



**Jackson's First  
Presbyterian Church**  
*Serving God, Serving Others*

# THE FORCE

August 21, 2025

Weekly Newsletter from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

Between the humble and contrite heart and the majesty of heaven there are no barriers. The only password is prayer. — H. Ballou

## **Pride Fest was wonderful!**

Our church booth and our cooling station were so appreciated!



jtv.tv

**Jackson Pride Festival 8-16-2025 | Photo Gallery**

<b>Looking Ahead:</b>	
<b>September 7</b> <b>Rally Day</b> In the back parking lot after church: hot dogs, beverages, games, & announcements! If it rains, we will have our event inside, downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.	<b>Music rehearsals resume</b> <b>September 4 - Chancel Choir</b> <b>September 21 - Presby Ringers</b>



**This Sunday, after the service:**



Hello Friends!

Do you enjoy shared Fellowship in the kitchen? Yes? Then you are invited to join the Kitchen Committee! We are having a short kickoff meeting on Sunday, August 24, right after coffee hour. I hope you will come and be part of the funnest committee here at the Church--yes, I'm totally biased in saying that! Feel free to call me if you have questions that I can answer for you before the meeting. My number is in the Church directory.

Thanks! —Jane Jones



**September 7<sup>th</sup>  
after church in the Parking Lot**

**See Jen Blackwell or Jane Jones  
to join the team!**

## Thursday Music Rehearsals

**6:30-7:30pm**

**Chancel Choir**

**Choir Room  
2nd floor**

**Starting Sept. 4**

**7:40-8:40pm**

**Presby Ringers**

**Bells Room  
2nd floor**

**Starting Sept. 25**

**Join us! New singers & ringers welcome!**

## NEW!! Photo Directory coming this fall!!



**Submit a photo or there will be photo opportunities soon.**

**If you like to take photos, please contact the office!**  
The Clark family brought in photography equipment, so we can offer dates and times for photos to be taken based on photographer schedules.

Please help this project along- we will need recent photos of every church member: family photo, couple, or individual photo.

If you have a photo that you like of yourself, you can email a high quality digital photo to [office@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:office@jacksonfirstpres.org) or submit a physical copy to the office to be scanned in. Please also include your names as you would like to be listed in the directory.



**A host is needed for this Sunday.**

**A host is needed for Aug. 31.**

**Please consider hosting a Sunday 😊**

If you need help to make the coffee or assist in any way, please contact the office ahead of your Sunday.



## Youth Meet-up in Hastings, MI

### Sunday, September 21

### 5:30-7:30pm

A presbytery-wide gathering at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings with Food, worship, and games.

RSVP with Rev. David by this Sunday and discuss carpooling.



## MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Here at JFPC, we hear God's call to care for the least of these.

The need is great in the Jackson Area, so we partner with or support a number of different ministries.

We know that no one person can do it all, or support every mission opportunity we bring to you. The following is a list of some of those mission opportunities. You are invited to support financially or participate as you feel moved and as you are able.

### We Completed Our Goal!

The Meyers family boxed up all of the supplies and delivered them to Northeast Elementary! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important mission!



**Northeast Elementary school supplies!**

So far we've collected...

- 585** boxes of crayons
- 585** boxes of markers
- 585** boxes of colored pencils

23 of 23 classes fully stocked!

### Do you have some extra time?

Consider being a Library volunteer at Northeast.

Along with the library, JFPC is partnering with Northeast elementary to provide extra clothes, personal products, and backpacks for the students. Contact Karen Meyers with any questions!

### Northeast Elementary Library Aids

Make a difference by serving 2 hours a week helping kids check out books and re-shelving materials in the Northeast Elementary library!



**Contact Karen**



## Why support the clothing closet?

Clothes bring dignity and allow learning to continue even when little ones have an accident at school. Please see Karen Meyers or Randy Herrick with any questions.

# NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY CLOSET



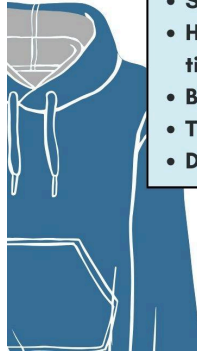
### PERSONAL CARE

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hair brushes, combs, hair ties
- Bar soap & body wash
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Deodorant (all genders)

### CLOTHING

Sizes:  
Children 6-18  
Adult small & medium

- Socks & underwear
- Leggings
- Sweatpants/joggers
- Short & long sleeved shirts (solid colors)
- Athletic shoes
- Winter gloves, snow pants, winter boots



Contact  
Randy



## Interested in giving to the mission and ministry of Jackson First Presbyterian?

Learn more about all of our Missions:  
[Mission...Serving Others!](#)



Scan for Online Giving

**My giving is  
invisible  
today**

If you wish to show your generous giving that was done in a different way, feel free to place one of these cards in the collection plate. They can be found in the pew backs.

Also, any information for the bulletin or newsletter, please contact Natalie at the office:  
(517) 784-9175 or email:  
[office@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:office@jacksonfirstpres.org)

**Have something  
to share or announce  
at JFPC?**

Events, church initiatives,  
mission work, photos

**Time to contact Katie!**

## **Please wear your name tag!**

Wearing your name tag helps our new members, and it also helps all of us! Visitors will feel more included and can choose to wear an adhesive name tag—available in the Narthex.

If you need a name tag or have issues with yours, please contact the office:  
[office@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:office@jacksonfirstpres.org)  
or 784-9175.

## **Please wear your name tag!**

It helps our new members get to know you, and makes visitors feel comfortable!

You can find and store your nametag on the boards outside the office or next to the elevator!

## **VOLUNTEER NEED**

### **Sunday worship greeters!**

All you need is a friendly face and a warm hello to make visitors feel welcome!

Arrive early on Sundays  
by ~ 9:45am  
and hang out in the Narthex



### **JACKSON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IS ON..... YOUTUBE!**

We are serving up old sermons on our YouTube Channel.  
[First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan - YouTube](#)

## **Thankful Thoughts**

**An amazed “Thank you!” to Kurt Rudolph, Randy Herrick, and John Vanderpool for the installation of the mounted video screen, which will help everyone who is part of the service!**

## **Well Wishes!**

**Ellie Mesco will turn 100 on September 30th.** Birthday cards can be sent to her at:

Ellie Mesco  
1416 Larry's Drive  
Jackson, 49203



**It's never too early to register for Soul Dig's Fall Silent Retreat in Petoskey, MI.**

Click here <http://souldig.org/wordpress/events/>



## 2025 Fall Silent Retreat



**NOVEMBER 13-16, 2025**

REGISTER TODAY

**To Church Family & Friends**  
Please let us know if you are hospitalized,  
go to a nursing home, or if you otherwise  
have a life change and would like support.

Call Tina Ozukwe  
of the Care of Members  
Committee  
392-8345



Please let your church know if you are hospitalized, go to a nursing home or rehab center, or if you are being taken home for an extended stay. Your church would like to be there for you, but because of HEPA privacy laws, church caring members can only visit you if we have your permission or permission from a family member. Please call the church to let us know! We also need to know the room number if you're hospitalized. You can call or email the office or call Tina Ozukwe of the Care of Members Committee at 392-8345.

### Prayers for this week

If you ever have a prayer that you wish to share privately with Rev. David, feel free to drop it in the prayer box in the Narthex.

- Continued prayers for Ukraine. Give leaders the courage to help Ukraine to victory.
- Continued prayers for an 11-year-old child in an abusive home. Prayers for comfort and prayers that the custody hearing goes well so they end up in a home where they are loved and celebrated for who they are.
- Prayers for one of our members, Dave, who is in the hospital because of a fall at home.



- Prayers for Dave, hospitalized after a fall last week. May his rehab go well so he can return home soon. Prayers for his wife, Bonnie, for strength as she supports Dave's recovery.
- Continued prayers of healing for Wendy and Betty R.B. and Betty M.
- Prayers for a cousin whose laceration has turned to cellulitis.
- Healing prayers for the family of Terry G. who recently passed away. Let them feel the peace of our Lord as His love surrounds them.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for healing from falls for Betty, Wendy, and Betty's son, Tom.
- Prayers for Barb for strength and comfort.
- Prayers for healing for Chuck, Laura, Lynn, and Stephen.
- Prayers for my dog, Babe, who is having surgery on Wednesday to remove a breast mass.
- Prayers for my cat, Precious, who is having breathing issues and has a suspected lung mass.
- Prayers for the people who put a lot of effort into vandalizing the setup for Pride Fest on Friday night. Lord, please show them that bigotry, hate, and violence are not your way. Thank you that everything was not disrupted and we had a beautiful day filled with love and joy.
- Prayers for all of the people meeting in our building to fight and overcome their addictions. Lord, please give them strength and comfort.
- Continued prayers for all facing injustice throughout the country and the world. Let them feel your peace and comfort.
- Continued prayers for the victims of violence and starvation in Palestine. May they get a just peace.
- Please pray for peace and justice throughout the world!

If you want to receive a printed newsletter, please contact the office!

July 10, 2025

## THE FORCE

Weekly Reminders from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

God freely yields creation into the hands of humankind in order that human beings, through their use of property, might bear witness to their divine destiny. — Everett Ruess

**Snack donations and youth/adult volunteers are requested for VBS!**

**VBS is next Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**



**VBS OLYMPICS NIGHT**  
JOIN US FOR FAITH FORMATION AND FUN  
ON WED., JULY 16 FROM 6:30-8:30 PM  
743 M. Michigan Ave.  
743 M. Michigan Ave.  
743 M. Michigan Ave.

Bring boxes, crackers, or any snack type. We expect up to 10 kids.  
Simply drop your donations off between 11-2 weekdays or this Sunday.

If you or your kids want to join the fun, please contact the office or Meredith Harvey!  
Older youth should feel free to join us also to play and assist with the kids.  
We had a fun time at VBS in June. 🍌

Office: (517) 884-9175, [office@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:office@jacksonfirstpres.org)  
Meredith, call or text: (517) 888-3102, [meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org)


**The next VBS will be Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm!**

**Looking Ahead:**

August 3	August 10	August 17
Young Adult Sunday & Hot Dog Luncheon	Church in the Parking Lot	Blessing of the Backpacks

Spiritual Formation Planning is in Progress

**August 3 Young Adult Sunday**



**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY**

We are looking for young adults and youth to be involved in planning this service and also participating in leading the service as a reader or whatever the group decides.

Please contact Jen Blackwell to get in on the fun! [jenblackwell@gmail.com](mailto:jenblackwell@gmail.com)


**What kind of Adult Education classes would you like to attend?**

Your input is vital to creating meaningful community experiences this next year!

What kinds of Adult Christian Education would you like to see?

Some ideas include: women's bible study, we could do a book study, and there are video series available. Please contact Meredith Harvey with your ideas!

Email: [meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org)  
Call or text: (517) 888-3102



**Confirmation Class**  
for youth ages 13 and up!  
Starting this Fall. Please contact Meredith Harvey: [meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:meredith@jacksonfirstpres.org)  
Call or text: (517) 888-3102  
Curriculum being considered is "Confirm not Conform"  
[See Confirm Not Conform for Youth 2025](#)

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## Rev. David's Fall Schedule:

David's normal office hours are

Monday - Thursday 7:30am-11am and Monday-Wednesday 12:15-2:20pm.

This may change due to pastoral emergencies, emergency childcare, meetings, and holidays, so to ensure he will be there and 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.

**Booking page:** [Book time with Rev. David Schell](#)

*If you need to schedule a meeting outside the times in the system, please contact the church office.*

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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 10am - 2pm

Tuesday - Office Closed\*

Wednesday - 10am - 2pm

Thursday - 10am - 2pm

Friday - Office Closed\*

\*call ahead

### Jackson's First Presbyterian Church

743 West Michigan Ave

Jackson, MI 49201

website: [JacksonFirstPres.org](http://JacksonFirstPres.org)

office phone: 517-784-9175

email: [office@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:office@jacksonfirstpres.org)

Rev. David email: [david@jacksonfirstpres.org](mailto:david@jacksonfirstpres.org)

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## Help Wanted at the Church

Individuals with interests in helping with Church technology, accounting, and general office administration are requested to contact Kurt Rudolph at [rudolphk@umich.edu](mailto:rudolphk@umich.edu).

We need help with:

### Office:

- On Fridays, printing and folding bulletins (folder machine), collating any inserts.

### Technology

- selecting and installing hardware
- selecting and installing software

### Accounting

- helping with Sunday morning counts
- assisting with and reviewing bookkeeping
- helping in the search for software (as needed)
- helping in the search for staff, and/or contractors (as needed)



We are currently hiring for the position of Director of Spiritual Formation. Click the link below for more information or visit the Jackson First Presbyterian Church website: [www.jacksonfirstpres.org/hiring](http://www.jacksonfirstpres.org/hiring)