

# The Communicator

United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND

Volume 48 No. 1, January 2021

## Our Mission Sharing Christ's Love Through Service

### From the Pastor...

#### From Where Does My Joy Come From?

Here is some good news. The year 2020 is coming to an end. Further good news is that God has been with us, is with us, and will continue to be with us. In the midst of all that has gone on locally, nationally, and globally our Lord Immanuel has guided us by God's grace to be the Church.

A personal piece of good news is that I am fully recovered from being tested positive for Covid 19. I would have rejoiced, but knowing that others are still languishing in it, I could only pray for their recovery too!

You too, I know have some good news to share. The word "Gospel" means "Good News." Recently I was on the phone talking with someone that was sharing some good news. I asked her on a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being unhappy and 10 being ecstatically joyful where would she place her happiness. Her response was, "well, it depends on the news of the day that I watch on television." She continued, "The talk of who gets the vaccine and when do they get it is upsetting. I don't hear things that will make me jump up for joy."

Joy seems almost irreverent in a world where so much is going wrong. We know people in the Jamestown area who are suffering with Covid 19. Some are in the hospital. Some have died. The agricultural economy continues to be stressed. People are not able to gather together as we want. It is hard to get jump-up-and-down joyful about any of that.

Only joy has never had very much to do with what is going on in the world at the time. That is what makes it different from happiness, or pleasure, or fun. All of those depend on positive conditions – good health, good job, happy family, lots of toys. Pleasure, as C.S. Lewis says is often in our power; joy never is. We know what activities commonly give us pleasure. Happiness covers a broad spectrum, from a fairly steady state of general contentment with one's life to special moments of delight and feeling good.

But here, Barbara Brown Taylor says, *The only condition for joy is the presence of God. Joy happens when God is present and people know it, which means that it can erupt in a depressed economy, in the middle of a war, in an intensive care waiting room.*

(continued on page 2)

### UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

302 2nd Avenue SE  
Jamestown, ND 58401  
Phone (701) 252-1748  
website: [www.upcjamestown.org](http://www.upcjamestown.org)  
e-mail: [presbyterianchurch@daktel.com](mailto:presbyterianchurch@daktel.com)

### WORSHIP HOURS

Adult Sunday School 9:00 AM  
Fellowship Hall  
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
Sanctuary

PASTOR & SECRETARIAL HOURS  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Monday-Thursday

For corrections or additions to the newsletter  
please call the church office—252-1748

### JANUARY WORKMONTH FAMILIES

#### Chairpersons:

Lindbo, Jonell 952-83062/269-4677  
Lindbo, Pat 952-7863

Chisholm, Della 320-5539  
Dunn, Duane & Kathie 952-4778/269-0982  
Koehn, Steve 252-7374  
McIntyre, Mike & Cheryl 252-4260  
McIntyre, Tony & Reina 368-9784  
Muhs, Dave & Stacey (Stacey) 320-3048  
Nelson, Dick & Colleen 252-5936  
Pringle, Roger & Sylvia 252-6617/320-0190  
Schoeler, Maurine 952-1051/320-5128  
Witzig, Diane 320-4915

*From the Pastor (continued from page 1)*

To be a Christian is to be always discovering the presence of God. As we near the twilight of our lives, it is increasingly easy to be bored, worldly-wise and sophisticated. Those are adjectives that mean we have lost the power of wonder and awe, to be surprised and delighted and amazed.

So what is it that the Christian needs to discover and appreciate? Simply life. Walter Burghardt says, *It is not that we blind ourselves to sin and war and disease and death. These touch us as cruelly as they touch the unbeliever. Still we can laugh, as the atheist and agnostic can never laugh; still there is a joy in our hearts no one can snatch from us. For in the very midst of death we have discovered life.*

What is this life the Christian is constantly discovering? Simply the risen Jesus with his painful humanity and his glorious Godness. Where do we discover the risen Jesus? Perhaps we need to look in the shadows of our lives, among our doubts, fears and anxieties. This is not easy to do. If we can overcome our feelings of shame to look for Jesus in these corners of our hearts, we will be surprised.

The good news is that Jesus stands with us to forgive, to renew, to empower. God meets us and sees us through the darkest, coldest and most fearful of situations for ourselves and for those that God has placed in our midst.

There is good news. The year 2020 will soon be in the rear-view mirror. May we anticipate with joy the coming new year. May 2021 be a year that we experience not gloom and doom but the presence of God in our lives, this the joy we feel individually and as a community of faith at United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown, North Dakota.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bob Boyar

**Financial Update**

*(General fund activity as of November 30, 2020)*

General Fund Revenue for November	\$19,748.08
General Fund Expenses for November	<u>\$21,766.01</u>
Excess Income/Loss for November	\$(2,017.93)
Year to Date Revenue	\$191,851.23
Year to Date Expenses	<u>\$202,764.21</u>
Year to Date Excess Income/Loss	\$(10,912.98)

We thank you for your continued support of United Presbyterian Church!

Per Capita Payments: We encourage all members to pay their per-capita as a gift above and beyond their annual pledge. **Our per-capita is based on \$48.00 for each active member of our church.** To submit a check for per-capita, simply write "Per-capita" on the memo line of your check.



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



<b>Douglas Chimanga</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bill Hines</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Zachary Bossingham</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cindy Wermager</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Jim Bond</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Delbert Bossingham</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Gunnar Reimers</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Carol Danuser</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Roy Brown</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Bill Parries</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Lois Hopwood</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Bev Hoffman</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Kevin Thoele</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Jennifer Allmer</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Zoe Bennett</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Opal Schmuhl</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Ruth Barkus</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Braden Sherfy</b>	<b>30</b>

**Sunday School**

Sunday School has been held remotely using Zoom for the last several months and has been well attended. Our teachers are making every effort to make these classes as meaningful as possible while adding in a lot of fun. Every child K-5 receives a Papa Murphy's gift certificate for participation each Sunday.

Sunday School by Zoom will resume on Sunday, January 3. K-5 will meet at 9:00 AM and Youth Class will meet at 2:00 PM.

Encourage your children to attend.

**Church News**

- **Ministry Opportunity!** We are looking to fill the position of Children Education and Family Ministry Coordinator. This position is full-time with a salary of \$35,000 annually based on experience. The individual seeking this position must have a genuine love for Christ and people. They should be a self-starter who is willing to try new things and designate their own tasks. The candidate should have administrative and organizational skills and also strong written and verbal communication skills. We are searching for someone who is an enthusiastic team builder with the ability to delegate and teach others. Recruitment, training and encouraging volunteers is also imperative. The position holder will be asked to plan, develop and implement ministry curriculum for all ages (children-adult) and families. If you know anyone who is qualified and interested, please have them contact the church office. A full job description and applicant details are available. Please pray as we begin this journey to find the person God has planned to join our church family.

- Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 24 after worship. Please plan to attend. If that is a snow day we will meet Sunday, January 31.

- We are looking forward to worshipping in the Sanctuary in January.

- We are working on upgrading our live streaming capabilities to include Youtube and other platforms.