

**Jonestown United
Methodist Church**

December 2024 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

"Merry Christmas!" Christmas is celebrated every year. It may have been a tremendously wonderful year or a horribly painful one. It will come proclaiming good news... for all people... everywhere... there is a savior! We may have some personal and family traditions that have survived decades of repetition. The church, as well, celebrates various practices and events that are anticipated and expected - and pastors are cautious to vary them in any significant fashion, risking reactions that can be strong and pointed, even alienating. Each year as we begin the period of Advent, I am reminded that Advent is not simply remembering the anticipation long ago leading up to the birth of Jesus, it is the anticipation that we have today of the return of Jesus yet to come. We'll see soon, if not already by the time you receive your newsletter, the "count-down" to Christmas... 15 days until Christmas... 10 days until Christmas... three days... the last day... We generally have learned to have a count-down to birth... approximately nine months. We are not fooled, however... the birth is just the remarkable beginning of a whole new journey. Too much less than nine months and we call it premature... too much longer and we call it overdue... For centuries the people of God waited for the Messiah, however; they were promised a coming anointed one but no one knew what the gestational period for the coming of a Messiah would be. A week...? A month...? A decade.. century... millennium? It was hope that would fuel their journey forward. It is appropriate that we begin the Advent journey with a theme of "hope." There would be no nine month count-down. There would be no obviously pregnant woman who appearance would entice enthusiasm obviously announcing - "we're getting close." Hope would be something far deeper, something that would develop far more torque to enable people to keep moving through the obstacles, the fear, the mud and mire and challenges of life. Paul chided the Romans to not get hung up on the obvious, but rather to be empowered by faith, hope, and love. He told them in Romans 8: 24 *"For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it."* In 1 Corinthians 13 he confidently announced: *"13 But now faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* Faith in the love of God empowers us to confidently live with hope. When advent is restricted to looking to Christmas - it is a shallow journey to a day that quickly comes and passes. When the journey to Christmas is but a primer, a reflection, and a vision - Advent is for us a rally call to live forward with faith, hope, and love on an adventure called the Christian life. It is a dynamic relationship with our living God. The best gift you can every open at Christmas is your heart - open your heart to welcome Jesus in, not to a manger long ago, but to a remarkable life yet to be lived.

~Pastor Al.

**PONDER with
Lewis....**

JOY



One of the most
loved Christmas

Carols is "Joy to the World! It begins with these words: "Joy to the World! The Lord is come." and also continues, "Joy to the World! The Savior reigns. "So we have reason to rejoice as Christians every day for the Lord Jesus Christ has come to earth to reign in our lives!

"Joy to the World!" was the work of Isaac Watts based on Psalm 98. In verse 1 we read "Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!" In verse 4, 5, and 6 "make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!"

Gloria and William Gaither wrote "Redeeming Love." Vers (1) "From God's heaven to a manager, from great riches to the poor, came the holy Son of God, a little child; from the azuse halls of heaven to a (CON'T NEXT PAGE->)

Next News:

January Newsletter

Deadline : December 15th.

Jonestown United Methodist

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Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: (717) 865-4369

Email:

info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

YOGA STRETCHING will be the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30am. Please see Lori Jackson for additional details if you are interested.

TESTING OUT A NEW/ADDITIONAL WEBSITE

We are exploring some possibility/testing out a site found at www.jonestownmethodist.org. This may be a place where it will be possible for various leaders to update information for their ministry area with more ease. Check it out and share some ideas.

Woodcutting/splitting at Gretna Glen: THIS Saturday – December 7th - from 9-NOON and 1-3PM. Lunch is provided by Gretna Glen for those helping. See Dave Gray if you have any questions.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS: The Angel Tree gifts are due next Sunday (December 8th) morning. THANK YOU all for the blessing you are passing on to families going through some difficult times in our area.

Food Box Distribution – December 14th – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, December 12th, Pick up at Midwest Food Bank – unloading at the church about 3:45-4PM and preparation of the parking lot entrance for the assembly of the boxes and storage.

Friday, December 13th, Unloading at the church of food items from Dave Gray and Ono Church’s trip to Blessings of Hope about 10:30AM; Food Box Assembly Friday evening at 6PM.

“Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon”: will be held on **December 11th at 1:00pm** at Northern Lebanon High School Cafeteria. We are pleased to welcome all senior citizen members of our community for a time filled with food and fellowship! Please come out, enjoy lunch, and meet some of our students and faculty. **Please RSVP to Mrs. Hartman in the Superintendent’s office by December 4th. There will be a map on the narthex table showing where to park and what entrance to use.**

DECEMBER CARE TEAM	
<i>Week of Dec. 1st</i>	
Karen Bene	717-673-2833
<i>Week of Dec. 8th</i>	
Nancy Rautzhan	717-865-3061
<i>Week of Dec. 15th</i>	
Pam Gray	717-865-3997
<i>Week of Dec. 22nd</i>	
Jim and Judy Mowry	717-279-0809
<i>Week of Dec. 29th</i>	
Pam Gray	717-865-3997

[PONDER Con’t] “JOY”

lowly manger stall, Jesus came, and here He gave His life for all. (2) From a loving heavenly Father, to a world that knew Him not, came a man of sorrows, Jesus Christ, the Lord. In my wandering Jesus found me. Touched my life with His great love, and this Babe was grown to be my sov-ereign Lord!) Chrous-”Redeeming love, a love that knows no limit. Redeeming love, a love that never dies, my soul shall sing through-out the endless ages the adoration of this love on high.”

Gloria’s words: “His love still is longing, His love still is reaching, right past the shackles of my mind. And the Word of the Father became Mary’s little son. And His love reached all the way to where I was.”

David Jeremiah learned this song in Sunday School, “Jesus and others and you what a wonderful way to spell JOY! Jesus and others and you, in the life of each girl and each boy.” “J” is for Jesus; for He has first place. “O” is for others we meet face to face. “Y” is for you, in whatever you do. Put yourself third and spell JOY!”

Words from the hymn “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light-”This child, wow weak in in-fancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.”

May JOY, This Christmas, Be Yours!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: (Some upcoming ways of serving in the life of Jonestown Church are...)

- Scripture Reading
- Streaming/video/PowerPoint
- Church Decorating for Christmas
- Serving on our leadership teams
 - Staff Parish Relations
 - Nominations/Lay Leadership\
 - Trustees
 - Outreach
- Kids Club Volunteer
- NL Clothes Closet

For any further information on any of these opportunities, send a note to info@jonestownumc.org



Join us at the Kid's Club

Who: Kids entering 1st grade thru 6th grade

2nd Sundays Next Meeting:

December 8th— 5:30-7:30PM

Kids Club will be held on December 8th at 5:30-7:30PM. We will continue with our walk through the Fruit of the Spirit. We are in our sixth month in December. The first month we did an overview of the Fruit of The Spirit in general.

In August we studied the Love of God; September the Joy of God; October the peace of God; November— Patience...

Now in December we are studying the fruit of the spirit – KINDNESS. Any child who entered grades 1 through 6 this past fall are welcome.



THE PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY: John Hall has prepared another Bible Study for us walking us through the Parables of Jesus. You will find weekly readings each week in our bulletin as well as available on the www.jonestownmethodist.org website. You can study on your own or join an e-mail study by sharing some thoughts about the reading with others in an e-mail group throughout the week. You can let us know of your interest in participating by sending a “count me in on the Parable study” message to:

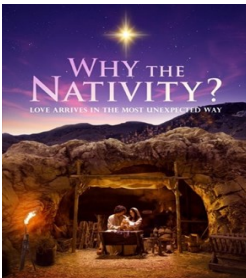
info@jonestownmethodist.org. When you receive a reply, simply hit “reply



Thanksgiving/Christmas Meal: at Trinity Church in Lickdale: Beginning with Holy Communion December 5 at 11AM. The pastors will be providing the meal in appreciation of all of your service and ministries in the local churches and/or community. PLEASE sign up and let us know of your plans to attend so that we can provide accordingly.



ADVENT BRUNCH: will be held today, **December 1st from 9:45am-11:00a**, in the Fellowship Hall. Menu: various breakfast casseroles, breakfast meats, baked oatmeal, fruit, fruit juices/ coffee/tea/hot chocolate.



“Why the Nativity?” Our congregation will share a journey during Advent by meditating on the thoughts shared in a book by David Jeremiah entitled “Why the Nativity?” – 25 Compelling Reasons We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus. If you haven’t picked one up yet, feel free to take one from the table in the Narthex at church or call the church office and we will send you one. We will begin the adventure together on this Sunday, December 1 in worship for the First Sunday of Advent, sharing an Advent Brunch between services. In the evening on December 1 we will present the video “Why the Nativity?” in the fellowship hall beginning at 6PM.

“Why the Nativity?” - SERMON SERIES

December 1 – “Why did Jesus Become Man?”

December 8 – “Why Joseph?”

December 15 – “Why Mary?”

December 22 – “Why Call Him Savior?”

We are still looking for readers for our Advent Candle Lighting – in our Sunday Morning Services and also in our Christmas Eve services.... Dec. 8, 15, 22, and 24. If you would like to volunteer, please let Norma Artz (8:45AM Sunday Services and 8PM Christmas Eve service) or Dawn Miele (11AM Sunday Services or 6PM Christmas Eve Service) know.

DECEMBER MISSION PARTNER

Our special offering for December goes to Northern Lebanon Ministerium.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **October** = \$11,113.00
Received in total for all categories = \$9,860.00
Expenses \$10,385.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC December
Free Noon Meal will be on**

**December 6th and
January 3rd.**

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 December 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 12/12 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 12/13, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 12/14 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 & Eleanor Artz
(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

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)



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

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.

Please contact Pastor Al if you are interested in some simple instructions.

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. Ellie Artz continues in the nursing home, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit. Frank and Jan Sebastian and Lewis are in their homes, as are Phil Lenge, Nancy and John Rhen, and Doris Crouse. Bonnie Rickard is now in Pine Grove, and

can't always get in. She would love to know you're thinking of her. Check the JOY table in the narthex or your directory for addresses. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. We will no longer have a Care Team, due to decreasing numbers of volunteers. 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 know of a care concern, please contact the Care Coordinator, Pam Gray.



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. We are donating the food from Harvest Home to JOY. We have donated about 60 lbs. this past month. We are under the Caring Cupboard, and have recently gone back

to the previous policy of only serving residents of the Northern Lebanon, Grantville, or Palmyra area. Thanks to all who contribute. Some needed items are: 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: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038.



"Friends Together" - The "Friends Together" group will be baking for the Christmas Tree Lighting, which will take place in our parking lot on November 29th in the evening. This is an annual project to raise money for a charity. This year we will be donating all proceeds to the UMCOR relief efforts

for the hurricane damage. If you would be willing to bake for this sale, please contact Judy Mowry or Pam Gray. We are looking for packaged baked goods, which should be brought to the church on Sunday the 24th or by 5:00 on the day of the sale.

Also add this date to your calendars: **Tuesday, December 10th, at 12:00 noon.** This will be the Ladies Christmas Lunch at the Wetlands. Please sign up in the narthex, and indicate if you need a ride. Be at the church by 11:40 if so. All ladies are welcome!! Our group also supports 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 (fourth) 10-1:00 a month. That day is also a "community day" when anyone can shop, but also leave a donation. Please see the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information.

Don't miss our great Sunday School Opportunities:

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult

John Hall: Adult

Gary Miele: Youth

Brenda Rudy: Children

CHURCH EVENTS

- Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-The Rock Band
- Tuesdays 7:15pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
- Sundays 10:15am-Praise Team Rehearsal
- Dec. 3,6,10,13,17,20,27 Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Dec. 10 Tues. 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet
- Dec. 5,12,19,26 Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Dec. 24-NO JOY Pantry-Holiday
- Dec. 12,26 Thurs. 4-7pm-Clothing Closet
- Dec., Sat. 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm NL Clothes Closet
- Dec. 1, Sun. —Advent Brunch 9:45am-11:00am
- Dec. 1, Sun. —"Why The Nativity" movie 6:00pm
- Dec. 1, Sun.—Pointsettia orders due
- Dec. 5, Thurs.—"Thanksgiving Meal" Trinity Church 11:00am
- Dec. 6, Fri. 10:00am—LCCM Noon Meal
- Dec. 6, Fri. 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out
- Dec. 7, Sat. 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm—Gretna Glen Wood Splitting
- Dec. 7,21 8:30am—Yoga Stretching
- Dec. 8, Sun.—Tree Angel gifts due
- Dec. 8, Sun. 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- Dec. 10, Tues. 12:00pm—"Friends Together" at Wetlands
- Dec. 12, Thurs. 4:00pm—unload trailer
- Dec. 13, Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Dec. 14, Sat. 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Dec. 22, Sun. 7:00pm—Blue Christmas Service Ono UMC

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, a pen, 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 invited 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 starting December 10th, 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



With Lori Jackson Tuesdays starting December 3rd, 7:00pm-8:00pm.

We are changing Creative Ministries name to "The Rock Band" - this is an active (literally) bible study group. Jesus is our rock! Our current

study is "Girls With Swords" by Lisa Bevere, complete with fencing manuals. We also plan to attend an actual fencing class. Teens and adults welcome.

Northern Lebanon Clothes Closet: If you live in the NL School District and are in need of FREE clothing, we invite you to come visit the Clothing Closet, located in the former Jonestown Elementary School (now the IU13 "Northern Education Center"). We are located on the Lancaster St. side of the building. Look for the signs and "Door 13."

THANK YOU to all who helped with the many extra events and programs we have hosted offered over the last several months as well as the coming events between now and the end of the year...



Psalm 28: 7-9

The Lord is my strength and my shield, in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped. My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him. The Lord is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed. Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Keith Rudy
- 9 Lewis Artz
- 9 Dylan Fahler
- 10 Brian Sell
- 12 Diana Waltermeyer
- 12 Natalie Rudy
- 16 Katie Major
- 18 Teri Light
- 19 Bryce Deiter
- 20 Mary Jane Rhen
- 21 Seth Clark
- 23 George Rautzhan
- 23 Kayden Showers
- 27 Nathan Hillegas



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 21 Pat & Lorna Sheehan
- 31 Storm & Sylvia Kline

My Prayer List:

December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Advent Sunday Holy Communion Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 "Why The Nativity" 6:00pm	2 AA Meeting 6:00	3 The Rock Band 7:00	4	5 "Thanksgiving Meal" Trinity Church 11:00 JOY Pantry 4-7PM	6 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Ladies Night Out 6:00	7 Yoga Stretching 8:30 Gretna Glen Wood splitting 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00
8 2nd Advent Sunday Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30	9 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	10 NL Clothes Closet 10-noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon "Friends Together" Wet-lands 12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	11 Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon at 1:00PM Northern Lebanon High School Cafeteria	12 Unload Trailer 4:PM JOY Pantry 4-7PM Clothing Closet 4-7PM	13 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Food box assembly 6:00	14 Food Box Distribution 1:00
15 3rd Advent Sunday Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 News letter Articles Due	16 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	17 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	18	19 JOY Pantry 4-7PM	20 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	21 Yoga Stretching 8:30
22 4th Advent Sunday Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Blue Christmas Service @ Ono UMC 7:00	23 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	24 No Joy Pantry Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 8:00	25 Christmas Day	26 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00 NL Clothes Closet 4:00-7:00	27 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	28
29 Hymn Sing Sunday (Special Service) Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	30 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	31 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00 Praise Team 7:15				