



## A Letter From the Pastor

*"I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love, and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, that it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." -- Ephesians 3:17-19. The Living Bible translation*

Beloved,

Love is in the Air! Or at least the marketing of it, as stores are flooded with pink and red chocolate heart boxes, flowers, jewelry and more. But, as most of you already know, love is not something that can be bought, nor is it something meant to be celebrated one day of the year.

The Church knows a thing or two about love. God's "overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love," as Cory Asbury sings, which is incomparable. It's a Love that unconditionally calls us and claims us as God's beloved – a Love that we cannot earn or lose. It's a Love that seeks us out when we feel lost and unlovable. This Love reminds us that nothing we can do or say or think or left undone will ever be able to separate us from God's love for us. It doesn't get better than that! And we, Church, get invited to share that kind of Love with each other. As imperfectly and beautifully as we humans do.

At JFPC God's love is in the air – every day! Can you feel it? So many of you have told me that you can

- in the warm welcome at worship and fellowship
- in the ways you are caring for one another (meals, calls, transportation for those who need it, prayer, words of care and encouragement)
- in the fact that on any given Sunday we have life-long members, first-time visitors, new seekers, and a wide diaspora of online community (in Michigan, Arizona, Texas, Florida, and beyond!) worshipping together
- In the ways God is actively preparing and providing for our summer plans (finding the right pastoral intern to cover our Renewal Time, forming an exciting VBS, etc)
- In the challenging and faith-provoking discussions had at Bible Study, Book Group, Life Goes on Group, and Circle Up formation

In the music and spirit of worship at JFPC

This February, as we see signs everywhere in pop culture celebrating one dimension of love, remember that God's love goes far deeper and wider. At JFPC, we celebrate God's love every day. On Valentine's Day, and every day, I am here to remind you that you are loved, cherished, celebrated. You belong. You are needed. Not just one day of the year, but every day. Not just when you get it "right," or have it all together (as if any of us ever do!), but always.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Lynne

Feeling  
thankful  
and not  
expressing  
it is like  
wrapping  
a present  
and not  
giving it!

## HOLY TRAVELS!

### Holy Land 2023-2024

You asked for it, you've got it! Some have asked for another pilgrimage to the Holy Land but with sites we have not yet seen. This trip was designed to repeat some of the beloved places (Sea of Galilee, Bethlehem, Jacob's Well, and others) with specific attention to the women in the Bible.

This Holy Land experience is open to all who seek to hear the often-hidden voices of the women of the Bible. We will visit sites that will remind us of stories that stretch from Sarah all the way to the women of the gospels. From the tombs of Sarah and Rachel to the Samaritan Woman's well, and the women at the tomb of Jesus, we will travel from north to south. Crossing into Jordan, we will go to Petra and remember Herod Antipas' first Nabatean wife. We will also meet and engage with Christian, Muslim and Jewish women who work for peace and inclusion in Palestine and Israel. Stops will be made to remember all 5 of the women named in Jesus' genealogy. We will renew our baptism at the Jordan. Each day we will worship together, celebrating communion in Jerusalem and a closing dinner. There will even be time to pamper yourself a bit at some spa hotels. This journey will provide an amazing way to hear the Christmas season bells and ring in the New Year!

**TRAVEL DATES:** December 28th, 2023 - Jan 10th, 2024.

**COSTS:** \$3325 (per person-double) \$4305 (per person single) plus airfare (estimated to be around \$1300)

**REGISTRATION:** A fully refundable \$500 deposit payable to JFPC by May 1, 2023. (Mark check for Holy Land 2023-24.) Final payment of \$2825 (double) \$3805 (single) due October 7, 2023.

### WHAT ABOUT SCOTLAND?

Several of you have expressed interest in taking a Presbyterian Heritage pilgrimage to Scotland. I had the pleasure of speaking with Rev. James Wallace of Scotus Tours in Scotland. He is very excited about the possibility of planning a trip for us. If you'd like more information about his company, you can google [scotustours.com](http://scotustours.com).

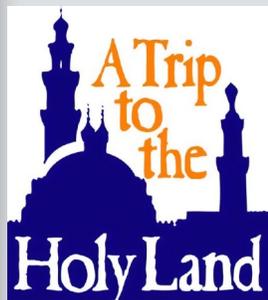
We need a minimum of 24 travelers. (They don't all have to be from JFPC, so feel free to share this with anyone interested.) The price for a 9-day, 8 night tour would be around \$3800 per person (includes lodging, tours, breakfasts & dinners, transportation, etc) PLUS airfare. Currently, we need to gauge interest levels and desired travel dates. Here are the options. Please let me know your preferences as soon as possible so we can decide if this is a viable trip and get planning.

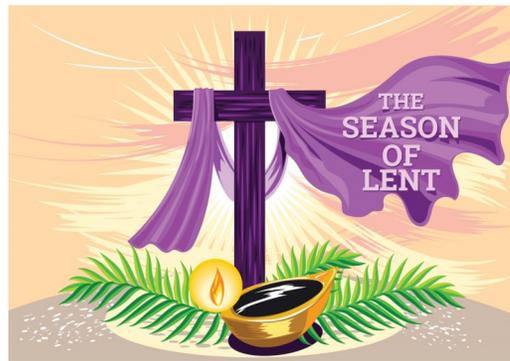
### POSSIBLE DATES:

June 2024

Late September or October 2024

June 2025





This year we will be partnering with the Jonesville United Methodists to offer a community centered Lenten Lunch Series and special worship services. We will have speakers from area agencies inform us of things happening in the area and how we can be better connected. We hope you'll join us. Here is the calendar of events:

- February 22: Ash Wednesday NOON — Lenten Lunch and Noon Service at JFPC  
Evening Service at JUMC 6:30pm
- March 1: Lenten Lunch JFPC Noon (Speaker TBD)
- March 8: Lenten Lunch JFPC Noon (Speaker – Pastor Cathy from King's Kupboard)
- March 15: Lenten Lunch JUMC Noon (Speaker TBD)
- March 22: Lenten Lunch JUMC Noon (Speaker: Brenda Walters, Concord Free Store)
- March 29: Lenten Lunch JUMC Noon (Speaker: Tammy Ryan, SPARC)
- April 6: Maundy Thursday Community Service at JFPC. 6:30pm
- April 7: Community Good Friday Service at JUMC 6:30pm
- April 9: EASTER. (Sunrise service open to the community at JFPC Memorial Garden)

### SABBATICAL/RENEWAL PLANS

God is busy at work helping us prepare for the summer Renewal Time for our pastor and congregation. We are excited to be in conversation with a very faithful and interested potential intern. Please keep the process and preparations in your prayers. We hope to share more information in the days to come!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The “Circle Up” group (formerly known as the Knit Wits) will be meeting at JFPC every month on the first Friday at 9:30 a.m. and the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

# February 2023

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			1 6 pm F&O Mtg Zoom	2 10:30 Book Study	3 7 pm Membership class / Guests- Temple Beth Emeth, Ann Arbor Shabbat	4 3 pm The Chosen @ Jackson 10
5 10:30 Worship/ Communion 12:00 New Membership Class #2	6	7	8 6-8 p.m. Anti- Depression Group	9 10:30 Book Study	10	11 10-12 Valentine Craft Day At JFPC
12 10:30 Worship 12:00 New Membership Class #3	13	14 	15 10:30 Bible Study 1:00 Life Goes on Group-Zoom 6-8 p.m. Anti- Depression Group	16 10:30 Book Study Noon-Take- A-Break at Saucy Dog	17	18
19 10:30 Worship	20	21	22 10:30 Bible Study Noon-Ash Wed. Service at JFPC 6:30 Ash Wed. Service at JUMC 6:30 Session	23 10:30 Book Study	24	25
26 10:30 Worship	27	28	PLEASE NOTE: On Wednesday, Feb. 8, there will be NO Bible Study or Life Goes on Group meeting. Pastor Lynne will be attending a Presbytery meeting.			