



The JPC Monthly

January 2026

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY

Family Matters

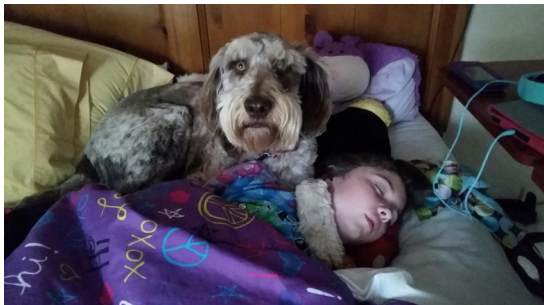
As we begin a new year, I want to tell you a story that took ten years to unfold. It is a reminder that family is important and that as parents and as children we are called to “bring up our children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.” In return, according to Moses in the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20, as children we are to “honor our father and mother.” Erin and I have worked hard to give our children to the Lord and to attempt to bring out the best in them. I am so proud of how they have turned out in spite of me. The lines that follow are the story of an adventure that started right here at JPC. I hope you enjoy it.



Early in 2016 I was sitting in my office when Doug Wentz walked in. He often stopped by to see how things were going at the church and he may have even been on Session at the time. He told me that he was looking to get a different camper and that he was going to work at the Grand Canyon the next summer season. This sounded remarkable to me. Doug and I share a love for the outdoors, and I was excited to hear about his trip. I asked many questions about what Joye would do and where they would live. I asked what his job would be at the canyon. Eventually, the conversation turned to Shep. Shep was Doug’s Aussie Doodle puppy he was young and rambunctious. Doug told me that he was planning on taking Shep with him to the canyon. I suggested that Joye might kill Doug and the dog if he planned on leaving her trapped in a tin can in the Arizona desert with that puppy all day every day. We laughed. I may have even offered to have the dog live with us.

Some time went by, and Doug was back again at the church. His trip was getting closer. I guess he thought about it and maybe even talked to Joye about it and he had a question. As you guessed the question was, “could Shep really live at our house while they were in Arizona?” 42-year-old Jay was thrilled. I do not think the answer would be the same today from 52-year-old Jay! Doug and I scheduled some “meet and greet” times with our dogs. Things went fine and off the Wentz’s went to Arizona and Shep moved to Woodley Court.

Doug called regularly to tell me about his time out west and to check on Shep. While it was a little crazy at our house, everything went fine. I have included some photos with this article to give you the flavor. I suppose I should confess that Shep had never been on the furniture before living at our house. I will not comment on that, but say that “a picture is worth 1000 words.”



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It was not until Doug returned that this story really got going. Doug returned and picked up the dog. He had gifts for my kids, and we were sad to see Shep go home. One day Doug came to see me in my office. He was preparing to share his journey with Leisure Fellowship. Doug made an admission to me that day. Hopefully the statute of limitations has run out. He said, "I broke the law. I hiked to the canyon floor and while I was there I picked up some rocks which is illegal to do." I did some checking and according to Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 C.F.R. § 2.1(a) and § 2.5(a)), generally prohibit the recreational collection of rocks, minerals, and paleontological specimens in all units of the National Park System. He handed me five small pink rocks. They have been on display in my office for almost ten years.

It is what he said next that is the climax or at least the build up to the climax in this story. Doug said, "I broke the law, and it is up to you and your family to put them back." That stuck with me all these years. At times, I feared that I would die and one of my children or grandchildren might ask, "what are these pink rocks?" That is not how this story ended. On December 28th, 2025, we completed the task assigned to us by Doug Wentz.



We spent the night before in the Grand Canyon Railroad Hotel and then traveled by train with Erin's sister and our brother-in-law to the canyon by steam engine. It was a fun trip through places we may never have seen otherwise. It was also the first time Erin or any of our kids had seen the Grand Canyon. I will admit that we did not go all the way down to the canyon floor to return the rocks. Erin's sister has MS and is not super sure of foot, so we went down the trail a bit and tossed them in! I guess if you hear on the news of someone getting stoned in the Grand Canyon, then I have now admitted to a crime of my own!

This is something that I will remember for the rest of my life. I am sure it was just a passing moment for my kids, and I am even more sure they were embarrassed when I got out my bag of rocks

and cried when we put them back. I did make them take a photo which you can see here with the article. In this moment I was thankful to be able to share this ultimate example of the beauty of God's creation with my family. I was thankful that my children know and love Jesus and turn to Him for their salvation. I was overjoyed that Amy and Jim made the decision to move to Arizona and that they are so important to my kids. I was even thankful for my parents who are reading this while recovering from living for a week with my dogs at our house so our family could follow the Wentz family to the Grand Canyon.



You never know what life is going to throw at you. We pray for the best for our kids, but we never know how life is going to treat them or us. When you have a chance, spend the time. Tell the family stories. Talk to your children and grandchildren about God's presence in your life. Remember that family matters and the creator of the universe, the creator of the most amazing things like the Grand Canyon created YOU! He created your family as a gift to Him and to you. Recognize that gift. In 2026 focus on family and relationships. I hope you enjoyed our journey. Happy New Year. See you in church!

CHURCH NEWS

From the Admin. Ministry Team:

We are pleased to announce that Jen McNamara has been promoted to the newly created position of Office Manager. The Office Manager position is a full-time position and the change is effective immediately. Jen has been with us for just over 9 years and has done an excellent job of keeping the office operations running smoothly. She is highly deserving of this promotion. In addition to her current duties, Jen will be picking up several new responsibilities. These include:

- taking over some administrative responsibilities from Pastor Jay to ease the load a bit for him
- assuring more consistency and continuity of processes and procedures as we go from one year to the next, one Session class to the next
- taking on some very important job functions from the Financial Secretary position

We are very excited that Jen will fill this new role nicely. Please join us in congratulating Jen!!

Should you have any questions, please contact Kerry Miller or Pastor Jay.

Administrative Ministry

DONATIONS

Donation has been made to the Congregational Care Fund in honor of the Congregational Care Committee by,
Carol Rishel

Donation has been made to the Orange Feather School Fund in honor of my children and grandchildren, Carol Carpenter and Jay Smith by,
Loyce Lesley

Donation has been made to the Music Fund in loving memory of Herb and Dollie Smith by,
Gayle Smith

DE-GREENING OF JPC

Now that the holidays are coming to an end, it is de-greening of the church time again! We are asking for your help on Sunday, January 4th after the services. If you are able to help, we would greatly appreciate it as many hands make light work!



LEISURE FELLOWSHIP

Please join us on Thursday, January 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a fun-filled Leisure Fellowship: Game Day! We'll kick off the program with the spirited Rah Rahs, who will cheer us on and get us in the game-day mood. After their cheers, everyone is invited to participate in chair volleyball - a safe, fun, and easy-to-play version of regular volleyball that all can enjoy. To make our fellowship even sweeter, please bring a dish to share with the group and our Rah Rahs. Come for the laughter, stay for the fellowship, and let's enjoy a joyful time together!





Thank you to all who donated to the Staff Love Offering!

We were so incredibly touched by your kindness and generosity!
Thank you for making JPC the most incredible place to "work!"
We are here for you and love you all!

We wish each of you a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year!



SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who packed a Samaritan's Purse Children's Shoebox going to children in countries all over the world. This year JPC donated seventy-three shoeboxes for both boys, and girls to receive.

Before the boxes were taken to one of the collection locations, each box was checked & found to be packed very special for the children.

Thanks for including special fun items, furry animals, dolls, small cars, soccer balls, school supplies, coloring books & crayons & personal items. The shoeboxes were truly filled with items the children will be so excited to receive.

Can you imagine receiving a gift box filled with special items sent just for you? The boys & girls receiving our shoeboxes will be so happy & thrilled with the items in each of their boxes to enjoy.

What a special way to celebrate Christmas, than to share with boys & girls around the world through the Samaritan's Purse Children's Shoebox Ministry.

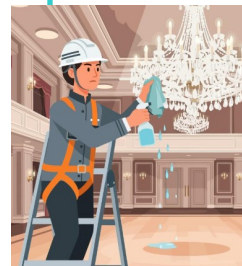
Acts 20:35 we read, "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

In Christian Love,
Anne Wright & Betty McCray

Special thanks to Mike Bryant, Gary Fulp,
Cam Tally and Dave Schoepske for cleaning the
large chandelier in the Sanctuary!

It looks so pretty and bright as it hangs to
brighten the JPC Sanctuary. Great Job!!

Thank You!
Anne Wright



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS...RECAP!

Even though the holidays are over, we had so much fun and wanted to share some great moments! We hope you enjoy the pictures from the Jamestown Parade and Breakfast with Santa! Lots of work was put into these events and we are so blessed to have incredible folks pour their hearts and souls into making these wonderful memories for the kids!



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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