

John Knox Presbyterian Church

October 19, 2025



Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Arr. Cindy Berry

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

* Call to Worship

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

The world and all who live in it belong to God.

God formed us from the dust of the ground, breathing life into our lungs.

We come to praise the Creator and to care for creation with thankful hearts.

Let us worship the One who makes all things new!

* Hymn

"God of the Fertile Fields"

#714

* Call to Confession and Silent Prayer

* Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess that we have not always been faithful caretakers of your earth.

We have taken more than we've given, ignored the groaning of creation, and turned away from the cries of those most harmed.

Forgive us, Lord. Teach us again to plant, to protect, and to live gently upon your good earth.

* Words of Forgiveness

Hear the good news — God's mercies are new every morning. In Christ, creation is being renewed.

Thanks be to God! We are forgiven and called to tend God's garden with love.

*Sung Response

"Amen" twice

#600

* = Standing as able *Italics* = Leader **Bold** = People

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Colossians 1: 15-16

NRSVue

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing

Second Reading

Genesis 2: 4-15

The Inclusive Bible

The Inclusive Bible © 2007 Priests for Equality, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

At the time when YHWH made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth nor had any wild plant sprung up, for YHWH had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a flow of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil.

So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

YHWH planted a garden to the east, in Eden – “Land of Pleasure” – and placed in it the earth creature that had been made. Then YHWH caused every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, to spring from the soil. In the center of the garden was the Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

A river flows through Eden to water the garden, after which it branches into four tributaries. The first stream is named Pishon, or “Spreader.” It circles through Havilah, a land rich in gold, gold of the highest quality. There are gum resins there, and precious onyx stones. The second stream is named Gihon, or “Gusher,” and it flows through the entire land of Cush.

The third stream is the Tigris, which borders Assyria on the east. The fourth stream is the Euphrates. Then YHWH took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Tending God’s Garden”

Rev. Maggie Lewis

Hymn

“O God, in Whom All Life Begins”

#308

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Church and Community Life

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory

“Praise and Thanksgiving/Morning Has Broken”

arr. Thomas Keesecker

* **Sung Response** “We Give Thee But Thine Own” v. 1 AND 2 #708

* **Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayers.**

When offering prayers, please use first names only and remember this is being recorded and will be online.

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*** Sending Song** "O God, You Are My God" #743

Please be seated for a brief congregational meeting to elect officers.

Thanksgiving and gratitude to Ruling Elders Beth N and Sheila C and Deacon Linda G for their completed terms of service.

Nominees:

Ruling Elder, Class of 2028: Vallory B

Deacon: Class of 2026: Dixie S

Deacon: Class of 2028: Sheila C

*** Charge and Benediction**

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude "The Quiet Harvest" Thomas Keesecker

Liturgist: Doug Anderson
Music Director: Anna Robinson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis
Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Church and Community Life

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (a short one!) will be held after worship **TODAY** to elect officers to begin service in 2026.

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK PAPER DRIVE During the months of **September** and **October** your mission team is heading up a paper drive with the items collected being given to our local food bank. We will build a tower in the narthex with your donations of toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, diapers and baby wipes. Monetary donations will be accepted too, with the mission committee making a purchase for you. Designate "Paper Drive" on your donation. If you have any questions, ask Sheila.

During the paper drive, food and monetary donations are also welcome. Designate "KCFB" or "Food Bank" and we will route the money to the food bank. Basic food needs are cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, tomato produces, soup and chili, mac and cheese, and canned fruit. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at keizercommunityfoodbank.org. For more information, or contact Sheila or Teresa.

FELLOWSHIP TIME after worship is a wonderful time to talk with friends and make new ones. It's even more pleasant with goodies in hand. Please see Joan to provide goodies, just bring some, or leave a free-will offering in the basket on the table so we can purchase refreshments when home-baked treats aren't available. Thank you!

WANT TO MEET WITH MAGGIE? She's usually in Keizer on Thursdays, but not always. Email, call, or speak with her to set up a mutually convenient time to visit.

Please see the information on last page for August and September's financial summary and session notes from September's meeting.

If you have questions about any of this material or about any other part of how John Knox works or how we are doing, please talk to Pastor Maggie or any of our ruling elders: Vallory B, Sheila C., Beth N., Bronwyn C. (treasurer), Anna R., Mary Jo E., Eileen S. (clerk of session), or Rosemary W.

You are Invited!

Please join us for a lasagna, salad, and breadsticks meal after worship next Sunday, October 26, followed by dessert featuring a variety of brownies by Vallory and a rousing game of Stewardship Bingo! This fun event helps us think about our role in stewardship of creation, relationships, time, and resources while sharing good food, laughs, and fellowship. No RSVP necessary.

Looking Ahead

Fri-Sat Oct. 24-25 CASCADES PRESBYTERY meeting at Westminster Pres, Salem
All are welcome. Details available on cascadespresbytery.org.
or talk with Eileen, Mary Jo, or Maggie.

Sun. Oct. 26 10:30 Worship followed by a meal hosted by some session members and STEWARDSHIP BINGO! Please plan to join us for fellowship and fun!

Sun. Nov. 2 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion

October Birthdays

1	Cariana H.	22	Randy L.
13	Ben D.	24	Shirley B #102!!
14	Rosemary W.	29	Paul C.

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher.

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

JKPC August 2025 Financial Report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$4,955	\$4,752	\$44,818	\$47,153	\$83,910
Offerings	288	583	3,8714	4,667	7,,000
Misc.	67	542	4,839	4,333	6,500
Christ Jar/ CHP	156	90	1,098	720	1,080
Building Use	250	100	923	800	1,200
Per Capita			900	600	600
Food Bank Donations	150	150	1,325	1,200	1,800
Backpack B Donations	100	100	2,050	800	1,200
INC. TOTAL	\$5,966	\$6,317	\$59,767	\$60,273	\$103,290
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$7,371	\$6,978	\$76,672	\$69,384	\$106,795
PROFIT/ <LOSS>	<\$1,405>	<\$661	<\$16,905>	<\$9,111>	<\$3,505>
<i>Including Investment Income, unrealized loss/gain and fees</i>					
	\$7,174	<\$661>	\$21,473	<\$9,111>	<\$3,505>

Treasurer's Report for August 2025

- August ended with a loss of \$1,405.
- Monthly pledges were slightly above budget; year-to-date \$2,300 below budget, mostly due to spreading out a lump sum payment. Plate offerings are approx. \$800 below budget, and building use is slightly above budget.
- Overall, the expenses are reasonably close to budget.
- It is important to thank members and friends for their faith-filled giving which enables us to be the hands and feet of Christ in this community. We are supporting heat assistance programs through NW Natural and PGE; we support Congregations Helping People, the Keizer Community Food Bank, Backpack Buddies (20 children) and foster children in Marion County. Through giving to the PC(USA) Special Offerings we have supported relief efforts in the Israel/Palestine conflict, the war in Ukraine, and US areas affected by wildfires. Locally, we donated to Punx with Purpose, a Salem non-profit organization Salem supporting our community's at-risk youth.

JKPC September 2025 Financial Report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$12,215	\$13,602	\$57,033	\$60,755	\$83,910
Offerings	245	583	4,059	5,250	7,,000
Misc.	1,457	542	6,296	4,875	6,500
Christ Jar/ CHP	50	90	1,148	810	1,080
Building Use	15	100	938	900	1,200
Per Capita			900	600	600
Food Bank Donations	175	150	1,500	1,350	1,800
Backpack B Donations	220	100	2,270	900	1,200
INC. TOTAL	\$14,377	\$15,1677	\$76,144	\$75,440	\$103,290
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$7,024	\$7,421	\$83,696	\$76,804	\$106,795
PROFIT/ <LOSS>	\$7,353	\$7,746	<\$9,552>	<\$1,364>	<\$3,505>
<i>Including Investment Income, unrealized loss/gain and fees</i>					
	\$17,852	\$7,746	\$39,324	<\$1,364>	<\$3,505>

Treasurer's Report for September

- Ended the month in the black \$7,352.85
- An annual pledge received in full boosted figures including special offerings (misc. income)
- Expenses are on par with budget.
- Backpack Buddies has resumed. This year they have spent \$814 of the budgeted \$3,600 and \$1,585.63 from designated gifts. Food costs are increasing, and designated donations are always welcome.

Session notes from September

- Discussed and passed a motion outlining Pastor Maggie's salary and benefits package for 2026, which includes a 2.10% COLA increase and increased provider costs for basic medical insurance. We chose to offer and pay for 100% of the cost for dental insurance (\$310/year) as part of her package. Exact figures will follow next month when the official contract is approved by session.