

John Knox Presbyterian Church
February 22, 2026
PDA Blue Shirt Sunday & First Sunday in Lent
The good news is... so good
it catches us by surprise



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

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Meditation

“Start with a Wedding”

Inspired by John's celebratory beginning

When it comes time to write my obituary for the local paper, please do not start with my résumé. Do not start with my career or my worldly accomplishments (however small they may be). Do not take up space writing about my alma mater or outlining the entire family tree (we know who we are). Instead, spend your precious little word count on how beautiful it all was. Write about the dinner parties and the fireside chats. Write about the evenings we spent on the front stoop counting fireflies. Write about summers in the mountains and the garden that we grew. Write about the seasons we cried out to God, and the prayers that God answered. Write about the nights we danced, and the days we laughed. When it comes time to tell the story of my life, please take a lesson from the Gospel of John, and start with a wedding. Start with a miracle. Start with the fact that all of it held joy.

~~Rev. Sarah Speed

Prelude

Words of Welcome

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

*** Call to Worship**

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

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

So come on in.
There's no time to waste!
This surprising good news is here for you.
Let us worship this good-news God.

* Hymn "Sing of God Made Manifest" #156

* Call to Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
somewhere along the way we picked up the message
that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship and
quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions at the door.
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a
mustard seed—unruly and untamed.
You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.
And all of a sudden, we wonder:
Can we be like that mustard seed?
Can we be faithful and unruly?
Can we be playful and curious?
Can we be messy and still be yours?
We know the answer already.
The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.*
Forgive our doubt.
Pull us closer into your embrace.
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.
Amen.

* Words of Forgiveness

God's grace is wild and unruly.
God's mercy is abundant and surprising.
God's love is expansive and unending.
So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"
the answer is and always will be:
of course, of course, of course.
This is the good news of the gospel.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Sung Response "Have Mercy, God, Upon My Life" #421 verses 4 and 5

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Matthew 13: 31-32

Common English Bible

He told another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and planted in his field. It’s the smallest of all seeds. But when it’s grown, it’s the largest of all vegetable plants. It becomes a tree so that the birds in the sky come and nest in its branches.”

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

Time with our Young and Growing**Second Reading**

John 2: 1-11

Common English Bible

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. When the wine ran out, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They don’t have any wine.”

Jesus replied, “Woman, what does that have to do with me? My time hasn’t come yet.”

His mother told the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Nearby were six stone water jars used for the Jewish cleansing ritual, each able to hold about twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water,” and they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some from them and take it to the headwaiter,” and they did. The headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine. He didn’t know where it came from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew.

The headwaiter called the groom and said, “Everyone serves the good wine first. They bring out the second-rate wine only when the guests are drinking freely. You kept the good wine until now.” This was the first miraculous sign that Jesus did in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

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

Reading

“They’re Out of Wine”

by Rev. Sarah Speed

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
I have seen it alive in the world.**

**And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.**

I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

* Hymn

“Whatever You Do”

see music handout
or projection

RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

Church and Community Life

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Be Rooted in Hope”

Paul Vasile

Anna and Adam Robinson

*Sung Response

“Praise God”

tune #607

Text used with permission from Rev. Bob Boring

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Response for the people’s prayers: *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

The Lord’s Prayer

SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

* Sending Song

“Be Rooted in Hope”

see music handout or projection

* Charge and Blessing

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude

Liturgist: Sheila Cunningham

Pianist: Adam Robinson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Music Director: Anna Robinson

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. Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed, © A Sanctified Art, LLC. sanctifiedart.org/ All rights reserved.

Church and Community Life

THIS LENT, we return to the roots of Jesus’ life and teaching—good news that is radical, joyful, and grounding—calling us to love our neighbors, seek justice, care for the vulnerable, and trust God’s expansive grace. Even when it challenges or unsettles us, the good news is alive among us, inviting us not just to believe it, but to embody it in a world hungry for hope.

PDA BLUE SHIRT SUNDAY is TODAY! The first Sunday in Lent is designated "Wear your blue T-shirt to church Sunday" as a testament to the many ways Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) makes a difference around the world when disaster strikes. Thousands of volunteers each year put on a blue T-shirt that reads, “Out of chaos, hope.” Even if we personally have not gone out on a PDA mission trip, we support their work through financial gifts, actions and prayers – and wearing blue on this special day.

See the insert today for information on one of the many programs that PDA participates in and the opportunity for you to join. On the back page, BY THE NUMBERS gives a statistical picture of the work that we are helping to accomplish around the nation and the world.

CONGREGATION PHOTO We also take a picture of the congregation immediately after worship – all are encouraged to participate, even if you forgot to wear your blue shirt.

PER CAPITA If you are able to pay your \$50 per capita in addition to your planned giving to JKPC, please mark your donation “per capita.” Your donations will help us keep our budget focused on our mission here at JKPC while we are also supporting the presbytery’s work in the region.

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. Thanks!

Looking Ahead

March 1 10:30 Second Sunday in Lent
Worship with Communion – *The good news is... great love for God & neighbor*

March 8 10:30 Third Sunday in Lent
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
Worship *The good news is... together, the impossible is possible-*

March 15 10:30 Fourth Sunday in Lent
Worship: *The good news is ... protection & care for the vulnerable*
Christ Jar Offering
Birthday/Anniversary celebration

February Birthdays					
5	Paul A.	18	Paul W.	26	Jacob C.
7	Doug A.			28	Betty C.

March Celebrations					
Birthdays					
2	Sally H	9	Bronwyn C.		
8	Adam R.	31	CJ H.		
Anniversary					
6	CJ and Carrie H.				

January Financial Report

As expected, January ended with a loss (\$21,072.78) after paying our Presbytery Partnership Giving of \$8,718, per capita of \$1,550, passing along the Christmas Joy offering and other 2025 PC(USA) special offerings still on our books totaling \$5,540, as well as the fourth installment of our property and liability insurance of \$1,660. This deficit will gradually be reduced over the course of the year. We have chosen to pay the annual per capita and Presbytery Partnership Giving all at once in January, so our figures are a bit skewed during the first months of the year.

Bronwyn Curtis

JKPC January 2026 Financial Report

INCOME	Actual	Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Pledges	\$2,395	\$3,465	\$2,395	\$3,465	\$82,180
Offerings	375	417	375	417	5,000
Misc.	70	708	70	708	8,500
Christ Jar/ CHP	50	100	50	100	1,200
Building Use	45	100	45	100	1,200
Per Capita					600
Food Bank Donations	150	150	150	150	1,800
Backpack B Donations	100	175	100	175	2,100
INC. TOTAL	\$3,185	\$4,,115	\$3185	\$5,115	\$102,580
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$24,258	\$22,757	\$24,258	\$22,757	\$113,070
PROFIT/ <LOSS>	<\$21,073>	<\$17,642>	<\$21,073>	<\$17,642>	<\$10,490>
<i>Including Investment Income, unrealized loss/gain and fees</i>					
	<\$15,504>	<\$17,641>	<\$15,504>	<\$17,641>	<\$10,490>

Session Notes

On President's Day, Feb. 16, the deacons and elders met here at JKPC for our annual Officers Retreat. The agenda was full, and we made it through almost all of it! All active ordained officers are required to be trained in boundaries training, including prevention of sexual misconduct, and we received that training from Pastor Maggie, with help from a video by Paul Belz-Templeman. We explored two different case studies dealing with boundaries and privacy issues. All that talking made us hungry! After a break, we explored the definition and duties of each of the ordained offices – elder, deacon, minister – and then moved on to the same description of the various committees at John Knox. Again, we had some great discussions. After we broke for lunch, we shared worship and communion, and then moved to more committee talk and into the formal session business that was on the docket.

After reviewing the updated position description for the pianist/accompanist, a motion passed to approve the description as amended and to authorize Vallory to write an ad to be published in various appropriate places.

We adjourned with prayer close to our planned closing time (3 pm).

It's always good to meet together in person, and this was no exception. We learned, puzzled, laughed, shared a meal, worshipped, and prayed together – sometimes all at once! Thanks to Pastor Maggie for putting together a retreat that combined required training with thoughtful conversation and learning, and then leading us as we explored how we might be able to work smarter, not harder, as we listen for God's call to John Knox in this time and place.

Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy accepting registrants

Hosting organizations include Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



LOUISVILLE — More than 350 people have signed up for emotional and spiritual care webinars being offered by a cadre of service providers and faith groups, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Starting March 24 and continuing **through April 28**, the organizations will offer six weeks of live, free online programs about topics such as building resilience and preventing suicide, as part of the 2026 Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy.

The programs will be held on **Tuesdays from** [11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Eastern)] **8 am – 9:30 am (Western)** and are open to anyone who's interested.

"Everyone involved in planning, presenting and supporting the Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy is excited to be able to present the programs in the six-week series," said the Rev. Dr. Kathy Riley, PDA Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care. "We will welcome people from all backgrounds and with a range of experiences in disaster and trauma work, and hope this will be followed by additional offerings in the future."

"We are all surprised and gratified by the number of people who have signed up," Riley said. "PDA and the other organizations that are presenting in the Academy each offer our programs on a regular basis, but this is the first time we've collaborated on offering these workshops in a coordinated series. It may be that the breadth of offerings and the chance to hear from three different organizations has led to the high number of registrations."

By registering once, prospective participants will be signed up for all sessions and may attend as many webinars as desired.

Here is the schedule of webinars:

March 24: "Calm in Crisis" (Lutheran Disaster Response)

March 31: "Talk Saves Lives" (suicide prevention) (Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Prevention Division)

April 7: "Responding with Care: A Trauma-Informed Approach to Disaster Response for Diverse Communities" (Lutheran Disaster Response)

April 14: "Risk and Protective Factors" (Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Prevention Division)

April 21: "Tools for Building Resilience" (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

April 28: "Emotional and Spiritual Care in Human-Caused Disasters" (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Following each 90-minute webinar session, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a 15-minute guided reflection to cultivate deeper compassion for themselves and others.

For additional details or to register for the academy, go to the [Webinar Hub](#) at crisiscareministries.net. You can also reach out to Riley at Kathryn.riley@pcusa.org for more information.

This article is from Presbyterian News Service, Feb. 18, 2026, by Darla Carter. The online version is at <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/2026/2/18/emotional-and-spiritual-care-academy-accepting-registrants>

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, your gifts resulted in nearly
250 grants to **42** countries and
32 states totaling more than **\$5.8 million**
in support for disaster survivors.

Middle East and Europe

• Ukraine • Moldova • Hungary • Spain • Poland • Greece • Israel • Lebanon • Palestine (West Bank and Gaza Strip) • Syria • Turkey

Asia & Oceania

• India • Nepal • Philippines • Sri Lanka • Thailand • Tonga

Africa

• Cameroon • Democratic Republic of Congo • Ethiopia • Ghana • Kenya • Madagascar • Sierra Leone • Somalia • South Sudan • Sudan • Tanzania • Uganda • Zambia • Zimbabwe

Latin America and the Caribbean

• Brazil • Cuba • Chile • Dominican Republic • El Salvador • Grenada • Guatemala • Haiti • Jamaica • Mexico • Nicaragua

United States – 32 states, including Puerto Rico

PDA has two sources of funding: a portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and donations designated to PDA. In 2024, because of your generous support, PDA was able to: grant more than \$5.8 million in 42 countries and 32 states (including Puerto Rico); support 1,858 work team volunteers equivalent to more than \$1.7 million in volunteer time to help rebuild communities affected by disaster; deploy 212 National Response Team members to 46 presbyteries; offer more than \$1.6 million in Migration Accompaniment Ministry grants; present Emotional & Spiritual Care programs to more than 200 participants; have PDA's sixth documentary, *Evicting the American Dream*, chosen for wider distribution across major media platforms; and with Church World Service, aid in the collection and distribution of 89,506 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets. Thank you!

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

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Pastor's email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com

Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836

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.