



Jonestown United Methodist Church

March 2025 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

Lent begins for our congregation with a worship service at Jonestown UMC on Ash Wednesday at 7PM and continues for 40 days through Easter. People who add up the days will often come back to us and inform us that we have a problem counting. What they may not have been aware of is that the Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent. Every Sunday is considered a mini-Easter, the celebration of life in God's grace and mercy, a time for worship and celebration. At the same time, the other days of Lent are observed with a number of spiritual disciplines – fasting, praying, reading the scriptures, serving others in need... I have known a number people over the years who have embarked on very difficult and challenging disciplines over the Lenten season that became unsustainable over the long haul. One brother in Christ embarked on a season of fasting for 40 days as Jesus did in the wilderness. While it was indeed quite a spiritual adventure for this brother, it was not something that he could realistically do the rest of his life. I would like to encourage you to step out on a spiritual adventure that will be a primer for the spiritual discipline of the rest of your life. Start with something that will draw you into the scriptures, into prayer, into the presence of God in an ongoing way, not only for 40 days, but perhaps for the rest of your life one day at a time. You may say – “I'd like to spend an hour in prayer every day through the Lenten Season, but if your prayer life is very sporadic, the likelihood of this becoming a lifelong commitment is rather slim. Instead, take your eyes off the clock and begin a discipline of having a conversation with God in prayer every day trusting your day to Him, lifting up a prayer for others you know that may need God's healing, presence, strength, wisdom, deliverance... , pray for yourself and your day seeking an awareness of God's presence, love, and grace... praying for God's revelation of ministry you may be engaged in to His glory. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** Imagine heeding some of the very simple instructions of Jesus that are in the Bible like these from Paul in 1 Thessalonians. My prayer for each of you is that the Lenten season awakens in each person who opens their heart to new spiritual life and health a renewed joy, an ongoing conversation with the Lord, a spirit of thanksgiving and praise that follows you day by day, and a confidence that you are walking in the very center of God's will for you in these things through Jesus.

~Pastor Al.



PONDER with Lewis....

WISDOM

“PROVERBS”-A book of the bible

which follows ‘PSALMS’ is a collection of sayings by Solomon-(considered the wisest person in the world/-and others urges people to seek wisdom from God.

Following are several passages from “The Message” in contemporary language. Proverbs 1:1-7: “These are the wise sayings of Solomon, David’s son, Israel’s King-written down so we’ll know how to live well and right, to understand what life means and where it’s going; a manual for living, for learning what’s right and just and fair; to teach the inexperienced the ropes and give our young people a grasp on reality. There’s something here also for the seasoned men and women, still a thing or two for the experienced to learn—fresh wisdom and reasons of wisemen and women. Start with God—the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning.”

Proverbs 2:1-8: Good friend, take to heart what I’m telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life.

Next News:

April Newsletter

Deadline : March 16th.

Jonestown United Methodist

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Sunday – March 9 will be the first Sunday of Lent AND Daylight Savings – we'll lose an hour of sleep :(but still gather to worship :) If we get up on time.

See you Sunday.

MID WINTER SOCIAL: Make Up: Dinner and a Movie 70's style "A Thief in the Night" PG13, Saturday, March 22nd from 5:30pm-8:30pm. Pasta Bar with gluten free option. \$\$-love offering. Please sign up in the narthex with how many are attending with you. Thank you.



EASTER FLOWERS: Please fill out an Easter Flower envelope and return to Norma Artz. Please make sure to fill out your name, how many of what type of flower and what you would like it presented for.

Lillies are \$9.00 each, Tulips are \$7.00 each and Daffodils are \$7.50 each. If you have any questions, please contact her. Thank you.



LCCM LENTEN BREAK-FAST : will be held on Sat., Mar. 22nd at 8:00am. We will have an amazing guest speaker: Patty Donley. This

year's breakfast will feature a wonderful spread by Country Home Catering, including pancakes, donuts, eggs, sausage, bacon and more! Ticket cost is \$30.00 and free parking. You may also choose to sponsor. Please see flyer posted on the event board in the narthex for additional information. Deadline to order is Wens., Mar. 12th.

Event Details:

Date: March 22, 2025

Location: South Lebanon Community Church

Address: 13 East Evergreen Rd., Lebanon, PA

Tickets: \$30 each Sign up online: <https://www.lccm.us/lenten-breakfast>

LENTEN SERVICE DATE/LOCATIONS:

3/5-JUMC @ 7:00pm: Pastor Gail Rickard

3/12-Fredericksburg UMC @ 7:00pm: Pastor Al Smith

3/19-Bellegrove UMC @ 7:00pm: Pastor Tom Robinson

3/26-Emmanuel UMC Ft. Indiantown Gap @ 7:00pm: Pastor Matt Whayland



"Souper Bowl Sunday soup donations totaled 80 lbs.. Thanks for all your donations."

[PONDER Wisdom Con't] Tune your ears to the world of wisdom; set your heart on a life of understanding. That's right-if you make insight your priority and won't take no for an answer, searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be your; you'll have come upon the knowledge of God. And here's why: God gives out wisdom free, is plain spoken in knowledge and understanding. He's a rich mine of common sense for those who live well, a personal body guard to the candid and sincere. He keeps His eye on all who live honestly, and special attention to His loyally committed ones."

Proverbs 3:1-4 "Good friend, don't forget all I've taught you; take to heart my commands. They'll help you live a long time, a long life lived full and well. Don't lose your grip on love and loyalty. Tie them around your neck; carve their initials on your heart. Earn a reputation for living well in God's eyes and the eyes of the people. Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run To God! Run from evil!

David Jeremiah says "Wisdom (skill) within the context of Proverbs refers to live life righteously and justly." Lloyd John Ogilvie writes, "Wisdom is inspired depth-perception in to people and situations. It is the vertical thrust of the mind of God into our minds, making discernment possible on the horizontal level of human affairs. With wisdom we can penetrate the mysteries of God—His nature-plan, and purpose....Wisdom is the gift we need...in order to do The will of God. Wisdom is of everyone! Good hunting for the nuggets!

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

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

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

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!

MISSION	Special Offering	Budget	Total
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
Shoeboxes	\$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 1st grade thru 6th grade

2nd Sundays Next Meeting:

March 9th— 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. 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 March 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 and the newer site is www.jonestownmethodist.org. Keep an eye on both sites. Are you interested in helping with keeping the sites updated? See Pastor Al.

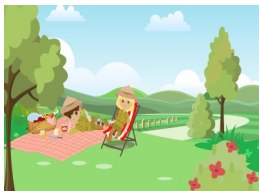
Food Box Distribution – March 8th – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, March 6th, Setting up entrance for food box assembly.

Friday, March 7th, 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.



Ladies Night Out will be moved to Friday, March 14 starting at 6 pm. We will meet in the Sunday school classroom next to the nursery.. 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.



POCONO PLATEAU CAMP: Our camps are already gearing up for an exciting camp season. There are many needs on their wish list recently printed in the Pocono Plateau newsletter. Three simple items that we can do here at Jonestown are items needed for the craft shop. They are toilet paper rolls, old crayons or candles, and newspapers. So start saving these items, boxes will be provided in narthex. I will be delivering in early May. Any questions, see Jeff Waltermeyer.

MARCH MISSION PARTNER

Our special offering for March is: Lenten Offering-UMCOR-California Fire Relief.

JANUARY FINANCIAL UPATE

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

Received in total for all categories = \$9,550.00

Expenses \$9,110.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC March Free Noon Meal will be on

**March 7th and
April 4th.**

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

March 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 prepare for assembly Thursday 3/6 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 3/7, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 3/8 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)

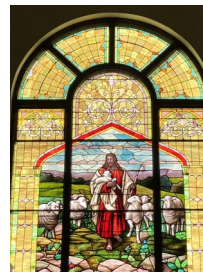
Kay Horner (717-865-5538)

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

Sebastian is in AlpineValley Nursing Home (formerly Spang Crest). Cards can be sent to his home address, as they can for Lewis Artz , Phil Lenge, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, and Bonnie Rickard . They would love to know you're thinking of them. A list of these addresses are 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. 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 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 collected a lot of soups for Souper Bowl Sunday. A total weight amount for the soup will be forthcoming soon. Our church did donate 135

pounds of additional food since last month. Some additional 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.



Women's Ministries: Our ladies group, Friends Together, will be meeting on March 11th, the second Tuesday of the month by 11:00 am in the church parking lot. We plan to go to Lazaro's restaurant in Palmyra for lunch. Please sign up in the narthex

by March 9th if you plan to go and indicate if you want to carpool (11:00am) or meet us at the restaurant by 11:45. Our group 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. During the 2024 year the closet served 197 eligible households. They had 75 volunteers. So far in January they served 42 households, and had 32 volunteers. 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. This Saturday is also Community Shopping Day. This means it is open for any Northern Lebanon resident to shop for a monetary donation. Please see the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information.

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

MARCH EVENTS

- Mar. 4,18 Tues. 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet
- Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27 Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Mar. 6, 20 Thurs. 4-7pm—Clothing Closet
- Mar. 3, Mon. 6:30pm—Worship Meeting
- Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26 7:00pm—Lenten Church Service
- Mar. 6, Thurs. 4:00pm—unload trailer
- Mar.7, Fri. 10:00am—LCCM Noon Meal
- Mar.7, Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Mar. 8, Sat. 8:00am—Men's Breakfast
- Mar. 8, Sat. 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Mar.9, Sun. 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- Mar. 10, Mon. 6:45pm—Church Council Meeting
- Mar. 11, Tues. 1:00pm—"Friends Together" at JUMC
- Mar. 13, 27 Thurs. 6:30pm—Nar-Anon Meeting
- Mar. 14, Fri. 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out
- Mar. 17, Mon. 6:30pm—Trustee Meeting
- Mar. 19, Wens. 10:30am—NL Ministerium Meeting-at JUMC
- Mar. 22, Sat. 5:30pm—Winter Social

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 March 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 March 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 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.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Worship Meeting Mon. 3/3 @ 6:30pm
- Church Council Mon. 3/10 @ 6:30pm
- Trustees Mon. 3/17 @ 6:30pm
- NL Ministerium Meeting Wens. 3/19 @ 10:30am



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marcia Slade
- 2 Pat Sheehan
- 3 Melissa Emerich
- 3 Peyton Sell
- 4 Theresa Weaver
- 5 Cassidy Rhen
- 5 Luke Spangler
- 7 Mike Spangler
- 8 Gary Wolfe, Sr.
- 9 Sylvia Kline
- 9 Hannah Tinder
- 10 Steve Yeagley, Sr.
- 12 Mel Unger
- 12 Mike Turner
- 17 Steve Yeagley, Jr.
- 18 Madison Keiser
- 19 Darrin Clark
- 19 Nancy Rautzhan
- 20 Jeff Reichl
- 21 Olivia Eisenhauer
- 21 Kyla Strupp
- 25 Austin Rhoads
- 25 Joe Bene
- 26 Elmer Krall
- 31 Lindsay Keiser
- 31 Nicollete Furman

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.

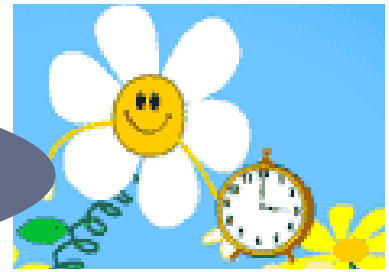


MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Rick & Wendy Kline
- 13 Charles & Pat Rickard
- 19 Howard & Linda Lee
- 25 Phil & Nancy Lengle

My Prayer List:

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Holy Communion Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	3 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Mtg. 6:30 Ripped 7:00	4 NL Clothes Closet 10-noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	5 Ash Wednesday Church Service @ JUMC 7PM: Pastor Gail Rickard	6 Set up for Food Box Assembly: 4:00 JOY Pantry 4-7PM Clothing Closet 4-7PM	7 JOY Pantry 10-Noon LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 Food box assembly 6:00	8 Men's Breakfast 8:00 Food Box Distribution 1:00
9 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30 Last day to sign up for "Friends Together"	10 NL Clothes Closet 10-noon AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	11 JOY Pantry 10-Noon "Friends Together" JUMC 11:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	12 Lenten Service: Fredericksburg UMC 7PM: Pastor Al	13 JOY Pantry 4-7PM Nar-Anon 6:30	14 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00	15 NL Clothes Closet 10:00-1:00
16 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Newsletter Articles Due	17 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	18 NL Clothes Closet 10-noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	19 NL Ministerium Meeting JUMC 10:30 Lenten Service: Bellegrave UMC: 7PM, Pastor Tom Robinson	20 JOY Pantry 4-7PM NL Clothes Closet 4:00-7:00	21 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	22 Winter Social 5:30-8:30 (Sign-up in narthex)
23 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	24 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Meeting 6:30 Ripped 7:00	25 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	26 Lenten Service: 7PM Emmanuel UMC : Indiantown Gap Pastor Mt Whyland	27 JOY Pantry 4-7PM Nar-Anon 6:30	28 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	29
30 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	31 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00					