



## THE J.A.M. JAR

Jackson Area Ministries

P.O. Box 603, 119 McKitterick Avenue, Jackson, OH 45640

Phone: 740-286-1320 or 888-237-3141

Fax: 740-288-4308

E-mail: [jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com)

web page: [www.jamumc.org](http://www.jamumc.org)

Director: *R. Michael Williams*

Office Administrator: *Deidra Libby*

**September 2023**

### **Summer Work Camp**



On Sunday evening June 11<sup>th</sup> JAM welcomed youth and adults from Baltimore UMC and Jacksontown UMC. Our summer work camp ministry began. Then, on July 16<sup>th</sup> JAM welcomed Bethel UMC from



Spartanburg, SC. Together, these three groups constructed 5 wheelchair ramps for individuals in need. The group from South Carolina also conducted a VBS at the Ironton Methodist Church. This year we've had 70 volunteers that have participated in our summer work camps. Our efforts this summer were in Jackson and Lawrence counties. JAM would like to thank Christ Church of Jackson, Grace UMC of Jackson, and Ironton Methodist Church for being a host church for the summer work camps. These churches are al-



ways so willing to step up and host groups that come in and serve with Jackson Area Ministries. We appreciate your willingness to serve the Lord in this way.



In April, Paul Soliday and his group "Labor of Love" from Sidney First UMC in Sidney, Ohio came to Jackson Area Ministries for a 4-day missions' trip. They have been coming to JAM for many years, usually for a week during April, and over Labor Day weekend. This past April, the

group constructed three wheelchair ramps for individuals, one being for an amputee who had difficulty entering and exiting her home. She was so appreciative for the ramp.

If you have a youth group or a men's group that would enjoy coming to JAM for a few days to build wheelchair ramps, please call our office at 740-286-1320 or go to [www.jamumc.org](http://www.jamumc.org) for more information.

## 2023 Gardening Facts and Thoughts

### Seed Potato Distribution:

49,000 Pounds of seed potatoes (source: Society of St. Andrew)  
35,000 Pounds of Baking Potatoes  
16 Participating Agencies

### Vegetable Gardens

2, 457 Gardens  
17 Distributing Organizations

### Tomato Plants

630 Flats (22,680 tomato plants) purchased  
Janice Michael, Sidney, Ohio donated 250 plants

### Financial Report

Income: \$15,615.80  
Expenses: \$ 5,605.90  
Garden Coordinators: \$3,000.00



### Thank You:

Jackson Area Ministries would like to express its appreciation to all the individuals, groups and congregations whose generous contributions make this ministry so widely utilized and acknowledged. We realize that for some churches the supporters are in the third generation of advocates. We received donations from 16 different states. To all our donors long timers or first timers we say a great big *Thank you!!!*

### Back to School Clothing Give Away

On July 27th and August 24th *Jackson Area Ministries* had a **Free Clothing Give Away**. We had several people come and we were able to provide them with **"New"** clothing for their children to return back to school. In the last several months, we have been able to help over 175 people .



## *Unity, Forgiveness, and Tears...12th Sunday after Pentecost*

The descent of the Holy Spirit creates a community bound together by a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, common practices in Temple worship, the Eucharist and prayers, and a common sharing of resources distributed according to need. As recorded in the Book of Acts, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ... All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the Temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:42, 44-47).

Sadly, bonds of affection and shared faith are often and easily broken. Jesus, anticipating our weakness, prayed that we might be completely one as he and the Father are one (John 17:23). Indeed, unity is something to be fostered and protected, nourished, and cultivated. And so the Apostle Paul spent much of his energy founding churches and then trying desperately to keep them together. He scolds the Church in Galatia: "I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

Unity requires continual repentance, amendment of life, and a firm resolve to build up love and trust. This is especially difficult when a serious breach in charity has occurred, where bitterness, suspicions, fear, and animosity linger.

A dividing wall of hostility, it seems, will only fall when there is forgiveness and tears. We see this so dramatically in the story of Joseph and his brothers. Joseph, the favored son of Jacob, is on occasion sent to observe his brothers shepherding their flock and gives a bad report about them. Moreover, he has dreams that predict his father and brothers bowing down to him, which, in foolhardy fashion, he openly shares. His brothers hate him and plot to kill him but then decide to sell him instead. Joseph is enslaved in Egypt, where he rises in prominence precisely because of his dreams and interpretations. Predicting a long famine and how to prepare for it, Joseph is rewarded by Pharaoh and made second in command in all the kingdom. Eventually, hearing that there is food in Egypt, Joseph's brothers go there, and unknowingly, they come into the presence of the brother they sold into captivity.

What happens is profoundly moving. "Then Joseph could no longer control himself ... he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive? But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ... Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him" (Gen. 45:1-4; 14-15). Real reconciliation is hard work, emotional, and even frightening. Still, restored unity is a beautiful thing. It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard, like the moist breeze that baptized the hills of Zion with a quiet morning dew (Ps. 133).

A reflection from The Living Church

*R. Michael Williams*

*JAM Director*

JAM is excited to announce that this Fall we are going to be collaborating with a local Christian K-12 school, Christian Life Academy located right here in Jackson. Actually it's just down the street from our JAM office. In Ohio, in order for students to graduate with an honors diploma they must serve a certain number of volunteer hours. We are happy that JAM is able to provide many opportunities for Christian Life Academy High school students. We believe this relationship with CLA, JAM, and their principal, Dr. Mellissa Boggs, D.Ed., will be beneficial for all parties. Stay tuned for more updates as things continue to unfold.

**JAM JAR**  
JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES  
P.O. BOX 603  
JACKSON, OH 45640

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 122  
JACKSON, OH 45640

Current Residence or Current Address



The project number for Jackson Area Ministries is 194431

Would you like to receive our Jam Jar  
Newsletter by email?

Please email us with your name, address  
and email to

[jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:jamjar@midohio.twcbc.com)



**facebook**

Check us out and follow us on Social Media.

Like our Facebook page

**Jackson Area Ministries**

Also be on the look out for website updates.

[www.jamumc.org](http://www.jamumc.org)