

The Messenger

March 2015



The Presbyterian Church Of Johnstown

Minister's Message



STORY

I know that I tend to use the word "story" a fair amount when I describe our faith walk as Christians. In truth, I use that word a lot, because I consistently see it written in the books and articles I read. Moreover, I also truly believe that it is the primary way that I am able to grasp something of the magnitude of what God is up to in my own life and in our world. I believe that God always has something happening around us, and that we are caught up in the story that he is telling and providing.

Now... having said that, I don't pretend to necessarily understand the full depth of the story. In fact I wonder sometimes if I even understand much of the story at all. I know at times I definitely don't like the direction it can take. I hear stories regularly of broken relationships, unimaginable abuse and violence, and gut wrenching illnesses and loss. And in the midst of those types of situations, I honestly wonder what God is up to. I simply don't get it sometimes - especially if any of those situations hits close to me or to someone I love.

Recently I was reading a passage of scripture that I have read many, many times. I was reading it as I prepared to do a funeral service, and it reminded me about the story that God is orchestrating and in which we all live. The scripture passage was from the book of Ecclesiastes and says...

"What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." - Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 (NIV)

This is an unusual verse because it both recognizes a burden that God has allowed us to experience in our lives, but it also says that he eventually makes all things beautiful. And furthermore, it reminds us that we have no true ability to actually fathom what he is up to. It is somewhat bittersweet - because we, of course, wish we could understand better what we experience in life. But at the same time, we know that we need God to be something beyond our full comprehension - we need him to be bigger than us!

My favorite author is a man named Donald Miller who writes the following about the challenge that exists in the stories in which we live. Miller says...

"Somehow we realize that great stories are told in conflict, but we are unwilling to embrace the potential greatness of the story we are actually in. We think God is unjust, rather than a master storyteller." - Donald Miller, A Million Miles in a Thousand Years

As I look at the magnitude of what God has done in coming to us in the person of Jesus Christ to reestablish His kingdom, I know that God is a master story teller and that we are in a story that is beyond epic. I pray regularly though that my heart would come to a greater realization of that as well. I pray that all of us would truly learn to "embrace the potential greatness of the story we are actually in!"

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Kevin



A Note from the Clerk...

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Session met on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Pastor Kevin opened the meeting with prayer.

The General Assembly Annual Statistical Report was approved. All annual reports have been submitted. Jeremy Derenberger was elected to be the Elder Commissioner to Presbytery. The Presbytery meeting was held on February 17, 2015.

All of the committees have projects in the works. The 'Suds Trilogy,' sponsored by Congregational Care, has completed phase II by collecting shampoo for the Food Pantry. Christian Education is already making plans for Senior Sunday in May and Vacation Bible School in early July. Mission is looking into various opportunities for service. The property committee had to replace our hot water heater and replace a furnace in a rental property. Membership is planning a reunion for members who joined our church family last year. Fellowship is planning a family movie night and many other activities. The worship committee is delighted to have Penny back playing the piano for the adult choir.

Each committee chairperson is thankful for all you do behind the scenes to make sure that programs and activities can take place. It is due to your participation and the many hours you devote that make our programs what they are. You are appreciated!

Our next Session meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 7:00PM.

Thanking God for all of you, Diane Frazier



MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service	2 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	3 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	4 5:15-6:30 Jr Choir/bells	5	6	7 Youth Group Lock In
8 Daylight Savings Youth Group breakfast 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service	9 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	10 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS 7pm Session	11 5:15-6:30 Jr Choir/bells	12	13	14
15 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service	16 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	17 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	18 5:15-6:30 Jr Choir/bells 1pm Elizabeth Circle @ the Hot Spot	19 6-8:30 Youth for Christ Dinner	20 7pm Family Movie Night-"Big Hero 6"	21
22 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service	23 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	24 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS	25 5:15-6:30 Jr Choir/bells 7:45-8:30 Adult Choir	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:15am Adult SS 9:30 kids SS 10:30 Worship Service 	30 4pm Prayer Walk at the Bike Path *weather permitting	31 9am Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:00 TOPS				

Volunteer Ministries for March

GREETERS:

- 1st the Miller Family
- 8th Boy & Girls Scouts
- 15th Jeanne Voigt
- 22nd the Richards Family
- 29th the Wittmer Family

ACOLYTES:

- 1st Megan Miller
- 8th Charlie Richards
- 15th Reagan Deeds
- 22nd Charlie Richards
- 29th Alexis Diehl

NURSERY:

- 1st Phoebe Richards
- 8th Jamie Pardee
- 15th Phoebe Richards
- 22nd Sidney Blair/Moriah Fleming
- 29th Kate Carson

JUNIOR CHURCH:

- 1st Marianne Derenberger
- 8th Marie & Phoebe Richards
- 15th Rhonda Piper
- 22nd Marie Fleming
- 29th Marie & Phoebe Richards

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

- 1st Pastor Kevin
- 8th Katie Miller
- 15th Marci Parpart
- 22nd Jane Muller
- 29th Pat Blair

WORSHIP LEADER:

- 1st Jeanne Voigt
- 8th Nicholas Willeke
- 15th Cille Childers
- 22nd Karen Blair
- 29th Jeremy Derenberger

Birthdays and Anniversaries



1 st	Mike Schirtzinger	17 th	Cathy Neff Peyton Miller
2 nd	Alice Main Aja Irwin Kaitlin Piper	18 th	Carolyn Friedberg Steve Wagner Sidney Blair Marci Parpart
4 th	Ann Moseley		
6 th	Riley McMahon	20 th	Pat Blair Mary Ann McCartney
7 th	Liz Perkins		
10 th	Alyssa Childers	22 nd	Margaret Jolley
11 th	Olivia Wittmer	25 th	Bob & Mary Ann McCartney Laurie Mooney
14 th	Jeff Childers		
16 th	Noah Blair	26 th	Ron Graves
		31 st	Jeremy Derenberger

Our Church Groups



ELIZABETH CIRCLE

This group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Hot Spot coffee house. The group has a short bible study and plenty of fellowship time. Come and see what we are all about!

Next meeting: March 18th, 1:00pm



Tabitha Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle meets each Tuesday at 1:00pm in our sewing room (off the Fellowship Hall). The group makes lap quilts and baby quilts, which are donated to local charities.

The circle is currently on winter hiatus.



Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible study group meets at the church on Tuesday from 9am-10am. We welcome any new faces.



Women's Association

The Women's Association is selling their cookbooks and brooms. The new price is \$5 for the cookbooks, and \$8 for the brooms. You can purchase these through Norma Johnson, or bring the money into the office during office hours.



PRAYER CHAIN

Please send all prayer chain requests to Carolyn Friedberg.

The email address is JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com.



Men's Coffee Hour

The men meet at the Hot Spot Coffee House each Thursday morning at 8am to fellowship.

Church Happenings



Lenten Services

The season of Lent is a time for reflection. With that thought in mind, we are offering Sunday evening Lenten services. Beginning February 22, and continuing through Palm Sunday, we will have services presented by people from our congregation. The topics vary and are determined by the presenter. These services are intended to be brief, beginning with a musical prelude at 6:30pm, followed by the service at 7:00pm. The hope is that this meaningful time together will help us prepare our hearts for Easter.

- March 1 - The Eric Johnston Band
- March 8 - The Chris Blair Family
- March 15 - Barbara Almendinger and Jenny Cartwright
- March 22- Katie Miller
- March 29 - Erich Almendinger and Brad Ashbrook



Maundy Thursday

On Thursday April 2nd at 6:30 we will have our annual Soup Supper as part of the Maundy Thursday service. In past years this has been a very special evening. I ask that you not only mark your calendars, but I am also asking for volunteers to contribute your favorite soup. If this seems a bit much due to busy schedules, we will also need donations of crackers to go with the variety of soups. There will be a sign-up sheet in the hall if you are willing to donate.

Following the dinner we will enter the sanctuary for The Maundy Thursday worship service. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pat Blair.

New Study Group



Rev. Heckathorn has graciously committed to teach a study group. Since we are having the Lenten Services on Sunday evening, we thought we could continue the Sunday Evening time for our study group. We could bring light food or dessert and have some fellowship before the study. He has access to many topics so we need to know who is interested and what you would be interested in studying. It could last the rest of April and May, then break for the summer and begin again in the fall. Please let me (hjdinger@embarqmail.com or 740-404-3480) or Marie (967-7541) know if you are interested. You could also write a note on this sheet and drop it into the collection plate. Thank you!

Hazel Almendinger

Flowers in the Sanctuary



If you would like to sponsor the sanctuary flowers, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may sponsor the flowers two ways; you may bring your own flowers to church that morning, or you may sponsor the beautiful silk arrangement that has made for us. We suggest a \$10 donation if you want to use the sanctuary arrangement that has been provided. If you have questions you may call the church office, 967-7541.



Lenten Coffee Hour

Madison Ashbrook will be hosting coffee hour for young adult men and women. Join us at the Hot Spot Coffee House Sundays after church beginning February 22nd through Lent.



Men's Coffee Hour

Thursdays from 8 am to 9 am there will be a men's coffee hour at the Hot Spot Coffee House. Come fellowship with others about current events, football, etc.



SpiritSong Fest

SpiritSong Fest will be held at Kings Island June 25-26. This is two evenings of music performed by some of the biggest names in Christian music today. The line-up is:

Thursday - Newsboys, Kari Jobe, For King and Country, and Burlap to Cashmere
Friday - Skillet, Jeremy Camp, Colton Dixon, and Sidewalk Prophets

If we get a group of 20 people or more, the tickets for both days AND entrance into the Kings Island and Soak City theme parks is \$57.99.

We already have 10 people interested and tickets for a group of at least 10 are \$62.99. This price also includes entrance to both parks.

If you have interest in attending this event, please let Katie Miller or Marianne Derenburger know. We will probably order the tickets in the next couple of weeks since some of the tickets are already sold out for this event.

This event promises to be a lot of fun and filled with fellowship and awesome music!

Sailing, Sailing...

Several families in our congregation are making long range plans for a 10 day Mediterranean cruise in October, 2016 followed by an optional 13 day transatlantic cruise on the brand new Carnival Vista.

The Mediterranean cruise is port intensive beginning in Athens, Greece and stopping in Izmir, Turkey; Rhodes, Greece; Valletta, Malta; Messina, Sicily; Naples, Italy; Rome, Italy; Florence, Italy; Marseille, France; and ending in Barcelona, Spain.

The Transatlantic offers plenty of sea days to enjoy the new ship. It stops at Gibraltar, Spain; Ponta Delgada, Azores; and overnights in Bermuda before landing in New York City.

We'd love to have you join us! See Diane Frazier for more information.

The food pantry



The Food Pantry is in need of mixed vegetables with carrots & peas, pork & beans, all types of cereal, muffin or jiffy mixes, toilet paper and any type of cleaning supplies. Anything we can contribute is very much appreciated.

Thank you,

Karen & George Dreisbach

Thank you for a generous response to part 2 of the Suds Trilogy. We, as a Congregation, donated 75 bottles of shampoo to the Johnstown Area Food Pantry! Hallelujah!

Meet Our Newest Members



Liz and Owen Myers

We recently moved to Johnstown 6 months ago from Westerville. Liz is a Licensing Specialist for The Village Network. Owen works for a company called HMB and is currently doing work for Columbia Gas as a Project Manager. We also have a two year old son named Connor.

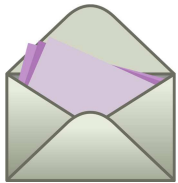
Scott and Katie Shaffer

We moved to Johnstown a year and a half ago. Katie teaches kindergarten at Searfoss elementary and Scott is a civil engineer at EMH&T in New Albany. We have 2 children, Lucy is 4 and attends Johnstown Christian Preschool and Logan is 22 months old.



Dan and Melissa Wittmer

We live in Johnstown and have three children Alexis (8), Olivia (3) and Gabriel (2). Dan is a physics teacher at Lexington High School and Melissa is a 6th grade science teacher at Gahanna Middle School. The Wittmer Family enjoys staying active and traveling.



Thank You Notes...

Thank you so much for the cards, food, angel statue and most of all the prayers for John and myself. This has been a road that I hope we are finished with. We are waiting for the next couple of MRI's to make sure the tumor will not grow again, and they are trying to decide whether to do radiation. It is so comforting to know we have a whole "family" of church friends lifting us up in prayer. Again thank you.

John & Penny Replogle

Dear church members,

We would like to thank the congregation for the lovely cards many of you sent our mother, Norma Duncan, during her recent illness. They really encouraged her and reminded her of her loving and caring church family. Additionally we would like to thank the church members for the beautiful flowers and expressions of sympathy following her passing. She was very blessed to be a part of such a loving church family. We are deeply touched by your words of condolence and are thankful that you were such an important part of her life.

Best Regards, Norma's daughters

Sandra Stahl

Debra Hankinson

Brenda Plassman

Prayer Chain Requests for February 2015

JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com

CONTINUED PRAYERS

- Our Governmental Leaders.
- Middle East violence

PRAISES:

- Gwen and John Haspels, Injured mission co-workers that we prayed for last year, have returned home to Halstead, Kan. They were injured October 1, 2014, when their car was attacked by armed bandits on a rural road in Ethiopia. They are well and will retire from service June 30, 2015, after 40 years missionary service. They are friends of Maxine Pardee.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

- Rev. Mike Rector had unsuccessful surgery (his second) to remove his parathyroid.
- Emma Kisner has been having absence seizures. Pray she will soon outgrow them.
- John Repogle had successful brain surgery to remove the tumor on December 12. He is progressing well. He is scheduled for an MRI on March 2.
- Mike Spangler, Marie Fleming's brother-in-law, has Stevens-Johnston Syndrome. It is a rare, serious skin disorder resulting from a reaction to a drug. He is making great progress.
- Alice Coleman, friend of Katie Miller, had a stroke December 13 or 14 which has left her left leg affected.
- Ron Schultz, Suzy Sayre's father, was hospitalized with bilateral pneumonia on Dec 12. He had subsequent biopsies to determine whether or not he had lung cancer which were negative. He is still having a difficult time recovering.
- Ron Goodman, Jane Muller's brother-in-law, has the latter stages of Parkinson's disease.
- Mike Robinson who is paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a tree falling on him in June, 2012.
- Maxine Pardee myasthenia gravis and extreme pain.
- Rev. Edward Carlson, Maxine Pardee's son-in-law, has an atrial mass and other significant health issues.
- Barbara Haines, a former member of this church, has a serious autoimmune disorder.
- Gloria Miller, friend of Kaye Cook, has severe kidney disorder.
- Marvin Block, former owner of Apple Blossom floral shop, is being diagnosed and treated at the Cleveland Clinic for heart problems.
- Ike Pember, Joann Glick's nephew, is having a gel injected into his knees to relieve pain.
- Larry Conard, longtime resident of Johnstown, had successful heart surgery February 23.
- Bill Grubb, friend of the Mullers, had a significant stroke December 15 at the age of 60. He is now home and doing out-patient therapy. He has both speech (cognitive) and physical impairment. Prognosis is good.

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR HEALING OF CANCER:

- Megan Johnson Cervi, daughter of Bill Johnson, is having treatment for melanoma cancer.
- Turney Williamson has chronic leukemia.
- Lea Ann Snyder, friend of Roger & Donna Hines, Barbara & Bill Mitchell, and Phyllis Kraner, has cancer throughout her body.
- Patty Oyler, friend of Kaye Cook, has colon cancer. She has had three more months' chemo and then she will be having radiation treatments
- Brian Fisher, friend of Mark and Katie Miller, has once again been declared cancer free. As a precaution he will be receiving chemo treatments every two weeks for the rest of his life.
- Chad Foster, cousin of Cille Childers, was recently diagnosed with MLL lymphoma. He will be at the James Cancer Center for four to six weeks.
- Chad's two-year old daughter, Alyssa was diagnosed with MAL lymphoma one year ago. At this time she is currently in treatment.
- Lindsay Schilling, co-worker of Liz Perkins, is critical with an auto-immune disorder. She has 4 young boys.
- A co-worker of Liz Perkins, Turnball, has a father who has an aggressive form of bladder cancer.
- Arika Sayer's roommate's (Deidre Prince) mother has had cancer diagnosed for the second time.
- Donna Mitchell, Levene Baughn's daughter-in-law's aunt, has been suffering with cancer for several years which is now affecting her skin.
- A young man named PJ, Levene Baughn's friend, received word that his cancer has metastasized. He was diagnosed four years ago when he was a high school freshman.
- Marc Street, acquaintance of Katie Miller, has an aggressive recurrence of cancer.

THOSE SHUT IN OR CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES:

- Roy H. Sarbaugh, Carol Hoff's father
- Alice Neibarger, New Albany Gardens and Care Center, Columbus, OH 43230
- Arthur Miller, Kathy Trimble's father, has dementia.
- Betty Ford, Presidential Center, 524 James Way, Marion, OH 43302
- Lawrence Bishop at Sharonbrooke Senior Living Center in Newark.
- Rev. Tom Jackman, former minister of the Johnstown Presbyterian church in the late 60's and early 70's, 200 Cottage Dr. Apt 302, Palmyra Pa. 17078-3608.
- Cecil and Maryann Grimes, brother and sister-in-law to Maxine Pardee, are having difficulty caring for each other. Maryann has a lung condition and Cecil has worsening Alzheimer's disease.
- Margie Wheaten, Betty Ford's daughter, is in a nursing facility in Newark because of her Parkinson's.

DEATHS:

- Mary Michaels, sister of Rhonda Deeds, died February 10. Cards may be sent to Rhonda Deeds at 33 Weber St., Croton, OH 43013
- Shirley Beam died Sunday, February 22.
- Harold Compton died Monday, February 23.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Office hours & Contacts

Pastor Kevin will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

Marie's hours are Monday–Friday from 9am to Noon.

Our phone number is 967-7541

Pastor Kevin's email address is pastorkevin@thejpc.org

Our email is johnstownpres@gmail.com

Prayer Chain email is JPCPrayerRequest@hotmail.com

www.thejpc.org

We present to you many opportunities to get involved in the church life. There are sign-up sheets for ministry involvement that need volunteers in our foyer. Take a chance and sign up! You will be blessed. Here are the names to contact if you have any questions.

Flowers for Worship:	contact the Office
Greeters:	contact Karen Blair
Acolytes:	contact Marie Richards
Nursery & Jr. Church:	contact Rhonda Piper
Children's Message:	contact Marianne Derenberger
Special Music:	contact Marilyn LeClair
Property Maintenance:	contact Lee Mansell
Church Sign:	contact Marie Richards
Wedding Coordinator:	contact Sally Uhde

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY



We will no longer be purchasing flowers or planters for the sanctuary from a florist. A beautiful silk flower arrangement will grace the altar beginning in January. You may still sign up to honor or commemorate a special person or event on the sign-up sheets in the office. If you wish to donate your own fresh flowers, you may. If you have questions please call the office.

Finances

Monthly financial information may be picked up or viewed in the church office.

