



This Month in *The Vine*

May 2025

vol. 41; issue 5

A Message from David

Not long after Jack Welch retired as the CEO of General Electric, the USA TODAY ran an article about the autobiography that Welch wrote to commemorate his retirement. The headline of the article read, "Welch angry at God after mother died." In the article, Welch explains how he gave up his lifelong relationship with the church following his mother's death after her third heart attack. He admits, "I felt cheated, angry and mad at God for taking my mother away." About his faith, Welch concludes, "I lost my heart for it, who knows why."

Jack Welch concluded that God was the source of his suffering, and, as a result, he turned his back on God and quit the church. Welch lost his heart for the Christian faith. Needless to say, no one can argue about whether Welch had a right to be angry and upset about his mother's death. But did he have a right to be angry and mad at God for "taking" his mother away? Welch blamed God for his suffering and pain. However, does God cause suffering?

One day Jesus was questioned by a crowd about a tragedy that had happened to some Galileans on their way to worship (see Luke 13). Those in the crowd wanted Jesus to explain why Pilate had murdered the Galileans. We do not know why they asked Jesus for an explanation. Maybe it was because human beings are prone to ask why in the face of suffering and hardship. It is human nature to look for a cause and effect.

Perhaps those in the crowd who asked the question wondered if the Galileans somehow deserved what had happened to them. Those who asked Jesus that question would have been mindful of the Old Testament passages that basically teach that you get what you deserve, and you deserve what you get.

Jesus heard their questions and then posed a couple of his own. He asked, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way that they were worse sinners than all the other Galileans?" And then Jesus continued, "Or those 18 who killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

What Jesus seems to be saying in this passage is that those Galileans did nothing to deserve what had tragically happened to them. And those workers in Siloam did nothing to deserve their death. Rather than

explained why, Jesus simply reminded those in the crowd that everyone should turn their lives toward God without further delay. When you read this passage in Luke, it seems clear that Jesus does not suggest that every experience of human suffering is the direct-action God.

Some popular theology we hear today says that everything (including suffering) that comes into our lives is sent from God or willed by God. And there are some biblical texts that support this idea. However, when I read the four gospels, I have a tough time embracing the belief that assigns all of life's suffering and hardship and pain to the ultimate will of God. After all, Jesus gave us the absolute best look and understanding of who God is and how God acts and what God desires. Think about it. Jesus never caused anyone to become sick; he healed the sick. Jesus never caused anyone's death; he only raised persons from the dead. He never sent a disaster to a city; he only wept over the calamity that he knew was bound to come into people's lives because of sin.

In his book, *Disappointment with God*, Philip Yancey tells the story of a friend named Douglas. Yancey explains that Douglas has lived the most Job-like existence of any person he has ever met. Yancey surmises this because soon after Douglas made the sacrificial decision to enter full-time ministry, his wife was diagnosed with cancer. Then to make matters worse, Douglas' funding for seminary fell through and he and his twelve-year-old daughter were severely injured in a car wreck. Finally, his wife succumbed to the cancer that had caused her so much pain and hardship.

One day Philip asked Douglas to describe his disappointment with God. Douglas replied, "I learned a long time ago ... not to confuse God with life. Douglas continued, "We tend to think that life should be fair because God is fair. But God is not life. If we develop a relationship with God apart from our life circumstances, then we may be able to hang on when the physical realities around us break down. We can trust God despite all the unfairness of life.

Despite the difficulties he has endured, Douglas does not feel angry at God in the same way that Jack Welch does. Douglas did not walk away from his faith because he refuses to confuse God with the circumstances of

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life. Instead of blaming God or feeling disappointed with God, he leans on his faith and trusts that God's grace will be sufficient to sustain him.

On one occasion Jesus said that the last word is going to be joy, but in the meantime, we will deal with pain and suffering in this world. Please note that he did not discount the reality of hardship and suffering. They are just part of the broken world in which we live. Indeed, Jesus endured some of the most intense suffering and pain that anyone has ever experienced.

The theologian, Jurgen Moltman, once said, "God weeps with us so that we may one day laugh with him." Those first followers of Jesus wept on Good Friday. Then they laughed with joy on Easter Sunday. I believe that we can find meaning for our lives when we pattern our lives that way. We can find the tenacity to continue in the face of hardship remembering the Easter truth that the worst thing is never the last thing. Always remember that

Join us in welcoming our new members

Two families joined our congregational family on Easter Sunday. They will be unable to join us on the 27th.



Tommy Salerno



Andrew Fu, Kathy Xue,
Wesley Fu and Vincent Fu

On New Member Sunday, April 27th, we have several others planning to join us! Please make sure to greet them and make them feel welcome.



Sally & "JB" Bergquist



Janet & Rob Bruce



Judy Lay



Peggy Ogden
Picture to come

Care

Prayer Requests...

Jo Caubre
Jim Pridgen
Joe Cala
John Wright
Rachel Jones

Charlene Worthy
Harlan Kebel
Virginia Henry
Claude Jackson
Carol McGuire

Charlie Allred

Military Personnel:

Josh Luty
Stephen McDaniel
Anthony Luquer
Jeb Baker

Love

Average Monthly Attendance

March 30th—April 13th

Average Adult Sunday School attendance.....	84
(Based on the numbers submitted)	
8:30am Worship Attendance.....	42
9:00am Worship Attendance.....	58
11:00am Worship Attendance.....	<u>208</u>
Average for onsite worship.....	308
Average online viewership.....	46
Avg. Rock@5 attendance.....	27

Financials for January, February & March 2025:

Budgeted: \$306,862.06
Actual: \$276,328.13

Compared to Last Year January, February & March 2024:

Budgeted: \$299,619.06
Actual: \$328,975.54

Thank you JUMC Family! We appreciate your faithfulness in getting your contributions to us. Ways to give:

1. JUMC Mobile APP
2. Online at JUMC.ORG
3. Text "Give" to (336)594-2717
4. Mail checks to: Jamestown UMC, PO Box 339, Jamestown, NC 27282

Please consider Jamestown United Methodist Church in your estate plans through our Permanent Endowment.

Finance Committee

If you have questions about Finances please call Bob Wilson (336) 336-253-5120.

Memorials & Honorariums

Jamestown United Methodist Church Received Gifts In March/April...

In loving memory of:

Mrs. Dot Elliott
Mr. Glenn Fisher, Jr.
Mr. Brent Jackson
(son of Claude & Charzette Jackson)
Mrs. Anne Manning
Dr. Kenneth H. Murray

Ms. Billie Spruill
(sister of Loretta King)
Mrs. Julie Sheek Morris
(daughter of Sue Sheek)
Mr. Michael W. Waggoner

In honor of:

Mrs. Lucy K. Hill
Missions Meal Team

In loving memory and honor of these individuals, our church members and friends have given to...

Building Maintenance/Capital Reserve

Music Ministry

Children's Choirs

Missions Meals

Fortney Sunday School Class

Condolences to these families and other losses since our last publication

Buck & Lorri Stephenson and their children on the passing of Buck's mother, Rayma Stephenson on 3/24/25.

Darlene Davenport on the passing of her cousin, David S. Macdonald on 3/27/25.

Rebecca & Russell Wood on the passing of Rebecca's mother, Frances Wilfong on 3/27/25.

Cheryl Dukes on the passing of her partner, Daniel J. Brown on 3/29/25.

Loretta King on the passing of her sister, Billie Jean Spruill on 3/31/25.

Catherine & Steve Pressley on the passing of Catherine's brother, Ernest Clyde Bartles on 4/3/25.

Barbara Waggoner on the passing of her husband, Michael Woosley Waggoner on 4/6/25.

Jan Moffitt on the passing of her husband, James Shelton "Pete" Moffitt, Jr. on 4/7/25.

Gary Page on the passing of his wife, Angie Page's stepmother, and Cat, Avery, Lottie and Benjy Jarosz's grandmother, Sharon Stagg Page on 4/11/25.

Richard Roach on the passing of his brother, Keyton Wayne Roach on 4/11/25.



The GriefShare ministry is a 13-week session and has been beneficial to many of our members as well as their family members. This ministry is open to the community, as well. If you or someone you know is struggling with the loss of a loved-one, we invite you to join us. We meet Monday mornings 9:30am - 11:00am. Refreshments will be available.

For more information contact: Linda Stine 336-681-8006; or online at Griefshare.org.

Jamestown Alzheimers & Dementia Caregiver's Support Group | Tuesday, May 6th at 2:30pm

This group is open to the community and focuses on those caring for a loved one with any form of dementia. We are a group of caring, open individuals who share, support, and learn from each other. Just in case you need to bring your loved one with you, we will have a room set-up just for them. Trained volunteers will provide appropriate activities and a light snack.

Hope you can join us here at Jamestown UMC, the first Tuesday each month. We meet in the church library. The respite room, for loved ones, is Room 101.

For more information please contact Melissa Moore at mamamelissa911@gmail.com or (336) 209-3335.

A Moment in Time / Memory Café | Tuesday, May 20th | 1:30pm

A Moment in Time, JUMC's chapter of The Memory Café, is a social gathering of people with any form or stage of dementia as well as their Care Partner. It is a stigma free environment to gather, share and enjoy activities and refreshments with people who are going through the same thing. Come, fellowship, get out and have a little fun!

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month between 1:30pm - 3:30pm in the Rooks Room.

Reservations are requested but not required. To register or ask questions, contact Laura Gulledge at (336) 906-0430 or lauragulledge@gmail.com | <https://www.facebook.com/jumcmemorycafe>.

Thank you

The Circles at JUMC; Faith, Friends, Hope and Peace, extend our warmest thanks to all who participated in the 18th Annual Baskets of Love by decorating a basket and delivering it to the recipient, decorating a basket and letting us deliver it, and by your generous monetary contributions. These baskets bring joy and happiness to nearly 50 of our JUMC folks showing our congregation's kind, generous, and loving spirit.

Thank you once again JUMC!



JYM youth helped with Baskets of Love this Easter.

General News

Offices Closed on Monday, April 21st | Easter

In observance of the Easter holiday, the church offices will be closed on Monday, April 21st. We will return on Tuesday morning at 8:30am.

Offices Closed on Monday, May 26th | Memorial Day

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, the church offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th. We will return on Tuesday morning at 8:30am.



*One Service and
Potluck Lunch*
*Let's send Pastor David off
on Renewal Leave*

Sunday, April 27th
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship Service
**11:00 am Potluck Lunch
in the Fellowship Hall**

**Bring your covered
dishes and let's eat!**

Join us Sunday morning for ONE service at 10am followed by a potluck luncheon. Drinks and paper products will be supplied. Bring a dish to share. Dishes can be dropped off in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00am.

JUMC youth attended IgniteUS at Camp Hanes in April.

IgniteUS is a weekend spiritual retreat for youth grades 6 through 12, planned and hosted by the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. It is completely YOUTH planned and led. Youth participate in worship and recreational activities. The goal of the retreat is to ignite youth's faith and passion for serving in their local churches.



Young at Heart | May 6th | 11:30am

Join us for the end-of-year party on May 6th at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. There will be lots of time for fellowship and we'll play a short trivia game, so bring your thinking caps! Lunch is a salad bar--potato salad, chicken salad, coleslaw, pasta salad, fruit bowl, and mini-muffins. There will also be an ice cream sundae bar for dessert. Register by May 1st at noon to reserve your spot. Don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor to come with you! The cost is \$5.00 per person. You can pay in advance here or pay at the door.

Our mission focus for May is JUMC's ministry to serve those with dementia in our community--A Moment in Time. To help support this ministry, please bring a \$5.00 gift card to one of these restaurants : Chick-Fil-A, Zaxby's, Starbucks, Wendy's, Burger King, Biscuitville.



Blood Drive | Tuesday, May 13th | 2:00pm—6:00pm

As a service to our community, JUMC is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive in our Fellowship Hall Tuesday May 13th from 2:00pm - 6:30pm.

Please consider giving the gift of life by donating. For appointments, go on-line to www.redcrossblood.org and enter our Sponsor Code JamestownUMC in the top

right-hand box labeled "Find a Blood Drive".

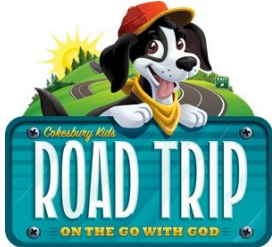
The Red Cross is requesting that we supply 2 volunteers to help check-in and greet participants as they arrive. One volunteer is needed from 2:00pm-4:15pm; the other from 4:15pm-6:30pm. If you are available and willing to volunteer, please let Tammy know before May 6th.

Children's Ministry



End of Year Celebration | May 4th | 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Go for the Gold is our end-of-year family event that promotes healthy competition, creative problem-solving, and lots of laughter. From water balloon archery to a DIY version of connect four, this silly sports day has something for absolutely every family to love. Throughout this event, you'll work as a team while traveling freely from station to station where you can learn a new game and win points for your team.



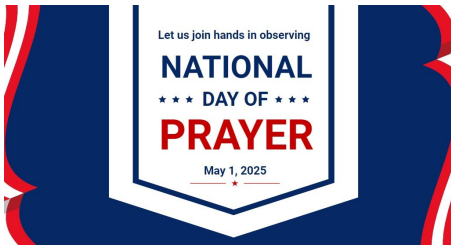
Vacation Bible School | June 23-26 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road where kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Bible, kids will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!



Summer Opportunities for Children

Parents, ROCK@5 will not meet for the months of June, July, and August but check your email during the month of May for a listing of summer opportunities for your children to fellowship with other ROCK@5 children and to receive faith formation.



National Day Of Prayer | Thursday, May 1st

We will recognize National Day of Prayer ONLY by asking members to sign up to pray for 30 minutes beginning at 6:00am through the day until 6:00pm at your home, work, in the car line for school pick up, at lunch or wherever you might be during that hour. Sign-ups can be made by texting/calling Phyllis Allen, 336-420-9362 or email gramaphylx123@yahoo.com.



There are more than four hundred references to singing in the Bible. Fifty of these are a command to sing to the glory of God. Just to put this in perspective, the average Bible is twelve hundred pages. To have one out of every three pages mention singing shows how important it is for God's people to sing.

For a Christian, singing goes beyond a duty. It is a part of our spiritual life. In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes to the church in Colossae, "Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another

with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." Here Paul tells us that in worship the Holy Spirit inspires and guides us through the songs we sing. In short the Holy Spirit sings through us bringing us into the very presence of God.

Let us join together as the family of God every Sunday and sing with the Holy Spirit a stunning anthem to the God and Father of our Master Jesus!

Do you love to sing but don't feel like you are trained enough to become a member of one of the JUMC choirs? Currently most of the members are just like you....someone who loves to sing and share the Word of God through song. Come try the 9 on Main Praise Team if you enjoy modern praise songs. Or attend Wednesday evening practice of the JUMC Chancel Choir to experience the leadership of Dr. Marc Foster and sit among those just like you....love to sing but are not a professionally trained voice. Contact Paige Matthews, 454-2717 and paige@jumc.org and she will have your music ready and waiting.

Church Council Meeting | Sunday, May 4th | 7:00pm

We will have our quarterly Church Council meeting on Sunday, May 4th at 7:00pm. As usual, anyone can attend these meetings. However, only Church Council members can vote if a need arises.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners



Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners 5:00pm—6:30pm

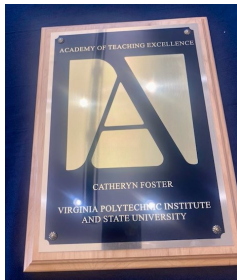
Upcoming menus:

Wednesday April 30th - Beef Tips

Final meal, Wednesday, May 7th - Cookout

Celebrating Dr. Catheryn Foster

This week, our very own Cat Foster was honored to receive Virginia Tech's highest teaching award! She was 1 of 2 recipients out of 2,575 faculty to receive the "Academy of Teaching Excellence" at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University! Way to go Cat! We're so proud of you!



New Digital Membership Directory

The new digital membership directory is now available through the mobile app. It will also be available through the new website. Please note, you must be a member of JUMC to access the directory. For detailed instructions visit <https://qrco.de/DirectoryInst> or scan the QR Code.



In order to access the membership directory, you:

- ⇒ Must be a "Member or Affiliate" of Jamestown United Methodist Church.
- ⇒ Must have a valid email address on file with us.
NOTE: Two people cannot share the same email address if you both want to have access to the directory. Only one person, generally the primary person, of the household will have access through the email address.

If you do not fall within these criteria, you will only have access to your own profile and information within the database.

Through the new online membership directory, you will...

- Be able to upload a picture.
- Be able to update your own profile, i.e., address, phone numbers, email address, etc.
PLEASE, DO NOT DELETE information. Edits and changes will go through an approval process before taking effect. Please be patient.
- Have access to the directory through the mobile app, as well as the new website.
- Determine what information is available to others through "Profile Visibility".

A Few Reminders for the Directory

First, don't forget to add your picture!!! Please do not attempt to "remove or delete" information from your profile. This is information for the church records and staff. If you would like for something to be "hidden" from the directory, please go to the "Profile Visibility" screen. You will see all items of your profile. Others can only see if you have any issues, please email Dana Bird at dana@jumc.org. We kindly ask that you do not call the church.

JAMESTOWN UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
403 E. MAIN ST.
P O BOX 339
JAMESTOWN NC 27282

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U.S. POSTAGE
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JAMESTOWN, N.C.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL



JUMC Staff

Contact information for the Pastors & Staff

Church phone number: (336) 454-2717
P.O. Box 339 | 403 E. MainSt.
Jamestown, NC 27282

Teresa Allred - Dir. of Children's Choirs: teresaallred5@gmail.com
Rev. Wendy Barnes - Assoc. Minister of Faith Formation:
wendy@jumc.org
Erin Betlej - Contemp. Worship & Digital Ministries: erin@jumc.org
Dana Bird - Office Admin. & Communications: dana@jumc.org
Shannon Craver - Bus. Administrator: shannon@jumc.org
Kim Crawford - Financial Secretary: kim@jumc.org
Tammy Forrest - Facilities Manager: tammy@jumc.org
Dr. Catheryn Foster - Contemp. Worship Leader: cat@jumc.org
Dr. Marc Foster - Dir. of Music Ministries: marc@jumc.org
Michael Foster - Sound Technician
Rev. Dr. David Greene - Senior Minister: david@jumc.org
Rev. Tony Kindred - Minister of Congregational Care
Paige Matthews - Office Admin. & Music Ministries Assist.:
paige@jumc.org
Emilee McCracken - Church Hostess: emilee@jumc.org
Martha Parrish - Preschool Director: martha@jumc.org
Linda Schumacher - Administrative Assistant: linda@jumc.org
Evan Petty - Handbell Director
Steve Stringer - Organist
Kyna Williams - Head Childcare Worker: nursery@jumc.org
Al Furlow - Custodian **Barbara Davis** - Housekeeping

Worship Schedule

Adult Sunday School is at 9:45am

General Sunday Morning Worship Times

8:30am	9:00am	11:00am
Traditional Sanctuary	Contemporary Fellowship Hall	Traditional Sanctuary

Worship will be available at 11:00am
on our Facebook page & YouTube channel.
YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/JamestownUMCnc

Sunday Morning Childcare

Childcare is available from 8:15am to 12:15pm for
children ages 6 weeks to 4 years (pre-K). You can
drop your children off in rooms 107 and 109.

For more information, visit us at www.jumc.org

Follow us on Facebook @JamestownUMC
or Instagram @jamestownumcnc

