

DECEMBER 2017

TIDINGS

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Come discover how you can get involved and serve at John Knox!

JOHN KNOX | **OPEN. CARING.**
PRESBYTERIAN | **COMMUNITY.**

3000 North High School Road + Indianapolis, IN 46224
9 am Traditional Service + 10 am Sunday School +
11 am Contemporary Service

JOHNKNOX.ORG

Frank Mansell, Pastor

Lisa Crismore, Commissioned Ruling Elder

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT JKPC

HANGING OF THE GREENS SATURDAY - DECEMBER 2 - 9am

The Worship Team and Chancel Guild invite everyone in the church to join us in decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. We will gather at 9am for a scrumptious breakfast, then work throughout the morning placing decorations around the church. Thanks for your willingness to assist in making the church look beautiful for Christmas this season!

***EVENING OF READERS' THEATER* CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DEC. 3 - 6:30pm**

Our annual Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 3, at 6:30pm, in the sanctuary. Five stories will be presented as a "Reader's Theater" to help us usher in the spirit of the season. We will be singing carols throughout the program. The rehearsal for the "stars" of the show will be Sunday, December 3, starting at 12:15pm (lunch and dinner will be provided). Join us for a fun evening, and invite a friend or neighbor for this special evening together!

PW HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AND CONCERT DECEMBER 10 - 12:15pm

The Presbyterian Women invite you to attend the annual Christmas Banquet on Sunday, December 10, at 12:15pm. The meal will be catered by Harry Greene. Following lunch the Circle City Ringers will be entertaining us again this year. Circle City Ringers is an auditioned bronze-level community handbell ensemble. If you are unable to attend the lunch, plan to join us in the Sanctuary around 1:30pm for the program. Please invite your friends to attend the program as well. The program is open to the community. There will be a sign up on the bulletin board for the lunch. Tickets will not be sold for the lunch or the concert. We suggest you consider a donation of \$10.00 for adults, less for children. If you are only attending the concert a free will offering will be taken at that time.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT JKPC

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE TUESDAY - DECEMBER 19 - 6:30pm

For many, the holiday season is not an especially happy time, as it brings back memories of loved ones no longer here. While Christmas is often filled with joy, it also can be filled with pain, sadness, and grief. This year, we will come together again in a time of worship to acknowledge those feelings in a “Blue Christmas Service” on December 19. This will be a service of scripture, music, and prayer. We hope you will feel led to come and share in this time of worship, as we offer all of who we are to God in this time of preparation for the Christ Child.

CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL - 10am - WORSHIP - 11am CANDLELIGHT SERVICE- 7:30pm

We will have a special Sunday schedule on December 24, since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will have Church School for all ages at 10am, and a contemporary worship service at 11am. **There will not be a 9am service that morning.** In the evening, we will celebrate the coming of the Christ Child at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. That service will include music by the Adult Chancel Choir and Spirit Alive Band. It will include scripture, carols, communion and candlelight. Childcare will be provided. Join us in the morning and evening on Christmas Eve, as we welcome the Son of God into our lives!

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP DECEMBER 31 - 11am

On New Year's Eve, we will have one worship service at 11am. There will be no church school or other activities at the church that morning. Come as you are and join us in celebrating the beginning of a new year as children of God!

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 3

COMMUNION: Sunday, December 3, the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated. Plan to be in church on that day to share this meal with the people of God.

FOOD ON THE FIRST: Food items (non-perishable) are collected on the first Sunday of the month and then taken to St. John's Storehouse Food Pantry. Bring your items on Sunday, December 3, or during office hours the week before.

RING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL THURSDAY - DECEMBER 14

It is time to think about decorating for the Holidays! And we are already hearing little red bells ringing around the town!

John Knox Presbyterian Church will again help The Salvation Army ring the bells on **Thursday, December 14, from 10 am to 8pm** at the Kroger store on Crawfordsville Road.

Please sign up for the time(s) you can help on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Thank you!

PRIMETIMERS GATHERING TUESDAY - DECEMBER 12

We will gather on Tuesday, December 12, at 10:30am to car-pool down to Ayres Tearoom located in the Indiana State Museum. Our lunch reservations are at 11:30am. We have 15 spots available, so please call the church soon and let us know if you plan to attend (317-291-0308). We may have to increase our reservation and will need to do it soon as the tearoom is only open during the Christmas holidays. Everyone is welcome to join us! Feel free to contact Lisa Crismore if you have any questions.

NATIVITY OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY-SATURDAY - DECEMBER 15-16

Something NEW this year to celebrate our Savior's birth! Do you have a favorite nativity scene(s) that you would like to share with our church family and neighbors? Does it have a story? How old is it? Has it been in your family for several generations, or did you buy it new, or was it a gift? Is it from another country? Tell us the story of your nativity(ies). They will be displayed at our first time offered - Nativity Open House on December 15-16.

What: Your nativities, along with your name, phone or email and its story (if there is one - no story, that is fine, too!).

How: Bring your nativity(ies) to Lisa's office between Wednesday, December 6 - Wednesday, December 13. Then, you will need to pick them up on Sunday, December 17.

When: The Open House display will be held in Fellowship Hall for church members and our community to view on **Friday, December 15 from 5-8pm & Saturday, December 16 from 12-6pm.** Please pop-in any time and browse at your leisure! There will also be cookies and punch to enjoy. Lisa Crismore will oversee the nativities during the Open House to make sure they stay safe.

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THANK YOU FROM KIM GRANT

Dear John Knox Church Family,

I do not have the words to fully express my love and gratitude to you all for the 9 years we served our Almighty God together here at John Knox. Every day I got to come and serve as secretary here was a blessing and a joy. Thank you for that privilege. I am thankful for the chance to be in worship with all of you on November 12th, and for the lovely luncheon and celebration afterward. Your being there meant so much! And I thank you for the beautiful picture with the needlepoint JKPC logo (made by Frank) and signed by you all, and for the monetary gift for Bill and me to travel. It was truly overwhelming. You are and will always continue to be my John Knox Church family!

With thanks and love -

Kim

GRIEFSHARE STARTING ON JANUARY 9

We will be starting a GriefShare class once again this winter at John Knox. GriefShare is a national support group program used by churches across the United States. This program is 13-weeks in length, and will include meeting once-a-week in a group, as well as time spent individually with devotions and workbook exercises. **We are going to try meeting at a different time of day this session. The group will meet on Tuesday mornings, from 10:30am-12pm in the Parlor. The first session will be on January 9.** The cost of participating is \$15 per person. Contact the Church Office to register (317-291-0308 or jkpcoffice@comcast.net). Contact Frank Mansell with questions or to learn more (317-291-0308 or jkpcpastor@comcast.net).

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Thanks to everyone for sending me to prison (that always sounds odd to say it like that!). Because of your generosity, I was able to turn \$575 into Kairos of Indiana to cover part of the cost for the retreat. Many of you baked delicious chocolate chip cookies, which showed the women that you care and were key in the forgiveness exercise. Many people surrounded us with prayer, which was such a blessing. The women could visibly see the prayer chain encircle the room with each link having names of the people raising us up to God. I am grateful to the folks who attended the closing as this gives the women another visual of Christ face to them. This is always so difficult for me to go into the prison to do this ministry and it was even more this year.

Even though it was tough, God's presence was truly felt and the power of the Holy Spirit could clearly be seen as the women were transformed during this retreat. May that community that God has formed continue to grow, strengthen and grant support to these women. Thanks again for all that you do for Kairos.

Blessings,
Lisa

TIDINGS DEADLINE

Articles for the **JANUARY 2018** issue of the John Knox Tidings are **due by Thursday, DECEMBER 14.**

The preferred way to turn in your articles is to email them directly to the church office: **JKPCTidings@gmail.com** or place them in the **TIDINGS mailbox** in the Church Office.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUNDRAISING

TRASH BAG SALES - Trash bags will be sold between services on Sunday, December 17. We recently ordered more bags so we have plenty of bags in all 3 sizes. The bags are \$13 per roll. Thanks for your support.

DINING EVENT REPORT - There will be no dining event in December. There will be one in January. The January Tidings will have the date and location.

RECYCLING PROCEEDS:

METAL: \$226.76

PAPER: \$2.00

BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER FOR DEBT RETIREMENT

Thank you to all who purchased Butter Braids to support the fund raising efforts toward our debt retirement. A special thank you goes to Sharon Flannery who took an order sheet to her bridge clubs and got lots of orders. The braids are in the freezer in the kitchen, if you have not already picked yours up. We earned a profit of \$295.60. Thank you all, and enjoy your Butter Braids!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	9am Worship	C o m b i n e d Worship	11am Worship
Oct 29		133	
Nov 5	81		34
Nov 12	81		87
Nov. 19	72		52

PW BAZAAR THANK YOU

“THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!” PW (Presbyterian Women) is so grateful for all who participated in so many ways in the preparation for and the working of the Holiday Traditions Bazaar 2017! We feel very blessed to have such talented, caring, giving, and generous members and friends of JKPC. We cleared just over \$3,800 this year!! Special “thanks”...

- To those who donated crafts and baked goods. What wonderful variety we had!
- To those who helped set up the bazaar on Friday and those who helped run it on Saturday. It’s a great fellowship time!!
- To those who donated items for the drawings and those who bought tickets! Betty Hartman won the Candy/Gift Card Bouquet with \$500 worth of gift cards, Brad Remington won the Candy/Gift Card Bouquet with \$245 worth of gift cards, and Gretchen Liechty (Margaret Von-Hoven’s daughter) won the Colts ticket package!!
- To head noodlemaker...Dan Fisher and crew for making ALL of our noodles!
- To Carol McKeown and Bev Ray who took charge of the bread baking and recruiting donations of baked goods.
- To Sandy Jordan and Cindy Hiday, and their kitchen crew, for coordinating and serving the wonderful breakfast and lunch the day of the bazaar.
- To our Boy Scout Troop #828 leader John Minniear and his two sons, who helped set up tables, trees and gazebo!

I couldn’t begin to name all our helpers/volunteers/donors by name, but please know that you all are very much appreciated!

We encourage all to take a well deserved break. Rest up, gather new ideas, and get ready to make Holiday Traditions 2018 even better!!

Pam Herman, bazaar chair

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND SERVICE

ANNUAL COOKIE SALE - DECEMBER 17

DONATE YOUR BAKED GOODS: Prepare your favorite recipes for cookies/candy/fudge/brownies to donate for this sale. Please bring your home-baked donations before 9am on Sunday, December 17.

PURCHASE HOME-BAKED GOODS: 50 cents each or a baker's dozen for \$5....just in time for Christmas. Proceeds will benefit the Debt Retirement Fund. Thanks for the support!

HAT AND MITTEN TREE

Every Advent and Christmas, we have a Hat and Mitten Tree in the main hallway. You are invited to bring new hats, mittens, and scarves for children and place them on the tree. These will then be taken to local elementary schools for children who are in great need. Thank you for helping the children in our community stay warm during these cold winter months!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - DECEMBER 17

One of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering has been collected for decades as a means to support both retired church workers and their spouses who have financial need, as well as students at racial-ethnic colleges of the PC(USA). We will dedicate this offering at John Knox on December 17, and you are invited to use the special offering envelopes found in the pews, or mark your donations "Christmas Joy Offering." Thank you for your generous support!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

The Mission Team wishes to thank all who contributed to the Peace and Global Witness Offering on World Communion Sunday. We received \$935.00 for that offering, and 25% of what was collected (\$233.75) will be given to Seeds of Hope. This local outreach ministry is a place for women who have suffered from addiction to go through recovery and become independent in their lives.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND SERVICE

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE SATURDAY - DECEMBER 30

Ready for a different kind of New Year's Eve celebration? Join us by serving dinner to the residents of Ronald McDonald House on Saturday, December 30, 2017. We will meet at the church at 5:00pm, carpool to the Ronald McDonald House to serve dinner, then help clean up. We always have a (grape juice) toast to bring in the New Year at 7:00pm. We will arrive back at church by 8:30pm.

Can't come in person? You can still donate homemade food to help. Sign up to help or donate food on the bulletin board outside the church office. Questions? Contact Patty McKinnon, 317-686-1900, ext. 231.

NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: This month God has been working through our "New Beginnings" program to help those in need in our community. Six families received food this month from the pantry. We were so blessed to meet new neighbors, help others with housing, and even gave a blanket from the Holiday Bazaar to a gentleman in need. Thank you for all your support of this mission!

LOOKING BACK - LOOKING AHEAD: Since the start of 2016, you have contributed over \$6,000 for the New Beginning Program at John Knox. This has helped countless individuals and families with shelter, food, utility assistance, and other pressing needs. **The offering at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be dedicated for the New Beginnings Program**, as we seek to continue to help our neighbors in need. Thank you for your ongoing, consistent, generous support of this powerful outreach of our Open. Caring. Community!

JKPC YOUTH GRANT UPDATE

First, thank you to everyone who took the time to spend the church school hour with us on Sunday, November 12. It was such a joy to have the opportunity to share with everyone about our experiences over the past 18 months. We appreciate you all being such attentive and thoughtful listeners, for offering your suggestions for future endeavors, as well as for your incredible support and guidance throughout this entire grant process.

Second, we wanted to be sure that we shared with everyone some exciting news in regards to the grant. At the end of this 18-month process, we actually ended up being under budget. As a result, we requested an extension in the hopes that we might have the opportunity to use some of the additional funds to do a winter retreat at Jameson Camp. Thankfully, our request was accepted and we will be spending the first weekend of January 2018 at Jameson Camp!

We are looking forward to this time of rest, reflection, and renewal. During this retreat we will be looking at all of our experiences to think about the ways in which we learned and grew. In an effort to acknowledge our growing edges as a group, we will also be looking at areas in which we did not meet our expectations. All of this reflective work will be with the goal of asking the question - "So what now?" From all of these experiences, what is next? How are we going to utilize this learning and growth for the future?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, feel free to talk to me or any member of the youth group. Thanks again for your support!

Peace,
Tom Markey

WINTER IS HERE! HOW YOU CAN HELP

SHOVELING - Whenever there is a 2"+ snowfall, the driveway and parking lot are plowed. However, the contract does not include the sidewalks and entrances to the church. We need able-bodied individuals who will help shovel and salt prior to Sunday services (by 6:30am). A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by the Church Office. We appreciate everyone willing to participate. Contact a Trustee with questions.

WEATHER IMPACTING ACTIVITIES - As we enter the winter months, sometimes weather can be a problem with events we have scheduled at the church. If you are unsure of whether an activity will go on as planned, please call the church and we will have an updated message on the main menu. We will record any announcements there for changes or cancellations of events due to weather, and will keep that updated accordingly. Also, Frank Mansell will send a group email to those on his list to notify you as well. If you are not on Frank's list and would like to be, email him at jk-pcpastor@comcast.net. Finally, check the church's website and Facebook page, as updates will be posted there.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Linda Clifton	Dec 3	Jim Williams	Dec 12
Carol McKeown	Dec 3	Seraya Baker	Dec 14
Rachel Emery	Dec 5	Jane True	Dec 14
Tim Graves	Dec 7	Marilyn Sutherlin	Dec 18
Ross Estabrook	Dec 8	LeRoy Sullivan	Dec 24
Linda Bourne	Dec 10	Mitchell Wistendahl	Dec 26
Bill Revis	Dec 10	Norma Kraft	Dec 28
Josh Stiles	Dec 10	Matthew Swigart	Dec 28
Dan Bourne	Dec 11	Reed Pellett	Dec 30
Kathy Judy	Dec 11	Bob Pierce	Dec 30
Andrew Shaw	Dec 12	Terry Pitcock	Dec 30

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Through November 19, we have received 80 pledges of financial support for 2018 totaling \$274,000. Of those 80, 36 have increased their pledge from 2017, and there are 5 new pledges for 2018. We have also received pledges totaling \$74,766 for debt retirement in 2018. Thank you!!

There are several households who have not yet turned in their financial commitment for next year, as we seek to meet our goal of \$327,000 in pledges. Thank you for submitting your pledge cards as soon as you are able, and thank you for your generous commitment to Christ's Church at John Knox Presbyterian Church!

FINANCIAL REMINDER

As we near the end of the calendar year, please take note of the following important financial reminders:

- All contributions to the church that are to be counted for 2017 need to be submitted by Sunday, December 31. That is the day we will be making our final deposit for 2017. Contributions received after December 31 will be posted on your January 2018 giving statement.
- If you have made "non-cash" contributions during 2017 and want your contribution to appear on your giving statement for 2017, the deadline to turn in these receipts is in December 24. We do not return original receipts.
- You are welcome to talk to either Cindy Hiday (317-388-1280; cindy.hiday@gmail.com) or Frank Mansell (317-291-0308; jkpcpastor@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

Thank you once again for all you do to make John Knox an Open. Caring. Community!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

Here are some important dates to keep in mind as we look ahead to the start of a new year at John Knox:

January 6 - De-Decoration Day, when we take down all of our Advent/Christmas decorations at church. Come for lunch at 12pm, then help us de-decorate!

January 7 - Back to our normal Sunday morning schedule.

January 20 - Crazy Cards - a fun night of fellowship - don't miss it!

January 28 - Annual Congregational Meeting and Ordination/Installation of Officers; combined worship service.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

The Chancel Guild will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias again this year. Orders are being accepted from now through **December 3**. The cost this year is \$10 per plant.

ORDER FORM FOR POINSETTIAS

Name _____

of plant _____ @ \$10 ea =

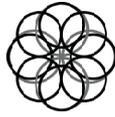
\$ _____ Total

In honor of

or

In memory of

Please return by December 3rd



JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3000 N. High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46224-2002