

DECEMBER 2018

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 1 - 9:00am

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 9:00am 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

THE BEST INTERGENERATIONAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - DEC. 2 - 6:30pm

Our annual Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 2, at 6:30pm, in the sanctuary, and everyone will be involved! (Don't let that scare you - it's safe.) Those who signed up to read will meet at 3:00pm to "rehearse." A simple meal will be served to them. Everyone please come with an open mind and heart as we begin our holiday season. Join us for a fun evening, and invite a friend or neighbor for this special evening together!

PW HOLIDAY CONCERT AND DINNER SUNDAY - DECEMBER 9

The Presbyterian Women invite you to attend the annual Christmas Banquet to be held Sunday, December 9 at 5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be catered by Harry Greene. Prior to the dinner the Circle City Ringers will be performing in the Sanctuary at 3:30pm. Each year the attendance has grown to see this wonderful group perform. We are especially pleased to see our outside community coming to John Knox to enjoy the performance, as well. The program is open to the community. The Bell Ringers will be joining us for dinner after their performance. **The deadline for reservations will be Dec. 3.** There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Tickets will not be sold for the dinner or the concert. We suggest you consider a donation of \$10.00 for adults, less for children.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT JKPC

NATIVITY OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 15 & 16

Join us for this wonderful new holiday tradition!

See more details on page 5.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE TUESDAY - DECEMBER 18 - 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 18. 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 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 24 - 7:30pm

To celebrate the coming of the Christ Child, we will gather for worship on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Our 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. Plan on attending this special service celebrating the Christ Child’s birth, and consider inviting your friends and family to worship with us that evening!

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 30 - 11:00am

On the Sunday morning after Christmas, we will have one worship service at 11 a.m. There will be no church school or other activities at the church that morning. Come join us for worship as we celebrate the season of Christ’s birth!

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 2

COMMUNION: Sunday, December 2, 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 2, or during office hours the week before.

RING THE SALVATION ARMY BELL THURSDAY - DECEMBER 13

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 13, 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 11

We will gather on Tuesday, December 11, at 10:00am to car-pool down to Ayres Tearoom located in the Indiana State Museum. Our lunch reservations are at 11:00am. We have 20 spots available, so please sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church (317-291-0308) soon and let us know if you plan to attend. We have increased our reservation due to the interest of last year, so please confirm as the tearoom is only open during the Christmas holidays. They may need the extra spots if we can't fill them! Everyone is welcome to join us! Feel free to contact Lisa Crismore if you have any questions.

NATIVITY OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 15-16

Folks enjoyed it last year so why not do it again? This is a chance for you to share your favorite nativities with your friends and neighbors. Last year, many people remarked about how much they enjoyed looking at the nativities as well as reading the stories that went along with them. Were they a gift? Did they come from another country or were they home-made? It would be great to have more than what was shared last year. So, plan on dusting off your Christmas decorations early and bringing your nativities to the church for our Nativity Open House.

What: Your nativities, along with your name, phone or email and its story (How old is it? Was it a gift? What makes it special? Did someone make it? Did it come from another country?). If there isn't a story, no problem. It will be enjoyed by everyone who attends.

How: Bring your nativity(ies) to Lisa's office between Wednesday, December 5 - Wednesday, December 12. Then, you will need to pick them up on Sunday, December 16.

When: The Open House display will be held in the Fellowship Hall for church members and our community to view on **Saturday, December 15 from 1-5pm and on Sunday, December 16 from 9am-noon.** Please pop-in any time and browse at your leisure! There will also be cookies and punch to enjoy. Please know that there will be someone with the nativities at all times. Also, if you would like to help with hospitality for this event on Saturday, please see Lisa Crismore.

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3000 N. High School Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46224

Pastor: Rev. Frank Mansell, jkpcpastor@comcast.net;

Phone: 317-291-0308, johnknox.org

Editor: Linda Bourne, JKPCtidings@gmail.com

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

CANDY/GIFT CARD BOUQUET

Be sure to buy your tickets for a chance to win the CANDY/GIFT CARD BOUQUET at PW's Annual Christmas Program and Dinner on December 9! Tickets are only \$1 each and will be on sale in the main church hallway all through the month of November and right up until the dinner on the 9th. You need not be present to win! This year's bouquets include gift cards worth \$535 for one and over \$300 for the second one. They will be on display on the ticket sales table when you go to buy your tickets. (If we receive more donations of gift cards, they will be added to the bouquet(s).) Thank you for supporting PW's efforts for missions and ministry!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Calling ALL women of John Knox. You are all members of Presbyterian Women. As such we need your input and help. The Coordinating Team meets on the second Wednesday of every month, except June and July, at 6:30pm. Please prayerfully consider attending and/or serving on the team. Feel free to contact Bev Ray at any time (317-271-4919).

THANK YOU

Thank you to for the many cards and expressions of sympathy on the passing of my brother, Robert Jordan.

Jack and Sandy Jordan

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	9am Worship	C o m b i n e d Worship	11am Worship
Oct 28	76		28
Nov 4	79		29
Nov 11	81		33
Nov 18	75		31

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, please email him at the church: jkpcpastor@comcast.net. Finally, check the church's website and Facebook page, as updates will be posted there.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DEBT RETIREMENT FUNDRAISING

TRASH BAG SALES - Trash bags will be sold between services on December 16th. They are \$13 per roll and are available in 3 sizes. If you should need trash bags at another time, see Dick Herman or Judy Ricketts on Sunday, or they may be purchased in the church office during the week during office hours. Proceeds from sales go to Debt Retirement. Thanks for your support.

RECYCLING PROCEEDS:

PAPER: \$3.38

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

John and Rachel Donnellan
6141 Robin Run, Apt. A
Indianapolis, IN 46254

Sam and Barbara Dunbar
703 North Bauman
Indianapolis, IN 46214-3712

John Shaw
4622 Cameron Ridge Dr.,
#137
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Ashley and Matthew Whitaker
8051 Valley Farms Cir.
Indianapolis, IN 46214

Vivian Hale:
vjhale1@yahoo.com

Andrew Shaw
3001 Telegraph Ave.,
Apt. 203
Berkeley, CA 94705-2164

Norma Kraft
5103 Cold Harbor Dr., #142
Tallahassee, FL 32312

Greg Hart: (954)-254-0123

Mike Larrick:
mike.larrick@gmail.com

Gary Shaw:
gshaw924@gmail.com

Ginny Shaw:
vshaw718@gmail.com

TIDINGS DEADLINE

Articles for the **JANUARY 2019** issue of the John Knox Tidings are **due by Wednesday, DECEMBER 12.**

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.

DINING EVENTS

There will be no dining event in December. There will be one in January. The date and location will be in the January Tidings.

Since we are approaching the end of the year, I want to give you an update on my attempt to offer more variety in the restaurants participating in our dining events and tell why some restaurants are no longer participating. I have contacted many restaurants about hosting dining events. Red Lobster, Cracker Barrel, Cheddars, and Olive Garden will not host events. It was suggested I contact Big Woods on Main Street in Speedway. I talked to the manager three times, sent him an explanation of how the program works with other restaurants, and sent him a sample flyer. He told me he would talk to his owner and get back with me. That was over two months ago, and I never heard from him. A Mexican restaurant in Speedway called Los Patios would like to host an event, but they only want to give us 10% of sales. I have yet to check with a suggested restaurant in Speedway called O'Reilly's. That is next on my list. Bob Evans no longer does dining events. Applebee's has changed their method of scheduling dining events. It is now done online, and then they only tell you two weeks ahead of time your date. This makes it difficult to publicize the event in the Tidings. Monical's and Firehouse Subs were generating very little money. Union Jacks had music playing so loudly that it made it difficult to carry on a conversation. I talked to the manager about it. She assured me they would turn the music down. However, the next time we had an event there it was just as loud.

To summarize, I try to have the events at restaurants that will give us at least 15% of sales, but preferably 20%, and will host the event from opening to closing. The goal is to raise as much money as we can. I still welcome your suggestions of restaurants and will contact them. Thanks so much for your support, cooperation, and patience.

Judy Ricketts

317-272-2533; pmja4349@msn.com

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND SERVICE

ANNUAL COOKIE SALE - DECEMBER 16

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 16.

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 23

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 23, 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 \$1,152.50 for that offering, and 25% of what was collected (\$288) will be kept for our partnership with the Dominican Republic. Thank you for your generous support of building bonds of peace in our world!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION AND SERVICE

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE - DECEMBER 31

Ready for a different kind of New Year's Eve celebration? Join us by serving dinner to the residents of Ronald McDonald House on Monday, December 31. 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.

BINGO THANK YOU!

The Mission and Education Teams wish to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported our Bingo/Silent Dessert Auction Fundraiser on October 5. **We raised \$1,234 for our partnership with the Dominican Republic**, which allowed Lisa to travel there in November, and to provide a donation to the church in Tamayo. You are so generous, and we are deeply grateful!

NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: The cold weather is here! With that brings a greater need for assistance for the people in our community. Your support of the "New Beginnings" ministry is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the PW for donating blankets to the "New Beginnings" program. They will keep the kiddos nice and cozy this winter! Requests this month included the need for food, clothing, blankets, diapers, coats, rent, and gas. We were able to help 11 families with food, and diapers as well as referrals to agencies that could offer further assistance. Thank you for your continued support of "New Beginnings."

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As we approach the last month of the year, the Finance Team wishes to provide these important updates on where we are for this current calendar year, as well as our stewardship for 2019.

Projected Shortfall in 2018

The last two years, we have been blessed with ending each year by receiving more in donations than what we have spent in expenses. This year, though, we are looking at a significant shortfall in income than what we had budgeted.

We are estimating that we will receive between \$18,000-\$20,000 less in pledges this year than what had been pledged at the beginning of the year. This is primarily due to deaths, moves, and changes in people's life situations, such as job changes, family illness, etc. While we will be reaching out to everyone who made a pledge for 2018 to invite them to "catch-up" as they are able, we realize that that will likely not be the case for many, due to these circumstances.

Pledges for 2019

Here is a summary for how many pledges we have received for 2019 in comparison to 2018:

- Through November 19, we have received 74 pledges of financial support for our annual budget of ministry in 2019, in the amount of \$273,340. We have also received 44 pledges of financial support for debt retirement in 2019, in the amount of \$68,236.
- For 2018, we had 93 pledges for the annual budget which totaled \$312,656, and 49 pledges for debt retirement which totaled \$84,706.
- There are still a number of people who have pledged in previous years who have not yet turned in their pledge card for 2019.

How Might We Respond?

The Finance Team would invite you to consider the following ways to approach and respond to these challenges that we face:

- While we did begin 2018 with a bit of a cushion from the previous two years, that will not cover the anticipated shortfall we are facing this year. In light of that, if you are in a position that you can make an additional contribution for 2018 to help offset this shortage, please know that would be deeply appreciated.
- If you have not yet turned in your pledge for 2019, please prayerfully consider submitting that as soon as possible. Reminders will be sent the week of Thanksgiving to all who have pledged this year but have not yet turned in a pledge for 2019.
- If you are behind on your giving for 2018, you will be receiving a reminder from Cindy Hiday, our Financial Secretary, the week of Thanksgiving. Please know what matters most to us is simply knowing what to expect: whether you are able to catch-up before the end of December, or whether you know that you will be unable to give at your previously anticipated levels - what helps us the most is hearing from you and knowing that information. You may always contact Cindy directly at (317)-388-1280 or by email at cindy.hiday@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued generous support of all that God is doing at John Knox. Know that you are always welcome to talk to Cindy, myself, or the other members of the Finance Team if you have any questions (Jeff Roberts, Dan Bourne, Troy Judy). We will continue to give you updates as we go through the days and weeks ahead.

With a full and grateful heart,

Frank

FINANCIAL REMINDER

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of 2018! As we near the end of the calendar year, please take note of the following important financial reminders:

- **Non Cash Contributions** -- If you have made any non-cash contributions to John Knox in 2018, I would ask that you gather your receipts now and turn them in to me. This will give me ample time to review the receipts and post to your giving account so your contribution will appear on your final giving statement for 2018. Examples of non cash contributions include purchase of food for St. John's Storehouse or for the Hospitality Table on Sunday mornings, supplies for VBS, Fall Festival, Easter Festival, plantings for landscape projects at JKPC. Please don't wait until the last minute.
- **Contributions made via OnLine Banking and through Monthly Distributions** - Please make sure your vendor mails your contribution check to JKPC **no later than December 14th**. Allowing for extra transit time is a must when using USPS during the holiday season.

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

CELEBRATION WORSHIP WITH NUEVA CREACION - JANUARY 6

Iglesia Nueva Creacion will begin worshipping with Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana on December 2 at Westview Christian Church. But they are having a celebration service on Epiphany - Three Kings Sunday - at John Knox, and they are inviting all of us to join them. The service will be at 1:30pm on January 6 in our sanctuary, and representatives from both Hispanic congregations, and ours and Westview Christian Church, will be present. Please come and join us for a time to give thanks to God for our shared ministry in the past, and for what new things lie ahead in our future! Look for more details in the January Tidings.

HELP WANTED - COUNTERS

Our counter group is seeking 2 - 3 individuals to join our group. The counter group is responsible for recording and depositing money received during the week and on Sunday mornings.

When: Sunday mornings

Time Commitment: 1-2 hours

How Often: Once a month

If you attend the first service, you would need to be available to start counting at 10:15am and stay until the counting is finished. If you attend the second service, you would need to be available from 10:00-11:00 am and then check back in the office following service to finish. You WILL receive detailed training by one of our seasoned counters. If you're a member of John Knox and at least 15 years of age YOU qualify. If you're a household member of one of our current counters YOU qualify, you just can't count on the same Sunday. Please contact Cindy Hiday (cindy.hiday@gmail.com; 317-388-1280) if you are interested. Thank you for considering becoming a part of this important group!

ORDER FORM FOR POINSETTIAS

Name _____

of plant _____ @ \$10 ea =

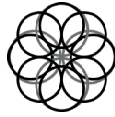
\$ _____ Total

In honor of

or

In memory of

Please return by December 2nd



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