



The JPC Monthly

October 2025

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY

Warning, Check Engine Light

I was driving my car this afternoon, and it happened. I was sitting at a light, and the check engine light came on. It always amazes me that in a busy world on a busy day that little light can immediately grab my attention. My green machine will turn up 175 thousand miles this week. I purchased it new on December 7th, 2011. I remember that not because there was anything special about buying it, but because this is an important day in American history and it is an important day in family history. This is an anniversary in our family. Overall, the car has been pretty good. It has only left me stranded on the side of the road one time and almost all of the repairs and maintenance I am able to do myself. I could get a new car but now it is a challenge to see how long I can make it last. With several years of college tuition still ahead of us, it makes sense to just keep it going.



With that goal in mind, that check engine light made me anxious. I called my dad. I started to run through the list of things it could be. The green machine burns a little oil and that can sometimes be the source of the light. Usually, I can make it go off if that is the case. I just turn it hard a couple of times and the oil sloshes around and away it goes. After adding a small amount of oil to the car, its performance returns to normal. I will use a code reader to determine what the problem is. After driving back to the church and running a couple errands, I noticed that the car was running as usual, so I am not as worried as I was. One little light set all that worry into action. Hopefully your car doesn't present you with these problems. If it does make sure you get it checked out right away so that you don't do permanent damage!

Is your spiritual check engine light on? You might be wondering what I mean by this. When a "spiritual check engine light" comes on, it signals an internal warning from God that something is wrong in your life, and it requires you to pause, reflect on your spiritual condition, take an inventory of your life through prayer and possibly feedback from trusted friends, repent for any errors, and seek the Lord's guidance to get back on the right spiritual path. You might feel a sense of unease or turmoil within your soul, rather than well-being. It could be a recurring issue or a persistent pattern of behavior that God has been warning you about, which you've been ignoring.

For me this often happens in the middle of the night. When I can't sleep I know I need to assess my life. If I can't sleep for multiple days I know I need to make a change. A self – inventory is a good place to start. This might include prayer, an honest reflection of yourself, and maybe even the advice of trusted and Godly people. But what do we do next? How can we really slow down and make sure we are aligning ourselves with God?

Here are some other diagnostic things we can do when we feel like something is off. You can take a walk in nature. There is clear evidence from psychologists that being outside and seeing grass and trees increases our happiness and reduces stress. Perhaps a daily walk would help you stay more in tune with the Lord.

Show Gratitude. Studies also show that the practice of gratitude, or giving thanks, increases our levels of happiness and well-being. A simple smile releases endorphins that improve your mood. Try starting your day, maybe even before you get out of bed, by thanking God for three things in your life. Try having a specific prayer time just to be thankful. You might also consider journaling. When we are thankful, our lives are better and the check engine light stays off.

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You might also try slowing down. Recently I have been walking to work. Although I have had car trouble lately that is not the reason. I do it so that when I leave work or an evening meeting I can have fifteen minutes to slow down and leave everything back there at the church and to get home ready to be home. Our cars don't like to run fast and hot all the time and perhaps our body, mind, and spirit could use a slowdown, too.

The last one I might suggest will be the hardest for me and maybe for you. In fact, my hands are trembling as I type this! Consider an **ELECTRONICS FAST!** Pause here if you need to collect yourself! There are all kinds of studies and documentaries linking the use of social media to anxiety, depression, and even suicide. There is clearly a new addiction out there and it is social media and access to information in the blink of an eye on the phone. I personally struggle with this temptation...daily. I literally struggle with it as my eyes have gotten dramatically worse and according to the eye doctor **SCREENS** are to blame. How can we fight this? Take a break from the smart phone. That was the thing I loved most about riding motorcycles, there was no phone. Maybe we can start by not bringing phones to the dinner table? Even if it is a couple of nights a week, we can try to be more present this way. When we do, we are more in tune with ourselves and those around us. This will help keep the check engine light off.

I imagine that most of us are pretty good at maintaining our cars. If we aren't, we have a trusted family member or long-time mechanic that helps us along. Most new cars even tell you when it is time for an oil change or other maintenance. The point I am trying to convey is that we do these things **BEFORE** there is a problem. You don't have to wait for the sleepless night or whatever your check engine light is to realign yourself with God. I promise that the closer you can stay to God the more you will feel His presence and guidance! See you in church!

PS The check engine light was a sensor. I seem to have failed to properly tighten my gas cap the last time! I knew someone would ask.

JPC COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



Our garden is still producing green peppers and okra. Could it be they are becoming fall crops? Or is it a warm fall? The fall crops planted include spinach, kale, collards, onions, garlic and potatoes. Our helpful crew is growing. We are blessed to work together to grow healthy food. If you would like to join us, please let Nancy Seay know at seaywhat7@aol.com.

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who baked cookies for **CELEBRATE**. People attending will receive a real treat when they get their cookies. Each & every cookie looks so **YUMMY!!**

Thanks to All Bakers! ~ Anne Wright





Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes Due November 9th

Declare His glory among the nations....
Psalm 96:3 NIV

It's that time of year again when we get to have fun packing shoeboxes full of gifts to go to children in need around the globe. With so many children in need of hope and encouragement, this is the perfect project for us to undertake!

Shoebox packers are encouraged to include a "wow factor" item, such as a deflated soccer ball and pump or a stuffed animal, and then add school supplies, toys, clothing articles, and hygiene items. Use your creativity to make an exciting box for a child to receive. A picture of you and your family with a little note is also a nice touch. Amazon has a Samaritan's Purse section this year if you would like to get some suggestions online from them as well.

New this year- **NO soap is allowed in the boxes, due to the complications it presents in customs in some countries.** This is a change from previous years, so please don't forget! Other items not allowed are candy, food, liquids, toothpaste, war related toys, aerosol cans, or breakable items. The shipping costs are \$10 per box this year.

Shoeboxes and brochures with information on how to pack your box are in the Narthex upstairs and in the entryway of the CLC downstairs. Feel free to take them home and fill them up!

We will collect the shoeboxes at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Sunday, November 9th. Thanks in advance for your continued support of this wonderful project!!!

Questions, please contact Anne Wright 336-210-3270 or Betty McCray 336-906-9958.

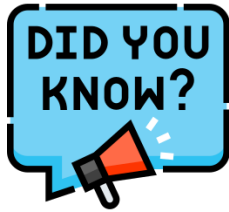
THANK YOU!



Dave and I want to thank our JPC family and friends for all the cards, calls, text messages, meals and especially the prayers during both of our surgeries. We felt all the LOVE and Prayers.

Blessings,
Dave and Kim





Outreach has had a busy summer this year.

Many families have lost their benefits and have needed food boxes. Throughout the summer, we have continued help families in need of beds, and other necessary household items. We have helped over 80 families this year with furnishings.

Many of you helped us put together street bags for the homeless after church one Sunday in July. We completed over 100 bags that day! THANK YOU! They'd all been given out within 2 weeks!

Remember those book bags lining the walls of the CLC earlier this summer? With your help we were able to supply 135 young children with book bags? I know none of us like seeing the 'mess' behind the black curtains, downstairs. We just ask that each time you see it, remember those families to whom we are able to provide much needed furniture. Then I want you to smile and be thankful that we can be of service to those in need!

LEISURE FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

OCTOBER: Please join Leisure Fellowship on **October 16th** at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be Phil Lee, a native North Carolinian with a love of The Andy Griffith Show. He will discuss different aspects of the show, get audience input on favorite episodes, provide some "did you know" facts, and even entertain us with character impersonations. The hope is that you'll laugh, reminisce, smile and nod as we reflect on a simpler time in life where doing right by your neighbor was the norm. Please bring a covered dish to share for our meal.

NOVEMBER: We are so excited to tell you that on Thursday, **November 20th** Leisure Fellowship will be driving to Asheville, NC for a whole house tour of the Christmas trees at the Biltmore House. What a beautiful way to start the Christmas Season!!



It will be a long, but fun day! We will leave JPC no later than 8:30 AM, drive straight to Juicy Lucy's in Asheville for lunch and then arrive at the Biltmore by 1:30 PM for the tour at 2:15 PM. The tour lasts about 1 ½ - 2 hours, after which we will drive back to JPC. (The van will vote on whether or not to stop to eat on the way back.) We plan to be back at JPC by 8:30 or 9:00 PM.

The cost for the trip will be **\$125 per person**, which will include tickets and travel expenses for use of the van. The van can only hold up to 15 people, including the driver, so it will be a first come, first serve basis.

We need to have definite commitments no later than **Monday, November 3rd**. Please turn in your check to either Jen or Angela at the church office or Anne Barts or Charlotte Griner, made out to JPC and please put 'Biltmore Tour' in the memo line.



What is the JPC Foundation?
 ... a 501c3 nonprofit designation
 for the sole support of JPC through
 bequeaths and charitable gifts.

...a way to assure financial
 stability for the future.

HELP US...

Imagine our JPC Future Forever

*Can you Imagine...
 our JPC Future Forever?*

Well, you can, through the JPC Foundation
 COTTAGE MEETINGS at 7:00 pm listed below:

October 16 Charles Stanfield & Melanie Wood
 October 21 Bill & Clarajo Pleasants
 October 23 Debra Catto
 October 28 Kerry & Joan Miller
 October 30 Anne Wright

Sign up! Board at Church Services
 or at SignupGenius.com

For additional information, contact Melanie Wood
 Steve Honeycutt or Bill Pleasants



DONATIONS

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund
In honor of Evy Hazenberg by
Dennis and Pam Hjelmquist

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund
In honor of Evy Hazenberg by
Ellen Winnett

Donation to JPC Children's Ministry
In honor of Evy Hazenberg by
Mary Brooke Guernier

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund
In honor of Joan Brisley & Jo Breck's birthday by
Jim & Darryl Ray

Donation to JPC Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday & in honor of
Bill & Clarajo Pleasants by
Loyce Lesley

Donation to JPC Avery Snead Scholarship Fund
In memory of Dennis Snead by
Nancy Norman

Donation to JPC Avery Snead Scholarship Fund
In memory of Bobbie Jean Fentress Davis by
Marilyn Bell

Donation to JPC Avery Snead Scholarship Fund
In memory of Dennis Snead by
Kimberly Morgan

Donation to JPC Avery Snead Scholarship Fund
In memory of Dennis Snead by
Barbara Arbo

Donation to JPC Orange Feather Fund
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday by
Anne Wright

Donation to JPC Celebrate
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday by
Louise Monroe

Donation to JPC Food Bank
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday by
Charlotte Griner

Donation to JPC Outreach
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday by
Wayne & Betty McCray

Donation to JPC Foundation
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Bill & Clarajo Pleasants

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Norma Jean Miller Hall

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Loyce Lesley

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Jim & Daryl Ray

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Louise and Chuck Miller

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Albert & Kathy Van Dorp

Donation to JPC
In honor of Nancy Guiton's 100th birthday by
Jack & Carol Rishel & Olene Mabe

Donation to JPC
In memory of Roy Johnston by
Sedgefield Country Club

Donation to JPC
In honor of Evy Hazenberg by
The Tuesday Yoga Class

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



**Thank you Pastor Jay for all you do for JPC!
We hope you have a wonderful month being appreciated!**

LADIES MORNING CIRCLE

The Ladies Morning Circle will meet on October 20th at JPC in Room 222 at 10:00. We will make plans and preparations for the Christmas bags project for our Grace Group of 18 folks. We welcome the involvement of the Evening Circle as we look forward to bringing Christmas cheer to these friends. This is a long held tradition of JPC church circles.



The circle lesson will feature the Syrophenician woman of Matthew 5 who persisted with a request for Jesus to heal her sick daughter, over the disciples protests. The video presenter is Naomi Zacharias, director of Wellspring International, the humanitarian initiative of Zacharias International Ministries (Zondervan Press).

Others who wish to help should contact Anne Wright, Evangeline Freeman or Lynette Smitherman.

LADIES EVENING CIRCLE

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7 NKJV

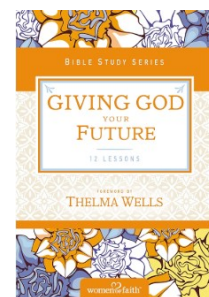
The Monday Night Evening Circle will meet on October 20th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Gail Meehan and Dale Flotkoetter will share duties as our study and devotional leaders and provide refreshments.

We are on lesson 7 titled: Putting it in God's Hands... This is continuing in our study book "Giving God Your Future."

We would love to have you join us.

Please contact Cynthia Neel if you have any questions at: Phone: 336-339-3695

Email: barryneel@northstate.net



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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
Anne Wright

Class of 2027

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