

The JPC Monthly

December 2023

Thoughts from Pastor Jay



The Christmas season is too busy. This year I went out for a little on black Friday. I went to one sporting goods store for myself and a second one for Joshua and I. Other than that I only went to Walmart to buy groceries. You all know that I love the hustle and bustle. I will be in Walmart again on Christmas Eve as long as Christmas Eve being on a Sunday doesn't make that impossible. Even with my love for it all we make it too busy. When we do that we miss what is really important.

Even as a pastor I am victim to this temptation. Today, for example, I am leaving town with Jordan to go on a couple college visits. This morning we had our staff meeting and I had some work to do. It was at that staff meeting that I remembered that Friday was December 1st. That meant that I needed to bang out a mediocre newsletter article before I left. It was even suggested that I recycle one, but I decided that it would take too long to find and edit one. Since I write them so personally there probably would have been something in there that gave away it was a re-tread.

I love writing these things but when you throw into the mix the shopping, the visitations, the search for a lost robe, and all the rest it just slips through the cracks. (See I told you there would be something too personal to recycle this article!). Shopping has even gotten easier for me because the kids are older and they want more "real" things. This means I don't have to hunt down Lego sets or dolls or whatever other toys we only gave away years later. In fact, Monday I will pick up some gifts that I ordered to the store to save shipping and I will be almost finished.

Maybe then I can breath a sigh of relief? The bottom line is we do it to ourselves. We allow the busyness to tarnish the beauty of Advent. When we move through these weeks of preparation, the early church founders and theologians DIDN'T have shopping and decorating in mind. They meant for us to draw closer to Jesus, the reason for the season.

I think the best reminder of this for me is always the shoeboxes we fill for children around the world. Did you know that they don't actually get those boxes until June or July? So in almost every video and every photo that kid is in the middle of the summer opening that box. Guess what? They are still overjoyed. The message of God's love for them in Jesus Christ still comes through loud and clear.

So why do we do this to ourselves? Why do we allow the world to tell us that our value is in things and not in the baby Jesus we prepare for? The answer is we are preparing for the wrong things. Instead of worrying about cards, gifts, and goodies what if we spent some time reaching out to people? What if we spent that time in God's Word? I clearly understand I am the biggest hypocrite here. I further understand that if the pastor can't do it then what hope do the rest of us have? Let's start small. How about if we as a church commit to reading the scripture passage in the eblast or weekend reminder twice during the week in preparation for the sermon. Maybe the sermon would be better if I read it a couple extra times? If you do this starting this week you will learn some special things about Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Maybe, just maybe it will help us slow down a moment and remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. See you in Church. Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapters 1 & 2. Check them out!

December at a Glance

December 2...Breakfast with Santa
 December 3...Jamestown Christmas Parade
 December 10...Christmas Cantata (Sanctuary)
 December 13...Hot Dog Dinner and Childrens' Christmas Program
 December 24...10:00 am Combined Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
 December 24...5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (CLC)

CHRISTMAS FUN!

Breakfast with Santa

Breakfast with Santa is December 2nd from 9-11am in the CLC. All kids are invited to hear the Christmas Story, enjoy a complimentary breakfast by the Men of the Church, and meet Santa and his Elf! There will be a new Photo Op area as well as fun crafts for the kids!

Jamestown Christmas Parade

Calling all kids! Please join us on Sunday for the Jamestown parade in downtown Jamestown. Meet up at 2:30 PM behind the town hall. Look for our JPC float. It is going to be a warm day!



DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 3	9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC) and 11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
December 10	9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC) and 11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
December 17	9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC) and 11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
December 24	10:00 am Combined Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
December 24	5:00 pm Candlelight Service (CLC)
December 31	10:00 am Combined Traditional Service (Sanctuary)





2023 STAFF LOVE GIFT OFFERING

Once again this year we would like to show how much we appreciate our JPC staff. JPC members and friends have the opportunity through Monday, December 11th to contribute to the 2023 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 11th so staff can receive our gifts by Christmas.

DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory of Joye Wentz by
Michelle Wentz

Donation to JPC Music Fund
In memory of Pat Martin by
Bob & Janet Craver

Donation to JPC FROGS Fund
In honor of Sammie Braxton's
birthday by
Daniel Braxton

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Leisure Fellowship will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a covered-dish lunch at 12:00 Thursday, December 21. We will be delighted to have Jon Brotherton and his group provide our program of Christmas music.

Please bring a dish to share (maybe a little extra for visitors) and come enjoy the good food, great music and fellowship.



**HOT DOG DINNER / CHILDREN'S PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

We invite you to enjoy a hot dog dinner complete with slaw and chili, chips and a fun dessert prior to the Annual Children's Christmas Program! Dinner will be served in the CLC at 6:00 pm with the stars of the musical "The Unfriendly Beast" taking to the stage at 6:30 pm. Kindly RSVP to church office by Monday, December 11th. Hope to see you then!

JPC KIDS AND YOUTH CORNER



It is a busy time of year at the preschool! Thank you to all of you who supported us at the Holiday Market! We had our Scholastic Book Fair at the Holiday Market. It was a fun day! We had our annual Pizza Feasts on the 20th and the 21st! Thank you to Elizabeth's Pizza for providing the pizza and the fries. The children had the best time! They were so excited that it was pizza day. We have started to practice for our Cookies and Carols program on December 21st! The children are learning about the birth of Jesus. We had our first Mom's Night Out on November 30th. It was lots of fun and it was fun for the mom's to get together. Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas!!!!



The Children's Christmas Musical is **Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm** in the CLC. A hot dog dinner will be served at 6 pm. Please contact the church office to sign up for dinner so enough may be prepared. Please invite friends and family! Please have the children in the Fellowship Hall by 5:15 pm on the 13th so they may rehearse, eat, and get into costumes. Additional rehearsals are as follows:

- Sunday, December 3 - 10 to 10:30 am in choir room
- Saturday, December 9 - 1 pm in the CLC
- Sunday, December 10 - 3 pm in the CLC

All children are invited to participate - five older children have speaking parts but we need other manger "animals!"

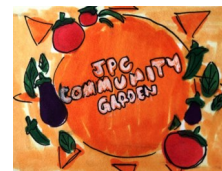
YOUTH GROUP

We are so excited to be having another Parents' Night Out! Please tell your family and friends about this great way to drop off the kids and get some shopping done. December 16th 4pm—8 pm! Contact Kelly Thomas jamestownprezyouth@gmail.com for info or to RSVP!

The Youth are headed to the Samaritan's Purse processing center in Charlotte on Saturday, December 9th to help package Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. We are super excited to help bring smiles and joy to kids around the world!



JPC COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS!



As we prepare for the Advent Season the garden is going to sleep. Thank you to all the gardeners and contributors for another successful season providing vegetables to many people throughout the year. We will be harvesting spinach and greens throughout the winter. They love the cold! What about our rabbit? He's still enjoying what he can. Oh dear!



Please be sure to join us on Sunday, December 10th for the JPC Choir's annual Christmas Cantata! They will be performing *One Silent Night* at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services which are both in the Sanctuary.

thank you

I sincerely thank you for all the cards, phone calls and prayers for me during my recent surgery. I am making progress daily and have turned a corner for the better. The support of a wonderful congregation like you really means a lot during such difficult times. Thanks much and God bless you. Wayne McCray

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JPC SESSION

Class of 2023

Randy Dabbs
Krista Hannah
Doug MacColl
Chris Mills
Darryl Ray

Class of 2024

Vivien Carson
Carlos Frontera
John Martin
Clayton Robinson
Brian Stroud

Class of 2025

Mike Bryant
Bill Carter
Charles Graham
Angelin Ham
Linda Honeycutt