



The JPC Monthly

July and August 2026

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR JAY

Summer Opportunities

As summer comes to an end and kids go back to school, and programs in the church start up, I want to share with you a few things. I am really excited about this fall at JPC. I want to challenge you to get involved this fall! Please read all the way to the end. I am going to mention 4 things in this article, and they get more important as they go, so read all the way through!



The Chosen will return and we will make our way through season 3 starting in late September. Stay tuned for more information. If you want to participate you can watch all the episodes for free on The Chosen website. If you simply Google the Chosen, you will arrive at www.thechosen.tv from there you can click WATCH and find every episode of every season for free. No subscription or any personal information is required. If you want to catch up or start new you could start at season one. There are eight episodes in a season. I will admit that I had to search season 3 in the search bar but then it popped right up! Please join us Wednesday evenings for The Chosen starting September 23rd. We are going to try and do this every other week and tackle 2 episodes in an evening!

The next thing I want to mention is an opportunity for you to get involved financially. There is a fund in our financial report called Pastor's Discretionary Fund. It is not fed by the budget. I use this for all sorts of things. Over the years these have included buying someone tires for their car, a battery for another car, some hotel stays for some people in a bad situation, and other outreach things that needed to happen instantly. I have also used this fund within the church to buy extra things. These could be as simple as ice cream for the youth group or a special event for the kids. I have used it to do extra nice things for the staff and to send flowers to families in a time of loss. Basically, it is where all the odd stuff happens! All these odd things have real value. Now please understand I always have accountability to Resource, Admin, and Session in the use of this fund. It has never had a ton of money in it, just enough to help in a faster than our process manner. This fund is dangerously low. I think by the time this article is read there will only be a couple hundred dollars in there. I am not asking for special donations because that would be a fundraiser and that would require a vote of Session but if you had a few extra bucks that you wanted to make a real difference this could be a good place. Remember that you should never divert your regular offering. Also remember this fund only has a couple thousand in it at any time. I say that because I don't think it needs a huge amount of help to make a big difference.

But wait there's more! We are just weeks away from a new year of youth group! The Senior High youth group just got back from an exciting week at Montreat. Michael Henry, our new Youth Director, was there for part of the week and he used that time to get to know the kids and to ask questions about the upcoming year. He has already started communicating with the kids and is in the process of planning a gathering before school starts. I want to encourage all families with youth to give youth group a try this fall. It is going to be a great place for young people to grow in their faith and to really understand God's word. It will be unlike anything we have offered for youth in quite some time. I am excited. The kids that spent time with Michael at Montreat are excited. Michael is excited. I can't wait to see God at work in the young people of our church and community. There are opportunities here too. Michael will need some help with adult leaders and chaperones. Again, I am going to leave this to him but please get involved. You don't even have to have a child in the program. You do have to practice our Safe Sanctuary policy and take an online youth protection course, so don't wait.

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Finally, this fall we are all going to have an opportunity to chart the future for our beloved JPC. The Session has been working very hard to understand how we can welcome the new people that will be moving into our community and how we can be more effective with our resources. Hopefully you read the letter sent out Tuesday. You may have already heard a little buzz about this and we need you! We are so excited about the opportunity we have to partner with Ministry Architects. Starting this week, a very special group of people are going to start telling you more about this each Sunday. I don't want to steal their thunder, but I do want to encourage you to listen to them, read their materials, and to sign up. They are going to ask each member of this church just for an hour (at the most) to share your thoughts on what makes JPC the church that we are. So, start thinking about it and instead of offering excuses and thinking that you have nothing to add, be the important part of this portion of the body of Christ that you are.

Usually when summer comes to an end, I am a little bit sad. I enjoy time with family and worshiping together in one place. But this fall I can't wait for what is next. I can't wait to discuss God's word using The Chosen series. I can't wait to work with Michael and see meaningful growth in our young people. I can't wait to be challenged to look to the future, to welcome new people, and to do things better for the glory of God. Get excited! See you in church!

Join Us! ★
LEISURE FELLOWSHIP
Live • Laugh • Dance • Support

Old Time
Rock'n Roll
 by
SASSYfrazze

PUT ON YOUR
**DANCING
 SHOES**
 FOR THIS ONE!

THURSDAY
 AUGUST 20

NOON
 IN THE
 FELLOWSHIP
 HALL

A fun, feel-good
 program of music,
 movement, and
 community!

★ Great Music. Great People. Great Purpose. ★
LET'S ROCK THIS TOGETHER!

**PLEASE BRING A
 DISH TO SHARE**

The Community Garden

It's July/August Harvest Time! With all this heat our garden is growing well and producing tomatoes, okra, squash, onions, potatoes and beans. We have developed a great partner with the Lutheran Church. We distribute our fresh veggies through their food pantry reaching a wide community. We continue to deliver fresh vegetables to our resettled families as well as any schools in need.



We would love to have you join us for fellowship in the garden! If you want to help, please let Nancy Seay know at 336-580-3611.

DONATIONS

Donation in loving memory of Bob Pullease, by
Allen Wealth Management, LLC

Donation in loving memory of Bob Pullease, by
Dave E. Smith

Donation to Congregational Care Fund in honor of
the Ladies of Congregational Care, by
Dorothy Pullease

Donation to the JPC Columbarium Fund in loving
memory of Bob and Peggy Corey, by
Jeff and Teri Gregory

Donation to the JPC Food Pantry in memory of
Bob Pullease, by
Charlotte Griner

Donation in memory of Bob Pullease, by
Brenda Davis

Donation to the JPC Music Fund in loving memory
of Phil Tate, by
Jo Brech

Donation in loving memory of Bob Pullease, by
Susan Melvin

Donation in loving memory of Bob Pullease, by
National Christian Foundation

Donation to the Lane Pleasants Scholarship Fund in
loving memory of Joe Pleasants, by
Darryl and Jim Ray

Donation to the Lane Pleasants Scholarship in loving
memory of Joe Pleasants, by
Bill and Clarajo Pleasants

Donation to the Lane Pleasants Scholarship in loving
memory of Joe Pleasants, by
Loyce Lesley

Donation to the JPC Foundation in loving memory
of Chuck Usborne, by
Bill and Clarajo Pleasants
M.L. Durrbeck

Donation to the JPC Foundation in loving memory
of Phil Tate, by
Bill and Clarajo Pleasants

Donation to the JPC Foundation, by
Bill and Clarajo Pleasants

Donation to the JPC Foundation in loving memory
of Joe Pleasants, by
Bill and Clarajo Pleasants



JPC FOUNDATION

What Is the Foundation Endowment, Really?

You've probably heard the words "endowment" and "the Foundation" mentioned at JPC, maybe in a stewardship letter or an announcement about the "Forever Fellowship." But what does an endowment actually do, and how is it different from putting a check in the offering plate? Here's the answer, from both sides of the gift.

The Basic Idea: A Gift That Keeps Giving

Most gifts to the church are spent the same year they're given. They pay this year's staff salaries, this year's utility bills, and this year's mission trip. An endowment works differently. Instead of spending the gift itself, the Foundation invests it. Each year, only a small slice of the funds' earnings is paid out to support the church; the rest stays invested and keeps growing. The original gift, called the principal, is never spent. In effect, a gift to the endowment doesn't just help the church once. It helps every year, indefinitely.

From the Donor's Perspective

When you give to the endowment, whether it's cash today or a provision in your will, you're planting something that outlives the moment you planted it. Your gift is invested alongside other endowment gifts, and a modest percentage of its value is distributed each year to support JPC's mission. That means a \$15,000 gift doesn't just provide \$15,000 of help one time. It can quietly support the church, year after year, for decades. This is exactly the idea behind the "Forever Fellowship": members who commit a gift from their estate of \$10,000 or more become part of a group whose generosity supports JPC long after they're gone. For many donors, that's the appeal. It's a way to make sure the church you love stays strong for your grandchildren's generation, not just this year's budget.

From the Church's Perspective

For JPC, the endowment isn't a substitute for regular giving, and it isn't a rainy-day fund to raid when the budget gets tight. It's meant to do something regular giving can't: provide a steady, predictable source of income that doesn't rise and fall with how any single year's stewardship campaign goes. Because only the earnings are spent and the principal stays invested, the Foundation Board and the church can count on a reliable amount each year, which makes it much easier to plan ahead, whether that's for building maintenance, ministry support, or simply financial stability during a lean year. Weekly and monthly giving is very important still pays this year's bills. The endowment is there to help make sure JPC still has a strong financial footing decades from now.

Restricted vs. Unrestricted Gifts: What's the Difference?

This is where things get practical. Every gift to the Foundation falls into one of two categories, and the difference matters a lot for how the money can be used.

Unrestricted gifts are gifts given without any instructions about how they should be used. If you write a check to the Foundation and don't specify a purpose, that's an unrestricted gift. These gifts become part of the Foundation's General Endowment, and the Foundation, working with the church, decides each year how the income can best support JPC's needs. Unrestricted gifts give the church the most flexibility to respond to whatever the most pressing need turns out to be.

Restricted gifts are gifts the donor has designated for a specific purpose: perhaps youth ministry, building upkeep, music programs, or a scholarship fund. The Foundation tracks these gifts separately from the General Endowment, and both the gift and any income it earns can only be spent on the purpose the donor named. If you want your gift to support something specific, letting the Foundation know at the time of the gift is what makes it "restricted" rather than "unrestricted."

Neither type is better than the other. Restricted gifts let donors support a cause close to their heart with confidence it will be used exactly as intended. Unrestricted gifts give the church room to meet needs that may not be obvious yet. Many of the most effective endowments, including ours, rely on a healthy mix of both.

A Gift Given Once, Felt for Generations

Whether it's a gift today or a provision in your estate plan, a gift to the Foundation is one of the few ways to support JPC that keeps working long after the moment you give it. If you'd like to learn more about giving to the endowment, joining the "Forever Fellowship," or how restricted and unrestricted gifts might fit your own giving goals, reach out to any member of the Foundation Board. We'd love to talk with you.

Thank you for all of the prayers, meals and calls! We appreciate our church family so much, and all of the love and care you always show.

-Blessings!

Larry and Dale Flotkoetter



College Buddies for 2026-27 School Year

Summer is zipping by and soon it will be time for back to school for our college students. **If you are a college student or the parent of one**, please call Jen in the church office at 336-454-3718, or text Betty McCray at 336-906-9958 or Julie Izaj at 336-906-9217. We will need the student's college address, cell phone number, school name, and what year this is for them (freshman, sophomore, etc.)

And on the other end, **if you are a church member who is interested in mentoring a college student** this year, please let Jen, Betty or Julie know. Once a month the college buddy mentor sends a note in the mail or checks in with a text or a surprise goody. Twice a year all the mentors get together at a Packing Party to prepare an exam goody bag for all the students. It's a lot of fun, and it has been wonderful to see some of the relationships that have bloomed between the college students and their mentors. We will draw names for buddies at church one Sunday near the end of August- date to be determined.

We hope you will join in have fun!

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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