



JKPC News

Monthly Update of Events
John Knox Presbyterian Church



"Welcome Christmas" Advent Celebration **Sunday, December 2 from 2-4 p.m.**

Let's all "Welcome Christmas" by creating homemade Christmas ornaments for the church tree and your own tree! Help set up the church nativity scene! Enjoy finger food and cider! Sing Christmas carols! Hear a special story with friends! It's a fun time for the whole family. Invite your friends too!

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 9 during the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service

The children of JKPC will share the joy of the first Christmas in story and song. All children are invited to join the pageant - they'll just need to be at the Saturday morning 9 a.m. rehearsal on December 8.



Annual Wine & Wassail at the McIntyre's Home **Sunday, December 9 at 6 p.m.**

Bring a finger food to share and your singing voice! You won't want to miss this festive JKPC tradition! RSVP to the McIntyres.



Come Sing for Christmas!

Rehearsals: Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Our choir is gearing up for a great Christmas Music Sunday. We would love to have additional singers join us this time of year. No need to stay the entire time. Please contact Dean Christman for more information.

Music Sunday, December 16 During Worship

The Choir, Praise Band and Bell Choir will present inspiring music of the Christmas season.

Family Christmas Caroling around the JKPC Neighborhood **Wednesday, December 19 from 6-7:30 p.m.**

All are invited to sing door to door with us, then return to JKPC for refreshments. Please contact Tracy Hong to sign up.



Order Your

Poinsettias



Order Poinsettias for Christmas **Now until December 9**

The congregation has the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. We then print a special page of memorials and commemorations in the Christmas Eve Worship service bulletins. Order forms will be on the church website and in the office. Please turn forms into the office by December 9.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

We will hold two Christmas Eve Services this year:

5:30 p.m. Family Friendly Candlelight Service

8:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight Service





"WELCOME CHRISTMAS" at JKPC

Warmly written by: Pastor Randy

This Christmas season during Advent we are embracing the theme of "Welcome." Just as Abraham welcomed the visitors who later foretold the birth of Isaac (Genesis 18:1-5) and just as we are to welcome strangers because they may be angels of which we are unaware (Hebrew 13:2), so we too need to welcome those who walk into our life unannounced.

The most compelling reason to welcome others is that God has welcomed each of us. There is no one whom God does not welcome into his family, yet we can choose whether to receive him or not.

So if God welcomes all of us, how can we not do the same to others? We are God's ambassadors and we are God's representatives on this earth, we need to open our hearts to all those whom God brings to us and welcome them.

The first Sunday of Advent we will remember the welcome news from the angel Gabriel that Jesus is coming to earth. We will be reminded of how Mary embraced the message that the Messiah was coming and that he would come through her.

The second Sunday of Advent we will hear from the children about the most welcoming story there ever was. We will welcome the light into the world. As the days become darker moving through December, so too we can choose to brood about the bad news we hear or we can look for the light which dispels the darkness, we can welcome the light.

On Music Sunday we will "Welcome Hope." We will be reminded of the Great Announcement that God will be with us and that it is through God's presence in our lives that we are renewed in our strength to meet the challenges of each season of life.

The fourth Sunday of Advent we will remember the wonder of the Star and just as all of creation proclaims the master of the universe is our God, so we too can celebrate the wonders which God gives us.

Christmas Eve will be a time when we can "welcome in" Jesus to our hearts and we can also receive God's grace as we are "welcomed home" to celebrate communion and the birth of Jesus by candlelight together.

Please join us and embrace the challenge to welcome strangers as well as friends.





S E R M O N *Series*

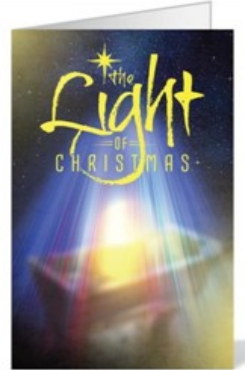


December 2

Welcome

Luke 1:26-38

Dt. 10:18-19



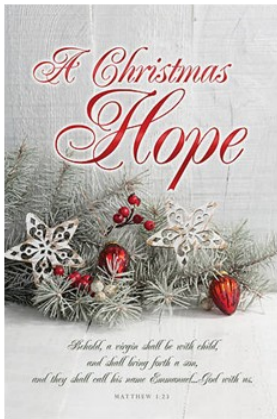
December 9

Welcome Light

John 8:12

Isaiah 60:1-3

Pageant Sunday



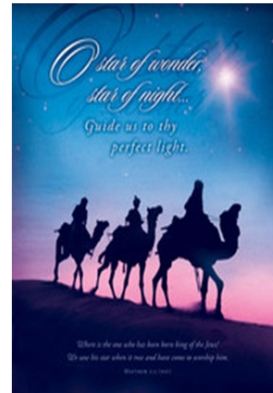
December 16

Welcome Hope

Matthew 1:23

Isaiah 40:30-31

Music Sunday



December 23

Welcome

Wonder

Matthew 2:1-2

Psalms 19:1-6



**December 24 @
5:30 p.m.**

Welcome Inn

Luke 2:4-7

Micah 5:2,4

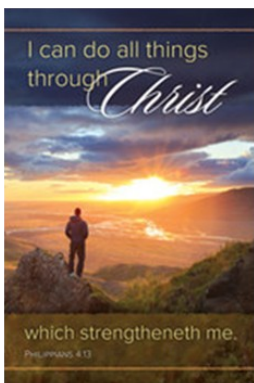


**December 24 @
8 p.m.**

Welcome Home

John 1:14

Lev 19:33-34



December 30

You're

Welcome

Luke 2:1-15



Pastor Randy's



This is the time of year when many of us spend time watching Christmas movies. Some are heart warming, some are classics, some are a bit cheesy, but some we want to be sure to watch every year. Every once in a while, however, a movie comes along that is heart warming, but that also touches on issues in our current lives, issues with which we wrestle.

Recently, Joan and I went to see "Instant Family." It is a wonderful movie. It is a comedy, but it also deals with the trials of foster care. This movie was recommended to us by Emily, our daughter in Texas. The story line is about a couple who are nearing an age where they either need to have kids now or decide to remain just a family of two.

They consider increasing their family number biologically, but then they are introduced to the foster care system. They decide to explore what it means to be a foster parent by taking classes and attending a "meet and greet" for potential foster parents and foster kids needing placement.

There are some hilarious scenes, but they are well mixed with other scenes that explore some of the difficult issues surrounding foster care. This movie helped Joan and me better understand our daughter and son-in-law as they have fostered three children, eventually adopting all three. This film makes it very clear that fostering is a major commitment.

This Advent Season we are focusing on "Welcome." When I think of welcoming others, I usually think of family or friends. As we read scripture, however, we realize that God wants us to also welcome the stranger. We are to treat others as we want to be treated, recognizing that these "others" are not just people we know, but they can be anyone who crosses our path.

The couple in the movie has to make all kinds of changes in their daily lives as they welcome these three foster kids. They have to learn how to balance their own needs and expectations with the needs and expectations of these new additions to their family. They have to learn how to accommodate, sometimes through sacrifice to meet the needs of these children, but they also experience a joy they never expected. They not only have to learn how to incorporate these kids into their regular daily activities, but they also have to learn new ways to interact as a couple and that being a family is sometimes hard work.

Of course, the same is true when we take the next step in welcoming others. The same is true as we form new friendships. Sometimes we have to make changes in our lives to make room for new friends. Sometimes we have to give up something that we used to do so we can become the kind of friends we would want. We can't just expect people to act the way we want them to; we need to get to know them and learn how to act as a community together. This is what it means to **welcome** "new friends;" this is what it means to welcome "others." So, this Advent Season, consider it a challenge to welcome someone new into your life. It may be a new friend or it may even be a stranger, but let's seek to welcome whoever God brings to us. For we have not only been welcomed by God, we have also been embraced as his forever family.

Welcoming others with you,

Pastor Randy



FOOD BASKETS

Children's Emergency Food Bank Christmas Basket Distribution

The annual Christmas Basket Distribution is one of the original functions of the Children's Emergency Food Bank. It began in 1966 and by 1969 the Food Bank was operating much the same as it does today. The distribution consists of two apple boxes of food plus a \$20 gift card for a turkey or chickens and perishable items.

This year, the date for the Christmas Basket Distribution is Saturday, December 15 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Applications are made available to our clients beginning Monday, October 15, 2018.

Many members and friends of John Knox Presbyterian Church serve as volunteers leading up to this event. Many outside volunteers come to help on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as for the distribution on Saturday. This participation has become tradition for the Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club and several Boy and Girl Troops.

Each year, we conduct a food drive within the congregation, Joy Preschool, and John Knox CO-OP Preschool to help supply the Christmas Distribution. **Shopping bags will be distributed Sunday and Monday, December 2 and 3, and should be returned no later than Sunday, December 9.**

The following timeline should be helpful as you plan your time during the holidays:

Monday, December 10 - 9:00 a.m.

Delivery of the large order from Raley's to Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, December 11 - 9:00 a.m.

Table set up for food sorting

Wednesday, December 12 - 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Food sorting and preparation

Thursday, December 13 - 5:00 p.m. until completion

Completion of food sorting and preparation

Saturday, December 15 - 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Basket Distribution



If you would like to become involved in this project, please contact Rick Snowden or the office.



JKPC Member In Remembrance

Mavis Jamison

August 21, 1922 - November 4, 2018

There will be a private service in Washington in the spring with military honors.



Women's and Community Life Ministries - Fall 2018 & Winter 2019
Please contact JoAnn Parker or Chet Wehe with any suggestions or questions!

Women's Soup Supper



Women's Ministries Soup Supper
Saturday, December 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
In the Fellowship Hall

It's never too late to join us! This is a fun Women's Event... great potluck food, inspiring very short, brief, not long at all story, a festive craft, and a wonderful harpist. Join us!

SWELL (Single Women Enjoying Living Life)
Lunch at Bridge's Restaurant in Danville
Saturday, December 8, at 12 noon

Join us at Bridges Restaurant in Danville for good food, good drinks and good friends. Please RSVP to Lynn Getty or the office, so she can include you in the reservation.

Bridges Restaurant is located at 44 Church Street in Danville



SWELL Luncheon



LITWITS (in our 18th year!!)
**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**
POTLUCK DINNER, BOOK DISCUSSION & BOOK EXCHANGE

**Tuesday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.,
at the home of Sue Fox**

WHAT TO BRING: Bring to our December meeting some favorite holiday recipe: a main dish, side dish, salad, dessert, finger foods. In addition to one of these, beverages may also be helpful. Bring the recipe, but **please** let your hostess know what you will be contributing to our always yummy feast. Be sure to look at the Evite to see what others are bringing so that we don't have too many of one thing, especially desserts! Respond to an Evite received or phone the hostess if you are not on the Evite list.

Also bring a gift-wrapped book for the book exchange. Choose something that you think someone in our group might enjoy—or you might want to hype for inclusion on our reading list at some point.

DECEMBER'S BOOK: *The Deal of a Lifetime*, by Fredrik Bachman.

This very short book, by the Swedish author of *A Man Called Ove*, packs a punch despite its brevity. A critically ill and very wealthy man wants to make amends for his life, to re-connect with his son and just maybe to make a difference for someone else. You'll be surprised and inspired by his story.

JANUARY'S BOOK: Get a head start and read the book for our January meeting, *The Yellow Envelope*, by Kim Dinan.

SIGN-UP: Litwits weekend at the Sylvia Beach Hotel in Newport, Oregon, October 24-27. Our recent gathering there was such a success that we have already scheduled another one for 2019!!!



CANA Marriage Ministry at JKPC continues! Gathering & Potluck Dinner

Saturday, December 15 from 5-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

You and your spouse can still join Janet and Euan Ramsay at the next Cana meeting on December 15 at John Knox at 5 p.m. Don't worry if you missed the last ones - all couples are welcome. As before, dinner will be potluck style; if you would like to come, please RSVP to Janet or the office.

When RSVPing, please indicate what type of food you will bring to the potluck; please also tell us if you need childcare and list ages of children.

Love-a-Child Mission Coat Drive Ends on Sunday, December 16

We are still collecting gently used coats for all ages. These coats will be donated to Love-a-Child Mission, who for over 30 years have been serving needy women and children in Contra Costa County.

A coat bin will be placed outside the church office.



Deacon's Coffee Sunday, January 13 ~ after Worship

Everyone is invited to join this special fellowship time that will be hosted by the JKPC Deacons! What is a Deacon? Come learn how the JKPC Deacons support the congregation, while enjoying some goodies with coffee or juice.



JKPC Community Life CRAB FEED and Bingo! Saturday, January 19 from 5-9 p.m. In Fellowship Hall Save the Date!

All are invited to join the fun! We'll enjoy a crab dinner and then play a few games of Bingo! Cost estimate is \$40 per person. The meal includes fresh cracked crab, clam chowder, salad, bread, dessert, wine and coffee or tea. We'll end the evening with Bingo! Don't eat crab? That is fine! An alternative is 1/2 roasted chicken. Child care and transportation to and from the event are available upon request. Sign ups begin December 30.



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Women's Retreat 2019 ~ Save the Date! May 17 - 19 "Steadfast" from Nehemiah 9:17

Silver Spur in Tuolumne County
Cost and Speaker undetermined at this time.



JKPC FAMILY MINISTRIES



Sunday School

Please join our Sunday School children's and youth ministries. Our theme is **Built for a Purpose!** Kids and youth start out with their parents at our 9:30 a.m. Worship service, and then are excused for Sunday School.

Sunday School Classes are divided this year:

Cry Room - Room E

Toddler/Preschool - Room A

Kindergarten-2nd Grades - Room F

3rd - 4th Grades - Room C or Library

5th Grade, Middle School & High School - Room D

"Welcome Christmas" Advent Celebration Sunday, December 2 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Let's kick off Christmas and welcome this very special season! We'll make colorful handmade ornaments, enjoy snacks & cider, decorate the church and trim the Christmas tree! There will be time for singing Christmas carols and to hear a special story, too.
It's a fun time for the whole family and for folks of all ages!



ROCK is on Break!

JKPC Children's Christmas Pageant! Sunday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. Tis' the Season to Get Ready!

Practice Music CDs for the Christmas Pageant and Preschool Sunday are now available to families. If you haven't received a CD, please contact Nancy Polcyn. On Sunday, December 9, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service, the kids will share in story and song the telling of the very first Christmas!! There will be a special Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, December 8 @ 9 a.m. Please share this information - all children are welcome to participate!



2nd Annual Family Christmas Caroling Night Wednesday, December 19 from 6-7:30 p.m.

We'll walk around the JKPC neighborhood spreading some cheer as we sing favorite Christmas Carols from door to door! Bring a flashlight and a jacket—we'll be caroling rain or shine! All ages are welcome - kids, teens, adults! We'll gather back in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. for some hot chocolate and goodies!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019 ~ Save the Dates

Carnival with bounce house: Sunday, July 14
VBS Week: Monday-Friday, July 15-19
VBS Musical with BBQ: Sunday, July 21





Youth Group is Every Sunday at JKPC
(No Youth Group on December 30)
Wacky Games, Fun with Friends,
A Place to Build your Faith!

Middle School 4-6:10 p.m.
(5th - 7th Grade)

High School 5:50-8 p.m.
(8th - 12th Grade)

JKPC College Group Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m.



Girls Cookie Baking & Decorating at Sue Wilburn's Home
Saturday, December 15 from 4-6 p.m.

Middle & High School, and College Girls join the fun!
We'll bake and decorate cookies - and have lots of fun!
Please bring an apron! More info on our website.

Youth Group & College Progressive Christmas Party!
Sunday, December 16 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Middle School, High School and College folks will first enjoy a holiday dinner together in Fellowship Hall, and then travel over the river and thru the snow to Kim Kraft's home for dessert and white elephant gift exchange. More info on our website.

Silver Spur Winter Camp for 7 -12 Graders
January 25 - 27, 2019

Cost is \$160 (includes programming, food and lodging)
Speaker is Justin Flores, and Worship Band is Colorfair
To Register: <https://www.silverspur.com/yc/winter>



High School & College Mexico Mission Trip 2019 ~ July 26 - 30

It's never too early to start planning for next year's trip! Be part of Señor Bruce's team! Those going into 9th grade in the Fall 2019, College group and adults are all eligible to attend this trip!

Save These Dates for
Future Family Ministries and Youth Events

March 3 - Preschool Sunday
July 7-12 - Silver Spur Summer Youth Camp (grades 7-12)





Operation Christmas Child ~ Good News. Great Joy!

WOW - 370 Boxes were received from JKPC & Friends!

A big thank you to all who will be bringing a smile to kids around the world. Thank you to JKPC, Joy & John Knox Co-op Preschools, Teresa DeHope, Senior Centers, Scout Groups and our many friends!

Heifer International Mission Now until December 23



It's not too late to buy a Llama for your Mama or a Goose in honor of your Uncle Bruce.

Shopping Heifer is a great way to

"think outside of the gift-wrapped box" and is truly the gift that will keep on giving.

Beautiful gift cards are available to mail to those you are honoring.

Since November 18, JKPC purchased over \$2,000 worth of animals for families in need.



Dublin Splatter Festival ~ Thank You!

Thank you all who volunteered for the City of Dublin Splatter Festival last month. JKPC hosted a Grape Pitch booth - not only was this a great way to reach out to the community, but was also a fundraiser for the Outreach Committee.

JKPC earned \$217!

JKPC's Flea Market and Craft Fair ~ Thank You!

The Flea Market and Craft Fair was a great success! This was a great time to donate and sell items, but also for JKPC to connect to the community. Thank you to all those who donated, volunteered and participated in this event.

JKPC earned approximately \$1,300!



HURRICANE



Thank You for Supporting the Hurricane Victims

During the month of October, **JKPC collected approximately \$2,000 from our congregation for hurricane victims** (through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance). Thank you very much!!



PD BOOT CAMP GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES TO FIGHT PARKINSON'S at JKPC

These group exercise classes will teach you how to move bigger and faster in everyday life and counteract PD Symptoms! As you learn these PD-specific skills, you will be challenged physically and cognitively to do more than you think you can in a fun, supportive environment!

The PD Boot Camp moves are inspired by research-based exercise approaches from strength training, yoga, PWR!Moves®, agility drills, dance, pole walking, and boxing.

Exercise is medicine for Parkinson's! Get on with it now at PD Boot Camp and try your first class for free! Classes are held at JKPC Monday, Wednesday & Fridays from 10 - 11:15 a.m.

They are led by Anu Ramaswamy, NASM Certified Personal Trainer
Registered Yoga Teacher PWR! Moves Certified Instructor

For additional information, including fees, please contact her Anu:
mindfulanu@gmail.com 925-922-0589 www.mendingmoves.com

JKPC's Online Directory ~ Up and Running

Have you had a chance to look at the new JKPC's Online Directory? We now have pictures of 80 families! Please go to the church's website to view it in the Member Section. It is password protected, and the password has been emailed to the JKPC Family.

http://www.jkpcdublin.org/church_family



The main goal is to have an online photo directory that can be kept up-to-date each month. It will help people connect faces with names and it will keep your contact information current.

If you haven't had a chance to get your picture taken, please contact Meg Currier at megc74@gmail.com or contact Nancy Polcyn

For those who do not have access to the internet, the church will provide a printed copy.



If you have a prayer request or know someone who is need, please call the office or Stan Husted.



IMPORTANT 2019 BUDGET UPDATE

The deadline to turn in pledge cards has been extended to **Sunday, December 9th** as only 30 pledge cards out of 116 households have been received to date (a 26% response rate).

Additional pledge cards will be available on Sunday, December 2. Jared Shaffer, the Finance Elder, will be available

after the service to answer any questions that you may have.

You can e-mail your pledge card directly to Teresa Karlson, our Treasurer or drop the pledge card at the church office.

*As a note, Teresa is the only person who sees your individual pledged amounts. Only total pledging households and total pledged amounts are reported to Session. If you don't plan on pledging for 2019, we still ask you to contact Teresa with this information.



Do You Like to Christmas Shop On-line? Then Christmas Shop on **AmazonSmile**!

You shop. Amazon gives. Do you shop on Amazon.com? Then you should shop on smile.amazon.com!

It's the same shopping website, but smile.amazon.com donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to JKPC. SET-UP (one-time) - smile.amazon.com, log-in (your usual Amazon username/password), chose JKPC (DUBLIN) as your charity.

To earn the 0.5%, all purchases must be made from **smile.amazon.com**

AmazonSmile must be used on a computer rather than on a Smartphone



Tithe.ly Digital Giving is Here!

Simple and secure. Give a single gift, or schedule ongoing donations using your checking account, debit, or credit card.

Please go to the church website, www.jkpcdublin.org, and click on the Donate Online button from the home page. There is a video on our website that shows an overview of the app.





Scheduled Meetings and Rehearsals

Chancel Choir - Thursday - 6:45 p.m.
Deacons' Meeting - 4th Tuesday - 7 p.m.
Finance Committee - Meets the Thursday
before Session. Contact Jared Shaffer
Litwits - 2nd Tuesday - 6:30 p.m.
Praise Band - Thursdays - 7:45 p.m.
Rock! returns January 6
Youth Groups - Sunday afternoons
Middle School - 4 p.m.
High School - 5:50 p.m.
Session Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.



If you have a prayer request or know someone
who is need, please call the office or Stan
Husted.

Study Groups



Current Bible Study Groups

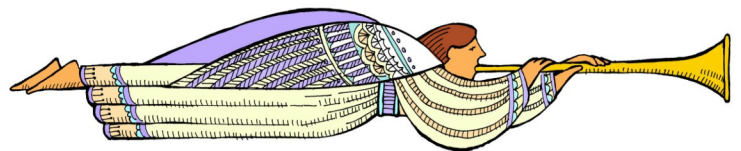
Please contact them for more information.

Women's Bible Study:

Tuesday- 1st & 3rd @10 a.m. - members homes
Contact: Paula Miller
Friday @10 a.m. - LIFT Women's Study in
church Library. Contact: Joan McGrady-Beach.

Men's Bible Study:

Friday @7 a.m. - Copper Skillet Restaurant,
Dublin. Contact: Pastor Randy.



www.jkpcdublin.org



December

December Calendar

December 1	Women's Ministries Soup Supper
December 2	Communion
	"Welcome Christmas" Advent Celebration
December 2-9	Children's Emergency Food Bank Drive
December 8	SWELL Luncheon
December 9	Children's Christmas Pageant
	Stewardship Pledges Due
	McIntyre's Annual Wine & Wassail
	Last Day to Turn in Poinsettias Order Form
December 11	LITWITS
December 15	Youth Girls Cookie Baking
	CANA Marriage Ministry Gathering & Potluck
December 16	Christmas Music Sunday & Congregational Meeting
	Youth & College Progressive Christmas Party
	Last Day for Love-a-Child Mission Coat Drive
December 19	Family Christmas Caroling
December 24	JKPC Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Services:
	Family Friendly Candlelight Service is at 5:30 p.m.
	Evening Communion & Candlelight Service is at 8 p.m.
December 25	Merry Christmas! JKPC Office Closed
December 31	JKPC Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.

Coming Events - Save the Dates!

January 1	Happy New Year! JKPC Office Closed
January 19	Crab Feed
January 25-27	Silver Spur Winter Youth Camp (grades 7-12)

Details on these events may be found on our website: www.jkpcdublin.org





Church Staff

Randy McGrady-Beach, Pastor
Nancy Polcyn, Family Ministries Director
Dean Christman, Music Director
Bruce Byrne, Youth Director
Mary Chervet, Administrative Assistant
Rene Phillips, Administrative Assistant
Elise O'Connell, Office Assistant, Newsletter
Teresa Karlson, Benevolence Treasurer
Eric Loofbourrow, Organist
Steve Kritzer, Music Ministry
Nanette Wehe, Music Ministry

Volunteer Staff

Marion Rogers, Chief Sound Technician
Jerry Miller, Chief Video Technician
Sue King-Irwin & Peter McIntyre,
Head Ushers
Paula Miller, Office Assistant
Sue Wilburn & Sandi Coll, Music
Lisa Locus & Rene Phillips,
Wedding Coordinators
Lyall Barrett, Veterans Coordinator

Preschools

Joy Preschool & Day Care
Lisa Locus, Director
John Knox Co-op Preschool
Leslie James, Director



John Knox Presbyterian Church

7421 Amarillo Road, Dublin, CA 94568

(925) 828-1846

Website: www.jkpcdublin.org

Email: jkpcdublin@sbcglobal.net

9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning

Blended Worship Service

Sunday School for Preschool through High School & Nursery Care

