER YOUTH DATES:

Feb 5 - Youth Group Movie Night. 5-8pm w/ pizza

Late Feb Event: Date and Time TBA

Mar 5 - Youth Group 4-6pm

Mar 19 - Mission and Pizza. After Church. Timing TBA



Valentine Party Sunday, February 12 Following Worship



February is our shortest month, but it always seems longer than any other month in the year.

To help shake off those winter doldrums, Congregational Life is pleased to announce the return of our Annual Valentine Party.

We hope you will join us immediately following worship on Sunday, February 12, for some of the best homemade soups you will ever taste, salad, and desserts; spend time with friends; expand your world and get creative.

Tom will share information about the history and significance of the Abrahamic Feast. John Knox will host an Abrahamic Feast provided by the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association (NOICA) on March 2. The information he shares will help all of us have a better understanding of why we should attend.

There will also be everything you need to make some special Valentines for your “sweeties” and for our homebound members.

There is something for everyone, and we hope to see you there!

Save the Date Thursday, March 2 Abrahamic Feast



Save the evening of Thursday, March 2, for the Abrahamic Feast. John Knox will host along with our brothers and sisters from the Northern Ohio Intercultural Association (NOICA).

Mark your calendars today. You do not want to miss out on this opportunity to forge new friendships, enjoy a delicious meal, and engage in God's work in our own community.

More details will be available soon.

February is Black History Month

“Let’s Take a Look at What History Tells Us and Learn More”

Many of you may be aware of the Tulsa Massacre that occurred in 1921. The affluent African-American community referred to as “Black Wall Street” and its residents in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma were destroyed because a young Black man rode in an elevator with a white woman.

Thousands of lives were lost and a community was destroyed. Even today, there are allegations of mass graves of victims from the massacre. A Mass Graves Investigation team in Tulsa is attempting to get answers to the many questions that continue to be asked.



Did you know there were many successful, affluent, African-American towns throughout the United States? Some were destroyed, like Greenwood, by angry, white mobs while others were ripped apart in the name of “progress”; some were flooded to cover the injustices committed or to repurpose the land primarily for the white community.

One of the nation’s best known urban parks, Central Park in New York City, has a long, not so lovely, history beginning in the 1600s. First, it was taken from the Indigenous People. Then deemed worthless and sold to African-Americans who created a thriving community called Seneca Village. You can learn more by clicking here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atzk8peFb14>
<https://www.pbs.org/video/new-york-citys-first-free-black-communities-seneca-village-k/>

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” – Maya Angelou



JOHN KNOX
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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There are almost 1000 hours in Lent. Can you take 5 of them to come connect with God? Investing .5% of your time could be the best thing you do this Lent.

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PLEASE
 PLACE
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