

Hello Church Family! We are so pleased to start this new communication to all members of our congregation. While Session minutes are always available for review, your Session heard some wonderful suggestions about communicating news from meetings in a way that was more accessible to all. Our goal is to send out these highlights on a regular basis. As always, Session elders and our ministers are available to discuss anything you have questions about. Please send me any suggestions to improve this update! Elisha Clyburn, Clerk of Session JIPC

Here are some Session Highlights from the Stated Session meeting on Feb 21, 2023.

- As in every stated meeting, the Session received reports from all standing committees, the Board of Deacons and the James Island Presbyterian Foundation.
- Session reviewed the monthly Treasurer and Finance reports. Pledged giving for 2023 was discussed and the budgeting process for 2023 is underway. This committee will present a draft budget to Session for a vote at an upcoming meeting.
- Several recommendations from the Worship and Music Committee were approved:
 - The annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday 12/24 this year during the 10:15 service
 - A Senior Recital featuring JIPC youth will be held on 5/21/23
 - High School Seniors will be preaching on dates to be announced
 - Women's Bible Study will have a Quiet Day retreat at Mepkin Abbey on 3/17
 - 5 baptisms were approved
- Congregational Care will be holding another session of The Elephant in the Room on April 29th and the Women's Spring event is planned for a date TBD
- A full page of Children and Youth Discipleship committee work was reviewed.
 - Sunday School promotion date is 6/4/23 and we will pause for the summer again.
 - Nursery attendance is high and Personnel committee is actively working on staffing issues
 - Dates for multiple children and youth events were announced.
 - Youth and children have actively engaged in service projects over the past 2 months including: Souper Bowl, Backpack Buddies, Walk for Water and Habitat for Humanity
- Session approved a men's retreat on 3/18/23 on the recommendation of Adult Discipleship
- Fellowship Committee is actively seeking volunteers for Coffee Fellowship and other activities. They announced congregational meals on 3/12, 4/2 for Palm Sunday and Good Friday fish fry 4/7
- Due to a large budget shortfall, Personnel Committee presented a recommendation to combine the children and youth ministries into one position, allow our ministers to each take a month of leave without pay and reduce our administrative assistant position time to 30 hours per week. This was approved by Session.
- The Membership Committee presented the names of 12 persons seeking membership in JIPC - these were approved by Session.
- Buildings and Grounds highlighted ongoing projects and the need to find funding for urgent roof repairs.
- The Sutton Bequest Task Force presented a report of their work. Several items have been completed and work is underway to create a lift in the Narthex to improve access for those with mobility issues.