



# What's Lent Got to Do With It?

As I think about the state of American Christianity and Christianity throughout the world, I find myself asking (in the immortal words of Tina Turner) **"What's love got to do with it?"** What's love got to do with what is happening in our country and around the world in the name of the One who came to teach us how to love God and love one another?

**Love, it seems, is a scarce commodity in these times.** We witness division, conflict, and injustice across the globe, and it is easy to conclude that love has little to do with the unfolding events. Yet, it is precisely in these moments of despair and disconnect that we are called to embody the radical love that Jesus exemplified. The love that forgives, heals, and bridges divides. It is this love that can transform our hearts and, by extension, the world around us.

As we enter this time of Lent and reflect on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and his death at the hands of the Roman Empire, we are to reflect on how we are called to love during Lent. **Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 5th)** and for the next 40 days, you are invited to take on a practice, or fast from an activity as a way to connect more deeply with our God of love. If fasting from social media or Facebook for 40 days, or deleting your Amazon app or giving up your Starbucks run and giving the money you would have spent to **One Great Hour of Sharing** will help you connect more deeply with God's love, do it. If spending more time in devotion or prayer helps more, do that. But remember that it's about eliminating the things that interfere with or taking up the things that will help with our relationship with God.

**Lent offers us a vital opportunity to pause, reflect, and recalibrate our lives in alignment with the teachings of Jesus.** Amidst the prevailing turmoil and disarray, Lent calls us to a season of introspection and transformation, encouraging us to consciously create space for divine love to permeate our hearts and actions.



In a world rife with polarization and strife, **Lent challenges us to become beacons of hope and reconciliation.** It invites us to practice empathy, seek justice, and extend grace in our interactions with others. Through intentional practices that foster a deeper connection with God, we can cultivate an unwavering commitment to love—one that transcends differences and heals wounds.

Blessings and love,

*Pastor Jim*



Join us for our Lenten sermon series from *A Sanctified Art!*



# everything [in] between

a Lenten series in Luke's gospel

Beginning Sunday March 9th

Meeting God in the  
midst of extremes

ASH WED.	1 <sup>ST</sup> SUN IN LENT	2 <sup>ND</sup> SUN IN LENT	3 <sup>RD</sup> SUN IN LENT	4 <sup>TH</sup> SUN IN LENT	5 <sup>TH</sup> SUN IN LENT	PALM / PASSION SUNDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
intention & action	stranger & neighbor	faith & works	rest & growth	lost & found	righteousness & mercy	shouting & silence	grief & hope
<u>Luke 9:51-62</u> (Jesus sets out for Jerusalem)	<u>Luke 10:25-37</u> (Parable of the Good Samaritan)	<u>Luke 10:38-42</u> (Mary & Martha host Jesus)	<u>Luke 13:6-9</u> (Parable of the fig tree)	<u>Luke 15:1-7</u> (Parable of the lost sheep)	<u>Luke 19:1-10</u> (Zacchaeus greets Jesus)	<u>Luke 19:29-40</u> (Jesus enters Jerusalem)	<u>Luke 24:1-12</u> (The women grieve and Peter runs to the tomb)

Remember! Canned food drive for one of our local partners on each  
Communion (1st) Sunday

Please make sure that you bring your food with you to worship. There will be baskets to collect the food in front of the communion table. There are so many in need in our community!

Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper  
March 4<sup>th</sup>  
5:30-7:00  
Invite a Friend



JOYFUL NOISE  
Meets

March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>  
3:45-5:30

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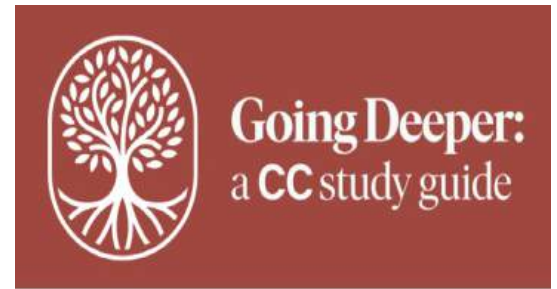
- Pasta (spaghetti, penne, elbow)
- Canned tomatoes (diced, crushed, whole)
- Plastic jars of pasta sauce
- Canned fruit (in juice, please!)
- Boxes of Stovetop Stuffing
- 1-2lb bags of rice
- 1-2lb bags of dried beans (black-eyed peas, kidney beans, pinto beans)
- Boxes of cornbread mix



## The Nominating Committee Needs Your Input

The JPC Nominating Committee is seeking recommendations for persons to serve as Ruling Elders on Session and those who might serve on next year's nominating committee. If you would like to recommend someone for consideration by the committee, please send those names to **Pastor Jen, or Elder Connie Reel-Shearin no later than Sunday, March 30.**

They will gather all recommendations and share those names with the Nominating Committee for consideration. The Nominating Committee will be using a process of spiritual discernment as they seek the will of Christ for our congregation. **Characteristics of good leaders include spiritual and emotional maturity, involvement in the life of the congregation, and a willingness to engage in prayer, study and discernment.** Let us be in prayer for and with our nominating committee as they embark on this sacred work.



**Interested in talking about how faith and theology impact our spirituality and everyday life?**

*This class for adults meets Sunday mornings at 9:15 using readings from The Christian Century.*

*Join the discussion! All are welcome.*

**Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes**  
**March 5 at 6:00 pm**



By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread  
until you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

— Genesis 3:19

Join us for a simple and brief contemplative service of music, candles and imposition of ashes as a way to begin Lent.



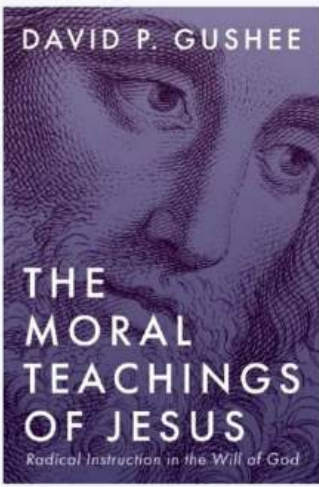
Join the JPC Endowment Committee for a Lunch and Learn following worship on **Sunday, March 23rd at 11:30**

**Stefanie Marsden, our consultant from the Texas Presbyterian Foundation** will be here to do a brief presentation and answer your questions.

**A CATERED LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ALL.**

**Come and learn how your gifts can leave a legacy for future generations.**





Mid-week Bible Study continues  
**Wednesdays at 11:30am to noon** on Zoom  
 and in-person in Pastor Jen's Study  
 using **The Moral Teachings of Jesus**  
 by Rev. Dr. David P. Gushee, Distinguished professor  
 of Christian Ethics, Mercer University

This book is broken into 40 digestible chapters and we will cover 1 chapter per week. The book is available in e-book and hardcover, and lessons will be sent weekly.

If you are interested in an "in person" study, please come to Pastor Jen's study where those who meet in person will gather. If you prefer to gather on Zoom, we will join you using the Owl.



Jesus taught his followers the importance of prayer, and God longs to change our hearts and our minds through our prayer practice.

If you are not currently on the JCPC prayer email list, please send your email address to [janeocoker111@gmail.com](mailto:janeocoker111@gmail.com).

Pastor Jen or Jane Coker send out prayer emails once or twice a week or more frequently when there is an urgent need. Remember, that we pray not so that we can change God's heart, but that we can allow God to change our heart.

Emails come from [jcpcprays@gmail.com](mailto:jcpcprays@gmail.com).

**Fifth Sunday**  
**Fellowship Event**  
 Get Your Act Together!  
 The JCPC  

**Talent Show**  
 is  
 Coming!!  
 Sunday, March 30, 2025  
 @ 4:00 PM  
 JCPC Fellowship Hall

Seeking all musical, drama, comedy, and specialty acts that highlight what makes JCPC such a wonderful and unique community.

## Happy Anniversary



*Shirley and Larry Thow 3/5*  
*Jane and Lenair Thrower 3/22*  
*Suk and Ben Sasser 3/23*

## Happy Birthdays

*Susan Jackson 3/2*  
*Gideon Grinstead 3/4*  
*Linda Mallick 3/7*  
*Karen Stroemer 3/7*  
*Anna Barnett 3/9*  
*Leah Howard-Newell 3/14*  
*Alex Nexsen 3/14*  
*Gavin Meek 3/18*  
*Anne Adams 3/22*  
*Kay Hanson 3/28*  
*Al Feimster 3/29*  
*Julia Krebs 3/29*  
*Barbara Newby 3/29*  
*Shirley Thow 3/30*

Date	Elder	Liturgist	Usher/Greeters	Nursery	Counters
Mar 2 Communion R. Myer S. Tedder	Myra Horton  Communion Class of 2027	Thomas Hawkins	Debbie Barrett Rita Myers	Jane Coker MK McGregor	Joe Bittle, Connie Reel-Shearin, Myra Horton
Mar 9	Gary Pierce	Tom Hoffmeyer	Emily & Chuck Stonerock	Myra Horton Beth Russell	Margaret Collar, Tom Hawkins, Gary Pierce
Mar 16	Robin Permenter	Myra Horton	Krista Poulton Ken Feaster- Eytchison	Susan Nexsen Karen Stroemer	Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer
Mar 23	Joe Bittle	Ann Lewis	Susan Jackson Julia Krebs	Karen Pattillo Tyler Gross	Kris Andrews, Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin
Mar 30	Tom Hoffmeyer	Paula Melbourn	Gladys & Robert Davis	Emily Stonerock Annie Bigham	Al Feimster Tom Hoffmeyer

# Session Summary

## Highlights of the Session Meeting on February 25, 2025

At its Tuesday, February 25th meeting your session members met and discussed being a Spirit-led “sailboat church” after reading chapter two of the book titled Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice. This kind of congregation earnestly seeks and strives to follow the God’s leading. Your Elders believe that JCPC can make a difference in the Florence community if we continue striving to be this kind of church.

Gary Pierce, who was celebrating his birthday that evening, inspired the members with his devotion noting numerous Bible verses which mention laughter. Action items included a motion to extend invitations to ten New Harmony Presbytery ministers and elders to preach during Pastor Jen’s Sabbatical. Many of these pastors have previously served as pulpit supply so you will know many of them.

March 16 was approved as PADD Sunday with a special offering to be provided the the Presbyterian Agency for the Developmentally Disabled – the organization that provides housing for adults with disabilities in three community based homes in Florence.

A designated account for *The John Calvin Celebration Fund* was approved so that we can collect small donations for the endowment and submit those funds to the endowment periodically. The session also approved communion at a noon service on Good Friday instead of a Maundy Thursday service. Myra Horton reported on meetings with Chris Webb, a landscape and playground designer who will be guiding the construction of the JCPC “backyard sanctuary.” She is exploring grants which would aid in the project.

Submitted by Betty Anne Smith

Treasurer's Report - January 31, 2025

Operating Budget

	Jan-25		2025 Year to Date (YTD)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Envelope Income	\$ 20,917	\$ 12,959	\$ 20,917	\$ 12,959
Total Income	\$ 21,358	\$ 13,510	\$ 21,358	\$ 13,510
Expenses	\$ 21,358	\$ 17,338	\$ 21,358	\$ 17,338

In January 2025, total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$3,828 with year to date total expenses exceeding year to date revenues by \$3,828.

In January 2025, envelope income was under budget by \$7,958 and under budget YTD by \$7,958.

Compared to January 2024, envelope income for the month is down 10% and YTD total envelope income is down 10%.  
Compared to January 2024, total income for the month of is down 8% and YTD total income is down 8%.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10  
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

*GIFTS RECEIVED*

*In memory of Claire McNeill*

*By Margaret & Ron Rogers*  
*and*  
*Diane, Jeff, & Cheryl Smith*

Texas Presbyterian Foundation

Lunch and Informational Workshop

When: Sunday, March 23, 2025  
Time: After worship service  
Where: JCPC Fellowship Hall

## LEGACY PLANNING WORKSHOP



**Leave a Lasting Legacy:** See how a Legacy you leave today can live on for years to come.

TPF and John Calvin Presbyterian have partnered to educate individuals on legacy and planned gifts.



Welcome again to our 9 new members received during worship on February 2!



Michael Shake, Organ



Thursday, March 13, 2025  
 7:30-9:00 PM  
 at  
 Lake City Presbyterian Church  
 300 Main Street  
 Lake City, SC 29560

John Calvin Presbyterian Church Florence, SC is seeking a Director of Music Ministries and Accompanist

The successful candidate will...

- bring glory to God through music
- Lead congregational singing
- Coordinate, rehearse and direct all choirs
  - Adult Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, Handbells
- Schedule musicians for all services
  - organ, piano, keyboard, guitar, drums, etc.
- Arrange for special music
- Serve on and lead through the Worship and Music Committee

These are just a few of the fun things you'll enjoy in this position!

To apply, e-mail resumé to [johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:johncalvinpresbyterian@gmail.com)

**Looking to contribute to our local mission work?**  
**Lighthouse Ministries Strengthening Families program**

is using our facility to work with families in our community on **Mondays and Thursdays**. This is a fantastic program that teaches parents and children good and healthy ways to be together as a family. We need to provide **at least 2 volunteers** to be here at the church **from 5:30 to 7 to help serve the meal and clean up**. If you are interested please see Thelma Hawkins who recruiting volunteers.



If you are looking for a way to help our underserved neighbors in Florence, our partners at **Lighthouse** sponsor a services connect event on **the First Friday of every month from 9-11am** at First Baptist Church (gym) at Irby and Palmetto. **There is always a need for guides to help guests connect with the services they need.**



**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**



**Lighthouse Ministries BBQ Fundraiser**

MONDAY, MARCH 17TH - FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2025  
 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM

HOLT BROTHERS BBQ - 2087 W. EVANS ST. FLORENCE

Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased from Thelma Hawkins, or online at <https://lighthouse-ministries.networkforgood.com/events/81116-2025-bbq-fundraiser>

Church Buddy Game Night – February 23, 2025



Souper Bowl of Caring Offering received more than \$660

