

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
JANUARY 2023



Guide for Christian living in 2023.

Psalms 119: 105 and 106 from Contemporary English version "Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Your laws are fair, and I have given my word to respect them all. Matt 22: 37 and 39 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The words of Jesus. Romans 12: 9-21 "Be sincere in your love for others, hate everything that is evil and hold tight to everything that is good. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Never give up. Eagerly follow the Holy Spirit and serve the

Lord. Be patient in time of trouble and never stop praying. Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home. Ask God to bless everyone who mistreats you. Be happy with those who are happy and sad with those who are sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who mistreated you. But seek to earn the respect of others and do your best to live at peace with everyone. Don't try to get even, let God take revenge. Don't let evil defeat you, but defeat evil with good. God bless and strengthen you in your walk!

MISSION PARTNER AMMI Ministry

The ELKINS minister to the Jewish community in the Philadelphia area.

Envelopes are available on the table in the fellowship hall.

Church Events

- Jan 2, 7PMpm—Trustees
- Tuesdays 6:30pm—Creative Ministries
- Jan 6, 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out
- Jan. 9, 6:30—Church Council
- Jan 10, 1:00—Friends Together
- Jan 14, 8AM—Men's Brkfst
- Jan 14, 1PM—Free Food Box Distribution (Assemble 1/13 @ 6PM)
- Jan. 16, 6:30—Finance Audit Meeting

FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, January 16

JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST

PO Box 750

109 West Market Street

Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: 717-865-4369

Email: info@jonestownumc.org

Pastor's Pen

I watched one of my grandsons open a huge tube of candy – what appeared to be a year's supply of "Sour Patch Kids" gummies. I watched as he popped one in his mouth. His forehead wrinkled. His cheeks sucked in. His eyes watered. Even though I was watching him from over 50 miles away in a video chat, even my forehead wrinkled, my face twisted. I couldn't help myself – I had to ask – "Why do you do that to yourself?!" His response – "I like them." I wasn't convinced even though he seemed to be. There are times that I feel I see a similar spirit in the society around us. Appearing to be convinced that a "sour spirit" is a desirable state and should be appreciated and understood by everyone around, there seem to be people across generations that appear convinced that this a healthy and valued status, a natural and acceptable countenance to bear. Well, I'm convinced on good authority -the scriptures - that there is different "spirit" that should be providing motivation for action, a fragrance in the air around us, and a firm foundation beneath us.

The Bible says that there are some things that are somewhat the "Sour Spirit" version that people can both ingest into their lives or radiate in their day to day living and relationships. Paul says that some of the "fruit" that can direct our countenance and life "tastes" like: hate, discord, jealousy, anger, selfish ambition, dissension, envy (all from Galatians 5: 20-21), arrogance (2 Corinthians 12:20), greed (Ephesians 5:5)...



REV. ALAN SMITH

Just writing them makes my forehead wrinkle, my eyes squint, my nose twist, and my cheeks suck in with the thought – "Why would you do that to yourself?"

But, Paul tells us that the "fruit" of God's Spirit in us should produce: (from Galatians 5:22-23) "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...." Can you join me in imagining a community where people choose the second set of tastes to fill their lives with rather than the first? While the two lists I've just given were written nearly 2,000 years ago, they stand as powerfully dynamic alternative life atmospheres today as they evidently were back then. While some seem to be convinced that living on "Sour Spirit" gummies is a natural choice for them, I believe people yearn to live in a "Fruit of the Spirit Salad" world. Evidently by the way Paul writes of them, the choice is ours. We can react with and to the broken human flesh ways of the "Sour Spirit Kids" or we can possess and offer to the world a sweet "Spirit fruit salad". Over the last several years it appears to me as if the society is spiraling out of control in one way and it is up to the children of God to choose to allow the Spirit of God to mold and shape us with the sweetness of the fruit of God's Spirit controlling our lives, manners, the very fragrance of our presence as the children of God in the world. Why not begin each day this year with a simple prayer – "Lord, may the fruit of Your Spirit be what those around me today will taste. May my relationships and encounters today be filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Help me share with others that these are the fruit of Your Spirit in me. Amen."

~Pastor Al

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!

2023 OFFERING

ENVELOPES



These are available in the narthex and may be picked up anytime. If you are following the service virtually or are a shut-in, please contact Pat Sheehan (717-202-5639) or Pastor Al (215-527-7388), and we will see they get delivered to you as soon as possible.

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.



Joy is back to distributing the 2nd and 4th Thurs. and Friday of January. 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 133 pounds of food in December. Please mail monetary donations to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038.



Tues., Jan.10, 1:00pm

Please join us for a fun time of games and a snack. Any ladies can come to our meetings on the first Tues. of each month, 1:00pm. We do some projects and have sup-

portive, fun times together. Bring your ideas! See Judy Mowry (717-279-0809) with questions. Thanks to all who baked cookies for the cookie sale at the Christmas tree lighting. We raised \$75 for the UMCOR disaster relief.

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

4 Sundays @ 3553.00 = 12063.00 budgeted
Received in total for all categories = \$11,687.00
Expenses \$13,207.00



- 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



- 21 Rev. Alan and Mary Smith
- 27 Dave & Pam Gray

JANUARY CARE TEAM

Week of January 1

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of January 8

Nancy

Week of January 15

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

Week of January 22

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of January 29

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001



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. In our upstairs freezer we have some soups to take out to anyone who would enjoy some. We have broccoli/ cheese, and hamburger vegetable, and chicken noodle, and macaroni casserole.. Feel free to take some, and add some if you can. They should be in quart containers. See Pam Gray (717-865-3997) if questions. 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 6:30pm-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.

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, January 6, 6pm

Our Ladies Night Out group will be meeting again on the first Friday in January, the 6th, 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 Jan. 10, 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

January 14 @ 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 1/12 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 1/13, assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, 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)

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 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.)

January 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
1 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	2 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30	3 Creative Min 6:30 Prayer—6:30	4 Praise Team 7	5	6 Noon meal LCCM 10am Ladies Night Out 6 Pastor's Sabbath	7
8 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	9 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30	10 Friends To- gether 1:00 Creative Min 6:30 Prayer-6:30	11 Praise Team 7	12	13 Pastor's Sabbath Food Box Assmly 6PM	14 Food Box Distr— 1:00
15 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	16 AA Meeting 6:00 Finance Audit Mtg— 6:30PM	17 Hill Farm 2:30 Creative Min 6:30	18 Praise Team 7	19	20 Pastor's Sabbath	21
22 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	23 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Meeting 6:30	24 Creative Min- 6:30 Prayer - 6:30	25 Praise Team 7	26	27 Pastor's Sabbath	28
29 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	30 AA Meeting 6:00	31 Creative Min— 6:30 Prayer—6:30				