

Sometimes we dig in, stay stuck in familiar worn-out patches of turf, thought, or behavior.

But then there are other times.

Times when the earth seems to shift beneath us, relationships demand more of us, and God seems to be nudging us beyond where we've been.

Certainly, there are times when the Spirit of God brings comfort and calm, but more frequently I see the Spirit infusing and sometimes disturbing us with fresh insight and kindled courage to bring the Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

We are stewards of that Kingdom and stewards of the visions and gifts entrusted to us by God.

So I'm wondering, is there a relationship that is God prompting you to develop?

Are there talents and passions God is encouraging you to activate?

Will there be a financial pledge you prayerfully and boldly present to God on Dedication Sunday October 29?

Can you see within our church ways in which we have dug in and stayed put too long?

Are there better ways for us to be speaking to culture, listening to our neighbors, mobilizing our members, and aligning our ministries for greater impact?

If there is a yes to these questions, then we are being nudged and accompanied by God's Spirit. This means we've got imaginative work to do together. And this is what I look forward to.

Tom

I Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-16





OCTOBER CALENDAR

October 1 Noah's Pudding 11am—Trinity Hall

Poetry with Pastor Tom 11am—Lounge

Broadway & Opera Concert 4pm—Trinity Hall

October 7 Building & Grounds Cleanup 9:00am

October 8 Hiking with the Knowltons 11am—Rocky River Reservation

October 9 Session 7pm—Lounge

October 10 Women's Small Group 7pm—Lounge

October 13 Halloween Happenings 6:30pm—Trinity Hall & North Lot

October 15 Meaningful Meals Family Social 11am—Fellowship Hall

Brand New Hat Concert 4pm—Sanctuary

October 16 Deacons Meeting 7pm—Lounge

October 20 Breathe Women's Spa Experience 7pm—Trinity Hall

October 22 Bridge the Gap 11am—Trinity Hall

October 24 Community Meal 5:30—Drive-thru

Effective Communication Strategies (Alzheimer's Follow-up Class) 7pm—108-109

OCTOBER HYBRID WORSHIP

October 1 World Communion Sunday Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Deuteronomy 31:6-8 & Isaiah 41:8-10 Courage / Steps of Faith

October 8 Healing Prayer Rev. Dr. Susanne Bendoraitis

October 15 Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Proverbs 3:1-8 Discernment

October 22 Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Proverbs 3:1-8 Acknowledge God in All Our Ways

October 29 Dedication Sunday Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan Philippians 2:12-18 The World That Awaits Us



STAY HEALTHY!

'Tis the season for respiratory illness. As with each fall and winter, we are seeing an increase in our state of COVID and other illnesses. One way we can care for one another is doing all we can to keep one another healthy and not spread illness. If you are having symptoms or not feeling well, please stay home. Session has asked for staff and the congregation to follow CDC guidelines (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html) Prayers for health and rest, and as always let us know if you need prayer or connection.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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September 11, 2023 MEETING

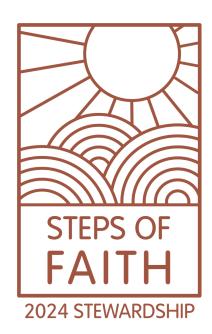
- Session began with a devotion discussion using scripture Isaish 40 asking the questions 'What does memory do?' and 'How do we renew our strength?'. We recognized that memories are pathways to past lessons learned/reference point(s). We have to wait on the Lord for renewed strength, stay connected, and rely on the Lord. The verse was mentioned from a song "Yes He did, Yes He can".
- Treasurer, Mindi Schibley reported that regular offering is at about 65% of the budgeted amount for 2023 which is down a little bit, but that is normal for August. Operating expenses were for the most part within budget. We have month to date loss of \$43K, with overall year to date gain of \$26K including the budgeted amount from the Morris Fund.
- Session reviewed the use/rental request form with details on policies/rules stated on the form. Noted the process involves coordination as well as information for insurance reasons and timing to be able to follow up and assure the restrictions are made known and understood.
- Discussed the need to look into a policy/process for approval to allow parking large vehicles such as RVs and campers in the church parking lot.
- Budgeting process has begun. Stewardship campaign kickoff will be October 1. Dedication Sunday is scheduled for Sunday October 29.
- Membership will be hosting a new members event September 25th. Anticipating 6 new members will attend.
- Interviews for Handbell Choir Director going well with a potential candidate who may be able to start very soon.

FOLLOW-UP CLASS

SECOND ALZHEIMER'S PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, October 24, Jim Traxler will give a second presentation regarding Alzheimer's and Dementia. The topic will be *Effective Communication Strategies*, dealing with how to talk with a person with dementia during the three stages of the disease: early, middle, and late. It is important to know how to communicate based on where a person is on this continuum and how to connect with that person's reality. The presentation will be given in Room 108-109 at 7:00 PM and will last approximately one hour. Please call the office at 440-777-3744 if you plan to attend, so we may be prepared for how many folks will be there.





Then Moses summoned Joshua. He said to him with all Israel watching, "Be strong. Take courage. You will enter the land with this people ... God is striding ahead of you. God's right there with you. God won't let you down; God won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry."

DEUTERONOMY 31:7-8



At our core, John Knox is a community of courage, faith, and mission. Now more than ever, in a world full of uncertainty, our congregation stands as a beacon of hope, transformation, and radical hospitality.

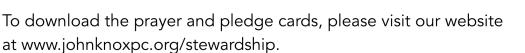
As such, our place in North Olmsted and the world is needed. Help us form a strong fiscal foundation for our ministries.

Just as Joshua ventured out of the desert and into new life-giving territory with boldness, we too are stepping out in faith, trusting that God will guide us and be with us.

DEDICATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 29

You help us plan for God's ministry here at John Knox when you make your pledge. Look for your Pledge Card in the mail or scan the QR code to make your pledge for 2024 on Realm.

Also look for the Prayer Card in the mailing to assist our own spiritual journey of trusting God with steps of faith in our lives and at John Knox.







Sunday, October 15, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow in the Gallery:

Brand New Hat presented by the popular northern Ohio quartet consisting of Dan McMillan (lead guitar, vocals), Dave Kennard (banjo, harmonica, vocals), John Hansen (bass, harmonica, vocals) and Roland Kausen (mandolin, vocals). They have been playing together for more than 20 years. Their music is a blend, drawing from the roots of bluegrass, traditional, folk and contemporary stylings. This upbeat band brings a fresh style, hot playing, tight vocals and a unique interpretation to familiar songs as well as featuring numerous original compositions.



If you would be willing to bake sweet treats for the reception, please contact Dianne Magnani at <u>dwmagnani@gmail.com</u>.

Second Hour Experiences

Second Hour Experiences are programs and experiences that will happen after church through November 19. Each Sunday there will be a different offering that will allow us to dig deeper, get to know each other, or both.

Oct 8 Hiking with the Knowltons Meet at Rocky River Reservation Nature Center following worship for a short hike, granola bars, and a short devotion.

Oct 15 Meaningful Meals Family Social Join us in Fellowship Hall for a social hour for families, hang out, have a devotional, and play minute-to-win-it games. Kids will play, adults will talk, and fun will be had. There will be a short devotional on meaningful meals, and all will go home with a deck of mealtime prayer cards. All families with children are invited.

Oct 22 Bridge The Gap See page 9 for more information on this class offered by the Be the Bridge committee.

Oct 29 Super Supper Scramble Brunch Edition Sign up to be matched in random groups with others for brunch. Choose a group that wants to go out or be hosted. This will be fun!

Nov 5 Sermon Discussion Group Glen Ploegstra and Marty Cook will lead a group in digging deeper into our fall theme of, "Be Bold. God Is With You. Move Forward."

Nov 12 Emotionally Safe Parenting with Jennifer Smith This program is for parents and caregivers interested in learning more about how to support our children and youth in the world where they find themselves. Childcare will be provided.

Nov 19 End of Life Session Join ER nurses, Katherine and Mike Stolz, as they lead an information session about the end-of-life decisions we need to be prepared for including Living Wills, Power of Attorney, and Do Not Resuscitate.

MISSION

SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRY

In the summers of 2018 and 2019, a team from JKPC travelled to North Dakota to work with the Spirit Lake Ministry on the



Spirit Lake Reservation. Then the pandemic hit, and we were unable to return for several years. This past summer, we were going to travel with a group from Marilyn Panco's church in St. Louis, St. Mark, but Spirit Lake was undergoing a transition - Pastor Mike and Libby had decided to retire, and the Methodist Church was unable to find a new director before they left. Currently, there is an interim director leading worship, but no teams were able to make the trip this summer. The Dakotas Conference of the Methodist Church is planning on having a director in place in time for next summer, so we are praying that we can partner with Marilyn's church and make this trip happen to this wonderful ministry. Spirit Lake is still doing the Christmas shoebox program this year, and again this year John Knox will be supporting this program. We are asking for filled shoebox donations for the children of Spirit Lake. The boxes will be due back to Kim Tunney (they can be dropped off at the JKPC office) by **November 5th.** This is a fun activity for a Life Group to do at a meeting, or just for families to participate in. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Tunney at 440-454-3194,

or <u>kwtunney@yahoo.com</u>. See below for ideas on what items to put in the box.

What's in a Shoebox?

Love. Shoebox Christmas gifts are built from love for children that might not otherwise get a Christmas gift. On the reservation, up to 70 percent of the children would not get a Christmas gift if not for the Shoebox Christmas Gift program and the generosity of the people that donate to this wonderful program. To start, wrap the bottom and top of the box separately (this will allow us to insert the story of the birth of Jesus). If you have children, grand children, nieces or nephews, ask them what they would like for Christmas. Add that, a few more small gifts, some candy, a winter hat, mittens or gloves, place a rubber band around the box and the top, then put the age group and gender of the child on top of the box. You have just built a box of love. We are looking for the following age groups. Infant, Toddler, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and



up. Please only add new toys and please don't put any clothing except the hats/gloves or mittens in the boxes.

MISSION PARTNER-LOVE INC

Love INC (Love in the name of Christ of Cuyahoga County) has been a strong Christian ministry partner to John Knox Church for many years. Love INC links partner churches, volunteers, and community partners to bring about transformation to our church community in their time of need. When our church is notified of a need by a member of our community; to pay a utility bill, a car repair expense, assistance with groceries, pay a month of rent, etc.; Love INC steps in to provide the assistance needed. Their organization is primarily funded by donations and contributions from area churches, businesses, and individuals. The goal is to see people thrive, finding hope and to ultimately be transformed by the love of Christ.



MISSION

From The Guatemala Water Team: (August 12-21)

Well, another wonderful and successful mission trip has been completed to Guatemala. Twelve talented people took to the mountains to deliver and teach about clean water systems. Enduring the two hour bumpy van ride into the mountains in the morning and the two hour ride home in the afternoon. We had challenges with illnesses and everyone worked together to make the best of the situation and to complete the training and installations of the water systems. We visited five different villages and installed 130 water systems. Between the October trip last fall and this trip, we have delivered over 250 water systems to Mayan families in the mountains. It was amazing to see their faces of appreciation and gratitude and to see them start to understand how important clean water is for their health and the health of their families.

On the last day in Purulha, we were honored by a presentation given by the Mayan girls who have received scholarships from JKPC and the Guatemala Family Development. We support eight students in residence and twenty-five girls in the villages for higher education. These girls were very excited to share with us what they have learned and what their goals and dreams are. These girls would not be able to realize these dreams without the support of Fundenor and the scholarships we all support. Thank you for sharing your love for these wonderful people through your support for the water and medical teams and the scholarships. We truly wish you could experience first hand their warmth and gratitude and the hope you given to them through your support. Thank you again for your prayers, love, and support for our missions.

With Gratitude and Love, The Water Team

Terry Jones, Tom Drew, Sandee Seib, John and Max Davenport, Bill and Lillian Horschke, Bill Blackie, Bill Fike, Ken Langdon and Tim and Donna Claiborne





BUILDING HOPE IN THE CITY UPDATES: OCTOBER 2023

Opportunities:

- Neighborhood Prayer Walks: Thursday, October 12th from 6-7pm @ Mega Church (3170 Scranton Rd. Cleveland, OH 44109) - These walks will last an hour and will include contemplative and intercessory prayer, deeper understanding of the history and current stories that shape the neighborhood, and reflective prompts for you to reimagine your presence in the neighborhood God has called you to. These are monthly taking place May-October.
- One World Kitchen: Friday, October 20th from 6-8pm at the Hope Center (15135 Triskett Rd, Cleveland, OH 44111) - Join us for dinner! These Pop-up cafe's support refugee chefs realize their culinary dreams, allow guests to enjoy the cuisine of other nations, and invites all to take part in The Hope Center mission that helps refugees transition from surviving to thriving. <u>Purchase tickets here</u>.
- <u>Autumn Hues</u>: Saturday, October 21 from 1-4pm at West 61st Street Micro Farm. Join Building Hope in the City HOPE Grows for community events by serving and enjoying the company of our neighbors. <u>Register here.</u>
- Embrace A MissionSmith: Saturday, October 28 from 1-3:30pm at Cove City Church (2439 Saint Clair Avenue Northeast Cleveland, OH 44114). Who all has a part to play in the wellness of mothers and babies in our community? In Cuyahoga County, black mothers are 2.5 times more likely to die from a pregnancy related cause than white mothers, and black infants are 4.6 times more likely to die than white infants. Building Hope in the City and Renovare Music invite you to an immersive experience of instrumental music, poetry, narratives, and original Documentary Songs written collaboratively with members of our community who know these realities first hand. Register here.
- (G)Race Matters: Saturday, October 28 from 6-8pm at Bridge CLE (3389 Fulton Ave. Cleveland, OH 441109). Grace Matters Workshops are a set of gatherings to educate Christians on a deeper level around biblical unity and promote the practice of racial reconciliation among the body of Christ in Cleveland. <u>Register here.</u>

Upcoming Trainings:

- Building Hope 101: An introduction to BHITC and volunteering: Oct 18 at 6pm
- <u>Refugee/Hope Center 101</u>: An introduction to the Hope Center and volunteering: Oct 26 at 6pm
- <u>Christian Community Development 101</u>: An introduction to Christian Community Development: Oct 24 at 6pm

Other ways to support BHITC:

- Shop and donate at <u>Common Threads Thrift Store</u> in Fairview Park and Book Park to support the work of Building Hope, provide jobs, and find great deals!
- Buy a Candle or fragrance from Peripeti Home

If you have any questions about Building Hope in the City, or how to get involved, please reach out to Chris Hoffa at <u>ckh649@gmail.com</u>. Chris is the point of contact between Building Hope in the City and John Knox.

OXCART THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

Once again John Knox is partnering with the Oxcart Pantry to collect Thanksgiving food items to be made available to those in our community in need of assistance with the basics for a holiday meal. This year the collection is going to be "POTLUCK". This means that you will have a larger choice of food items to be purchased and brought to the church. This will begin October 1 and run through October 22. There will be boxes in the church office to collect your donations if you bring them in during the week and a box at the entrance of Trinity Hall and the Gallery on Sunday. PLEASE do not put your donations in the Love Buggy. For questions, please call Lillian Predota (440-826-0794). The following is a list of the items Oxcart needs the most:



Thanksgiving Food Collection

Boxed stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, gravy (jars, cans, or packets), Jello (regular &

sugar-free), canned sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes (boxes & packets), dessert items (boxed cake, cookie, brownie mixes, etc)

Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks out to John Knox Church with Oxcart Thanksgiving designation in the memo. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

BE THE BRIDGE

"BRIDGE THE GAP"

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 11:00 AM in TRINITY HALL

Be the Bridge is pleased to welcome Bill Shaul as our speaker and facilitator for "Bridge the Gap" on Sunday, October 22, in Trinity Hall, following worship.

Bill is a leader of the Social Justice Advocacy Ministry at Federated UCC in Chagrin Falls. He is also a NE Ohio ambassador for Braver Angels, which is a national grassroots bipartisan organization that seeks to depolarize the country around politics and race. A retired family physician and pediatrician, Bill lives with his wife Carolyn in Aurora, Ohio. They have a blended family of 4 sons and 5 granddaughters.

His entire professional career was in Seattle, Washington where his medical practice consisted largely of service to immigrant and minority families. He was also medical director of the largest urban Native American clinic in the country. He spent several

years on the faculty of the University of Washington (Pediatrics and Global Health); while there he was Director of a program to reduce infant mortality in areas of Washington State with large populations of migrant farm workers and the Yakima Indian Nation. He has done some medical work in rural India, Nicaragua, and taught pediatrics in China. Since his retirement he has been an active volunteer with both Moebius Nature Center in Aurora as an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist and with Community of Hope in Cleveland for 4 years, supporting youth aging out of foster care.

We hope you will join us on the 22nd to welcome Bill as we learn how to bridge the gap that divides so many of us. Let's learn together how to have difficult conversations that result in learning another person's story. Registration is not required but strongly encouraged. We want to make certain enough tables and chairs are set-up and plenty of food is available.

You can register today by clicking this link <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040845A4AF2CA7F49-bridge</u> or contacting the office at info@johnknoxpc.org.





(AN)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FALL FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL AGES HOSTED BY THE JOHN KNOX CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE.



WE WILL START THE EVENING WITH A SPECIAL MAGIC SHOW SO YOU DON'T WANT TO BE LATE.

STAY FOR S'MORES, CRAFTS, GAMES, GUESSING CONTEST, PRIZES AND MEET NEW FRIENDS. VISIT THE PUMPKIN PATCH AND HAVE THE BALLOON TWISTER CREATE SOMETHING SPECIAL JUST FOR YOU.

PUT ON YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME, BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND ENJOY ALL THAT IS OFFERED.





25200 Lorain Road North Olmsted, OH 44070 440-777-3744

GET CONNECTED!

John Knox Church 25200 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted

Spiritual Growth Committee Invites you to...

Join us on Oct 20, 7-9 PM as we connect with one another and tend to our physical, mental, 8 spiritual health.

Sugar Scrub Satin Hands Chair Yoga Chair Massage Mindfulness Exercise Prayerful Meditation Spiritual Devotion Snacks!



johnknoxpc.org/events/breathe

BREATHE WOMEN'S SPA EXPERIENCE

Women, you are invited to Breathe! Take a breath with us on Friday, October 20, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM in Trinity Hall. This mini-retreat will have opportunity for connections with one another, yourself, and with God. We are hoping this will be a night of fun and relaxation, and we will all get to take a deep breath. We will have snacks, spa activities, some prayerful meditation moments, and conversation. Sign up here to join us! Questions, contact Susanne at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org.

JKPC SOCIAL SUPPER SCRAMBLE – BRUNCH EDITION

The Spiritual Growth Committee is again inviting the congregation to connect with one another in a strictly social setting – no books, no reading, no videos, just great conversation with others! This is an all-ages event and includes singles, couples, and families. This time, the event will occur following worship on October 29th. The other twist is that you have the option of gathering at someone's home or in a local restaurant chosen by the organizer of the group to which you are assigned. Don't be shy - just let us know your preferences when you sign up.

We hope to see you there!!

Super Supper Scramble

October 29, 11:00 AM

Sign up by Oct 22 to be matched in random groups that will dine out or eat in. This will be fun!

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

Thanks to all who attended our Rally Day Carnival to celebrate the beginning of the program year! What fun we had! Walking into Trinity Hall, it was tempting to get popcorn before the hearty lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, pasta salad and dessert! The kids worked on completing their games passport playing the many games of tic-tac-throw, pick a lollipop and win a prize, ring toss, and much more! Outside there was football toss, basketball and cotton candy and snow cones! Many people took advantage of the nice weather to enjoy a snow cone and talk to one another.

Sunday School has begun!

In children's Sunday School, students Pre-K to 5th grade began their Sunday School in the Rainbow Rug Room with a craft and a devotional video. Students 2nd-5th grade then continued their class in Room 135. Our learning series theme for October is *Are we there yet?* about the Israelites' lessons as they wandered in the desert to be thankful, to love God and others, to turn to God when we're lost, and many other lessons.



colaborate Bible Study

Youth Sunday School is each Sunday at 10:00 AM in the Youth Room. We have Poptarts and fun discussions about the Bible and everyday life. This fall we are walking through the New Testament

using *Colaborate: Bible Study*. With intriguing questions, in-depth infographics, and punchy graphics, each week will pull students into the content to drive engagement with each other, the Bible, and God. More info? Check it out: <u>https://ms.wearesparkhouse.org/downloads/</u> <u>Colaborate/Col_BS_ScopeSequence.pdf</u>

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 15, for the Second Hour Experience—Meaningful Meals Family Social after church. This event is for families of youth and children. Join us for a social hour for families, to hang out, have a devotional, and play minute-to-win-it games. Kids will play, adults will talk, and fun will be had by all. There will be a short devotional on meaningful meals, and all will go home with a deck of mealtime prayer cards. A light lunch will be served. Please use this link to sign-up to let us know you are joining in the fun. <u>https://forms.gle/5g4GcjsEmtmtanM58</u>

Youth-- we hope you can join us for our annual Pumpkin Carving Event on Sunday, October 15, from 6:00— 8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. The event is BYOP (Bring your own Pumpkin). We will provide drinks and snacks and have safe carving tools available. See you there!

Questions? Contact Susanne at sbendoraitis@johnknoxpc.org.

We look forward to seeing you!

Susanne and Laura







Children & Youth Calendar

Children (through grade 5):

October 13	Halloween Happenings
October 15	Meaningful Meals Family Social after Church
November 5	Intergenerational Worship
November 12	Emotionally Safe Parenting Seminar with Jennifer Smith after church
November 26	Hanging of the Greens Intergenerational Service, Paper Bag Pageant
November 29	Pancakes and Pajamas
December 20	Night in Bethlehem
December 24	6pm Family Christmas Eve Service

Youth (grade 6 & above):

October 15	Meaningful Meals Family Social after Church
	Pumpkin Carving Party 6:00-8:00 PM in Fellowship Hall and the Youth Room
November 3-5	Wanake Overnight Retreat Weekend—Info to Follow (tentative plan)
November 19	Youth Group Mission Project/ Compassion in Action
December 3	Progressive Dinner 4:30-8:30 PM
December 10	Cookie Reception Fundraiser after Christmas Concert
December 20	Night In Bethlehem; Sign up to Volunteer 5:00-8:00 PM (pizza at 5:00 PM, event 6:00-8:00 PM)

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

The Deacon's College Care Package Ministry has begun. We are still in need of students' addresses! We will be sending students snacks and gift cards. Click <u>here</u> to sign up or email the office for the link. Monetary donations



can be donated by cash or check (write College Care in memo) and need to be dropped off at the church office by October 25. Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Twining at <u>s.twining@yahoo.com</u>.

Blessing and best wishes to our college students! -Deacons

SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

Dear John Knox Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for your generous gift! This money will be incredibly helpful & will allow me to purchase food, cover rent, and help with travel costs. I am so thankful that I have a second family who backs and supports my future!

Thanks again!

John Campbell

2023 Scholarship Recipient

Thank You

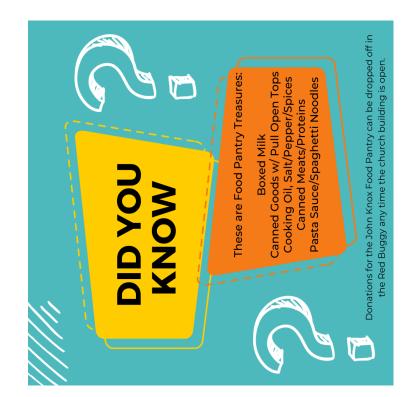


PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OHN KNC

October 2023 Volume 129

KNOX NEWS





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Website: johnknoxpc.org



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