

J O H N C A L V I N *Presbytery*

Notices

August 5, 2021

[Visit our website](#)

If it looks odd, it didn't originate from JCP!

JCP has observed unusual traffic in our event registrations. Just in case someone is planning something nefarious, this is a reminder that no person in JCP will ask you for gift cards or any other unusual request. The only methods for donations are mailing a check to the Ozark post office box and our online giving button.

Prayers Requested

- The congregations of John Calvin Presbytery...
- For all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, that they may know the peace that passes all human understanding in Jesus Christ our Lord....
- **All churches seeking a new pastor, to understand God's call moving forward.**
 - First Presbyterian Church, Carthage, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas
 - Crane Presbyterian Church, Crane, Missouri
 - St. Andrew @Hideaway Presbyterian, Galena, Missouri
 - St. Andrew Presbyterian, Kimberling City, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Rolla, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Sarcoxie, Missouri
 - First Presbyterian Church, Scammon, Kansas
 - The Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg - seeking temporary supply
 - Willard-Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church, Willard, Missouri
- JCPDA
- JC Living Waters Mission Team
- **All Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery**
 - **Sarah Roberts, health concerns, wife of Matthew Roberts.** The Reverend Matthew Roberts is pastor of Woodland Heights Presbyterian Springfield
- **Marcia Davis, complete healing.** Marcia will be undergoing surgeries to stabilize

and then permanently fix her broken leg. Macia is the wife of the Reverend Daniel Davis. Daniel is the pastor of First Presbyterian Iola, Kansas

[PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER REPRESENTING JCP AS COMMISSIONER TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY](#)

The application must reach the committee by **August 6, 2021**
Please send the completed application to gwilson@jcpresbytery.com

JCP will need a female ruling elder, a male teaching elder, and a YAAD (young adult advisory delegate) who must be at least 17 years of age and not more than 24 years of age, on **June 18, 2022**.

Application to Serve as GA Commissioner 2022

**Application for Young Adult Advisory Delegate 2022
GA**

CRANE PRESBYTERIAN.....

Crane Presbyterian, along with Stone County Health Department, is hosting a [Drive Thru COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic](#) on Tuesday, August 10th beginning at 9am.

Currently less than 30% of Stone County residents are vaccinated, this means that this county is more vulnerable to becoming hospitalized and dying from COVID-19. By raising vaccination rates we will be protecting ourselves and our neighbors (remember how Jesus told us to love our neighbors?) and reducing the likelihood of hospitalization and death if one does become infected with COVID-19.

From the Presbytery Meeting....

The following is the closing prayer shared by the Reverend Christine Iannucill....

Gracious God:

Out of your abundant love you continue to bless us.

We are blessed to be able to meet and to do your work—even if the meeting is virtual. Your will is done as we work together to serve you and discern your will for good in doing the right thing.

We pray for the health of our nation. **Heal us.**

We pray for the health of our communities. **Heal us.**

We pray for the health of our churches. **Heal us.**

We pray for the health of our families. **Heal us.**

We pray for doctors, nurses, patients and their families. So many afflicted by covid-exhausted-grief stricken: broken in body and in spirit. **Heal us.**

And as we go forth, we pray to serve you with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength: and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Amen.

Presbytery examined Laura Agee for membership in the presbytery, for ordination, and for a full-time call as installed pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Nevada, Missouri beginning August 1, 2021. Approved!!

Laura Agee was unanimously elected, by the congregation, as our new pastor. This is the first time that this has occurred at FPC of Nevada for 41 years!

Laura will be ordained and installed as pastor, August 22, at 4p.m.



The Reverend Carlton, Coordinator of Vital Congregations in the Presbyterian Mission Agency, was our preacher and education leader.

Staying Together (As We Can) from your Pastoral Presbyter, Malinda Spencer

As I'm writing this a few days before the presbytery meeting, the COVID map of the United States is showing a tremendous number of cases, and according to many news outlets, our area is among the hardest hit. Certainly, we all hope that this will pass quickly, but COVID has been making the rules, and we are left trying to respond.

While we can't predict the future, we can use technology to achieve some of our core purposes. The presbytery continues to meet. Presbytery committees have continued to meet and do their work well. I have been able to be in person with the session and a worship service of congregations which recently became vacant, and even led some worship services where pastors have been able to get away.

We will offer opportunities this month for the presbytery to gather more informally than a presbytery meeting allows. All three of the events below are repeats of past gatherings. I hope you'll take advantage of the chance to be with others.

BCW Daily Prayer August 11, 6–6:45 p.m.

If you already own a Book of Common Worship Daily Prayer, this will give you an opportunity to use it with others, over Zoom. After a few opening remarks, we'll share in a prayer service. A small group tried this in the spring, and the feedback was positive. If you don't own the book, we'll work it out so you can participate. After this, you might want to order the book to use in your congregation! Register [here](#), or watch the Notices for a repeat of the information.

Pastors Check-In August 18, 1–2 p.m.

Pastors, this will be a time to join in scripture and prayer, and to find commonalities and support among your colleagues. Register [here](#), or watch the Notices for a repeat of the information.

Session Members—An Opportunity to Check in with Others August 18, 6–7pm

If you are involved in the leadership of your church, this is a chance to connect with others across the presbytery. Join in scripture reading and prayer. Hear what's working somewhere else. Ask questions. Register [here](#), or watch the Notices for a repeat of the information.

Please stay in touch!
Malinda Spencer

With gratitude for their continued and generous participation,
we lift up the following congregations of the

**John Calvin Presbytery,
who have given to One Great Hour of Sharing for at least 20 years!**

First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas
First Presbyterian Church, Iola, Kansas
First Presbyterian Church, Golden City, Missouri
Hollister Presbyterian Church, Hollister, Missouri
Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Missouri

**Presbyterian Communicators Network will host
an online workshop!**

The goal is to help make sure your online service is copyright compliant

At 2 p.m. Eastern Time on **Tuesday, August 10**, the PCN will host a workshop exploring the legal concerns around livestreaming services. The workshop will provide information to make sure that communicators are taking the necessary steps to help make their congregation's livestream events copyright compliant. A PC(USA) staff attorney, Andrej Ajanovic, will discuss the dos and don'ts of copyrights and licenses for performances on various social media platforms and through other media. Register for the workshop [here](#).

The 225th General Assembly (2022) will be different from any previous GA, with

- Hybrid opening plenaries on June 18: commissioners and advisory delegates from a quarter of the committees present in Louisville, and all others participating from home;
- Committees in person in Louisville, a quarter at a time over the course of two weeks, June 20 – July 2;
- Plenaries completely online July 5–9, after committee meetings conclude.

All meetings will be live-streamed, so anyone will be able to observe remotely.

**225th General Assembly (2022)
Website**

**225th General Assembly (2022)
Docket**

Heartland Center is Hiring

We are currently looking for kitchen staff. We are so excited to have retreat groups back on site again. We are looking ahead to a very full fall calendar and need the staff to make it happen. Our biggest need right now is in the Kitchen. We have lead positions and second positions available with pay between 11-14 dollars an hour depending on experience and availability. We have anywhere from 15-40 hours available per week and would be interested in talking with potential.

For more information go to

<https://www.heartlandretreatcenter.org/employment>



BY FAITH WE STAND FIRM: MINISTRY IN THE ERA OF COVID VARIANTS

A Returning to Church Supplement

By Faith We Stand Firm: Ministry in the Era of COVID Variants

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. – 2 Corinthians 1:1 (NRSV)

INTRODUCTION

By Faith We Stand Firm is a continuation of the Wisconsin Council of Churches' ongoing guidance to churches for how to make safer choices during the COVID-19 pandemic. We say safer choices, because no choice is definitively safe. We can only mitigate risk, not eliminate it altogether. This document builds on the recommendations contained in Returning to Church 2.0, released in January 2021 and its successor documents Bearing with One Another in Love and Love Builds Up, released in spring 2021.

We note several circumstances necessitating a more comprehensive update to our guidance:

- A decline in the number of COVID cases almost to the threshold of “Safer” or “Safest” levels in our earlier guidance in early summer, followed by a rapid increase in cases in midsummer due in large part to the delta variant.
- Societal pressure to return to what seems normal and familiar.
- Stagnation in vaccination rates at approximately 50% of the population, with notable disparities by race, age, and other personal characteristics.
- The rapid escalation of the delta variant of COVID to be the predominant strain in Wisconsin, with increased transmissibility and impact upon the unvaccinated, as well as an uptick in breakthrough infections among the vaccinated.
- Significant turnover in clergy leadership due to the stresses of ministry in the time of COVID, including difficulty accessing support from extended family and other communities of care where they are in ministry. A refresher on the fundamentals of ministry safety during COVID for every community is timely. Support and mutual trust is vital if we are to prevent rapid turnover and the exit of even more clergy from ministry in the years to come.

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **We recommend prioritizing life and health of the vulnerable as a Gospel witness.** Concurrent values of this guidance include urgency and care in meeting human needs, and attending to equity and accessibility. Take seriously the church's role as community leader, and trust in the resilience of the church.
- **Maintain masking expectations FOR ALL PERSONS indoors and when not distanced outdoors until COVID transmission is very low in the community.** Although vaccination protects us well against serious illness, breakthrough infections do happen, and viral shed of the delta variant can be as high among the vaccinated as among the unvaccinated. This means universal masking is warranted even among the vaccinated.

If your church is gathering for worship outdoors, and you are not providing for distancing, we recommend that you make wearing face masks a standard for all. Being outdoors is not automatically protective against illness if you are in a crowd and are re-breathing the same air others have exhaled.

- **Reinforce your COVID safety protocols in response to the more transmissible COVID variants.** Are people wearing face masks properly over nose and mouth? Are singers placed far away from the congregation? Are riskier activities taking place outdoors instead of indoors? Worship leaders may choose to remove their masks when presiding for the sake of accessibility, but we do advise that they wear their mask when they are not actively leading.
- **Case tracking and establishing a No-Go threshold:** The CDC maintains a [data tracker by county](#) showing community transmission. If reliable sources show community transmission as “high” or “substantial,” we advise high levels of caution in church gatherings and any activity which might expose vulnerable members to illness. You could also look at the [state DHS tracker](#) and use “high” activity levels to consider a “no-go” threshold. Remember that statistics go in both directions – we have been privileged to experience a decline for many months in Wisconsin, but with the development of more

transmissible variants, we are beginning to see increases. At what point will your faith community resume online-only activities, or set a policy of leaders-only in the building? We recommend being proactive and putting a plan in place now rather than having to make and communicate hasty decisions. Our ongoing standard for unsafe/safer/safest gatherings is built on a seven-day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 population, and the rates of positive tests. Our safer threshold for gathering is when cases are less than 5 per 100,000 population and positive tests less than 10%. Safest would be even lower.

- Maintain virtual/hybrid gathering options as much as you can. This is a hard-won capacity for many churches; it is worth maintaining. It may be necessary to switch to gathering the community remotely in case of inclement weather, dramatic spikes in viral activity, or future public health crises. In any case, vulnerable people should not be forced to choose between participating in the life of their community and their own safety.
- Witness to the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). Help debunk misinformation and disinformation about COVID and vaccination. Speak up when segments of the population are scapegoated or bullied as spreaders of illness. Help people come to a sound, informed, faithful decision on matters of importance.
- Support vaccination efforts. The church has an important role in helping to ensure that everyone who wants to be vaccinated has ready access. Explore how you can work with your congregation, mission and service efforts, and wider community to reach those who have obstacles to vaccination. (*See our [full report for theological grounding and how to support vaccination efforts](#)*).
- Plan on event modifications, mitigations and protective behaviors for many months to come. As much as we long for a different truth, the pandemic is far from over.

You can download this information here



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

[What's possible? Strategies to serve better webcast](#)

The Board of Pensions offers comprehensive benefits to PC(USA) congregations and affiliated employers: medical, retirement, death, disability, and more.

Wednesday, August 25, 1 – 2 p.m. ET
OR
Thursday, August 26, 3 – 4 p.m. ET

[More Information and Register ~ Webcast](#)

[Stewardship Kaleidoscope ~ More Information](#)

Mark Your Calendars.... Presbytery-Wide Bible Study Offerings

[September 14 \(Tuesday\) at 7:00 pm via Zoom](#)

How Spirituality Develops through Our Lifetime by Kathy L. Dawson

This one session study endeavors to gather the thoughts of many people about how our faith in God changes over time. In Scripture we see many instances where God chooses the unexpected, seemingly unripe believer to be a spiritual leader.

Participants will discuss the relationship of body, mind, and spirit in faith maturation, and will

apply their learning to the way different ages might approach the Bible. The characteristics of the spiritual development of different age groups appear throughout the study.

[Register Here for Tuesday, September 14 Bible Study](#)

[October 5 \(Tuesday\) at 7:00 pm via Zoom](#)

Bridging the Generation Gap through Storytelling by Nancy Ferguson

Not much has changed since the time of Isaac, Esau, and Jacob. Families still experience conflict and confusion; younger generations don't always understand older generations. In this one-session study for adults we'll learn about different generational traits and explore how telling stories can help families bridge the generation gaps to form stronger units.

The materials for each study will be emailed directly to each participant after registration, as well as the Zoom link. There is no charge to participate in either of these studies.

[Register Here for Tuesday, October 5 Bible Study](#)

**Watch for information coming soon on the Presbytery-wide
4-week Advent Study coming in December!**

EMERGENCY NEEDS GRANT

The 'Emergency Needs Grant', in response to COVID-19, is still available from JCP. Click on the box above to learn more.

BOUNDARIES TRAINING....

The Committee on Ministry voted that all who serve a church, Ministers, Commissioned Ruling Elders in JCP are required to attend training. This includes the pulpit supply list, and anyone preaching regularly in congregations.

If you would like to host a training, please contact Malinda. We would like to provide at least one more training besides the two that are shown below.

Malinda Spencer
Pastoral presbyter
John Calvin Presbytery
417-437-6748 (c) mspencer@jcpresbytery.com

Boundaries Training at [First Presbyterian Church of Iola, Kansas](#), August 17, 10 – Noon

We will have lunch, provided by the host church, at the conclusion of the training.
We will follow the CDC current safety guidelines.

Please register for the training by clicking the button below

[Register Here - Boundaries - Iola Kansas](#)

EVENING Boundaries Training
at Ozark Presbyterian Church of Ozark, Missouri,
August 24, at 5 – 7 p.m. includes a light meal.

We will follow the CDC current safety guidelines.

[Register Here - Evening Boundaries - Ozark Missouri](#)

**Boundaries Training at First Presbyterian Church of Joplin, Missouri,
September 22, at 10 a.m.**

We will have lunch, provided by the host church, at the conclusion of the training.
We will follow the CDC current safety guidelines.

Please register for the training by clicking the button below

[Register Here - Boundaries - Joplin, Missouri](#)

Contact Us..... How can we help?

Pastoral Presbyter: Malinda Spencer

417-437-6748 / m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Stated Clerk: Beth Kick

417-425-7604 / bkick@jcpresbytery.com

Moderator of Presbytery: Toni Spieth

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General Council Moderator: Chris Miller

417-450-2544 / cmiller@trinityspringfieldpcusa.org

copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com and bkick@jcpresbytery.com

Administrative Ministries Committee Moderator: Bob Dahlgren

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Committee Ministry Moderator: Reina Daleske

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& copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com and bkick@jcpresbytery.com

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator: Diane Cooke

417-257-8349 / dianejkk@gmail.com

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Committee on Representation Moderator: Lorraine Whittington

417-623-3290 / lorrainewhittington39@gmail.com & copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator:

Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator: Bill Agnew

417-209-7227 / Dr.WilliamAgnew@gmail.com & copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

JC Living Waters Ministry: Sharon Marsh

417-880-5988 / smarsh43@icloud.com

JCPDA Ministry: Todd & Kathy Morriss

Kathy: 417-234-4643 Todd: 417-848-7471 toddandkathy.morriss@gmail.com

Recording Clerk: Gail Wilson
417-838-4402 / gwilson@jcpresbytery.com

**Please mail all remittances
Per Capita, Shared Mission and special offerings to:
John Calvin Presbytery
P. O. Box 1394
Ozark, Missouri 65721-1394**

PULPIT SUPPLY for a minister leading worship and preaching for a congregation as a visiting minister should ordinarily receive \$125.00, plus the IRS approved mileage amount per vouchered mile (2021 IRS rate \$0.56 per mile) for one worship service. If two (2) services are required the honorarium is \$160.00 plus mileage. If overnight lodging is required, motel and meals should be provided at the church's expense. The honorarium for moderating a session or congregational meeting is \$60 plus the IRS approved mileage rate per vouchered mile.

[Click here for full pulpit supply list](#)