



SteepleTalk

*Find out what's going on and what's coming up
in the life and ministry at John Knox Presbyterian Church.*

[Visit our Website](#)

[Download our App](#)

This Sunday's Worship

Join us this Sunday, December 20 at 10:00 AM

**In person: Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
Digitally: YouTube, Facebook, or John Knox App**



"Our Response to Gabriel's Announcement"

Christmas Eve Worship Online Only

Our Session, through its Reopening Commission, has made the difficult decision to suspend in-person attendance for worship on Christmas Eve.

Our leaders have considered the current local health data and the potential attendance at these popular services and decided that the most prudent course of action is to invite us to worship online on Christmas Eve. Our Christmas Eve Worship will be available online at 5:00 PM on December 24; the service will be available for viewing at any time thereafter.

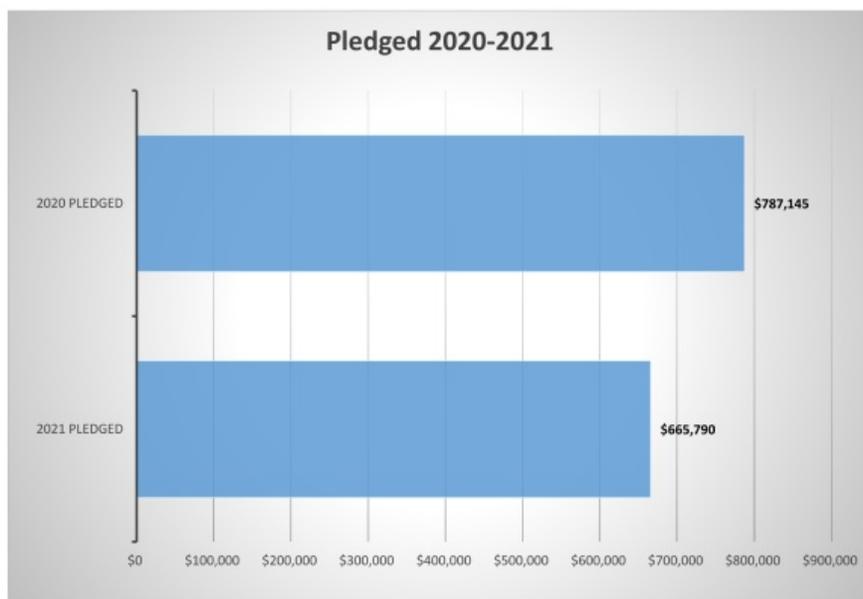
Of course we are disappointed, but we hope and trust that this year's celebration of Christmas will be worshipful, meaningful, and safe for all who worship with us on Christmas Eve this year.

Please note: this decision affects only our worship on December 24. We will continue our current Sunday worship schedule (10:00 AM in person and online) on December 20 and December 27.

Thank you for your understanding. May God's Spirit bless us all as we celebrate the wonder of Christ's birth.

Christmas Eve Worship Online 5:00 PM

through YouTube, Facebook, or the John Knox app



Through all the challenges of this season,

**God is faithful still.
How does John Knox respond?**

**2021 Pledge Cards Received: 138
2021 Pledge Card Value: \$665,790**

Will you join us in committing to offer ministry to our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ?

Use the button below to submit your 2021 pledge now!

Information

Pledge

Challenging Year, Enduring Gift

We are closing in on the end of tumultuous year. All of us have experienced uncertainty and sacrifice; some of us have endured great sadness. Through it all we have sought to be faithful to God and to our neighbors. And we claim with grateful hearts that God has been faithful in love and blessing for us.

An enduring gift to us from 2020 will be **community**—our sense of belonging to one another, and our responsiveness to the friends, neighbors, and others with whom we share this moment. God has allowed us to experience the trials of this year in the hope of a deeper connection with God and each another.

A measure of our faithfulness this year, then, is how much we are **together**—especially when gathering in person is such a challenge. We have discovered that being together does not require physical presence. It can happen with a card or call; through a high-tech video meeting and the pure simplicity of prayer.

Being together one way to understand this season of Advent and Christmas. What God is up to in the gift of Jesus Christ is joining our community, entering our existence. As the Apostle Paul says, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself.” Jesus expresses and offers our communion with God. As the Church, we enjoy this fellowship with God and each other, and we extend the invitation to all those around us to join in communion with us and with our loving God.

Being together. I pray that you feel that connection with John Knox, and with the loving Lord whom we celebrate and serve. Thank you for the rich gift of serving—together—with you.

Gratefully,



Lighting the Path: Through the Bible 2021

Most Christians want to know the Bible better. Most churchgoers feel bad about how little of the Bible they actually know.

How do we overcome the silent shame and begin to experience the joy? **By reading the Bible!**

Despite the challenges of getting started, the Bible is still God's Word. When we approach the Scriptures with the intent to honor God and grow in understanding, God meets us there and enlightens us. The Bible is the revelation of God to us: through the Holy Spirit God walks with us through the pages of scripture, helping us to see and understand more about himself. Reading the Bible helps us grow closer to God, and to become more like God wants us to be.



We offer this experience to everyone at John Knox: to make 2021 the year when the Bible comes alive for you. There is no shame in not yet knowing the Bible well, so wherever you are in your Bible knowledge, please join us. We will be offering lots of help, support, and encouragement. All of us will be following the same reading schedule, so we hope that you will want to participate in group learning and discussion. Each week we will be sharing some reading notes to guide you through that week's texts. And throughout the year each Sunday's sermon will deal with one of the texts you have just read. However you choose to engage this opportunity, our church will be purposefully engaging the Word of God, and we trust that there will be rich, lasting gifts for us all to receive.

[Click here for small group opportunities](#)



Offering Envelopes

AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

2021 Giving Envelopes

The 2021 giving envelopes will be available for pick up in the church office beginning Monday, December 14, 2020 and will be out until Monday, January 4, 2021. Please stop by the office at your convenience to pick those up. They will not be available in the Narthex this year. Please call the office before you come to ensure that someone is here to let you in the door. If you would prefer to have them mailed to you, or if you do not wish to receive envelopes this year, please let Caroline Bishop know.

Other ways to give include electronic checks sent from your bank or through the church app. Caroline Bishop can help you set up electronic bank checks. Instructions for downloading the app are [here](#). Once downloaded, you are able to set up giving through the app.

2020 Giving

- DELIVERED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 31
- POSTMARKED BY DECEMBER 31

ALL GIFTS
POSTMARKED OR
HAND DELIVERED
AFTER
DECEMBER 31
WILL BE CREDITED
TO 2021.

In order for financial contributions to be reported on the 2020 giving statements, they must be delivered to the office by Dec. 31 or mailed with a postmark date of no later than Dec. 31. All contributions hand delivered or postmarked after Dec. 31 will be included on the 2020 giving statements. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline Bishop in the church office.

PLEASE GIVE.



**Your ongoing generosity helps
John Knox to continue to serve.**

We can receive your gifts:

- by mail
- through automatic bank draft
- through the John Knox App

In this season of concern, the Church's witness of service and caring is more important than ever. John Knox is doing all we can to continue our ministry in ways that keep us connected to God and to each other. Please continue your offerings so that we can serve fully throughout this time of need.

Ways to give:

- Mail your contributions to the church at 35 Shannon Dr., Greenville, SC 29615

- Set up electronic payments through your financial institution
- Use the John Knox app: click on "Give"

Thank you for prioritizing the ministry of Jesus Christ in your financial life.

Please Let Us Know...

IF YOU ARE IN NEED, WE WANT TO HELP. PLEASE
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO LET US KNOW
HOW WE CAN ASSIST YOU IN THIS SEASON.

864-244-0453

Clerk's Report

The Session of John Knox Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM, for a Zoom meeting. The following are some of the items discussed:

The Service of Ordination and Installation for the new Elders and Trustee will be on January 31, 2021.

The Session approved a Called Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 14, 2021, for the purposes of approving the Terms of Pastoral Calls and presentation of the 2021 Ministry Budget.

Administrative -

- The November financials were briefly discussed by Kenneth Cates. Revenues exceed expenses.
- Prepaid pledges for 2021 so far were \$43K.
- Pledges are strong but still below previous years at this point.
- Budgets are being worked on but won't be submitted to Session for approval until early 2021.

Property and Operations

- Gary Campbell reported that the tree removal, part of the Parking Lot flood remediation project, will begin on the 18th. Please avoid the upper parking lot.
- The Men's bathroom on the S/S floor is nearly finished.
- All the trim work around the Church entrance has been refinished and painted.
- The Pruning Party on November 21st was a success.

Jessica Meggs – Youth Ministries:

- The second online Youth gathering was very successful.
- They are now planning for next semester.
- Confirmation Classes will begin on the 1st Sunday in January.

Susan Felton – Children's Ministries:

- 38 Advent bags were delivered Thanksgiving week.
- The Sunday Morning Children's Gatherings are going very well. 8 – 10 kids are gathering after the Service each Sunday. They will start back mid-January.
- There will be a Zoom Christmas Party next Sunday.

Rev. David Howell:

- Thanked folks for poinsettia delivery assistance.
- Children are making cards and WIC are putting together goody bags.
- Thanked folks for all the worship assistance.
- Don't forget that CMO is organizing an opportunity to serve bag lunches to the folks at Triune Ministry on December 20th. Josh Ballard is coordinating.

Dr. Gordon Turnbull:

- Advent Devotionals are very rich this year. Thanks to David Howell for pulling it together.
- 2021 lesson plan will be a read through the Bible, with everyone doing it together.
- Don't forget that spiritual growth is not frosting but rather it is the cake.
- The challenges of 2020 and the pandemic will be a long term benefit to the Church.

Mailbox

Dear JK Church Family,

Thank you all so much for all the prayers, calls, cards, texts and other expressions of sympathy during the recent death of our beloved niece...it has been a most difficult time for her parents and the rest of her family, but, we know that God is right there every step of the way as we move forward day by day...and what a comfort that is!

We are so Blessed to be a part of such a loving and compassionate Church family and we are grateful to have you in our lives ..

May God bless you all,
Anne & Jerry Peeler



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

- 17 - Mills Grant
- 18 - Gram Grant, Lilly Stewart
- 19 - Margaret Martin
- 20 - Mary Stall
- 21 - Kyle Jackson, Carolyn Alexander, Thomas Krumins
- 22 - Beverly Nelson, Ross Miller
- 23 - Anna Cain, Tommy Dowling

By the Numbers

Sunday, December 13
In person: 83
Livestream: 95

Weekly Offering Received: \$13,075.00
Weekly Budgeted Offering: \$17,060.48
YTD Offering Received: \$811,478.28
YTD Budgeted Offering: \$853,024.04



Please email all submissions for Steepletalk to msscott@johnknoxpres.org. For Thursday publication, information must be received by Tuesday at 12 PM.

Edited by Mandy Scott
John Knox Presbyterian Church
35 Shannon Dr.
Greenville, SC 29650
864.244.0453
www.johnknoxpres.org

STAY CONNECTED



Visit our website