March 13, 2025

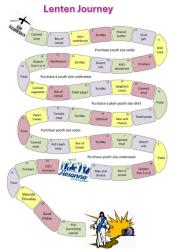
THE FORCE

Weekly Reminders from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

Darkness is everywhere, but God doesn't give in to the darkness, not even when we do. God comes to us in the midst of darkness and offers us light and hope. — Charles Tobias



Please find the Lenten Journey handouts on our website, under the Updates tab: <u>Jacksonfirstpres.org - Updates - Lenten Journey</u>



## **REVELATION CLASS resumes Sunday, March 23!**



Read Chapters 1-7 and bring your questions to the next class on 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

# Thursday Music Rehearsals

## **March Music Schedule**

Handbells will resume after Easter





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).



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

### Host needed this Sunday :)

Dorothy Graham is hosting March 23rd.

Thank you all for providing this fellowship time!

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 (<u>Charity Navigator -Rating for Heifer International</u>) or World Vision (<u>Charity</u> <u>Navigator - Rating for World Vision</u>)

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~



#### **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, <u>Peace Poster Contest | Lions Clubs</u> <u>International</u> Image found:<u>word:("national peace poster winner wins</u> <u>international merit award" lions) - Search Images</u>





## **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.

## <u>Spring 4-day Silent Retreat - May 1-4, 2025 - Soul Dig</u> http://souldig.org/wordpress/events-page/fall-silent-retreat/



## **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!





#### **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.



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

Learn more about all of our Missions: <u>Mission...Serving Others!</u>



Scan for Online Giving





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: <u>office@jacksonfirstpres.org</u>

## **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. <u>https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html</u> Lisa Rudolph, Faith Community Nurse

## Thankful Thoughts

• The First Foods Sunday drive for CEREAL brought in a LOT of boxes!! More boxes have been donated, but the last count was 1,700 ounces!! The goal was 1,200 ounces. Thank you!!



## • 🔔 🔔 THANK YOU PRESBY RINGERS 🔔 🔔

The Presby Ringers played for worship on 3-9-25 and did a great job! They requested harder music and they got it! A lot of intense rehearsing went into today's music. Their second piece, "The God of Abraham Praise" used both handbells and handchimes and changed keys several times.

The Presby Ringers are going on hiatus until after Easter--- many of them are travelling. Their rehearsals will resume the Thursday after Easter and they will play for worship in June.

Wendy T 🎶 😙 🔔

## Prayers for this week

- Dear God, please help Liam to feel better and Demir. Thank you. Noah K.
- Prayers for a return to good health for Zelma.
- Prayers for Mo, who has been fighting cancer. Prayers also for Mo's family, including her daughter, Mandy.
- Pray for my daughter-in-law's interview and thank God for His mercy. Amen.
- Prayers for Larry, Cindy, Susie, and Kay.
- Prayers for Chuck, who broke his neck.
- Continued prayers for our leaders, Ukraine, and others fighting for freedom.
- Safe travel for those on the go.
- Thankfulness for the promises of spring.
- Prayers of safety for ALL of the robotics teams this busy competition season.
- Prayers for our group's volunteer coordinator, who was diagnosed with a terminal illness this week.
- Prayers for peace for Ukraine. Prayers that the support of Europe will be enough to help them win this war.
- Prayers for our country- that our elected officials make decisions for the good of all.
- Prayers for Cindy that tests will come back with good results this week so her cancer treatments can proceed.
- Prayers for a church's respite program for kids with autism and their parents, so they can work out the bugs and run smoothly.
- Continued prayers for recovery, strength, and patience for many who struggle daily with illness.
- Prayers for all traveling this week, that they have safe travels.
- Prayers for continued peace in Palestine and Israel, for the reconstruction efforts and for all of the aid coming in to the millions of starving people.
- 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: <u>Book time with Rev. David Schell</u>

"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.