



March 2023
Volume 122

KNOX NEWS

Sunday's service had concluded, people had passed peace and blessings to each other, and most had made their way to coffee hour. By the time I arrived, a 7-year-old friend of mine had already sampled most of the cookies and was determined to tell me which was the best. But he wasn't content with passing on the news. He needed to take me there.

This seems like Lent at it's best. We have things we want to share with each other; things of faith and baking and struggle and hope. We have plans that have been halted, dreams dashed, and yet hints of hope that endure. And together, we journey toward the cross of Good Friday and the triumph of Easter morn. Along the way, we share learnings and practices that keep us grounded. We share prayer concerns to affirm the importance of community and the power of prayer. We open our arms to relationships and experiences that nurture life and broaden perspective. We do more than pass along news. We take each other into deeper dimensions of radical hospitality, authentic community, and joining in on God's transforming work in the world.

Jude 20-21

But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit, staying right at the center of God's love, keeping your arms open and outstretched, ready for the mercy of our Master, Jesus Christ. This is the unending life, the real life.

Tom

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH CALENDAR

March 2

Abrahamic Dinner
6pm—Trinity Hall

March 5

Made To Create Family Event
11am—Fellowship Hall

March 19

New Member Class & Lunch
11am—Fellowship Hall

Healing Prayer Meeting
11am—Lounge

March 20

Deacons & Session
7pm

March 27

Presbytery Meeting

March 28

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers
7pm—Lounge



MARCH HYBRID WORSHIP

March 5

Communion
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 20: 1-16
Envious of the Generous

March 12

Healing Prayer
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Matthew 21: 33-46
When We Just Don't Get It
JKPC Choir - *Sanctuary/Total Praise*

March 19

Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis
JKPC Bell Choir - *A Bach Pastorale & Psalm 30*

March 26

Youth Sunday
REMIX

Women's small group is on a brief PAUSE for the season of Lent. We will be returning 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**

Pause.

Create Space for God.

Join us Tuesday nights, 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday - April 6

- 7:00 PM: Worship Service

Good Friday - April 7

- Time/Location TBA: Sunset Service

Easter Sunday - April 9

- 8:00 AM: Easter Communion Service
- Pancake Breakfast between services
- 10:00 AM: Easter Service

WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February 13, 2023 Meeting

- Heard report submitted by Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, that there was an increase in member payment of the per capita which helps offset this cost for the church. Total operating receipts were about 1.5% lower than the approved 2023 annual budget goal for the month of January. There was a total gain for all activity of about \$7,000 after adding in the monthly allocation from the Morris Bequest. It was also noted that we have received some generous donations in January towards the building campaign totaling about \$5,200.
- Approved motion to accept the 2022 Statistical Report.
- Approved motion from Clerk, Marty Cook, to accept the resignation of Cathy Carruthers (6/22) from Session.
- Heard presentation from Membership Committee regarding a proposed cross-functional effort to grow membership. Goal is to engage people to serve. There was a lot of discussion around this topic which will continue to be discussed at future Session meetings.
- Heard from Christian Education Committee that Confirmation classes have started and there are six confirmands. Confirmation will be on May 14th.
- Heard that we are still looking for 3 members from the Congregation to serve on the Nominating Committee.

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 Christian men. All that have attended past retreats have enjoyed time for group and quiet reflection, and the ability to rest and relax before reengaging the world. We will be starting the weekend with a dinner (Dutch treat) at Quaker Steak and Lube (5150 Liberty Ave, Vermillion, OH 44089) on Friday at 5:00 PM. After dinner we will head over to Beulah Beach (6101 W. Lake Rd. Vermillion, OH 44089) where we will unpack and have our first program. Additional programming will be held on Saturday. The event will end between 8:30-9:00 pm Saturday allowing us to return home for Saturday evening. The cost for the weekend will be \$90, covering the overnight stay (in cozy cabins) and all meals on Saturday. If the cost puts an undue hardship on attendees, we will make scholarships available. RSVP by April 9: Church Office (440-777-3744), or Welcome Desk sign up list. Questions? Bruce Knowlton (brucek2080@gmail.com) or Bruce Steinetz (bruce.m.steinetz@nasa.gov) or Pastor Tom (tmacmillan@johnknoxpc.org).



SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

During the pandemic, more people in our community came to our food pantry than in the past. The congregation responded with generous donations on a regular basis to help us keep up with the need. With things getting back to the new normal, the need is still there. With the SNAP program (additional food stamps provided during the pandemic) ending on March 1st, we expect the people needing food will increase dramatically. In December, the Lakeshore Adult Center made a big donation of food that stocked the pantry for weeks! (See before/after photos) Our stock is running low and we are asking the congregation to help us provide for the people in need.

Thank you in advance for any donations to the food pantry mission!

The Mission Committee



JK PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

We are now accepting enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year. We offer classes for 3-year-olds and 4/5-year-olds. Information is available on our website at www.jkpreschool.org, at the Welcome Desk, in Fellowship Hall, and by the preschool room. You may also contact Nancie Rachocki at info@jkpreschool.org with any questions or to schedule a tour.

We are happy to announce the preschool has received a \$15,000 grant from the Bureau of Workers' Comp. to have an air purification system installed in the preschool rooms. The system safeguards against the outbreak and spread of strains of airborne viruses, bacteria, allergens, odors, pollutants, CV-19, and more. It was recently installed in the preschools rooms and are in use.

The new air purification system adds another level of safety to the preschool. In 2018 we were able to purchase a Tattletale security system. This system allows the preschool staff to have immediate and direct contact with first responders, if needed, by use of remote key fobs. The key fobs are good throughout the building and most of the outside space surrounding the building. Thankfully it has not been needed. We are pleased to offer these additional safety measures to protect our students and staff.

In May we will be teaming up with Dean's Greenhouse again to do a spring fundraiser. It will be similar to the fall fundraiser where the preschool receives a percentage of sales made in May and June. We will have more information closer to the start of the event. Start planning your gardens and making your list!



CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

VALENTINE PARTY

Sunday, February 12, marked the return of the annual Valentine Party. Congregational Life hosted the event following the worship service and welcomed 90+ guests. Members of the committee provided ten soups and mac & cheese to sample along with fresh salad, bread, and crackers. The Coffee Hour Bakers outdid themselves with an array of Valentine cookies to satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

Our friends from NOICA offered baked goods and Turkish coffee for donations to the organization's relief efforts for those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Turkey. Many thanks to all who supported their efforts.

And, of course, many created a unique Valentine or two for their special someone.



Easter "EGG"stravaganza

Saturday, April 1

10:00 – 11:30 AM



Join Congregational Life Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity Hall for the Easter EGG-stravaganza. This long standing John Knox tradition is open to all children through grade 2. So, please invite your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors to take part in a fun-filled morning of springtime activities.

In addition to a special story and Little Bunny adventure there will be crafts, face painting, games, prizes, eggs and photo ops with the Easter Bunny!

Remember to bring a basket for your eggs.

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.

**JOHN
KNOX**

PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Abrahamic Traditions Dinner

MARCH 2, 2023

6:00PM-8:00PM

John Knox Presbyterian Church
25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, OH 44070
"IMMIGRATION IN ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS"



Speakers

RABBI ENID C. LADER
BETH ISRAEL - THE WEST TEMPLE

REV. DR. TOM MCMILLAN
JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DR. ZEKI SARITOPRAK
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

SCAN ME



rsvp@noica.org



[CLICK HERE](#)

VEGAN OPTION WILL BE PROVIDED.

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Christian Education is excited about all that is going on for youth and families!

March 5th is going to be a fun day! The Children's Choir will be singing in the March 5th worship service. Also that day join us for our family event, **Made to Create!** Grab a paintbrush and join us for a fun family hour following worship and Sunday School on March 5 in Fellowship Hall. Bring your creative spirit and leave with a self-created masterpiece. Learn about how God created us to be perfectly unique and wants us to let our colors shine! Enjoy some family time and get to know other families at JKPC. This event is for families with children in 5th grade and under. To help us prepare, please sign up to let us know your family plans to attend. <https://forms.gle/FBMWGOcLKa5ZAzvX6>

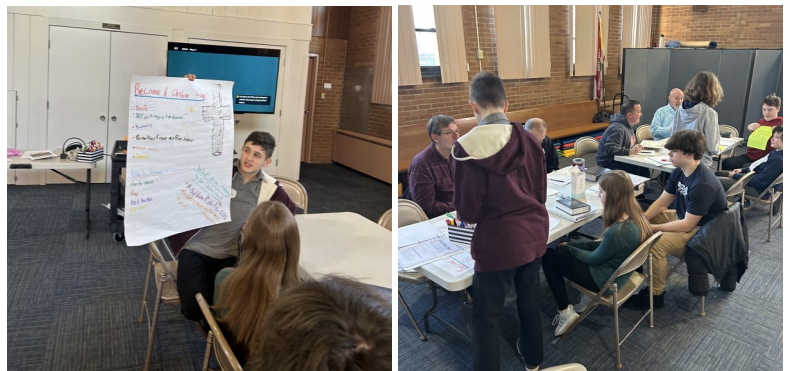
Did you know Confirmation is happening? We are excited that six youth and six mentors are meeting this spring for confirmation class as these youth consider their life and faith. They are studying diverse topics, reading through the book of Luke, and creating their own faith statements. We look forward to confirming our new members on May 14, 2023.

Now Hiring!

Are you or someone you know passionate about children, youth, and families? We have a new position we are hiring for here at JKPC, Director of Family Ministry. This person will be an important part of our church as we minister to children, families, and youth. For more information contact the office, info@johnknoxpc.org.

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

Susanne, Justine, and Beckie



YOUTH DATES:

Mar 5 - Youth Group 4-6pm

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

ATTENTION JOHN KNOX FAMILIES!
JOIN US FOR A GUIDED PAINT PARTY!

MADE TO CREATE!

SUNDAY | MARCH 5
STARTS 15 MINUTES AFTER THE
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

GOD CREATED US ALL PERFECT & UNIQUE
JUST LIKE A PAINTING. EACH ATTENDEE WILL
TAKE HOME THEIR OWN HAND-PAINTED
MASTERPIECE! ALL AGES WELCOME.

<RSVP: BIT.LY/JKPCPAINT>

EASTER FLOWERS

EASTER FLOWERS

You can order Easter Flowers through the church up through Palm Sunday, April 2. Potted flowers include lilies, tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and geraniums. These will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday and will be 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. Use [Sign-up Genius](#) 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.



FINAL THOUGHT

"WALK WITH ME - I'LL SHOW YOU HOW"

One of our grandsons was about six years old, and I really wanted to spend time with him and even share some of the wisdom that I have gained in trying to live the life of a Christian. I wanted to use my skill with words and tell him things. Ryan, instead, asked me to sit down on the floor and play a simple board game. I said, "Ryan I can't sit down on the floor like you". Ryan said "Poppy, (he calls me Poppy and I like that), you can do it, I will show you how".

When we learn that someone is very ill or even near death, we have the money to order flowers to be sent, but Jesus calls us to go sit with the person. "I have the money but I am not good at sitting with someone who is suffering". Jesus says, "I'll show you how just try to listen, that is all that you need to do just now".

When a family needs a home repair, and a group shows up to help I say, "I have some good leadership skills and will organize the work and supervise". Jesus says, "I need you to pick up a paint brush and work alone, I'll show you how to be a follower".

When flower beds around the church need much needed care I say, "I am not good with plants, get someone else, maybe the youth group". Jesus says, "get down on your knees, feel the moist earth in your hands, pull some weeds, plant some seeds, water them in good, I'll show you how to appreciate the beauty when the flowers bloom from your work"

I am so grateful to Ryan for offering to walk with me and show me how. As written in the Beatitudes, "We are blessed when we..... (walk with Jesus as He has shown us how).

Amen

- submitted by Ned Hannum





JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2023
Volume 122

KNOX NEWS

Pause:

A Lenten Offering

Every Tuesday of Lent: 7-8pm

Of the 1000 hours of Lent,
take 5 to connect with God

Experience God through:
Scripture, Prayer,
Place, Healing,
Image, Story



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