



**Jonestown United Methodist Church
APRIL 2026 Newsletter**



**PONDER with
Lewis...
Easter Thoughts**

From the Pastor: April 2026

Easter Hope: A New Beginning”

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the month of April and celebrate Easter.

This season arrives with a simple, bright message: new life is possible. The world often gives us reasons to feel tired or discouraged, but Easter reminds us that hope is not just a feeling; it is grounded in what God has done through Jesus Christ.

In our community, we have seen again and again that hope grows when people simply show up for one another. I am grateful for the quiet faith and kindness I see in so many of you.

On Easter, Christians celebrate that Jesus is alive. The Bible puts it plainly: “He is not here; he has risen!” (Luke 24:6)

Those words were first spoken to people who were grieving and confused. They believed their story had ended. But the resurrection turned sorrow into hope, fear into courage, and loss into a new beginning.

I have learned as a pastor that some of God’s most meaningful work begins quietly in hearts that feel uncertain or weary.

Before the empty tomb, there was the cross. Christians believe that Jesus gave Himself in love, carried our sin, and opened the way back to God. Yet Easter is not only about what happened long ago; it is also about what God can do in us today.

Easter tells us that God can forgive what we cannot undo and heal what feels broken.

He renews what feels tired and brings life where we once saw only endings.

That is why Easter is good news for everyone-longtime believers, those who feel distant from church, and those who are simply curious.

It is a gentle invitation to begin again.

The Bible gives us this promise: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“New creation” does not mean we suddenly become perfect.

It means God begins real change in us - change that grows over time.

Continued page 2

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? The Christ who was crucified there, once said, “As you have done it to the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto me.”

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Think of the nails that crucified my Lord. Made of iron; but more-they were made of hatred, prejudice and greed.

Were you there when He rose up from the grave? In the act of death He absorbs our sins. In love, He forgives our failures. In the act of resurrection, He gives the promise of acceptance, the assurance of forgiveness, the affirmation of eternal life.

“Your sins are forgiven you,” He said, “Go and sin no more.”

These are words by Marilee Zdenek that come from a writing titled, If we had been there.”

I Corinthians 15:51-58

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal put on immortality, when the perishable puts on the imperishable and this mortal put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is thy victory? O death where is thy sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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MAY Newsletter

Deadline: April 15th

Jonestown United Methodist

109 West Market Street

PO Box 750

Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: (717) 865-4369

Email: info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

www.jonestownmethodist.org

Facebook: Jonestown United Methodist Church

From the Pastor cont' from Page 1

He shapes our hearts, strengthens our faith, and leads us into a more hopeful way of living.

Sometimes people hear the word “change” and feel pressure.

Easter does not pressure us, it invites us. The risen Christ meets us with grace, and then leads us step by step.

In this Easter season, new life may look like:

- **choosing forgiveness when bitterness feels easier,**
- **seeking peace in your home and relationships,**
- **rebuilding hope after a hard season,**
- **returning to prayer in a simple, honest way,**
- **taking one small step of faith, even if you do not feel strong.**

God often does His deepest work quietly, within the daily rhythms of ordinary life.

As we celebrate Easter, here is a gentle encouragement:

Let the resurrection of Jesus bring fresh hope into your everyday life.

Not only on Sunday, but on Monday. Not only in church, but at home. Not only in good times, but also in difficult ones.

If you are carrying worries or grief, Easter reminds you that you are not alone.

If you are longing for a new beginning, Easter reminds you that God can make a way forward. And if you are searching for meaning, Easter points to a Savior who still calls people to hope, faith, and love.

An Invitation to Worship

We would be honored to celebrate this season with you at Jonestown United Methodist Church. Whether you have worshiped with us for years or are visiting for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

Our Sunday services are:

8:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship

11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

We also gather on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. for “Conversation with the Father,” a time of prayer and spiritual conversation.

If you or someone you love needs prayer, encouragement, or pastoral care, please feel free to contact the church office at 717-865-4369.

May this Easter season fill your heart with peace, lift your spirit with hope, and remind you that in Jesus Christ, new life is truly possible.

With Christ’s love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

Ponder...cont...from Page 1

Therefore, my beloved brethren be steadfast, immovable in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

(RSV)always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that Raymond Lindquist – “What Easter Means to Me,” Easter means Christ to me. It means Christ in His kingly splendor, Christ in His serene glory, Christ in His gracious condescension. This is because Easter is the return of Christ from inflicted violence, from induced death, from imprisonment in a tomb. Easter is Christ triumphant over all that sin and death and man could do to Him. Easter means Christ.

Easter means life. Christ defeated death in order that life in Him might always live. And it is life that we want, life in Christ. Whether we put it in words or not, our constant thought is, “Life, more life. Always more life, always more and more life.” We want life in ourselves, in our loved ones, in our friends, the kind of life that cannot be diminished, the kind of life that always expands. Easter is Christ’s victory over all that would restrict, deny and strangle life. “For to me to live is Christ.” That is Easter.

“The Wonder of it All”

Verse 1- There’s the wonder of sunset at evening. The wonder as sunrise I see; But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul is the wonder that God loves me.

Verse 2-There’s the wonder of springtime and harvest, the sky, the stars, the sea; But the wonder of wonders that thrills my soul is a wonder that’s only begun.

Chorus- O, the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that God loves me. O the wonder of it all! The wonder of it all! Just to think that God loves me.

Written and often sung by George Beverly Shea, a member of The Billy Graham Evangelistic staff!

Joy to you this Easter!

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will be meeting in April on Tuesday the 14th. This time we are planning to go to the Red Lion Restaurant in Pine Grove for a 12:30 reservation. More information will be coming about this. All ladies are welcome.

We support the NL Clothes Closet at the old Jonestown Elementary School. Thank you for your clothing donations put in the container in the narthex. The closet serves those who need a little extra help and are financially eligible and from the NL school district. They are open the first and third Tuesdays from 10-12, and Thursdays from 4-7, two Mondays (second and fourth) 10-12, and one Saturday (third) a month from 10-1:00, which is Community Shopping Day. This means it is open for any Northern Lebanon resident to shop for a monetary donation. Come on out to shop then or look around. You are welcome! We have lots of nice Spring clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



Ladies Night Out: Be on the lookout in your weekly bulletin for upcoming events and their dates and time!



The King's Kids: (Previously called Kids Club) April 12, 2026 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. (Next month, May 10, 2026)

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music, and snacks. Continuing the Heroes of the Bible Series.

RELEASE TIME:

Anyone interested in helping with Release Time in any capacity please see the flyers on the Narthex table. Release Time began on October 9 2025.

NAR-ANON: A group meeting at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm. Nar-Anon, known officially as "Nar-Anon Family Groups", is a twelve step program for friends and family members of those who are affected by someone else's addiction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES:

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult Bible Study

John Hall: Adult

Gary Miele: Youth

Brenda Rudy: Children

FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION: Food Box Packing is on April 10, 2026 at 6:00PM. April Food Box Distribution is on Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 1:00pm.

APRIL MISSION PARTNER –

NL Ministerium

Special Offering Envelopes will be available April in the narthex and on the windowsills. Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL UPDATE:

For January & February together
Budget for 2 months=\$25,000
Actual income for those 2 months was \$24,295
Actual expenses were \$24,053.

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC Service at
Free Noon Meal will be on**

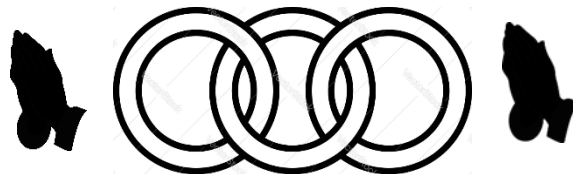
MAY 1st (No Noon Meal in April)

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

APRIL 11 @ 1PM

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last two years to needy families in our area. You can help prepare for assembly Thursday 4/9 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 4/10 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 4/11 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)



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 Artz

(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

Team 2: Jeff & Diana Waltermyer
(717-673-9513)

Rick & Wendy Kline (717-865-4363)

Pam Gray(717-865-3997)

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)

*Diane Waltermyer (717-673-9513)

*Doris Crouse(717-865-5554)



WANTED: Individuals willing to learn some simple steps to follow and perhaps add some creativity to our Live Streaming Worship Services and Website updates.

We are always looking for persons willing to provide relief for those regularly serving in this area when they need a break or will be away OR share the load on a Sunday Morning with set-up or trouble shooting when needed.



CARE COORDINATOR:

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 or in nursing

homes. Frank Sebastian continues in the nursing home, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit, in the Lebanon Nursing Home on Tuck St. in Lebanon. Cards can be sent to home addresses, as they can for Lewis Artz , Phil Lenge, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, Bonnie Rickard , Peggy Fortna, and Linda Lee. A list of these addresses for all is on the JOY table in the narthex. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. Since we are all members of a "Care Team", the Care Coordinator will contact members of the church when a need arises to see who can help with a meal or any other need. If you would be willing to make and deliver a meal to someone when the need arises, please let Pam Gray know, so she has a list of who to call to help. Also if you know of a care concern, please also contact her.



JOY Food Pantry: JOY clients shop once a week either on a Tuesday from 10-12, Thursday from 4-7, or Friday from 10-12. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to JOY. Some additional items needed at this time are:

corn and red beets, baked beans, canned pasta, chunky soup, Ramen soup, cream soups, canned fruit, canned chicken, spam, tuna, juices, paper towels, dish liquid, other cleaning supplies, and shampoo. A complete list of needed items is on the JOY table to take along or check the website at joypantry.org . Please mail monetary donations to: Caring Cupboard, P.O. Box 71, Palmyra, PA 17078. Please put on the memo line that this is for the JOY Pantry. Thank you for your generosity particularly at this time of lost jobs and food shortages! This month an Easter dinner will be given to our clients.

OUR WEBSITES: We have two websites currently, as we explore possibilities for team leaders to enter their own information of upcoming events. Our basic website is www.jonestownumc.org, and the newer site is www.jonestownmethodist.org. Keep an eye on both sites. Are you interested in helping with keeping the sites updated?

Church Events

Weekly Events:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm-Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-The Rock Band
- Sundays 10:15am- praise Team Rehearsal
- JOY Pantry Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-Noon, Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm

APRIL EVENTS:

- April 2 Thursday 7:00pm Maundy Thursday UM Cluster Trinity UMC Lickdale
- April 3 Friday 11:30am Prayer Walk from Old Jonestown Elementary to JUMC
- April 3 Friday Noon to 3pm Good Friday Services At JUMC Come and Go on the half hour
- April 5 Sunday 6:45 am Easter Sunrise Service at Grays Apple Ridge
- April 10 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- April 11 Wood Cutting/Splitting Gretna Glen 9-noon, and 1-3. Lunch served at 12-1pm.
- April 11 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- April 12 Sun. 5:30-7:30pm--- The King's Kids Club
- April 13 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- April 15 Newsletter Articles Due for May
- April 18 Sat 10am-noon---NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- April 20 Mon 6:30pm Trustees
- April 27 Mon 6:30pm Worship Mtg

CELEBRATE OUR GUESTS: We have seen a number of guests joining us for worship and at a variety of events sponsored by the ministries of Jonestown Church. There are some small bags to be handed out to our guests that include a brochure about our church, a refrigerator magnet with the contact information for our congregation, etc. In addition to personally welcoming and getting to know people you are either meeting for the first time or are getting re-acquainted with, we are inviting those normally attending to share one of the guest bags while introducing yourself and personally welcoming guests/visitors.

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Tuesday Evenings on April 7, 14, 21 and 28 - 6:30-7:30pm

We'd love for you to join us for prayer on Tuesdays @ 6:30. We pray for our families, church families, community, and country.

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Here is an article written by Natalie Breckenridge. She is a pastor.

"Prayer is not a coping mechanism. It is a Kingdom weapon. It is not the thing you do when you've run out of options. It is the thing that creates options.

You think you're just whispering into the air. But Heaven hears movement. Hell hears threat. And history feels the impact.

Prayer rearranges atmospheres. It interrupts timelines. It shifts what logic said was permanent.:

James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
Powerful. Effective.

Not symbolic.
Not emotional.
Not imaginary.

When you pray, chains break that you can't see. Doors unlock that haven't even appeared yet. Strength rises that wasn't there five minutes ago.

Prayer is how weak people walk in supernatural strength. It's how ordinary people carry extraordinary authority. It's how heaven invades earth without a stage, a title, or applause.

The enemy doesn't fear your personality. He fears your consistency in prayer.

That's why distraction hits when you kneel. That's why fatigue shows up when you fast. That's why doubt whispers when you start declaring.

Because prayer is dangerous to darkness.

So don't stop. Pray when you feel it. Pray when you don't. Pray when it's loud. Pray when it's silent.

Because every time you pray, something shifts. You may not see it yet, but it moved.

And the prayers you pray today are building victories you'll walk into tomorrow."

It will be ALL of our time with Him. Teri Light

Someone interested in New Ministries/Missions which God has put on your heart????

<p>Scripture Reading Streaming/video/PowerPoint Church Decorating for various seasons Kids Club/Children's Ministries--- Volunteer</p>	<p><u>MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:</u> Serving on leadership teams Staff Parish Relations Nominations/Lay Leadership Trustees Outreach</p>	<p>King's Kids /Childrens Ministries NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry For any further info on any of these opportunities , send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org</p>
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Psalm 28: 7

The Lord is my strength and my shield, in Him my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

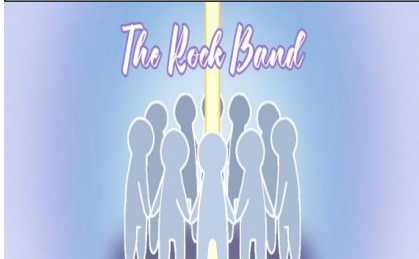
- 2 Anna Mae Fessler
- 5 Caleigh Keiser
- 6 Howard Lee
- 8 Linda Lee
- 8 Laura Keiser
- 9 Audrey Granger
- 17 Michelle Unger
- 22 Amanda Robinson
- 23 William Major
- 25 Hannah Bashore
- 26 Mikey Mindy
- 29 Donald Edcius



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 22 John & Nancy Rhen

Psalm 97:12 "Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."



With Lori Jackson Tuesdays continuing on APRIL 7, 14, 21 and 28 7:00pm- 8:30pm

THE ROCK BAND: - Tuesday night youth Bible study. Current study on Spiritual warfare - "Girl's With Swords" by Lisa Bevere.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: Easter sunrise service will once again be at Gray's Apple Ridge Farm, 144 Greble Rd, Jonestown. . Plenty of parking! Plan to arrive in time for the service that is to begin at 6:45am. Bring a folding chair if you have one. Please join us!

Pastor An's Sermons for April -May 5

- Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday Scripture: Luke 24:1 – 12 Sermon Title: He Is Risen Indeed
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 Scripture: 1 John 5:11 – 15 Sermon Title: This Is the Confidence
- Easter Season Series: Living as Easter People
- Sunday, April 19, 2026 Scripture: John 20:19 – 22 Sermon Title: Peace Be With You
- Sunday, April 26, 2026 Scripture: John 21:15 – 19 Sermon Title: Do You Love Me?
- Sunday, May 3, 2026 Scripture: Acts 2:42 – 47 Sermon Title: A Church Shaped by Grace

E-GIVING: If you would like to donate your tithes or offerings to our church electronically, you can do so through our e-giving system. The system can be used for a one-time donation, such as a special event, or for recurring ones, such as weekly contributions.

Access the e-giving site by clicking on the burgundy E-Giving button at the top right of the church's website, www.jonestownumc.org. Or access directly at the following address: <http://www.jonestownumc.org/egiving.html>.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Service Trinity UMC Lickdale 7:00pm	3 Prayer Walk- Old Jonestown Elementary to JUMC 11:30 Good Friday Service at JUMC 12-3	4
5 EASTER Communion Sunrise Service 6:45am Gray's farm Worship 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	6 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	7 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	8	9 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	10 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Food Box Packing 6:00pm	11 Gretna Glenn Woodcutting 9-noon; 1-3pm Food Box Distribution 1pm
12 Worship 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am The King's Kids 5:30-7:30pm	13 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	14 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	15	16 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	17 JOY Pantry 10am-12	18 NL Clothing Closet Community Shopping 10:00am-1:00pm
19 Worship 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	20 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	21 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	22	23 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	24 JOY Pantry 10am-12	25
26 Worship 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	27 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Worship Mtg 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	28 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	29	30 JOY Pantry 4-7pm		

