



Play Your Part in Gods Story

Stewardship 2023

We are so frequently bombarded by voices that tell us what to believe, what to say, what to commit to.

It's easy to lose our way, compromise our truth. But in our family of faith, in this community of courage, we are encouraged to be real, to show up in our brokenness and experience communion and solidarity. In this community we call John Knox Presbyterian, we can be brave in claiming who we are and discovering the holy and compassionate voice of God. That voice, incarnate in Jesus, keeps assuring us of love and inviting us to shine and play our part in the healing and liberating work of God. We can certainly deny this voice or get distracted by lesser ones, but God keeps calling and claiming us as beloved. So thank you for all the ways you step forward and show up and lend your heart and hands and voice to all the good that God is doing.

November 6 will be a big day for us. We will dedicate our lives, our gifts, our time and energy to the One who faithfully loves and leads us.

Tom

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 14

Session
7pm—Trinity Hall

November 21

Deacons
7pm—Fellowship Hall

November 22

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers
7pm—Lounge

November 30

Pancakes & Pajamas



NOVEMBER HYBRID WORSHIP

November 6

Communion Sunday
Dedication Sunday

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
II Corinthians 3:18
Being Transformed
Be Thou My Vision - Betty Dimond, flute

November 13

Healing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Exodus 4:10-17
Rosa & Moses
Love Lifted Me - Choir with Beckie Tweedle, flute

November 20

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Nehemiah 1

Repair
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come - Bell Choir
Prayer - Bell Choir

November 27

Hanging of the Greens

Rev. Susanne Bendoraitis
Hope
Christmas Pageant

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA PLANTS

Poinsettia plant orders are being taken thru November 20. Plant colors include red, white, or pink. These will be used to decorate the church during Advent and are available for you to take home after the Christmas services. You may also donate a plant for the John Knox Deacons to deliver to a homebound church member during the first week of Advent. Use this link [Christmas Poinsettias](#) or telephone the church office during regular hours at (440)777-3744. Sponsorships are \$7.00 per plant, payable to John Knox Church, indicating "Christmas Poinsettia" on the memo. For more information, contact Tom Haag at (440)250-0854.



Christmas Caroling!

Come spread holiday cheer by singing Christmas carols for our neighbors at the Renaissance Retirement Community on Friday, December 2, at 5:30 PM. All ages are welcome, no experience necessary - only enthusiasm! We will be led by Jim Traxler and will meet in the main entrance of the Renaissance at 5:15 PM. Any questions, please contact Barb Forslund at blforslund@gmail.com.



WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 17th, 2022 MEETING

- Heard report submitted by Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, that regular offering received in the month of September was 10% below the targeted level of about 75% at this point in the year. The 3rd quarter statements were sent out. Finance will meet next week and work on the mortgage debt reduction campaign.
- Approved motion from the Clerk to accept the transfer of Margaret (Peggy) Willis to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
- Heard report from Membership and Communication Committee that four new members joined JKPC
- Heard report from Mission Committee that 204 meals were served at the last community meal. Expecting to serve a lot of meals at the next community meal which will be Thanksgiving week. Will be looking for members from the congregation to cook turkeys.
- Heard report from Worship Committee that they are looking into Christmas Caroling at a retirement community.

ARIEL MENDOZA VISIT

This month we welcomed Ariel Mendoza from Nicaragua. Ariel was the youth director at Shalom Presbyterian Church in Esteli, Nicaragua, for many years and led its Prison Ministry. JKPC members, Tom MacMillan, Tony Flauto, Susan Beck, and others played critical roles in the founding and early years of Shalom seminary and school. Ariel and the youth of Shalom partnered with JKPC mission team members in various construction & medical projects and leading VBS for the children of Esteli for many years. Ariel's wife Arlene was a leader of several ministries at Shalom including music, women's, and children's. Ariel and Arlene have been the Directors of the Leadership Training Center in Esteli since its inception.

During Ariel's visit, he enjoyed time reconnecting with old friends and making new connections at John Knox. His presentation and brunch on Saturday was a hit and full of good information about the work he and his family are doing in Nicaragua. Ariel also came and assisted in worship on Sunday, sharing his gifts and contributing to the momentum of our Vision for the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. We hope that you will join John Knox in continuing to support Ariel, his family, and his ministry.





2023 Stewardship Campaign Focuses on Living More into Our Vision

The vision that God has given John Knox has been a guiding paradigm for our church and its ministries. This past year we have seen momentum developing and, thus, we are looking toward 2023 as a way to embrace this more fully as we live out the Vision and become the people and church God is creating us to be.

*We believe God is calling us to
extend radical hospitality,
build authentic community, and
join in God’s transforming work in the world.*

Our theme this year is **Play Your Part in God’s Story**

God’s story is ongoing and expressive of God’s love for the world and for us. We are called to be part of it and join it. Like an orchestra, each instrument is essential and yet different as well. When they work together toward a common goal, the sound is magical, moving, and inspiring. This is what we believe God is doing at John Knox. Will you help us reach our **2023 Congregational Ask Budget of \$957,215**. While it is a 5% increase over our 2022 budget, it reflects our response to God’s call to John Knox to live out our Vision more fully.

On **November 6**, we will dedicate our pledges for 2023. What we pledge is inspired by an intimate awareness of and gratitude for God’s invitation to each one of us. We are inviting you to invest in God’s good work here through the resources that God has given you – your energy, prayers, and pledge. Scan the QR code to pledge or visit our website for more information (www.johnknoxpc.org/stewardship).

Will you play your part?



OCTOBER FUN

Congregational Life and Pathways welcomed over 100 adults and children to Halloween Happenings on Friday evening, October 14. The evening was filled with many activities including a magic act and a spooky pumpkin patch. Each child received a treat bag filled with trinkets and candy.

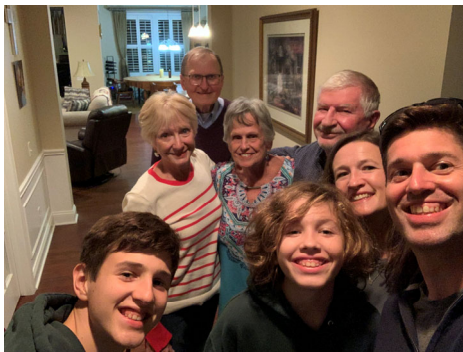
The children delighted everyone with their costumes. We entertained princesses, super-heroes, dragons, fire men, and even, the Incredible Hulk among others. Many in our midst had never visited John Knox. It was a privilege to offer them some of our radical hospitality.

By the end of the evening new friendships had been formed and promises made to meet again.

A big thank you to all who donated treats. Your contributions put smiles on a lot of little faces.



Thank you to all who participated in John Knox's first Supper Super Scramble. Couples, families, and singles of all ages were randomly assigned to eat dinner together and just enjoy an evening! A wonderful time was had by all. One young person who attended said, "It was so nice to get to know adults and hear their stories!" I think the feeling was mutual. God is with us as we fellowship and connect. We hope you will join us for the next one sometime in the new year! A big thanks to Spiritual Growth for organizing.



SUPPER



SUPER



SCRAMBLE

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES, AND SOCKS

God's love lives in each of us and encourages us to help one another in times of plenty and in times of lean. Many in our community struggle to stay warm as the temperature drops. We are hoping you will help keep the hands and feet of our neighbors toasty this winter.

Congregational Life is, once again, collecting new hats, mittens, gloves and socks for those in need and will coordinate with the Mission Committee to identify recipients. Please help make our donations generous.

Beginning, the first Sunday of Advent, November 27 and running through, Sunday, December 12, you can place your donations in the shopping bags found in front of the Christmas tree near the north entrance.

Your donations will allow us to serve many. Thank you.



Hanging of the Greens

Everyone who attends the 10am service on Sunday, November 27, will have an opportunity to participate in Hanging of the Greens. We will complete decorating the Sanctuary at the opening of the worship service and welcome the pipers as we begin this season of wonder and excitement.

The Paper Bag Pageant, an intergenerational enactment of the Nativity, will be the highlight of the worship service.

Congregational Life will provide an expanded coffee hour with sweets and savories.

Please plan to join us for a morning of worship and fellowship.

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

This has been an exciting month for Christian Education. We are grateful to be learning about God together and to be having fun this fall.

This past month the youth enjoyed a trip to Mapleside farms and an evening of pumpkin carving. We are looking forward to youth group fun and an afternoon of making gifts for our homebound members on Nov 13 after church.

This past month, children had a wonderful time dressing up, enjoying crafts and a magician at Halloween Happenings. We are so grateful for the opportunities to gather and enjoy time together.

We hope all children and youth will join us for Hanging of the Greens and the Paper Bag Pageant during worship on Sunday, Nov 27, the first Sunday of Advent.

Join us for Pancakes and Pajamas on November 30th from 6-8 pm. Bring your whole family, wear your pajamas and join us in Trinity Hall for gingerbread house decorating and holiday fun! A pancake dinner will be provided. Invite friends, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/yXuWVLVJUKJzRxYw9>



IMPORTANT YOUTH GROUP DATES:

Nov 13 - Making homebound gifts and pizza after church

Nov 27 - Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec 4 - Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Dec 11 - Christmas Concert Cocoa Bar Fundraiser

Dec 19 - Volunteer at Night in Bethlehem 5-9pm

w/ pizza and games

COMING UP FOR CHILDREN:

Nov 30 - Pancakes and Pajamas

Breakfast for dinner, games, and decorate gingerbread houses

Dec 19 - Night in Bethlehem

SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A warm thank you to the John Knox community for your continued support of our food pantry. We have provided food to so many people in need in North Olmsted as well as many other areas of Northeast Ohio. 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 November, 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.

Thank you for continuing to support this very important ministry.

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.

Thank you again for your prayerful support of this wonderful ministry!



Oxcart Pantry Thanksgiving Collection

It is time to prep for our neighbors needing some assistance.

Please help us by donating food items fit for a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

Where: Boxes in the Gallery and outside Trinity Hall

When: Thru November 20

Items needed most:

Mashed potatoes, boxed/bag stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy (jar/can/packets), dessert items (boxed cake mixes, cookie mixes, brownie mixes, etc.), canned sweet potatoes

Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks out to John Knox Church with Oxcart Pantry designated in the memo.

MISSION

WELCOME BACK GUATEMALA MEDICAL AND WATER TEAMS!

Everyone wishes to thank you for your prayers and support! Rev. Tom has shared some information with you about the blessings found on the trip, and we will share more as we have a chance to put thoughts together. We look forward to sharing pictures and God stories with you in a few weeks. There were over 100 water systems put in place with families. Teeth were pulled, sick children and adults were evaluated, and medicines given to provide relief, children/adults could see better. The team returned knowing they were in the right place, doing what they were called to do, filled with joy and peace knowing this what the Lord called them to do. Again, your prayers and gifts made it possible, and we thank you! We look forward to sharing more.

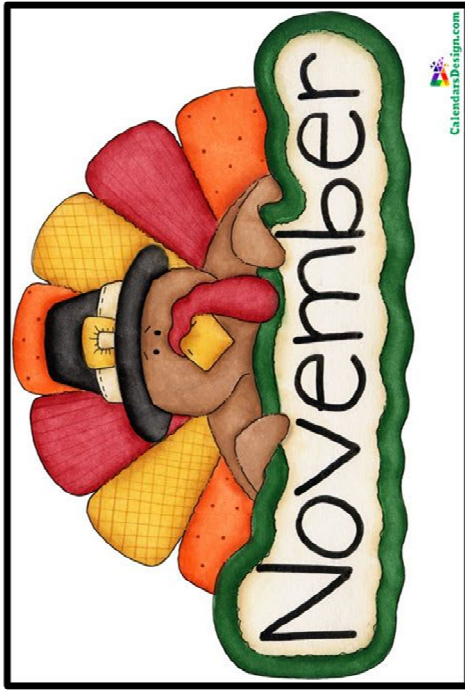




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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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KNOX NEWS



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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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