

March 20, 2025

THE FORCE

Weekly Reminders from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

He who was without sin was baptized in the River Jordan
to avoid the sin of standing apart from us. — Barbara Brown Taylor



LENTEN JOURNEY

↪ **WEEK 3**

- Applesauce
- Diapers size 5 or 6
- A treat
- A canned vegetable
- Cereal
- Toilet paper
- Youth size underwear x2

 Jackson's First
Presbyterian Church
Serving God, Serving Others

Please find the Lenten Journey handouts on our website, under the Updates tab:

[Jacksonfirstpres.org - Updates - Lenten Journey](https://jacksonfirstpres.org)



Upcoming Services For Holy Week

Maundy Thursday:
6PM in the
Westminster Room
Potluck meal
intimate service
of prayer
and communion.

Good Friday:
6PM in the
Westminster Room
Service of
Seven Last Words,
looking for
willing readers.

REVELATION CLASS resumes this Sunday, March 23!



Read Chapters 1-7 and bring your questions to this Sunday's class, March 23. The book of Revelation is a strange and symbolic text filled with dragons, lambs, horsemen, and fiery judgments, often misinterpreted in Christian media as frightening predictions about modern phenomenon like microchips, vaccines, and political figures tied somehow to 666. However, when interpreted correctly, Revelation offers profound hope for God's world. Join us most Sundays during Lent (except March 16) after worship at 11:30 for a less fear-based and more hopeful exploration of this enigmatic book.



Holy Humor Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 (the week after Easter). This event has proven to be popular with the Congregation the last couple of years so we are bringing it back again to add some levity following the Lenten season as well as giving the pastor a bit of a break. What will it look like this year? I'll tell you. We don't know! That's where you come in! Would you like to be a part of the service? Do you have a favorite joke that you'd like included? Would you like to tell that joke (because nobody else tells it quite the way you do)?

Do you have a fun song or an old church camp song or skit that you'd like included? Wanna do a kazoo solo, duet or trio? Anything else that you think might fit in? If so, please let me know in person, via email at drmeyers14@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 517-581-5606 before March 24. Thank you! —Doug Meyers

March Music Schedule

Handbells will resume
after Easter

Thursday Music Rehearsals

6:15pm

Choir

**Choir Room
2nd floor
(Use Door 4)**

Resumes
after
Easter

Handbells

Join us! New singers & ringers welcome!



Thursday Night Food and Fellowship
Looking for some company on Thursday nights? Tired of cooking? We are once again offering dinner and fellowship on Thursday nights from 5:30-6:15. This is NOT just for choir members and kids. We would love to dine with anyone who would like to have dinner with us! We will be in the small dining room- come join us. Maelea and Naomi will be watching the kids during choir practice.

If you would like to provide a meal on a Thursday, we will help with the set up and clean up! You can call the office (784-9175) to talk to Natalie Schroeder or call Karen Meyers (581-1217).

COFFEE HOUR

following worship

If you would like to host coffee hour, please sign up on the orange sheet in the Westminster room or contact the front office at 784-9175

Dorothy Graham is hosting this Sunday, March 23rd.

Thank you all for providing this fellowship time!

Hosts needed for March 30th and April Sundays.

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

Youth Programs...



This month, we can learn to make origami frogs (that hop!) and discuss making a plague of frogs as a fundraiser for donating to either One Great Hour of Sharing or an organization like Heifer International ([Charity Navigator - Rating for Heifer International](#)) or World Vision ([Charity Navigator - Rating for World Vision](#))

Please look for and welcome our new Christian Educators, who are teaching the younger kids and who are students at Spring Arbor University:

~Keslyn Cay and Bre Daly~

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

1st & 3rd Saturdays
8:30-9:30am

1st & 3rd Saturdays
in the Small Dining Room
(lower level)



For more
info,
contact:



Kurt



John



Randy

Peace and Justice Committee

The newly formed Committee for Peace and Justice is looking for folks in our faith community to join us in discerning how we may best respond and stand with folks in our community who are living in increased fear and uncertainty.

Our work will focus on partnering with other faith communities in the Jackson area and the state of Michigan, as well as other organizations that are already serving the needs of the affected communities. We will also work within the PC (USA) with regard to responding to the needs of immigrants, the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as other folks who are feeling targeted by cruel rules and possible legislation.

Artwork by Casey Trinh, 2016-17 Merit Award Winner of Peace Poster contest by Lions Clubs, International, Peace Poster Contest | Lions Clubs International Image found: [word:\("national peace poster winner wins international merit award" lions\) - Search Images](#)





📅 MAY 1, 2025
AT 2:00 PM

📍 2798 US-31
HWY.
CONWAY, MI
49722

SPRING 4-DAY SILENT RETREAT – MAY 1-4, 2025

4-day Directed Silent Retreat – May 1-4, 2025

Retreat begins at 2pm on Thursday and concludes at 12:30pm on Sunday

Augustine Center Retreat House – Conway, MI

Cost: \$390 – \$100 non-refundable deposit secures your spot and the balance is due by April 14.

Please send deposit to Soul Dig, Lori Tate, 1433 Wickwire Rd., Jackson, MI 49201

Private bedrooms and bathrooms, labyrinth, hiking trails, one-on-one spiritual direction.

A minimum of 6 people must register for the price to stay at \$390.

Spring 4-day Silent Retreat - May 1-4, 2025 - Soul Dig

<http://souldig.org/wordpress/events-page/fall-silent-retreat/>

Interfaith Shelter Meals

DONATIONS NEEDED!

JFPC has been supporting this shelter for over 25 years,
and that isn't changing anytime soon!

What has changed is the price of groceries.
Additional funds are badly needed to keep cooking &
serving our monthly meal at the shelter.

Donate by writing "Interfaith Meals" on your check memo
or donation envelope.

Contact:
Sharon V.



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 or participate as you feel moved and as you are able.

Do you have some extra time?

Consider being a Library volunteer at Northeast.

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



Community Closet at Northeast Elementary

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!

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)

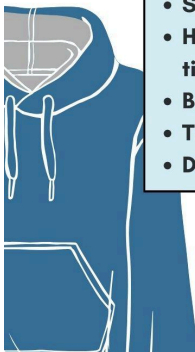


Contact Randy

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



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

GIVING ONLINE



Giving to the church helps pay for...

- Building upkeep
- Personnel
- Mission & local outreach
- Administration costs
- Disciple Development
- Music and more!

Go to JacksonFirstPres.org & click GIVE

ATTENTION!

Our website address has changed slightly
to

JACKSONFIRSTPRES.ORG



this is the part
that changed

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

Did you miss a Hot Dogma Sermon? You are in luck!

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

Have something to share or announce at JFPC?

Events, church initiatives,
mission work, photos

Time to contact Katie!

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

Respiratory illness?

With many of our church members being over 65 (therefore higher risk for COVID or flu complications), here's the current guidance from CDC:

1. Stay home if you have respiratory illness symptoms. Stay home UNTIL your symptoms are improving AND you've had no fever for over 24 hours.
2. Once you are better and without fever, if you will be indoors with other people, wear a mask for the next 5 days.

These two steps should help protect others from catching COVID or the flu or whatever other respiratory virus we may be dealing with. Further information is available at the CDC link below.
<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

Lisa Rudolph, Faith Community Nurse

Death of Isabella Grace Tolsma



Dear friends,

It is my sad duty to inform you that Isabella (Izzy) Tolsma, daughter of Sarah Hashimoto and Kevin Tolsma, died on March 10, 2025. Her obituary can be found at [Isabella Grace Tolsma Obituary \(1998-2025\) | Jackson, MI](#). Her funeral will be held here at Jackson First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 1:00 PM. The family invites all of their church family to attend. Please keep Isabella's family and loved ones in your prayers.

In the hope of the Resurrection,

Rev. David Schell

Prayers for this week

- Thank you Lord for all the blessings of this life.
- Prayers for all the people experiencing tornadoes this weekend.
- Thank you Lord for Phil Wrzesinski!
- Prayers for Larry, Cindy, and Susie.
- Prayers that George's test does not find something more wrong.
- Prayers that Darren's new job goes well.
- Healing for Marcia's knee and Kelly's too.
- Good vacations for those on breaks.
- Thankfulness for spring flowers and warmer temperatures.
- Uplifting prayers for those who are all of a sudden alone.
- Prayers for a granddaughter who so wants to become pregnant.
- Prayers for Kelly waiting for knee surgery.
- Prayers that Zelma will be on the road to renewed health.
- Prayers for Paul struggling with severe congestive heart failure, as well as his care team.
- We give thanks for healing powers through prayer- to renew strength and ability.
- Prayers for my buddy's wife as she awaits her medical test results.
- Prayers for all suffering job loss and homelessness.
- Prayers for Sarah and her family after the passing of her daughter this last week.
- Prayers for Deanna who is battling aggressive cancer and is facing very difficult decisions this week.
- Continued prayers for Ukraine. Please bring peace for them.
- Prayers for Israel and Palestine, may the peace hold and resettlement continue.
- We pray for all the members of the groups that meet in our church, seeking to end their addictions. Please let them feel your love and grant them peace.
- Please pray for peace and justice throughout the world!

Help Wanted at the Church

Individuals with interests in helping with Church technology, accounting, and general office administration are requested to contact Kurt Rudolph.

We need help with:

Technology

- selecting and installing hardware,
- selecting and installing software, and
- choosing cloud storage and applications.

Accounting

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - 10am - 2pm

Tuesday - Office Closed

Wednesday - 10am - 2pm

Thursday - 10am - 2pm

Friday - Office Closed

Pastor David's schedule:

Sunday Worship, Choir, Scheduled Meetings:

Unless I'm on vacation or it's cancelled, I can be expected to be there.

Barring emergencies, meetings, non-working federal holidays, or appointments, I'll almost always be here during these hours:

9am-noon Monday - Thursday AND 1:15-2:30 Monday - Thursday, but if it can be avoided, I'm usually writing a sermon on Thursdays.

Unless Kristen isn't available to pick the kids up, I will also be here:

2:30-4:45/5ish Monday - Thursday

In the event of an unavoidable Friday event or a Presbytery meeting:

I will be out of the office on Monday, or on Tuesday if something is scheduled on Monday.

Can be scheduled if nothing else works:

Most times except Fridays, but I'd rather not meet in the middle of the night.

Holidays (from the manual):

New Year's Day, MLK, President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the Friday After, Christmas Day

I also set up a booking page:

[Book time with Rev. David Schell](#)

"I usually do not check my emails on Fridays because I take **Sabbath on Fridays.**"

You can email me then but I won't see it until later.