

Jonestown United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor: September 2026

"Faithful in the Work Before Us"

Dear friends and neighbors,

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

September brings a new beginning to many of our daily routines.

Summer vacations come to an end, schools reopen, students meet new teachers and classmates, and families settle into new schedules.

The first Monday of September also reminds us of Labor Day, a time to recognize the value of honest work and those who faithfully serve our communities each day.

People serve in many different ways.

Some work in offices, factories, farms, hospitals, schools, or local businesses.

Others care for children, support aging parents, volunteer in the community, or faithfully pray and encourage others.

Some are retired after many years of work, yet continue to bless others through their wisdom, kindness, and faithful example.

The Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

This verse reminds us that our faith is not limited to Sunday worship.

It is lived out in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and our daily relationships.

Whether we are studying, working, serving, or caring for someone we love, every task can become an opportunity to honor God.

Much of life is built through ordinary acts of faithfulness.

A kind word can encourage someone who is discouraged.

A helping hand can lighten another person's burden.

A quiet prayer can strengthen someone in ways we may never fully understand.

God often works through simple acts of love and service.

Jesus showed us what faithful service looks like.

He welcomed people, cared for those in need, and faithfully fulfilled His Father's will.

He reminds us that true greatness is found in humility, love, and service.

Of course, life is not always easy.

Responsibilities can become heavy.

Work may be stressful. School may be challenging.

Family concerns can leave us feeling tired or discouraged.

Continued page 2



**PONDER with
Lewis...**

Faithfulness

Faithfulness as it describes God in His relationship to human believers uses terms as dependability, loyalty and stability. The faithfulness of God and His Word is a constant theme in the Bible.

Based on Lamentations

3:22&23—"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Thomas O. Chisolm wrote the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

Verse 1—"Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be."

Verse 3—"Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!"

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October Newsletter
Deadline: September 16th
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

During those moments, it is important to remember that our value does not come from our position, our accomplishments, or how busy we are.

Our value comes from God, who created us, loves us, and walks with us each day.

The Psalmist prayed, "May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us-yes, establish the work of our hands." (Psalm 90:17)

That is a wonderful prayer for all of us as September begins.

As we enter this new season, perhaps we can ask ourselves one simple question:

How can I faithfully serve God where He has placed me today?

It may be in your family, at school, or at work.

It may be through encouraging someone who needs hope or serving quietly in ways that only God sees.

No sincere act of love is ever wasted in God's hands.

As a church family, we also share the work of God's kingdom together.

Every prayer, every act of kindness, every hour of service, and every gift offered with love helps strengthen Christ's church.

Each person has a place, and each contribution matters.

As students begin a new school year and families enter new routines, let us pray that God will bless our children, teachers, school staff, workers, first responders, and all who faithfully serve our community.

May He also encourage those who are searching for work, facing difficult responsibilities, or carrying burdens that others cannot see.

Above all, may we enter this new season with grateful hearts and faithful spirits.

We may not always see the results of our work immediately, but God is able to use every act of faithfulness for His glory.

Jonestown United Methodist Church welcomes you to worship, pray, and grow in faith with us.

Whether you have worshiped with us for many years or are simply looking for a church home, you are always welcome.

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 "Conversation 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.

May God bless the work of your hands, strengthen your faith, and guide you through every opportunity He places before you.

With Christ's love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

Ponder...cont...from Page 1

Chorus, "Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

God's faithfulness is the source of the Christians deliverance from temptation (1Corinthians 10:13); assurance of salvation (Hebrews 10:23) and forgiveness of sins (! John 1:9).

God's faithfulness should be deeply reflected in the lives of His people, as the fruit of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22 & 23 lists faithfulness, along with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.

Faithfulness, along with all the other fruits of the Holy Spirit, is expected of Christian believers. Faithfulness to God, to fellow believers, and especially in carrying out responsibilities of membership and special duties.

Daniel was considered to be faithful to God—

Dare to Be a Daniel.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES: Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will be going out for lunch in October on the second Tuesday, October 13th at 12 noon. We'll be going to Mooses Landing Zone. We'll have a sign up later in September. See Pam Gray for details.

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: Ladies Night Out will return on Friday, September 4 beginning at 6 pm. This evening will be used for our missionary work to assemble the shoeboxes for the Christmas Around the World ministry. All are welcome to help assist to put together the boxes using the toys and personal items JUMC donated during our Christmas in July toy donation drive.

The contact person for this evening's event is Norma Artz and she can be reached at 717-228-9169. Hope to see you there.

HUNTED CHURCH:

It is that time of year again when we begin planning for the Hunted Church event in October.

To plan properly, we need to have **commitments** for help...preparing, set-up, manning the scenes and as tear down. (We had to cut scenes last year due to lack of help.)

Please Contact; (Call or email) Heather Lambrecht at 812-525 2613 or Tish Baird at 717-821-1509.

If we do not have enough committed help we will sadly have to cancel the event for this year.

RELEASED TIME: Check the bulletins and the table in the narthex for updated information regarding its resumption for the 2026-2027 school year. Release Time will begin in October. You will be able to sign up in the narthex to help!

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES:

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult Bible Study
Gary Miele: Youth

John Hall: Adult
Brenda Rudy: Children

September MISSION PARTNER –

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

JULY FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Budgeted amount \$12,500
Actual Income for July = \$8,700
Actual Expenses = \$11,000

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

**Jonestown UMC Service at
Free Noon Meal will be on**

SEPTEMBER 4, 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

SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Thursday 9/10 in
the afternoon, late Friday morning 9/11 and
help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM,
and/or help distribute the boxes to those who
come on Saturday 9/12 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)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

Team 2: Jeff & Diana Waltermeyer
(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)

Team Leaders

*Lewis Artz (717-865-3447)

*Diane Waltermeyer (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 Lingle, 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 120 lbs. 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 needed items 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!

REDNER'S SAVE A TAPE: Do you have a Redner's "Save a Tape" Card?" If not, ask for one at any register or at Customer Service. Use your card when you pay and save your receipt. Put them in the light red box on top of the coat rack at the entrance marked "Redner's". We need the whole receipt. The receipts will be totaled a few times a year and turned into Redner's. JUMC will get 1% of the grand total. Large and small amounts all add up. Thank you!

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?

Church Events

Weekly Events:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm-Conversations with the Father
- Tuesdays 7:00pm-The Rock Band
- Sundays 10:15am- Praise Team Rehearsal
- JOY Pantry Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-Noon, Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00pm
- **SEPTEMBER EVENTS:**
- September 4 Fri 10:00 LCCM Noon Meal
- September 4 Fri 6 pm Shoebox Assembly
- September 10 Thurs Approx 3:30 Unload Trailer for Food Boxes
- September 11 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- September 12 Sat 1:00pm --- Food Box Distribution
- September 14 Mon 6:45--- Church Council (Ad Board)
- September 16 Newsletter Articles Due for September
- September 19 Sat 10am-noon--- NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- September 21 Mon 6:30pm Trustees

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.

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Tuesday evenings on September 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 - 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 continuing on September 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 7:00pm- 8:30pm

THE ROCK BAND: - 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.

UPRISE FESTIVAL: Everyone is welcome to join us for Uprise Festival on September 12th & 13th Shippensburg fairground. Questions? See Lori Jackson



King's Kids: King's Kids Resumes October 11, 2026

Watch for more information on the table in the narthex and in your bulletin as the time to resume King's Kids nears! For 1st grade -5th grade.

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????

Scripture Reading Streaming/video/PowerPoint Church Decorating for various seasons King's Kids/Children's Ministries--- Volunteer	<u>MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:</u> Serving on leadership teams Staff Parish Relations Nominations/Lay Leadership Trustees Outreach	King's Kids/Children's Ministries NL Clothing Closet/JOY Pantry For any further info on any of these opportunities, send a note to: info@jonestownumc.org
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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Rebecca Unger
 3 Dennis Shuey
 10 Kim Bashore
 20 Gary Miele
 21 Kay Horner
 21 Kody Showers
 21 Ingrid Steiner
 23 Aidan Miele
 24 Dave Gray
 27 Kassidy Showers
 30 Norma Artz

Psalm 28: 7

The Lord is my strength and my shield, in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

17 Jim and Judy Mowry
 18 Steve & Jodi Yeagley Sr.
 25 Bryan & Brenda Rudy
 26 Bob & Kim Bashore
 27 Wilmer & Theresa Weaver
 29 Donald & Paulette Werni

PASTOR AN'S SEPTEMBER SERMONS

As we continue our journey of faith together, we invite everyone to prepare prayerfully for worship by reading the Scripture passages in advance and coming with open hearts to receive God's Word.

Sunday, September 6, 2026 – Holy Communion Sunday Scripture: Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18 Sermon Title: The Faith God Sees

Sunday, September 13, 2026 Scripture: Matthew 6:7–15 Sermon Title: Our Father in Heaven

Sunday, September 20, 2026 Scripture: Matthew 6:19–24 Sermon Title: Where Your Treasure Is

Sunday, September 27, 2026 Scripture: Matthew 7:13–14, 24–27 Sermon Title: The Way That Leads to Life

We encourage everyone to read and pray over each week's Scripture as we continue to grow together in faith and follow the teachings of Jesus.

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>.



SAVE THE DATE: Bosco's Friends Helping Friends: To purchase Shopping passes or for more information, contact Claudia Clark, email: razbrykid@verizon.net or text/call at 717-279-1420. The Shopping Pass gives you a discount on qualifying items purchased on the Shopping Day. The shopping day will be October 21 2026 8am-11pm. The cost for a pass \$5.00. The proceeds (\$5 for each pass purchased) will go to JOY Pantry.

September 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	2	3 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	4 JOY Pantry 10am-12 LCCM Noon Meal Ladies Night Out Shoebox Assembly 6:00pm	5
6 Communion Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	7 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	8 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	9	10 JOY Pantry 4-7pm Unload Food Trailer approx. 3:30pm	11 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Food Box Packing 6:00pm	12 Food Box Distribution 1:00pm Uprise Festival
13 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am Uprise Festival	14 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ad Board 6:45pm Ripped 7:00pm	15 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	16	17 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	18 JOY Pantry 10am-12	19 NL Clothing Closet Community Shopping 10:00am-1:00pm
20 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	21 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	22 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	23	24 JOY Pantry 4-7pm	25 JOY Pantry 10am-12	26
27 Service 8:45am 11:00am Sunday School 10am	28 AA 6:00pm Kick Punch 6:30pm Ripped 7:00pm	29 JOY Pantry 10am-12 Conversations w/the Father 6:30pm The Rock Band 7:00pm	30			