



Jonestown United
Methodist Church

November 2023 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

Over 50 years ago, Andrae Crouch wrote a song entitled "My Tribute" with the words: "How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me? Things so undeserved yet You gave to prove Your love for me; The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude all that I am and ever hope to be-I owe it all to Thee... To God be the glory for the things He has done... With His blood He has saved me, with His power He has raised me.." The words reflect the heart of a psalmist, not so far from David himself. Yet they and the Psalms of the Bible stand so distinct as they express such heartfelt gratitude from either the lack of any response or a mere obligatory pair of words acknowledging some sort of exchange—perhaps of a gift or action that has been extended to another. Psalm 9 begins with the challenge: "*I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing the praises of Your name, O Most High.*" "I will be glad and rejoice IN YOU...for all the wonderful deeds. When we consider the thanks Crouch and David expressed we can identify a depth of impact God has had on their lives. Several things stand out that far surpass obligation:

First, notice the recognition of personal connection between the giver, the gift, and the receiver. True thanksgiving focuses most deeply on the relationship between the giver and receiver and far less on the gift exchanged between them. It reflects on the heart of the giver, the love, compassion, the hopefulness they have about the life of the one to whom the gift is given. "I will rejoice and be glad in You."

Second, true thanksgiving is focused not on what is in the hand of the giver, but what is in the heart of the giver for the receiver. Who of us hasn't been frustrated at some point with the realization that no gift—no matter the size, the cost, the uniqueness—no gift ever begins to satisfy our desire to embody our love for the one we present a gift to? What is in the heart far exceeds what is in the hand. Many people focus on what is in God's hand and miss the greater gift—what is in His heart for them. What can compare to the tremendous love of God which is unceasing, unfailing, and unending?

Third, thanksgiving humbles us to recognition the difference between God and us. God is so immensely greater than us. (Con't next page...)

**PONDER with
Lewis....**

Thankfulness



Sometimes it
might seem

that a simple "thank you" to God is not enough to express your appreciation. In 1 Chronicles 16: 8-36 is a thanksgiving to the Lord that David, King of the Israelites, provided to Asaph, who was the director of the choral group of priests. It was the beginning of using choirs in the tabernacle to sing thanksgiving to the Lord. 1 Chronicles 16: 8-11 "Oh give thanks to the Lord and pray to Him; yes, sing His praises and tell of His marvelous works. Glory in His holy name; Let all rejoice who seek the Lord. Seek the Lord; yes, seek His strength and seek His face continually"

[Con't Next Page]

Next News:

**November Newsletter
Deadline**

Sunday, Oct. 15th

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

Facebook: Jonestown United
Methodist Church

REMINDER – BUDGET TIME IS NOW - ATTENTION

TEAM/COMMITTEE LEADERS: We are now working to build our budget and make plans for 2024. Prayerfully consider how your ministry teams will take next steps forward, to discover what God is leading you to pursue in the next year, and then work at building the budget, prayer, and leadership support necessary to move in those directions.

HELP NEEDED - - LEADERSHIP TEAMS FOR 2024

We continue to look for someone to represent our congregation as:

1. Lay Member to Annual Conference (next year in Wildwood, NJ May 21-23, 2024).
2. The Lay Leadership Team itself seeks new members to help people find their place on: Church Council, Trustees, Staff/Parish Relations, Finance, Missions, Worship, etc.

See the Pastor or share your interest by e-mail.

* * * * *

(Con't from the Pastor:

The Psalmist put it this way (8: 4-9): *What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!* As you take the opportunity this month to be thankful, perhaps we can all allow our thanksgiving to broaden and deepen from our gratitude for the things God has given and done to swell in praise to our Almighty God, Sacrificial Savior, Transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Ever notice that when someone simply says “Thank you!” to us, our response is often- “for what??”. We are somewhat taken back when if they simply respond- “for you”. God understands when we simply live with gratitude for Him. Everything He does to, for, or with us is but a reflection of His heart for you. ~Pastor Al.

[PONDER Con't]

As you study the entire Psalm (see Psalm 105: 1-15) and note the four elements of true thanksgiving found in this song; 1-remembering what God has done; 2-telling others about it; 3-showing God’s glory to others; and 4-offering gifts of self, time and resources.

Get into the habit of fully expressing thanks to God. There is a hymn “Thank You Lord”. It’s chorus is a good one to sing frequently.

“Thank you Lord, for saving my soul, Thank you Lord, for making me whole, Thank you Lord, for giving me thy great salvation so rich and free.”

A last thought for your Thanksgiving, celebration which is generally a gathering of family and friends, consider Jesus’ words spoken in Luke 14: 13 + 14-”But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” Ask God who might need special help which you might be able to provide.

Happy Thanksgiving!

PLAN NOW FOR A 2024 MISSION TRIP

Plans are now beginning for a trip to Red Bird Mission in Henderson, KY next Summer:

June 23-28, 2024

See Steve Yeagley for information and also to help plan the trip if you are interested.

NOVEMBER CARE TEAM

<i>Week of Nov 5</i>	Ingrid Steiner	717-585-4001
<i>Week of Nov 12</i>	Karen Bene	717-673-2833
<i>Week of Nov 19</i>	Nancy Rautzhan	717-865-3061
<i>Week of Nov 26</i>	Pam Gray	717-865-3997

The trustees want to thank the members and friends of the congregation for providing the support necessary to complete some very important improvements over the last several years...



THANK YOU

- Renovations to the parsonage preparing it for some temporary housing for some missionaries home on furlough.
- The roof above the fellowship hall
- The sidewalk and front steps
- The air conditioning in the downstairs kitchen area
- And most recently the rebuilding of the chimney

The Jim Rautzhan Family for all the kind expressions of sympathy and prayers during his illness and following his death.

Annie Grant expressed her thanks to God for those who shared in prayers, cards, and at her fellowship party for her birthday.

HARVEST HOME-"FILL THE SILLS"

Items needed for Thanksgiving:

Mashed potatoes/stuffing

Sweet potatoes/yams

Gravy

Corn, peas, carrots, beans

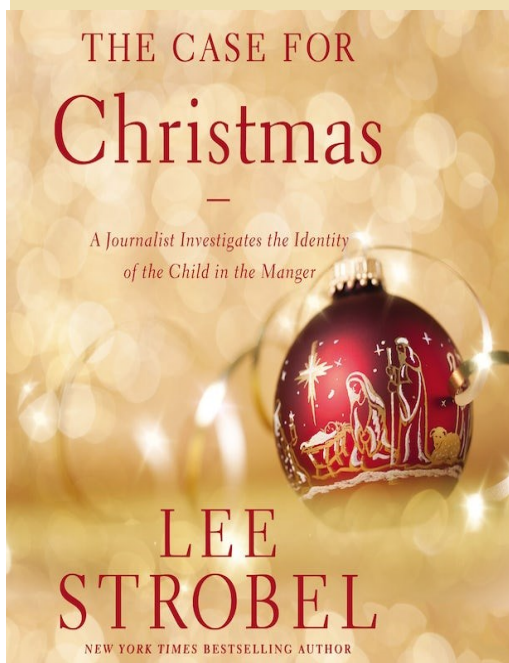
Applesauce/cranberry sauce

Cake mix/frosting

(all items should be non-perishable)



You can bring these items any Sunday through Nov. 19th. All items will be given to JOY for distribution. If you know of a family in need of a Thanksgiving dinner please talk to Pastor Al, Norma Artz or Dawn Miele.



2023 ADVENT STUDY AT JUMC

Pastor Al will be speaking on the themes of "The Case for Christmas" through the Advent Season this year. Since the last Sunday of Advent actually falls on a Sunday, we will begin the Sunday before Advent on November 26th. You are invited to study from home or as part of a group—either participating or leading one. If you would like to lead a group, you will be supplied with resources you can use to help lead a group (leader's guide and video). Books will be available (1/household) for anyone who would like to walk through the study. Lee Strobel is a famous author/reporter who once set out to disprove the faith as an atheist and ended up becoming a believer having discovered not only the truth of Christ, but the power of faith. Let Pastor Al know if you would like to explore participating in or leading a group.

NOVEMBER MISSION PARTNER

The Lebanon Rescue Mission is our November Mission focus. LRM has “Men’s Life Change Program”, the Agape Family Shelter, the Lebanon Free Clinic, the Agape Christmas, a mobile senior pantry, as well as a number of other outreaches that spread the love, grace, and hope of Christ to people in need.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **September** = \$11, 650.00

Received in total for all categories =

\$10, 704.00

Expenses \$9,928.68

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

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

Nov. 3rd

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

November 11th @ 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 11/9 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 11/10, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 11/11 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)

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)



WANTED: Individuals willing to learn some simple steps to follow and add perhaps add some creativity to our Live Streaming Worship Services.

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. Please contact Pastor Al if you are interested in some simple instructions.



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. **Ellie's birthday is on November 9th, so send her a card at her home address.** Frank and Jan Sebastian and Lewis Artz are in their homes, as are Phil Lenge, and Nancy and John Rhen. Please check the JOY table for a list and addresses of these members. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. 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. We would be happy to welcome new members as we are down to five. We send cards, make phone calls, and take meals to families when needed. We also serve a funeral luncheon when asked. It is a great way to extend God's love to others at a difficult time.



JOY is changing the distribution dates. Clients may now shop once a week either on a Tuesday from 10-12, Thursday from 4-7, or Friday from 10-12. Thank you for all your

generosity in donating to JOY. We usually give about 100 lbs. of food a month. Some needed items are: canned pasta, chunky soup, Ramen soup, canned fruit, 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.

"Friends Together" - Tues., November 14th at 1:00pm.

The next daytime ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be on the second Tuesday of November, the 14th. Our ladies group has volun-



teered to collect and sort clothes for the NL Clothes Closet by the Northern Lebanon Ministerium. We will also be doing a bake sale at the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting at our church on Nov. 24th. The money raised will go to support the Release Time Program which is getting started again in November. Please see the following articles for more

details. All are welcome for this meeting and/or to help with this coming activity. We will also plan a Christmas Luncheon for the ladies at the Wetlands in December on the 12th. So be looking for more information later.

CHURCH EVENTS

- **Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversations with the Father**
- **Tuesdays 7:00pm- Creative Ministries**
- **Nov 3, 10:00am-LCCM NoonMeal**
- **Nov 3, 6:00pm—Ladies Night Out**
- **Nov 13, 6:30pm— Church Council**
- **Nov 14, 1:00pm— FriendsTogether**
- **Nov 2, 4:00pm-7:00pm- JOY Pantry**
- **Nov 3, 10:00am- 12:00pm-JOY Pantry**
- **Nov 11, 8:00—Men's Breakfast**
- **Nov 11, 1pm—Food Box Distribution.**
- **Nov 20, 6:30pm- Trustees Mtg**
- **Nov 24, Jonestown Tree Lighting Service**
- **Nov 24, 6:00pm-Friend's Together Bake Sale**

THIS MONTH:
Harvest Home Sunday Nov. 19th

Church Christmas Season Decorating Nov. 26th following 2nd service.

Advent Study Starts Nov. 26th

Cluster Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon @ Trinity UMC: Lickdale 11:00am

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 November 7th, 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 November 7th, 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.



The **Ladies Night Out** group will be meeting again on November 3rd 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.

Northern Lebanon Clothes Closet:

The Northern Lebanon Ministerium (the collection of churches in the Northern Lebanon School District) is starting this project for the school children of the district. There will be a room in the high school, monitored by the school social worker, to make available gently used, clean clothes for all ages of school children. There will be a collection container in our narthex for you to donate. Please have the clothes sorted in bags and labeled to make our job easier. Thank you for your help. Please see Pam Gray if questions, or you want to help.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS:

THE JONESTOWN TREE LIGHTING

Festivities will be held on Friday, Nov. 24th.

Our church is going to be a welcome center. If you can volunteer your time to help, please see upcoming information in the bulletin insert or Norma Artz.



FRIEND'S TOGETHER

Will be having a Bake Sale at the Jonestown Tree Lighting on Nov. 24th in our parking lot. All proceeds will be donated to the NL Release Time Program, which will be restarting in November. Money can be used to purchase Bibles for the 3rd grade children. If you would like to donate baked goods or money for this project, please see Judy Mowry or Pam Gray. Baked goods, candy or homemade snack items should be at the church that day by 6:00pm. They can be items individually wrapped for quick sale or larger items to take home.

DECORATING FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Will be done on Sunday, Nov. 26th following the 2nd service. Many helpers are needed!

ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT

Will be held on Sunday, Dec. 3rd, the 1st day of Advent. Details to follow.

ANGEL TREE

This year we will help 10 children. Each child will receive 2 gifts, a need and a want. You can either take an angel off the tree and buy the gift or contribute money toward the purchase of a gift. More details to follow. See Norma Artz with questions or concerns.

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, Dec. 24th we will have a combined worship service at 10:00am. There will be no Sunday School that day. Then 2 services will be held in the evening at 6:00pm and 8:00pm as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

RELEASED TIME CLASSES

BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER FOR THE NL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS...

Plans are being finalized at this time. With the combining of the various elementary schools: Jonestown, Lickdale, Fredericksburg, and East Hanover Schools into one, the Northern Lebanon churches have been preparing for this year's Released Time Classes—to provide transportation, leadership, and programmatic/practical support to the opportunity for 3rd graders. Supportive funds are being sought for provide for materials as well as the transportation to the location which is being finalized at this time. People are invited to help with the weekly classes as a teacher, a helper or substitute teacher, as well as people to ride the bus with the students providing oversight to make the trip to and from Released Time safe and pleasant.

As with helpers in our own children's ministry, volunteers working with the children will need to have their clearances to help. (If you need help getting them, see Pastor Al.)

To volunteer or if you have further questions, please contact Dale Snader @ 717-269-4633.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Penny Fahler
7 Ralph Major
7 Judy Reichl
8 Amanda Showers
9 Eleanor Artz
9 Lawson Rudy
14 Jody Yeagley
16 Pam Hillegas
18 Sam Denson
19 Kevin Fahler
19 Emily Shertzer
21 Colin Crouse
22 Makenna Lambrecht
26 Devon Reichl
28 Charles Kohr
30 Deb Unger
30 Matt Fink

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.



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Frank & Tish Baird
7 Elmer & Phyllis Krall
9 Charles and Marilyn Kohr
14 Kerry & Brenda McQuate
20 Rick & Teri Light
29 Carvel & Laura Keiser
30 Mike & Christine Spangler

My Prayer List:

November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Praise Team 7:00	2 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00	3 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00	4
5 All Saints Sunday Communion Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00	6 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	7 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	8 Praise Team 7:00	9 Unload Trailer 4:00 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00	10 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Food Box Assembly 6:00	11 Men's Brkfst 8:00 Food Box Distribution 1:00
12 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00	13 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	14 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 "Friend's Together" 1:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	15 Praise Team 7:00	16 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00	17 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	18
19 Harvest Home Sunday Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Newsletter Articles Due	20 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	21 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	22 Praise Team 7:00	23 NO JOY Pantry <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	24 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	25
26 Worship 8:45/11 Sunday School 10:00 Advent Study Starts Christmas Season Church	27 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	28 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	29 Praise Team 7:00	30 Cluster Senior Luncheon 11:00a JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00		