



Jonestown United
Methodist Church
November 2024 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

This month is a month of celebration of giving thanks – we thank God for God Himself in worship, we give thanks to God for the harvest and blessings, we thank God for our veterans and their service, we name our thanks with and to others. In a time when gifts and blessings are often considered expected, earned or entitled, true heartfelt thanksgiving is often understood more as obligatory than humbly offered. I remember one of those teachable moments when one of my children seemed confused by my expectation that he express thanks, gratitude, to someone for paying them after helping them with some chores they needed assistance with. The person would not consider my son's help unless he would be able to pay him. My son, however, understood the payment as a commitment fulfilled not a gift given. When he later asked me about the expectation of expressing thanks, I told him his gratitude was not only about the payment, but as much, or more, as it was for the opportunity to serve, honor and serve an elder, and participate in God's love for the man and his wife.

I hear some of these same sentiments from people about worship and thanksgiving to God. God's mercy and love, sacrifice and calling are often seen more as expectations than reflections on the heart of God. I find it interesting that the Bible reflects the many colors of this humble calling on our walk with God – worship, thanksgiving, praise, adoration...

The prophet Isaiah writes: ***Isaiah 12:4-5*** *And on that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth. Of we find in **1 Chronicles 16:34** Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!* The Psalmist invites us in ***Psalms 100:4*** *"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name"*

In this last verse FOUR different Hebrew words are employed to add color, perspective, and depth to this calling: *"Enter His gates with a gift of thanks (towdah – a word for a thank offering), His courts with songs of praise (tehillah – a word for a song of praise)! Raise your hands in thanksgiving (yadah – a word for extending our hands in praise and thanksgiving) to him; Humbly kneel (barak – a word for kneeling before God in humble submission) before his name!"* We express our praise, our thanks, our surrender to GOD, our Lord. It is impossible to fully embrace His greatness, His grace, His power, His sacrifice, His gift of life.... I think of thanksgiving, praise, and worship in this way...

- I give thanks/*thanksgiving* in recognition of what God has done for, to, with, through me... for His activity.
- I *praise* him for what he has accomplished and the impact God has made on my life, on the world;
- I *worship* God as a recognition of who God is, the almighty, everlasting, GOD... a God of grace and glory, a God of love and mercy, a God who is faithful and relentless in His loving pursuit of each of us.
[Con't Next Page]

**PONDER with
Lewis....**

Thankful



In 1 Chronicles
16: 7-36, David

committed to Asaph and his associates a Psalm of Thanks to the Lord. Note these verses (8) "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. (9) Song to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. (10) Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. (11) Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. (12a) Remember the wonders He has done."

Seth and Bessie Sykes wrote the hymn "Thank You, Lord". Here are the chorus words.

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

Psalm 100 is titled "For giving thanks." (1) Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. (2) Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. (3) Know that the Lord is God. It is He who

(CON'T NEXT PAGE->)

Next News:

December Newsletter
Deadline : November 17th.
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

[From the Pastor Con't]

Imagine if you had a houseful of guests on Thanksgiving Day, everyone showed up, ate at your table, did not interact with you or even one another in any personal way, and then got up and left your home after they finished eating without saying a word. When asked, they might say – that's just who you are, the meal is something you do every year, it was good and so are you. But, YOUR heart was not only about doing something FOR them, it was about being WITH them. You wanted to know that you prepared and served the meal because they matter to you, because you love them. Psalm 136: 'Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

Psalm 103:1-4 Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits — who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion... Thank you, Lord!

~Pastor Al.

YOGA STRETCHING will be the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30am. Please see Lori Jackson for additional details if you are interested.

TESTING OUT A NEW/ADDITIONAL WEBSITE

We are exploring some possibility/testing out a site found at www.jonestownmethodist.org. This may be a place where it will be possible for various leaders to update information for their ministry area with more ease. Check it out and share some ideas.

Food Box Distribution – November 9th – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, November 7, Pick up at Midwest Food Bank – unloading at the church about 3:45-4PM and preparation of the parking lot entrance for the assembly of the boxes and storage.

Friday, November 8, 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.

NOVEMBER CARE TEAM

Week of Nov. 3rd

Nancy Rautzhan 717-865-3061

Week of Nov. 10th

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

Week of Nov. 17th

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of Nov. 24th

Pam Gray 717-865-3997

[PONDER Con't] **"Thankful"**

made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. (4) Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. (5) For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Colossians 2: 6 and 7 "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 3: 1-17 has a subtitle "Rules for Holy Living." Here are the words of Col 3: 15-17; (15) Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful. (16) Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (17) And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

August Lidwig Storm (Swedish) wrote the hymn "Thanks to God for My Redeemer." here are thing he lists that he was thankful about. Thank for: my Redeemer, his provisions, memories, Jesus by my side, spring time, summer, winter, fall, tears, peace, answered prayers, unanswered prayers, storms in his life, God's provisions to him, pain and pleasure, comfort, grace beyond measure, uncomparable love, roses along the way and thorns, home and fire side, hope, joy, sorrow, heavenly peace, hope in tomorrow, and for all eternity. Step into each day with thanksgiving, knowing that God's love is strong, available and stabilizing and that all challenges can be faced in His strength. God's love stands when all else has fallen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES: (Some upcoming ways of serving in the life of Jonestown Church are...)

Tree Lighting Serving

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



Join us at the Kid's Club

Who: Kids entering 1st grade thru 6th grade
2nd Sundays

Next Meeting: November 10th 5:30-7:30PM

Kids Club will be held on September 8th at 5:30-7:30PM. We will continue with our walk through the Fruit of the Spirit. We are in our third month in September. The first month we did an over-view 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...

In November we are studying the fruit of the spirit – PATIENCE. Any child who has entered grades 1 through 6 this fall are welcome.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS BIBLE STUDY: John Hall has prepared another Bible Study for us walking us through the Parables of Jesus. You will find weekly readings each week in our bulletin as well as available on the www.jonestownmethodist.org website. You can study on your own or join an e-mail study by sharing some thoughts about the reading with others in an e-mail group throughout the week. You can let us know of your interest in participating by sending a "count me in on the Parable study" message to: info@jonestownmethodist.org. When you receive a reply, simply hit "reply all" and you will see other people's responses as well as any thoughts of your own about the parable of the week.



Harvest Home Sunday: is Sunday, Nov. 17th. We will again "fill the sills" in the sanctuary with nonperishable food items, esp. food that is needed for a Thanksgiving dinner. Please bring your items on Nov. 3rd, 10th or 17th. If you know of someone who is in need of a Thanksgiving dinner, please let the Pastor know.

Thanksgiving Meal: at Trinity Church in Lickdale: Beginning with Holy Communion December 5 at 11AM. The pastors will be providing the meal in appreciation of all of your service and ministries in the local churches and/or community. PLEASE sign up and let us know of your plans to attend so that we can provide accordingly.



JONESTOWN BORO TREE LIGHTING: will be held on Nov. 29th at 6:00pm.

CHURCH DECORATING: November 24th following Worship Service.

ADVENT STUDY: We will begin our Advent Study starting December 1st : "Why the Nativity?" by David Jeremiah. The study books are free to each family as we prepare our hearts for this very special season when we celebrate the coming of Christ 2000+ years ago and look forward to His return. More about the study will be shared through the month of November when the materials are made available. If you would like to share the study with others in your family or invite others to share as a small group in your home or at the church, study guides can be made available to anyone who would like to walk through the study with others. Please contact Pastor Al if you are interested and he will provide you with the materials.

NOVEMBER MISSION PARTNER

Our special offering for November is collecting postage stamps for the prison. Please put stamps in the mailbox in the narthex. If you'd rather contribute money, you can also put it in the mailbox and someone will buy the stamps for you.



SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **September** = \$11,113.00
Received in total for all categories = \$11,189.00
Expenses \$11,084.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC July Free Noon Meal will be on November 1st and December 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 November 9th @ 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 11/7 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 11/8, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 11/9 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.

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 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 and Jan Sebastian and Lewis Artz are in their homes, as are Phil Lenge, Nancy and John Rhen, and Doris Crouse. Bonnie Rickard is now in Pine Grove, and can't always get in. She would love to know you're thinking of her. Check the JOY table in the narthex or your directory for addresses. 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 the Care Coordinator, Pam Gray.



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 are seeing more need in our community and in the expanded community. Now that we are under the Caring Cupboard we also serve families from Lebanon. Thanks to

all who contribute. Some 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.



"Friends Together" - The "Friends Together" group will be baking for the Christmas Tree Lighting, which will take place in our parking lot on November 29th in the evening. This is an annual project to raise money for a charity. This year we will be donating all proceeds to the UMCOR relief efforts for the hurricane damage. If you would be willing to bake for this sale, please contact Judy Mowry or Pam Gray. We are looking for packaged baked goods, which

should be brought to the church on Sunday the 24th or by 5:00 on the day of the sale.

Also add this date to your calendars: **Tuesday, December 10th, at 12:00 noon.** This will be the Ladies Christmas Lunch at the Wetlands. Look for more information and sign-ups later. All ladies are welcome!!

Our group also 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. They are open the first and third Tuesdays from 10-12, and Thursdays from 4-7, and one Saturday a month. Please see the sign in front of the building for further information.

Don't miss our great Sunday School Opportunities:

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult

John Hall: Adult

Gary Miele: Youth

Brenda Rudy: Children

CHURCH EVENTS

- Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-Creative Ministries
- Tuesdays 7:15pm-Praise Team Rehearsal
- Sundays 10:15am-Praise Team Rehearsal
- Nov. 5,8,12,15,19,21,26,29 Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Nov. 5,19, Tues. 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet
- Nov. 7,14,21 Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- Nov. 28-NO JOY Pantry-Holiday
- Nov. 7,21 Thurs. 4-7pm-Clothing Closet
- Nov., Sat. 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm NL Clothes Closet
- Nov. 2,16 8:30am—Yoga Stretching
- Nov. 1, 10:00am-LCCM Noon Meal
- Nov. 2, Sat. 10:00am—Annual Charge Conference
- Nov. 4, Mon. 6:30pm—Worship Team
- Nov. 7, Thurs. 4:00pm—unload trailer
- Nov. 8, Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Nov. 9, Sat. 8:00am—Men's Breakfast
- Nov. 9, Sat. 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Nov. 10, Sun. 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- Nov. 11, Mon. 6:30pm—Church Council
- Nov. 18, Mon. 6:30pm—Trustee Meeting
- Nov. 24, Sun. following worship service—church decorating
- Nov. 29, Fri. 5:00pm—"Friends Together" Bake Sale
- Nov. 29, Fri. 6:00pm—Jonestown Boro Tree Lighting

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 5th, 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 5th, 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.

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."

THANK YOU to all who helped with the many extra events and programs we have hosted offered over the last several months as well as the coming events between now and the end of the year...



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 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 10-Noon	2 Yoga Stretching 8:30 Annual Charge Conference 10:00
3 All Saints Remembrance Holy Communion Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	4 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Team 6:30 Ripped 7:00	5 NL Clothes Closet 10-noon JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	6	7 Unload Trailer 4:PM JOY Pantry 4-7PM Clothing Closet 4-7PM	8 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Food box assembly 6:00	9 Men's Brkfst 8:00 Food Box Distribution 1:00
10 Veterans Remembrance Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30	11 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	12 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	13	14 JOY Pantry 4-7PM	15 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	16 Yoga Stretching 8:30
17 Harvest Home Sunday Newsletter Articles Due	18 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	19 NL Clothes Closet 10:00-noon JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries	20	21 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00 NL Clothes Closet 4:00-7:00	22 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	23
24 Thanksgiving Sunday Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Church Decoration following service	25 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	26 JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	27	28 Thanksgiving Day No Joy Pantry	29 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 "Friends Together" Bake Sale 5:00 Jonestown Borough Tree Lighting 6:00	30