



The JPC Monthly

December 2025

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY

“All I Want for Christmas is” has become part of a phrase that has been used for seventy years in pop culture. An example has probably already popped into your head. I can think of several from my childhood, before I was born, and even today. I will share some of these with you in this article.



The earliest one that I could think of was “All I want for Christmas” (is my two front teeth). The version I grew up with was the Chipmunks’ version. The high-pitched version hit the television Christmas special for the first time in 1963 and was included on the Chipmunks Greatest Hits album in 1999. I imagine that’s when another round of movies or cartoons came out. My brother and I had a Chipmunks record with that song on it along with some other secular Christmas carols.

That is not the original version of that song. I hope you don’t have those screeching rodents stuck in your head. Almost 20 years earlier in 1944, Donald Yetter Gardner wrote the song. It was made famous by a cute little girl in 1956 when it was performed by Spike Jones and His City Slickers. Mellissa Lynn made it famous in 1986 in a red dress on the Al Alberts Showcase.

There was another song that wanted something for Christmas too. “All I Want for Christmas Is You” is a song by American singer-songwriter Mariah Carey from her fourth studio album and first holiday album, Merry Christmas (1994). She wrote and produced the song with Walter Afanasieff. It was released as the lead single from the album on October 29, 1994, by Columbia Records. The track is an up-tempo love song that talks about prioritizing time with a lover over receiving gifts. It includes bell chimes, backing vocals, and synthesizers. “All I Want for Christmas Is You” has received critical acclaim, with The New Yorker describing it as “one of the few worthy modern additions to the holiday canon.” The song has become a Christmas standard, with a significant rise in popularity every December. The song was a success when first released, reaching number six on the Billboard Hot Adult Contemporary chart in the United States and number two in the United Kingdom and Japan. (Wikipedia)

I never really liked this song, but most of the world did. I guess the message was a good one in that she didn’t want things for Christmas, just to spend time with her beloved. I guess that’s easy to say when your motorcoach costs \$1.7 million and your engagement ring \$10 million!

The most recent “All I Want for Christmas” I came across was wrapping paper. A member of the church, who is not a fan of the current president, wrapped my gift in paper that read, “All I Want for Christmas is a New President.” I thought that was funny. Whether you like the president or not I thought it was a clever use of the phrase. I have already reused the paper on someone that would not have thought it was funny. They in turn are already planning on reusing the paper on another Trump lover. I am not trying to make a political statement; I am simply trying to show you all the uses of this phrase.

As I was thinking about this phrase I was thinking about how we should complete that sentence. At first, I was drawn to larger scale grandiose answers like “world peace” or “for everyone to know Jesus.” While these are great things to wish for, even the Bible tells us that these things will not happen.

Even things that seem harmless like a job for my son, good grades, and health for family are things we can pray for, but they take work. If we don’t study or look for a job or do healthy things, then we can’t magically expect these things at Christmas.

(con’t next page)

(con't) Maybe All I Want for Christmas is the ability to make better decisions or to study God's word more or to hold my tongue? I know that I want Christmas Eve service to go great. I know I want to get to the airport in plenty of time on Christmas Day. I know I want our family to have a safe trip... with no bickering! From a Christian perspective, "all I want for Christmas" is not about material gifts, but a spiritual one, often summarized as wanting God's presence and relationship. This includes desiring a closer walk with God, receiving His peace and guidance, and reflecting His love to others. Other desires often expressed include receiving God's gift of salvation, having faith and hope in Him during difficult times, and seeing loved ones come to faith as well.

I hope you get everything you want for Christmas. I hope that it includes some bonus time with a family member or friend. I hope that it includes health and an awareness of God's blessings. I hope that it is a season of joy, even if the wrapping paper makes you mad. Merry Christmas! See you in church!



Thank you to the congregation and to Pastor Jay for prayers and visits relating to David's heart surgery. The prayers were appreciated and enabled his Superman healing! He does not like to be still and resting, so we thank you very much!

-Kay Picha

Nancy Guiton wishes to thank everyone for the incredible outpouring of love she received for her 100th birthday! She was so touched by the calls, cards and visitors!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with this year's Holiday Market!
We appreciate all of the delicious baked goods, the yard sale and raffle donations, the set-up and break-down, the endless hours volunteers put in working on various tasks, The JPC Men for preparing and serving breakfast, the list goes on and on! As always, our JPC family and friends showed up in full force to put the church and its ministries first! Thank you for all you did to make this event such a success for Outreach. Due to your kindness, we are able to provide many children with a Christmas morning they would not otherwise have.

Merry Christmas!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know that in late 2022, the Session went through a long, detailed process of evaluating whether JPC was fulfilling our Mission as God had intended. If we were not meeting expectations, what changes should be made and what do we envision for JPC in the next 5-10 years? A great many positive changes came out of that initial study, but the work continues.

From this Vision 2022 study, the current Session updated the priority list with the results centering around enhancing and/or increasing church programs, services, and membership. As with many churches, JPC is facing a declining, aging membership. JPC membership growth has not kept pace with the population increase in Guilford County. Coincidentally, most of the priorities envisioned by Session depend on an increased membership which then drives the financial resources, volunteers, and desired staffing, programs and services. The dilemma facing JPC is balancing our Mission in the community and what we feel called to do with the realities of a slowly declining membership base.

But JPC (and other area churches) have been given a unique opportunity. *Did You Know* that the population of Jamestown will almost double in the next 5+ years? With the development of the old Johnson property, nearly 3,000 new residents will be nearby: many within walking distance of JPC. And another several thousand people will occupy the new apartments located several miles away. What an opportunity we have! But what will JPC do about having so many potential members so close by? Session is aware of the imminent population growth on our doorstep and is currently deciding the proper approach. Should we stand back and continue to hope that new residents will visit JPC and then we can greet and welcome them? Or should we be a bit more proactive and aggressive in our approach and truly reach out to the new residents by inviting them to attend worship or participate in church programs? And if we choose to seek out new members, how do we do that in this age of social media, targeted advertising and new technology? JPC is indeed at “a fork in the road” and which way we choose to go will shape the future of this church as well as determine which programs, missions, and services are offered. Are we content in being comfortable on the road we are taking and watching the consequences of reduced membership? Or, if Session feels God is calling us to do so, are we willing to take a yet unknown, uncharted journey that could hold new opportunities for JPC?

Please pray for your Session as they go through their discussions and evaluations and pray that God will lead us in the direction that will best serve Him. And certainly, if you have any questions or opinions, please discuss it with any Session member.

Administration Ministry

**COLLEGE OF ELDERS MEETING**

All elders and deacons are asked to attend the last College of Elders meeting of 2025. Please join us Sunday, December 7th at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and a quick meeting at 8:15 am.

Elders Meeting

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Please join the JPC Chancel Choir Sunday, December 7th for the beautiful music program "A Blest Messiah Born." This musical contains some of the oldest and most-beloved carols in our Christmas repertoire, and through them tell the story of the birth of Christ. All are welcome to come listen to the story of Christmas through this wonderful musical celebration of traditional carols.

Sunday, December 7
9:00 am and 11:00 am
 Sanctuary



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Children of JPC invite you to their musical performance on **Wednesday, December 10th** in the CLC
5:30 pm hotdog dinner
6:00 pm program



JAMESTOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE

When: Sunday, December 7th
What (to wear): green, red, or white
Where (to meet): behind Jamestown Town Hall
Time: we have to be in place by 2:30 pm
Who: ALL are welcome, kids can ride the float, adults can assist and walk along!

CHRISTMAS
PARADE

CHRISTMAS EVE ~CANDLELIGHT SERVICE~

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL
 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
5:00 PM
 CLC

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOXES

Thank you for all of your donations to the pantry!
 We are now getting ready to fill Christmas boxes.

- Pop Tarts
- Bagged Rice
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta
- Mac and Cheese

Thank you so much for helping to keep our hungry friends fed this holiday season!



Wednesday, December 24th
closed

Thursday, December 25th
closed

Thursday, January 1, 2026
closed



STAFF LOVE OFFERING

If you wish to contribute to the Staff Love Offering, you can mail your donation to the church, or drop it off in the office or the offering plate this Sunday.

The last day to donate is Monday, December 8th.

Thank you for your generosity to our loving JPC Staff!

DONATIONS

Donation has been made in loving memory of David Picha's sister Patty by,
James P. Thompson III

JPC FOUNDATION INFORMATION

As many of you know, Jamestown Presbyterian Church has reactivated the JPC Foundation, originally established nearly 30 years ago. The JPC Foundation and the JPC Resource Ministry are pleased to announce that the Foundation's official launch date is **January 1, 2026**. Beginning on that date, donations should be directed according to the chart below:

| Jamestown Presbyterian Church | Jamestown Presbyterian Church Foundation |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tithes • Special Offerings solicited by the church (Christmas Musicians, Love Offering, etc.) • Collection Plate cash | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted Funds (when the donor directs how the funds may be spent) • Endowments (\$10,000 minimum to create a named endowment) • Bequests (named in a Will) • Memorials • Non-Cash Donations (stocks, bonds, real estate, business interests, etc.) • Honorariums |

If you are unsure where a donation should be directed, you may make it payable to the **JPC Foundation**, and it will be allocated appropriately.

Additional Information

Purpose of the JPC Foundation

The JPC Foundation was formed to support the mission and ministry of Jamestown Presbyterian Church. It provides enhanced oversight for restricted gifts and bequests, ensuring that donor intentions are honored. The Foundation can accept a wide range of assets, including employer-matched gifts, stocks, bonds, real estate, and other non-cash contributions.

Endowments

An endowment is typically a substantial gift in which the principal is invested and a portion of the earnings is distributed to the church. Endowments allow a donor's gift to grow over time and support JPC in perpetuity.

- Endowments of **\$10,000 or more** may be named.
- Smaller gifts designated for endowment purposes will be added to the Foundation's General Endowment Fund.

If you are considering an endowment, bequest, or other significant gift, please consult a JPC Foundation Board Member or Pastor Jay Smith.

Restricted Donations

Restricted donations include instructions from the donor specifying how the funds are to be used. Donors considering a restricted gift are encouraged to speak with a Foundation Board member or the senior pastor before finalizing their instructions.

Unrestricted Donations

Unrestricted donations carry no specific designation and will be used to support the overall mission and ministries of Jamestown Presbyterian Church.

Checks for the Foundation need to be made payable to the Jamestown Presbyterian Church **Foundation**.

All checks for the operations of the Church (tithes) need to be made payable to Jamestown Presbyterian Church.

December 7
Christmas Cantata
 9:00 am / 11:00 am Sanctuary

December 14
 9:00 am CLC / 11:00 am Sanctuary

December 21
 9:00 am CLC / 11:00 am Sanctuary

December 24
 5:00 pm CLC
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 28
 10:00 am Combined Sanctuary



DECEMBER LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Please join us at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 18 in the Fellowship Hall for a very special holiday program. We are delighted to welcome Santa Cliff, one of the most photographed and faith-filled Santas in the world. With over 40 years of spreading joy, Santa Cliff has shared the true spirit of Christmas, his adventures, his inspiring faith, and his book *Santa's Journey*.



Come enjoy fellowship, food and festive cheer as we celebrate the season together. You won't want to miss this heartwarming time with a Santa who truly embodies the message of Christmas. Bring a friend and share in the joy- because Christmas is brighter when we celebrate together! Also, please bring a covered-dish to share.

YEAR END GIVING

All 2025 checks / donations need to be dated and postmarked by **Wednesday, December 31** to count for 2025 giving. Thank you!



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Visit us on the Web
www.jamestownprez.org

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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