

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
MARCH 2023



The Chorus goes "The 'BIBLE,' yes that's the book for me, I stand alone on the word of God, The 'BIBLE'!" Paul in 2 Timothy 3: 16 + 17 states "All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. The Psalmist in 119: 11 states "I have stored up 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 to my path." Jesus, after being baptized by John the Baptist, was in the wilderness for 40 days and nights fasting and being

tempted by the devil. He responded to Satan each time by saying (Matt, 4) "It is written," referring to scripture 4:10 "Be gone Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve," Jesus also gave this answer to the question of which is the greatest commandment in The Law (Matt 22:37-40) "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment, and a second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these Two Commandments depend all the Law and The Prophets." What is your dependence on the word of God? Is it a light directing your way? Does it help you be well-grounded, immovable, and unshakable and a lover of God and others?

MISSION PARTNER Lenten Offering

The Lenten Offering is our Mission Focus for March. This ministry reaches many families in our area. Special Offering envelopes are available on the windowsills in the sanctuary.

Church Events

- Mar. 3, 10:00am-LCCM Noon Meal
- Mar. 3, 6:00pm-Ladies Night Out
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-Creative Ministries
- Mar. 11, 8am-Men's Brkfst
- Mar. 11, 8:00am-LCCM Annual Lenten Brkfst
- Mar. 11, 1PM-Free Food Box Distribution (Assemble 3/10 @ 6PM)
- Mar. 11, 6:00pm-Movie Night
- Mar. 13, 6:30pm-Church Council Meeting
- Mar. 14, 1:00pm-Friends Together
- Mar. 20, 6:30pm-Trustees Meeting
- Mar. 25, 4:30pm-6:30pm-"Be Our Guest" Meal
- Mar. 31, 6:00pm-Easter Egg Filling

APRIL

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, APRIL 16

JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST

PO Box 750

109 West Market Street

Jonestown, PA 17038

Pastor's Pen

From the Pastor: I suppose most of us have heard the old line – “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus” from an editorial by Francis Pharcellus Church which appeared in the New York newspaper *The Sun* on September 21, 1897, and became one of the most famous editorials ever published. There are times that I feel as if we Christians are being asked a similar question about the love, grace, peace, and joy of God with the anticipation that our response might be a fluff answer in a desperate world that seems to bless the alternatives of hatred, anger, disruption, and anxiety. Sadly, many think true love, grace, peace, and joy are only as real as a mythical expression of human kindness, not the gifts of a very real living God. “Is there a grace for me?” “Is there peace for my splintered world and fears?” “Is there joy larger than my sorrows and hurts?” “Is there really a God that loves me as I am?” I, and perhaps you, am convinced with all my being the answer is “Yes! Yes there is grace... peace... joy... love!” Perhaps this deep conviction is why some of my favorite verses simply describe what I/we have found in Jesus: “The LORD appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” (Jeremiah 31: 3); and “...it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2: 8-10); “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27); “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11).

While the world seems to increasingly believe the impossibility of such things as: freeing and reviving *grace* that enables us to truly live, or, of a *peace* that stands strong in the midst of all the natural and human driven angst of our societies. There are many who disbelieve the possibility of a *love* that is patient, kind, not self-centered or proud, giving and serving with the power of covenant commitment, or, of a *joy* that wells up within and spreads out to all around, a joy not able to be stolen by anyone – a joy that triumphs over storm and battle, over plenty and scarcity, over suffering and pleasure.



REV. ALAN SMITH

There is a move instead in society to bless and standardize an “eye for an eye” justice and retribution over God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness that breaks the chains that bind us to our sins and frees us to truly live. There is a move to standardize anxiety and fear over the peace that allows us to breathe freely, rest soundly, to hear the sounds of life and to smell the fragrance of God’s creation after the storms. There are those who cheapen the immeasurable and powerful love of God that treasures and values who we are down to mere physical engagement and attraction or personal excitement, desires, and pleasure. There are those who advertise a happiness that quickly dissipates when the thrills have ceased and the laughter and facade of smiles fade - over the deep joy that celebrates the strong and comforting presence of God and a vision that gives us a glimpse of what is yet ahead - even seen through the dusty lenses of sorrow, pain, disappointment, or failure.

Regardless of all the substitutions the world is offering and that people are accepting, it remains our privilege to live lives anointed with these authentic gifts of God and a multitude of other gifts, to demonstrate to the world that YES, GOD is the one who creates, sustains, empowers, gifts and relates to us if we lay aside our personal desires and pride to cling to this living God. Far beyond the fanciful imaginations of personal desires and pleasures, our living God engages with us to offer a love that survives our affairs with the world... a peace that passes our ability to comprehend and describe to others except by example... a grace that frees us to truly live... and a joy that still lifts our spirit when confronted with grief, sorrow, regrets or losses. Our God truly lives and offers the real deal of what He designed us to live, far beyond fanciful substitutes that are alive only in the world’s imaginations or cheap substitutes. Church - be bold! Understanding how loved you are by Almighty God Himself, let His love overflow to others through you. Knowing the grace of God for you, celebrate His grace and extend it to others freely. Live in the peace of Christ that those around you will desire to find His peace in their own lives. Live with and celebrate the deep and abiding joy of the Lord without excuse. Let the world around you see what they long for as a result of your life in Christ. It’s time. God is calling for His children to rise up and live as He created us to.



Joy is distributing the 2nd and 4th Thurs. and Friday of March. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to JOY. We collected about 78 cans of soup

for Souper Bowl Sunday, as well as other items. Our families are very appreciative. We have been serving about 50 families twice a month. Some other needed items are: canned pasta, beets, mandarin oranges, chunky soup, Ramen soup, applesauce, canned fruit, juices, peas and carrots. Please mail monetary donations to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038



Tues., March 14th at 1:00pm.

The next daytime ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be on the second Tuesday of March, the 14th at 1:00pm meeting at the

church. We then plan to go over to the Jonestown Fire House to visit the Jonestown Museum, which we have heard is very interesting. See Judy Mowry if questions. We are planning a fun meeting in April also...details will follow.

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

JANUARY FINANCIAL UPDATE

4 Sundays @ \$2, 912.50= \$11, 650.00 budgeted
Received in total for all categories = \$12, 811.00
Expenses \$ 12, 350.00

For anyone wishing to send Shirley Fortna a card here is her new address: 28 Lafiya Dr., Palmyra, PA 17078, T: (717) 473-5055



- 1 Marcia Slade
- 2 Pat Sheehan
- 3 Melissa Emerich
- 3 Peyton Sell
- 4 Theresa Weaver
- 5 Cassidy Rhen
- 5 Luke Spangler
- 7 Mike Spangler
- 8 Gary Wolfe, Sr.
- 9 Sylvia Kline
- 9 Hannah Tinder
- 10 Steve Yeagley, Sr.
- 12 Mel Unger
- 12 Mike Turner
- 17 Steve Yeagley, Jr.
- 18 Madison Keiser
- 19 Darrin Clark
- 19 Nancy Rautzhan
- 20 Jeff Reichl
- 21 Olivia Eisenhauer
- 21 Kyla Strupp
- 25 Austin Rhoads
- 25 Joe Bene
- 26 Elmer Krall
- 31 Lindsay Keiser
- 31 Nicollete Furman



- 13 Rick & Wendy Kline
- 13 Charles & Pat Rickard
- 19 Howard & Linda Lee
- 25 Phil & Nancy Lengle

MARCH CARE TEAM

Week of March 5

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001

Week of March 12

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of March 19

Nancy Rautzhan 717-865-3061

Week of March 26

Pam Gray 717-865-3997



Thanks for 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. Sadly, Al Fortna has passed away. Please keep Shirley in your prayers. Her new address, if you would like to send a card is: 28 Lafiya Dr., Palmyra, PA 17078. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! 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.

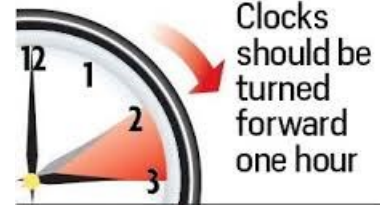


with Lori Jackson
Tuesdays 7:00pm
-8:00pm.

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

Yoga Stretching with Peggy Cappy videos: beginning Saturday, March 4th at JUMC at 8:30am. Very mild-suitable for all ages. Warm up with devotions See Lori Jackson with any questions and prayer.

Daylight saving time starts at 2 a.m.



Clocks should be turned forward one hour

Sunday, March 12th

Friday, March 3, 6pm

On Friday, March 3, Ladies Night Out will be meeting. We start at 6pm and typically finish by 9pm. People are free to come and go however it works for their schedule. Bring that project you can't find time to work on at home, or you can come and work on puzzles or color. It is a nice time for fellowship and fun. We order take-out for those who wish to participate. Contact Karen Bene at 717-673-2833 if you have questions.



The April Ladies Night Out has been moved to March 31. It is adjusted due to Good Friday falling on the first Friday in April. This evening we will be working on a mission project for the church's Easter Egg hunt. We will be stuffing plastic eggs with candy for the scheduled event, which will be on Saturday, April 8th.

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 March 5th, 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

Update On Disaffiliation Process:

The churches in Eastern PA Conference that are considering disaffiliation are watching how the process is proceeding in other conferences, especially the situation in Florida which just had their hearing in court at the end of February. At the time of this newsletter, the judge is still reviewing the arguments from both the local congregations and the annual conference. We continue to pray for wisdom and direction for our church as well as the process. There is not any forward movement in any direction at this point other than to continuing to refine the process by what is learned in other parts of the country. Our goal continues to be primarily to seek to be faithful to God's call to be His witnesses and present the Gospel in our community. It will probably be this fall before we hear any discernable direction for any next steps. Our prayer is that we will remain faithful to God's calling and leading.

Two Events Planned jointly by:

Aging Inspired Advance Care Planning Coalition
And Trinity UMC of Lickdale

Movie: "*Being Mortal*" which explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illnesses and end-of-life planning

March 27th: 6-8PM

"*The Gift of Conversation*" Learn what you do not know about advance care planning...

April 24, 2023

For anyone wishing to send Shirley Fortna a card here is her new address and phone num-

Lenten Services Wednesday

Evenings at 6:30pm:

March 1: Trinity UMC Lickdale

Rev. Alan Smith

March 8: Ono UMC

Rev. Matthew Whayland

March 15: Emmanuel:Ft. Indiantown Gap

Rev. Rob Faller

March 22: Bellegrove UMC

Rev. Tim Smith

March 29: Fredericksburg UMC

Rev. Deanna Geiter

Easter Sunrise Service: We are planning an Easter Sunrise Service this year... the location is yet to be determined.

Easter Flower Order forms are now available on the windowsills located in the sanctuary. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 26th.



Easter Egg Hunt at Jonestown U.M.C. on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 10:00am. Egg Hunt for children thru 5th grade, Easter Story and Craft. We need candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. You can contribute individually wrapped candy (small enough to fit in a plastic egg) or give money for the purchase of candy. See display in the narthex.

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 March 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 3/9 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 3/10, 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)

“Be Our Guest” Meal Saturday, March 25th @ 4:30pm-6:30pm. This meal will consist of homemade soup, bread, dessert and



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)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

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);

Upcoming Events: Easter Flower Orders, Movie Night and Ladies Event

Easter Flower Order forms are now available on the windowsills located in the sanctuary. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 26th.

Saturday, March 11th @ 6:00pm. Creative Ministries will be hosting Movie Night “Andre the Seal.” Please come and join.

“Be Our Guest” Meal Saturday, March 25th @ 4:30pm-6:30pm. This meal will consist of homemade soup, bread, dessert and drinks.

Extraordinary Women Event Sept. 29th and 30th, Lancaster, PA. Please sign up by March 31st if you are interested in joining. Please see Lori Jackson or Claudia Clark for additional information.

Easter Egg Hunt at Jonestown U.M.C. on Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 10:00am. Egg Hunt for children thru 5th grade, Easter Story and Craft. We need candy for our Easter Egg Hunt. You can contribute individually wrapped candy (small enough to fit in a plastic egg) or give money for the purchase of candy. See display in the narthex.

March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Lenten Service: 6:30PM @ Trinity: Lickdale: Pastor Al	2	3 Noon meal LCCM 10am Ladies Night Out 6:00 Pastor's Sabbath	4 Yoga Stretching 8:30AM
5 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	6 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	7 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	8 Lenten Service: 6:30PM @ Ono UMC: Rev. Matt Whayland	9 JOY Pantry 5:00	10 JOY Pantry 12:30-2 Food box assembly 6:00 Pastor's Sabbath	11 Men's Breakfast 8 Study 8:00 LCCM Annual Lenten Breakfast 8:00 Yoga Stretching 8:30 Food box distribution 1:00 "Movie Night" 6:00
12 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10 Daylight Savings Time	13 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	14 "Friends Together" 1:00 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	15 Lenten Ser- vice: 6:30PM @ Emmanuel : Indian- town Gap: Rev. Rob Faller	16	17 Pastor's Sabbath	18 Yoga Stretching 8:30
19 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	20 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00 Newsletter Articles Due	21 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	22 Lenten Service: 6:30PM @ Bellevue: Rev. Tim Smith	23 JOY Pantry 5:00	24 JOY Pantry 12:30-2 Pastor's Sabbath	25 Yoga Stretching 8:30 "Be Our Guest" Meal 4:30-6:30
26 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10 Easter Flower Or- ders	27 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	28 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	29 Lenten Service: 6:30PM @ Fredericksburg UMC: Rev. Deanna Geiter	30	31 Ladies Night Out 6:00 Last sign up day for Extraordinary Women's Event	