



JKPC News

MONTHLY UPDATE OF EVENTS
JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Communion Sunday, February 6, During Worship

**Annual Corporate Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 6, after Worship**



Litwits Book Club ~ Tuesday, February 8



Scout Sunday, February 27



Coming To A Pulpit Near You!

Here are Pastor Randy's sermon subjects for the month of February. You may want to read the scripture passages in advance.



Upcoming Sermons

February 6 - "A Son is Born" Genesis 16:1-4a

February 13 - "You're Joking" Genesis 17:1-2, 17-22

February 20 - "No Way Out" Genesis 18:1-2, 9-10, 12-15

February 27 - "No Laughing Matter" Genesis 21:1-5; 22:1-2



*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, . . .
that you may declare the praises of him
who called you out of darkness
into his wonderful light.*

1 Peter 2:9

This month we are starting a new Adult Education class. As I prepare for this class, which begins February 6, I have been talking with Joan, who is currently using the same book and DVD we will be using called **Read-**

ing the Old Testament through Jewish Eyes.

In one of our conversations, she mentioned Rabbi Moffic's insight about the difference between Moses and Aaron, between the role of the prophet and the role of the priest. Rabbi Moffic says the role of the prophet, the role of Moses, was to let the people know what was right and wrong. There was no gray area; things Moses taught were black and white. If you did not do what God told you, then you should be punished, swiftly and fully.

In contrast, the role of Aaron was that of a mediator between God and the people. The priest was the one who sought to help the people understand what they should do and to guide them gradually to the understanding which would lead them into a closer relationship with God.

In Exodus, the people grew restless while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Torah from God, the invisible one. Aaron, who knew the people were getting impatient and starting to voice a desire to return to Egypt, tried to keep them focused on being a new community and going to a new place by providing them with an idol which they could see. He knew they had trouble accepting this God who they could not see taking them to a land which was beyond the horizon, so while waiting for Moses he tried to provide something which was familiar, an idol.

That was assuredly not the best way to handle their impatience, but Aaron was trying to keep the people together while they waited for Moses. Remember, this was before they had received the ten commandments, so there was not yet an explicit commandment about having only one God.

Most of us know the reaction of Moses when he saw them worshipping this golden calf idol. This is found in Exodus 32. Moses not only broke the tablets of the covenant law given by God, but he destroyed the idol, ground it into powder, scattering it on the water, and made the people drink it.

The challenge for us as followers of Jesus is that we often find ourselves in the role of the priest. We take on Aaron's role of trying to help those around us understand who God is in their lives, when they have never truly met him. We have to find ways to convey to them the message that God loves them and has a free gift of grace for them.

We could just hand them the ten commandments and say, "Read this", then have them read the gospel of John so they would know about God's love. But perhaps the better way would be to come alongside them and walk with them in order to understand who they are and what would best help them see how God loves them.

There are times for prophets, but it is interesting to notice that most the times when Jesus used the prophetic method, he was talking to the religious people, not those attending the synagogue. This is, of course, a whole other discussion. But this month, let's try to find ways we can be a priest to those around us – seeking to understand them and trying to share with them the love God has shown us. For we are the ones called to be **"A royal priesthood"** (1 Peter 2:9).

Seeking to be priestly in this world with you,

Pastor Randy



Annual Corporate and Congregational Meeting & Election of Nominating Committee February 6, 2022

Please plan to stay after worship for this meeting

The JKPC 2021 Annual Report will be received by the congregation. You can view the Annual Report on our website, jkpcdublin.org, and there will be printed copies available on February 6. This meeting is an opportunity for the congregation to address new business, and we will elect a Nominating Committee for new Deacons and Elders.

New Adult Education Class Begins Sunday, February 6

2022 is a great time to dig a bit deeper into our understanding of the bible. Beginning February 6, we will have a new class called **"Reading Through the Old Testament through Jewish Eyes."** How we see things or interpret things is so often based on our culture and past understanding of the language we are using. The New Testament was written in Greek and much of that language comes out of a similar mindset as our modern mindset. The culture may not be exactly the same, but the way of thinking rational, logical, and tense sensitive help ease the way for translation of Greek into English.

The Old Testament is a different story. The language which records the events, the action, and the spoken words come out of a culture much different than ours. The use of metaphors, hyperbole, and images familiar to the Jews are different than those of our own language.

That is why we need more help interpreting the words we find in the Old Testament than the New Testament. Rabbi Evan Moffic has written the above mentioned book to help us gain a greater understanding of the words we find in the Old Testament.

The Adult Education Committee is offering this class from February 6 through April 3 to learn together what Rabbi Moffic has to offer. If you have ever wanted to gain a greater understanding of the Old Testament here is your chance.

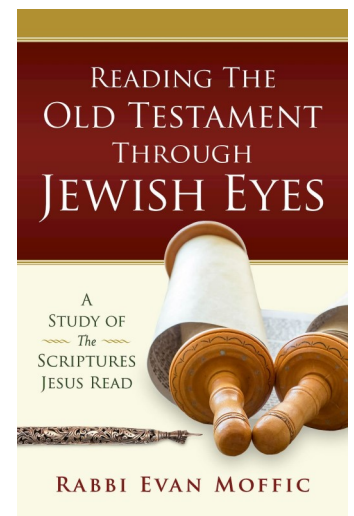
I will lead the class with readings in Rabbi Moffic's book as well as viewing videos produced as a companion for this reading. I will also share information from my studies in Hebrew Culture and language which I have been studying for the last seven years.

I may have greater knowledge of the Hebrew culture than many of our members have, but one thing I have found in my studies, as well as all of life, when in a group setting we can learn so much more together than we can ever learn alone. Please let me know (319-404-8463) if you are interested in the class.

We will meet in room D at 11a.m. We will also provide a zoom link for those who wish to participate in that way. The link will be sent out every Friday. Please be sure to share your email address when you sign up.

Also if you would like your own copy of the book we are asking for a \$10 donation.

Hope to see you there, Pastor Randy



Matthew 25

"Music is the most powerful way to inspire the human spirit." Don Lewis



MATTHEW 25

I'd like to take this opportunity to share a little bit more about Don Lewis, who joined us at a JKPC service in November, 2021, as a guest musician. Many of us are looking forward to the 2022 airing of "The Ballad of Don Lewis", the feature length documentary about Don and his influence on the music industry. So, I thought it might be interesting to tell you a little bit more about this local (Don and Julie Lewis have lived in Pleasanton since 1981, serving their community extensively through Rotary, music in the schools as well as a variety of educational programs) and international musician.

Ned Augustenborg, a renowned director and filmmaker, who produced this documentary describes it this way:

"An African American from Dayton, Ohio, alters the world's musical landscape in his pursuit to revolutionize the synthesizer, experiencing a lifelong journey hindered by technological limitations, dated commercial practices and racial stereotypes."

"The Ballad of Don Lewis" tells the story of Don's musical life and the groundbreaking electronic engineering that he accomplished to be able to play his music the way he heard it in his imagination.

Known as a "synthesizer pioneer" his Live Electronic Orchestra (LEO), created in the 1970s, was a one-of-a-kind instrument and one that only he was qualified to play. "Twenty years after Lewis left the limelight, and placed LEO in storage, the two would be reunited and recognized for their historical contributions by 'The Museum of Making Music' in Carlsbad, CA – now home to LEO." That instrument also put him at the forefront of the development of the synthesizer as we have come to know it today.

"...His lifelong mission to discover and play every conceivable musical note began as he grew up singing and playing the organ in church."

One reviewer put it this way:

"... gives musicians and fans of electronic music a chance to see how the art form was created and follow the remarkable story of a man who started out on a simple organ in a Dayton, Ohio church and followed his destiny to witness and contribute to the birth of electronic music and fuse his brilliant scientific talents into his musical gifts and create a genre that was subsequently used by Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson... A fascinating journey is told about a deeply talented individual who to this day still continues to explore and develop ever deeper into his art form." Kevin J. Langan



The documentary is currently being scheduled to air in 2022 in several different markets. We hope to get information about showings with enough lead time to let you know dates and times. Otherwise, please keep your eyes open for this wonderful and informative documentary.

Resources for this article:

DonLewisMusic.com,

<https://www.danvillesanramon.com/arts/2020/06/14/pleasanton-the-ballad-of-don-lewis----pulling-out-all-the-stops>,

and theballadofdonlewis.com

Nanette Wehe for Matthew 25 Task Force (Nanette Wehe, Kim Kraft, Terry Han, Stan Husted, Pastor Randy)

2022 Pledge Drive

We are deeply grateful for our congregation's faithfulness to the financial needs of JKPC. Over the past couple of years, during the stress of a pandemic, the congregation has met and exceeded its pledge commitments.

Our 2022 pledge goal is \$300,000. To date we have received pledges in the amount of \$209,356. Thanks to those who have turned in your pledges! If you wish to pledge, you can still turn in a pledge card to the church office, or email your confidential pledge to our Treasurer, Teresa Karlson, at teresa@ledgersteam.com.

A heartfelt thanks to our church family and friends. JKPC thrives because of your continued support. We remain deeply grateful for each and every sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure.



February is Black History Month

Every February, the U.S. honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are an indelible part of our country's history.

This year's theme, Black Health and Wellness, pays homage to medical scholars and health care providers. The theme is especially timely as we enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disproportionately affected minority communities and placed unique burdens on Black health care professionals.



"There is no American history without African American history," said Sara Clarke Kaplan, executive director of the Antiracist Research & Policy Center at American University in Washington, D.C. The Black experience, she said, is embedded in "everything we think of as 'American history.' "

Why February was chosen as Black History Month?

February was chosen primarily because the second week of the month coincides with the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Lincoln was influential in the emancipation of slaves, and Douglass, a former slave, was a prominent leader in the abolitionist movement, which fought to end slavery.

Lincoln and Douglass were each born in the second week of February, so it was traditionally a time when African Americans would hold celebrations in honor of emancipation, Kaplan said. (Douglass' exact date of birth wasn't recorded, but he came to celebrate it on February 14.)

In the words of President Barak Obama:

"Black History Month shouldn't be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington or from some of our sports heroes," Obama said. "It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America," he continued.

Canada also commemorates Black History Month in February, while the U.K. and Ireland celebrate it in October.

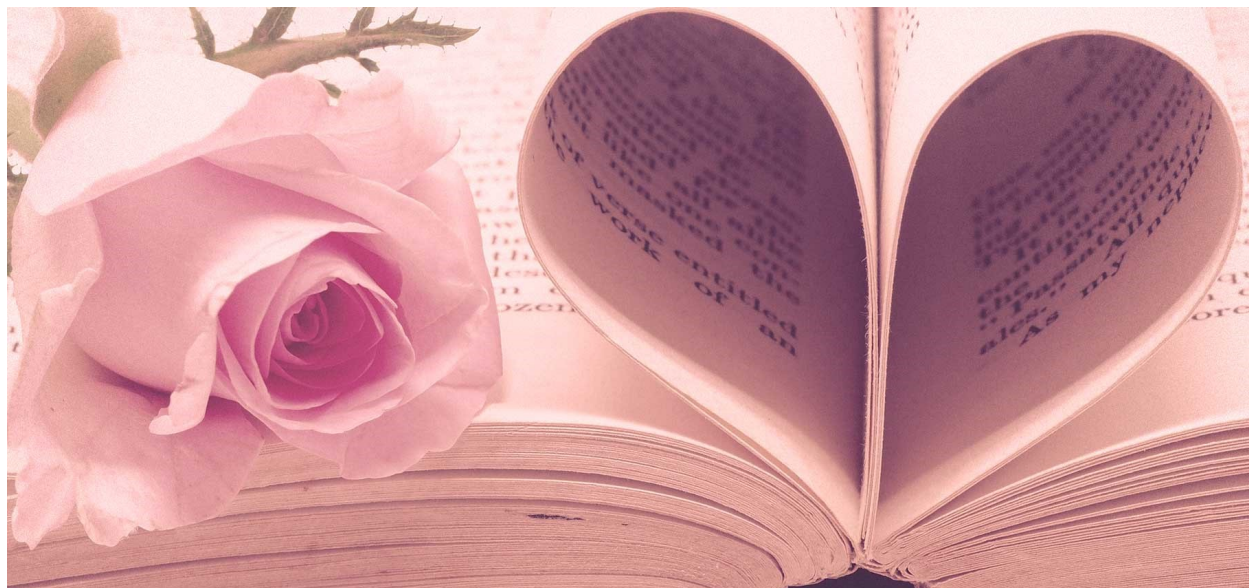
(Excerpts from an article on February 1, 2022 by Jonathan Franklin, NPR.org)

LITWITS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

ZOOM AT 7:00 P.M.

PLAN to join us at a ZOOM meeting on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, at 7:00 pm,



The ZOOM link will be sent a few days prior to the event. DO NOT HESITATE TO JOIN US, EVEN IF YOU HAVE NEVER ATTENDED BEFORE! PLEASE R.S.V.P. to Sue Fox. For the meeting, wear something festive to remind us all of Valentine's Day and to brighten our screens—and let's share an online pink drink to celebrate our new year of reading. (We will assess before the March meeting whether or not we can resume indoor gatherings safely.)

Many thanks to all the Litwits readers who have made our 22nd year an exciting and edifying one, despite our COVID interruptions. it is a rare pleasure to share friendship, laughter, ideas and books with such amazing people!

FOR FEBRUARY: please read *This Time Next Year We'll Be Laughing*, by Jacqueline Winspear. This delightful memoir by the author of the equally delightful Maisie Dobbs series of mysteries shares the events of her growing up years in the English countryside. Richly detailed, the book reveals a life full of both hard work and joy, a childhood rich with family and friends and with a keen sense of the pleasures of "place."

FOR MARCH: Please review the entire year's schedule of reading that follows. Thanks, all you wonderful Litwits readers, for making these great selections. The March book is *How Beautiful We Were*, by Imbolo Mbue.

LITWITS READING SCHEDULE 2022-23

<u>Month</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
February 8	<i>This Time Next Year We'll be Laughing</i> by Jacqueline Winspear	ZOOM
March 8	<i>How Beautiful We Were</i> , by Imbolo Mbue	ZOOM
April 12	<i>The Night Watchman</i> , by Louise Erdrich	TBD
May 10	<i>Talking to Strangers</i> , by Malcolm Gladwell	TBD
June 14	<i>On Juneteenth</i> , by Annette Gordon-Reed and/or <i>Three Girls from Bronzeville</i> , by Dawn Turner	TBD
July 12	<i>Lady Clementine</i> , <i>The Mystery of Agatha Christie</i> , <i>The Only Woman in the Room</i> , <i>The Personal Librarian</i> , <i>Carnegie's Maid</i> , or <i>The Other Einstein</i> by Marie Benedict (choose one or more)	TBD (Carolee Ruedi)
August 9	<i>The Lincoln Highway</i> , by Amor Towles	TBD
September 13	<i>Everything Sad is Untrue</i> , by Daniel Hayeri	TBD (Ligaya Marston)
October 11	<i>These Precious Days</i> , by Ann Patchett	TBD
November 8	<i>Klara and the Sun</i> , by Kazuo Ishiguro	TBD
December 13	Choose your favorite Christmas book to share	TBD
January 10 (2023)	<i>Cry the Beloved Country</i> , by Alan Paton	Sue Fox

Women's Ministries



SWELL Calendar 2022

SWELL (Social Women Enjoying Living Life) has planned monthly events through October of this year. Unfortunately, our Potluck Lunch on February 5 was cancelled due to COVID concerns. Please mark your calendar for these fun events. We will keep you updated if other changes need to be made.

- March 12 - St Patty's Day @ Sherry Sheets' home at 11:30 a.m.
- April 9 - Lunch at China Village, Dublin at 11:30 a.m.
- May 7 - May Day Lunch at Carol Lee's home at 11:30 a.m.
- June 11 - Lunch at Mexico Lindo, Pleasanton at 11:30 a.m.
- July 9 - Lunch at Garre Winery 11:30 a.m.
- August 13 - Lunch at Sidetrack, Pleasanton at 11:30 a.m.
- September 10 - Lunch at Marian Pistochini's, leave church at 11:00 a.m.
- October 15 - Octoberfest/Planning Meeting @ Sherry Sheets' at 11:30 a.m.

To learn more about SWELL, contact Lynn Getty.

Small Group Bible Studies

Ladies in Fellowship Together (LIFT) is a Bible Study open to all women. We are a warm-hearted group committed to growing in our relationship with Jesus and with each other. We open our time together by sharing joys and concerns and praying for them, followed by a time of Bible Study and discussion. We would love to have you join us in the journey. (Currently meeting both via Zoom and in person.) Contact Joan McGrady-Beach.

Women's Bible study group meets Fridays at 12 p.m. (Currently meeting via Zoom.) Please contact Vickie Wyant for more information.

New Zoom Bible Study Group Forming - Contact Maryam Ladoni.

Dublin St. Patrick's Day PARADE & Festival Booth 2022 Saturday, March 12 & Sunday, March 13

JKPC will be participating in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day 38th Annual Parade on Saturday, March 12! The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. More information will be coming soon on how you can help decorate our "JKPC Float" and be a part of our marching team!

Also, volunteers are needed to sign-up for a fun-filled 2-3 hour shift at our JKPC Festival Booth. This is a great opportunity to reach out and let the community know about our church and preschool. We'll once again be doing our famous "Irish Pig Jig Races"! The kids (and adults) love it!

Sign ups will begin mid-February for all! Please see Nancy O'Polcyn or Kim McKraft if questions.

Also, come see our own JKPC Irish Dancer, Ella O'Connell, on Saturday, March 12 at the festival!



Pictures are from 2019 Parade & Festival!

JKPC FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hello JKPC Families! We are hoping to begin meeting back In-Person in February! Our main goal is to keep all safe. Sunday School is offered Sunday Mornings during the Worship Service. Kids & Teens are excused after the Kids Message for class. NOTE: A Special Valentine's Gift from the Deacons will be delivered/available to ALL by mid-February. There'll be a special Valentine's gift for families included, too!

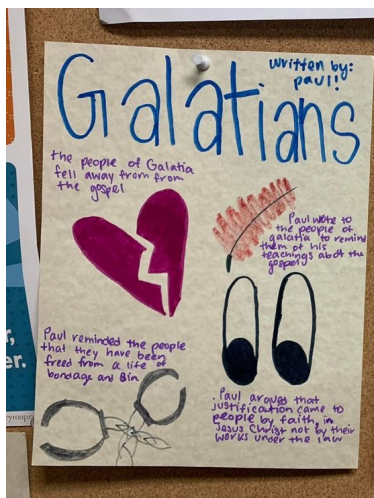
ROCK returns on Sunday Afternoons! Kids K-5th Grade Join us from 4-5:30 p.m.

We'll be learning about "Jesus' Famous Friends and How Jesus Loved Them" There will be interactive lessons, games and fun with friends! Thank you to Alice Richards and Christian Plechaty who help Miss Nancy lead this program!



Youth Group Schedule Sunday Afternoons

Middle School: Meets 4-6 p.m.
Join us for Games, Friends, Lessons to build your Faith and FUN! PJ & Soeun Peterson and Sue Wilburn lead the group - and the teens will enjoy Worship Music by Sue Wilburn and Steve Kritzer, too!



High School: Meets 6-8 p.m.

**Join us for dinner and fellowship!
Allie Baker is leading the group in a creative way in learning the Books of the Bible!**



**JKPC Scout Sunday
will be
February 27**



JKPC Boy & Girl Scout Sunday will be both an in-person and online celebration this year! We will honor our Scouts on Sunday, February 27 during the beginning of church service. Scouts please help us to get ready by sending Miss Nancy pictures of you in your scout uniform, and perhaps sharing pictures of ways you have stayed active in scouting. We will also highlight Eagle Scout Projects, Silver and Gold Awards. We'll be handing out a special Scout Sunday patch, too!



One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks ~ Swimming Your Way Soon!

Your "Change" Can "Change" Lives! Your coins will help support families all over the world who are in need of food, clean water and housing. Fish Banks will be available March 6 - or they are ready now if you want to start collecting! We will ask that Fish Banks be returned Palm Sunday, April 10. Make sure to put your name on the fish bank so you can receive tax credit.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! SAVE THE DATE for JKPC VBS 2022!

**Knights of JKPC North Castle VBS will return the week of July 10-17
and this year we hope the drawbridge will open!**

**Our hope is that all will be able to enter the Castle (church sanctuary) for Opening
Assembly, Music and Fun Live Skits!**

Stay tuned for more information to come, but mark your calendar today!!





Meetings and Rehearsals

Deacons' Meeting - 3rd Sunday - 11 a.m.
Finance Committee - Meets the Friday before Session. Contact Peter McIntyre
Litwits - 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m. on Zoom
Praise Band - Thursdays - 7 p.m.
Session Meeting - 3rd Tuesday - 7 p.m.



Current Bible Study Groups

Please contact them for more information.

Women's Bible Study:

Friday @ 10 a.m. - LIFT Women's Study in Room D. Contact: Joan McGrady-Beach.

Fridays @ noon on Zoom
Contact: Vickie Wyant

Men's Bible Study:

Friday @ 8 a.m. at Copper Skillet
Contact: Pastor Randy



www.jkpcdublin.org



Church Staff

Randy McGrady-Beach, Pastor
Nancy Polcyn, Family Ministries Director
Dean Christman, Music Director
Youth Leaders, Allison Baker, PJ Peterson, Soeun Peterson, Sue Wilburn
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
Sandi Coll, Music
Lisa Locus & Rene Phillips, Wedding Coordinators

Preschools

John Knox Co-op Preschool
Leslie James, Director



Prayer Requests

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



February Calendar

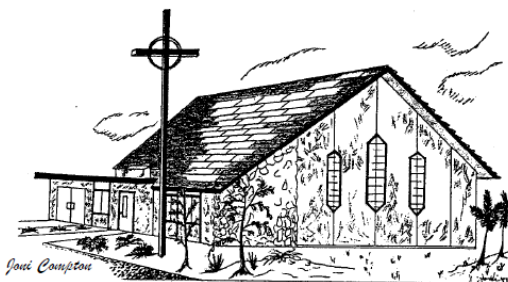
February 6	Communion & Drive In Communion Annual Corporate Congregational Meeting Adult Education Class Begins
February 8	LITWITS Book Club
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 21	President's Day - JKPC Office Closed
February 27	Scout Sunday



Coming Events - Save the Dates!

March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 12	St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival Booth SWELL St. Patrick's Day Lunch
March 13	Daylight Saving Time Begins St. Patrick's Day Festival Booth
March 17	St. Patrick's Day
April 10	Palm Sunday
April 14	Maundy Thursday
April 15	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Sunday

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: johnknoxoffice@gmail.com

**9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship In Person
on FaceBook Live**

Sunday School for Preschool—Grade 12

Visit our YouTube channel: JKPC Dublin, Ca