



JCP Notices

December 1, 2023

In this issue....

Scammers

Prayers for the Anders Family

JCP Called Meeting December 10th

Advent Devotionals 2023

Woodland Heights Quartet

Special Offerings

December 31st Worship Plan

Liturgies for Busy Pastors

Best Ball Tournament

Angel Tree

APCE 2024 Annual Event

Rethinking Our Goals & Measurements

Email scammers are working hard. All presbytery employees' email addresses end with jcpresbytery.com. If it looks odd, don't click anything! And we'll never ask you to send us money. We use the Ozark post office box for that. Please check the website before mailing a check.

Your church also has ways of collecting money. If something looks odd, ask a question before sending money/gift cards. Don't be taken in by scammers!

Prayers for the Anders Family

It is with sadness that we share the news that Bob Anders, beloved spouse of Dixie, passed away on Wednesday.

The memorial service will be held at 3 pm on Wednesday, December 6, at St. Andrew, Kimberling City.

Please keep Dixie in your prayers, as well as their children and extended family.

Dixie's address is: 132 Pierson Ave
Forsyth, MO 65653

JCP Called Meeting December 10 in Fort Scott

We need minister and elder commissioners for a called meeting at the Fort Scott church, to conduct the floor exam for their candidate. December 10 at 4 pm. Coffee hour to follow.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS 2023

United in Hope



Trinity Geezers, singing at Woodland Heights Presbyterian Church. They were well received, and deemed to be a blessing by all!



Christmas is approaching, and many of your congregations will receive the Christmas Joy Offering. This offering provides critical financial assistance to church workers and their families in their time of need.

The offering also provides educational opportunities and leadership development at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

**Please click the picture for more information.

Do you need pulpit supply for the hardest day of the year, December 31? Lots of pastors take vacation that day, and so supply preachers get snapped up.

Here is a worship plan for that day. It does not require a pastor. It is written by the Rev. Barb Teserero, a graduate of Louisville Seminary.



Liturgies for busy pastors

Advent
Christmas

18 TEAMS NEEDED!

PRESBYTERIAN GOLF ASSEMBLY



BEST BALL TOURNAMENT

Four person scramble
(at least one Presbyterian per team required)

We are hoping for 72 players to get the best price.
This is not a fundraising event – it is for fellowship, outreach
and playing the game we adore (and sometimes despise).
Price will be approximately \$50 per player for a round,
cart and lunch provided by Deer Lake.

REGISTER SOON WITH MIKE SIMPSON
(TRINITY PRES) AT 870-736-2172

April 27, 2024

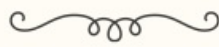
**DEER LAKE PUBLIC GOLF COURSE,
SPRINGFIELD, MO**



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

JOIN US FOR THE

ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS DRIVE



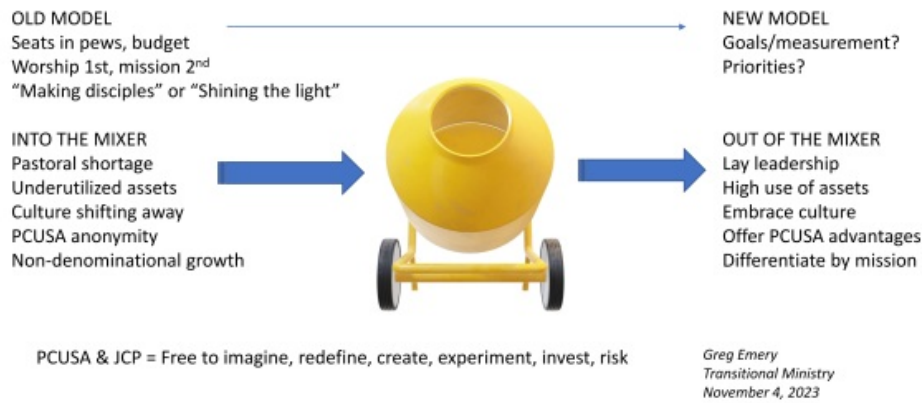
*Give the gift of joy to a child in need!
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
provides care and support to hundreds of
children- and this Christmas, we're looking for
new clothes and toys for the kids in our care.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
BECOME AN ANGEL TREE SPONSOR,
CONTACT KENN TILUS AT **417.986.5366**
KENN.TILUS@PCHAS.ORG



APCE 2024 Annual Event January 24-27, 2024

John Calvin Presbytery
Rethinking Our Goals & Measurements



Dear friends in John Calvin Presbytery,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the quarterly Presbytery meeting on November 4th in Joplin, and for the hospitality always extended to me and my wife, Rev. Anne.

During my presentation I mentioned a one-page graphic that I am attaching to this note. It asks us to consider how we move from models of the church that once worked ... to new models that account for numerous changes – what I call “into the mixer” – and what comes “out of the mixer.” As we seek answers, we want to ensure we are asking the right questions. And a key question is how we can state our mission in ways that are relevant, measurable and achievable.

Please allow me to summarize my presentation:

We have evolved through four stages:

1. For 250 years we built in the city/town center with tall steeples and ringing bells and signs that extolled the Rev. Dr. So-and-So as pastor
2. 50 years ago we (led by non-denominational churches) built out of town (like Walmart) with lots of parking and a casual atmosphere with contemporary music
3. Then, perhaps 10 years ago, we were told to simply serve the needy in our communities and our churches would grow – we did and they did not
4. Today ... we seek to *connect* our ministry to the church community

Yes, change is difficult because we had something that worked for 250 years!

Many churches hold mission statements such as “making disciples” or “shining the light of Christ.” We have not had much success in baptizing adults and we cannot readily measure the light. So, we are either failing at mission or our statements are too vague.

Our motif has been “get'em to worship first and then encourage involvement,” versus “get'em involved first and *then* gather for worship.”

Worship attendance and membership are not the first or only measures of success – they are the *results* or *byproducts* of doing mission well. This is hard to overcome because ... these were our measures for 250 years.

“Church” is a complex concept. Of course we want to continue to “invite people to church.” But they are (a) less likely to accept, (b) not finding something meaningful, and/or (c) expected to “join” as soon as possible. People do not make important decisions in two quick steps. In between the invite and the request to join are the more important steps of developing interest and trust, learning, and trial.

This is why New Worshipping Communities are being formed around common bonds or interests. I shared the example which Anne and I started in Pennsylvania, an afterschool program that brought 100+ weekly visits to a church that was otherwise only open on Sunday morning. We established trust with the kids AND parents. Only then did they gladly participate in a new weeknight worship service. That “new” worshipping community of families and volunteers grew bigger than the traditional congregation, even though the “new” folks were never expected to dress up and worship on Sunday morning.

We learned to describe our mission and set goals that were attainable and measurable: how many people did we greet at our church weekly (aside from Sunday), how many kids participated, how many learned about Jesus for the first time, how many ongoing relationships did we start with other family members (parents, grandparents, siblings), how many people can we call by their names who were new to our church community, and so on?

Again, it very tempting to fall back to the idea that every work of the church is either giving something to the needy or is to result in how many people we count in the pews on Sunday. Resist I say, resist. Let's rethink our mission statements and measures.

My experience throughout the John Calvin Presbytery has been discovering congregations of genuine, kind, thoughtful, faithful disciples. If you have an installed pastor or are served by a Commissioned Ruling Elder, cherish that person! But also be prepared for a future that will increasingly be led by the congregation and its elders, make better use of our assets (buildings especially), and strive to connect your outreach with your members in a personal way in order to develop familiarity, trust and friendships that can then blossom into growing the Body of Christ.

My work in the Presbytery has been made possible by the innovative thinking of Executive Presbyter Malinda Spencer, and her backing by the Council and Committee on Ministry. In reaction to the shortage of pastors, interim and installed, we experimented with the idea of someone (me) serving multiple congregations in certain transitional aspects, such as vision and preparing for pastor searches.

While we have not conquered the pastoral shortage, I believe we have made great progress in other areas. When we started this experiment, I *expected* to be a rather "hands-off" taskmaster. However, I *unexpectedly* came to cherish the individual relationships with so many of you ... and for that you have my eternal thanks.

In 2024, if your congregation has a particular challenge and would like my input, please do speak with Malinda and we will have that discussion.

Peace and grace, Greg

Greg Emery
Brownsville, Tennessee

Prayers Requested

Dixie Anders and their family

Mike Tamburrino – Prayers for a quick recovery

Debbie Fraski – Surgery

All churches seeking a new pastor, to understand God's call moving forward.

First Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Missouri
First Presbyterian Church, Chanute, Kansas
Crane Presbyterian Church, Crane, Missouri
First Presbyterian Church, Fort Scott, Kansas
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church @Hideaway, Galena, Missouri
First Presbyterian Church, Rolla, Missouri
The Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg
First Presbyterian Church, Sarcoxie, Missouri
First Presbyterian Church, Scammon, Kansas
Community Presbyterian Church, Forsyth, Missouri

JCPDA

All Pastors of John Calvin Presbytery

IMPORTANT LINKS

IISMO Youth Mentor Program

Pulpit Supply List and Information

Pneumatrix Free Webinars

Receive Special JCP Communication Emails

Prayer submissions will remain on the prayer list for two weeks, unless an update is received. To submit a prayer request, please email cia@jcpresbytery.com

Contact Us!

Executive Presbyter:

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

Stated Clerk:

Becky Schwandt
417-837-9051 /
bschwandt@jcpresbytery.com

Communication & Information Assistant:

Rachel Holcomb
cia@jcpresbytery.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Moderator of Presbytery:

Kira Anderson
404-786-5291
kira.anderson@fpcjoplin.com
& copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com
and clerk@jcpresbytery.com

General Council Moderator:

Jim Holt
417-294-2519
jimholt426@gmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com
and clerk@jcpresbytery.com

JC Presbyterian Women Co-Moderators:

Joan Russell & Linda Jackson
Joan Russell - 417-895-0848
jrkrussell34@gmail.com

JC Living Waters Ministry:

Grant & Toni Spieth
620-762-3171
tonis@columbus-ks.com

JCPDA Ministry:

Grant & Toni Spieth
Toni: 4620-762-3171
tonis@columbus-ks.com

Administrative Ministries Committee

Moderator:
Bob Dahlgren
417-280-6557
revrobertd@yahoo.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Committee Ministry Moderator:

Reina Daleske
417-598-2233
rdaleske@gmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Sub-Committee on Preparation for Ministry Moderator:

Dixie Anders
563-343-9071
revdrdixie@gmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Committee on Representation Moderator:

Sarah Muegge
417-882-2471
twin2_52@hotmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Mission and Nurture Committee

Moderator:
Daniel Lee
417-414-2321
rev.dslee@gmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

Anti-Racism Task Force Moderator:

Jennifer Dawson
214-930-1726
revdawson.j@gmail.com
copy m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com

John Calvin Presbytery | PO Box 1394, Ozark, MO 65721-1394

[Unsubscribe m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by m Spencer@jcpresbytery.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!