

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH | MAY 2023

Church Events

- May 1, 6:30pm-Worship Meeting
- Tuesdays 6:30pm-Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-Creative Ministries
- May 8, 6:30pm-Church Council Meeting
- May 5, 10:00am-LCCM Noon Meal
- May 6, 8:00am-Sanctuary clean up
- May 6, 6:00pm-Ladies Night Out
- May 9, 1:00pm-Friends Together
- May 11, 5:00pm-JOY Pantry
- May 12, 12:30pm-2:00pm-JOY Pantry
- May 13, 8am-Men's Brkfst
- May 13, 1PM-Free Food Box Distribution (Assemble 5/12 @ 6PM)
- May 15, 6:30pm-Trustees Meeting
- May 29, 10:00am-Bike Ride Fundraiser

June

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Sunday, May 21st
JONESTOWN UNITED METHODIST
PO Box 750
109 West Market Street
Jonestown, PA 17038
Phone: 717-865-4369
Email: info@jonestownumc.org



Word Hunger

Luke 24:32 "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?" The words of the two men who walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus with Jesus after His resurrection. Bill Crowder relates a story about a young man who had received Christ as His Savior about four months before Bill met him. The young man was eager to learn more of the teachings of the bible. Bill gave him some possible resources and the next day when he met the young man again, he discovered that the young man had stayed up until 3:30 reading and processing the biblical truths he discovered in online resources. With a big smile, the young man declared that he just couldn't get enough of God's Word (The Bible) in a world filled with voices hollering for attention, but only in The Bible can we find God's wisdom for our struggles, God's answers for our questions, and God's truths for our understanding.

These truths are worth hungering for. Study The Bible to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy.

Study Psalm 119

MISSION PARTNER One Great Hour

One Great Hour is our Mission Focus for May. This ministry goes each year to UMCOR for domestic and international relief. Special Offering envelopes are available on the windowsills in the sanctuary.

Pastor's Pen

From the Pastor: REMEMBER.... We “remember” every May the many who made great sacrifices to serve our country and indeed many from other countries around the world. We pointedly declare – “we remember.” As Christians we are a people who know the power of remembering, not only of the past, but the power of remembering itself – treasuring the fruit of what has been accomplished in the past, honoring the gift of actions and beliefs in the past that shape our present and indeed even our futures. When we think of “remembering” we immediately head to the past tense, but Jesus taught us to carry the power of what happened in the past into the fabric of our lives in the process of what was shared in the church but also in the common thread of what we do as a daily practice of sustaining life. Paul reminded the early Church in I Corinthians 11 the instructions of Jesus in verses 23-26: *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.* On the first Sunday of each month we as the body of Christ “remember” in a living, present tense way the gift of life and the transformation of our lives through the gift of His life. We remember HIM, the one who lived, died, and rose again. Remembering was to have an impact – remembering was also reinforcing the gift of the sacrifice made.

We could make a similar connection this month around Memorial Day. Yes, since we know the importance and power of remembering as believers in Jesus, we remember as citizens and families the sacrifice of the past that has a profound impact on our present. It can indeed



REV. ALAN SMITH

be viewed as an event, to “remember” the names of persons who gave their lives in service to our country, but more, we can allow ourselves to engage the personal impact of those who gave their lives with a purpose. It can be a time for us to open our hearts and come alongside those who are hurting, those who are grieving, to say together – “we remember”. It is where love prevails. In Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address which many of us know, he reminded the people gathered of the power of the memory to impact the future... He said in part... *“The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work for which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us...”* It is for us, the living, to carry the message of Jesus to impact the world in which we live. Let us boldly use the freedoms that remain upon us, so nobly fought for and protected across the years to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to a world in desperate need of the life Jesus died to give.



Joy is distributing the 2nd and 4th Thurs. and Friday of May. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to JOY. We have been serving about 50

families twice a month. Our families are very appreciative. Some needed items are: canned pasta, chunky soup, Ramen soup, canned fruit, juices, paper towels, dish liquid, and other cleaning supplies. Please mail monetary donations to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038

Tues., May 9th at 1:00pm.



The next daytime ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be on the second Tuesday of May, the 9th at 1:00pm. We will be talking and reminiscing about Jonestown history. Bring your favorite stories.

We'll review information from Ev Isele's book about Jonestown. Bring your favorite snack if you'd like to share. All are welcome for this...men and women. See Judy Mowry if questions. In June we will have our ladies' picnic at Memorial Lake on Tuesday, June 13th. Mark your calendars!

CAMPING 2023

Hello all from your new camping coordinator. It's time to look at and sign up for a 2023 summer camp. I have already received the Pocono Plateau brochures. Their curriculum this year is Boundless: God Beyond Measure. I should receive Gretna Glens brochures shortly. I am excited to be getting involved with the camps once again and hope to have a camping Sunday awareness presentation soon. Camp changes lives, let's go camping.

Jeff Waltermeyer

MARCH FINANCIAL UPDATE

4 Sundays @ \$2, 912.50= \$11, 650.00 budgeted
Received in total for all categories = 11, 212.00
Expenses \$ 11, 826.00



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Emma Krissinger
- 2 Jeff Pittenger
- 5 Carol Luch
- 5 Ryan Showers, Jr.
- 5 Laura Edcius
- 6 Ryan Unger
- 7 Lorna Sheehan
- 7 Dylan Lambrecht
- 8 Christine Spangler
- 9 Karson Showers
- 12 Kashton Showers-Mann
- 13 Frank Baird
- 14 Sharon Ingram
- 16 Storm Kline
- 16 Isabella Demici
- 18 Ruth Winklebleck
- 21 Phil Lenge
- 22 Jennifer Fahler
- 23 Amy Hillegas
- 23 Nikolas Light
- 25 Dustin McQuate
- 26 Nathan Miele
- 30 Latisha Baird



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Steve & Claudia Clark
- 12 Lewis & Ellie Artz
- 17 Colin & Doris Crouse
- 18 Brad & Kim Rhoads
- 25 Chuck & Ingrid Steiner
- 31 Ernest & Elaine Shuey

May CARE TEAM

Week of April 30

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

Week of May 7

Jim & Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of May 14

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001

Week of May 21

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of May 28

Nancy Rautzhan 717-865-3061



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. Annie Grant and Ellie Artz continue in nursing homes, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. There is frozen soup in the kitchen freezer for anyone to take for themselves or anyone else whom you think could benefit. If you know of a care concern, please contact anyone on the Care Team. Also, if you would like to be on the Care Team, please see Pam Gray.

with Lori Jackson

Tuesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm.



This may or may not involve puppetry. 10 years old through adult are welcome to join. Speakers, actors, writers, tailors, artists, interest in sound, lighting. No experience necessary. Text Lori 717-926-4572

Yoga Stretching with Peggy Cappy videos: beginning Saturday, April 1st at JUMC at 8:30am. Very mild-suitable for all ages. Warm up with devotions See Lori Jackson with any questions and prayer.



The **May Ladies Night Out** will be meeting again on Friday, May 5th (Cinco de Mayo), at 6:00pm in the church basement. Anyone can attend one group or the other. We are stronger together and need to support each other. If you have ideas about some other small groups, please let Pam know. We can always start some others. We want to include everyone.

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER Tuesday evenings starting May 2, 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

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. We are preparing 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.

WANTED: Individuals willing to learn some simple steps to follow and add some creativity to our Live Streaming Worship Services. Please contact Pastor Al if you are interested in some simple instructions.

SANCTUARY CLEAN UP: May 6th at 8:00am, looking for volunteers to help with cleaning up the sanctuary. If you are able to help, please contact Steve Yeagley for further details.

Update On Disaffiliation Process:

The churches in Eastern PA Conference that are considering disaffiliation are watching how the process is proceeding in other conferences, especially the situation in Florida which just had their hearing in court at the end of February. At the time of this newsletter, the judge is still reviewing the arguments from both the local congregations and the annual conference. We continue to pray for wisdom and direction for our church as well as the process. There is not any forward movement in any direction at this point other than to continuing to refine the process by what is learned in other parts of the country. Our goal continues to be primarily to seek to be faithful to God's call to be His witnesses and present the Gospel in our community. It will probably be this fall before we hear any discernable direction for any next steps. Our prayer is that we will remain faithful to God's calling and leading.



The Gretna Gritty is Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center's 10th annual 5k mud run with 20+ obstacles set in the beautiful, rugged terrain of the Mt. Gretna area. Please consider running... walking...

or volunteering to help. It is an awesome event, participants can expect to encounter challenges of balance, brawn, bravery, buffoonery and more! With hilly terrain, and challenges new and old - the Gritty has something for everyone. You can register as a competitor or simply as a fun participant. They will also host the "Nitty Gritty" kids (5-11 years old) fun run which gets kids in on the action with a 1.3 mile fun run. All Gritty and Nitty Gritty runners can expect lunch, medals, adventures, a sweet Gretna Gritty t-shirt, and memories to last a lifetime!

There are a multitude of volunteers needed to make this event happen from parking to serving food to monitoring stations throughout the event. Sign up online or see Dave Gray if you are interested.

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

We are aware that it has been a long time since communicating with the congregation, but we would now like to bring you up to date on the projects that are before the trustees. Last June for Red Rose we asked that you support the effort to repair the damaged chimney. After that request was made, another issue became more pressing. The Borough presented us with a notice that we must repair our sidewalks. They relented because of winter coming and gave us until this spring to replace or repair the cracks and unevenness of the sidewalks on Main Street. Also, conversations and updating continue about the parsonage with no real decision made about the future of the house. Work has continued to move forward in the parsonage.

We can report that a contract has been awarded and work will begin soon on replacing most of the front sidewalk and both sets of front steps. This is something that will greatly enhance the front of the church.

We are looking for a contractor that is willing to take on the chimney repairs. This is not a normal chimney, and it has been difficult finding someone. If anyone knows of a contractor willing to look at this, please let me know.

During last year's Red Rose challenge, you gave \$7,500 towards the chimney and be assured that is what that will go towards. We are asking this year during June and the Red Rose challenge that you support the work being done on the steps and sidewalk in the front of the church.

In the future, we will keep you informed of what the trustees are doing and other projects that are ongoing.

God has blessed this church in so many ways in the past and we pray will continue to through the people of the church.

Thanks,

Steve Yeagley

President, Board of Trustees

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**May Noon Meal will resume
on May 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 May 13th @ 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 4/13 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 4/14, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday at 1PM.



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)

Annie Grant (717-462-9100)

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)

VERY IMPORTANT!

Start by calling one of the following people: Pastor Alan Smith (717-865-4369; 215-527-7388); Lewis Artz (717-865-3447);

Larry Major (717-865-3442);

Doris Crouse (717-865-5554)

Upcoming Events:

Bike Ride Fundraiser for Cure Int'l May 29th @ 10:00am. 1.5, or 10 mi. option. Please see Lori to sign up to ride or to sponsor a rider. All ages welcome to ride with us. Route information coming soon.

Vacation Bible School for this Summer 2023 "Who is my Neighbor?" will be June 26-29 from 6:00pm-8:00pm, ages 4-5th grade. We are looking for volunteers to help with our VBS program this year (we are also teaming up with the Lutheran Church again). There are many different ways to help, so please reach out to Heather Lambrecht
T: (812) 525-2613 or Tish Baird T: (717) 821-1509.

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May 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Meeting 6:30 Ripped 7:00	2 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	3 Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00	4	5 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00	6 Sanctuary clean up 8:00 Yoga Stretching 8:30
7 Holy Communion Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	8 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	9 "Friends Together" 1:00 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	10 Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00	11 Unload Trailer 4:00 JOY Pantry 5:00	12 JOY Pantry 12:30-2 Food box assembly 6:00	13 Men's Breakfast & Study 8:00 Yoga Stretching 8:30 Food box distribution 1:00
14 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	15 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	16 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	17 Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00	18	19	20 Yoga Stretching 8:30
21 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	22 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00 Newsletter Articles Due	23 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	24 Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00	25 Unload Trailer 4:00 JOY Pantry 5:00	26 JOY Pantry 12:30-2	27 Yoga Stretching 8:30
28 Worship 8:45, 11 Sunday School 10	29 Bike Ride Fundraiser 10:00 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	30 Conversations with the Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	31 Praise Team Rehearsal 7:00			