

# JUMC *happenings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2021



The new year—2021—is before us. For me what will come forth in my life? Is that your question too? Guidelines are found in Scripture. Love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:28-29)? Love others as much as I love myself (Mark 12:31)? Live a good life the best I can, or live a good life that is fruitful as I continue to be attached to Jesus? (John 15:5-8) Show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, controlled by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23)? I will be fair and just and merciful and walk humbly with my God (Micah 6:8)? I will be generous providing food for the hungry, water

for the thirsty, care for homeless and needy, clothes for needy, visits for sick and imprisoned (Matt. 25:34-39)? I will not be judgmental, but compassionate and forgiving (John 8:1-11)? I will do what I want to do, what I think is best for me (society's general thinking)?

### *What will it be for you?*

Lastly, I will wear my mask when it is expected (Leb. Co. request) and follow social distancing?

Happy New year. God be with you. And be ye thankful for His great salvation, His presence in Your life, and His caring.

## MISSION PARTNER: AMNI

The ELKINS minister to the Jewish community in the Philadelphia area. Envelopes are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

## Church Events

- Mon., Jan. 11, 7pm  
Church Council

**JONESTOWN  
UNITED METHODIST  
PO Box 750**

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**www.jonestownumc.org**

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2020 with its many problems has ended. 2021 is before us with continued and probably new difficulties.

Max Lucado in his book, You'll Get Through This said, "you'll get through this. It won't be painless. It won't be quick. But God will use this mess for good. In the meantime don't be foolish or naïve, but don't despair either. With God's help you will get through this."

This was his response to various problems. 1) A woman left with 3 children when her

husband left her after 20 years of marriage for a younger model,

2) A man who had been fired at age 57 for making a stupid, inappropriate remark at work. Now unemployed, wife angry, and children confused.

3) a teenage girl (17) told by her parents, "you need to decide who you will live with. We are parting. She would graduate from high school and was planning for college.

Now take the Bible and read the story of Joseph (Gen. 37:1-

50:26). Joseph, Jacob's 11th son, first child by Rachel, his beloved wife, and the pride of his eyes. The one with the multi-colored coat, but hated by his 10 older brothers. At about age 17 sent by his father to check on his brothers and found himself in a pit (drywell), no coat and planned to be killed by his brothers. Instead sold into slavery. He became a servant of Potiphar and through God's blessings a favorite of Potiphar. However, Potiphar's wife saw an attractive, young, handsome man whom she wished to seduce. Joseph refused and wound up in prison. In prison Joseph interpreted the dreams of two of the king of Egypt's staff: the chief baker and the chief butler. When his interpretations

## Romans 8:28

"And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans."

became reality, the chief butler failed to keep his promise to tell Pharaoh about Joseph, and he remained in prison until Pharaoh had his dreams. He was told about Joseph, and sent for him to interpret his dreams. And God's intention: 7 good years and 7 bad years. Joseph gave Pharaoh a plan and was made second in command of Egypt. After the bad years, Jacob sent Joseph's 10 older brothers to Egypt for assistance. Joseph recognized them. Chance for revenge? Carefully study Genesis 45. A reunion of Joseph and his family took place for Jacob and his family came to Egypt. Jacob died, and once gain Joseph's brothers worried that they would get it from Joseph, but Joseph *forgave* them and offered to care for them and their families.

Joseph trusted God and believed that what took place in his life was within His plan for him and for the Israelites (Jacob's family) and the people to come. That trust directed his life so he could forgive his brothers.

Job gives us additional

thoughts as he struggled to understand why all these things were happening to him. It became clear as you study the book of Job he was not meant to know why all this was happening to him.

So also we face life with "why" questions and one day at a time just as Job did. Do we trust God as Joseph and Job? Trusting God builds faith.

Paul in Romans 8:28 gives these words which many find difficult to understand or accept, *"And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans."* (Life Application Bible). For those who love and trust God there is a new mindset. Security is in Heaven, not in life's treasures. Accepting the pain and problems of life that then resent them can bring us closer to God.

May 2021 be a trusting year with all the problems that we may be called upon to face. Relating to God and others with love, showing kindness, being forgiving, and sharing the Good News, "Jesus saves."



Joseph in prison with Pharaoh's butler and baker



# Pastor's Pen



*"Grace, mercy and peace  
from God the Father,  
and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,  
will be with us in truth and love."*

2 John 1:3

Happy New Year! This greeting will be exchanged by millions around the world in the next few days. For many people it means nothing at all; it is just a formality. But although some repeat the phrase because it is expected, many say it sincerely, praying that God's best will be one's portion in 2021. Frances Ridley Havergal expressed our sentiments most beautifully when she wrote:

"What shall I wish for you?  
Treasures of earth?  
Songs in the springtime,  
pleasures and mirth?  
Flowers in your pathway,  
skies ever clear?  
Would this insure you  
a Happy New Year?

What shall I wish for you?  
What can be found  
Bringing the sunshine all year round?  
Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,  
That shall insure you  
a Happy New Year?



Pastor Susan Sliker

**FAITH** that increases,  
walking in light,  
**HOPE** that abounds,  
happy and bright,  
**LOVE** that is perfect, casting out fear,  
These shall insure you a Happy New Year.

**PEACE** IN THE Savior, rest at His feet,  
**SMILE** on His countenance,  
radiant and sweet;  
**JOY** IN His presence, Christ ever near.  
This will insure you a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

To this I would add the blessed benediction found in Numbers 6:24-26, *"The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."* This dear friends, is my New Year's prayer for you and the Body of Christ at Jonestown United Methodist Church!!

Happy New Year from my family to yours,  
Pastor Susan

## REPENT: DO THE OPPOSITE

"Open to God" is a religious position. "Closed to God" is the world's naturalist, humanist, materialist, position. Open to Jesus' teaching has taken the world by storm. We believe in "human rights." We believe in "setting the slaves free." We believe that we all should be "free to choose." It is the result of agreement with Jesus. Ancient Rome endorsed the ownership of people, the strong ruling the weak, and the special rights of kings. The world doesn't know how "Christian" it has become. Yet, it clearly is still in complete rebellion against the proposal of Jesus to His disciples that, *"Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will save it"* Luke 9:23-24.

How do we teach people, students, trapped in a competitive world, that they should practice losing their life? We all agree that they should gain life-skills, be the best they can, chase dreams, climb the highest mountain, and every other platitude of accomplishment. The sacrificial life is for the ascetics, the holy men who want nothing of this world. It isn't for people who want a normal life. Jesus calls us to the abnormal life.

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"* Philippians 2:3-4.

Jesus didn't thrive; He was killed. He took a big L. He didn't consider himself a good person. He didn't make feeling good about Himself a priority. He gave away everything He had, was rejected, despised, and suffered an ignominious death. We find it impossible to train our children to take this path to the good life.

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness"* Philippians 2:5-7.



We find ourselves, in very nature, human. Therefore, Paul wrote, we are to lower ourselves to a more humbler position. Maybe not dogs (all students think dogs are of higher status than humans.) Maybe not worms, although they are fish bait and we are to be fishers of men. Maybe servants. Humans who take the lower position in relationship to others. It is easy to find biblical support for servanthood. If we are servants, we strive for the reward of others. Servants live in the delayed gratification mode. It isn't clear that they will be rewarded at all, but rather, their master receives the reward at their expense. This is the strange, "love your enemy" idea that Jesus thinks should rule human hearts. It isn't our instinct at all.

*"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"* Philippians 2:8

The world disagrees with Jesus while simultaneously believing He might be right. People might hear "love your enemy" and think that it would solve problems, if only we could love that way. But when enemies appear, we act on "kill your enemy." Intruders in my home should be vanquished with extreme prejudice. This especially includes the enemies I have little regard for, such as, flies. They must simply die. Coronavirus must be exterminated. We know how we act while knowing that something better might be possible. We are stuck. Same with loving neighbors as ourselves. When we think of extreme examples, it isn't so easy. I want to be picked up when I am walking on a backroad at night. It is bold to be the one who fearlessly opens the car door to strangers in the same situation. I've seen enough horror movies to know where that leads.

Jesus lowered Himself and God exalted Him. We must move down to be raised up. It's the opposite. Jesus wants us to notice His call to go against our own instinct. Our own self-preservation. Think more highly of others and their needs than your own. That is a hard call. And most will take the hard pass.

*"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose"*

Philippians 2:12-13.

The call to repentance is a fearful thing that produces peace. The world is strange and works the opposite of what we think. Ask Jesus.

TomR @unatheist on Twitter Friend me on Facebook, Instagram, look for Negotiating with Jesus on YouTube







## 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

First service please pick them up in the narthex after the service as you leave. Second service please pick them up in the narthex as you enter the sanctuary. If you live stream, you can call Pat Sheehan (717-202-5639) or Pastor Susan (717-865-2883) and we will make arrangements to safely deliver them to you. Our envelopes are mail able with a first class stamp.

## GRETNA GLEN

The staff at Gretna Glen would like to thank the members from our church to cut, split, and stack firewood for the camp. Apryl Miller continues to hope for a new start for campers during 2020. Once again thank you for your continued support for our local camp.

## REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

To redeem the tapes, you must use your Save-a-Tape or gas card at the time of purchase. We need the entire tape with the portion showing the price-based points for that day at the bottom. The tape will display either "Today's Contribution" or "Today's total price-based points" or "Today's Save-a-Tape Total." If the tape doesn't have one of these lines at the bottom, we cannot redeem them.

## PICTURES/INFORMATION for CHURCH WEBSITE

If you would like to provide information or digital pictures, please submit items to Jeff Reichl (rike110@msn.com). Jeff, our webmaster, oversees changes and updates the website:  
[www.jonestownumc.org](http://www.jonestownumc.org)

## 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 parsonage to ask about road conditions in town 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.



This is a time to keep in touch with loved ones and members of our church family. We miss being together, but can keep praying for all to stay well. A phone call or card can mean a lot, especially to those who are homebound which is most of us. Think of those who you would see in your church service, and give them a call to check up on them! We hope you who are able to access the church's Facebook page or YouTube are tuning in for our services on Sunday mornings at 9:00am or 11:00am. If you have trouble accessing it, please call someone. We are inside for both services. We have started our Freezer Ministry again, and have a variety of freezer meals available for you to take to others or for yourselves in the upstairs kitchen freezer. So far we have hamburger soup, turkey noodle soup, chili, potato soup, macaroni and cheese, and homemade bread. We welcome further contributions of small packaged and labeled meals. If you need containers, please see Pam Gray. We want people to take these to give to individuals or families who can use an extra meal or meals. Help us to make this a successful ministry!

# Cook's Corner

*The following would be a great New Year's Eve dip or for any other gathering. This recipe was submitted by Marcie Wallace, Pastor Susan's sister-in-law.*

## **CROCK POT SPINACH AND ARTICHOKE DIP**

16 oz. roasted garlic alfredo sauce  
8 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature  
1/2 c. parmesan cheese, shredded  
1/2 c. Romano cheese, shredded  
2 c. mozzarella cheese, shredded  
28 oz. artichoke hearts, drained, rinsed, chopped  
16 oz. fresh spinach or 10 oz. frozen spinach (defrosted and drained)  
1/2 c. milk (optional. Use if you want the dip to be a little thinner.)

Add the alfredo sauce to crock pot on high. Cut cream cheese into cubes and mix it into the sauce until well combined and creamy. Use whisk to get lumps out. Add the other three cheeses and whisk until well combined. Stir in the artichoke hearts, then add the spinach and stir until well combined. Cook on high for 2 hours or on low for 3-4 hours. Serve with tortilla chips, pita chips, fresh bread or veggies. Can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

## **JANUARY CARE TEAM**

*Week of January 3*

Lauren Deiter 717-639-8068

*Week of January 10*

Jim & Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

*Week of January 17*

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001

*Week of January 24*

Ralph and Cheryl Major 717-383-9554

## **FACEBOOK**

One of the ways that we can all stay in touch is through the Jonestown United Methodist Church Facebook page. It is a way to keep in touch with our church. Search for "Jonestown United Methodist Church." Don't forget to "like" us.



2 Dan Lengle  
2 Karen Showers  
7 Larry Major  
9 Kerry McQuate  
9 Travis Unger, Jr.  
11 Austin Shuey  
12 Cody Miele  
12 Parker Shuyler  
13 Zach Light  
13 Jan Sebastian  
14 Chuck Steiner  
14 Carvel Keiser  
19 Jonathan Adams  
20 Mike Adams  
25 Heidi Fahler  
29 John Rhen  
29 Hailey Mentzer  
30 Jeff Waltermeyer  
31 Nancy Light



27 Dave & Pam Gray

## ADULT FAMILY MINISTRIES

At the present time we have not scheduled any activities for the ladies' group, crafting group, and the Adult Ministries due to the coronavirus. If you have any safe suggestions, please call Pam Gray (717-865-3997). Hopefully in the new year we will be able to safely plan activities again.

## ELECTRONIC GIVING

You may consider electronic giving or mailing a check to the church with your offering. (See address on first page.) Interested in simplifying how you give to the church? In the past many people have been hesitant to use the latest E-Giving sight due to its generic look. We have updated E-Giving so when you click in the E-Giving button at top right you will see several tutorials in the box in the center of the page that you can check before proceeding to the E-Giving page. After you have watched them click on DONATE and you will go to the E-Giving page which should have the church's name and picture of our stained glass window. Follow the instructions in the tutorials from Pat Sheehan (717-865-5403) or Carvel Keiser (carvelkeiser@comcast.net) know.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed stamps for the prison ministry.

Thank you to everyone who bought gifts for the angel tree.

Thank you to everyone who contributed items or postage for the shoeboxes. We filled and sent 60 shoeboxes this year!

"Thank you to my church family for the Christmas gift. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. Norma

"What a generous Christmas gift! Thank you so very, very much! I enjoy being your church secretary and working with such nice people at JUMC! I look forward to coming to work!" Carol Martin

"Many thanks for your generous gift." Sincerely, Shirley Fortna

"Thank you for all the love, gifts, cards, and support at Christmas and all year long."

Pastor Susan

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**Sunday, January 17**

Read the January newsletter on our website, [www.jonestownumc.org](http://www.jonestownumc.org). It looks better in color! If you have a favorite recipe in the newsletter, please send it to [secretary@jonestownumc.org](mailto:secretary@jonestownumc.org)



A lot has changed with the Coronavirus, but people still need help with food now more than ever. We are currently distributing food on the second and fourth Fridays of the month from 12:30 to 2:00pm. (Nov. and Dec. will be on the first and third Fridays due to the holidays.) We will serve anyone in need whether they have previously registered or not. We will follow up with registrations later when we can safely do this in person. Families come to the pantry, keeping social distancing in the driveway, and on the sidewalk. Then they come to the door one at a time, give their name, and we see how many are in their family. They are handed a prepacked box of non-perishable foods and a bag of cold items according to the size of the family. Extra food is also being given to families with children since food needs have increased with children not in school. Monetary donations are always welcome. Please mail to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038. Thanks to all for your food donations which helped to provide Christmas meals for many!





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)

Ernestine Fahler (717-865-4381)

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 Susan Sliker (717-865-4369;

302-858-6830)

Lewis Artz (717-865-3447)

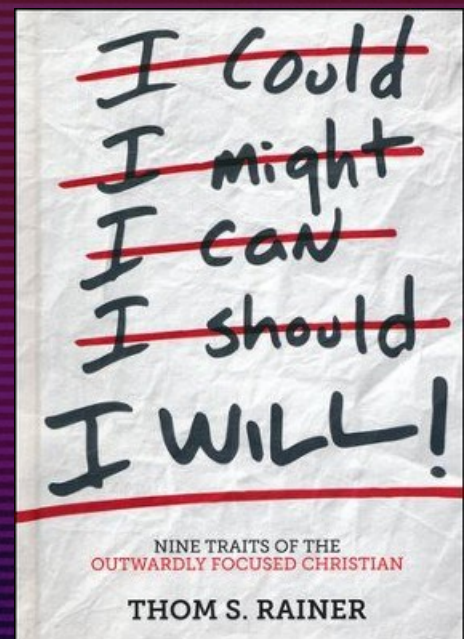
Larry Major (717-865-3442)

Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)



## UPCOMING EVENT

**NEW SMALL GROUP BOOK STUDY** I Will! by Tom Rainer. If you are interested in attending Wednesday evenings at the parsonage, please let Pastor Susan know (717-865-2883).





# January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship Traditional 9 Contemporary 11 Youth 6	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Praise Team 7	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Worship Traditional 9 Contemporary 11 Youth 6	<b>11</b> Church Council 7	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Praise Team 7	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship Traditional 9 Contemporary 11 Youth 6	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Praise Team 7	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Worship Traditional 9 Contemporary 11 Youth 6	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Praise Team 7	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> Worship Traditional 9 Contemporary 11 Youth 6						