



JKPC News

Monthly Update of Events
John Knox Presbyterian Church

december
2020

Advent 2020



Sunday, December 6 - "Wishing Star"
Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating at 5 p.m.



Sunday, December 13 - "Follow the Star"

- Children's Christmas Story Video during Worship
- "Lessons & Carols" with Dean Christman 11 a.m.
- Walk-Thru Christmas Nativity from 3-4 p.m.



Sunday, December 20 - "Star So Bright"

- Music Sunday during Worship at 9:30 a.m.
- "Lessons & Carols" with Dean Christman 11 a.m.
- Drive-in Christmas Car "Carol-oke" at 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 24 "A Star is Born"
Christmas Eve Services:

"Birthday Party for Jesus" - 3 p.m. Family Drive-In Service

Online Communion & Candlelight Service - 7:30 p.m.



SERMON
Series

"The Gifts of Christmas"

December 6, "Wishing Star - Pondering Peace" Matthew 1:18-23

December 13, "Following that Star - Living by Faith" Luke 1:26-33

December 20, "Star so Bright - Praising with the Messengers" Luke 2:8-14

December 24, "A Star is Born - A Promise of Love" Luke 2:28-32

December 27, "2021 Here We Come!!" Romans 8:31-34



"Faith Filled Generosity" JKPC 2021 Pledge Drive
Please return your pledge by December 31!

Pastor Randy's



**"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Luke 4:18-19**

A meal centered around mushroom patties for Thanksgiving this year was actually really good. Joan and I were thankful that we could Zoom with our family, but we certainly missed their presence and the usual turkey dinner. Since it was going to be just the two of us, we decided to order in for Thanksgiving. However, by the time our final plans were made due to all the changes in travel recommendations, Whole Foods' turkey dinners were sold out; only vegan holiday meals were still available.

We were a bit leery at first, but we decided, what the heck, we were game, even if it wasn't to be turkey. The pick up was simple, and the heating instructions for two of the six items were very clear. The rest of it all was just about warming the pans in the oven and "bon appetit." So, the expectations for our annual family feast were hijacked by a little bug which has caused so much disruption and chaos. We can't help but think that holiday celebrations can only get better from here.

Advent 2020 is also a time when some of our expectations are not able to be met in traditional ways. We usually look forward to having families come together to sing familiar carols. At church we reacquaint ourselves with people who have left for other pastures except around Christmas time.

This year, however, the staff are doing our darndest to find new ways to celebrate Advent. You will have heard, or you will read in this newsletter and on our website, about our Advent kit, Tree Lighting, Walk-through Nativity, and Carol-oke event. We will have a Birthday Party for Jesus early on Christmas Eve and then have a Virtual Christmas Eve Communion and Candle Lighting service later.

As Joan and I sat down to our very unique Thanksgiving Mushkey Dinner, we were pleasantly surprised at how wonderful it was. The usual fare was spiced up a bit and some of the substitutions were quite delectable.

This Advent season will also be a truly unique experience for our staff, our Worship Team, and those who participate, but we will still read familiar texts and we will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to gain greater insight and a more mature faith.

Advent isn't just about rehearsing old thoughts and experiencing nostalgic feelings, it is an opportunity to experience a change in our faith, a growth in understanding, and a time to be inspired to live out the good news.

I look forward to learning with you how an amazing God chose an unlikely event to transform the world. Please join me as we continue the sojourn to which each of us had been called, especially as we prepare for 2021, a year beyond compare.

Blessings,

Pastor Randy

By the way the homemade apple crisp with coconut whip is a great way to top off any meal.



A Place of Prayer

In the last few weeks I have been reading the *Essential Writings* of Howard Thurman. It is not a quick read, but a pondering read. It is a read which asks you to ruminate over the sentences, and sometimes each word, as you learn from a man not just of great renown, but of great courage and insight into the Christian Life.

I was struck by a short paragraph which caused me to pause, a pause about our church at a time such as this. We have been misplaced, displaced, exiled from the gathering together of like minds and hearts which hold Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

We have been shut out from our place of connection, from our community space where we have taken solace, experienced joy, and sought challenge within the confines of our church building.

Yet, as our Indoor Worship keeps getting hijacked by this nasty little bug, we have to find new ways we can commune together and shoulder our concerns and joys through the bond of faith. We have had Outdoor Worship, and we have continued our Wednesday Update, but for some this is not enough.

So let me share with you the thoughtful paragraph mentioned above and then give you a new opportunity which is based on an old practice, a practice that no longer should be neglected.

"One of the great services that the Christian Church can render to the community is to provide spells and spaces of quiet for the world-weary men and women whose needs are so desperate . . . (page 57, Essential Writings)"

The opportunity I want to offer is for a place to come to pray during this special time of the Advent Season. Joy Preschool will be closed from December 21 until January 4, 2021. After conferring with others we have decided to have the Sanctuary open during Office Hours from Monday, December 21 - Wednesday, December 23, and Monday, December 28 - Wednesday, December 30.

We will provide a Sign-up Genius opportunity which will have thirty minute time slots when you, or your household, can come to sit in the Sanctuary to pray. We ask that you wear a mask at all times and you notify the office when you come and also when you leave. We ask that when you enter you find a place to sit for your time of prayer, and when you leave you notify the office in order for us to disinfect the area. We will send out additional details later.

This prayer practice will provide a time to sit in the Sanctuary and have a place of quiet solitude as they spend time with God. Please know that we can't wait to gather as a body together, but until that can happen we want to provide a place for you to talk with and listen to the God of the universe in a sacred space.

Blessings to you and yours while we negotiate this time of separation.

Doing what we can, Pastor Randy



2021 Pledge Drive Update

We have received pledges totaling 161,854 from about 40% out of our approximate 105 pledging households. Thanks to those who have turned in your pledge cards! We are moving closer to our pledging goal of \$294,000.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. You can also simply email your confidential pledge to our treasurer, Teresa Karlson.
God Bless!

~JKPC 2021 Pledge Drive~ Thank you for turning your pledges in as soon as possible.

Goal: \$294,000





Join us for these Safe & Festive Outdoor Advent Events!

Please RSVP on our website www.jkpcdublin.org



Sunday, December 6, at 5 p.m. -

Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating, Lighting & Singing!

We will gather safely in the front yard of the church and we'll sing a few carols too, led by the JKPC Choir! Don't forget to bring an waterproof ornament for the outside tree!

[RSVP at www.jkpcdublin.org](http://www.jkpcdublin.org)

****If you can't make it to this event, feel free to come put your decorations on the trees on the church front lawn anytime!*

Sunday, December 13, 3-4 p.m. - "Walk-thru Christmas Nativity"

The JKPC Youth will help recreate the very first Christmas outside - all can follow the star and enjoy the different Christmas scenes. Steve Kritzer will provide music. This is a season of sharing - if you are able, please bring one non-perishable food donation item per person for the Children's Emergency Food Bank. [RSVP at jkpcdublin.org](http://www.jkpcdublin.org)



**Sunday, December 20 , 5 p.m.
Drive-in Christmas "Carol-oke"!**

Bring your own hot cocoa and wear your Christmas Pajamas if you like! In the comfort of your own car we'll be singing Christmas Carols led by Music Director Dean Christman - coming to you live on a JKPC Radio Station in your car!

[RSVP at www.jkpcdublin.org](http://www.jkpcdublin.org)

Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve

**3 p.m. - Drive in Family Christmas Eve Service
"Birthday Party for Jesus"**

Join us for this festive half hour service as we share the very first Christmas in song and story. We'll have a special take home goody bag for all of the kids!

- 7:30 p.m. - Online Communion and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

Join us on Facebook Live at 7:30 p.m., or on YouTube later in the evening.





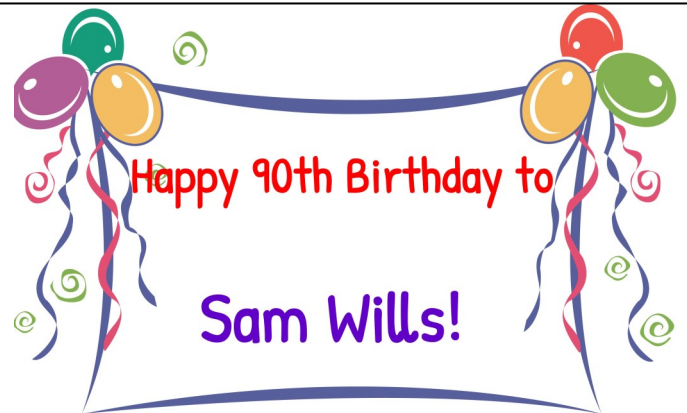
Explore the Carols of Christmas with our own Dean Christman! Sundays, December 13 & 20

Come learn the history of and the stories behind some of the world's great Christmas carols, along with the opportunity to sing along! There is deep spiritual content embedded in these poems set to music about the "story of the ages" of Christ's coming to earth. Join us at 11 a.m. on Zoom! Look for the link in your email the Friday before each class.

Drive-By Celebration

Saturday, December 12 from 1 - 4 p.m.

Long time JKPC Member and Lay Pastor Sam Wills is turning 90 year's young on December 9! To help celebrate, Nancy & Brian Wilber and family invite you to a Drive-By Celebration at Sam's house. Sam would love to see many of his church family, even from afar, waving in your car! Or you can always send Sam a birthday card!



Fun Facts: Sam has been a JKPC member since 1964. Sam's wife Dodie worked in the JKPC office for 27 years and Sam was a Lay Pastor for 31 years. Quite dedication!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bill Keane



12-18
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Jeff
and
Bill Keane



Holiday LITWITS on ZOOM!
Tuesday, December 8, at 7 p.m.

Our December meeting will be festive and celebratory. We will only hold one meeting this month, however. Plan to join us on Zoom at 7 p.m. on December 8. You will receive a Zoom invite in the next several days, or e-mail Sue Fox to receive one.

Sue will also send a reminder ZOOM invitation a before the event.

BOOK for December: Read Stephanie Barron's *Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas*. This is one in the series of Barron's Jane Austen murder mystery books. Delightfully crafted and well researched, the story takes us into Jane Austen's world in 1814. Jane makes a Christmas visit to her friends at The Vyne, an historic ancestral mansion. When a visitor turns up dead, Jane leaps into her role as extraordinary sleuth. Aside from wonderful period details, very Austen-like writing, and engaging character studies, this mystery keeps the reader constantly engaged. I will not send out questions this time but will offer a brief Power Point presentation in relation to the book.

FOR THE EVENT: Wear a festive outfit so that our screen will look MERRY! Have at hand a special holiday recipe—and be ready to share a bit about it. If you wish to send me a copy, I will compile a list to send to all. Also, get ready for our annual Christmas gift exchange by purchasing a book you would like to see on our reading list or that you think a Litwits reader would like. Plan to explain why you selected this work. (You will be giving this book to the person who pops up next to you on MY (SUE'S) screen--of course, this will require either a drop-off at that person's house or a package to be mailed). **JOIN US!**

Hope this message will find you all well and ready to celebrate the upcoming holidays in a new and safe way. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

For January: Read Henrik Ibsen's *The Doll House* (a play).



"WHITENESS" AND WHERE WE LIVE



Our Task Force has been studying and writing articles for this newsletter to increase our awareness of racism for ourselves and those of our congregation. The racial justice authors we have read agree that fellowships like JKPC must be companions with others in their communities to make progress towards a system of true justice. Therefore, this article focuses on where we live and what is going on in the Bay Area in the struggle for racial equality/equity.

First, let us be reminded that God decided where and what color we would be. So we should not feel guilty about our color; however, we need to understand the problem of "whiteness". One definition of whiteness is: *a system of racism that benefits white people*. Of course, white people have many obstacles, but they don't have the added obstacle of skin color.

Here are some actions going on locally to reverse benefits to only those who are white: August 24, East Bay Times: "Single-family housing linked to segregation." This article is from an earlier press release from the Berkeley Othering & Belonging Institute—"Single-family zoning dominates Bay Area housing, raising the cost of homes and presenting a barrier to integration...All the cities' residential areas are overwhelmingly zoned for single-family homes, including denser cities...As the proportion of single-family zoning increases, so does its white population, while the Black and Latinx populations decrease... Because single-family zoning is a barrier to lower-income people of color, the report advocates for the loosening of restriction on multi-unit housing as a first step in a set of remedies to the Bay Area's widespread problem of segregation."

Changing the Role of Police Affects Racism: On August 20, 2020, in response to public comments received via Zoom meetings, the Pleasanton City Council reviewed in detail the police policies for uses of force and directed evaluation of three models for changing the role of police in the community and schools. Defunding the department is not being considered.

November 12 in the East Bay Times:

"Contra Costa County declares racism a public health crisis, establishes equity office."

The Board of Supervisors "agreed that racism has worked its way into the distribution of local health care, creating disparities in who can receive medical treatment and preventative care." They "unanimously approved establishing an office of racial equity and social justice."

The board chair stated, "the problem extends to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected Black and Latinx communities, and added that disparities existed long before the pandemic."

These are just three examples which confirm that we are not alone in our concern about, and commitment to, understanding that those who are white play a critical role in striving to build a more equitable society in the Bay Area.

The Session Mathew 25 Task Force (Stan Husted, Nanette Wehe, Kim Kraft, Bob Beebe and Pastor Randy) invites you to let us know, through the church office, if you want to learn more about this crisis.



JKPC FAMILY MINISTRIES



We're looking forward to some new, safe, outdoor Advent Events at JKPC!
We're asking for families to RSVP to help us with planning.
You can find the event details and the RSVP forms on our website, www.jkpcdublin.org



Advent Adventure Activity Kits– Available Now!

You can pick up one of these fun booklets at the church office. There are games, puzzles, lessons and activities for families to enjoy together.

Contact Nancy Polcyn to arrange for pick up,
jkpcnancyp@sbcglobal.net

"Wishing Star" Sunday, December 6 Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating at 5 p.m.

Join us for a safe outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating event on the front lawn of JKPC! Dean Christman will lead us in Christmas Carols and we'll officially light the tree! We ask that families stay together, stay masked, and 6 feet apart from other families.

"Follow the Star" Sunday, December 13

JKPC Children's Video Mini Christmas Pageant will be shown during the 9:30 a.m. online Worship Service! Your kids will be the narrators of the greatest story ever!!

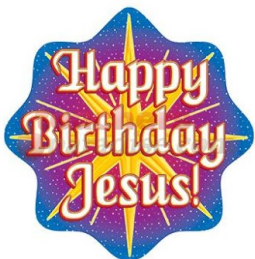
"Walk - Thru Christmas Nativity" from 3-4 p.m.
Families don't miss this fun time!



"Star so Bright" Sunday, December 20 Drive-In Christmas Car "Carol-oke" at 5 p.m.

We'll stay in our cars in the JKPC parking lot and listen to Dean Christmas leading songs on our "JKPC Radio Station!" Wear your pajamas if you like and bring your own hot Cocoa!

"A Star is Born" Thursday, December 24



Birthday Party for Jesus Drive-in Family Service at 3 p.m.
Join us for this festive half hour service as we share the very first Christmas in song and story. Pastor Randy, Miss Nancy and Steve Kritzer will lead this kid-friendly service.

We'll have a special take home goody bag for all of the kids

JKPC Youth Group

A Note from Howard Lee, JKPC Youth Director



Dear JKPC family,

I wanted to thank you all for making my family and I feel welcomed into the JKPC family. I am eager to grow, share, and learn with you all. This opportunity to walk with God together is an honor for us and we are looking forward to expanding our knowledge of Him through our love for one another. In this season of Thanksgiving and now Advent we know that there is no greater love or sacrifice than the love of our Father. We thank God and we thank you for your hospitality, generosity, and trust. May we walk in His love together.

THINGS WE DID

Over the last month both Middle School and High School youth have been going through thanks giving lessons that culminated in a serving opportunity at Kid's Against Hunger. The JKPC Youth Group got together on a Friday night and packed 5,516 servings of nutritious grains for a total of 936 bags! Great job!

Thankful Living was the theme of the lessons and we covered topics on:

Thank you, God, for all that you do.

Thank you, God, for all the people in my life.

Thank you, God, for my leaders.

THINGS TO COME: Youth will lead "Walk-thru Nativity" on December 13

Following is a list of Advent lessons that we will use for the preparation of the coming of our Lord:

Luke 1:5-24, 57-80 (Zechariah)

Luke 1:39-56 (Mary visits Elizabeth)

Luke 1:57-80 (Birth of John the Baptist)

Matthew 2:1-12 (Visit of the Wise Men)

Matthew 2:13-21 (Flight into Egypt)

Luke 1:26-38 (Mary and the angel)

Matthew 1:18-24 (Joseph and the angel)

Luke 2:1-20 (Birth of Jesus)

Luke 2:21-40 (Presentation of Jesus)

December Meeting Schedule:

On Zoom: Middle School Zoom meetings Every Wednesday and Thursday from 7 to 8 pm.

On Campus: This is a tentative schedule. Please keep in mind, that we are following Covid19 -Protocols and, due to the changing nature of the virus and our understanding, things may and will change. Changes made: Pizza, drinks, and snacks will not be permitted to be served. Please have all students eat before coming to youth group or have them bring in their own snacks and drink to church. We are not allowed to go indoors.

Middle School Sunday School

Every Sunday from 3 to 5 pm.

High School Sunday School

Every Sunday 5 to 7 pm

Note: we will be joining in all of the JKPC Advent Events, but will try to keep our regularly scheduled hours when we can. More details will be sent out to all first week of December.



Heifer International Living Gift Mini-Market in the JKPC Office Now until December 20

For 75 years Heifer International has been helping families to Increase Incomes, Connect Communities and Transform Economies.

Through Heifer International, animals and trees can be “purchased” on behalf of a family in need, allowing the family to create income and a future for their community.

We have many different pretty honor cards to give out if you would like to buy a llama for your mama or mallard for Uncle Howard! Shopping Heifer is the perfect gift for the person who has everything! Stop by the church office to make your purchase.

More information, and the “shopping list” is on our church website.



Operation Christmas Child Good News. Great Joy!

WOW - 221 Boxes were filled by JKPC and Friends, Plus 10 Boxes were Built Online!

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, Scout Groups and our many friends in the community!

Stewardship CAMPAIGN

Important 2021 Pledge Reminder

You can e-mail your pledge card directly to Teresa Karlson, our Treasurer, 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 2021, we still ask you to contact Teresa with this information.

amazonsmile

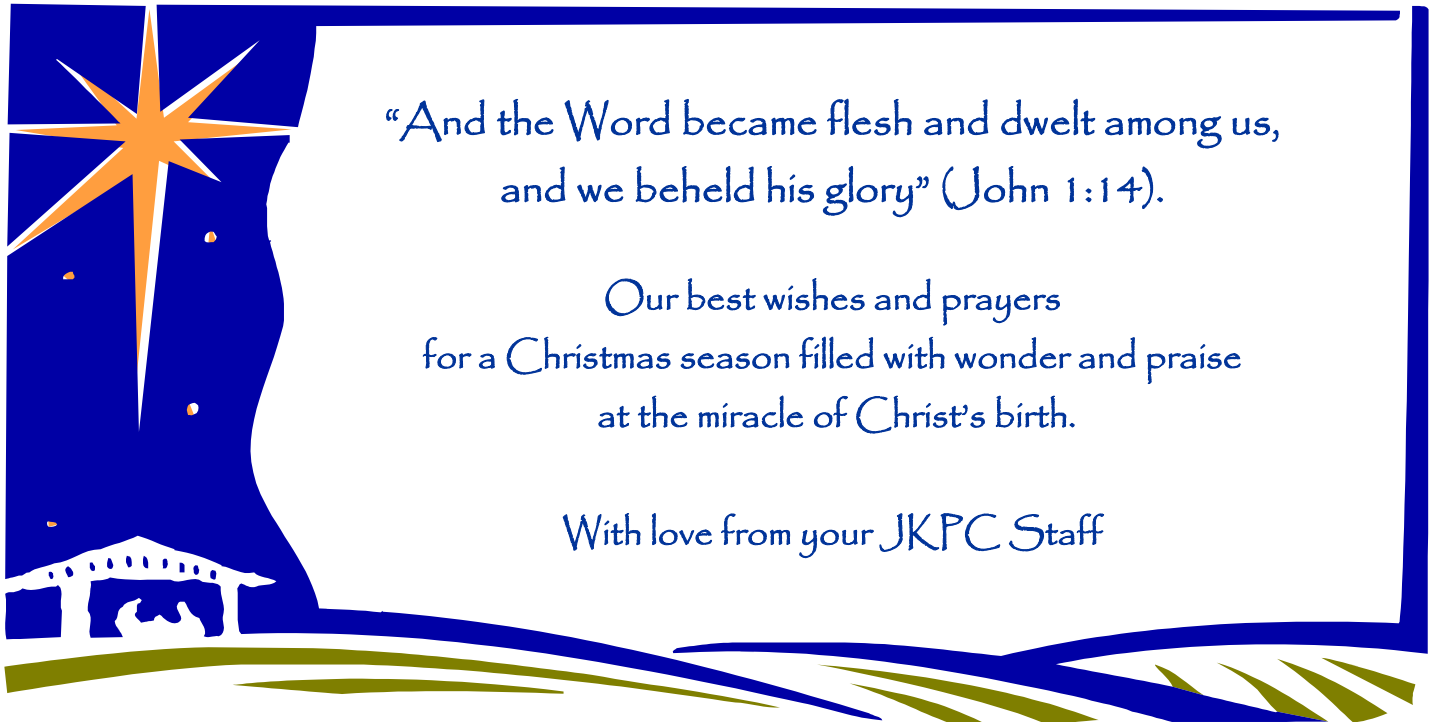
**Do You Like to Christmas Shop On-line?
Then Christmas Shop on AmazonSmile!**

You shop. Amazon gives. Support JKPC by shopping 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**

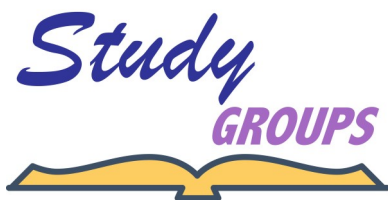
AmazonSmile must be used on a computer rather than on a Smartphone



Meeting & Rehearsal Schedule



Deacons' Meeting - 3rd Sunday - 11 a.m.
Finance Committee - Meets the Thursday before Session. Contact Peter McIntyre
Praise Band - Thursdays- 7 p.m.
Litwits - 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m.
Rock! Sunday afternoon Zoom returns in January
Youth Groups - Sunday afternoons
Middle School - 3- 5 p.m.
High School - 5-7 p.m.
Session Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - 7 p.m.



Current Bible Study Groups

Please contact them for more information.

Women's Bible Study:

Fridays @ noon on Zoom
Contact: Vickie Wyant

Fridays @10 a.m. - LIFT Women's Study on Zoom. Contact Joan McGrady-Beach

Men's Bible Study:

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



Church Staff

Randy McGrady-Beach, Pastor
Nancy Polcyn, Family Ministries Director
Dean Christman, Music Director
Howard Lee, Youth Director
Mary Chervet, Administrative Assistant
Rene Phillips, Administrative Assistant
Teresa Karlson, Benevolence Treasurer
Eric Loofbourrow, Organist
Steve Kritzer, Music Ministry
Nanette Wehe, Music Ministry

Volunteer Staff

Andrew Currier, Chief Sound Technician
Jerry Miller, Chief Video Technician
Sue King-Irwin & Peter McIntyre,
Head Ushers
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



If you have a prayer request or know someone who is need, please call the office or email us at jkpccares@gmail.com



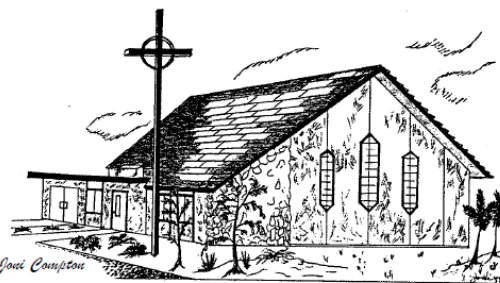
December Calendar

December 6	Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent - Outdoor Christmas Tree Decorating
December 8	LITWITS
December 13	3rd Sunday of Advent- Children's Story Video Walk-Thru Christmas Nativity
December 20	4th Sunday of Advent - Christmas Music Sunday Christmas Car "Carol -Oke"
December 24	Christmas Eve Services: Birthday Party for Jesus Family Service - 3 p.m. Evening Communion & Candlelight Service - 7 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 10	2021 Budget Meeting after Worship

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



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 Worship
On FaceBook Live**

