



**Jonestown United Methodist Church
March 2026 Newsletter**



**PONDER with
Lewis...**

The Psalmist in Psalm 119 wrote about the Word of God and its importance in a person's life. Love of Word: Psalm 119:47. "And I will delight myself in Thy commandment which I have loved." Hope from His Word: vs 43 "And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in Thy judgements." Use Word to walk sinless: vs 11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." GPS for living: vs 105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

God initially gave the ten commandments to the Israelites through Moses from Mount Sinai. Here are the first 4 from The Message, verses 1 thru 11: "God spoke all these words: I Am God, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of a life of slavery. No other God, only Me. No carved gods of any size, shape or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don't bow down to them and don't serve them because I AM God, your

continued page 2

From the Pastor: "New Mercies for a New Season"

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Grace and peace to you as we enter the month of March. Many of us sense a gentle shift in the air, winter slowly loosening its hold, and the first hints of spring begin to appear. Yet even as the days grow a little brighter, the world around us can still feel heavy. Troubling headlines continue, divisions remain, and many people carry private worries about health, family, finances, or the future.

In January, we reflected on beginning the year with steady faith. In February, we spoke about the peace that Christ gives - a peace the world cannot take away. As we move into March, I want to offer a simple and hopeful truth that speaks to all of us, wherever we may be on our spiritual journey:

God meets us not only with strength for the whole year, but with fresh mercy for each new day.

The Bible captures this beautifully: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23)

This promise is not only for the strong or the perfect. It is for the weary, the uncertain, and those who are simply trying to do their best. Each morning is a new beginning, an invitation to breathe, to hope, and to take one more step forward.

March is a month of transition. Some days still feel cold and gray, while others bring warmth and light. In many ways, this mirrors our own lives. Change does not always come all at once. Often it happens quietly, little by little, like roots growing beneath the surface before we ever see new life above the ground.

Many in our community, especially our senior members, know what it means to carry burdens over time. Life does not always unfold as we expect, and challenges do not always resolve quickly. Yet one truth remains steady: God is faithful.

Scripture offers this encouragement: "but Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Notice that the promise includes walking. Sometimes strength looks like it is soaring; other times, it looks like continuing with quiet perseverance. Both are honored by God. If today you are walking rather than soaring, that is still faithful living.

Continued page 2

APRIL Newsletter
Deadline: March 11th
Jonestown United Methodist
109 West Market Street
PO Box 750
Jonestown, PA 17038
Phone: (717) 865-4369
Email:
info@jonestownumc.org
Web: www.jonestownumc.org
www.jonestownmethodist.org
Facebook: Jonestown United Methodist Church

[From the Pastor continued]

As we continue through this year together, here is a gentle focus for this month - something practical, yet meaningful:

Let God's presence shape your days more than fear or frustration.

You might consider a few small, steady practices:

- Begin your day with a brief prayer or moment of quiet.
- Read a few verses of Scripture or a short devotion.
- Limit voices that stir up anxiety and make room for peace.
- Offer one small act of kindness each week.
- Stay connected to friends, family, or your church community.

These are not tasks to prove our faith; they are ways to nurture our hearts and make space for God's grace.

Jonestown United Methodist Church has long been a place of prayer, care, and service. In uncertain times, communities need places that offer calm, compassion, and hope. We strive to be that kind of church not by being the loudest, but by being steady and loving.

Whether you are a longtime member, a new visitor, or someone simply reading this newsletter, we are grateful for your presence in our shared community. Hope grows when we walk together with kindness and respect.

As we move deeper into 2026, I invite you without pressure or haste to consider where God might be quietly at work in your life. Receive His new mercies each morning, trust Him one step at a time, and allow His peace to shape your heart.

We would be honored to walk this journey of faith together with you in worship. You are warmly invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. for our Traditional Service or 11:00 a.m. for our Contemporary Service. You are also welcome to our weekly gathering, "Conversation with the Father," on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversation.

If you or someone you love needs prayer, pastoral care, or a visit, please feel free to contact the church office at 717-865-4369. We are here to serve and support you with love and compassion.

May you experience God's fresh mercy each day, find peace in His presence, and discover the enduring hope that comes through Jesus Christ.

In Christ's abiding love,

Pastor An

(Ponder...Continued)

God, and I'm a most jealous God, punishing the children for any sins their parents pass onto them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I'm unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love Me and keep my commandments. No using the name of God, your God, in curses or silly banter; God won't put up with the irreverent use of His name. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do.. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don't do any work-not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals, not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth and sea, and everything; He rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; He set it apart as a holyday."

Study the "word" for your use for yourself and for sharing it for others Psalm 119:171-"My tongue shall speak of Thy word; for all thy commandments are righteousness."

WOOD CUTTING AT GRETNA GLEN

METHODIST CAMP: Our church has been asked to **cut, split and stack firewood**. This annual event will occur on Saturday, April 11th, from 9 to noon and/or 1 to 3. Our camp meal will be served noon to 1. Please bring your safety equipment. If you have a chain saw bring it along. Any questions please call David Gray at 865-3997.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will be meeting in April on Tuesday the 14th. This time we are planning to go to the Red Lion Restaurant in Pine Grove for an 12:30 reservation. More information will be coming about this. All ladies are welcome. 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 Spring clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



Ladies Night Out: Ladies Night Out will be on Friday, March 6, starting at 4 pm until 6. Please note the early time schedule for this month. Come and go at your convenience. We will meet in the 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. Hope you can join us.



KID'S CLUB: March 8, 2026 from 5:30pm-7:30pm. (Next month, April 12, 2026)

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music, and snacks Continuing the Heroes of the Bible Series.

RELEASE TIME:

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

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

FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION: Food Box Packing is on March 13, 2026 at 6:00pm. March Food Box Distribution is on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 1:00pm.

MARCH MISSION PARTNER –

Lenten Offering (AMMI Ministry)

Special Offering Envelopes for AMMI will be available March in the narthex and on the windowsills. Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

JANUARY FINANCIAL UPDATE:

No New update due to the limited number of Sundays Church was open in January.

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC Service at Free Noon Meal will be on

MARCH 6th

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 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 prepare for assembly Thursday 3/12 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 3/13 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 3/14 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: 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. Ellie Artz sadly passed away. 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 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. 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: Caring Cupboard, P.O. Box 71, Palmyra, PA 17078. Please put on the memo line that this is for the JOY Pantry. This past month we donated over 30 lbs. of food to the pantry. February was a special monetary donation for JOY. We have been collecting a lot of soup for the pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday. I will report that when it is weighed. Thank you for your generosity particularly at this time of lost jobs and food shortages!

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?

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

MARCH EVENTS:

- **March 4 Wed 7:00pm-- Lenten Service at Emmanuel Church**
- March 6 Fri. 10:00am---LCCM Noon Meal
- March 6 Fri Ladies Night Out 4:00pm -6:00pm
- March 8 Sun. 5:30-7:30pm--- Kids Club
- March 9 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- March 11 Newsletter Articles Due for April
- **March 11 Wed 7:00pm--- Lenten Service at JUMC**
- March 13 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- March 14 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- March 16 Mon Trustees 6:30pm
- **March 18 Wed 7:00pm--- Lenten Service Bellegrave**
- March 21 Sat 10am-noon--- NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day

WINTER SOCIAL: Dinner Detective Game followed by Karaoke Roulette. For ages 8-99 . Saturday March 14th 5:30-7:30. For tickets and info see any member of The Rock Band - Lori, Jody, Tiffany, Caydence or Arina. Please come join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship. Test your detective skills with our Who am I? Game - a who's who of old testament characters. Dinner will include an appetizer, choice of entree, drinks and dessert.

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, etc.

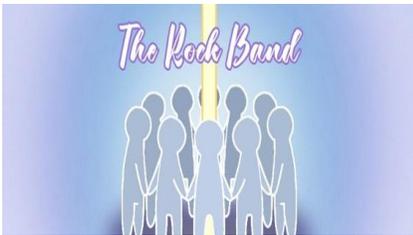
In addition to personally welcoming and getting to know people you are either meeting for the first time or are getting re-acquainted with, we are invited those normally attending to share one of the guest bags while introducing yourself and personally welcoming guests/visitors.

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Tuesday evenings on March 3, 10, 17 and 24 - 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 March 3, 10, 17 and 24 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????

<p>Scripture Reading Streaming/video/PowerPoint Church Decorating for various seasons Kids Club/Children's Ministries--- Volunteer</p>	<p><u>MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:</u> Serving on leadership teams Staff Parish Relations Nominations/Lay Leadership Trustees Outreach</p>	<p>Kids Club/Childrens Ministries NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry For any further info on any of these opportunities , send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org</p>
--	--	---

Happy
Birthday!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marcia Slade
- 2 Pat Sheehan
- 3 Peyton Sell
- 4 Theresa Weaver
- 5 Luke Spangler
- 7 Mike Spangler
- 10 Steve Yeagley, Sr.
- 12 Mel Unger
- 18 Madison Keiser
- 19 Nancy Rautzhan
- 20 Jeff Reichl
- 25 Austin Rhoads
- 25 Joe Bene
- 28 Hanna Pond
- 31 Lindsay Keiser
- 31 Nicollete Furman

Psalm 97:12 “Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 13 Charles & Pat Rickard
- 19 Howard & Linda Lee
- 25 Phil & Nancy Lenge

Psalm 103:2 “Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits---”

PASTOR AN'S MARCH SERMON SERIES (1 JOHN); March 1 to March 22

- Sunday, March 1, 2026 Scripture: 1 John 1:5 – 2:2 Sermon Title: “Walking in the Light”
- Sunday, March 8, 2026 Scripture: 1 John 2:24–29 Sermon Title: “Abide in Christ”
- Sunday, March 15, 2026 Scripture: 1 John 3:16–24 Sermon Title: “Love You Can See”
- Sunday, March 22, 2026 Scripture: 1 John 4:7–12, 18 Sermon Title: “Perfect Love Casts Out Fear”
- Sunday, March 29, 2026 — Passion Sunday Primary Scripture: John 19:28–30 Sermon Title: “It Is Finished”

EASTER FLOWERS: Easter flower order form envelopes are available beginning today. The orders are due March 22 2026. The prices are: Lilies, \$10 each; Daffodils, \$5 each; Tulips, \$5 each.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: Easter sunrise service will once again be at Gray's Farm. Plenty of parking! Plan to arrive in time for the service that is to begin at 6:45am. Please join us! Bring a folding chair if you have one.

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>.

March 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Communion Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	2 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	3 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	4 Lenten Service @Emmanuel 7:00pm	5 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	6 JOY Pantry 10am-12 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00am Ladies Night Out 4:00pm-6pm	7
8 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am Kid's Club 5:30-7:30pm	9 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	10 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	11 Lenten Service @Jonestown UMC 7:00pm	12 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	13 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Food Box Packing 6:00pm	14 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm
15 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	16 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	17 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	18 Lenten Service @Bellegrove 7:00pm	19 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	20 JOY Pantry 10am-12	21 NL Clothing Closet Community Shopping 10:00am-1:00pm
22 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	23 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	24 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	25 Lenten Service @Lickdale 7:00pm	26 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	27 JOY Pantry 10am-12	28
29 Palm Sunday Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	30 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	31 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm				