



**Jonestown United**  
**Methodist Church**

**February 2025 Newsletter**

From the Pastor:

We have stepped into the new year with the ongoing call to discern where God is leading us in the next year... There are some things that speak to who we are as well as what we do that are part of the ongoing ministry of our congregation... All of us need to be trying to discern where it is that God is calling us to serve within and beyond the doors of the church – out in the community and maybe even beyond. I love the weight of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians in the twelfth chapter; he captures the ministry we are all called to in such organic imagery. We are all parts of a body with the "Master" at head control, and -- as members of His body we share the common "blood" of God's grace and life flowing through us, EACH ONE with parts to play in the master plan of God for our congregation, community, and the world around us. This is a crucial time for the church in history. In our own land there are increasing numbers of people who have no idea what the good news of the Gospel is. The world around us is increasingly secularized at the same time the church around the world has been increasingly institutionalized. To join Paul, we cannot come to the place where any of us can see ourselves as incidental – useless – not connected - or unimportant -- if we are connected to Christ. Whatever we do or be, whatever we are CALLED to do or be, is vital. Paul spoke to the Colossian believers in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter: "23 Whatever you do, [WHATEVER] - do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve." Paul told the Romans in Romans 12: "6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." Over the years I have had many people, often shut-ins say -- "All I can do is pray!" My response normally is... "WHAT? ALL I can do is.... Then PRAY. Pray as the Bible calls you – fervently, constantly, with faith, without ceasing, earnestly, gladly....!! This is a GREAT gift!" We have a number of needs in the ministry of the church from helping with children's ministries, youth ministries, serving in leadership on the board or in supporting the pastor on SPR, helping with the cleaning of the church, serving and preparing meals, participating in VBS or Kids Club, mowing, shoveling snow... Whatever you are doing – do it with all your heart celebrating the blessing it is to serve Jesus. I am truly amazed at the MANY ways you all serve, some in places, times, and ways that no one knows – but I assure you – Jesus does! How we thank God for you! Know that it is no small thing to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. If God puts something on your heart – let's discern it together. "The Joy of the Lord is our strength" and it is our strength to serve the Lord with joy. ~Pastor Al.

**PONDER with  
Lewis....**

**HOPE**



Charles Swindoll wrote, "When we are over worked and exhausted, hope gives us fresh energy. When we are discouraged, hope lifts our spirits. When we are tempted to quit, hope keeps us going...When we fear the worst, hope brings reminders that God is still in control.

David Jeremiah wrote, "When we've anchored in eternity, we can weather the storms of time. Whatever happens to us, we know our future. The Lord is already there, and He is preparing a place for us. That makes us sanctified optimists. Today, anchor your personality on the hope Christ offers. Let that stabilize your emotions and sustain your spirits. Read Hebrews 6: 13-20.

Hebrews 6:19 "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain."

The Psalmist wrote in Psalms 42: 5+6(a) "Why are you down cast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior, and my God."

(CON'T NEXT PAGE->)

**Next News:**

***March Newsletter***

***Deadline : February 16th.***

Jonestown United Methodist

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[info@jonestownumc.org](mailto:info@jonestownumc.org)

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THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your donation of stamps for our Prison Christmas. All 500 stamps were used. Thank you for being a part of making our Prison Christmas a success this past year! Have a blessed New Year!

Sincerely, Dena LaHains-Jubilee Ministries



### “Souper Bowl Sunday”

Please donate cans of soup for JOY Pantry on February 2nd and 9th. These can be put on the JOY table soup display in the narthex. Thanks!

**MID WINTER SOCIAL:** Dinner and a Movie 70’s style “A Thief in the Night” PG13, Saturday February 15th from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Pasta Bar with gluten free option. \$\$-love

*Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon*

**FEBRUARY 16TH 1:00PM-3:30**

*RSVP by 2/11 to  
camp@gretnaglen.org*

**LUNCH, FELLOWSHIP & FUN**

Please see Dave Gray by February 11th if you are interested and want to go. Thanks Dave.

**Psalm 71:** 1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. 2 In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. 3 Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. 4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. 5 For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. 6 From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother’s womb. I will ever praise you. 7 I have become a sign to many; you are my strong refuge. 8 My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.

14 As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more. 15 My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long— though I know not how to relate them all. 16 I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, Sovereign Lord; I will proclaim your righteous deeds, yours alone. 17 Since my youth, God, you have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds. 18 Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come. 19 Your righteousness, God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things. Who is like you, God?

### [PONDER Con’t] “HOPE”

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Worldly hope is merely wishful thinking and ends at the grave. Christian hope is based on a person, the living and resurrected Christ, -The firm foundation!

Alister E. McGrath wrote the following.

#### A Symbol of Hope

The cross is a potent symbol of Christian realism. It declares that nay outlook on life that cannot cope with the grim realities of suffering and death does not deserve to get a hearing. This symbol of suffering and death affirm that Christianity faces up to the grim, ultimate realities of life. It reminds us of something we must never be allowed to forget. God entered into our suffering and dying world in order to bring it newness of life. Those outside Christianity need to learn-need to be told about-its relevance and power for the tragic situation of humanity. It is a sign of a glory that is concealed. It confronts the worst that the world can offer and points to-and makes possible-a better way. It stands as a symbol of hope that transfigures, in a world that is too often tinged with sadness and tears.

So consider the cross. A symbol of death? No, a symbol of a world of death and suffering? Not quite. A symbol of hope in the midst of a world of death and suffering? Yes! A symbol of a God who is with us in this dark world, and beyond? Yes! In short, the cross stands for a hope that is for real, in a world that is for real. But that world will pass away, while that hope will remain for eternity.

Sing wholeheartedly “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. On Christ the solid rock I stand.”

### **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](mailto:info@jonestownumc.org)

**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 additional members and chairperson to our Staff/Parish Relations Team, especially this year as we face a season of pastoral transition.

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 and able to be trained as future treasurer of our congregation.

Someone interested in

New Ministries/Missions God has put on your heart????

**NEEDED:** We are looking for persons to serve on our Staff/Parish Relations Committee in the coming year as well as a chairperson to lead the group. PLEASE see Pastor Al with any questions to help you prayerfully consider this position.

### **Our Mission Giving in 2024**

2024 was a very strong year for extra missional giving. JUMC is a congregation that looks beyond itself – reaching out in mission and evangelism to the community and beyond into our nation and even the world. Our various missions share the good news of Jesus while expressing His love and grace by meeting personal, physical, and spiritual needs. Thank you!

<b>MISSION</b>	<b>Special Offering</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gretna Glen camp	\$2,000.00	0	\$2000.00
AMMI	\$225.00	0	\$225.00
JOY	\$1435.00	0	\$1435.00
LCCM	\$585.00	\$300.00	\$885.00
UMCOR	\$4459.00	0	\$4459.00
ALIGN	\$615.00	0	\$615.00
Leb. Rescue Mission	\$785.00	0	\$785.00
Bill Lovelace	\$855.00	0	\$855.00
Shoeboxs	\$1785.00	0	\$1785.00
Heinsmans/TEAM	0	\$1300.00	\$1300.00
Pahutskis/Pioneers	0	\$1300.00	\$1300.00
Samutab Hosp.	0	\$700.00	\$700.00
Our Daily Bread	0	\$150.00	\$150.00
Lentin Offering/ Irvins	\$645.00	0	\$645.00
NL Ministerium	\$2994.00	\$1000.00	\$3994.00
Ryan Timlin	\$534.00	0	\$534.00



## Join us at the Kid's Club

Who: Kids entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays Next Meeting:

**February 9th— 5:30-7:30PM**

Kids Club will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30PM. We will continue with our walk through the Fruit of the Spirit. 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; December-Kindness; January - Goodness.

Now in February we are studying the fruit of the spirit— FAITHFULNESS. Any child who has entered grades 1 through 6 this past fall are welcome.

We share the scriptures, play some games, sing some songs, do a craft, and have a snack before heading home.

*Galatians 5: 22 ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.*

### **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](http://www.jonestownumc.org) and the newer site is [www.jonestownmethodist.org](http://www.jonestownmethodist.org). Keep an eye on both sites. Are you interested in helping with keeping the sites updated? See Pastor Al.

**Food Box Distribution** – February 8th – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, February 6th, 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, February 7th, Unloading at the church of food items from Dave Gray and Ono Church's



Ladies Night Out will be on Friday February 7th starting at 6 pm. Bring any craft or project you would like to work on. Puzzles and coloring books are available too. Join us for some fellowship and fun. Pizza is ordered for those wanting dinner. Call Karen Bene if you have questions at 717-673-2833.

## **FEBRUARY MISSION PARTNER**

Our special offering for February is JOY Pantry.

## **DECEMBER FINANCIAL UPATE**

Budgeted for **December** = \$11,113.00

Received in total for all categories =

\$17,055.00

Expenses \$10,140.00

## **LCCM NOON MEAL**

**First Fridays, 10:00am**

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

**February 7th and  
March 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 Bob Hillegas (717-865-7478)

## **Free Food Box Distribution February 8th @ 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 2/6 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 2/7, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 2/8 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 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



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. A list of these addresses 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. 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 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. We gave a total of 400 lbs. of food and personal care items between the months of December and January! 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.

Thanks for all the donations for JOY. We gave 200 lbs. of food goods in December, and so far in January have given just over 200 lbs to include the personal care items donated as a special December project. They appreciate your generosity and help!



**"Friends Together"** - We will be meeting on February 11th, the second Tuesday of the month in the church basement at 1:00pm to make "pain pillows". We will cut fabric, sew it and stuff with fiber fill. These will then be given to a UPMC hospital to help surgical patients. All ladies are welcome to help. See Judy Mowry about this project. 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(third) 10-1:00 a month. Please see the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information.

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### Don't miss our great Sunday School Opportunities:

- Nancy Rautzhan: Adult
- John Hall: Adult
- Gary Miele: Youth
- Brenda Rudy: Children

## CHURCH EVENTS

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-The Rock Band
- Sundays 10:15am-Praise Team Rehearsal
- Tuesdays/Fridays,  
10:00am-12:00pm-JOY Pantry

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

- Feb. 4,18 Tues. 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet
- Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Feb. 13, 27 Thurs. 4-7pm-Clothing Closet
- Feb. 3, Mon. 6:30pm—Worship Meeting
- Feb. 6, Thurs. 4:00pm—unload trailer
- Feb. 7, Fri. 10:00am—LCCM Noon Meal
- Feb. 7, Fri. 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out
- Feb. 7, Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Feb. 8, Sat. 8:00am—Men's Breakfast
- Feb. 8, Sat. 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Feb. 9, Sun. 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- Feb. 10, Mon. 6:45pm—Church Council Meeting
- Feb. 11, Tues. 1:00pm—"Friends Together" at JUMC
- Feb 13, Thurs. 6:30pm—Nar-Anon Meeting
- Feb. 15, Sat. 5:30pm—Winter Social
- Feb. 16, Sun. 1:00pm—Gretna Glen Appreciation Luncheon
- Feb. 17, Mon. 6:30pm—Trustee Meeting
- Feb. 19, Wens. 10:30am—NL Ministerium Meeting-at JUMC
- Feb. 27, Thurs. 6:30pm—Nar-Anon Meeting

**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 February 4th, 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 February 4th, 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."**

**NAR-ANON:** A new group meeting at the church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

Worship Meeting-Mon. 2/3 at 6:30pm

Church Council-Mon. 2/10 at 6:30pm

Trustees Meeting-Mon. 2/17 at 6:30pm

NL Ministerium Meeting-Wens. 2/19 at 10:30am



**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.**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Bryan Rudy
- 2 Jan Rhen
- 5 Travis Unger
- 6 Shirley Fortna
- 6 Ryan Showers
- 6 Sawyer Showers-Mann
- 7 Maddox Showers
- 8 Doris Crouse
- 11 Amy Fahler
- 12 Debbie Adams
- 13 Malinda Kohr
- 16 Owen Heckman
- 23 Peg Fortna
- 23 Mike Rhen
- 23 Laura Eisenhauer
- 24 Connie Mentzer
- 25 Dawn Miele
- 25 Ernie Shuey
- 26 Judy Mowry



**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Frank & Jan Sebastian
- 12 Nathan & Amy Hillegas
- 14 Eric & Penny Fahler
- 14 Matthew & Dawn Krissingner

**My Prayer List:**

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# February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Holy Communion Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	<b>3</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Worship 6:30 Ripped 7:00	<b>4</b> NL Clothes Closet 10 -noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Unload Trailer 4:PM JOY Pantry 4-7PM	<b>7</b> LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Ladies Night Out 6:00  Food Box Assembly 6:00	<b>8</b> Men's Breakfast 8:00   Food Box Distribution 1:00
<b>9</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15  Kids Club 5:30-7:30	<b>10</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:45 Ripped 7:00	<b>11</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon "Friends Together" JUMC 1:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM Clothing Closet 4- 7PM Nar-Anon 6:30	<b>14</b> JOY Pantry 10:00- 12:00  GOD LOVES YOU!	<b>15</b> Winter Social 5:30- 8:30
<b>16</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Gretna Glen Apprecia- tion Luncheon 1:00- 3:00 Newsletter Articles Due	<b>17</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	<b>18</b> NL Clothes Closet 10 -noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>19</b> NL Ministerium Meet- ing JUMC 10:30	<b>20</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM	<b>21</b> JOY Pantry 10:00- 12:00	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	<b>24</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	<b>25</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM NL Clothes Closet 4:00-7:00  Nor-anon 6:30	<b>28</b> JOY Pantry 10:00- 12:00	