



# J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

February 12, 2023 • 10:30 AM

### Gathering

**Welcome and announcements**

*Whitney Rawlings*

**Prelude**

*Christ for the World! We Sing*

*arr. Cindy Berry*

**Introit**

*Seek Ye First*

*arr. Karen Lafferty*

**\*Call to worship**

Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord, who seek God with their whole hearts.

Thanks be to God.

**\*Hymn no. 473**

*Christ for the World! We Sing*

ITALIAN HYMN

**Call to confession**

Our God is a loving God. Therefore, let us confess our sins that we may choose life and live.

**Prayer of confession**

Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods; we have turned our hearts away from you. Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism disorders our love of you and each other. Forgive us, God, and mend what is broken, that we may be one with you. Amen.

**Declaration of forgiveness**

Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Sing praises with an upright heart as we learn the ways of God. **Thanks be to God!**

### The Word

**Anthem**

*The King of Love and Grace*

*arr. Christopher Aspaas*

**Prayer for illumination**

Loving God, anoint us with your Holy Spirit, as we hear your Word this day. Fill us with your truth that we may walk in the ways of God and to the glory of your realm. **Amen.**

**Scriptures:** *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

**Sermon**

*Choose Life*

*the Reverend Chris Richardson*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles' Creed*

*Hymnal, p. 14*

**\*Gloria Patri**

*Glory Be to the Father*

*Hymn no. 805*

**\*Hymn no. 523 (verses 1 & 4)**

*Trust and Obey*

TRUST AND OBEY

**Invitation to offering**

Jesus said, If you remember that a brother or sister has something against you, first be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift. In peace, let us bring our offerings to God.

**Offertory**

*Lord, Be Glorified*

*arr. Mark Hayes*

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Hymn no. 809*

**\*Prayer of thanksgiving**

Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish, it is you who gives the growth. **Amen.**

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

### Sending

**\*Hymn no. 696 (verse 1)**

*The Bond of Love*

BOND OF LOVE

**Charge and blessing**

Love the Lord, choose the good, hold fast to God, so that you may flourish.

May the wisdom of God, the love of Christ, and the peace of the Spirit shine brightly in your lives this day and always.

**Postlude**

*They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*

*arr. Mark Hayes*

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### Announcements

**Record from last week (02/05/23)** Attendance • 62

Offering • \$2,199

**This week at J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian**

|           |               |   |
|-----------|---------------|---|
| Sunday    | after worship | <b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b> (Fellowship Hall); PDA offering |
| Monday    | 5:30 PM       | Pastor Nominating Committee                               |
| Tuesday   | 11:30 AM      | Presbyterian Women (Fellowship Hall)                      |
|           | 5:00 PM       | Choir rehearsal   |
| Wednesday | 7:15 AM       | Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)                  |

## Upcoming events

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Sunday, 2/19    | <b>Communion</b> , led by the Rev. Chris Richardson; <b>Session</b> meeting         |
| Wednesday, 2/22 | <b>Ash Wednesday</b> , led by the Rev. Chris Richardson                             |
| Sunday, 2/26    | <b>Girl Scout Sunday</b> , J.J. White Girl Scouts; led by the Rev. Chris Richardson |
| Sunday, 3/5     | Led by the Rev. Chris Richardson  |
| Sunday, 3/12    | Led by the Rev. Jill Buckley  |

## Welcome to worship!

*All* who worship here are joyfully welcomed into our midst! To visitors, we offer a special hand of fellowship and invite you to join us again soon; please fill out the blue card in your pew and place in the offering plate.

## Welcome to the Reverend Chris Richardson

Rev. Chris Richardson works part-time as a chaplain for Hospice Ministries and is an elder in full connection in the United Methodist Church. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Chris has lived in Pike County since marrying husband Kevin in 2004. They have three children: Colin, Brooke, and Emma.

## Vision 2023 (adopted by Session on December 11, 2022)

**Believe in Me and grow our church together in 2023.** In 2023, we shall regularly reach out to inactive members, encouraging them to renew participation in the life of JJWMPC. We shall also increase visibility through social media and community involvement that encourages others to join our membership. This will include promotion of church facilities as a destination for appropriate community events, with special emphasis on attracting young adults and youth. In doing so, we shall be widely recognized as a vibrant, welcoming church family that loves the Lord and one another. These initiatives will serve to grow membership and double attendance by year end, 2023.

## Reminder of God's call to stewardship

**But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7).** Your submitted pledge cards greatly help the church plan the year's budget. Please speak with Dennis Ross, 2023 Stewardship chairman, with any questions or concerns.

## Meals for the hungry

J.J. White coordinates a program to provide meals to the hungry in our community. The participating churches are J.J. White Memorial, Centenary, and the Church of the Mediator. Please contact Melisa DeCoux, program director, if you can help.

## Donations for mission partner

At Souper Bowl Sunday (following today's worship), we will collect donations for our mission partner, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. PDA's motto *Out of Chaos, Hope* reminds us of the many needs from disaster survivors throughout the world. Seek God's presence on their behalf with your gifts and prayers.

## Session

Watkins "Noggin" Wild, Clerk of Session • Wayne Hutchison, Treasurer

### Class of 2023

Dennis Ross  
Randy White  
Rusty Whittington

### Class of 2024

Melisa DeCoux  
Suzi Drummond  
Whitney Rawlings

### Class of 2025

Tommy Brock  
Linda Miller  
Noggin Wild

## Sanctuary flowers

Today's sanctuary flowers are provided by Cyrena and Mike Austin in loving memory of Emily Austin. The sign-up sheet for providing flowers in our sanctuary is available on the front pew. If you have questions, please see Carol Rawlings.

## Lectionary readings and questions for reflection

The complete list of this week's scripture readings is: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37. These readings speak of blessings and curses, life and death good relationships and those that are broken. The texts also suggest that we have a choice in these matters. Where do you find life, and where do you not – and what role do your choices play? Where you have experienced broken relationships in your own life or in the church? How do Christ and the reign of heaven enable us to move beyond brokenness and live in mutual support?

## J.J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church

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