



The JPC Monthly

April 2026

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY



16th century poet Thomas Tusser, in his book *A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry*, wrote “Sweet April showers / do spring May flowers.” He was writing in England in 1557. I always heard this phrase as a kid in the North, usually during the dreary moments near the end of winter but before the beauty of spring. I have often wondered if this term was used in the much warmer South where flowers bloom much earlier. I think that this year we had blooms on several different plants and bushes in February. I also don’t think I had any idea that this phrase was that old. In looking at an old copy of the book online it was interesting to see that words were spelled differently and that most of his points were in the form of poetry. The book seemed to offer men (remember of the 16th century) tips on gardening and caring for a wife and a family. To put this into perspective, remember Luther started the Protestant Reformation in Germany in 1517 and the Reformation didn’t really catch fire in England until the 1530’s. If you Google this book or look on Amazon it will say 1810 because another person republished it 250 years later. I suppose I should also say that this little proverb can be traced back to the 1100’s but was never published anywhere. I imagine it was just one of those things your grandmother would say until Tusser decided to write it down.

That’s enough of the nerdy history; I want to talk to you about that saying. As a boy I thought it was literally about the rain that ruined my springtime plans. I also didn’t have much interest in flowers regardless of when they were coming or how they got there. As an adult I can see the wisdom in Tusser’s words, especially to young couples starting out and especially to families that had the added stressors of no guaranteed income, making their clothes, and growing their own food.

What was he really trying to tell those young men? “Sweet April showers / do spring May flowers.” It implies that difficult or unpleasant experiences (rainy April days) are necessary to produce positive results (blooming May flowers). Believe it or not, I think this statement is downright biblical. The Apostle Paul viewed perseverance not as self-reliance, but as a grace-enabled endurance, famously stating, “When I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor 12:10). He taught that suffering produces endurance, character, and hope (Rom 5:3-4), urging believers to joyfully finish their “race” of faith by focusing on eternal rewards rather than temporary trials. I preached on this Romans passage within the last few months.

Isn’t that what April showers are getting at? Just keep going, it will get better. Tusser openly references scripture in his book of wisdom, quips, and poetry. I am sure he had the apostle Paul in mind when he included this little saying. This article was written before Easter Sunday. As I write this the weather forecast looks grim for the Sunrise Service. The service will happen even if it is in the sanctuary. Maybe that is appropriate to remind us that even amid rain ruining plans Christ has risen! Because of that there will be victory. Regardless of what this life brings we have victory in Jesus.

Are you in a rainy season with no hope of beautiful blooms and sunshine? I know for some of us April and its showers can seem to go on forever. But believe the truth of the gospel as stated by Paul in Romans and Thomas Tusser in his 500-year-old book. Things will get better. The rainy seasons are necessary because they make us rely on God and they strengthen us for the next one. They also give us experiences so that we can share and be empathetic to others. Put on your raincoat and boots and stay focused on the Lord. Things will get better because He has Risen!

JPC FOUNDATION

The JPC Foundation, Inc. wishes to welcome Mike Daniel, Carol Rishel, and Allison Tally as new members of the Board of Directors. Mike, Carol, and Allison bring a wealth of experience to the Foundation. Mike is currently employed as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer for Bassett Furniture Industries and has been a member of JPC for 30 years. Carol was a Senior Vice President of Sales office Corporate Banking for Wells Fargo. She has been a member of JPC for 48 years. Allison was a Technical Development Manager for Syngenta, possesses a PhD in Plant Pathology and is a past member of the American Pathology Society Foundation. She has been a member of JPC for 40 years.



Youth Sunday 2026!

Please join the JPC Youth as they lead our 10:00 am Combined Service on Sunday, April 12th in the CLC. The Youth have worked hard and we hope you will enjoy the service!

Easter Services

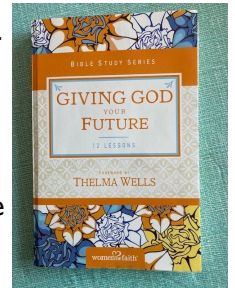
6:45 am Sunrise Service (Shelter)
(Sanctuary– if raining)
9:00 am Contemporary Service (CLC)
11:00 am Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

Women's Monday Evening Circle

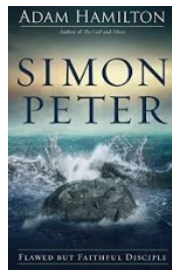
“Choose For Yourselves This Day Whom You Will Serve”

Joshua 24:15 NKJV

Please join us April 20th at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our study lesson will be Chapter 12, titled “Taking the Plunge”. This will complete the study from Giving God Your Future. Anne Barts will be our prayer and study leader, Mary Ragsdale will serve as our devotion leader, Anne Wright, Mary Ragsdale and Melinda Minor will provide the evenings refreshments.

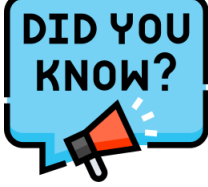


Thursday Morning Bible Study



Please join the ladies morning study beginning this Thursday, April 9th at 9:30 as we begin our new study, *Simon Peter– Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton. If you have any questions, please contact Clarajo Pleasants or Vivien Carson.





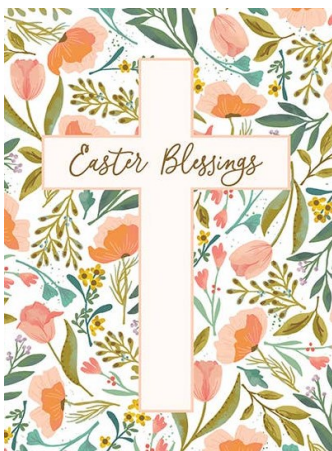
The JPC Session has met the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Room 222 for many years. **Beginning in May 2026, the JPC Session will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm in Room 222.** This will allow all ministry teams time to meet and have their reports ready for our monthly Session meetings.



I want to thank the JPC church family and my Bible study ladies for all of your thoughts and prayers, the kindness and love shown to me and my daughters, Laura and Kelly, in our sadness and sorrow on the passing of my husband, Chuck Usborne on January 26, 2026. I want to extend my deep appreciation for the dinners delivered to us by the JPC women to my family in our time of need. I have felt a circle of hugs and love around me by all the prayers and caring, cards, texts and phone calls.

Blessings,
Patty Usborne

Barbara Auman so enjoyed the shower of cards she received for her birthday from her JPC friends and family! She loved all of the sweet messages and the cards are on display in her room. The outpouring of love brought her so much happiness! Thank you!



DONATIONS

Donation has been made to the Music Fund for the Easter Cantata in loving memory of Chuck Usborne by,
Patty Usborne

Donation has been made to the Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund in honor of Bill and Clarajo Pleasants by,
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pleasants

Friendly Reminder



EMAIL REMINDER!

As a quick reminder, kindly be sure to use the new staff email addresses below. We are phasing out the old "gmail" emails and appreciate your cooperation in using the new emails to streamline this process!

Pastor Jay
Sammie Braxton
Jon Brotherton
Donna Brotherton
Jen McNamara
April Bolick
Evy Hazenberg
Finance

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JPC SESSION

Class of 2026

David Bean
Becky Brown
Nancy Seay
Anne Wright
Cam Tally

Class of 2027

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

Class of 2028

Evy Hazenberg
Katie Heineman
Pam Hjelmquist
Randy Stroud
Ellen Winnett