

Jonestown United
Methodist Church

September 2023 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

Have you ever noticed that some scriptures just stick out and shape your approach to daily living and relationships in your family, marriage, community, church...? With the many attempts at bringing people to all look at things through the same lenses, we seem to miss the reality that the harder we try the more defined the separations become. Somewhere along the way, I picked up the notion that to help others discover what brings purpose and value to your life is to live it with such joy and satisfaction, commitment and resolve, that others will desire at least to know what it is that moves you, if not want to discover how to find these things in their own life. I often compare it to watching someone enjoy a refreshing cone of ice cream (or piece of pie... or cold refreshing drink on a hot summer day...) Even if you hadn't been thinking about having ice cream, and indeed even if you aren't particularly fond of ice cream, watching someone absorbed in the pleasure and joy of their treat creates at the very least an interest in it if not a desire for your very own treat. Imagine the peace of Christ as one of the treats that believers are meant to have that is such a delight in your life that those without it would desire their very own serving in their life. Or the daily joy in the midst of all the heartache in the world or even our own lives... Or the hope that creates a sense of anticipation for each new day and step of faith... Or the spiritual embrace of God's love in the midst of a world that is driven by division, judgment, fear, despair, bitterness, unforgiveness..... The early church had many things that highlighted the different pasts, cultural settings, religious practices and values, as well as passions and commitments that people came from. There were various sects of Jews, there were those who came out of Roman settings or the many Greek religious and philosophical frameworks, folks that came out of Africa and the eastern regions - just to name a few. You can imagine, there were plenty of issues and practices that could irritate their relationships, comforts and desires.

One of the formative sections of Scripture for me is what Paul wrote to the Roman believers, believers who struggled at how to mesh the many differences into a unified body of believers, the church. There were various religious rituals and holidays; there were a wide variety of dietary practices and restrictions as well as differing moral codes of conduct; and on top was a new faith in Jesus Christ that seemed to grow out of the past and its teachings and at the same time was totally new and fresh.

[Con't Next Page]

**PONDER with
Lewis....**



School Days-
School Days-

School days never end.

Learning is a constant necessity. In a study bible by Max Lucado, are these words. "We go to the word of God for comfort, and when we do, the words pierce like a surgeon's scalpel, both cutting and healing. The word of God cuts to the very place where thoughts and attitudes come together, at the junction of soul and spirit, providing a healing that can be obtained in no other way on earth. The Bible was provided for us as a vehicle to carry us so that we might be able to see Jesus Christ. If you want to grow in the Word of God, become a person with a [Con't Next Page]

Next News:

***October Newsletter
Deadline***

Sunday, Sept. 18th

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Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: (717) 865-4369

Email:

info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

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Methodist Church

Pastor Letter Con't)

Paul in his letter to the Romans attempted to help them see the opportunity of their convictions in and beyond their differing tensions. Imagine the impact of verses from Romans 14 like these:

1 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters... 3 The one who [insert one faith standard/religious practice here] must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not [insert another faith standard/religious practice here] must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5.....Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. 6 ... Whoever [.....] does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. [Now comes Paul's qualifier...]8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 17 ...For the kingdom of God is not a matter of [our religious rituals], but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."

The challenge for the church in the days we are living is to live our faith with such conviction *empowered by love for God joined with the love of God for the world* that our convictions and faith are so delightfully inviting that even those who do not believe will "hunger and thirst for righteousness" in Christ.

~Pastor Al.

PLAN NOW FOR A 2024 MISSION TRIP

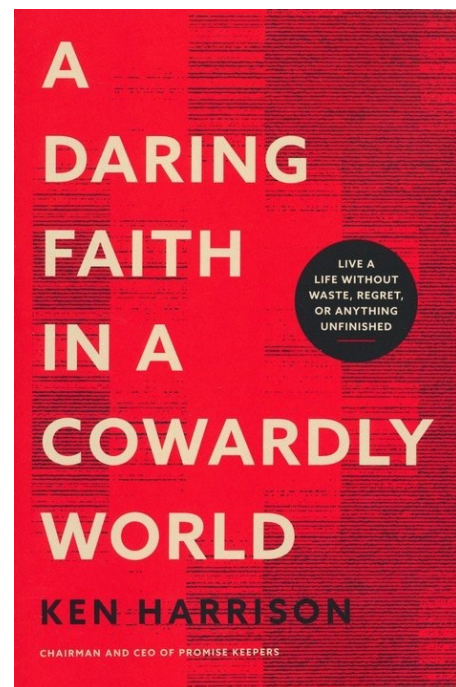
Plans are now beginning for a trip to Red Bird Mission in Henderson, KY next Summer:

June 23-28, 2024

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

NEW!! YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CLASS

We are excited to once again offer a youth and young adult class that will begin **Sunday September 10** during the Sunday School hour. We will be studying a book by Ken Harrison entitled "A Daring Faith in a Cowardly World." In this unflinching examination of what it means to be a Christian fully committed to the call of Jesus, Ken calls all Christians to a higher more intentional, more daring way of living. If you have any questions, please see Gary Miele. We look forward to seeing you and watching where the Lord will take us on the journey.



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 as we seek to make a difference in not only the lives of our, but in the life of the community. Plan first to discover what God is leading you to pursue in the next year, and then work at building together with the finance team the budget for the next year as well as the prayer and leadership support necessary to move in those directions.



COMING THIS FALL: Marriage 50,000 Mile

Tune Up Pastor Al and Mary will be offering a short course encouraging husbands and wives in their relationships and faith.

Watch for the opportunities to sign up and participate in a positive, encouraging, as well as challenging and adventurous invitation to celebrating the gift of marriage by God's design. We will be looking to discover when the best time to offer the "course" will be among those who would like to attend.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? -- LEADERSHIP TEAMS FOR 2024 ARE BEING FORMED

Are you serving in an area that seems like the perfect fit for you? Have you sensed God's leading to serve in a particular area of ministry? Is there an area of ministry that you have drawn to that you've not served in? God may be leading you in an area that we are not currently engaged – let us know so that we, too, can pray for God's direction and discern it together.

Our Leadership Team will be working at developing the people resource that God desires to use for the direction He will lead in the next year. We may not know what all that entails – but are you wanting to be included? Let the Pastor or our Lay Leaders (Teri Light and Gary Miele) and Lay Leadership Team know so we are sure to include you as we form the 2024 Lay Leadership Team.

[PONDER Con't]

Chisel and quarry The Word—look, explore, seek. Let the Word become your word and you will grow. You are challenged to rediscover the Bible in your own life...to regain the same hunger and enthusiasm you felt when you first heard the name of Jesus!

Father, we're amazed at how vast Your Bible is. Who would have thought that daily help could be found in a book so old. Every time we open it we find it's not old at all. Help us to look for Your guidance in that precious book. Make us aware of how precious Your Word is. Bless these who transport Your Word to far-off places, to people who haven't been able to open Your Word, thank you Father, for giving us the opportunity to uncover the jewels waiting to be discovered in Your holy pages."

Proverbs 2: 1-5 "My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."

September CARE TEAM

Week of Sept 3

Karen Bene

717-673-2833

Week of Sept 10

Nancy Rautzhan

717-865-3061

Week of Sept 17

Pam Gray

717-865-3997

Week of Sept 24

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

SEPTEMBER MISSION PARTNER **SHOEBOX**

Shoebox Shipping Costs is our Mission Focus for September. Income through offerings using the Special Offering envelopes available on the windowsills in the sanctuary will be designated for this ministry.

July FINANCIAL UPATE

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

Received in total for all categories =

\$11, 450.00

Expenses \$8,400.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC September
Free Noon Meal will be on
Sept. 1st**

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 September 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 9/8 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 9/9, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 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)

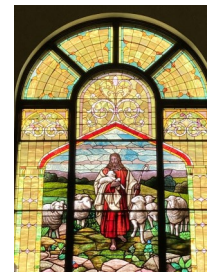
Judy Mowry (717-279-0809)

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. Frank and Jan Sebastian and Lewis Artz are in their homes, as is 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. If you would like to learn about how to be on the Care Team and how they share the love of Christ, please see Pam Gray.



JOY is distributing the 1st and 3rd Thurs. and Friday of September. Thank you all for your generosity in donating to JOY. We have been serving about 60 families twice a

month. We recently gave about 200 lbs. of food for the month. Some needed items are: cereal, 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., September 12th at 1:00pm.

The next daytime ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be on the second Tuesday of September, the 12th at 1:00



pm at the church. We will be talking about what we want to do in the coming year. We will also discuss our future involvement with the Northern Lebanon Clothing Closet for school children. Our Ladies group has vol-

unteered to collect and sort clothes from our church.

Please see following article for more details. All are welcome for this activity. See Judy Mowry (717) 279-0809 if questions.

CHURCH EVENTS

- **Tuesdays 6:30pm-
Conversations
with the Father**
- **Tuesdays 7:00pm-
Creative Minis-
tries**
- **Saturdays 8:00am-
Yoga Stretching**
- **Aug 31, 5:00pm-
JOY Pantry**
- **Sept 1, 12:30pm-
2:30pm-JOY
Pantry**
- **Sept 1, 10:00am-
LCCM Noon
Meal**
- **Sept 9, 1pm—Food
Box Distribution.**
- **Sept 11, 6:30pm—
Church Council**
- **Sept 18, 6:30pm-
Trustees Meet-
ing**
- **Sept 23, 3:00pm-
6:00pm-Fall Fest**
- **Sept 25, 6:30pm—
Worship Mtg.**

NEXT MONTH:

**Oct.15th Celebrating
Everyone Has Min-
istry—Laity Sunday
Sunday School:9:30
Single Worship
Service: 10:30
Picnic Style Lunch
at noon.**

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 September 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 September 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.

The **Ladies Night Out** will resume on Friday, September 1st starting at 6:00pm. We will be assembling the Christmas Shoe Boxes. Anyone interested in helping with this project, please join us. We order takeout for people interested. We will be meeting in the community center to sort and assemble. Hope you can join us. Please call Karen Bene



T: (717) 673-2833 if you have any questions. Thank you.

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 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. Thank you for your help. Please see Pam Gray if questions, or you want to help.



FREE

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 23
3pm - 6pm (Rain or Shine)

Food | Fellowship | Fun

Music by Praise Team | Games for Children
Cake Walks | Candy Scrambles | Chili Cook Off
Pumpkin Decorating | Food | Crafts & MORE!

Please see/call Norma Artz to volunteer to help with the festival.

2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF: at Fallfest. To enter—a sign up sheet is located in the narthex. For additional details, please see Lori Jackson.



THANK YOU

THANK YOU:

Sincere thanks to all who supported our family with cards, meals, calls and prayers on the passing of Nancy's mother. Every kind gesture was much appreciated.

The Phil Lengle Family

Thank you everyone for your prayers, support, help with meals and cards during my surgery and recovery time. Matt and I greatly appreciate everyone.

Sincerely, Stacy and Matt Fink

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Rebecca Unger
6 Lincoln Govelovich
10 Kim Bashore
11 Rebecca Yeagley
11 Matthew Krissinger
12 Phyllis Krall
12 Nancy Showers
16 Carol Bicher
20 Gary Miele
20 Greg Emerich
21 Kay Horner
21 Kody Showers
21 Ingrid Steiner
23 Aidan Miele
24 Dave Gray
25 Samuel Hillegas
25 Lori Baker
27 Gail Anderson
27 Kassidy Showers
28 Deb Meck
30 Norma Artz

SEPTEMBER ANNI-VERSARIES

1 Mike and Tammy Adams
17 Jeff & Malinda Kohr
17 Jim and Judy Mowry
18 Steve & Jodi Yeagley Sr.
25 Bryan & Brenda Rudy
26 Bob & Kim Bashore
27 Wilmer & Theresa Weaver
28 Kevin & Heidi Fahler



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.



RELEASED TIME CLASS

The North Lebanon Council of Churches has been working on continuing the Released Time Classes with the new North Lebanon Elementary School which now combines the Jonestown, Lickdale, Fredericksburg, and East Hanover schools.

NEEDED:

*Released Time Teachers

*Teachers' Helpers

*Substitute Teachers

*Bus Riders (we are going to bus students to an off-site churches.

*Financial Donations toward the purchase of a personal Bible for each child and the costs of transportation.

Classes will be held (hopefully) from November thru April.

To volunteer or if you have questions—please contact: Dale Snader @ 717-269-4633 or email at 283mail@comcast.net.

(Those volunteering to be a part of the ministry that works with or among the children must have background clearances—check with your church for help if you need them.)

September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 12:30-2:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00	2 YogaStretching 8:00
3 Communion Sunday Worship 8:45 11:00	4 Labor Day AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	5 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	6 Praise Team 7:00	7 Unload Trailer 4:00	8 Food Box Assembly 6:00	9 YogaStretching 8:00 Food Box Distribution 1:00
10 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00	11 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	12 Friends Together 1:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	13 Praise Team 7:00	14 JOY Pantry 5:00	15 JOY Pantry 12:30-2:00	16 YogaStretching 8:00
17 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00	18 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees Mtg 6:30 Ripped 7:00	19 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	20 Praise Team 7:00	21	22	23 YogaStretching 8:00 Fall Fest 3:00-6:00
24 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00	25 AA Meeting 6:00 Worship Mtg 6:30 Ripped 7:00	26 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00	27 Praise Team 7:00	28	29	30