

March 1, 2024

Dear church family,

This month brings us through Lent and concludes with Easter. My hope is that this journey to resurrection gives us a chance to do some self-reflection and strengthen our relationship with God. During Lent, we are holding Wednesday noon services in conjunction with our sister churches, Harborview and St. James. Check the calendar for where to meet each week.

We have a special opportunity to unite with St. James on a cemetery project this month as well. The barrier between our cemeteries is being removed, and in the process we uncovered old concrete posts. We plan to turn four of those posts into peace posts and remove the rest, signifying our willingness to work together to dismantle systemic racism and love one another in the name of Jesus. There will be two artwork days planned in March to create the new peace posts, one at St. James and one at JIPC. We will aim to unveil the completed posts on Easter Sunday. The workdays will be announced as soon as they are finalized so keep an eye out.

Holy Week will be here before you know it, and I am asking that you mark your calendars for our two special weeknight services. Our Maundy Thursday service in the gym on March 28 at 6:30pm is a time for communion served at individual round tables, remembering the Last Supper and celebrating First Communion for our Worship Together class. Good Friday on March 29 starts with a fish fry at 5:30pm and continues with a tenebrae service in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. Both services help us remember and give thanks for our savior's crucifixion for us. They will help you to feel the joy of Easter more deeply and gratefully, with two Sunday morning services, at 8:30 and 10:30.

Speaking of grateful, I want to thank those of you who have submitted a pledge for 2024! Thank you! I encourage those who haven't pledged to *please do so*. We haven't been able to solidify our budget yet since there are still many pledges that have not been received. Session is in the process of contacting those who haven't pledged, so I encourage everyone to make your pledge a priority. We depend on all of you to support the ministries of the church. Without full participation we will need to make some cutbacks, which could affect our search for an installed pastor, our support of missions, and our staff. It's not too late to make a difference!

We have so much to be excited about this month with new members joining on the 10th and a baptism on the 17th, Walk for Water on the 23rd, Palm Sunday and egg hunt on the 24th. I hope you'll join us in person or online as we experience all these events and activities. As always, please reach out to me if you need prayer or a listening ear. I'd love to meet with you!

In Christ,

