

The Beacon

Vol 2

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It's March! I am sure we are all excited to see the end of Winter upon us and the Spring lying ahead. Last month during the winter storm we did suffer power outage for a week and upon returning to inspect the property Robert and I found the choir rooms and sub-basement under the sanctuary flooded. All of that beautiful snow melted and filled our rooms with icy water.

Although we were initially distraught over the situation we were blessed that this event coincided with the sermon of Noah and the ark. So as we endured the flood we recalled that God also gave us the rainbow. Not only did our members answer our call of help, but KSAT-12 and Jessie Degollado helped us shed light on the situation. Our community far and wide has reached out to us offering their expertise, time, and labor to help us save on the costs of repair. Electricians, plumbers, floor installers, general contractors, and even a water mitigation specialist have all offered their services along with numerous offers to help with cleanup and maintenance of the church.

I am over joyed to announce that we surpassed our first goal raising \$5,745 dollars. Our donations came from church members, the yoga class and it's members, Jefferson Neighborhood Association (JNA), visitors of our church and our community. Barbara Saenz said it best last Sunday in service, "it's proof that God wants us here."

While setbacks like this can weigh heavily on our hearts and be discouraging, we must remember that God wants us doing his work as much as we want to do it. Our Mission as Christians is to serve the community, spreading Christs message of love and care for our neighbors. Now in our time of need the community has shown us the same love and care. I am eager to begin cleanup and look forward to a new life for our choir rooms. We will shore up our foundations to strengthen the love we all share and spread.

May the peace of Christ be with us all,

Olivia Downen-Walker

Let's Get Physical!

Tired of being couped up? Ready to get fit? Looking for new friends? You have come to the right place! Join us Wednesday and Friday beginning April 7th at 10am for a walkabout the Jefferson neighborhood. We will walk for approximately thirty minutes.

We will be following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks.

Welcome to **Elnora's Closet** **a Jefferson thrift shop**

Elnora Rutledge was a member of JCC, formerly Jefferson United Methodist church, for over sixty years. A loving and energetic woman, Elnora volunteered her time organizing and running the thrift shop. She was often found working with her grandchildren in tow, pushing them around the thrift shop in shopping carts as they played, and she worked.



If Elnora saw a job that needed doing, she was the first to jump into action, whether it was in the thrift shop, cleaning the church grounds, or even cutting down tree limbs that were touching the roof of the church. It always seemed that no matter what a person needed, Elnora had it in the trunk of her tiny green car and no matter what the need was, if someone said they needed something... food, a ride, medicine, Elnora was there to help.

Even to her last day Elnora was worried that she could have done more, her acts were kind and thoughtful no matter how big or small they were. Whether it was picking up nails in the parking lot so that no one would get a flat tire, leaving surprise watermelons on her neighbor's porches, or helping numerous friends and family members reach for their dreams. Elnora was truly a testament to the light of the Lord.

It is our prayer to honor Elnora by dedicating the thrift shop to her legacy. While proceeds go directly to JCC, Elnora's closet also serves those who need clothing, shoes, blankets, and household items at no cost. Our mission is to leave no need unfilled.

we love our community a bushel and a peck and hug around the neck

The Create Love Project

Mission: To create safe, beautiful environments using mediation, permaculture and art where communities thrive.

The last two years have been a real exercise in rolling with the punches for us at Jefferson Community Church. I have put my own ministry, The Create Love Project, on the back burner in order to navigate these unprecedented times. With spring dawning it feels like now is the perfect time to move the pot to the front and get cooking.



What is The Create Love Project? We choose/create projects to fill voids in the community and build connection. Our main goal is to use art, ministry and mediation to create safe, beautiful environments where love for self and others may thrive.

I am proud to announce that we have our first project in the works at our new home at JCC. Jessica Feliciano, a longtime church member, social services employee and licensed cosmetologist has had a special calling on her heart, to create an event where parents can learn how to style and maintain their foster children's hair and skin. What a beautiful void to fill! It's a perfect example of an impactful offering that has the potential to create deep and lasting connection. We can get behind that here at TCLP and we are beyond ecstatic to dig in and make this happen. If this is something that resonates for you and you would like to support or participate, please reach out to thecreateloveproject@gmail.com.

We have found a home here at JCC and I believe we have the right people, space and opportunities to create more love for each other and for our community. If you have a calling on your heart, a whisper in your ear, an idea in your mind and want a safe place to explore and be supported, please stop by our office in the JCC belltower. I would love to know your name and what is calling you.

Kimberly Contreras is the Assistant Church Director at Jefferson Community Church, owner of Free Will Creative and founder of The Create Love Project. As a creative strategist, mediator and minister, Kimberly is committed to supporting individuals/organizations in transitioning to a more authentically aligned direction. You can reach Kimberly at freewillcreative@gmail.com, thecreateloveproject@gmail.com or at 210.735.5221.

Shamrocks

St. Patrick's day is March 17th. While many of us may be familiar with the story of St. Patrick and how he rid Ireland of snakes you may not know that he was born in Britain, kidnapped as a child and taken to Ireland where he was enslaved. He became a shepherd and after six years he escaped and fled home. Upon his return he dreamed that God was calling him to ministry. He answered the call and headed back to Ireland to spread Christ's message. He is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. The Catholic Church honored his passing on March 17th by declaring a feast day.



Today St. Patrick's day is celebrated in Ireland by attending church services in the morning, wearing green of course, eating traditional Irish fare, dancing, and wearing shamrocks.

So why a Shamrock? St. Patrick used the image of the Shamrock to explain the holy trinity to Christians. The clovers represent the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit living in unison on one stem.

The next time you dawn your Shamrocks for St. Patrick's day remember that we honor a great Christian evangelist and celebrate his service to the Lord.

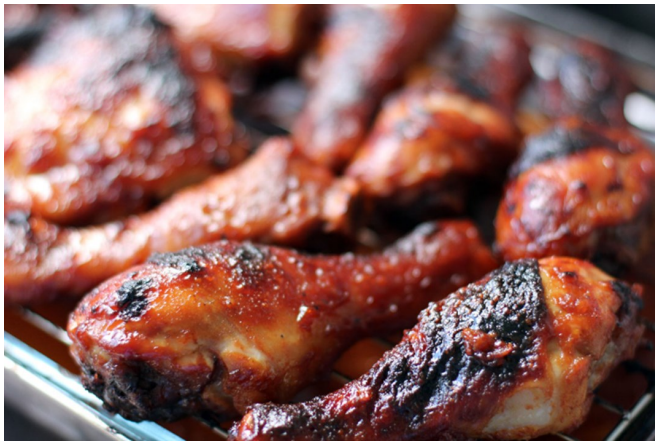
FREE WILL CREATIVE

Creative Strategy. Mediation. Ministry

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Spring Flea Market & BBQ

**Its spring-cleaning time!
Bring your treasures down to
our annual Flea Market or
come down and do some
treasure hunting! Open 8am-
3pm**

Spaces with no table provided are \$15.

Spaces with a table provided are \$20.

BBQ plates will be available from 10AM-3PM

**\$8.00 includes chicken, sausage, rice, beans, potato salad,
bread, and trimmings or for \$10.00 add your choice of straw-
berry shortcake or fabulous fudge cake.**

March Birthdays

01 – Barbara Saenz
02 – Ellen Herrick
06 – Giovanni Alejandro
Jerry Jaco
08 – Margarita Guajardo
14 – Danny Mendoza
Gary Von-Pratt
17 – Amanda Saenz
24 – John Sommer
28 – Joe Gonzales

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