



Jonestown United Methodist Church JULY 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor: July 2026

“The Freedom to Live with Grace”

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

As we enter the month of July, many of us think about freedom.

We see flags, gather with family and friends, remember the blessings of this country, and give thanks for the many sacrifices that have made our lives possible.

Freedom is a precious gift. It should never be taken lightly. But it is also more than the ability to do whatever we want.

True freedom is not only about independence; it is also about learning how to live with wisdom, gratitude, and love.

The Bible says: “Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:16)

That verse reminds us that freedom is not meant to make us selfish.

It is meant to make us responsible.

It gives us room to choose what is good, to care for others, and to live in a way that honors God and blesses our neighbors.

In our world today, freedom is often discussed loudly.

People argue about rights, opinions, and what they believe they deserve. Those conversations matter, but Christian freedom asks a deeper question:

How can I use the freedom I have to love well?

At times, freedom looks like choosing patience when anger would be easier.

It may mean listening before speaking, serving quietly, forgiving generously, or making room for someone who feels forgotten.

These choices may not make headlines, but they shape families, churches, and communities.

Jesus gives us another way to understand freedom. He says: “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

The freedom Jesus gives reaches deeper than politics, circumstances, or personal comfort.

He frees us from fear, bitterness, shame, and the need to carry everything alone.

In doing so, He leads us toward a lighter heart and a clearer purpose.

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PONDER with
Lewis...

Paul’s words to the church at Galatia-Galatians 5:16 thru 26-entitled- Keep in Step with the Spirit:

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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AUGUST Newsletter

Deadline: July 15th

Jonestown United Methodist

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From the Pastor cont' from Page 1

That kind of freedom does not always come all at once. Often, it grows slowly. It deepens as we pray, forgive, and trust God with what we cannot control. Over time, His grace begins to shape the way we treat people and respond to life.

I have seen this kind of freedom in quiet ways.

I see it when someone chooses kindness after a difficult season, or when a person carries sorrow yet still offers encouragement to others.

I also see it in families who keep showing up for one another, in church members who pray faithfully, and in neighbors who care without needing attention.

That is a beautiful kind of freedom.

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

What is God freeing me for?

Not only, "What am I free from?" but also, "What am I free for?"

Perhaps God is inviting us to love more deeply.

Perhaps He is teaching us to forgive more honestly.

He may be leading us toward a life shaped by less fear and greater trust.

And perhaps He is calling us to become people who bring peace into anxious places.

This month, as we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, may we also remember the freedom Christ offers.

This kind of freedom is rooted in grace and shaped by love.

It teaches us to live not only for ourselves, but for God and for one another.

We would be honored to walk this journey of faith with you at Jonestown United Methodist Church.

Whether you have been part of this church 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 help us live as free people, grateful, humble, faithful, and full of love.

With Christ's love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

Ponder...cont...from Page 1

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

[From the Jeremiah Study Bible]

Dr David Jeremiah's descriptive thoughts on the "Fruits of the Spirit"

Remember that these are from the Holy Spirit

Love-The greatest of all virtues, love is the power that moves us to respond to the needs of others, expecting no reward.

Joy- An inward hope and exuberance in spite of circumstances. Joy differs from happiness, which relies on favorable circumstances.

Peace-A supernatural calmness amid chaos and the ability to bring harmony to divided factions.

Patience-The quiet ability to accept all situations.

Kindness- Generosity and considerations toward others.

Goodness-Moral excellence

Faithfulness-Enduring loyalty and trustworthiness

Gentleness-The power to control your reactions to difficult people and situations. It should not be confused with weakness

Self-Control- The ability to restrain inappropriate passions and appetites.

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:

There will be no King's Kids for the summer months! Watch for it to resume in the fall! For 1st grade -5th grade

RELEASE TIME:

Release time is over for this school year. Watch for information regarding its resumption for the 2026-2027 school year.

NAR-ANON: A group meeting at the church on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm. Nar-Anon, know 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

JULY MISSION PARTNER –

ALIGN Special Offering Envelopes will be available during July in the narthex and on the windowsills.

Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

MAY FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2026 Budget per month = \$12,500

May actual figures

Income = \$8,550

Expenses = \$10,427

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

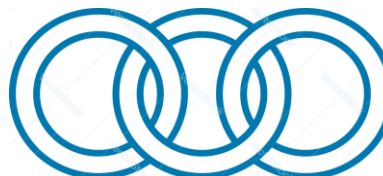
Please Note:

**There will be no LCCM
Noon meal in JULY.**

**The next 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 from noon-1pm. If you are interested in helping, contact Howard Lee (717-228-7249) or Jodi Yeagley (717-306-8854)



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 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. We donated over 40 lbs. this past month. Some additional items needed at time are: rice, 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!

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 up a few times a year and turned into Redners. JUMC will get 1% of the grand total. Large and small amounts all add up. Thank you!

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

JULY EVENTS:

- July 10 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- July 11 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- July 13 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- July 15 Newsletter Articles Due for August
- July 18 Sat 10am-noon---NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- July 20 Mon 6:30pm – Trustees Meeting

Free Food Box Distribution

JULY 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 7/9 in the afternoon,

late Friday morning 7/10 and

help assemble boxes Friday

evening at 6PM, and/or help

distribute the boxes to those

who come on Saturday 7/11 at

1PM. (Setup ~ 12:30PM)

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?

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 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 July 7, 14, 21 and 28- 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 continuing on July 7, 14, 21 and 28 7:00pm- 8:30pm
THE ROCK BAND: - Tuesday night youth Bible study.
 Current study on Spiritual warfare - "Girls 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????

Scripture Reading
 Streaming/video/PowerPoint
 Church Decorating for various seasons
 King's Kids/Children's Ministries---
 Volunteer

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:
 Serving on leadership teams
 Staff Parish Relations
 Nominations/Lay Leadership
 Trustees
 Outreach

King's Kids/Children's Ministries
 NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry
 For any further info on any of these opportunities, send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org

Happy
Birthday!

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Claudia Clark
2 Emily Dayhoff
3 Gino Ingram
4 Pam Gray
6 Bernie Showers, Jr.
7 Marilyn Kohr
8 Nancy Rhen
8 Camila Showers
13 Amy Sell
14 Braydon Unger
15 Elaine Shuey
16 Pastor An
18 Linda Fake
18 Natalie Hocker
21 Nancy Lengle
21 Julian Zargoza
25 Lori Jackson
25 Rick Light



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1 Nancylee Cain (widow)
24 Jeff & Judy Reichl
24 George & Nancy Rautzhan

PASTOR AN'S JULY SERMONS

July 2026 Sunday Worship Sermon Schedule

Sunday, July 12, 2026 Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6-8 "The Lord Goes Before You"

Sunday, July 19, 2026 Scripture: Mark 4:35-41 "Peace in the Storm"

Sunday, July 26, 2026 Scripture: Isaiah 40:28-31 "Strength for the Journey"

The scripture and sermon titles are included so that you can read and meditate on the scripture before the Sunday's Sermon

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>.

July 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	3 JOY Pantry 10am-12	4
5 Communion Service 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 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm
12 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	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 Service 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 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	27 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 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	31 JOY Pantry 10am-12	