

# JOHN CALVIN Presbytery

## Notices

July 29, 2021

[Visit our website](#)

### 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
- Britney Shurtz, thought to be headed for remission but now is undergoing a very strong chemo therapy. Britney is the daughter-in-law of the Reverends Charley and JayE Shurtz.
- Thank you for all the prayers for Tony, he is doing much better! Tony is the son-law of Reverend Susan Rosenbaum. Susan is an honorably retired minister, former stated clerk and former pastoral presbyter for JCP

**PRESBYTERY MEETING TUESDAY!**

Our 203rd Stated Meeting will be held by Zoom this Tuesday, August 3, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Thank you to First Presbyterian Church, Iola, who will host the virtual meeting.

The Reverend Carlton Johnson will teach us about VITAL CONGREGATIONS. We will examine Laura Agee for a call to First Presbyterian Church, Nevada, and award grants to four churches. Join us to worship and learn about the work occurring within our presbytery even—and especially—during this pandemic!

Check your email for the link to the papers—or contact Gail Wilson for access ([gwilson@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:gwilson@jcpresbytery.com); 417-838-4402). The papers have now been posted.

**Registration is required just click on the button below....**

Register here for the 203rd Stated Meeting of JCP



## Rejoice In Hope

Presbyterian Women's in-person 2021 Churchwide Gathering, which was to be held in St. Louis, has been cancelled. However, Presbyterian Women are committed and connected, so will you join us for PW's Online Churchwide Gathering event and to watch PW's Business Meeting?

[Download a wallet card](#) that summarizes when and how to view both the Online Gathering Event and Business Meeting.

### **When is PW's Online Churchwide Gathering Event?**

The Online Churchwide Gathering Event will be August 5, 4–6 pm ET. (It will begin after a one-hour break following the conclusion of the Business Meeting at 3 pm.)

### **How do I watch the Online Churchwide Gathering Event?**

The Online Churchwide Gathering Event will be held on Zoom and also livestreamed on Presbyterian Women's Facebook page. Zoom's capacity is limited, but the livestream on Facebook is open to all. Go to [PW's Facebook page](#) just a few minutes early, or whenever you can join on August 5, 4–6 pm ET!

### **How can I share this news with others?**

Tell your friends to visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering). Copy or adapt this page to share in your newsletter or on your website, with [the logo for the Online Churchwide Gathering Event](#).

### **What will happen during the Online Churchwide Gathering Event?**

The online event will include plenary and worship. During plenary, Irene Pak Lee—associate pastor at Stone Church in Willow Glen, California—will offer a keynote.

### **You'll also hear from PW/Horizons Bible study authors, present and future!**

- Merryl Blair, author of What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus (2021–2022 study)
- Carol Bechtel, author of Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight (2022–2023 study)
- Olive Mahabir, author of Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Luke (2023–2024)

You'll hear about programs and resources that Presbyterian Women cherish, and see messages of hope and thanks from individual Presbyterian Women, PW groups and PW's ministry partners.

During worship, Rev. Diane Moffet will preach and Austin College will provide music. Communion will be celebrated as we Rejoice in Hope, newly confident in God's promise to guide and support us, and our PW community that strengthens us.

**What does it cost to attend?**

It's free to watch the livestream of the Online Churchwide Gathering Event! The event is not free to produce, and is possible thanks to the annual fund, [financial gifts to make the Gathering possible](#), and sponsorships from PW groups and PW's ministry partners.

**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](mailto: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**

**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**

**Presbyterian Planning  
Calendars**

JCP will be ordering 2021–2022 Planning Calendars again this year. The price for each calendar will be determined when all orders are received.



**The deadline to order is July 30th.**

To order calendars email or text Gail Wilson, 417-838-4402  
[gwilson@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:gwilson@jcpresbytery.com)

This 16-month calendar (starting with September, 2021, and ending with December, 2022) contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. Includes lectionary for Sundays and special days, liturgical days, liturgical colors, resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases, updated synod, presbytery and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories, color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps.



## 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

## 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.

## CORRECTED HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP INFO....

The Synod of Mid-America has funds available for Presbyterians to use for higher education. These scholarships can be used for any accredited institution of higher learning (including trade schools and graduate study programs). Scholarships are available/awarded per school year and renewable with application annually.

Scholarships are open to active Presbyterians within the Synod of Mid-America, and whose church of membership qualifies as follows:

- in Kansas (total of 90 members or less),
- in Missouri or Illinois (total of 45 members or less),

as determined by membership reported December 31, 2020.

Applicants will be judged on financial need, academic achievement, and involvement in the local church, school, and community. All scholarship applicants must be endorsed by their session, and obtain a letter of support from the Clerk of Session or Pastor.

The deadline for application for Higher Education Scholarships is August 1, 2021.

Scholarship recipients will be notified by August 15, 2021.

[Click here to download a Higher Education Scholarship form.](#)

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](mailto:mspencer@jcpresbytery.com)

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### 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](#)

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### **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](#)

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### 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 / [mspencer@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:mspencer@jcpresbytery.com)

**Stated Clerk: Beth Kick**  
417-425-7604 / [bkick@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:bkick@jcpresbytery.com)

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**General Council Moderator: Chris Miller**

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**Administrative Ministries Committee Moderator: Bob Dahlgren**

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**Committee Ministry Moderator: Reina Daleske**

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**Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator: Diane Cooke**

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**Committee on Representation Moderator: Lorraine Whittington**

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**Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator:**

**Mission and Nurture Committee Co-Moderator: Bill Agnew**

417-209-7227 / [Dr.WilliamAgnew@gmail.com](mailto:Dr.WilliamAgnew@gmail.com) & copy [m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com](mailto:m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com)

**JC Living Waters Ministry: Sharon Marsh**

417-880-5988 / [smarsh43@icloud.com](mailto:smarsh43@icloud.com)

**JCPDA Ministry: Todd & Kathy Morriss**

Kathy: 417-234-4643 Todd: 417-848-7471 [toddandkathy.morriss@gmail.com](mailto:toddandkathy.morriss@gmail.com)

**Recording Clerk: Gail Wilson**

417-838-4402 / [gwilson@jcpresbytery.com](mailto: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](#)