



# The JPC Monthly

## APRIL 2025

### THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY



During Lent we have looked at the questions of Jesus. We attempted to understand that Jesus loves us but as followers of Christ there are ways that we can serve God and others each day. There should also be a desire to become more Christlike every day. This month we celebrate Easter. There is a lot of work that goes into the Lenten season, and it culminates with Holy Week, Good Friday, and of course Easter Morning. We are already working on Palm Sunday with the kids, an Easter egg hunt for the community, and the backdrop has been decorated in the CLC so you can take photos with your family in their Easter best! You can join us for our Sunrise service at 6:30 in the pavilion or at the normal 9AM CLC service or I AM in the Sanctuary.

I thought it would be good to go over some of the Easter greatest hits in this article so that you could spend the next couple of weeks really focused on just what God did for each of us on Easter morning. Easter is the central event in the Christian faith. While Christmas has gained popularity due to presents and commercialism, it is Easter that gives us our meaning. Easter is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, a central tenet of our faith, marking the victory over death and the promise of eternal life for believers.

Holy week is the week leading up to Easter. This is the week that Jesus was in Jerusalem, and this is when his fate is sealed. He and the disciples make their way there for the Passover and they enter in dramatic fashion. Remember that Jesus sent his disciples to get a donkey for Jesus to ride in on? Why is this special? For several reasons: First, the disciples go and get this colt that has never been ridden. This shows Jesus' power in that he rode this unbroken beast into the city. Have you ever seen a western tv show or movie where they are breaking horses? They buck and do everything in their power to throw the rider off. It is Jesus' holy gentleness that makes him able to ride this thing immediately. Just the fact that the owner immediately responds in the affirmative when he is told that the Master needs it, shows that there is something special going on here. And then let's talk about the crowd and his entrance. They give him a royal welcome. I kind of envision it like a celebration parade when the hometown team has won the big game. The crowd is so loud, and they praise him as a king. This will also be what seals his fate with the Pharisees.

Holy Week also gives us Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Please join us on Maundy Thursday evening for our cantata. Maundy Thursday is a special day in the life of the church. It is one that we celebrate and learn from every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper because this is the night that Jesus gave this meal to his disciples and to us. Maundy Thursday is one of my favorite services for this very reason.

Even though we don't have a service on Good Friday, this is the day that we remember (probably celebrate isn't the right word) Jesus' death on the cross. This is a day about loving sacrifice. Jesus endured that hardship to honor and serve God, the Father. He paid the price for our sins and He justified us before God. There is nothing we could ever do to earn this, it was only through God's grace and Jesus' completed action that we are forgiven.

By the grace of God, Good Friday is not the end of the story. Easter Sunday is the day of resurrection. It is the day that every question about Jesus is answered because he is alive. It is the day that we are marked as clean and clear if we turn to God for our salvation. The symbols of Easter are the empty tomb and the empty cross. The empty cross has become the symbol we associate with the risen Christ. That's why none of the crosses in our church have a crucifix on them. Jesus on the cross was not the end of the story.

As we make our way through April and Holy Week, may we remember how important these things are in that they made our lives have meaning. It is only in the resurrected Christ that we have meaning in life. Focus on him these last days of Lent. Give thanks to God for the events and symbols of our faith that draw us closer to God. Call upon the Spirit to grow in your relationship with the Lord this Easter. See you in church.

## LENTEN AND EASTER 2025 CALENDAR

**Saturday, April 12**  
10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

**PALM SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, April 13**  
9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC)  
11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**Thursday, April 17**  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, April 20**  
6:30 am Sunrise Service (Shelter)  
9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC)  
11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)



Wow! We just found out that all of the meals we packaged at our event were sent to Guatemala!

### THANK YOU!

When thanking all of the wonderful folks who continuously help to prepare meals for our Wednesday evening series, The Chosen, Joanne Graham was inadvertently left off of the list last month. Thank you, Joanne!

Finally Spring has started and the weather is warm and beautiful! We have begun our work on the garden with work sessions weeding out the beds and preparing the soil for planting. We are planting peas, carrots, lettuce, kale, spinach and radishes. This is the first year we will be able to harvest our asparagus. The garlic planted last fall looks great, and the blueberry buds are swelling. We provide fresh vegetables to Church World Families, the Women's Shelter and our very own members. This is one of the many missions of JPC. We enjoy time together outside learning from each other.



We welcome anyone who wishes to come by on Wednesday at 9am. Gardeners can just show up or email Nancy Seay at [seaywhat7@aol.com](mailto:seaywhat7@aol.com). You are needed and will be valued on our team! If you are only available on Saturday please let Nancy know.

March was a VERY full month for our youth as we started out by spreading over 700 bales of pine, thank you so much for helping us with our fundraising! We look forward to that again next year. Then we helped out with the Rise Against Hunger, then we started our Mrs. Pumpkins chicken pie sales, again thank you so much for supporting us! Deliciously I may add.



We have enjoyed our weekly high school devotions on Tuesday mornings at Chick Fil A, weekly youth groups and fun ice cream trips. Supporting our youth in their extracurricular activities and preparing for Youth Sunday which took place on the 30th. It was a packed house and we had SO MANY VISITORS! Thank you all so much! We look forward to April and all of the fun activities we will do.

While there is sadness that took place in our congregation and our hearts, we respect and pray continuously for the Daniel family. May their hearts be filled with her memories and see the impact that she had on the community.

### From Admin. Ministry

We wanted to share with you the news that Session recently approved a change to the vacation package for Pastor Jay. At the recommendation of Admin. and Worship, an additional two (2) Sundays off can be taken as "floating Sundays" and can be used by Pastor Jay at his discretion. This additional time off is not the entire week, but not having to preach these additional times will allow him to spend more time with family and free up some time during the week to allocate to other Pastoral duties. Pastor Jay is starting his 13th year at JPC and has not had any change in his vacation package. Session felt that Jay is quite deserving of this additional benefit because of his love for JPC and its members as well as his continued loyalty and commitment to us. Our original vacation package to Pastor Jay includes 4 weeks of vacation and 2 weeks of study leave. Presbytery has no guidelines in this regard, but in other employment relationships, increases to time off and vacation time are often made, depending upon length of service. We are excited about the future of JPC with Jay as our Senior Pastor. If you have any questions, please contact your Admin. ministry team: Bill Carter or Kerry Miller.

## DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund  
In memory of Peggy Purcell by  
Loyce Lesley

Donation to JPC Joy House Fund  
In honor of Anne Barts by  
William & Joan Noell

Donation to JPC Pennies for Orange Feather Fund  
In honor of Evy Hazenberg for teaching chair yoga by  
JPC Tuesday Yoga Group

Donation to JPC Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund  
In honor of Thursday Morning Bible Study Leaders,  
Vivien Carson, Clarajo Pleasants, Ann Johnson, and  
Peggy Taylor, by  
Bill and Nancy Carter

Donation to JPC Outreach Endowment Fund  
In memory of Cathie Shaw, Bruce Shaw's mother,  
In memory of Alice Lempp, Brian & Whitney Stroud's  
grandmother, by  
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund  
In memory of Peggy Purcell by  
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund  
In memory of Ben Sherrill, Tara Daniel's father, by  
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund  
In honor of Anne Wright by  
Sandy Burgess

Donation to JPC Music Fund  
In memory of Peggy Purcell by  
Evangeline Freeman

Donation to JPC CE Endowment Fund  
In memory of Peggy Purcell by  
Cathy Durbin

Donation to JPC Easter Cantata  
In memory of Ben Sherrill, Tara Daniel's father, by  
Jeff & Mary Brooke Guernier  
John & Ana Atwater

Donation to JPC Food Pantry  
In memory of Peggy Purcell  
In memory of Ben Sherrill, Tara Daniel's father,  
In memory of Alice Lempp, Brian & Whitney Stroud's  
grandmother, by  
Charlotte Griner

### THE CHOSEN SEASON ONE WRAP-UP

Everyone is invited to **The Chosen** end of Season 1 Potluck Picnic and Trivia on May 14th at the Shelter from 5:30-7pm (rain brings us into the Fellowship Hall). Please bring a side or dessert to share. We will enjoy burgers, dogs and drinks provided by Christian Education and our CE Chefs. Then we will offer trivia questions and prizes for the winners! See you then!

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### JPC SESSION

**Class of 2025**

Mike Bryant  
Bill Carter  
Charles Graham  
Angelin Ham  
Linda Honeycutt  
Becky Robinson

**Class of 2026**

David Bean  
Becky Brown  
Nancy Seay  
George Wissmiller  
Anne Wright

**Class of 2027**

Jim Gonsiewski  
Kirk Lesley  
Peggy Maynard  
Kerry Miller  
Jenny Rathjen  
Dick Whitt