



***Jonestown United
Methodist Church***

July 2024 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

Many of you remember hearing the parable of the Sower and the Seeds that Jesus taught. (Matthew 13) The farmer went scattering seeds, as was their custom, some fell along the path where the birds came and ate them before they even took root. Some fell on rocky areas where there was little fertile soil and they were able to spring up quickly but had no roots reaching down for moisture and the heat of the sun scorched them and they withered and died. Some fell among thorns and weeds and the plants were choked out by them. Finally, some fell among good soil where they grew and produced a great crop. I was reading a book recently about making disciples. The author witnesses the story to people he has the opportunity to share with, then writes four lines on a slip of paper or on a napkin if they are having coffee somewhere –

Path = Not interested

Rocky soil = Too shallow

Thorny soil = Too busy

Good soil = Fruitful.

He then asks two questions –

Which of these soils do you want to live your life on? (most people answer good soil, no surprise.)

In all honesty, which of these four soils does your life most closely resemble? (a little embarrassed, about 90% respond – “Too busy.”

Of course, you suspect that I may be questioning you as well... And, well, yes, they are good questions for each of us. They are important questions to consider and hopefully we all have or will answer them ourselves. Yes, we need to answer them honestly to prepare engaging with others. Actually, I want to ask a third question – if we are called to help others come to the full and fruitful life God desires for us, are you alert to the possibility that God may have you ask someone those first questions?

There was a dear brother in one of the churches I served that was a classic kind, gentle, senior who would talk with anyone he could find that would listen about their faith or need for faith. One of the last times I visited with him before his walk into eternity was in the hospital. The nurse had come in to give him some pills and he introduced me to her as he told me with clear honesty of the kindness and care she lovingly provided to me. Then, as if commenting on the weather, he looked her straight in the eye, and so gracefully asked, “_____ , can I ask you a question?” She said “Yes, sure.”

I believe she knew that it would have been kindly accepted if she had said “No.” Then he asked her, “If you were to die tonight, of course we’re not looking for that, but if you were to die tonight, do you know where you would spend eternity?” Have you every thought about it? How do you engage in a conversation with someone about the state of their faith? Have we established a “safe” atmosphere for that conversation? What would you share next? Do you realize what opportunity you have? When just a youth, I once asked a friend in school about why I didn’t see him at Bible Study or youth group any more? [Con’t Next Page]



**PONDER with
Lewis....**

Long Distance
Race

Currently, in our country, and in countries around the world, athletes are training for the Olympics scheduled for Paris, France this July. The writer of Hebrew 12: 1-17 writes about Christians disciplining themselves for a long distance journey. These words are from “The Message” version: “Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we’d better get on with it, strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus., who began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because He never lost sight of where He was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—He could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever, and now He ‘s there, in the place of honor, right along side God. When you find yourself flagging in your faith, go over that story again,[Con’t Next Page]

Next News:

August Newsletter

Deadline

Sunday, July 21st.

Jonestown United Methodist

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Jonestown, PA 17038

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info@jonestownumc.org

Web: www.jonestownumc.org

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Methodist Church

[From the Pastor Con't]

His response, "Al, you're going to be a preacher some day, I'm not." In his mind, he thought I believed because I wanted to serve God. He didn't know, I wanted to serve God because I believed and wanted others to know Him. Do you realize how much greater impact YOU can have in witnessing than I ever will. Many, if not most, people believe I talk about Jesus because I'm a pastor. When YOU speak about Jesus, people see another man or woman like them who has something they need and hopefully want. You don't "have to" believe... You choose Christ who has chosen you. Pray about it... Ask God to help you find YOUR way of starting a conversation with someone about their faith and be prepared to simply share the message of Jesus. ~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 – July 13 – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, July 11, 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, July 12, 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.

[PONDER Con't] item by item, that long litany of hostility He plowed through, that will shoot adrenaline into your souls!" These are verses one through three now we move to verses 12 through 17. "So don't sit around on your hands! No more dragging your feet! Clear the path for long distance runners so no one will trip and fall, no one will step in a hole and sprain an ankle. Help each other out. And run for it! Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time. Watch out for the Esau syndrome; trading away God's life long gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite, you well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God's blessing, but by then it was too late, tears or no tears." Mother Teresa wrote an article entitled " Make Us Worthy Lord." It ends with these words "Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted, to understand than to be understood, to love than to be loved, for it is by forgetting self that one finds; it is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. Amen."

JULY CARE TEAM

Week of June 30rd

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of July 7th

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001

Week of July 21st

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of July 28

Nancy Rautzhan 717-865-3061



Joins us at the
Kid's Club

Who: Kids entering
1st grade thru 6th grade

2nd Sundays

Starting July 14th

5:30-7:30PM

Kids Club will be an opportunity for children to grow in their faith and understanding of the scriptures in a fun Kid-focused setting. Our first topic which will carry us through about 10 months will be "The Fruit of the Spirit". We will be planning crafts, activities, story/teaching time, a snack, and singing – a format very similar to Vacation Bible School. We look forward to the opportunity to encourage children in their faith and walk with Christ. Register online at www.jonestownmethodist.org



Study Hebrews this
Summer.
Readings each week
in the bulletin.



John Hall has prepared some questions to help guide your reflections on the scriptures of the week from a chapter in Hebrews. Each chapter in Hebrews is packed with wisdom and guidance for the Christian and their walk of faith and witness. Follow the link on www.jonestownmethodist.org to the Bible Study online.

132nd MT. LEBANON CAMPMEETING

July 14-21, 2024 will be holding evening services at 7:00pm each evening Monday-Saturday. If you would like additional information please check their website at www.mtlebanoncampmeeting.org.

JULY MISSION PARTNER

Special offering for July is for Align Pregnancy Services. Align Pregnancy Services offers free ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, parenting classes, and more in Central PA. Whether you are pregnant, facing an unplanned pregnancy, or need post-abortion support, they can help you make an informed decision.

MAY FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **May** = \$11,113.00
Received in total for all categories = \$9,969.50
Expenses \$9,082.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC July Free Noon Meal will be on

July 5th and August 2nd.

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

July 13th @ 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 7/11 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 7/12, and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 7/13 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 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.

2024 Annual Conference and 2024 (Postponed from 2020) General Conference There were some major changes at both conferences this past year.

General Conference:

The amount of money coming from Annual Conferences to the General Church were reduced from a current base rate 3.29% to 2.6% (2025-2026) and 2.9% (2027-2028 – if the collection rate is 90% or higher in '25-'26). This is an adjustment due to the residual effects of challenges from the pandemic and the impact of disaffiliation of approximately 20% of the churches from the denomination.

Revision of the Social Principles – first time in nearly 50 years. In addition to language changes regarding human sexuality and inclusiveness, advocating for human dignity and combating racism, caring for the planet and supporting healthy community settings for all people economically, socially, and politically.

The Paragraph 2553 offering a path for disaffiliation was officially ended.

Ordained Deacons are now permitted to preside at the sacraments – Holy communion and Baptism – in their appointed assignments. This is especially helpful for those serving as chaplains.

The removal from the Book of Discipline the prohibitions of appointment and ordination of “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” and also the prohibition of performing same-sex marriages. Language protecting the rights of pastors to still determine what marriages they will/will not perform and also for the churches to make a determination of what services will be held within their facilities. This particular action brought forward the re-instatement of a pastor’s orders who had them removed under the previous language of the discipline.

Annual Conference:

The Annual Conference, in line with the General Conference approved the change to a new pension program for the conference and denomination. This new program is a personal and private type program funded by the churches and pastors and monitored and facilitated but not funded by the annual conference.

There were nine churches closed.

A memorandum of understanding was established to consolidate staffing and leadership between the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference and ours in Eastern PA.

A budget for the E PA Conference was approved.

There were three ministers ordained as elders including the pastor at Kochenderfer UMC – Jeff Kapp; Four individuals were commissioned toward elders orders and one toward deacons orders.

In response to some inquiries I am including the info on the church activity last years as to our support of missions. Some of these items are ongoing and some are monthly and some are budgeted items. In 2023 we gave the following to the missionaries that we support though budgeted amounts.

Heinsmans/Team	\$1300.00
Pahutskis/Pioneers	\$1300.00
Samuteb Hospital	700.00
Our Daily Bread	\$100.00

In addition these we support through our monthly special offerings, On these what comes during the month goes directly out to the mission.

January - AMMI \$225.00

February -JOY \$998.00 (Some people give to this all year long and everything goes to JOY)

March -Lenten Offering \$205.00 (This is decided each year by the board to support a special need. In 2023 it went to Back to school blessing through the NL Ministerium.

April – Camping \$425.00 Usually on one of the months we get a special offering for what was Camping Scholarships. With the few campers we are supporting right now we have changed April, to NL Ministerium. We do have people that support Gretna Glenn on a regular basis and anything that comes in for Gretna or the Camping scholarships we give directly to the Camp.

May -UMCOR \$1058.00 Disaster relief through One Great Hour of Sharing

June -Red Rose \$6245.00 The Trustees are supposed to designate a project each year for this offering. None was designated in 2023.

July-ALIGN \$350.00

August -LCCM \$825.00

September -Shoebox \$1200.00 This is for the shoebox postage for the boxes we fill. This is handled through Samaritans Purse.

October – Lebanon Rescue Mission \$1735.00

November -Bill Lovelace \$330.00

December -NL Ministerium \$1294.00 Each year December is designated by the Ad. Board. In 2023 It was decided to give it to The newly formed Northern Lebanon Ministerium to help with start up costs.

Usually on one of the months we get a special offering for what was Camping Scholarships. With the few campers we are supporting right now we have changed that to April, NL Ministerium. We do have people that support Gretna Glenn on a regular basis and anything that comes in for Gretna or the Camping scholarships we give directly to the Camp.

I hope this helps clear up any questions on the missions of JUMC and how the offerings are designated.

In the future I will try to update more often probably on a quarterly basis.

In the mean time pleas contact me with any questions you may have.

May God Bless JUMC and our endeavors.

Pat Sheehan



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. Ellie Artz continues in nursing home, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit. Frank and Jan Sebastian and Lewis 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 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 all for your generosity in donating to JOY. We are serving more families with the new schedule. 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 next ladies meeting, "Friends Together", will be in September on Tuesday the 10th, meeting at the church at 1:00pm. All ladies are welcome. We will be planning activities for the coming year. We may go for a tour of the NL Clothing Closet. Our ladies group has volunteered to help with this, which is sponsored by the Northern Lebanon

Ministerium. We will continue to work on this project. Donations of clean, gently used clothes for men, women, and children can be put in the labeled tote in the narthex or on the tables in the basement in the middle Sunday School room by the kitchen. The NL Clothes Closet is located in some rooms in the Jonestown Elementary School (recently purchased by IU 13) for storage, sorting and shopping eligible Northern Lebanon residents for free. They are open the 1st and 3rd Tues. (10am-12pm) and Thurs. (4pm-7pm) and one Saturday a month (10am-12pm) and (1pm-3pm). Refer to sign by the building. Please see Pam Gray if questions, or to find out how to sign up, if you want to volunteer. They can still use volunteers to sort, as they get many donations. Thank you for your support for this project.

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
- July Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- July Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm-JOY Pantry
- July 6:30am-7:30am—Hump Day Prayer With The Pastor
- July 5, 10:00am-LCCM Noon Meal
- July 6, 20 8:30am—Yoga Stretching
- July 7, 8:45 am and 11:00am—Ryan Timlin sharing Thai Missions
- July 8, 6:30pm— Church Council
- July 9, 23 10:00am-12:00pm—NL Clothes Closet-shopping
- July 11, 4:00pm—unload trailer
- July 11, 25 4:00pm-7:00pm—NL Clothes Closet-shopping
- July 12, 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- July 13, 8:00am—Men's Breakfast
- July 13, 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- July 14, 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- July 15, 6:30pm—Trustee Meeting
- July 15-20, 7:00pm—Mt. Lebanon Campmeeting evening service
- July 27 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-3:00pm—NL Clothes Closet-shopping

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 June 4th, 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 June 4th, 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.



There is a change in the date for Ladies Night. It will be held on Friday, May 31 at 6 pm. This will be the last one until the fall. Look for the group to return with our mission support of Shoe Box assembly. For May, this could be a great time to work on individual projects. Bring craft projects you may currently be working on or engage in completing puzzles or coloring books available at church. Doors open at 6 pm but join us when you can. Take out is ordered for those needing dinner. We wrap up for the night around 9 pm. Join us in an evening of fellowship and fun. Call Karen Bene if you have questions at 717-673-2833.

Northern Lebanon Clothes Closet:

Northern Lebanon Clothes Closet : "Shopping: Open on Tues, June 4th and 18th from 10-12; on June 6th and 20th 4-7, Sorting: on Monday, June 10th and 24th from 10-12; Shopping: Saturday, June 22 from 10-12 and 1-3. Also this month Shopping: Senior Week from Mon. the 10th through Fri., June 14 from 10-12 each day. Any Senior citizen of Northern Lebanon can shop...no financial eligibility required."



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Claudia Clark
- 3 Gino Ingram
- 4 Pam Gray
- 6 Bernie Showers, Jr.
- 7 Marilyn Kohr
- 7 Bryce Davis
- 8 Nancy Rhen
- 8 Camila Showers
- 10 Tom Robinson
- 13 Amy Sell
- 14 Braydon Unger
- 15 Elaine Shuey
- 18 Linda Fake
- 18 Natalie Hocker
- 20 Tina Yeagley
- 21 Nancy Lengle
- 21 Julian Zargoza
- 22 Carol Martin
- 24 Ron Brewer
- 25 Lori Jackson
- 25 Rick Light

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.



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Dan & Debbie Adams
- 24 Jeff & Judy Reichl
- 24 George & Nancy Rautzhan

My Prayer List:

July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 LCCM Noon Meal 10:00 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	6 Yoga Stretching 8:30
7 Communion Sunday Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 10:15	8 AA Meeting 6:00 Church Council 6:30 Ripped 7:00	9 NL Clothes Closet-Shopping 10:00-12:00 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	10	11 NL Clothes Closet-Shopping 4:00-7:00 Unload Trailer 4:00 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00	12 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Food box assembly 6:00	13 Men's Brkfst 8:00 Food Box Distribution 1:00
14 Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30	15 AA Meeting 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00	16 JOY Pantry 10-12 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00	17 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00	18 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00	19 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00	20 Yoga Stretching 8:30 132 Mt. Lebanon evening service 7:00
21 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 10:15 Newsletter Articles Due	22 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	23 NL Clothes Closet-shopping 10:00-12:00 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	24	25 NL Clothes Closet-Shopping 4:00-7:00 JOY Pantry 4:00-7:00	26 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00	27 NL Clothes Closet-Shopping 10:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00
28 Worship 8:45 11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Rehearsal 10:15	29 AA Meeting 6:00 Ripped 7:00	30 JOY Pantry 10:00-12:00 Conversations With The Father 6:30 Creative Ministries 7:00 Praise Team 7:15	31			