



Jonestown United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2026 Newsletter



PONDER with
Lewis...

Rock of Ages

Jesus, as He taught the people with the Sermon on the Mount, touched on many subjects. One was the need for stability. Matthew 7:24&25: "everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on the rock." In Matthew 16:13-26, Jesus taught His disciples about the Church after Peter had responded to Jesus's question, "Who do you say that I am?" -Peter's reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Vs 18 "And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

These words come from The Jeremiah Study Bible. Dr Jeremiah's note: "Jesus was saying the church would not be built on Peter- 'The pebble,' but upon Christ- 'The Massive Rock' and 'chief cornerstone.' Also His reference to building was to the body of Christ-

continued page 2

From the Pastor: August 2026

"Renewed for the Journey Ahead"

Dear friends and neighbors,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we enter the month of August, summer is beginning to move toward its final weeks.

Many families are traveling, spending time together, enjoying vacations, or simply trying to make the most of the season.

Others are preparing for a new school year, returning to familiar routines, or looking ahead to the months that lie before them.

August often feels like a pause between seasons.

It is a time when many people find themselves both grateful and tired.

We are thankful for family gatherings, summer memories, and moments of joy.

Yet we may also feel the weight of busy schedules, responsibilities, health concerns, or the simple reality that life can be demanding.

Perhaps that is why this month offers us a valuable opportunity: the opportunity to slow down long enough to notice where God has been at work in our lives.

The Bible says: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

These words from Jesus are familiar to many people, but they remain as meaningful today as ever.

Notice what Jesus does not say.

He does not say, "Come when everything is going well."

He does not say, "Come when you have enough strength."

He simply says, "Come."

That invitation is for all of us.

Some are carrying physical weariness.

Others bear worries that no one else sees.

Many are grieving losses or facing difficult decisions about the future.

Still others may simply feel tired after a long season of caring for family, working hard, and carrying daily responsibilities.

Jesus welcomes each one.

One of the gifts of summer is the chance to step away from our usual pace, even if only for a moment.

A walk in the evening, a conversation with a friend, time spent with family, or a quiet moment of prayer can remind us that life is more than schedules and obligations.

God often meets us in those ordinary moments.

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SEPTEMBER Newsletter

Deadline: August 12th

Jonestown United Methodist

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Email: info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

www.jonestownmethodist.org

Facebook: Jonestown United Methodist Church

From the Pastor cont.' from Page 1

The Psalmist writes: "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."

(Psalm 37:7)

Stillness is not always easy.

We live in a world that encourages us to keep moving, keep producing, and keep worrying.

Yet God often renews us when we slow down enough to listen.

Renewal does not always happen in dramatic ways.

It may come through a prayer, a meaningful conversation, or a kind word from a friend.

At other times, it comes through the quiet assurance that God is with us even when we cannot see the whole path ahead.

As a pastor, I have learned that some of the strongest people are not those who never grow tired.

They are those who continue trusting God through every season of life.

I see that kind of faith in our church family.

It appears in those who pray faithfully, encourage others while carrying their own burdens, and continue showing kindness even when life has not been easy.

That quiet faith is a beautiful testimony.

As we move through August, perhaps we can ask ourselves a simple question:

Where do I need God's renewing strength today?

Perhaps it is in your body. Perhaps it is in your family. Perhaps it is in your relationships.

Or perhaps it is in your faith.

The good news of the Gospel is that we do not have to carry everything alone.

The good news is that Christ walks with us, strengthens us, and gives us grace for each new day.

As summer begins to draw toward its close, may we take time to rest, reflect, and receive the strength that God so generously provides.

We would be honored to walk this journey of faith with you at Jonestown United Methodist Church. Whether you have worshiped with us for many years or are simply looking for a place to begin, you are always welcome.

Our Sunday services are:

8:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

We also gather each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for "Conversations with the Father," a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversation.

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

May the Lord refresh your spirit, renew your strength, and prepare your heart for the journey ahead.

With Christ's love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

Ponder...cont....from Page 1

The church. And Christians are invited to participate in this work through evangelism and discipleship. (Eph 4)

It is interesting to find that the Book of Psalms has references to God as the Rock.

Psalm 95:1-3, "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make joyful noise to Him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Psalm 61:1-3: Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I, for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy."

The words of Psalm 61 led Augustus M. Toplady to write "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me."

Verse 1- Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Verse 3-While I draw this final breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown,
And behold thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, Cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will take a break for summer and begin our meetings again in the Fall. We love to go out for lunch, so be checking the newsletter for our plans for October.

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 Summer clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



LADIES NIGHT OUT: We will take a break for the months of July and August as summer schedules are busy.



King's Kids:

King's Kids will resume October 11, 2026, 5:30-7:30

For 1st grade -5th grade.

Watch for further details in next month's Newsletter and your weekly bulletin insert.

RELEASED TIME:

Released time is over for this school year. Watch for information regarding its resumption for the 2026-2027 school year. Release Time will start in October. More information will follow in the September Newsletter.

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
Gary Miele: Youth

John Hall: Adult
Brenda Rudy: Children

AUGUST MISSION PARTNER –

LCCM -Lebanon County Christian Ministries
Special Offering Envelopes will be available during
August in the narthex and on the windowsills.
Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

JUNE FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2026 Budget per month = \$12,500
June actual figures
Income = \$13,650
Expenses = \$10,800

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

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

August 7th

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 Jodi Yeagley (717-306-8854)

Free Food Box Distribution

AUGUST 8 @ 1PM

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last several years to needy families in our area. You can help prepare for assembly Thursday 8/6 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 8/7 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 8/8 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)

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 Artz
(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

Team 2: Jeff & Diana Waltermeyer
(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 Waltermeyer (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 Lingle, 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 are 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 items needed 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.

REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE: Do you have a Redner's "Save A Tape"

Card?" If not, ask for one at any register or at Customer Service. Use your card when you pay and save your receipt. Put them in the light red box on top of the coat rack at the entrance marked "Redner's".

We need the whole receipt. The receipts will be totaled a few times a year and turned into Redner's. JUMC will get 1% of the grand total. Large and small amounts all add up. Thank you!

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

AUGUST EVENTS:

- August 7 Fri 10:00 LCCM Noon Meal
- August 7 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- August 8 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- August 11 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- August 15 Newsletter Articles Due for September
- August 15 Sat 10am-noon---NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- August 18 Mon 6:30pm Trustees Mtg.
- August 23 Sun 10:00 am Service and Picnic at Jonestown Park

NAR-ANON: Meetings are second and fourth Thursdays of every month at 6:30pm.

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 August 4, 11, 18 and 25 - 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



THE ROCK BAND: -- The Rock Band bible study group meets most Tuesday nights 7pm- 8:30pm. Teens 12 & up and adults welcomed. Please make sure to text Lori Jackson if you decide to meet with us- we might be at the church, a park, a coffee house, on a hike or poolside. Our next study is based on a book by singer/songwriter Matthew West, "**Don't Stop Praying: The God Who Hears Is Just a Breath Away**" (2026), a 40-day devotional and prayer journey that encourages

readers to build a deeper, more consistent prayer life.

Everyone is welcome to join us for Uprise festival next month, September 12th & 13th Shippensburg fairground. Questions? See Lori Jackson

BACK TO SCHOOL PROJECT - August 2026

Sponsor a Student in the N.L. School District

We are seeking financial sponsors for 108 students in our school district who have been identified as needing clothing and school supply assistance for the upcoming school year.

With your help, each of these students will receive new jeans, new sneakers, a new back-to-school outfit, new underwear and socks, and a new backpack filled with necessary school supplies at a special Back to School Event in August.



Providing students with the basic necessities they need for school does more than meet a physical need—it helps build confidence, restore dignity, and allows them to begin the new school year feeling prepared and ready to learn.

The average cost to fully equip an elementary school student is approximately **\$100**, while preparing a middle or high school student costs about **\$125**. However, financial gifts of any amount are sincerely appreciated. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us move closer to ensuring that every child starts the school year with the tools they need to succeed.

Thank you for considering a gift to this important effort. Your generosity will make a meaningful difference in the life of a child. We simply could not do this work without the compassion and support of caring individuals like you.

Blessings –

Deborah Reiner

Project Lead, on behalf of the NL Ministerium

Should you have any questions, I can be reached at adreiner74@gmail.com, or 717.304.8826

Forms are available in the narthex to use to donate!

**Happy
Birthday!**

Psalm 28: 7

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

10 Joy Wolfe
14 Bernadine Rickard
16 Bernie Showers, III
17 Victoria Baird
17 Erin Reichl
18 Stacy Fink
18 Heather Lambrecht
18 Amanda Wolfe
20 Layla Mindy
28 Cheryl Major



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

6 Matt and Stacy Fink
7 Michael & Marcia Slade
11 Mel & Deb Unger
21 Travis & Michelle Unger

PASTOR AN'S AUGUST SERMONS

Sunday August 2- Scripture: John 6:35-40, The Bread That Gives Life
Sunday, August 9 -Scripture: Jeremiah 18:1-6, In the Potter's Hands
Sunday, August 16- Scripture: Romans 12:1-8, A Life Transformed
Sunday, August 23- Scripture: Genesis 1:1-10, The God of All Creation
Sunday August 30-Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, Let Your Light Shine

We encourage all who are able to read the Scripture each week ahead of time, pray over it, and come with open hearts as we continue to grow together in faith.

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>.

CHURCH PICNIC: Our yearly church picnic will be held on August 23 2026, at the Jonestown Park Pavillion. There will be one service held at 10:00am. Potluck picnic to follow - with broasted chicken by Redner's.

SAVE THE DATE Boscov's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes will again be available this year! See Claudia Clark. The Shopping Day will be Wednesday, October 21, 2026. The cost is \$5.00.

August 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Communion Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	3 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	4 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	5	6 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	7 JOY Pantry 10am-12 LCCM Noon Meal Food Box Packing 6:00pm	8 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm
9 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	10 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	11 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	12	13 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	14 JOY Pantry 10am-12	15 NL Clothing Closet Community Shopping 10:00am-1:00pm
16 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	17 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	18 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	19	20 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	21 JOY Pantry 10am-12	22
23 Church Picnic Service 10:00 at the Jonestown Park Pavillion Picnic After the Service	24 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	25 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	26	27 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	28 JOY Pantry 10am-12	29
30 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	31 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm					