

April 14th, 2024

THE FORCE

Weekly Reminders from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

*You, LORD my God!
You've done so many things—
your wonderful deeds and your plans for us—
no one can compare with you!
If I were to proclaim and talk about all of them,
they would be too numerous to count!*

Psalm 40:5 Common English Bible

Pastor's Corner:

One of my favorite scenes in *White Christmas* occurs when Rosemary Clooney and Bing Crosby sing *Count your Blessings (Instead of Sheep)*. It always makes me think of **and** be grateful for all the good in my life. The above verse from Psalm 40 also challenges us to consider all the wonderful things God has done for us but it also goes a step further. The Psalmist is confident that God's plans for us are also wonderful. This week with the confidence of the Psalmist consider thanking God for the Plans God has instore for you. And may you have the courage to embrace and live into God's plans.

CIVILITY PROJECT - April 25th 6-7 pm @ Cascades Manor, 1970 Kibby Road

How can people disagree, politically and otherwise, but still be civil, even friendly? That's the topic of the Civility Project, a presentation by Stephen Henderson, of the Detroit Free Press, and Nolan Finley, of the Detroit News.

The two journalists are longtime friends despite the fact that they disagree about almost everything except the importance of their friendship. They will discuss what it takes to create and maintain civility in American politics and the community in a contentious election year.

This free event is presented by the Jackson, Michigan chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

Contact Kelsey Heck Wood, klhecko422@gmail.com for reservations. If you plan on attending, let Pastor Ruthanne know and look for her at the event.

APRIL 28th - Celebrating the Music Ministry of Jackie Livesay -
The date has changed but the intent is the same to celebrate Jackie and her ministry at JFPC. Jackie has been a part of Jackson's First children's programming since 2005. Join us as we celebrate her and all that she has invested in the children and youth of JFPC.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS - Postponed until Sunday May 5th. April 28th has become a very busy day so we are postponing celebrating all of our amazing JFPC volunteers until May 5th. JFPC couldn't do what we do without each one of you!

MOTHERS DAY & FATHERS DAY - PICTURES WANTED

Do you want to honor your mother or father in worship? We are planning a special slide show to honor and remember the moms and dads, and the people that have been like a mother/father to us. The moms (and like a moms) will be remembered on Mother's Day, the dads on Father's Day. Please email the pictures of the men and women you would like honored by May 1, to jxnfpcmedia@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE - FOR CHURCH IN THE PARK

Back by popular demand **CHURCH IN THE PARK!** Sunday, July 14th
As we get closer to the date, more details will be available, in the meantime mark your calendar and plan to join us at the Cascades.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION-

Attention students! JFPC will have educational scholarships applications available May 1st. If you have any questions, please contact Kurt Rudolph.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency also has a scholarship program. PC(USA) church members seeking a first associate or bachelor's degree and attending an accredited college or university in the United States full-time in 2024-25 are eligible. Learn more: <https://hubs.ly/Qo2rJSvmo> #PCUSA #Scholarship #FinancialAid

SUPPORT LITERACY IN JACKSON

By supporting our Little Lending Library in front of the church you support literacy in our community. Please drop your books off at the church. We store extra books on the shelves off the narthex, and volunteers replenish the lending library as needed.

MEN'S BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY - 1st & 3rd Saturdays in April

Please join us on April 6th and April 20th for Men's Breakfast and Bible Study! The 6th will be held at the church in the small dining room, while the 20th will be held at Vista Grande Villa, both from 8:30am - 9:30am. Contact Kurt Rudolph, John Vanderpool, or Randy Herrick with any questions!

YOUNG CHILDREN IN WORSHIP - Thursdays Thru April 25th

Young children in worship resumes Thursday, April 4th, when children ages 3-8 years old, will gather downstairs, in rooms 106 and 107, for this mid week program of age appropriate music, worship and biblical storytelling. This program will end on April 25th and not resume until the fall.



LAST FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP until the fall this Thursday 5:30pm - 6:15pm

A poster with a background image of a spiral staircase. The word "prayers" is written in a large, brown, serif font across the middle. To its right, the text "to guide your journey" is written in a smaller, brown, sans-serif font. Below "prayers", there is a line of text: "Learn how to integrate the prayer of examen and the welcoming prayer into your everyday life". To the right of this line, the text "MONDAYS, APRIL 8 & 22 7-8:15 PM EST" is written in a brown, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, the text "PWYW (PAY WHAT YOU WANT) BUT MUST REGISTER" is written in a brown, sans-serif font. On the left side of the poster, there is a vertical line of text: "PHOTO CREDIT: KYLE JAMES MERO". At the very bottom of the poster, there is a line of text: "WHAT IF PRAYER IS MORE THAN BOWING YOUR HEAD AND FOLDING YOUR HANDS".

The prayer of examen and the welcoming prayer are two ways you can pray without ceasing. Learn the simplicity and goodness of prayer practices that will draw you towards greater faith, hope and love; towards Christ. Register at <https://docs.google.com/.../1sAO9mUxyRYuFdRY.../edit> **JFPC COVERS THE COST OF THOSE WHO ATTEND JFPC.**

WORK ON THE ROOF BEGINS!

Please note, the final phase of the roof work is underway. Watch out for and be aware of workers and equipment around the bottom of the hill and the play yard.

THIS WEEK'S MUSIC FOR WORSHIP

Sunday 4-14-24
3rd Sunday of Easter

Chancel Choir

Thursday 4-18-24

6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:35 pm Presby Ringers Rehearsal

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!

- Thank you to the following people for all their help in making our worship services so meaningful for Good Friday and Easter. It takes a village to have beautiful worship services!
- Thank you for dinner this week at Food and Fellowship!
- Clyde McCaney---beautiful viola music for the Tenebrae service
- Jim Roberts---for making the cross for the Tenebrae service
- All the readers for the Tenebrae service--- Shelley Hirsch, Jean Ross, Jane Jones, Jean Herrick, Skye Hirsch, Kurt Rudoph, Heather Matteson, Russ Jacobson, Phil Wilcox, Dorothy Graham, Carlene Walz, Tina Ozukwe, Florence Guidinger, and Chris Prokos.
- The soloists for the Tenebrae service---cantor Phil Wilcox, soloist Sara Lang Kampf, and the duet of Shelley and Skye Hirsch
- The Chancel Choir for all the music prepared for Palm Sunday, the Tenebrae service and Easter service,
- Jackie Livesay for playing the organ for Easter
- The Jackson Brass Quintet--- Ed Tappan (Trumpet), Jim Stuart (trumpet) Jasmine Haas (French Horn), Bob Woodard (trombone) and John Fenton (tuba)
- Nancy Kinch and Jan Hestwood for all the beautiful decorations for the season
- Jane Jones, Shelley Hirsch and their helpers for setting up for the Maunday Thursday Services.

Prayers for this week:

- For my children and grandchildren.
- For people who struggle with addiction, trauma and shame.
- Healing and comfort for a friend who has a severe eye infection.
- For a family who lost their grandmother, mother, and wife Tuesday evening.
- For Brenda, Larry and Ed.
- For a friend with COPD and is in hospice care.
- For peace and justice throughout the world.
- For Jerry in rehab.

- For the family of Dorris Rea as they grieve their mom's passing
- For Pat who is moving to assisted living.
- For the Pastor Nominating Committee as they do their work and for the pastor God is calling here may God's call be clear and may your response be "Here I am Lord."

Office Hours:

Monday - 8am - 2pm

Tuesday - 8am - 10:30am

Wednesday - 8am - 10am

Thursday - CLOSED

Friday - 2:30pm - 6:30pm

Reverend Ruthanne will be working remotely on Monday, Tuesday and will be in Jackson on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fridays are her Sabbath day. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church.