

December 13, 2024

THE FORCE

Weekly Reminders from Jackson First Presbyterian Church

It is pleasing to the dear God whenever you rejoice or laugh from the bottom of your heart.

— Martin Luther

This Sunday of Advent is JOY so wear PINK !



The Advent day of Joy takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the [first word](#) of the [introit](#) of this day's Mass:

Intr. 1. 
G Audé- te * in Dómino sem-per : í-terum díco,

The [incipit](#) for the [Gregorian chant introit](#) from which Gaudete Sunday gets its name.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land; you have turned away the captivity of Jacob.

—[Philippians 4:4–6](#); [Psalm 85 \(84\):1](#)

INTER-GENERATIONAL
GAME NIGHT
 THURSDAY, JANUARY 2
 5PM-8PM
 Bring a snack
 and your favorite game!

**MEN'S
 BREAKFAST GROUP**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays
 8:30-9:30am**

**1st & 3rd Saturdays
 in the Small Dining Room
 (lower level)**



For more
 info,
 contact:



Kurt



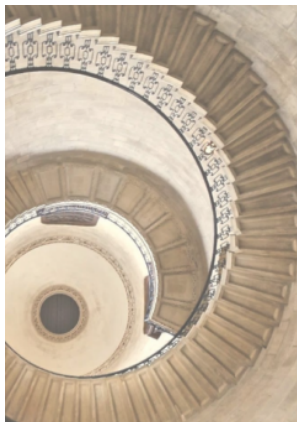
John



Randy



<http://souldig.org/wordpress/>



2 ONLINE SESSIONS

**Create a
 Rhythm of Life**

January **28** LIVE ONLINE SESSION
 January 28, Tues. at 7pm

February **11** LIVE ONLINE SESSION
 February 11, Tues. at 7pm

**Create a Rhythm of Life –
 January 28 & February 11, 7pm**

online Live with intentionality. Create a personal rhythm of life with Dr. Lori Tate for 2 online sessions Tuesday, January 28 and Tuesday, February 11, 7-8:15pm EST. This interactive class will affirm the spiritual practices you already have in place and will challenge you to extend yourself to further growth.

Youth Programs...



This Sunday, December 15th, the children and youth will be cutting out sugar cookies and baking them during church, and then decorating them beyond the time of the service- a few extra hands will be needed. :-)

See Karen Meyers or Natalie for information or find us in the kitchen on the 15th of December during and after church!

Bre will be unavailable on December 22 and 29, so a volunteer is needed to assist Keslyn. The sign-up sheet will be maintained by Natalie, so contact the office with your availability: 784-9175

Fall dates available to help with young Children: December 15 (Cookies), 22, 29

Fall dates available to help with older Youth: December 29



Please look for and welcome our new Christian Educators, who are students at Spring Arbor University:

~Keslyn Cay and Bre Daly~

Children's Message Volunteers



If you are interested in doing a children's message in 2025...

Please contact Doug Meyers.

COFFEE HOUR



following worship

If you would like to host coffee hour, please sign up on the **orange** sheet in the Westminster room or contact the front office at 784-9175

**Fellowship hosts needed:
This Sunday, December 15,
& December 22, 29**

Please contact the office to sign up!

784-9175

office@jacksonfirstpres.org

If you need someone else to make the coffee or assist in any way, please contact the office ahead of your Sunday.



Blood Drive **First Presbyterian Church**

743 W. Michigan, Jackson

Wednesday, December 18, 2024
11:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Sponsored by Woman's Life Insurance Society.
To schedule an appointment, log onto RedCrossBlood.org
(sponsor code: jacksonfpc) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Here at JFPC, we hear God's call to care for the least of these.

The need is great in the Jackson Area, so we partner with or support a number of different ministries. We know that no one person can do it all, or support every mission opportunity we bring to you. The following is a list of some of those mission opportunities. You are invited to support or participate as you feel moved and as you are able.

Interfaith Shelter Meals

DONATIONS NEEDED!

JFPC has been supporting this shelter for over 25 years, and that isn't changing anytime soon!

What has changed is the price of groceries. Additional funds are badly needed to keep cooking & serving our monthly meal at the shelter.

Donate by writing "Interfaith Meals" on your check memo or donation envelope.

Contact:
Sharon V.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have some extra time?

Consider being a Library volunteer at Northeast.

Northeast Elementary Library Aids

Make a difference by serving 2 hours a week helping kids check out books and re-shelving materials in the Northeast Elementary library!



Contact
Karen



Community Closet at Northeast Elementary

Along with the library, JFPC is partnering with Northeast elementary to provide extra clothes, personal products, and backpacks for the students. Contact Karen Meyers with any questions!

Why support the clothing closet?

Clothes bring dignity and allow learning to continue even when little ones have an accident at school. Please see Karen Meyers or Randy Herrick with any questions.

NORTHEAST ELEMENTARY

COMMUNITY CLOSET

PERSONAL CARE

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Hair brushes, combs, hair ties
- Bar soap & body wash
- Toothbrushes & toothpaste
- Deodorant (all genders)

CLOTHING

Sizes:
Children 6-18
Adult small & medium

- Socks & underwear
- Leggings
- Sweatpants/joggers
- Short & long sleeved shirts (solid colors)
- Athletic shoes
- Winter gloves, snow pants, winter boots



Contact Randy



Respiratory illness?

With many of our church members being over 65 (therefore higher risk for COVID or flu complications), here's the current guidance from CDC:

1. Stay home if you have respiratory illness symptoms. Stay home UNTIL your symptoms are improving AND you've had no fever for over 24 hours.
2. Once you are better and without fever, if you will be indoors with other people, wear a mask for the next 5 days.

These two steps should help protect others from catching COVID or the flu or whatever other respiratory virus we may be dealing with.

Further information is available at the CDC link below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

Lisa Rudolph, Faith Community Nurse

Year End Giving

We are so grateful for your generosity that enables your church to keep doing amazing ministry in our community and beyond. If you've been meaning to give, or gotten behind in what you'd planned to give and are able to catch up, it's not too late to join our mission more fully by the end of the year, and we would greatly appreciate your generosity before we close our books on this year on December 31. Please consider a year end gift to help us finish 2024 strong.

We have reviewed our records and we predict an Envelope Income for 2025 similar to 2024. We lost some significant supporters in 2024, but we are trusting in God to keep us seeking the good of the city through the support of friends and members old, new, and yet to be gathered.

**Thank you
The Administrative Committee**

**Interested in giving to the mission and ministry of
Jackson First Presbyterian?**



Scan for Online Giving

GIVING ONLINE

Giving to the church helps pay for...

- Building upkeep
- Personnel
- Mission & local outreach
- Administration costs
- Disciple Development
- Music
- and more!

Go to JacksonFirstPres.org & click GIVE

A dark blue banner with white text and graphics. At the top, the words "GIVING ONLINE" are written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, on the left, is a white graphic of two hands cupping a teal heart. On the right, there is a list of items that church giving helps pay for, starting with "Giving to the church helps pay for..." followed by a bulleted list: "-Building upkeep", "-Personnel", "-Mission & local outreach", "-Administration costs", "-Disciple Development", "-Music", and "and more!". At the bottom of the banner, a teal bar contains the text "Go to JacksonFirstPres.org & click GIVE" in white.

ATTENTION!

Our website address has changed slightly to

JACKSONFIRSTPRES.ORG



this is the part that changed

JACKSON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IS ON..... YOUTUBE!

Did you miss a Hot Dogma Sermon? You are in luck! We are serving up old sermons on our YouTube Channel.

[First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Michigan - YouTube](#)



A few November revised copies of the updated church directory are available in the Narthex or see Natalie. We do NOT email these out- to prevent unwanted spam or scams to your email or phone. If you get an email or phone call from someone claiming to be Pastor David and asking for money- it is a scam. You can call him if you feel that you need to verify.

If you ever receive a request for money by email or phone from anyone, always contact the person another way to verify it is real before doing anything.

The scams are becoming very sophisticated!

Have something to share or announce at JFPC?

Events, church initiatives, mission work, photos

Time to contact Katie!

Also, any information for the bulletin or newsletter, please contact Natalie at the office: (517) 784-9175 or email: office@jacksonfirstpres.org

Thankful Thoughts

A BIG thank you to the Deep Clean Warriors !!

(Karen and Wayne Leja, Lisa Rudolph, and Laura Short)

for the wonderful job they did cleaning the Sanctuary!

We were a small but mighty crew!

— Jane Jones and John Vanderpool



Prayers for this week

- Please pray for Elizabeth, who is facing a 4th reconstructive surgery on her foot and for Janet also facing surgery.
- Please pray for healing for Victoria, her sister, and the driver of the other car involved in an accident last week.
- Prayers for my 2 best friends, dealing with health issues. Please pray for good news this week with their medical tests.
- Pray for peace in the world, especially Ukraine.
- Continuing prayers for Barb in the last days of terminal lung cancer.
- Prayers for a steady, non-fluctuating job.
- Prayers that a close friend finds encouragement and enlightening in a daily reading booklet.
- Prayers of thanksgiving for our sister-in-law, who is celebrating her birthday on Monday.
- Prayers for Larry, Cindy, and Kay.
- Pray for peace in the hearts of those who have lost a child, as we continue through the season of advent. May the love of Christ surround them.
- Pray for my friend, who is having surgery today.
- Prayers for a friend having surgery this afternoon- may it be successful.

- Please keep Liz in prayers as she is suffering with severe abdominal pain. Hoping her meds will help. Give her strength and patience to endure. God's love and care to her.
- Prayers for healing and patience for my sister-in-law, Deb, as she continues to recover from shoulder replacement surgery.
- Prayers for Pat Riggs-Berthold, who has extended her stay in rehab, recovering from a pacemaker implant.
- Prayers for a mother and children.
- We pray for all the members of the groups that meet in our church, seeking to end their addictions. Please let them feel your love and grant them peace.
- Please continue to pray for all of the people in Ukraine fighting to remain a free and independent nation. Some remain hopeful but many are worn down. Lord, please give them strength.
- We pray for all the victims in Palestine and Israel, especially the children. So many have been killed.
- Please pray for peace and justice throughout the world!

OFFICE HOURS

Monday -10am -2pm

Tuesday - Office Closed

Wednesday - 10am - 2pm

Thursday - 10am - 2pm

Friday - Office Closed

The Poinsettia order form is below.

Christmas Poinsettias Order Form

Christmas Poinsettias, in memory of/or in honor of loved ones, will beautify our sanctuary during Christmas time and then will be delivered to shut-ins by our deacons.

The cost is \$12 per plant and checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, marked "Poinsettias". Please specify all information on the form below and return to:

First Presbyterian Church
743 W Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI 49201.

If mailed, please designate "Poinsettia" on your envelope.

Names of donors and those remembered/honored will be listed in the Christmas Eve Service bulletins. Orders must be received by December 15th.

Number of Plants:

In Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Given By:

Phone:



What is a Reverse Advent Calendar?

Often an Advent Calendar is used to count down the days until Christmas by opening a box and discovering an ornament or something that helps you focus on the Advent journey. **A Reverse Advent Calendar focuses on giving instead of receiving** - a Christ centered idea indeed - since Christmas is all about God and giving himself to us as a baby.

Pick out a sturdy basket, box or bag and fill it with donations. If you follow the items listing on the calendar on the other side of this sheet you will be donating to four of First Presbyterian Church's mission projects.

Bring your donations to church on Christmas Eve or any Sunday worship (you don't have to wait for December 24.) There will be someone at the upper driveway door to help you unload your donations. The mission committee will sort the items and deliver them to the appropriate organizations shortly after the first of the year.

If you are not up to collection this many items, you can make a monetary donation. Simply put Advent Calendar on a pew envelope or in the memo field of a check. Someone will do the shopping for you.

If you have an idea for something better to supply remember. The list is only a suggestion and any donation is welcome!

Hope

Peace

First Presbyterian Church
Jackson, Michigan
www.jacksonfirstpers.com

Joy

Love

Please use this giving calendar to inspire your thoughtful shopping this holiday season!

All donations will be gathered together at church and then donated to our partner charities:

The Reverse Advent supports four missions:

- ★ Immanuel Lutheran food pantry
- ★ Jackson Personal Care Ministry
- ★ NE elementary clothing closet
- ★ JFPC diaper closet

There are printed copies of this calendar at church, or you can print the file attached to this week's emailed bulletin.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 25	25 kid's toothbrush	26 canned soup	27 box of cereal	28 dish soap	29 peanut butter	30 fruit jam
purchase a youth size gloves or mittens and hat						
December 1	2 kid's deodorant	3 dessert mix	4 applesauce	5 diapers size 5 or 6	6 canned vegetable	7 Christmas treat
purchase a youth size shirt						
8 canned fruit	9 tooth paste	10 peanut butter	11 fruit jam	12 canned tomatoes	13 paper towels	14 mac and cheese
purchase youth size socks						
15 canned vegetable	16 kid's shampoo	17 canned fruit	18 oatmeal	19 tomato soup	20 toilet paper	21 box of crackers
purchase youth size underwear						
22 tuna	23 kid's bath soap	24 item of your choice	25 Happy Birthday Jesus		See other side for more information	

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Love INC has need of a coordinator

Please forward the job posting below to anyone who may be interested:

Clearinghouse Coordinator Position Description

Purpose

To carry out tasks assigned by the Executive Director in operating the business of Love INC of Jackson County.

Responsibilities

1. Management of Love INC's custom database, performing quality data checks, managing volunteer profiles, and updating community and church resources.
2. Recruit, train, and schedule office and field volunteers.
3. Take phone requests from the community when necessary.
4. Manage community resources and partner church relationships
5. Love INC presentations in churches and/or community groups
6. Encourage prayer support.
7. Share and encourage others to know the mission statement and core values.

Qualifications

1. Self-motivated, willing to learn, novice computer and database skills,
2. Organized, oral, and written communication skills; open to promotion; passionate about implementing our mission.
3. Accept and sign Apostles Creed statement

Training

Training and ongoing support are provided by Love INC.

Salary

20/hours per week at \$16.25/hour.

Send your resume and cover letter to director@loveofjackson.org