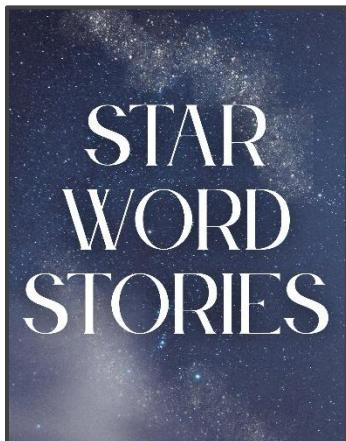


Monthly Newsletter from Jackson's First Presbyterian Church

“Let us always love each other. Lead us to the light. Let us hear the voice of reason singing in the night. Let us run from anger and catch us when we fall. Teach us in our dreams and please, yes please, bless us one and all.”

- *A Muppet Christmas Carol*

Upcoming Events

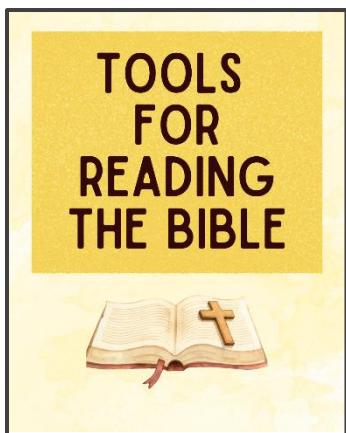


Do you have a Star Word story you'd like to share?

We are looking for folks that are willing to share how their Star Word from 2025 has impacted their year! Stories will be shared on Sunday January 4. If you got a Star Word last year and would be willing to share a story about how your word guided you over this past year, please reach out to Katie or David so we can plan for you to share that story.

The use of Star Words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written or printed on paper stars. These paper stars are then distributed to the congregation, who are encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in

connection to that word. Make sure to come to church on Jan. 4 to get one!



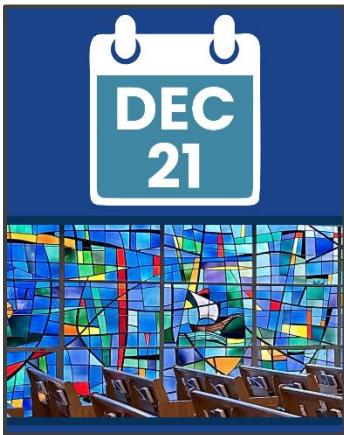
New Class with Jen – Sign up by Dec. 21

This study introduces important means to consider when interpreting different parts of the Bible: narratives, poetry and wisdom, and letters. It also reviews what Reformed and Presbyterian Christians believe about the nature of the Bible, and texts and translations that are available to us.

- **Dates **UPDATED**:** January 18, February 1, & February 15
- **Registration deadline to get a workbook:** December 21

Note: If you do not register by Dec. 21 you can still take the class!

- **Contact** Katie in the office (just reply to this email!) or Jen Blackwell to register. Please register by the deadline so we can order enough workbooks for everyone!



Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on **December 21** for the purpose of electing ruling elders and deacons. This has been moved from the December 7 date. If you cannot attend in person but would like to watch online, you can do so at the link below. Please note that since we don't know what time exactly worship will end, we are not sure what time exactly the meeting will start. You can keep an eye on our facebook livestream at facebook.com/JacksonFirstPres/live to see when worship ends.

Zoom Link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81961901291?pwd=9ma4ytgmcT1L5OyRQFu3NaTh3VRkb4.1>

Meeting ID: 819 6190 1291

Passcode: nCm7jW



Blue Christmas Service

This Sunday December 21st at 7pm in the Chapel.

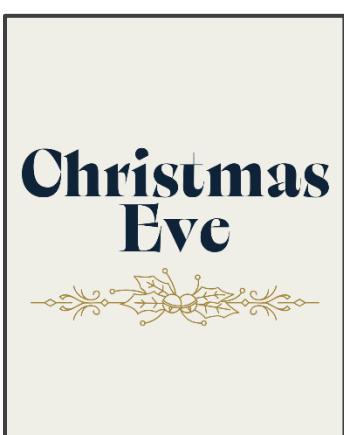
The holiday season can be both the most wonderful and the most difficult of times. The physical darkness of the season often mirrors our own heavy emotions, making family gatherings that are missing special people even harder to face. It is vital that we acknowledge the grief we carry, hold it gently, and recognize that we are not alone.

That is why we host the Blue Christmas service. It is an opportunity to gather as a faith community, to sit together and know we are wrapped in the arms of a God whose love will never let us go.

While we hope you can join us in person, we know that winter weather and dark roads can make travel a challenge. To preserve the intimate feel of the service for those at home, we invite you to join us via Google Meet. While the digital experience will be simple and unpolished, the connection will be genuine.

If you cannot join us in person or virtually, please take a moment for prayerful reflection. Know that in our grief, God helps us find peace and provides the light to guide our way.

Link to watch on Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/itt-ogqv-wyz>



Christmas Eve Service

A Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary on December 24th. All are welcome to this service, and you are invited to come as you are. If you feel like dressing up, dress up! If dressing up is too stressful for you during this busy time of year, wear what is comfortable! This beautiful service of Carols and Lessons will conclude with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. This service will be livestreamed on facebook.

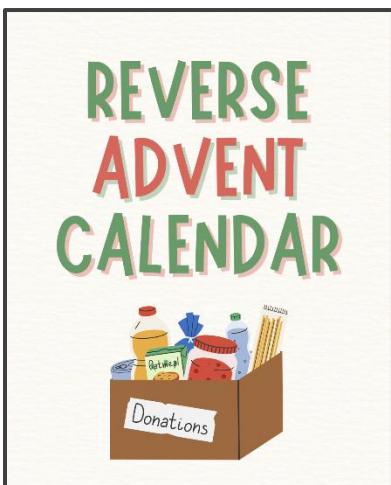
Giving Back



Jackson Interfaith Shelter Seeks Donations

"I frequently drive by the Interfaith Shelter on my way downtown and see the people waiting outside for a meal. The sight makes me feel helpless. These folks are right down the street from me and I don't have enough money to feel like I could make any impact on their situation. Recently the shelter posted on facebook that they are looking for specific items this December (women's gloves, hand warmers, and cough drops) and a link to an Amazon wishlist was posted. While shopping on Amazon is at odds with my personal values right now, shopping from that list does mean that I can provide more for less to people that need it most." -Katie Meyers

If you'd like to help the Jackson Interfaith Shelter with their current needs, follow this link: interfaithshelter.com/amazon



Reverse Advent Calendar

Often an Advent calendar is used to count down days to Christmas by opening a box and discovering a treat or something that helps you focus on the Advent journey. A reverse Advent calendar focuses on giving instead of receiving – a Christ centered idea indeed – since Christmas is all about God's own self-giving as a baby in a manger.

If you follow the items listed on the calendar you will be donating to four of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church's mission projects: Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry, Jackson Personal Care Ministry, Northeast Elementary, and our diaper ministry. Bring your donations to church **as the month progresses or on Christmas Eve - your choice**. Please let an usher know if you need assistance unloading items from your car. The Peace, Justice, and Mission Committee will sort the items and deliver them to the appropriate organizations shortly after the first of the year.

If you are not up to collecting this many items, **that's okay!** Bring what you can, or make a monetary donation if that works better for you. Simply put "Advent Calendar" on an envelope or in the memo field of a check and make sure it gets to the church office. We will use it to buy coats for the kids at Northeast Elementary.

Prayers

Prayers for healing for Dave Otto from both pneumonia and a fall. Get well cards are encouraged and can be addressed to him at his home address of:

Dave Otto
20840 Park Place Lane
Clinton Twp, MI 48036

Office Info

Office Hours

In December & January Katie will be working mostly afternoons and some irregular hours while she attends medical treatments in the mornings. It's best to call ahead to make sure someone is in the office.

Jackson's First Presbyterian Church

743 West Michigan Ave

Jackson, MI 49201

JacksonFirstPres.org

517-784-9175

Katie's email: office@jacksonfirstpres.org

Rev. David email: david@jacksonfirstpres.org

David's current schedule

Monday 7:30am-11am & 12:15-2:20pm

Tuesday 7:30am-11am & 12:15pm-3:45pm

Wednesday 7:30am-11am & 12:15pm-2:20pm

Thursday 7:30am-11am & 12:15pm-3:45pm

This may change due to various needs of the day, so to ensure he is available, please schedule an appointment using his [booking page](#). If you need to schedule a meeting outside his regular hours or can't book online, please contact the church office at 517-784-9175.

Watch JFPC Online!

Watch the livestream Sundays at 10am at facebook.com/JacksonFirstPres/live

Watch David's Homilies on Youtube at youtube.com/@jacksonfirstpres