

From the Pastor: November 2026

"Remembering with Gratitude"

Dear friends and neighbors,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

November reminds us that another year is drawing toward its close.

The bright colors of October begin to fade.

The days grow shorter, Thanksgiving approaches, and soon our attention will turn toward Christmas.

As we look back, some memories bring a smile.

Others may still carry disappointment or sadness.

Some prayers may have been answered as we hoped, while others remain unanswered.

Perhaps that is why Thanksgiving is so important.

It gives us a reason to stop and remember.

The Bible says: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

Our gratitude begins not with everything that happened to us, but with God Himself.

Looking back, we can recognize His love in ways we may not have noticed at the time.

We may remember someone who stood beside us, strength that came when we needed it, or an ordinary moment that became an unexpected gift.

The Apostle Paul writes: "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

This does not mean that we must call every circumstance good.

Life includes painful experiences, losses that remain with us, and questions without easy answers.

Christian gratitude does not ask us to pretend otherwise.

It reminds us that even in difficult seasons, we are not beyond the presence and care of God.

This is especially meaningful at Thanksgiving.

For many, Thanksgiving brings family, laughter, and familiar traditions.

For others, the table may look different this year.

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PONDER with Lewis…

GIVE THANKS

Psalm 147:7-"Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!"

Ray Stedman wrote a short paragraph entitled, "Thanksgiving and Praise!"

Thanksgiving and praise are to be the major elements in our singing. It is possible to give thanks and praise God individually but if any congregation took time to let everyone do that, it would take all day… Singing is something we can do together. So throughout the ages the believers in God both of the Old Testament and New Testament have sung their praises and thanksgiving…It is the reason we should be careful not to sing in a desultory manner. There is nothing more conducive to dullness in a service than half-hearted singing. So the exhortation is most appropriate. "O, come, let us sing to the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation."

Psalm 69:30 " I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving."

Edward Plumptre wrote the hymn—"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" based on Psalm 20:15-A David Psalm-

Verse 1_" Rejoice, ye pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks and sing;

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December Newsletter

Deadline: November 14th

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 cont. from Page 1

Someone may be missing, or life may have changed in ways they never expected.

We may miss someone deeply and still be grateful, just as we may carry unanswered questions and still trust God.

We can bring all these feelings honestly before God.

As Thanksgiving approaches, perhaps there is someone we need to thank.

A simple "thank you" can tell another person that their kindness, friendship, or presence has mattered.

And above all, we need to remember the One from whom every good gift comes.

The Bible says: "Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." (Psalm 103:2)

I especially appreciate those words: "forget not."

We easily remember disappointments, mistakes, and things we wish had happened differently.

Faith teaches us to remember grace as well.

As we reflect on 2026, perhaps we can ask ourselves a different question:

Where have I seen God's grace this year?

The answer may be different for each of us, but remembering God's grace can change how we see the year behind us.

As the year continues, we can face the coming weeks with confidence in God's faithfulness.

At Jonestown United Methodist Church, we are grateful for those who worship, pray, serve, and share life together.

We are also grateful for the community God has placed around us.

Maybe you have been away from church for a while, feel uncertain about faith, or sense that it is time to reconnect with God. Wherever you are on that journey, you are welcome.

You do not have to wait for a new year to make a new beginning.

You are welcome now.

Our Sunday services are:

8:45 a.m. – Traditional Worship
11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

We also gather each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. for "Conversations with the Father," a time of prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversation.

If you or someone you love is in need of prayer, encouragement, or pastoral care, please feel free to contact the church office at 717-865-4369.

This Thanksgiving, may we remember God's goodness with gratitude, knowing that even through life's difficulties, His faithful love has remained with us.

With Christ's love,

Pastor An
Jonestown United Methodist Church

Ponder…cont….from Page 1

Your festive banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King."

Verse 2-"Go on through life's long path, still chanting as you go, From youth to age, by night and day, In gladness and in woe."

Verse 3- "Then on, ye pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks and sing, Your glorious banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your King.

Chorus— "Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice give thanks and sing."

Psalm 118:1-4: "O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.' Let the house of Aaron say, 'His steadfast love endures.' Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His steadfast love endures forever.'"

1 Corinthians 15:56 & 57- "The sting of death is sin. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:18- "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 2 Corinthians 9:15—Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift! AMEN

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group will be going out for Christmas luncheon on the second Tuesday in December, the 8th" at 12 noon. We'll be going to The Wetlands. Look for the sign up in the narthex later this month. All ladies are welcome. See Pam Gray if questions. "We will be collecting to donate to the Humane Society charity. Please bring an item related to animal care: food, a toy, a blanket, etc. Thanks."
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 Fall and Winter clothes. See the sign in front of the building (former Jonestown Elementary School) for further information. Come in at Door 13.



LADIES NIGHT OUT will be on Friday, November 6, starting at 6 pm until 9. 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 who want dinner. Call Karen Bene if you have questions at 717-673-2833. Hope you can join us.

STAMPS for PRISON STAMP MINISTRY: The month of November we will be collecting postage stamps for prison inmates to use to mail Christmas cards. Please place the stamps in the "Christmas Mailbox" in the narthex. Thank you!

HARVEST HOME: Bring non-perishable food before and on November 15 to fill the windowsills. Food will be used to make baskets for known needy families, and the remainder will be donated to JOY Pantry.

GRETNA GLEN CAMP: Our church has been asked to cut, split and stack firewood. This annual event will occur on Saturday, November 7th, from 9 to noon and/or 1 to 3. Our camp meal will be served from noon to 1. Please bring your safety equipment. If you have a chain saw bring it along. Any questions please call David Gray 865-3997.

ADVENT BRUNCH-FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 29, there will be a brunch between the first and second services. There will be no Sunday School. Stay after 1st service or come early for the second. (9:45 to 11:00) Sign-up sheets are at the entrances.

JONESTOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING will be November 21, 2026, Volunteers are needed to be at our church to serve food/drink and to supervise children's cookie decorating.

CHURCH DECORATING for CHRISTMAS will be November 22 after the Second Service. Volunteers needed!

NAR-ANON: A 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.

November MISSION PARTNER –
Bill & Helen Lovelace

Special Offering Envelopes will be available during November in the narthex and on the sanctuary windowsills.
Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

September FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Budgeted amount per month = $12,500
Actual expenses for September - $9,500
Income for September - $10,350

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC Service at Free Noon Meal will be on

November 6, 2026

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 Jodi Yeagley (717-306-8854)

Free Food Box Distribution

NOVEMBER 14, 2026 @ 1PM

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last several years to needy families in our area. You can help prepare for assembly late Friday morning 11/13 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 11/14 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)

PRAYER CHAIN



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 Artz
(717-865-3447)
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. 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 Lengle, 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. We donated over 190lbs. this past month. Some additional items needed at this are: rice, 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 items needed 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. 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?

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 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 inviting those normally attending to share one of the guest bags while introducing yourself and personally welcoming guests/visitors.

Church Events

Weekly Events:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm-Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 5:30pm-The Rock Band
- Sundays 10:15am- praise Team Rehearsal
- JOY Pantry Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-Noon, Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm
- NOVEMBER EVENTS:
- November 1 All Saint's Sunday.
- November 6 Fri 10:00 LCCM Noon
- November 6 Fri Ladies Night Out 6-9
- November 7 Sat Gretna Glen wood cutting 9-12 and/or 1-3.
- November 8 Sun, Kid's Club 5:30-7:30pm
- November 8 Sun. Veteran's Day
- November 9 Mon 6:30-- Trustees
- November 12 Thurs. Approx 3:30 Unload Trailer for Food Boxes.
- November 13 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- November 14 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- November 15 Sun Harvest Home Remember to bring in food all month to fill the windowsills
- November 16 Newsletter Articles Due for December
- November 16 Mon Charge Conference /Ad Board 6:15; 6;45
- November 21 Sat 10am-noon---NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- November 21 Sat Jonestown Tree Lighting 3pm-5pm
- November 22 Thanksgiving Sunday **CHURCH DECORATING** after the second service
- November 29 Sun. First Sunday of Advent- No S.S Brunch between 1st and 2nd services

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Tuesday evenings on November 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



THE ROCK BAND: With Lori Jackson, Tuesdays November 3, 10, 27 and 24 5:30pm- 7:00pm - The Rock Band Bible Study group meets most Tuesday nights 7pm - 8:30pm. Teens 12 & up and adults welcomed. Please make sure to text Lori Jackson if you decide to meet with us - we might be at the church, a park, a coffee house, on a hike or poolside. Our next study is based on a book by singer/songwriter Matthew West, "Don't Stop Praying: The God Who Hears Is Just a Breath Away" (2026), a 40-day devotional and prayer journey that encourages readers to build a deeper, more consistent prayer life.



Kid's Club

The next Kid's Club will be on November 8, 2026. From 5:30-7:30.

For 1st grade -5th grade. "Super Heroes."

There will be lessons, games, music and snacks

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????

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Scripture Reading
Advent Candle lighting
Streaming/video/PowerPoint
Church Decorating for various seasons
Kids Club /Children's Ministries
NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry
Serving on leadership teams
Staff Parish Relations
Nominations/Lay Leadership
Trustees
Outreach

For any further info on any of these opportunities, send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES;

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult Bible Study
Gary Miele: Youth
John Hall: Adult
Brenda Rudy: Children



Proverbs 9:11 “For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.”

Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord.”

Psalm 118:24 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Ralph Major
7 Judy Reichl
8 Amanda Showers
14 Jody Yeagley
16 Pam Hillegas
18 Stacey Rautzhan
19 Emily Shertzer
22 Makenna Lambrecht
26 Devon Reichl
28 Charles Kohr
30 Deb Unger
30 Matt Fink



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1 Frank & Tish Baird
9 Charles and Marilyn Kohr
20 Rick & Teri Light
29 Carvel & Laura Keiser
30 Mike & Christine Spangler

PASTOR AN’S NOVEMBER SERMONS

Sunday, November 1, 2026, Scripture: Luke 22:14-20 Sermon Title: Remember Me

Sunday, November 8, 2026, Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:9-14 Sermon Title: Giving with a Willing heart

Sunday, November 15, 2026, Scripture: Psalm 65:9-13 Sermon Title: The Fields Sing for Joy

Sunday, November 22, 2026--Thanksgiving Sunday--Scripture: Luke 17:11-19 Sermon Title: He Came Back

Sunday, November 29, 2026—First Sunday of Advent--Scripture Mark 13:32-37 Sermon Title: Keep Watch

We encourage all who are able to read the Scripture each week ahead of time, pray over it, and come with open hearts as we continue to grow together in faith.

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.

"THE ARRIVAL": Anyone interested in going to see "The Arrival" by The Thorn acting troupe at the Santander Arena in Reading PA Dec. 3rd? Group rates available for 10 or more. Sign- up in Narthex.



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 **All Saints Day** Communion Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	2 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	3 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	4	5 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	6 JOY Pantry 10am-12 LCCM Noon Meal Ladies Night Out 6-9pm	7 Gretna Glenn wood cutting 9-12 / 1-3
8 **Veteran's Day** Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am Kid's Club 5:30-7:30pm	9 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	10 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	11	12 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	13 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Food Box Packing 6:00pm	14 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm
15 **Harvest Home** Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	16 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm Charge Conference 6:15pm at JUMC	17 JOY Pantry 10am-12 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	18	19 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	20 JOY Pantry 10am-12	21 NL Clothing Closet 10:00am-1:00pm **Jonestown Tree Lighting 3-5pm**
22 **Thanksgiving Sunday** Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am Church Decorating after 2nd service	23 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	24 The Rock Band 5:30-7 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 **1st Sunday of Advent** Service 8:45am 11:00am **Advent Brunch 9:45-11**	30 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm					