



Jonestown United Methodist Church

December 2025 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

Dear beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

As this year draws to a close, we stand once again between what has been and what is yet to come.

Some of us look back with gratitude, others with regret and most of us, with a mixture of both.

Life rarely ends neatly by December. Some dreams remain unfinished, some prayers still wait for answers, and some wounds have not yet healed.

Yet one truth stands firm: God has been faithful.

Moses once prayed, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalms 90:12)

He knew that wisdom begins when we see time not as an enemy, but as a gift each day another chance to walk with God.

When we realize how brief our life is, we begin to live more deeply, love more generously, and trust more fully.

As winter settles in, we echo the Psalmist's words: "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." (Psalm 90:14)

Before we rush into resolutions or schedules, may our hearts find quiet rest in God's unchanging love new every morning, even in December's coldest dawn.

We may not have finished everything we hoped for this year.

We may carry disappointments, unfinished work, or unanswered prayers.

But take heart, our incomplete year rests in the hands of a perfect God.

He never stops working, and what feels unfinished to us may already be part of His perfect plan.

The German pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote these words from a prison cell:

***"By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
we confidently await what may come;
God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to meet us each new day.***

Faith is not the absence of fear, it is the courage to trust the One who shelters us in His grace.

So as we close this year, let us do so not with anxiety, but

**PONDER with
Lewis....**

DEVOTION



Luke, in his gospel, tells of a special man in his coverage of the birth of the Christ child. Luke 2:25- "And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him."

Notice how he is described:

Righteous: A person who is upright, virtuous keeping the commandments of God. Someone who is committed to living life on God's terms and relates in an appropriate and fair manner with others.

Devout: A person who reveres God and allows that reverence to impact his life and choices. Someone consumed with honoring God.

Looking for the consolation of Israel: Simeon was living his life in anticipation of the Messiah-fixated on the future.

The Holy Spirit was upon him: This is interesting since the attachment of the Spirit of God to an individual began at Pentecost Luke 2:26—"And it had been revealed to him (Simeon) by the holy Spirit that he would not see death before

***JANUARY Newsletter
Deadline : December 16th.***

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[From the Pastor con't]

with gratitude.

Let us hand over our victories and failures to the Lord who redeems them all.

Let us thank Him for the mercies we saw and for those we never noticed.

As we step into a new year, may this be our prayer:

“Lord, whatever this cup may hold - joy or sorrow, success or waiting - I receive it from Your loving hand.

My life is Yours, completely and gladly.”

The coming year will not be perfect, but it can be holy, because the God who walks with us is perfect in faithfulness.

Let us begin again, sheltered by His gracious power and strengthened by His joy.

May your December be peaceful, your heart thankful, and your new year bright with hope.

With grateful hearts, we thank God for watching over us this year, and we trust His grace for the days ahead.

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church



**KIDS CLUB: December 14, 2025
from 5:30pm-7:30pm.**

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music,

snacks

Heroes of the Bible Series.

December: “Jesus”

Don't miss our great Sunday School Opportunities:

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult

John Hall: Adult

Gary Miele: Youth

Brenda Rudy: Children

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.” Hours are on the NL Clothes Closet calendar in the narthex.

(Ponder ...Continued)

he had seen the Lord's Christ.” Simeon would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. It appears that this promise radically affected Simeon's way of life as he spent his days in the temple, waiting to see the Messiah. When Joseph and Mary brought the child Jesus into the temple, Simeon took Him in his arms, blessed God and said—Luke 2:29-32, “ Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. “ Simeon knew immediately that this was the Messiah and saw that salvation was a Person, not a word, doctrine, or creed, and that all persons were included—Jew or Gentile. Luke 2: 34-35, “ And Simeon blessed them (Joseph and Mary) and said to Mary , “ Behold this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” Simeon here uttered three distinct prophecies

- 1) Jesus would be either a stumbling stone or a stepping stone to God.
- 2) He would be a sign pointing to His identity
- 3) He would be a sword who would one day, pierce His mother's soul as she watched him die for the sins of the world.

May our celebration of the Christ's birth be defined by the unique contentment of the heart that comes from knowing Him.

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

Scripture Reading

Streaming/video/PowerPoint

Church Decorating for various seasons

Serving on our leadership teams

Staff Parish Relations

Nominations/Lay Leadership\

Trustees

Outreach

Kids Club / Childrens ministries Volunteer

NL Clothes Closet/Joy Pantry

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

Women's Ministries: Our ladies' group, "**Friends Together**", will be meeting next on Tuesday, December 9th at 12:00 for our Christmas Luncheon at the Wetlands. All ladies are welcome. Come out to celebrate the season with good food, fellowship, and lots of fun. Please sign up in the narthex by Dec. 7th. Please indicate if you need a ride.

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 (4-6 during fall/winter), 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 Fall and Winter clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



Ladies Night Out

There will be no Ladies Night Out for the month of December as the month is already busy with holiday festivities and preparations. We will resume on Friday, January 2nd starting at 6 pm with a celebration event. People are asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Fun games will be played along with fellowship with friends.

If you have questions call Karen Bene, 717-673-2833.

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?

Food Box Distribution for December

Food Box Packing, Friday December 12 at 6:00PM

Food Box Distribution, Saturday December 13th 1:00PM. Be here 12:30 if you are helping!

RELEASE TIME:

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

NAR-ANON: A new 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.

DECEMBER MISSION PARTNER

UMCOR

Special Offering for UMCOR -Envelopes are on the windowsills. The offering will go to Jamaica Hurricane Relief.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **OCTOBER**= \$12,400.00

Actual for Oct. Income = \$8600.00

Actual Expenses for Oct. \$14700.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC Service at
Free Noon Meal will be on
December 5th**

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 13 @ 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 12/11 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 12/12 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 12/13 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)

OUR 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 & Eleanor 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. Ellie Artz and Frank Sebastian continue in the nursing home, and would love to hear from you or see you

if you can visit. Both are in Lebanon Nursing Home on Tuck St. in Lebanon. Cards can be sent to their home addresses, as they can for Lewis Artz, Phil Lingle, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, Bonnie Rickard, Peggy Fortna, and Linda Lee. Larry Major is now living at Providence Place, Rm. 218, 24 Hike's Hollow Rd, Pine Grove, PA 17963. A list of these addresses for all is on the JOY table in the narthex. We are also going to send group Christmas cards to those in nursing homes, or their homes, who are on our list. These will be on a table in the narthex. Please stop by to sign these, so we can mail them soon to let them know how much we miss them. 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. At holiday time the clients are given the foods for a holiday meal... turkey or chicken, and

all the "fixens". 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: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038. This past month we donated about 330 lbs. of food to the pantry. Thank you for your generosity particularly at this time of lost jobs and food shortages!

The Gretna Glen Methodist Camp has asked our church to cut, split and stack fire wood. This annual event will occur on December 6th, Saturday from 9 to noon and /or 1 to 3. Our camp meal will be served from noon to 1. Please bring your own safety equipment. If you have a chain saw bring it along. Any questions please call David Gray at 865-3997

CHURCH EVENTS

WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversation 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
Closed Christmas Holiday
Dec 24 -28

DECEMBER EVENTS:

- Dec 5 Fri. 10:00am—LCCM Noon Meal
- Dec 8 Mon 6:45 Church Council (Ad Board)
- Dec 12 Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Dec 13 Sat. 1:00pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Dec 15 Trustees 6:30
- Dec 17 Wed.— newsletter articles due
- Dec 20 Saturday . 10:00am-1:00pm—NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services: 6pm Contemporary 8 pm Traditional

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 continuing on December 2,9, and 16 - 6:30-7:30pm (No meeting Dec 23 and 30th)

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 continuing on December 2,9,16, 23 and 30 7:00pm- 8:30pm

THE ROCK BAND: - Tuesday night youth bible study

Current study on Spiritual warfare - "Girl's With Swords" by Lisa Bevere.

WANTED: Where and how will you serve Jesus this year in the ministry of our Congregation?

We are all part of the Body of Christ if we have given our life over to Him. To declare Jesus "LORD" is to acknowledge He is LORD of each of us. Perhaps you've known someone who has had a stroke or has not utilized a part of their body to its capacity because of some illness or restriction – that part affected by having lost connection with the "head" or the atrophy that has taken place from not being used leaves that treasured part of the body out of commission.

Has God been tugging at your heart to serve in some area within the church or out in mission in the community that you have yet to say "yes" to? Is there some area that God's been speaking to you to be a part of? There are all types of ministries/opportunities that we are seeking to know who God's been speaking to. For example:

We need people interested in developing a process for securing, training, and engaging people into the various ministries and missions of our congregation. [Our Lay Leadership Team]

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



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

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 ANNIVERSARIES

21 Pat & Lorna Sheehan
31 Storm & Sylvia Kline

My Prayer List:

December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Meeting 6:00 Kick Punch 6:30 Ripped 7:00	2 JOY Pantry 10-12 Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	3	4 JOY Pantry 4-7PM	5 JOY Pantry 10-Noon LCCM Noon Meal 10:00	6
7 Second Sunday of Advent Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	8 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:45 Kick Punch 6:30 Ripped 7:00	9 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	10	11 JOY Pantry 4-7PM Nar-Anon 6:30	12 FOOD BOX Assembly JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	13 Food Box Distribution 1:00
14 Third Sunday of Advent Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30	15 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00 Kick Punch 6:30	16 JOY Pantry 10-12 Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	17	18 JOY Pantry 4-7PM	19 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	20 NL Clothes Closet Community Day 10:00-1:00
21 Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	22 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00 Kick Punch 6:30	23 JOY Pantry 10-Noon The Rock Band 7:00	24 Candlelight Services Contemporary 6:00pm Traditional 8:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27
28 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	29 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00 Kick Punch 6:30	30 JOY Pantry 10-Noon The Rock Band 7:00	31			