



VOLUME 26 / ISSUE 10
OCTOBER 2021

Jamestown *Presbyterian* News

It sounds like the story-line from a soap opera: The youngest son of a multi-millionaire decides that living under his father's roof is cramping his style. He decides to leave home to live a free and wild life in Belize, or the French Riviera, or maybe Dubai. But he realizes that fun in the fast lane requires a ton of cash. So before jetting off, he sells one-third of all his father's corporate holdings, transfers the funds into his own account, tells his dad to drop dead and waltzes out the door.

Jesus once told a similar story. We know it as the parable of the prodigal son, found in Luke 15. In Jesus's parable, an arrogant son demands to be given his inheritance *before* his father's death. Incredibly, the father allows the young man to take his portion of the family fortune, after which he goes to a distant country, where he squandered his property in reckless living.

You know what happened next, but let's pause for just a moment. Jesus used this parable to illustrate the way we humans can treat God ... and how God responds. The selfish son was only interested in the things his wealthy father could give him. As soon as the young man had received those things, he turned his back on the entire family and walked away. He wasn't interested in maintaining the relationship.

There's a troubling trend in the world today: I think of it as "ME-ism." It isn't new. ME-ism says that life is about satisfying MY needs, MY wants, MY desires. ME-ism says "I want what I want, when I want it," and, "I'm willing to put time and effort into this (relationship, job, church, etc) only as long as I'm being well rewarded."

This kind of thinking is so pervasive in our culture, that it pours over into how we view God. God is infinitely good, indescribably kind, extravagantly generous. *Of course* we look to God for help and for blessings. He is the source of all good. But the thing I have to ask myself is, "Am I more focused on the things I can get from God, than I am in the relationship itself?"

It's a tricky question. I know that, apart from God, I am spiritually bankrupt. Apart from God, every soul on this planet is lost. Just as the younger son, having squandered everything his father gave him, soon became penniless. Forced to take a disgusting job feeding pigs, he "came to his senses." He decided to return home, apologize, and ask for a job as a servant. But – had he really learned to value his father? Or was he just looking to get away from those pigs? Ultimately that didn't matter. Because Jesus says that the father saw his son coming and while he was still a long way off, "he ran and embraced him." And before his son finished apologizing, the father had already ordered a feast to celebrate his return.

When we look at God, our human inclination may be to mostly think of what God can give to us. But when God looks at you, he sees his child, created in his image, completely and dearly loved. And he is worthy, more than worthy, of our eternal love and devotion.

Pastor Sue

Community and Church Calendar

- October 3 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship - 11:00 a.m.
 Noisy Offering/Communion
- October 6 Deacons—12:30 p.m.
- October 10 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship - 11:00 a.m.
- October 11 Nurture—3:30 p.m.
- October 13 Pack backpacks - 6:00 p.m.
- October 16 Comm. Dinner—4:30-6:00 p.m.
- October 17 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship - 11:00 a.m.
- October 20 Properties—6:00 p.m.
- October 24 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship - 11:00 a.m.
- October 27 Pack backpacks - 6:00 p.m.
 Session—6:30 p.m.
- October 31 Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
 Worship - 11:00 a.m.
 All Saints Sunday

Meeting Weekly:

- Tuesday TOPS 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Cub Scouts - 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday AA - 7:00 p.m.

MONTHLY CHURCH FINANCES

Checking Balance 08/01/21	\$ 20,110.59
Income	+ 6,481.50
Expenses	- 9,641.19
Checking Balance 08/31/21	\$ 16,950.90
As presented to Session 09/29/21	

Thank you congregation!

September Noisy Offering:
 \$15.60

Noisy Offerings are received the first Sunday of each month. This month the Noisy Offering will take place on October 3.



Prayers



Continued thanks for God's faithful provision and the generosity of this congregation, who so faithfully share their time, talent and financial resources;

Giving thanks for babies born, birthdays and anniversaries celebrated, and the blessings of everyday life;

Lifting up prayers for students, teachers and other education workers as the school year proceeds;

Prayers for the many people around the world who are suffering due to famine, flood, wild-fires, disease, war or oppression, and giving thanks for all those who reach out to care for others with Christ's love.

Prayers for healing/various health issues, including Ken & June S, Kelly, Bill M, Frank F., Jane B., John Y., Dave & Linda V, John A., Shawn, Kyle, Mary Ellen, Jace, Dave M., Jenn B., Ron F, Kris M., Tom M., Rhonda M, Lynn H, Evelyn G., Tracy, Evan, Regina G., Carolyn Linhart; Nancy Fry's sisters, Mary Lou N,

Prayers for families whose loved ones have recently passed away, including Ralph Steadman, Joe Nageotte, Jackson ___ and Carolyn Pardue's mother; and giving thanks for the sure hope of eternal life given to all who trust in Christ as Savior and Lord.

Pastor Sue does not currently have a set schedule for office hours. If you would like to arrange a time to meet with her, or if you have an urgent pastoral need, she can be reached by cell phone at 814-758-5525.



Jamestown ECO Presbyterian Church

Highlights of the Session Meeting, September 29, 2021

Deacons Report: The Deacons will continue their monthly donation of \$100/month to Wings to Fly for the school year, purchased clothing for the elementary school to have for emergency use, and sent flowers to Betty McCormick for her 100th birthday from her church family. The Fair parking went very well and the ROOT International donations were great, it took 2 pick-up loads to haul the donations! The Deacons will prepare for the October Community Dinner, which will be their Chili supper asking for donations of pies (cakes are acceptable, but pies are preferred).

Finance/Treasurer's Report:

The General Checking Account balance as of August 31, 2021 was \$ 16,950.90. Thus far, \$8,851.00 has been donated to the Parking Lot Fund.

Mission: Tom Walker reported that the mission trip to North Carolina went very well. Tom also reported ½ a beef was donated to the church, leaving just the processing cost for the church to cover.

Fellowship: Saturday Supper in October will be organized by the Deacons. October 15, Chili dinner. November – a simplified turkey dinner, November 13. December – lasagna, December 18.

Worship: Regular hours resumed on September 12, with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11:00 a.m. The adult Sunday School class is using “The Story”.

Future Pastoral Leadership: The town hall discussion held on September 26 went well. Attendance was lower than session had anticipated but there were good questions and feedback from those present. Members of the congregation are asked to continue to pray and provide input (see additional information in the newsletter).

Preschool: The preschool board continues to meet and organize fundraisers for the school year. There was good discussion about the preschool's value in the community, and about finding ways to help JPNS be on a sound financial footing despite the reduced enrollment caused (in part) by the pandemic.

Next Nurture meeting: October 11 at 3:30 p.m.
Next Properties meeting: October 20 at 6:00 p.m.
Next Session meeting: October 27, at 6:30 p.m.



Thank You!



Jamestown Presbyterian Nursery School

Fall MUM Sale

Al's Melons in Conneaut Lake

A big THANKS
for everyone's
support on our recent
Mum voucher sale!

Wings To Fly Clothing Drive

Wings To Fly is having a slightly used clothing give-away. We are collecting warm, gently used clothing (all sizes), coats, and blankets. Contributions can be placed in the upstairs nursery classroom located at the end of the hall from the church office. We will collect items during the month of October 2021. Thank you, in advance, for all contributions.



Clothing Drop-Off

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday will be observed on Sunday, October 31. We plan on that Sunday to lift up the names of members and loved ones of the congregation who have passed from this life into their eternal home in 2020 and 2021. So that we will not miss anyone, please notify the church office no later than October 24 and provide their full name and month & year of death if known.



Free Community Dinner
Saturday, September 18
4:30 - 6:00 PM

THANK YOU
Jamestown Presbyterian Church

Ham, Cheesy or Scalloped Potatoes,
Corn off the cob, and dessert

Thanks everyone for your donations, help,
and orders for our September dinner- 110
meals & \$360 donated for food pantry &
backpack program!



UPDATE

Session recently met with the congregation in a townhall/luncheon to present information and gather input for a replacement pastor for Pastor's Sue's retirement by the end of April 2022. The following questions were posed to the congregation to think about:

- What pastoral leadership option is the most effective in allowing our congregation to fulfill its vision?
- What opportunities for ministry and mission are our members called to consider?
- What is the nature of God's call to our congregation today and in the foreseeable future?

Discovering New Forms of Ministry is a Pilgrimage

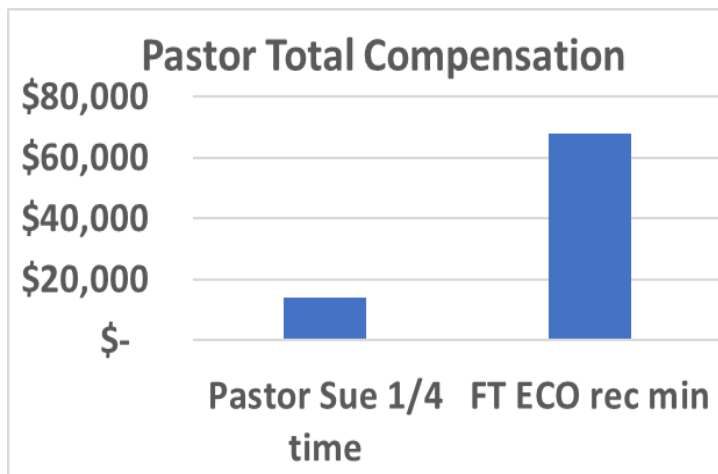
- May require new ways of pastoral leadership
- The elders, deacons, and members are **all pilgrims**
- Should explore a variety of options
- New forms of leadership can be grace-filled opportunities for communities of faith to grow & blossom
- Finances must be considered but are not the only factor

Review of budget 2013-2021

Years	Avg Budget	Avg pastor Compensation	Avg end of yr balance
2013-2016	\$ 187,665	\$ 62,334	\$ 6,229
2017	\$ 80,385	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,363
2018-2021	\$ 86,400	\$ 14,000	\$ 13,506

Budget information was presented to the covenant partners and friends

—a comparison of the budgets over the past 8 years and.....



A comparison of Pastor Sue's total compensation to a Full-time ECO recommended minimum compensation

Various options of pastoral leadership were then presented and explained:

- Full time ordained pastor
- Part time pastor-1/4, 1/2, 3/4
- Yoked pastor (shared pastor with another ECO congregation)
- Commissioned lay pastor
- Interim (supply, transitional)
- "Tentmaker" pastor (has other employment besides pastoral work)
- Week-to-week pulpit supply
- Livestreaming
- Seminary student Intern

After input from the people present, it appears that an interim part-time pastor (1/4 to 1/2 time) with a strong family oriented pastoral calling was many peoples' preference.

We request thank you think and pray about some of the questions that have been posed and please give your feedback and thoughts to the session members.



How does our congregation proclaim the gospel?

In what ways do we nurture our members?

What can elders, deacons, pastor, and members do together?

What can our congregation do with other congregations?

What ways does our congregation provide shelter and spiritual fellowship for all God's children?

What kinds of new models of pastoral leadership emerge?

THANK YOU FROM THE DEACONS!

Thank you to all who helped the Deacons with parking in our parking lot during the Jamestown Community Fair. We raised over \$2,700!

A special thanks to Rhonda Mariacher who made numerous phone calls, organized volunteers and counted money.

Also - thank you to everyone who donated to ROOT International. We had such a huge response that it took 2 pick-up loads to haul it all! Thank you!!

Thank You!

Operation Christmas Child 2021



The response thus far has been tremendous. We are filling the Adult Sunday school room with all types of items- we could use some help sorting if you are available. Also, at the beginning of November we will be having a packing party to fill all the boxes. There are also empty shoeboxes in the annex for those who would like to pack your own. Many thanks to everyone who has helped!

September 19 – playdough, travel sized games, coloring books (no super hero or scary theme), toy music instruments.

September 26 – pencils, colored pencils, ink pens, markers, pencil sharpeners, and sunglasses.

October 3 – stickers, glue sticks, paper/writing pads, coloring books, crayons.

October 10 – washcloths, toothbrush and toothbrush holders (No toothpaste)

October 17 – tote/purse, socks, combs, brushes, and hair clips/ barrettes, lip balm, plastic cup/bottle, plate

October 24 – small cars, small balls, small dolls, small stuffed animals, yo-yo's, jump ropes, toy jewelry.

Remember to keep items small enough to fit into a shoebox!!

Please leave your items on the tables in the session (adult Sunday school) room.

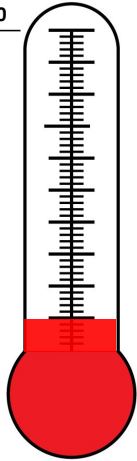


Parking Lot Fund

As of 09/30/21

GOAL \$40,000

\$8,851.00



Please consider making a designated donation.



We have raised

\$8,351.00

Don't
let our
parking lot fall
through the
cracks!

Jamestown Presbyterian Church

Free Community Dinner

Chili
cornbread, Italian
bread, coleslaw
pie or cake



October 16

Eat-In

4:30-6:30 p.m.



RSVP for
take-out dinners
(4:30-6 p.m.)
724-932-2101

All donations will support the Deacons and
their work in the church and community.

The Deacons are asking for donations of
pies for desserts (cakes will be accepted, but
pies are preferred). There is a sign-up sheet
in the Annex.

Deacon for October

Linda Lorigan

If you know of anyone in the hospital or
in need of assistance please contact
Linda at 814-282-1801.

Sunday Duties—October

Close Up: Tom Walker
Counting: Janeen Mihoci



October 2021



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

2

3 Noisy Offering

9:45 Sunday
School
11:00 Worship

4

5

6

12:30 Deacons

7

8

9

10

9:45 Sunday
School
11:00 Worship

11

3:30 Nurture

12

13

6:00 Backpacks

14

15

16

Chili Dinner
4:30-6 p.m.

17

9:45 Sunday
School
11:00 Worship

18

19

20

6:00 Properties

21

22

23

24

9:45 Sunday
School
11:00 Worship

25

26

27

6:00 Backpacks
6:30 Session

28

29

30

31 All Saints Day

9:45 Sunday
School
11:00 Worship

Jamestown Presbyterian Church
411 Liberty Street
Jamestown, PA 16134
724-932-2101
email: jpc411@windstream.net
Web site: www.jamestownpres.org



10/01 Beverly Dame
10/06 William McElhaney
10/07 Linda Lorigan
10/08 Katie Arnett
10/29 Shirley Bonam





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411 Liberty Street
Jamestown, PA 16134

Jamestown Presbyterian News



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