



Jonestown United
Methodist Church

August 2024 Newsletter

From the Pastor:

I am currently reading a book by and about Dr. Thomas Oden entitled “A Change of Heart”. He was a well known seminary professor back when I was beginning my preparations for ministry. It is a memoir about his journey from personal faith through the corridors of academics where he was a professor at some of the most prestigious university seminaries in the land and sojourned on to a personal faith renewed and refreshed. As I was reading I kept seeing references to the familiar theologian Karl Barth mentioned. I remember reading some time ago a story about Barth that I wasn’t sure if it was a simple legend or if the story was actually accurate. Turns out that it was indeed most likely accurate, though it took place many years ago. This brilliant scholar/theologian/writer/ was giving a lecture when the following took place:

He was at the Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago during his lecture tour of the U.S. in 1962. After his lecture, during the Q & A time, a student asked this deep thinker – Karl Barth - if he could summarize his whole life’s work in theology in a sentence. Barth allegedly said something like “Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother’s knee: ‘Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.’ That is the simple, basic story. If I were to make such a statement, I would be charged with being simple minded. In fact, we were often ridiculed for such basic foundational beliefs as having “only” a “Sunday School faith.” You can understand why I so very much appreciate our children, youth, and adult Sunday school teachers here at Jonestown Methodist. The reality was that it became a profoundly impacting statement not because of the words that Barth chose but because of the life testimony that provided the context to present it as his basic belief. Given all Barth’s knowledge, all his writings, lectures, and conversations, this was the transformational truth, his story.

If you were to narrow down your faith into a single sentence, a foundation upon which your faith stands, or a sentence which provides a springboard to share the Gospel with someone who is skeptical or searching for a path of faith to the Lord – what might it be for you? More importantly, beyond the words, how does your life and faith present the message of God’s love, grace, forgiveness, hope, peace and joy as believable, available to any who seeks it?

How does the love of God properly provide the setting, clarity, understanding, and truth to deliver the message that God desires for us - - to be set from the fear of judgment... to discover the beauty of new life, grace, healing, and mercy... to embrace the invitation to be the children of God... to be empowered to live, walk, and minister in the Holy Spirit as a child of God... forever? Paul encouraged the Philippian believers with a simple basic invitation that we do well to hear these many years later: [Con’t Next Page]

PONDER with Lewis....



Isaiah 55: 10 and 11; “As the rain and the snow

come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yield seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Moses in Deuteronomy makes several long teaching reminder speeches to the people of Israel. Example-Deut 4: 5 and 6; “See, I have taught you decrees and laws as the Lord my God command me, so that you may follow them in the land you are entering to take possession of it. Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding the nations.” (CON’T NEXT PAGE->)

[PONDER Con’t] 9: “Only

Next News:

September Newsletter
Deadline : August 18th.

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[From the Pastor Con't]

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ [in other words if knowing Jesus has had an impact on your life...], if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

With all the theology and words that Paul taught, the volumes combined in all his letters and messages, he focuses our attention not on his words, but on the impact of knowing Jesus, and the invitation to a life that is different because it has encountered the living Jesus Christ who opens the door to the Father and welcomes the power of the Spirit – not simply the words, not simply the teachings, but a life wondrously built upon a basic fundamental belief. The words simply point to a living truth. Like Barth -- we start with the basics... “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so”....

~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 – Saturday August 10 – 1PM at Jonestown Methodist. We will be having our traditional preparation times for the distribution:

Thursday, August 8, 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, August 9, 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.

AUGUST CARE TEAM

Week of August 4th

Jim and Judy Mowry 717-279-0809

Week of August 11th

Ingrid Steiner 717-585-4001

Week of August 18th

Karen Bene 717-673-2833

Week of August 25th

Nancy Rautzhan 717-865-3061

be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.”

The Psalmist in Chapt. 119: 11 says “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” and verses 105 and 106; “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws.”

Gigi Graham Tchivididjiam wrote these words about Psalm 119 and Isaiah 55: “The Word of God is a living word...Psalm 119 says that the Word cleanses, strengthens, delights, teaches, saves, comforts, directs and gives understand. What a resource! I am so grateful that I was taught early to use it in seeking direction and guidance, to employ it in times of discouragement, disappointment and loneliness.

For whatever life holds for you and your family in the future, weave the unfailing fabric of God’s Word through your heart and mind. I will hold strong, even if the rest of my life unravels.”

Paul gave Timothy these words in Timothy 3: 16 and 17, “All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteous, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The principles for everyday living and the answers to life’s needs are in the bible. What has the bible done for your life? Is it your guide book?



Joins us at the Kid's Club

Who: Kids entering 1st grade thru 6th grade

2nd Sundays

Next Meeting: Aug. 11th 5:30-7:30PM



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.

In addition, John is leading his Sunday School class on a class journey through Hebrews each Sunday morning.



CHURCH PICNIC

One Church Rally Day Service in the Jonestown park pavillion followed by pot-luck picnic on August 25th at 10:30am. Bring a lawn chair if you would like and a dish to share! Beef & turkey bar b que provided.

**AUGUST MIS-
SION PARTNER**



Our special offering for August is for LCCM— Lebanon County Christian Ministries—a ministry that shares the love of Jesus through food, shelter, and people connections to promote personal well-being and a healthy community. Our congregation not only supports this ministry through this mission offering, but personally making and serving people once a month at the Free Noon Meal. (see below.)

JUNE FINANCIAL UPATE

Budgeted for **June** = \$11,113.00
Received in total for all categories = \$12,511.00
Expenses \$11,068.00

LCCM NOON MEAL

First Fridays, 10:00am

Jonestown UMC July Free Noon Meal will be on

August 2nd and September 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
August 10th @ 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 8/8 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 8/9, 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)

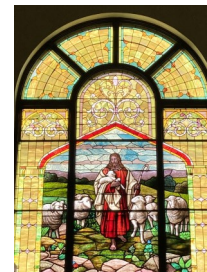
Kay Horner (717-865-5538)

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 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 (son-in-law of Rev. Dr. Rodney Shearer who has recently spoken at our Red Rose Sunday); Four individuals were commissioned toward elders orders and one toward deacons orders.

Disaffiliation—General Conference/Annual Conference/Jonestown UMC

As mentioned above, the door through the normal disaffiliation process has officially closed as of December 31, 2023. Because of the threatened anticipated expense levied against churches in our conference, our church and 50+ other churches entered a legal challenge to allow our congregation to depart the denomination. To update, we are awaiting what is called “Summary Judgement” by the judge in Montgomery County hearing the case who will decide if there are sufficient ground to proceed and hear the case in court. If so, the case may be heard in the first half of 2025. If he refuses to move the case forward, congregations will be left with a choice to stay or pursue other directions for the future. We’ll keep you posted. Keep our leadership, the Conference leadership, and the court in your prayers as we continue to attempt to seek/discern God’s direction forward.

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
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February -JOY	\$998.00	(Some people give to this all year long and everything goes to JOY
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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.
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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.
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May -UMCOR	\$1058.00	Disaster relief through One Great Hour of Sharing
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June -Red Rose	\$6245.00	The Trustees are supposed to designate a project each year for this offering. None was designated in 2023.
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July-ALIGN	\$350.00
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August -LCCM	\$825.00
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September -Shoebox	\$1200.00	This is for the shoebox postage for the boxes we fill. This is handled through Samaritans Purse.
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October – Lebanon Rescue Mission	\$1735.00
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November -Bill Lovelace	\$330.00
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December -Northern Lebanon 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.
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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 the to April offering to the Northern Lebanon Ministerium. We do have people that provide support to 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
- August Thursdays, 4:00pm-7:00pm-JOY Pantry
- August Tuesdays/Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm-JOY Pantry
- August 2, 10:00am-LCCM Noon Meal
- August 3,17 8:30am—Yoga Stretching
- August 5, 6:30pm—SPRC meeting
- August 6, 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet
- August 8, 4:00pm—unload trailer 4-7pm-ClothingCloset
- August 9, 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- August 10, 8:00am—Men's Breakfast
- August 10, 1pm—Food Box Distribution.
- August 11, 5:30pm-7:30pm—Kids Club
- August 12, 10am-Noon-Clothing Closet; 6:30pm— Church Council
- August 19, 6:30pm—Trustee Meeting
- August 20, 10am-Noon-Clothing Closet
- August 22, 4-7pm—Clothing Closet
- August 25, 10:30am—Church Picnic (Service only at Jonestown Park Pavilion)
- August 26, 10am-Noon—Clothing Closet

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 August 6th, 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 August 6th, 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: 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.”



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Joy Wolfe
- 11 Rachel Govelovich
- 14 Suzanne Dubeck
- 14 Rick Kline
- 14 Norie Kreiser
- 14 Bernadine Rickard
- 16 Bernie Showers, III
- 17 Daymon Long
- 17 Erin Reichl
- 17 Victoria Baird
- 18 Amanda Wolfe
- 18 Heather Lambrecht
- 18 Stacy Fink
- 20 Adam Lenge
- 26 Sherri Eisenhauer
- 28 Cheryl Major
- 30 Mackenzie Fahler
- 30 William Hillegas
- 31 Katelyn 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.



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Matt and Stacy Fink
- 9 Dan & Sherri Eisenhauer
- 10 Kelley & Keith Rudy
- 11 Mel & Deb Unger
- 21 Travis & Michelle Unger

My Prayer List:

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August 2024



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