



## December 2021

From Pastor Judy



1804 GUILFORD  
COLLEGE RD.  
JAMESTOWN, NC  
27282

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jamestownprezoffice@gmail.com

### Worship Schedule

**9:00 am**  
**Contemporary Service**  
**(CLC)**  
&  
**11:00 am**  
**Traditional Service**  
**(Sanctuary)**

### **Live-Streamed**

Please see JPC's website to  
view live-stream services

**Rev. Dr. Jay Smith**  
**Senior Pastor**

**Rev. Casey Riker**  
**Associate Pastor**

**Rev. Judy Fitchett**  
**Parish Associate**

### **SESSION**

#### **Class of 2021**

Mary Brooke Guernier  
Ricki Hall  
Kim Schoepske  
Brian Stroud  
Michelle Wentz  
George Wissmiller

#### **Class of 2022**

Lenny Dean  
Gary Fulp  
Joanne Graham  
Karen Johnson  
Danielle King

#### **Class of 2023**

Randy Dabbs  
Krista Hannah  
Doug MacColl  
Chris Mills  
Darryl Ray  
Bruce Shaw

I remember visiting Art's grandmother's home for a family Christmas celebration soon after we were married. Art told me that his earliest memories of Christmas were at this Grandmother Buck's home where Christmas morning was always magical. He would go to bed on Christmas Eve and when he woke up on Christmas morning the bare tree had been fully decorated, Santa had come and there were beautifully wrapped packages under the tree! Overnight the whole room had been transformed from **almost** Christmas to the wonder of Christmas morning! It was an overwhelming delight!

As we head towards Christmas, our Christian heritage takes us through Advent. Advent is a time of preparation to ready us for the transforming delight when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. A birth that changes everything! We go from an empty Holy of Holies in the temple that is filled only with an empty throne of judgement to a new revelation. God is with us! God has built his temple among us and has chosen to dwell in our neighborhood. That can be the wonder we find this Christmas if we prepare ourselves for the coming moment. But in order to prepare ourselves we have to put off Christmas until after Advent. And that is a problem for us in this modern age. We are bombarded with Christmas months before December even gets near.

How can we change our hearts, our focus, our longings so that Christmas morning is our day of wonder no matter how many gifts lie beneath the tree?

We have a stenciled message we post beneath our tree each year. It is an old puritan saying that says, "Christmas lies not beneath the tree but in the hearts of thee and me." How do we get Christmas into our hearts? Through Advent.

So, this is where I'd like us to go this year. Through Advent.

What really got me thinking about all of this was an advertisement for an Advent Book that read:

**"Advent is not an appetizer. Advent is the meal."**

And my next thought was, **"and Christmas is dessert!"**

How would Advent be different for us if we considered Advent our main meal? A meal to linger over during the upcoming 4 weeks. A meal to share with friends. A meal where we share our lives and those hard questions of life. A time where we long for a solution to all the sordid problems of our world. How would Advent be different if we pondered what we could do to solve those problems and then were surprised by God's solution on Christmas morning.

Advent serves as the beginning of our Christian year. A time for renewing our commitments to God. A time of recounting God's goodness to us. A time of looking back and a time of looking ahead within the presence of those we love and cherish and within the presence of God.

As we approach Advent we gather round the Advent Wreath, an unbroken circle decorated with evergreens, pinecones, and holly. The circle reminds us that we live and die with God, eternal. We are reminded in our Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith, "in life and in death we belong to God." Evergreens remind us of God's faithfulness to us; holly and its berries (con't)

symbolize the crown of thorns and the drops of blood that Christ shed for us; the pinecone is a symbol of resurrection as it holds the tiny seeds that grow the giant evergreens. Each time we see the Advent wreath, these symbolisms give us cause to meditate on the wonders of our faith and the everyday presence of that faith around us.

With each week that draws us closer to Christmas Day, we experience a different bite, a different flavor of what is before us. With our Advent wreath in the center, we gather with friends and family around the table and open the mouths of our heart to feed on the wonder of the first candle. The first candle, initiating our first thoughts of the coming year is often referred to as the prophet's candle or a candle of hope. What might hope smell like, taste like? Let your senses soar as you take that first bite of hope. Where have we seen and heard the good news of a coming hope? Who have been the prophets in our lives that served to remind us of God's presence among us? How might we offer that hope and promise to others around us in the coming year? Why is hope so important? Nelson Mandela said, "May your choices reflect your hope, not your fear." It is important to keep our hopes ever before us. Psalm 39:7, "And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My **hope** is in you.

The second week of Advent moves us on a journey. The second candle symbolizes faith or is sometimes referred to as the Bethlehem candle. Journeys often take time so let's take some time as we savor this journey of faith. We may need to consider its flavor in several different bites. Each bite may be little different, and it will take time to get through this portion of our meal. We contemplate the journeys in our lives much like we contemplate the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Not all our journeys are easy. Many of our journeys seem to come at inopportune times. Oftentimes we step out on a journey not knowing what the end of that journey will be or look like. What keeps us moving forward? What tempts us to abandon and/or call off our journey? If we knew the end, would we keep going; or would we change paths; or would we stop and turn back? What might we learn about the journey or ourselves in these differing scenarios of journey? How does faith influence our journey and how does our journey influence our faith? "In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don't." Blaise Pascal (<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/faith-quotes>) Hebrews 11:10, "Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Our third morsel to enjoy during this Advent meal is pure Joy. Maybe it is your favorite hamburger, or a steak, or a slice of vegetarian lasagna. Whatever your pleasure, this week we think about joy. I am struck by the fact that in lighting the Shepherds' candle, we find them at their work. They are in the midst of tending their sheep in the middle of night when they receive this message of joy. I think this says something about the work we are called to do. Frederick Buechner says, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." God cares about our work. Work is not just a job or tasks we perform to pay our bills; our work is a calling based on our God-given talents and gifts. God wants us to find joy in what we do and to think of our work as a calling. How does your work fulfill that calling in your life? If you are not working or retired, how did you see God's calling in the work you did and how do you sense God calling you to spend your "Unworking time" in the here and now? We are not always able to find that perfect work that gives us joy right away, but there can be satisfaction in doing our work in good faith and in hope as the author of Colossians 3:23 reminds us, "Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters." How has your work brought you joy? Why is it important that God deems to bring us joy even in the midst of our work? Psalm 16:11, You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of **joy**; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

As we near the end of our meal, we find peace. We are feeling satisfied and grateful for the tasty morsels that have made up this meal. As we sample the last bites we remember the Angels, we remember the message, "Peace on earth, Goodwill to all humankind." The angels proclaim not only the glory of an amazing birth but also the announcement of a coming KING! The candle on the wreath before us is the last one to be lit. Lighting this candle means we are ready to start a new year based on peace, faith, joy and a now a new promise brought to us by angels – not a promise of fear but a promise of peace and a promise of new birth and a promised king. Perhaps we should ponder, before we leave this table what it means to have God's promises being fulfilled in our lifetime. Perhaps even more accurately and acutely for us living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, what does it mean to have God's promises being fulfilled in our lives? Where are we seeing God's peace take shape in our lives, in our families, in our world? How can we be harbingers of this peace? What words and/or actions would you use to proclaim, "God's Peace on earth, God's will to all humankind?" "Great **peace** have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble." Psalm 119:165

(con't)

Our Advent meal is done. The next time we gather we will light our way into the next year with a lovefest. God's lovefest for us, shown in the birth of the Christ-child. The essence of our eternity living with us on this earth; busying himself with the messiness of our lives, our relationships, our dirty world. Yet even in that messiness the light of love shines in the darkness and allows us to see, with God's eyes, the beauty of our hope that lives within us, the strength of our faith that came before us and leads us forward, the joy that comes from living within the calling and work of our creator and the peace that reigns upon us from on high as we make room for that peace on earth.

Christmas brings us renewed hope, faith, joy and peace. May you enjoy a slow-paced meal through the season of Advent. May you close your eyes to rest on Christmas eve and celebrate the wonder of how everything changes on Christmas morning. For on Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth, but we see and experience anew, the risen LORD! May you be transformed by the wonder and mystery!

(If you are not familiar with the song "God is With Us" by Casting Crowns, check it out on youtube.)



### FROGS

What a fun time our FROGS had at Sparetime on November 21!! They bowled, played laser tag, and arcade games plus shared a yummy pizza! Friendships flourished and encouragement abounded when it came to bowling!!

Thank you, FROGS, for lighting the Advent wreath and doing such an awesome job with the readings on the first Sunday in Advent!

We will not meet as a group in December because of so many other church events, but you are all welcome to come to Breakfast with Santa on December 4 from 9 to 11 am, ride on the JPC float in the Jamestown Christmas parade December 5 at 2:30 pm, and participate in the JPC Christmas pageant and hot dog dinner on December 15 (kids eat at 5, practice at 5:30, and performance is at 6:30 pm).

Let us enjoy the blessings of Christmas and look forward to a New Year with God's love surrounding us all!



# DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Food Pantry Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Mike & Tara Daniel  
Dave & Kim Schoepske  
Charlotte Griner

Donation to JPC Worship Endowment Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Nancy Kennon

Donation to JPC Leisure Fellowship Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Dot Russell

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Sandy Burgess  
Loyce Lesley

Donation to JPC Stephen Ministries Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Louise Monroe

Donation to Jamestown Presbyterian Church

In memory of Jim Brown by  
Greg & Pat Ketchum  
Wes & Lynette Smitherman  
Kerry & Joanne Miller  
Charles Stanfield & Melanie Wood  
Alan & Ilene South  
Carol Hill  
Gregory & Ross Ann Steifle  
Ben & Eva White  
Art & Judy Fitchett  
Judy Sherman  
Rose Foster  
Steve & Gerri Brown  
Anne Barts  
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Kathi Richards Waters  
Cheve Richards Elrod  
Toni Richards Ellis  
Kim Richards  
Chuck Richards  
Jodi Richards Mealer  
Michele Wells  
Rees & Lea Jones  
Wayne & Betty McCray

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund

In memory of Wes Craver by  
Leon & Anne Dulin Joyner  
Robert & Ginny Pickett  
Mark & Jan Guenther  
Cecelia Leonard  
Bobby & Nancy Bailey  
Ron & Debby Foster  
Per & Elisabeth Sandberg  
Alex Harrill  
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Carroll (DeeDee) Clark  
Patricia Petraglia Armendinger  
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Marcus & Linda Ball  
Jim & Darryl Ray  
Jennifer Welder Johnson  
Alena Bolick  
Loyce Lesley  
David & Kay Picha  
Kerry & Joanne Miller  
Patricia Mickey  
Rick, Julia & Scott Sprouse  
Floyd & Susan Allen  
Catherine Hicks  
Beverly Carter  
Wes & Lynette Smitherman  
Joanne Graham  
Bob, Blake & Gordon Hunt  
Dick & Gail Robbins  
Olene Mabe  
Bill & Nancy Carter

Donation to JPC Music Fund

In honor of Joye Wentz's birthday celebration in  
Heaven by  
Randy, Rusty and Michelle Wentz

Donation to the Joy House Fund

In memory of Jim Brown by  
David & Nancy Farmer  
The Brown Family

(con't)



## DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Music Fund  
In memory of Jim Brown by  
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Congregational Life Fund  
In memory of Wes Craver by  
David & Nancy Farmer

Donation to JPC Congregational Life Fund  
In memory of Jim Brown by  
Jeff & Mary Brooke Guernier



### A Good Word from Your JPC Stephen Ministry Team

#### SOUP

Maybe it was the chubby, robust Campbell kids in the advertisements of my youth - maybe the photos at Panera Bread nowadays- but soup brings me feelings of warmth and comfort. Leftover beef, chicken, or turkey in the fridge? In the pot it goes with current or recent vegetables, spices, and broth. The colors mix and swirl as I stir. The spices waft and please my nose.

Lord, thank You for this soup on a bright cold day.

-Psalm 111:76



### GROWING AND PROSPERING IN OUR THIRD YEAR

The Garden is set for winter. The soil is resting preparing for spring – as are the gardeners. Collards, turnip greens, kale, and spinach were put in Thanksgiving food boxes. There are still some carrots, beets and turnips that will be donated to Family Services. We had a lot of fun along with nurturing each other. Thank you to all who helped this wonderful JPC Mission!!



## LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

We will be meeting December 16th at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall for a covered dish lunch. Please bring extra food as we will be hosting Jon Brotherton and Friends for lunch and great singing!



There is no way I can sufficiently say THANK YOU to my JPC family for all the love and support you have shown to me and my family over the last few weeks. We are so grateful. This church was special to Jim and he would be so pleased at the outpouring of cards, calls, texts, emails, visits, food, donations, use of the Joy House, and more. The holidays will be hard and life will be different but I know my church family will be there for me. My children and I appreciate all of you and pray that each of you have a very blessed holiday season.

Becky

## WHAT A GREAT TREAT!

Look who Pastors Jay, Casey and Judy spent time with at Heritage Greens! What a great afternoon with Nancy Guiton!



### **2021 STAFF LOVE GIFT**



Once again this year we would like to show how much we appreciate our JPC staff; especially coming through these challenging past few months. JPC members and friends, through December 13th, have the opportunity to contribute to the 2021 Staff Love Gift. We are so blessed to have a staff that truly loves working at JPC. This is another way to show our support and love for them and all that they do. Please get any contribution to the Church office by Monday, December 13th so staff can receive our gifts by Christmas.

### **BUTTERFLIES REMINDERS!**



We will meet on Thursday, December 9th at 1:00 pm in the Parlor!

Our Christmas luncheon will be Monday, December 13th at 11:30 am in the

### **GIRLS NIGHT OUT ANGEL TREE SHOPPING EVENT**

We will be meeting at 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Elizabeth's on Wendover for dinner, with Angel Tree shopping to follow! At dinner we will discuss next year's events. It is time to get GNO going again! Please RSVP to Ricki at 336-509-1403 if you can make dinner and shopping.

**Jamestown Presbyterian Church**  
**1804 Guilford College Road**  
**Jamestown NC 27282**

**Visit us on the Web**  
**[www.jamestownprez.org](http://www.jamestownprez.org)**

### **CHURCH STAFF**

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