



## Pennsylvania, Programs, and Prayers

When I was a child growing up in Pennsylvania, we never went back to school before September, and even when I was teaching in Virginia, we similarly went back right after Labor Day. I understand why it makes sense to push the start date up to August, but September in my mind is still about back to school, football games, the beginning of fall and cooler weather. Even when I know that it's likely not to get much cooler down here until October rolls around.

But September always feels like the beginning of the program year in the church. Even though we've taken a breather from Sunday School and Bible Study over the summer and both of those are already back in the swing, it still feels like we are just getting going. Maybe August is the soft launch that we need to make September be the time when we pick up steam, but at any rate, here we are and before you know it we will be electing Elders to serve on the Session, celebrating World Communion and All Saints and be getting ready for Advent and Christmas. Time moves so very quickly. And if you aren't careful you may forget to prioritize your spiritual life.

I hope that you will take time to develop or deepen your prayer practice this fall. When do you pray? I've found that unless I have a specific time set aside, other things get in the way. Who do you need to pray for? Do you have a list, or keep friends and loved ones in mind as you move through your day? Do you let people know that you have prayed for them, and that you are praying for them?

Centering Prayer is a meditative practice where you center your mind and your heart and focus on your breath – opening yourself up to the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Often when I am praying, rather than using words, I visualize the person that I am praying for, asking God to be present and provide for them, whatever comes. I send out the prayer requests on Sunday after worship and hope that you will take the time to at least read through that list asking God to be with the person in whatever life circumstance that they are going through.

And if you have a prayer request, I hope you will always feel free

to send that to me, so that I can share that with our church community (if that's what you prefer; it's solely up to you!) and we can hold you in our hearts as we move through the week. I think this may be what the Apostle Paul is talking about when he says that we are to "pray without ceasing."

Have you ever been in a situation where you have asked for prayers and you could actually feel them? What a gift to be able to feel the love of others as you move through your day. I hope that you have felt that, or that you will when you need it most.

As I have said it is good to be home. It's been a more challenging transition than I expected but it's ok. It's good to be back. Thank you all again for the gift of that time away.

Blessings and love,

*Pastor Jen*

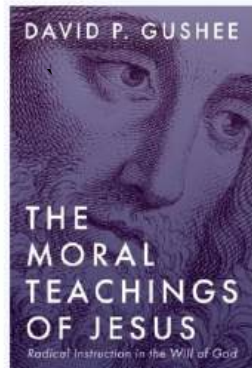




Remember! Canned food drive for one of our local partners on each

## 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!



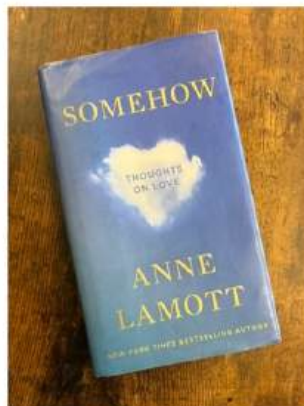
The weekly bible study taught by Pastor Jen will return on August 6th at 11:30am.

If you haven't been participating but would like to, now is a great time to start!

You can purchase the book, or use the weekly readings that are sent out on Monday morning.

Each lesson stands alone, so you are welcome to come and go as your schedule permits.

This is a great study that meets both in-person and on Zoom. **All are invited.**



## JCPC Fall 2025 Book Club Selection *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*

by Anne Lamott

We will meet to discuss the book over three Monday evenings from 6-7:00pm, at the Clubhouse at The Manor (1st building on the left after you turn from Twin Church Rd to Hamer Circle.)

**September 15 (Overture, Chapters 1-3)**

**September 29 (Chapters 4-7)**

**October 13 (Chapters 8-10 and Coda)**

The book is available on most book websites.

Please let Betty Anne or Pastor Jen know if you are planning to participate, or just come!

## Have you been visiting for a while? Are you considering joining JCPC?



If you are interested learning more about membership at JCPC in particular or the Presbyterian Church (USA) in general, please let Pastor Jen know.

She will set up a time to gather folks together once she knows who might be interested. All are welcome!

- Join us, Sunday September 21st, immediately following the morning worship service for a special called congregational meeting.



The purpose of this meeting is to elect Ruling Elders to serve on the Session, and at-large members for the 2026 nominating committee. Those that are being nominated by the committee to serve as Ruling Elders are Ken Feaster-Eytchison, Erin Grinstead and Betty Anne Smith. Those being nominated for at-large members of the nominating committee are Myra Horton, Ann Lewis and Scott Rickert. Please plan be there!

## Presbyterian Women's Monthly Bible Study

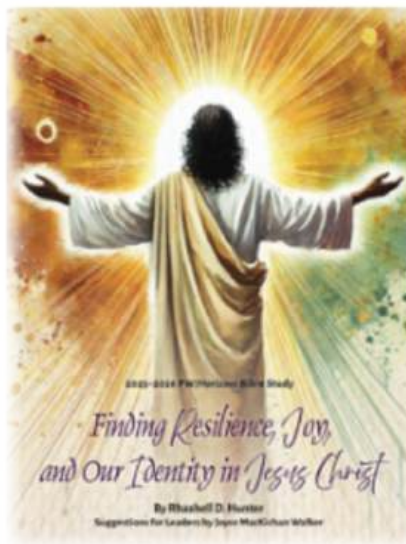
The Presbyterian Women of JCPC has three Circles who meet once a month (September – May) for Bible Study and fellowship at the church.

**ALL ladies are invited to join one of the circles.**

Smith-Josey Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month.

Maidie Vaughan Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:30.

Lucille Hunter Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00



Please contact Judy Voss, Kay Hanson, Jennifer Boyles or Annie Bigham if you're interested.



## Joyful Noise Club Bowling Party

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

3:30 pm

Southgate Bowling Lanes





## Serving in September

Date	Elder	Liturgist	Usher/Greeter	Nursery	Counters
Sept 7	Tom Hoffmeyer	Erin Grinstead	Krista Poulton Ken Feaster- Eytchison	Jane Coker	Joe Bittle, Connie Reel-Shearin, Myra Horton
Communion Prep: Judy & Al Feimster			Communion Servers: Class of 2027		
Sept 14	Gary Pierce	Debbie Barrett	Susan Jackson Julia Krebs	Susan Nexsen	Margaret Collar, Tom Hawkins, Gary Pierce
Sept 21	Robin Permenter	Greg Richardson	Gladys & Robert Davis	Krista Poulton	Ron Rogers, Susan Tedder, Tom Hoffmeyer
Sept 28	Joe Bittle	Judy Feimster	Susan Tedder Karen Stroemer	Myra Horton	Robin Permenter, Tom Shearin

## Session Summary

### Highlights of the Session Meeting on August 19, 2025

At its Tuesday, August 19 meeting your session members continued to discuss being Spirit-led after reading chapter six of the book titled *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*. The main idea of the chapter is that discipleship is about identity with Jesus and commitment to His way of life and that knowing Jesus is key in learning is to love, trust, and obey him.

It was recorded that votes taken by email had approved Angel Neil to be hired as Director of Music Ministries beginning August 1, 2025; Christina Boyles to be hired as Child Care Attendant beginning July 13, 2025; and Lemonade Stand and Bake Sale to be held on August 17 following worship.

The report of the Nominating Committee was approved as was a congregational meeting on September 21, 2025 immediately following worship for the purpose of electing officers and Nominating Committee members for 2026.

Other decisions made include:

- Approval for a request for Wentworth Hall HOA to use the Fellowship Hall on August 28 for their homeowners association meeting.
- Gary Pierce elected as Commissioner for the New Harmony Presbytery Zoom meeting on August 23.
- A celebration of Margaret Rogers' service at JCPC will take place on a date TBD.
- A hymn sing was approved for August 31 in place of the sermon.
- Two Elders offered to cover the cost of a JCPC silver sponsorship for the Pride in the Pee Dee celebration on October 11 and this was approved.
- The Christian Education Committee's request to sell Tidal Wave Car Wash tickets to continue raising funds for the playground was approved.
- Building and Grounds Committee advised the Session that plans are being made to address the water stain on the narthex carpet.
- Myra Horton reported on the backyard sanctuary plans and noted that she and Tom Shearin will meet with Contractor Chris Webb to get estimates for the water lines and pooling situation.

Submitted by Betty Anne Smith

## Treasurer's Report - July 31, 2025

### Operating Budget

	Jul-25		2025 Year to Date (YTD)	
	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual
Envelope Income	\$ 21,292	\$ 14,547	\$ 149,042	\$ 145,859
Total Income	\$ 21,733	\$ 15,075	\$ 152,133	\$ 149,510
Expenses	\$ 21,733	\$ 17,441	\$ 152,133	\$ 127,306

In July 2025, total expenses exceeded total income by \$2,366 with year to date total revenues exceeding year to date expenses by \$22,204. Included in the YTD excess revenues are budget savings of \$10,704 for the open Director of Music Ministries and Childcare Assistant positions.

In July 2025, envelope income was under budget by \$6,745 and under budget YTD by \$3,183.

Compared to July 2024, envelope income for the month is down 50% and YTD total envelope income is down 2%.

Compared to July 2024, total income for the month is down 51% and YTD total income is down 2%.

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



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 [janecoker111@gmail.com](mailto:janecoker111@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).

### Mark Your Calendars to Save the Date!

All types of pets are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors to bring theirs!

Join us on Sunday, October 5th at 2pm  
for a celebration of the Feast of St.

Francis and a

*Blessing  
of the  
Animals*







## Thank you to everyone who came out to help pack weekend packs with Help4Kids!

We had a terrific turnout of **24 people** and we were able to pack **almost 2 pallets of food** in one hour!

We had an **80+ year age gap** between the oldest and the youngest volunteer — **AMAZING!**

Thanks goes to Robin Permenter and the EOM (Evangelism, Outreach and Mission) committee for making this happen.

**Plan to join us when we do this again — stay tuned!**



## 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 is 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.



Jack Humphries 9/8  
Samantha Shock 9/8  
Robert Davis 9/10  
Wylie Pattillo 9/11  
Shoko McKinnon 9/12  
Tom Shearin 9/13  
Steve McCracken 9/16  
Muncie Matthews 9/18  
Emmitt Andrews 9/20  
Joe Bittle 9/20  
Kent Coker 9/20  
Carolyn Henderson 9/23  
Jane Thrower 9/29  
Caitlyn Pattillo 9/30



## Happy Anniversary

Tom and Connie Shearin 9/5  
Becky and Ronald "Shot" Montrose 9/22  
James and Margaret Collar 9/29



Many thanks for the prayers, calls, texts, cards, visits, and food following my recent surgery. It is heartwarming to be a member of a wonderful caring church family. I appreciate each of you.  
Jane Coker





## Church Buddy Breakfast – August 10, 2025



The church-wide Church Buddy Breakfast kicked off the start of Sunday School after a short hiatus over the summer. Please consider joining a class at 9:15 each Sunday morning. Coffee is in the kitchen for you to enjoy if you arrive a bit early.

