



Students while preparing for exams are also looking back, not just through their notes, but at the friendships that have kept them afloat. Maybe they are also recalling teachers, coaches, instructors, advisors that reminded them of their worth and sparked their curiosity.

On Sunday we honored those 80 and better here at John Knox. I looked around the room in deep appreciation for those who have shaped this congregation and those who have recently joined having shaped other congregations. As they have shaped faith in others, I wondered who shaped their faith.

Many in our community have experienced transitions in jobs and before taking leave, they have looked back at the people who made the work meaningful.

And many of us have said goodbye to loved ones who dwell with God in glory. Part of our grief is to remember the influence they had on us and the gifts they entrusted to us.

A poem toward the back of Knox News by Kate Bowler references flying buttresses. They are engineered as support beams to provide lateral support for a fragile wall. And sometimes they are made extra fancy. Kate notes that when you're not able to be quite so tall and strong, maybe you need some flying buttresses, pillars who hold you up, who teach you how to grow or apologize or forgive or calm down. Or show you something that looks like honesty or intimacy. Those who remind you who you are and that you're loved. The people who look at you and see you for exactly who you are and not just what happened to you.

I'm grateful we are together to hold each other up and be held.

Tom

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25



MAY CALENDAR

May 1 & 15

Spirit Moves Yoga
6pm—Fellowship Hall

May 2

Abrahamic Dinner
6:30pm—Trinity Hall

May 5

Being a Welcoming Church
11:15 am—Fellowship Hall

May 13

Session
7pm—Lounge

May 14

Staff Appreciation Lunch
11:30am—Fellowship Hall

Women’s Small Group
7pm—Lounge

Stephen Minister’s Meeting
7pm—108/109

May 20

Deacons
7pm—Lounge

May 28

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

May Calendars

MAY HYBRID WORSHIP

May 5

Communion Sunday
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 12:38-44
Everything She Had

May 12

Healing Prayer
Intergenerational Worship
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Mark 14:3-9
Anointing

May 19

Pentecost Sunday
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Acts 2:1-20
The Guiding Spirit of God

May 26

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Acts 2:43-47
Glad and Generous Hearts

Vase Collection

Do you have more empty flower vases than you can use? If so, the Deacons will be collecting them in May to support the non-profit "Big Hearted Blooms". This organization collects flowers from donors in the Cleveland area, creates new arrangements, and delivers the arrangements to individuals in care facilities. Bring your vases that are 10 inches high or less to the collection box at church on May 19 or May 26, and the Deacons will deliver them to Big Hearted Blooms.



Thanks for your support!

My family and I want to thank the JKPC congregation for their prayers during Michael’s recent surgery and continuing recovery. Susanne’s daily phone calls were a welcome respite for me during a stressful time. The generous gift card from my Thursday Bible Study group was especially thoughtful. Words cannot express how grateful I am to belong to such a loving church family.

-Jill Waugh

Well Wishes For the Bendoraitis Family Sabbatical

The summer of 2024 will mark almost thirteen years of my service and ministry at John Knox. I am grateful for this coming summer when I will have, by the generosity of John Knox, a season of sabbatical from May 19- Sept. 3, 2024. During my time away from work, I will be taking time to focus on "Connections". For me, this will be connection with God, connection with our future, and connection with family. Our family will be doing a pilgrimage, visiting the birthplace of Lego, reinvigorating old ties to important places in our children's lives, and spending time at home contemplating "genuine rest" while I also work on finishing my doctoral degree. My hope and prayers are that this time will be a renewal process for soul, mind, and body in new and familiar locations.

At the moment, I have been covering two positions at John Knox, the Executive Associate Pastor and the Director for Youth. Both will be filled in my absence through the combination of current staff, volunteers, and temporary support. For example, Jordyn Schibley and Emily Rhoads, have both worked with the youth in the past and are familiar with the kids and the programs. Each will be covering different aspects and timing of the ministry. Jordyn is covering youth group (during June & Aug), is leading the local mission week, and is supporting VBS. Emily is covering youth Sunday School, supporting the mission trip, and running youth group (during July). You will also see and hear other voices in meetings and on Sunday mornings instead of mine as I have worked hard to make sure the multiple roles I play are covered.

As a final piece of my sabbatical, Kristian will be taking an unpaid leave of absence to join me and our kids on our time of sabbatical. He has been working diligently with volunteers and other temporary support to make sure John Knox is well cared for in his absence.

I am so grateful for everyone who is making this time possible. Thank you!

Susanne



Women's Group

Our JKPC Women's Group cordially invites ALL women of John Knox and their friends to join us for an evening of tranquility, peace, and fellowship.

Tuesday, May 14, 7-8 PM
in the Gallery

There's no sign up, no homework, no stress, just togetherness. If you have never attended women's group, only been once or twice, or have come each time, please know that this group is for YOU!

We look forward to spending time together.

We will have light refreshments provided.
Email info@johnknoxpc.org by May 12 if childcare is needed.

youth mission collection



soft goods

May 19 - June 2

Clothes

men's, women's, & children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, belts, backpacks, etc.

Household Textiles

bedding, comforters, blankets, sheets, towels, linen, tablecloths, curtains, pillows, etc.

household items

June 1 - June 3

Household Goods

kitchen items (such as pots/pans, dishes, silverware, glasses, serving pieces and hand-held appliances), home decorative items, knick-knacks, toys, games, and small electronics

Books & Media

paperback, hard cover - all genres

**media needs to be boxed separately*

**no encyclopedias or text books*

Please use bags for clothes and textiles and tightly pack boxes of small household goods. Separate books from household goods and media. All items must be clean and in sellable condition.

Stephen Ministry Helps Our Congregation Achieve Its Mission

At the end of each service our pastor offers the following charge to our congregation:

"Go out into the world in peace, have courage. Hold onto what is good and return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit".

The caregiving that happens through Stephen Ministry relates directly to Jesus' great commandment and great commission and provides our congregation with a powerful and tangible means to live out this aspect of our vision and mission statement.

Stephen Ministers are continually receiving training to better serve our congregation at John Knox. In the words of Henry Nouwen "compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into places of pain." Going there means learning to listen even for what, initially cannot be expressed. It means being honest about our own needs and struggles so that we can listen more carefully. It means journeying with people in their attempts at resolution and healing. It means holding without withholding, giving without looking to receive, and entering a partnership that releases others to pursue their own dreams and aspirations .

Dear Jesus,

There are those in our midst who carry heavy burdens. Help us to be sensitive to those needs, reaching out to them with your love and compassion. Help us also to encourage those who are especially burdened to turn to our pastors and Stephen Leaders who can help them receive the individualized care they need. In your name we pray. Amen

If you are in need of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tom MacMillan at 440-777-3744 or tmacmillan@johnknoxpc.org, or Marilyn Rep, our Stephen Ministry Coordinator at joyannlofter@sbcglobal.net.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP FORMS

Scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year are now available. To get an application, stop by the office or email the office at info@johnknoxpc.org. All completed applications must be turned into the office by June 16, 2024.



JKPC Mission

Safe Sleep Awareness Walk



The Eva Rose Foundation would like to thank everyone for their generosity and support. The 2nd Annual Steps for Safe Sleep Awareness Walk was an amazing success full of sunshine and love. We were able to raise over \$3000 which will allow us to continue in our mission spreading the importance of creating safe sleep environments for babies and young children, and it will also help support our next event which will be a sponsored bed build at Sleep In Heavenly Peace in Brook Park. If you would like to sign up to be a volunteer at this event, please send an email to Athena at



evarosefoundation@gmail.com. No construction skills are required and there are jobs for everyone! Please visit evaslight.org for more info.

JKPC Mission

INTERNATIONAL

The Guatemala Medical Team returns!

All felt the presence of the Holy Spirit the day the clinic was at 5000 ft. in the mountain community surrounded by clouds and 45 degrees as we raised our hands and said the Lord's Prayer in our own language. It was a Revelations experience! It was a clinic day deep in the Verapaz mountains. A woman came with a 3 year old girl whose mom had not spoken well or was still not trained She had never been able to see a doctor. Several doctors spent most of the day helping her understand in her language that her child had Down Syndrome and was God's special child. This was just one of the stories that touched our hearts and helped us realize we were where Christ wanted us to be doing His work. Our sharing time each night, and our devotions were opportunities to help all experience and share God's love. Thank you for your prayers and support. We will be back. Meanwhile we urge continued prayer for Funderor, our host NGO, and for the communities being served.

Guatemala Pediatric Clinic

Children's Health and Cultural Background

- 75% have intestinal parasites.
- 75% are chronically malnourished.
- 0% of drinking water is clean or safe.
- Nearly 100% of young children drink coffee.
- 10 % of girls will stay in school past age 8.

Rural Mayan children intestinal parasites at a 90% rate. They are given treatment in schools every six months, but from meetings with community nurse, we've observed, they are usually only given half of the required dose. Water is found from mountain runoff streams puddles. Fudenor and Guatemala Family Development have been providing water systems over the last year. There are very few water sources in communities. Since water is unsafe, once children are weaned, they begin drinking coffee and soda a very young age. Most food needs to be grown in the communities or bought at small Tienda, which sells mostly junk food or some fruits. They eat very little protein. Therefore, children are chronically malnourished.

Guatemala has the highest rate of growth stunting in the western hemisphere. You'll notice most of the adults especially women, only grow to 60-75% of expected height. Malnourishment affects cognition; 90% of adults learned to read in school but are no longer able. They also struggle with our medication instructions.



BE THE BRIDGE

Volunteers Needed for Refugee Families

A team of eight from John Knox has mentored an Afghan refugee family for about two years. Recently four additional people (3 from John Knox and one from the community) stepped forward to provide math tutoring for the three oldest children.

The need continues to grow. Last week while picking up the students for tutoring another father was waiting for us. He asked us to help his six children with mentoring and tutoring. Plus, there is an additional family with eight children living nearby that has also asked for help.

We are again asking for more of you to step forward and assist. You would have support to meet these needs. It is very rewarding work and we encourage you to prayerfully consider volunteering. Please reach out to either Chris Hoffa (440-773-8576) or Mary Ellen Isaac (904-993-7606) if you have questions or can help. Our thanks.

The challenges our brothers and sisters from the LGBTQ+ community face are real and heartbreaking. Many are ostracized from their family and church. We are called to welcome them. Join us on Sunday, May 5, following worship in Fellowship Hall, as Be the Bridge, with the support of Session and the Mission Committee, will host a program designed to help us live into being a “Welcoming Church.” The program will offer speakers from PFLAG, a national organization focused on creating a caring world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them. A light lunch will be available so please RSVP by clicking [here](#).



ANNUAL ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS DINNER

#UnityInDiversity

Please plan to attend our Annual Abrahamic Traditions Dinner on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 PM in Trinity Hall.

There will be a featured speaker from each faith community as well as opportunity to strengthen our greater community by building friendships across faith traditions. Be the Bridge is coordinating the event with our friends from NOICA who will provide the meal. Vegetarian options will be available. When food is involved, registration is a must. Just click on this link now to RSVP <https://form.jotform.com/240617561560050>.



Thrive!

John Knox Family Ministries

Welcome May! At the end of April, we celebrated Christian Education's new name: Thrive! John Knox Family Ministries: Growing in Faith Together. With this new name comes a focus which includes family faith formation. Our ministries include The Nursery, Toddler Time, Sunday School ages 3-7, Sunday School ages 8-10, Youth Sunday School 11-18, Young Adult and Crew Alumni, and Family events both for our congregation and reaching out to other families in the community. Through these activities we will

- ◆ Provide engaging faith formation for kids & youth
- ◆ Nurture faith & family relationships
- ◆ Ensure a welcoming & safe community
- ◆ Connect families with the mission of our church
- ◆ Support caring staff & volunteers



We will celebrate and share our ministries' happenings on June 2nd with the congregation! We hope you'll plan to join us then.

Building of this summer's Scuba VBS set and props has started! Watch for our next VBS build and join us! John Knox Youth Marcus, Micah, Jonah, Larry, Emma and Maggie got together to build a yellow submarine, corals and a boardwalk with the guidance of Laura Mirecki and Denise Pappu. Look for the Scuba VBS flyer to sign-up your child for VBS OR children who are going into 5th grade on up can register to volunteer! Register before May 24 and get a free gift!



Looking to May, our Sunday School kids' curriculum theme is RECESS! In this five-week series, kids will discover through the stories in the books of Judges, Ruth, and 1 Samuel the unexpected ways God can help them grow. As they do, they'll learn how **God helps us grow stronger, helps us belong, answers our prayers, tells us what is true, and can use anything we give.**

Youth! Sign-up now for the Youth Mission week!! Livin' La Vida Local, the youth local mission trip is coming up June 30- July 3. It will be a great time! You will not want to miss. We are serving at Building Hope in the City for three days this year leading their kid's camp. Questions? Contact Susanne at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org. **Click here for registration** www.johnknoxpc.org/youthmission



Youth Group Calendar

Youth Sunday School Sundays 10:00AM

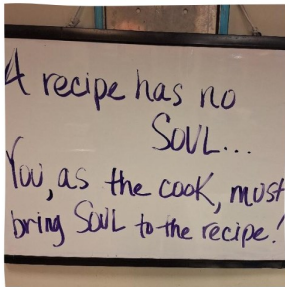
May 5	Youth Group 4-6 pm
May 19	Spring Ice Cream Social Fundraiser 4-6 pm
June 2	Youth Group Gathering (VBS Décor help), Sun 4-6pm
June 9	Youth Café, Sun 10 am
June 19	Youth group VBS Decorating and Pizza, Wed 5:30- 8pm
June 23	Youth Café, Sun 10 am, Help Set up for VBS
June 24-27	Vacation Bible School, 5-7:30 pm, Youth Volunteer.
June 27	Youth stay late after VBS for ice cream, clean up and games.
June 30–July 3	Living' La Vida Local, 2024 Local Youth Mission Week
June 30	4-7 pm - Orientation
July 1	8 am – 5 pm
July 2	8 am - 5 pm
July 3	8 am – 8 pm (post event celebration)
July 7	JKPC Youth Led Service, out to lunch after, Sun 10 am
July 21	Youth Café 10 am (Plan children's sermon for Aug 18)
July 24	Swings and Things Outing (evening)
Aug 18	JKPC Outdoor service at Huntington Beach, Sun 10 am
Aug 25	Youth Group, Sun 4-6 pm



Thrive!

John Knox Family Ministries

A look back at April



Rise Against Hunger



John Knox preschool

Please join us in celebrating Nancie Rachocki as she retires from her position as the John Knox Preschool Director. Nancie has been a steady and faithful director in our preschool since 2006. We are grateful for all the ways she has provided a loving and caring Christian environment for so many children over the past 18 years. If you would like to send a personal thank-you to Nancie, please drop a card in the box at the Welcome Desk by Sunday, May 19.



Happy
Retirement
Nancie!

The preschool is very happy to welcome Mrs. Shelly Yanke as the new preschool director! She comes to the preschool with a wealth of knowledge and experience in early childhood education. She will be completing the school year at her current school and officially join John Knox Preschool on June 3rd. She will be stopping in a few times to see how our preschool operates before we go on summer break. She will attend the year end Jungle Terry program to meet the preschool families and will attend the staff luncheon to meet the church staff. Welcome Shelly!

You can help the preschool raise funds when you visit Dean's Greenhouse for your spring decorating needs. Present a flyer, take a photo on your phone, or tell them you are with John Knox Preschool when making purchases. Dean's will donate 30% of your total sales to the preschool. The event is taking place May 1 - June 15. Flyers are available at the Welcome Desk, outside the preschool rooms (rooms 133-134), or in the church office. Thank you for your support of the preschool.

Openings are available in our preschool classes for the 2024-2025 school year. If you or anyone you know is looking for a preschool, please have them contact Nancie.

If anyone has any questions about the preschool-enrollment, events, fundraisers, etc. please contact us at director@jkpreschool.org , 440-777-5878, or check out our website at www.jkpreschool.org.

a blessing for friends who hold us up

God, you called me to love
but people are inherently risky.
Telling my story, being known, asking for help,
complaining again about
the thing I worry might sound cliché by now. Shouldn't I be over it already?

But something is happening when I am known.
I am becoming stronger somehow.

I am reminded of the pillars I've seen
holding up cathedrals.

Flying buttresses, engineered to provide support for a fragile wall,
allowing them to be built taller, more stunning, more covered with ornaments
or filled with stained glass,
letting all the colorful light dance in.

The walls would collapse without them there, but strengthened, they create
something beautiful.

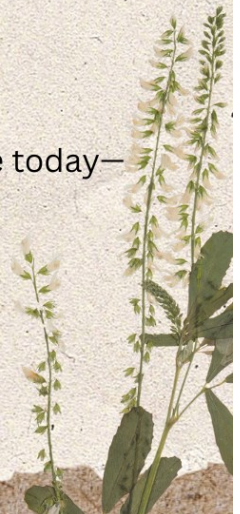
God, when I am no longer quite so tall and strong, give me those who hold me up
and remind me of who I am and that I'm loved.

Yes, I'll get back up again today.
Yes, I'll get those kids cereal
and help my parents with an errand.
Yes, I'll go to work or come up with something better to do with retirement hours.

I will try again.
I know I will,
because someone else's absurd faith in me
is fortifying

So, blessed are our flying buttresses.
For they hold us up
when everything seems ready to come apart, allowing us to face today—
not because we're doing it alone—
but precisely because we aren't.

Kate Bowler





May 2024
Volume 136
KNOX NEWS

Spring
CONCERT
and
Ice Cream Social
SUNDAY, MAY 19, AT 4PM
IN SANCTUARY

Enjoy the sounds of John Knox music groups as they let their hair down and have fun with music you don't hear during worship.

25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted
concert will also be livestreamed at johnknoxpc.org/sunday

JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25200 Lorain Road
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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.