

Sights & Stories



20 YEARS & COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

KRISTI MCCALLUM: JP PROJECT ASSISTANT

A milestone is fast approaching the Jeremiah Project, so for many of our faithful supporters a little JP history may be in order! The Jeremiah Project was founded in 1997 by three Youth Pastors from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Todd Freneau, the Rev. Abi Foerster, and Barbara Russell all felt there was a tremendous need for a Christ-centered mission trip experience designed specifically for middle school students. Selecting Jeremiah 1:7 as the foundational scripture, the Jeremiah Project was born.

If you did the math, then you'll recognize we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as a ministry! To start things off right, we are celebrating the people who make up what we lovingly call our "JP Family". Each

year, over 100 JP staff members come together to run nine weeks of summer camps! These JP Staffers and Volunteers come from all over the east coast to serve in ministry with the Jeremiah Project. To celebrate all the ways these volunteers have become family, we are hosting a Staff Celebration on George Mason's campus June 3rd! There will be a reception, water balloon volleyball, worship, a message, and many moments of laughter and joy as we reflect on the ways God has worked through the Jeremiah Project in mighty ways.

We are also excited to share our scholarship challenge as part of our celebration events. Students and adults are encouraged to design a day of service in their own communities based on the core values of JP. Three separate awards will be given for leadership development to the applicant's home church. A culminating Gala

Celebration is planned for October 14th hosted at Sydenstricker UMC! A worship service with music by the Keith Elgin Band, a reception, and a special anniversary video will be shown.

We are counting our many blessings after 20 years, not because of anything we have done, but because of what God has done through willing hearts and hands. We are grateful for our 20 years of ministry and looking forward to where God will take us next!

**DO NOT SAY, "I AM ONLY A YOUTH; FOR YOU SHALL GO TO ALL TO WHOM I SEND YOU, AND YOU SHALL SPEAK WHATEVER I COMMAND YOU."
JEREMIAH 1:7**

"When I think back on these past 20 years, I am reminded what an amazing adventure they have been! God's hand has been on this ministry since the beginning, and I am so excited to celebrate all that God has done in the lives of middle school students, adults, staff, and the thousands of clients we have served over the years!" -Todd Freneau



JP 1997 Staff: (backrow L:R) Todd Freneau, Britt Tingent, Abi Foerster, Jeff Russell, Doug Barricks, (front row L:R) Katy Stuck, Bridget King, Barb Russell, Jennie Urrutia

THE BEST LIFE @ JOURNEY

TODD FRENEAUX: JP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Speaker, author, Jr. High leader, and ministry coach, **Mark Oestreicher** returned this year with *The Best Life* as the theme for our JOURNEY retreat. Marko unpacked the secret to living the best life ever! Using Philippians 1:9-11 as the core passage for the weekend, Marko touched on how the best life is one lived with and for Jesus Christ. But it also involves doing life with a community of believers, taking some risks with Jesus, and living a life that is others-centered and kingdom-minded. It was an amazing weekend with 500 of our closest friends and family!

"THAT YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND MORE AND MORE IN KNOWLEDGE & DEPTH OF INSIGHT, SO THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DISCERN WHAT IS BEST AND MAY BE PURE AND BLAMELESS FOR THE DAY OF CHRIST... PHIL 1:9-10"



JUNE 3RD

20th Anniversary Staff Celebration hosted at the Student Union Building @ George Mason University from 4-9 pm

JUNE 14TH

Seventh Annual Spring Benefit Golf Outing at Reston National Golf Course in Reston, VA. Tee-off @ 9 am

JUNE 23RD

Our first week of camp begins! Staff training will kick off in Richmond, VA for our urban ministry setting.

OCTOBER 14TH

20th Anniversary Gala Celebration hosted @ Sydenstricker United Methodist Church from 5 pm - 8 pm

LEAD FOUR: TWELVE BEGINS ANEW

DARRYL MCCALLUM: LEAD COACH

As the 2016 and 2017 LEAD Four:Twelve cohorts wrapped up their year together at JOURNEY, our newest LEAD Four:Twelve students met for the very first time. Twelve ninth-graders from all over the state gathered to begin the process of refining their leadership skills so they can use their God-given abilities to make an impact on their churches, schools, and communities. Throughout the next year, these young leaders will learn what it means to be a servant-leader, make connections with their churches and other agencies, and use what they have learned to complete a culminating leadership experience: their Timothy Project. I'm excited to see what the next twelve months have in store for these amazing students; I am positive they will grow as leaders and as followers of Jesus!



WWW.JEREMIAHPROJECT.ORG

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