

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
FEBRUARY 2023



An Empathetic High Priest Thoughts from Dr. David Jeremiah.

David says-Psalm 69: 20b. "I looked for sympathy, but here was none, for comforters, but I found none."

Hebrews 4: 15 "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Sympathy and empathy are two words that are often confused but have different meanings. Sympathy, based on knowledge, is our expression of pity or sorrow for someone's misfortune or situation. Empathy is when we understand and share the feelings of another.

"I feel for you vs. 'I feel how you feel.'" Our Hebrew verse describes Jesus' perspective on our trials. He sympathizes and He empathizes' for He "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." He experienced the same situations we do. His compassion is not just knowledge-based; it is experience-based as well. When we experience moments of temptation or weakness- "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace with confidence to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16. Jesus will intercede for us because He has felt how you feel.

MISSION PARTNER J.O.Y. Pantry

The JOY Pantry is our Mission Focus for February. This ministry reaches many families in our area. Envelopes are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

Church Events

- Feb. 6, 6:30pm—Trustees
- Tuesdays 7:00pm—Creative Ministries
- Feb. 3, 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out
- Feb. 14, 1:00—Friends Together
- Feb. 11, 8AM—Men's Brkfst
- Feb. 11, 1PM—Free Food Box Distribution (Assemble 2/10 @ 6PM)
- Feb. 22, 6:30PM Ash Wens. Church Service JUMC

MARCH

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Sunday, FEBRUARY 20

JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
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Pastor's Pen

From the Pastor: Fasting – a Spiritual Discipline of Faith. We begin the season of Lent at the end of this month with **Ash Wednesday on February 22, 2023 with a service at Jonestown UMC at 6:30PM.** The United Methodist Churches of Northern Lebanon will be holding weekly Lenten services at various churches with the pastors speaking at churches other than their home church. There are many people who speak about “giving up ????” for Lent.” It might be chocolate, social media, TV, ice cream... many people choose to “fast” during the Lenten season. We may be used to the fasting before blood work or a medical procedure – which is actually the closest to the actually Biblical practice of fasting, just with a different purpose. Fasting in faith ties the spiritual motivation/benefit and the physical discipline together. At the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry we find in Matthew(4:2) the challenge that Jesus “fasted forty days and nights and afterward was hungry.” The period of Jesus fast included staying focused on the spiritual challenge of confronting our spiritual enemy and at the same time claiming the spiritual renewal and victory. While many people attempt to remove the physical abstaining from food and focus only on the spiritual discipline, the norm would include both. Indeed, some people must take in a certain amount or kind of food each day for health reasons. By limiting their diet to only what is necessary and claiming the spiritual strength, renewal, and focus on the Lord, people discover the blessing of a fast is far more beneficial than passing up the opportunity. The list of spiritual leaders who fasted as a part of their spiritual leadership and discipline is a list of giants in the faith... Moses (Deut.9:9,18; and Exod. 34:28), David the king, Elijah the prophet, Daniel, Jesus and His apostles, Hannah of the Old Testament and Anna of the New



REV. ALAN SMITH

Testament. More modern leaders have included Luther, Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John and Charles Wesley... There are three main forms of fasting in the Bible:

The Normal Fast – abstaining from all food, solid or liquid, but not from water.

The Absolute Fast – Saul (Paul) at his conversion (Acts 9:9) “for three days he neither ate nor drank...” Normally this was never for more than three days, probably because of basic physical realities. Ezra 10:6 “he spent the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water; for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles.”

The Partial Fast – Daniel 10: 2,3: “In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.” This is a restriction of diet rather than complete abstention. A commonly accepted fact of dietetics is that a simple and wholesome diet is far more beneficial than a rich and elaborate one. For some, it was a limitation of what they would NOT eat or drink and at other times, as with John the Baptist, what they WOULD eat.

As you approach Lent this year, you may want to consider a purposeful/focused fast as part of your spiritual discipline. Perhaps you will fast sunrise to sunset, or sunset to sunrise, and let your physical hunger draw out your spiritual hunger as you pray for someone, as you seek God’s direction for your life, as you seek God’s blessing on your marriage or your personal relationship with Jesus. There are times we fast seeking God’s wisdom over something to gain his mind and heart over an issue. Jesus was clear that our fasting is not for pride or position, but to humbly trust God for His leading, inspiration, worship, empowerment, opportunity to bear witness and minister in His name. I will share these thoughts in person in worship on the first Sunday of Lent, February 26th. We will focus on our living faith through the Lenten season – Come grow with me.

A new year is before each of us. Behind are what we have done, been involved in, and maybe wishing some things were different. Many make resolutions for the new year. Scripture gives us many directions that provide wise, helpful, and life-changing resolutions.

Mark 12:29-31, Jesus speaks about which of all the commandments is the most important. "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One, love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' "The second is this, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gave definition to *love*. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not

easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hope, always perseveres."

Jesus in John 15 talks about the vine and the branches and being fruitful. Read verses 1-17. Verse 8, "This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples." Verses 16-17, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit, *fruit that will last*. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. This is my command! *Love each other*."

Peter gave consideration on exemplifying Christian graces in 2 Peter 1:5, 6, 7, "make every effort to add to your faith, goodness, and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love."



Read 2 Peter 1:1-11 now.

Generosity it also to be considered. Consider Proverbs 3:9-10, 11:25, 22:9. Then hear Paul's words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Verse 18, "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."

Psalms 119 gives thoughts for resolutions. For example, verses 9-16 ("I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You"). And 119:105, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Paul said this to Timothy, 2 Timothy 3:16, 17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Micah 6:6-8 gives this thought, "With what shall I come

before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? (6) He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (8).

One final thought from Paul, your attire for the new year. Read Colossians 3 (whole chapter), verses 12-14, "There - fore, as God's chosen people holy and dearly loved, clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive what grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on *love*, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Verse 17, "and whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." God's blessings be with you in 2023!



Joy is back to distributing the 2nd and 4th Thurs. and Friday of February. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to

JOY. Our families are very appreciative. Some needed items are: canned pasta, beets, mandarin oranges, chunky soup, applesauce, canned fruit, juices, peas and carrots. We donated over one hundred pounds of food in January. Please mail monetary donations to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038.



Tues., February 14th at 12:30pm.

The next daytime ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be on the second Tuesday of February, the 14th at 12:30pm. For Valentine's

Day, we will be going out for lunch at Moose's Landing Zone. Please sign up in the narthex or east entryway by the 12th. We will meet at the church to carpool. See Judy Mowry if questions.

CAMPING 2023

Hello all from your new camping coordinator. It's time to look at and sign up for a 2023 summer camp. I have already received the Pocono Plateau brochures. Their curriculum this year is Boundless: God Beyond Measure. I should receive Gretna Glens brochures shortly. I am excited to be getting involved with the camps once again and hope to have a camping Sunday awareness presentation soon. Camp changes lives, let's go camping.

Jeff Waltermeyer

DECEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

4 Sundays @ 3553.00 = 12063.00 budgeted
Received in total for all categories = \$12, 929.00
Expenses \$ 10, 954.64



- 1 Bryan Rudy
- 2 Jan Rhen
- 5 Travis Unger
- 6 Shirley Fortna
- 6 Ryan Showers
- 6 Sawyer Showers-Mann
- 7 Maddox Showers
- 8 Doris Crouse
- 11 Amy Fahler
- 12 Debbie Adams
- 13 Malinda Kohr
- 16 Owen Heckman
- 23 Peg Fortna
- 23 Mike Rhen
- 23 Laura Eisenhauer
- 24 Connie Mentzer
- 25 Dawn Miele
- 25 Ernie Shuey
- 26 Judy Mowry



- 1 Frank & Jan Sebastian
- 12 Nathan & Amy Hillegas
- 14 Eric & Penny Fahler
- 14 Matthew & Dawn Krissinger

FEBRUARY CARE TEAM

Week of February 5

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of February 12

Nancy Rhautzhan 717-865-3061

Week of February 19

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

Week of February 26

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809



Please keep contacting those we don't see in church to let them know we

miss them. Calls or cards mean a lot, especially to those who are home bound. Annie Grant and Ellie Artz continue in nursing homes, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit. Their addresses are listed on a sheet on the JOY table in the narthex, along with the addresses of our college students. Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. If you know of a care concern, please contact anyone on the Care Team. Also, if you would like to be on the Care Team, please see Pam Gray.



with Lori Jackson
Tuesdays 7:00pm
-8:00pm.

This may or may not involve puppetry. 10 years old through adult are welcome to join. Speakers, actors, writers, tailors, artists, interest in sound, lighting. No experience necessary. Text Lori 717-926-4572

"Be Our Guest Meal" on Saturday, February 25th starting at 5:00pm at the Jonestown United Methodist church. All members of the community and our congregation are invited to come and BE SERVED a meal of homemade bread, soups, (including chicken noodle and several other choices), and desserts. If there are any questions, please contact Howard Lee
T: (717) 228-7249

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Now is the time to alert you of how to be informed of cancelations or changes to our Sunday morning worship service(s). A consultation and decision will be made as necessary by the Chair of Worship, the Chair of Trustees, and the Pastor. Then information will be given to these media venues: WLBR Radio 1270 AM, WHP21 TV station, WGAL 8 TV station.

Also YOU must determine what is best for you. If you are not comfortable driving in any kind of inclement weather, STAY HOME, DRY, WARM AND SAFE. You may also call the pastor to ask about road conditions or if there will be services. Let's work together and keep everyone cared for and safe. Don't forget we livestream both worship services every Sunday.



Friday, February 3, 6pm

Our Ladies Night Out group will be meeting again on the first Friday in February, the 3rd, at 6:00pm in the church basement. Karen Bene is our leader. Bring a project of your own to work on, or a game to play. Come for fun and fellowship and pizza! Anyone can attend one group or the other. We are stronger together and need to support each other. If you have ideas about some other small groups, please let Pam know. We can always start some others. We want to include everyone.

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER Tuesday evenings starting February 7, 6:30-7:30pm

Please join me for prayer. We will have a short devotion, and then we will spend time with our Father. Personal prayer, prayer for our country, our community, our church family, and each other. It will be ALL of our time with Him. Teri Light

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

JUMC is responsible for preparing the noon meal the first Friday of each month through volunteers from our congregation, adults in the winter, fall, and spring, and our Youth Ministry in the summer. Currently we make about 100 lunches distributed to those in need noon-1pm. If you are interested in helping, contact Howard Lee (717-228-7249) or Bob Hillegas (717-865-7478)

Free Food Box Distribution

February 11th @ 1PM

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last two years to needy families in our area. You can help unload food Thursday 2/9 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 2/10, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday at 1PM. (Setup at 12:30PM)

OUR PRAYER CHAIN

Friends and members of our church may activate the prayer chain by calling the pastor or one of the team leaders indicated by a star (*).

Team 1: *Lewis & Eleanor Artz
(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Annie Grant (717-462-9100)

Team 2: *Larry Major (717-865-3442)

Jeff & Diana Waltermeyer (717-865-5675)

Rick & Wendy Kline (865-4363)

Team 3: *Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)

Judy Mowry (717-279-0809)

Kay Horner (717-865-5538)

George/Nancy Rautzhan (717-865-3061)

Lewis Artz (717-865-3447)

Larry Major (717-865-3442)

Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)

VERY IMPORTANT!

Start by calling one of the following people: Pastor Alan Smith (717-865-4369; 215-527-7388); Lewis Artz (717-865-3447);

Larry Major (717-865-3442);

Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)

Upcoming Event: Midwinter Fun Night

Saturday, February 18, 6:00pm

We are planning our Midwinter Fun Night for Saturday, February 18th at 6:00pm in our social hall. This will be a Talent night and a delicious buffet dinner for \$20.00 each. If you have a fun or interesting talent you would like to share, please sign up with Lori Jackson. See her with questions. Steve Clark and Gary Miele will prepare a delicious buffet of chicken marsala, ham in bbq sauce, plus appetizers, side dishes and a scrumptious dessert! You won't want to miss it. Sign up in the east entryway or narthex. Please pay Pam Gray by February 12th (checks made out to Jonestown United Methodist Church.)

February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Praise Team 7:00	2	3 Noon meal LCCM 10am Ladies Night Out 6 Pastor's Sabbath	4
5 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	6 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00 Trustees 6:30	7 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	8 Praise Team 7:00	9 JOY Pantry 5:00	10 JOY Pantry 12:30-2 Food box assembly 6:00 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Men's Break- fast & Study 8:00 Food box distribu- tion 1:00
12 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	13 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00 Church Council 6:30	14 "Friends To- gether" 12:30 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	15 Praise Team 7:00	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 "Mid Winter Fun Night" 6:00
19 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	20 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	21 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	22 Praise Team 7:00	23 JOY Pantry 5:00	24 JOY Pantry 12:30-2 Pastor's Sabbath	25 "Be Our Guest Meal" 5:00
26 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	27 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	28				