



February 2024

Volume 133

KNOX NEWS

Tuesday early morning with candle lit and Bible open I started preparing for Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study. Thirty minutes into prep, our cat settled onto my notes and gazed at Exodus 17. During the winter in our drafty, old house, he drifts toward candles, radiators, and people who happen to be present, stationary.

Seems to be a pretty common rhythm. How often we move from study, prayer, worship to prompt attention to drifting pets, people, or possibilities.

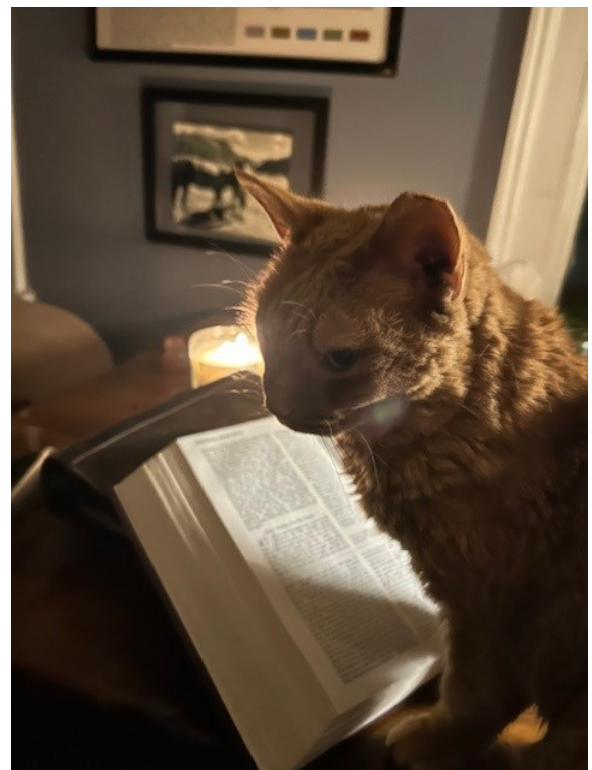
It was a rhythm familiar to Jesus. He would honor time apart for prayer, but return with heartfelt compassion for the crowds.

As we cultivate faith in a rocky world, we do the same. We honor time to deepen faith through study, prayer, silence but then lift our hearts, illumined by the Holy Spirit, to connect with and care for the world God so deeply loves.

Tom



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



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 3

Sharon Kappa Memorial Service & Reception
2pm—Sanctuary & Trinity Hall

February 4

Annual Meeting
11am—Sanctuary & Zoom

February 6 & February 20

Liturgy of the Ordinary Book Study
7pm—108/109

February 10, 17, 24

Be the Bridge Saturday Matinees
4pm—Fellowship Hall

February 11

Valentine's Day Party
11am—Trinity Hall

February 12

Session
7pm—Lounge

February 13

Women's Small Group
7pm—Lounge

Stephen Minister's Meeting
7pm—108/109

February 17

Guatemala Team Meeting
8:30am—Gallery

February 18

Mental Health Session
11:15am—Fellowship Hall

February 19

Deacons
7pm—Lounge

February 25

Healing Prayer Team Meeting
11am—Lounge

Be the Bridge Book Review
11:15am—108/109

February 27

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru



February Calendar

FEBRUARY HYBRID WORSHIP

February 4

Communion Sunday
Intergenerational Service
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 6:30-44
Compassion

February 11

Healing Prayer
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 9:2-9 & II Corinthians 4:1-12
Treasure in Clay Jars

February 14

Ash Wednesday
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Isaiah 58:1-12
A Real Fast

February 18

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 1:9-15
Repent & Believe

February 25

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 7:1-8
Exhaustive Expectations

LENT

GOD 'IRL' -God IN REAL LIFE- In our Lenten offerings, using Romans 12:1-2 as our guide, we want to give you the opportunity to connect God to your everyday experience of life. How can we notice, and join in, God's activity in our daily lives, not just thinking about God on Sunday mornings? After Church each Sunday during Lent, there will be an opportunity to notice God in a different aspect of life. For a deeper dive, check out the book discussion, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, running bi-weekly from Feb 6- March 19. Explore the offerings below as a way cultivate time and space for God this Lent.

Sunday, February 25, after church in Room 108/109, Be the Bridge Book Reviews. Come and expand your understanding of loving our neighbor.

Sunday, March 3, after church in Fellowship Hall, Lynn and The Eclipse. Come learn with NASA Scientist, Lynn Bondurant, about how you can see the coming total eclipse and think about your place in God's Universe.

Sunday March 10, after church, Hiking with the Knowltons. Join us at the Rocky River Nature Center for a hike and connecting with God and one another in nature.

Sunday March 17, after church in Fellowship Hall, Boundaries and Mental Health. Join us as we explore, how does God invite us to keep ourselves healthy in connecting with others?

Sunday March 24, after church in the Sanctuary, Music and the Sacred with the Slowiks. Come and learn from Vicky and Peter as they share their passion for God and music.



2024 WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

THE SEASON OF
Lent



Ash Wednesday, February 14
Individual Prayer, Imposition of Ashes,
& Communion, 11AM - 12PM
Worship, 7PM

Palm Sunday, March 24,
Worship, 10AM

Good Friday Service, March 29
Huntington Beach

Easter Sunday, March 31
9AM & 11AM Intergenerational Worship
Pancake Breakfast between Services

John Knox Church
25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted
johnknoxpc.org

Decorative green palm fronds on the left and right sides of the schedule.



Valentine Party Sunday, February 11 11:00 AM in Trinity Hall

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 in Trinity Hall immediately following worship on Sunday, February 11, for some of the best homemade soups you will ever taste, salad, and dessert. Spend time with friends, expand your world, and get creative.

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!



MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

We are excited to invite you to attend a three part mental health series in Fellowship Hall. We are happy to welcome Nancy Virden from Friends Church. Nancy is a Board Certified Coach and founder of *Always the Fight*. She will be presenting practical and important information on learning how to walk alongside others who are hurting in a healthy and safe way.

We will be gathering in Fellowship Hall on February 18, March 17, and April 21 after service where a light lunch will be served as we participate in this interactive and caring program.

This series is important for everyone to attend. We all know someone, maybe even ourselves, who is struggling with mental health. This series will help us to walk alongside others with compassion and love while also taking care of ourselves in healthy ways.

We look forward to seeing you there!

See Laurie Knowlton, Chris Hoffa or Tom MacMillan with any questions you might have.

Child care with lunch will be available. Please contact the office at info@johnknoxpc.org for the link to register.



BE THE BRIDGE

February Saturday Matinees



Be the Bridge is hosting Saturday Matinees as part of our Black History Month offerings. Beginning Saturday, February 10th and running each remaining Saturday in February, a feature length film will be shown in Fellowship Hall starting at 1:30 p.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. There will be time following each film for some discussion.

The films were chosen with great care and each represents a significant and historic facet of life as a person of color in America. We hope you will join us for all or some of the films. Snacks and beverages will be available.

February 10 – “Harriet” PG-13

February 17 – “Loving” PG-13

February 24 – “Just Mercy” PG-13

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On Sunday, February 18, at 1:00 PM West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church celebrates Black History Month by welcoming Sojourner Truth to share her vivid and anguishing story of slavery, abolitionism and activism. Listen and learn about her captivating story.

The performance is provided by Women in History Ohio, a group of actresses who provide first person monologues (in costume) of some of history’s most inspiring women. Tickets for this special event with refreshments are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door.

West Shore UU is located at 20401 Hilliard Blvd, Rocky River, OH 44116

Get CONNECTED

Feed My Lambs: Volunteers Needed

North Presbyterian Church at E.45th and Superior is an inner city ministry. Various Presbyterian churches volunteer to provide a simple but nourishing meal after the service each Sunday. JKPC will be providing the meal on April 21 and May 5. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, deliver, and serve the meal at North Church. Please consider joining us in this ministry. North Church has been a John Knox mission partner for over 20 years. For more information, contact Glen Nekvasil at ggn1953@sbcglobal.net or (216) 548-2828.



Looking for a rewarding, heartwarming local mission project? Want to make a difference for a family trying to learn a new language and adjust to their surroundings in America? We have just the thing for you. Join us in our next mentoring project for immigrant families. What's involved? You might be helping with homework for the eight children in this family, playing games, walking to a nearby park for some outdoor summer playtime - all things that help them learn a new language and navigate through the many issues they

face. You would not be doing this important work alone, it would only involve a few hours a month, but the smiles and love you would receive from a family is amazing.

Our church currently has a team who has been mentoring one family for almost two years, and the growth we have seen in all of them is so exciting. However, we are now in need of a math tutor for the three older children. If you have the time to meet this need, please let us know. It would involve approximately one hour a week, and the current team would help transport the children to a library or other common meeting place.

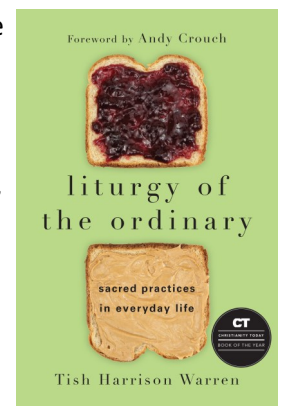
If you are interested in knowing more about either the mentoring of a new family or providing math tutoring, please contact Chris Hoffa, Mission Chair (ckh649@gmail.com) or Mary Ellen Isaac, current mentor (meisaac904@gmail.com).

BOOK STUDY

In the midst of our ordinary days, our Savior meets us. In overlooked moments and daily routines, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways.

Trish Harrison Warren's book, *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, takes a look at parts of an ordinary day - waking up, brushing our teeth, looking for lost keys, sitting in traffic, making phone calls, etc. - and shows how we can find the sacred in the routine, even the mundane parts of our lives.

In a short-term book study, with facilitator Vicky Slowik, we will explore how our daily lives shape us, and in those moments, through God's grace, we can see that we are God's beloved. Join us February 6, and 20, March 5 and 19 at 7:00 PM. A limited number of books are available for purchase in the church office. Cost is \$10/book. Click [here](#) to sign up or contact the office at info@johnknoxpc.org.



John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Children's Sunday School's "What Can I Do Challenge" ended January with a wonderful get-together to celebrate the kids' abilities. Last Sunday, we planned a lunch, decorations, and a game for them and their parents or caregivers after Sunday School on January 28. They cut all the vegetables, plated them and made the dip for their vegetable tray. They cut the meat and cheese to size and plated them for their Hawaiian roll sandwiches. They made the banners and tissue flowers to decorate room 108/109. Miss Sue's class created the colorful placemats that adorned the table with our message: I Can Do All This Through Him Who Gives Me Strength. Their teacher, Wendy Kaiser, and volunteers, Emily Guzik and Sue Isaac, helped move the preparations along.

When everything was ready, a banner welcomed their families to room 108/109. The kids had decided on blue and white as their colors for the event. So blue and white tablecloths, banners and tissue flowers made the event festive. They laid out the food they had prepared in a buffet working together to determine where each item should go. Then they each got to share with everyone what they did for the event. Once everyone finished lunch, they went on a much anticipated Church Scavenger Hunt with their families to find 20 items together! Thanks to Leanne Dewyer and Emily Guzik for these photos from the "What Can I Do Challenge" event.

Intergenerational Service and Communion this Sunday, February 4! There will be a children's sermon, and they will have a chance to sing with the Remix Band!

We return to Sunday School on February 11. In February, we will be focusing on a mission the kids want to do while we also learn about Lent and Easter.



John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

JKPC Youth have had a fabulous January with a Pizza Night and kicking of our new theme (a take on our church wide theme), *Faith in Rocky World*.

Youth Group: God at the Movies: Sunday, February 4, from 5:00—8:00 PM We will be watching a movie and talking about faith in real life. Dinner and popcorn will be provided. Bring your favorite movie candy to share.

In Sunday School, Youth Service Planning is continuing! Youth, join us for youth Sunday School each Sunday at 10:00 AM, during worship. This season, we will be working on planning the youth service. This is a meaningful time and so fun to be creative with others. The youth service will be March 3. We meet each Sunday except for the intergenerational service on February 4.

February 18, Youth Group will be after church from 11:00 AM—1:00 PM. We will have lunch, play games and have a mega-work session for the youth service.

Hope to see you there!
Susanne, Laura, and Denise

**** MARK YOUR CALENDAR !! ****

Vacation Bible School will be here sooner than you expect! And we're so excited about the **theme!** *SCUBA: Diving Into Friendship with God!*

VBS will be in the EVENING again this year! Last year, the kids loved having a bite to eat with their crew before the fun began each evening! Registration will begin soon. We're just getting our flippers wet for now, so mark your calendar for the week of **June 24-27!**



Scuba VBS 2024

Diving into Friendship with God by Group VBS

Youth Group Calendar

Youth Sunday School Sundays 10:00AM, except for the intergenerational service on February 4

February 4 Youth Group Movie Night. 5:00-8:00 PM w/ pizza

February 18 Youth Group - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

March 3 Youth Service, 10:00 AM. Stay to go out to lunch- celebrate a great job!

March 17 Youth Group 4:00-6:00 PM



JOHN KNOX PERFORMANCE SERIES

SINGING HANDS

On Sunday, March 3, at 4:00 PM in Trinity Hall, we will welcome Dennis and Dee Rundle, the creators of Rundle Singing Hands. This is a high-energy and unique program. The Rundles perform uplifting, positive, fun songs to pre-recorded music, using props, elaborate costumes, choreography, and sign language. The audience will be able to hear the words and music of favorite songs while enjoying the beauty and creativity of sign language. Audience sing-along adds to the fun. A reception will follow the concert.



EASTER FLOWERS



EASTER FLOWERS AVAILABLE

You can order Easter flowers anytime from Ash Wednesday (February 14) up through Palm Sunday. Potted flowers include lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and geraniums. These will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday and are available for you to take home after the Easter service. You may also donate a plant for the John Knox Deacons to deliver to a homebound church member as an Easter gift. [Click here to sign up](#) or telephone the church office during regular hours at (440) 777-3744. Sponsorships are \$7.00 per plant, payable to John Knox Church, indicating "Easter Flowers" on the memo. For more information, contact Tom Haag at (440) 250-0854.



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOX NEWS

February 2024
Volume 133



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25200 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Phone: 440-777-3744
E-mail: info@johnknoxpc.org

Website: johnknoxpc.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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