



Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST

SEPTEMBER 2020



In Luke, chapter 15, Jesus tells the story of a father and two sons. We call it, "The Prodigal Son."

Henri Nouwen wrote a book, The Return of the Prodigal Son which suggests that all Christians, at some point in their walk of faith, are represented by each of the three main characters: the wayward child in need of repentance and forgiveness, the older brother who holds on to resentment and

withholds forgiveness, the father whose highest desire is to have all his children reconciled.

What role might you be playing?

Do you need courage to repent and seek forgiveness?

Or do you need the compassion to extend forgiveness?

Is your heart filled with love for all?

SEPTEMBER MISSION PARTNER

Postage for the Christmas Shoeboxes

Thank you for your contributions for the shoeboxes. Envelopes are available for you to give generously toward the postage for the Samaritan Purse Christmas shoeboxes.

Church Event

Wed., Sept. 25, 6:45am

Youth—

See You at the Pole

JONESTOWN UNITED
METHODIST

PO Box 750

109 West Market Street

Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: 717-865-4369

Email:

info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

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United Methodist Church

THE CHALLENGE

I want to challenge students and adults. Young and old alike. Since this is a particularly challenging time, it shouldn't be hard to offer a challenge and expect others to accept it. These are the challenges: The "Cover Me Challenge," and the "Every Voice Challenge."

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" Matthew 5:14-16.

Who does God call to create? All of us. We all are created in God's image; we are little creators. We create what God has assigned us to create. Painting walls, organizing workspaces, designing furniture, drawing a portrait, telling a story, especially, telling your story. That is the call to believers. I love to tell the story is about telling the story that brought you into the story of Jesus. We must use our creative capacity to tell the story of Jesus and how it intersects our own.

If you have ever played music, there are two roads to travel. You can "cover" songs someone else wrote. This includes playing "Amazing Grace" for a congregation to sing to or playing a Beatles song on the beach for a group of friends to join in. Or else you can write original songs. That is the artistic dream. It is so pervasive that artists are often described as starving. They would rather create than eat. They can't get anyone to give them money. It's sad and lonely being a creator. But creators have to create.

"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. He told them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves' Luke 10:1-3.

The cover-me challenge is about songwriters covering music that others songwriters have created. It is an opportunity to share and assist those who create in obscurity and offers a small boast. It isn't any path to fame or wealth, just a chance to share in an environment that is unique in human history. We are in the perfect creative storm. Content creation is king. It rules YouTube, TikTok, Netflix, Podcasts, and almost all media available today. Post a song and sheet music on YouTube, ask others to do the same. Cover someone's song so that your viewers will see it. Give it the Hashtag #CoverMeChallenge.

If you met Jesus and love to tell the story, there has never been opportunity like there is now. What are we to do? Tell the story. We have unlimited potential to share the Gospel. Record a brief testimony. Practice telling your story many times. Get good at it. Post it on YouTube with the hashtag: #EveryVoiceChallenge. Put your testimony into the world. Even if you hate social media! What if it became a place of hope and many came to know Jesus there? You wouldn't hate it so much then! Let's put the medium to good use. Tell the good news there!!! It would make for beautiful media.

"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown" Luke 8:5-8.

If a movement of testimony would invade social media, it would be life-giving to those whom Jesus has prepared to receive. They would have that fertile soil that scattered seed falls upon and grows, 30, 60, 100 times over. This is the promise offered to our seed scattering. It will be used to bring a harvest. What a great thing to in which to participate! If this is not the medium for you, then write your testimony. Publish it somewhere. It is the same planting of seeds. I believe this is the best time ever for planting seeds. It's our time.

Finally, I'll offer you the color-me challenge. Make a point of finding your favorite Bible verse and highlighting it in a way that marks it out for others to find. Your Bible could be filled with the glory with which God created you. Let God's glory surprise you and spill out onto a page. If you reflect right, He becomes visible. You become the rainbow painted across the sky. That is putting time to good use!

TomR @unatheist on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram

My soul to keep
Gmaj7 D A
Not one to fear. Not one to think about what's gone Gmaj7
Or worry what will come, but look for what is near. Gmaj7
Content to bear, the burden before me Lord, D A
That and just a little more, I lift it with this prayer. G D
These cares are all wrapped up in One, Father, Spirit, Son. A C
Chorus: D F G
I pray my soul to keep. You're watching over me, even as I sleep. D F G
I pray my soul to take. If I pass before I wake do not tarry. Do not wait. D Gmaj7
I pray my soul to keep. D
Now from my knees, I look again upon the whole D A
And find a promise I can hold. This prisoner now set free. Gmaj7
As all my needs pass until the one remains D A
Exceeding all and any gains. It becomes my lowly plea. G D
These cares are all wrapped up in One, Father, Spirit, Son. A C
Chorus: D F G
I pray my soul to keep. You're watching over me, even as I sleep. D F G
I pray my soul to take. If I pass before I wake do not tarry. Do not wait. D Gmaj7
I pray my soul to keep. D
Bridge: C D
And for this cause I am giving selflessly. C A D
And my answer 'just because' stands silent. C D
Displacing all the laws, a thousand times for me. A C A C
The reason stripped away is love. The reason stripped away is love. C
Chorus 2x

Let all
you
do be
done
in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



Rev. Susan Sliker

little daily
Choices

So how's your summer going?

Fast ... slow ... hot?

Sometimes I have found myself wishing
for winter – and then I stop myself
and wonder what's up with that.

Well, winter does remind me of Christmas
and I love Christmas.

Then I found the story below,
while humorous, it is profound

And I just have to share it with you.

Corky Adams is unique. He's a real trendsetter.
For example, he always wears one red sock and
one green sock to remind himself that every day is
Christmas. His socks are a perfect reflection of the
way he lives his Christian faith with others.

Corky often plays with children and talks with
elderly folks in his neighborhood. Once he drove a
thousand miles to comfort someone whose friend
had died suddenly. He is also a gifted
photographer who captures the best of each
person he photographs.

Corky is a joy to be around. His beaming smile
lights up his cheeks as though he were Santa
Claus himself. When friends see him, their natural
reactions are to smile and give him a hug. His faith

is alive with wonder and joy – much like the
excitement of a child who has just discovered that
dirt and water make mud. What's most amazing
about Corky, though, is that he is thirty-five years
old!

Jesus himself, challenges us, no matter how old
or young we are, to live the childlike faith and joy
that Corky lives each day.

So how's your summer going?

No problem ... Fall is on its way ... eventually
but for believers we should be living
each day for Jesus ...

living by faith ... seeing the wonder
and joy all around ...

We all make choices. Let us make godly choices
for the sake of the Kingdom.

Let Christmas be every day
no matter the weather!

Have a great rest of the summer and a great start
to fall! And let the "kid" in you come out
(maybe like Corky, wearing one red
and one green sock)

And enjoy all the surprises God has for you ...

Be blessed to be a blessing!

Pastor Susan



We are in difficult times and from what I see, hear from other pastors and lay persons all over the place, and from where I sit and minister it is not going to get better, at least for a while, that's a reality. But God is with us and He is in control.

Please remember that the Church is not a building, but the people of God, the Body of Christ. We are the vessels (weak, fragile, and broken as we are) that He uses to spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection, and how we can be saved.

We don't know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future. We might have to live out our faith in new ways. I learned a long time ago in college that our message of Jesus Christ should never change but our methods will change as we reach out to all persons.

Our worship services will continue to be livestreamed,

and I encourage all to gather in person as each one feels comfortable and safe. If you are feeling disconnected, you are not alone. Perhaps we all feel that way sometimes. I would like to suggest we gather in small groups (10 or less) in homes as the early church did in Acts. These small groups can help with all kinds of needs.

The start day of this new ministry will be the week of September 14 since Labor Day is late this year. I will host and facilitate a book study on **Monday, September 14, 2020, 9:00am** at the parsonage. If you are interested, please let me know.

I challenge anyone to host a small group. It may be your cliché, your family, a close group of friends not necessarily our church family. This could be an evangelistic event. You don't have to be the facilitator. It may be a faith-based book study, a Bible book study, a prayer group, etc.

Please see me with questions or if you are interested in this small group ministry.

Pastor Susan Sliker

*Matthew 18:20, " For wherever two or three
come together in honor of my name,
I am right there with them!"*

Why Not Start a Small Group?

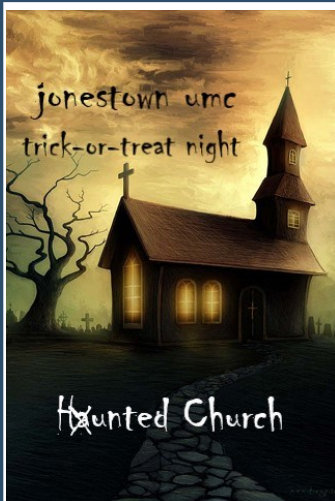
You may be thinking how you really wish you had a small group to rely on during this time of isolation. Chances are you're not the only one! It may feel like a hard or strange time to start a group because meeting takes a high level of creativity, flexibility, and unpredictability; but people need ways to connect to other believers more than ever before. Take the plunge and start a group! We had just started a group at the start of COVID-19 lockdowns and were unsure how to continue through the spring and took a step back. Now we have had time to regroup and rethink how our group can function in the midst of all the changes. We've decided to restart the group using Zoom meetings for our discussions with occasional in-person hangouts to boost our community.

This hybrid approach has helped us give options to those in

the group that are less than comfortable gathering at this time. Also, we are all parents, so choosing to Zoom at a time that our kids are either occupied or in bed helps us engage in more intentional conversation as well as avoid the tricky question of childcare. When we meet in-person, those who are uncomfortable can opt out and we have no need for childcare.

This is just one example of ways a new group can begin despite all the limits the coronavirus has caused. Don't let the need to innovate and embrace flexibility stop you from reaching out to build community.

Let's not give up on meeting together! We need to show up in whatever space is safely available to our communities to offer encouragement and love to each other.



We have decided to move forward with planning for the Hunted Church outreach with many changes. We are moving the event to the parking lot hoping to set up similar to a Trunk or Treat. This way we can still bring Bible stories to the children while social distancing. We are asking for volunteers to help in many

ways to minister to our community during this difficult time. A planning meeting will be held after first service on **Sunday, Sept. 6, 10:15am**. If you are interested in helping in any way, please plan to attend or notify Tish Baird (717-821-1509) or Heather Lambrecht (812-525-2613).



CROCK POT APPLE BUTTER

Yield: 6 cups

About 12 mixed apples, peeled, cored, and sliced

1/4 c. packed brown sugar

1/4 c. granulated sugar

2 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg

1/2 tsp. ground cloves

1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1/4 tsp. ground ginger

Add all ingredients to a crockpot and toss. Cover and cook on low for 10-12 hours or until apples are

deeply golden and falling apart. Using an immersion or regular blender, blend apples until smooth. If using a regular blender, remove lid every so often to let steam escape. Pour apple butter into jars and cool to room temperature. Cover and store in refrigerator. It will keep for a few weeks.



RED ROSE SUNDAY Sunday, September 20, 2020

With the state of affairs as they are with the COVID-19 virus, the traditional Red Rose Sunday will just not be the same. We can't celebrate

with a special speaker (we need to keep him and his family healthy and safe), just one worship service and a luncheon to follow. However, we will celebrate! It has not been decided yet as to which service we will honor the family who very generously donated the land for JUMC but it will be announced soon. So here is to this year's celebration and on to 2021. By the way, Rev. Lou Troester has agreed to be the speaker next year. Red Rose Sunday will be June 13, 2021. Let's make it unforgettable.



1 Mike and Tammy Adams

9 Mike & Sylvia Turner

17 Jeff & Malinda Kohr

17 Jim and Judy Mowry

19 Steve & Jodi Yeagley Sr.

25 Bryan & Brenda Rudy

26 Bob & Kim Bashore

27 Wilmer & Theresa Weaver

28 Kevin & Heidi Fahler

SEPTEMBER CARE TEAM

Week of September 6

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

Week of September 13

Lauren Deiter 717-639-8068

Week of September 20

Jim & Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of September 27

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001





The church office is open intermittently. Emails (secretary@jonestownumc.org) and voicemail messages will be checked (717-865-4369). If you need Pastor Susan, please call the parsonage (717-865-2883).

As we navigate these tricky waters let us remember to care for one another. Please be in prayer for each other, our government, healthcare decision makers, and our medical professionals.



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 2:30pm. 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. I am now taking food donations to JOY again so you are welcome to leave them in the grocery basket in the narthex. Thanks for your help!

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Sunday, September 20

Read it on our website, www.jonestownumc.org. It looks better in color! If you have a favorite recipe in the newsletter, please send it to secretary@jonestownumc.org



This is a time to keep in touch with loved ones and members of our church family. We all miss being together, but can keep praying for all to be 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 to find out how to access it. We are meeting live in the church parking lot at 9:00am for our traditional service. Bring your lawn chair! We also have our contemporary service at 11:00am in the sanctuary. You should have received a letter explaining how we can do this safely. Hope to see you there!



RED BIRD MISSION SUB SALE

A big THANK YOU to everyone who sold tickets and everyone who bought tickets for the sub sale at Krall's Store in Jonestown. The profit was:

\$450.50

85.50 donation

Grand Total: \$546.00

Well done everyone! Steve Yeagley

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.

ADULT FAMILY MINISTRIES

At the present time there are no activities scheduled for the Crafting Ladies group, Adventure group, or Adult Ministries due to the Coronavirus. Hopefully, sometime in the future, we can begin to get together again, but that may be a way off. In the meantime, stay safe, and strong, follow all the health guidelines, and trust God to see us through this challenge. God bless each and everyone!



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.

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



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.



- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1 Rebecca Unger | 12 Phyllis Krall |
| 3 Pastor Susan Sliker | 12 Nancy Showers |
| 6 Lincoln Govelovich | 16 Carol Bicher |
| 9 Sylvia Turner | 20 Gary Miele |
| 10 Kim Bashore | 20 Greg Emerich |
| 11 Rebecca Yeagley | 21 Kay Horner |
| 11 Matthew Krissinger | 21 Kody Showers |
| 12 Al Fortna | 21 Ingrid Steiner |
| Al will celebrate his 90th birthday. He is not one to make a big ado about birthdays but he might feel different about this one, we'll wait and see. Call him or send him a card if you wish. | 23 Aidan Miele |
| | 24 Dave Gray |
| | 25 Samuel Hillegas |
| | 25 Lori Baker |
| | 27 Gail Anderson |
| | 27 Cassidy Showers |
| | 28 Deb Meck |
| | 29 Shawn Light |
| | 30 Norma Artz |



We live in challenging times...and ever-changing times. I have been struggling more than I like to admit. I am human.

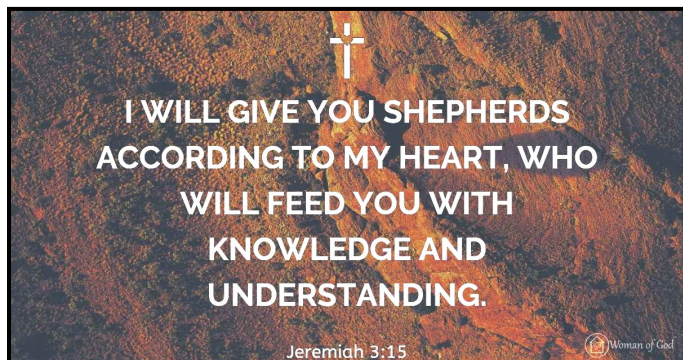
After much discussion at a recent SPRC meeting, I want you to know: 1) I have failed and disappointed many of you. I am sorry; please forgive me.

2) I am unable to get close to you for health reasons and I miss this. So I am keeping my distance, but it doesn't mean I don't care.

3) I will do whatever I have to to keep myself healthy and safe. The stress and burdens are overwhelming me. I don't want your pity, but your prayers, support, and understanding. If you need me, please call (717-865-2883) or email (pastorsusan2016@yahoo.com). I am not a mind reader.

And as I close, I LOVE YOU and I am PRAYING for you all.

If you have concerns, please contact a members of our current SPRC committee: Steve Yeagley, chair; Teri Light, Gary Miele, Jeff Reichl, Jim Mowry, Joe Bene, Jr.; Claudia Clark, Amy Sell, Bob Hillegas, and Joy Wolfe.



ELDERLY AND SHUT-INS

***Pat Neidlinger**, PO Box 166, 99 W. Chestnut St., Jonestown, PA 17038

***Annie Grant**, 15 Huckleberry Road, Jonestown, PA 17038



COLLEGE STUDENTS

***Lindsay Keiser** (freshman LVC), Funkhouser West 105, 101 N. College Avenue, Annville, PA 17003

***Austin Shuey** (senior) Point Park University, 201 Wood St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

***Katherine Shuey** (freshman Millersville University), 134 Creekview Drive, PO Box 43, Jonestown, PA 17038

***Teagan Guirate** (sophomore Lock Haven), 237 W. Market Street, Jonestown, PA 17038

***Olivia Eisenhauer** (junior, LVC) 206 Rose Lane, Jonestown, PA 17038

***Laura Eisenhauer** (freshman, West Chester University), 206 Rose Lane, Jonestown, PA 17038

***Katie Rathmell** (junior, Eastern University) Eastern University, 1300 Eagle Road, St. David, PA 19087

**Please note that those living in Jonestown are doing virtual classes due to the pandemic.



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)

VERY IMPORTANT!

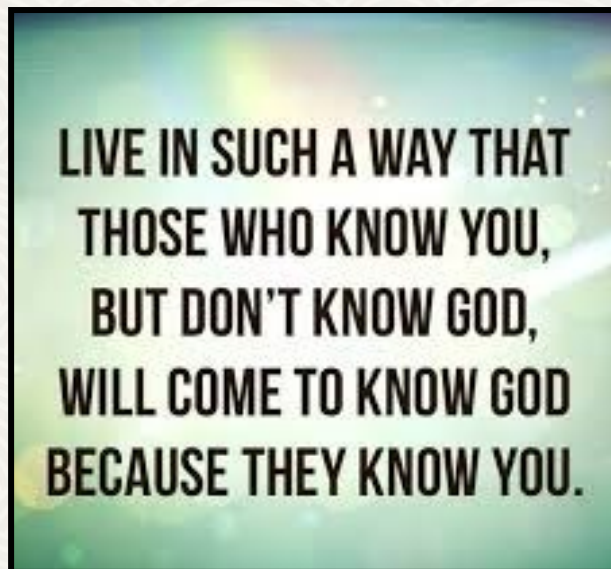
Start by calling one of the following people:

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 Events

Tuesday, October 13, Wednesday, October 14
PA ANNUAL CONFERENCE via zoom


Monday, October 19, 6:00pm,
CHARGE CONFERENCE via zoom

HUNTED CHURCH in the church parking lot



September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Praise Band 7:00	3	4	5
6 Traditional Worship 9:00 Hunted Church Mtg. 10:15 Contemporary Worship 11:00 Youth in homes 6-8	7	8 Worship Mtg 6:30	9 Praise Band 7:00	10	11	12
13 Traditional Worship 9:00 Contemporary Worship 11:00 Youth in homes 6-8	14 Small Group at the parsonage 9:00am Church Council 7:00	15	16 Praise Band 7:00	17	18	19
20 Red Rose Sunday Traditional Worship 9:00 Contemporary Worship 11:00 Youth in homes 6-8	21 Small Group at the parsonage 9:00am	22	23  Youth: See You at the Pole 6:45am Praise Band 7:00	24	25	26
27 Traditional Worship 9:00 Contemporary Worship 11:00 Youth in homes 6-8	28 Small Group at the parsonage 9:00am	29	30 Praise Band 7:00			