



## Jonestown United Methodist Church

### February 2026 Newsletter

#### From the Pastor:

< Peace That the World Cannot Give >

Dear Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we move into the second month of 2026, many of us continue to feel the weight of uncertain times. The world around us remains unsettled. Our nation faces deep division, global conflicts persist, and many families carry personal burdens: health concerns, financial pressures, grief, and quiet fears about the future.

Yet in the midst of all this, God speaks to His people with calm authority and deep compassion. His message is not panic, and it is not despair. It is peace.

Jesus says to us: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

This is not a promise that the world will suddenly become peaceful. It is a promise that our hearts can be peaceful because Christ is with us.

The peace of God is different from the peace the world offers.

The world's peace depends on circumstances-good news, strong leaders, stable economies. When those things fail, peace quickly disappears.

But the peace Jesus gives is rooted in His presence. It remains even when circumstances do not change.

Many of our senior members have lived long enough to know this truth well. You have seen seasons of stability and seasons of loss. You have learned that life does not always become easier, but God never becomes less faithful.

The psalmist reminds us: "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18)

When days feel heavy and hearts feel tired, especially during the winter months, this promise matters deeply. God is not distant. He is near. He is attentive. He is faithful.

In a time when so much feels uncertain, Scripture offers us simple and steady anchors. These are not complicated instructions. They are faithful practices that sustain us.

1. Bring everything to God in prayer.

God does not ask us to carry our worries alone. He invites us to place them in His hands.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6)

Prayer does not have to be long or eloquent. Sometimes the most honest prayers are the shortest:

"Lord, give me peace." "Lord, help my family." "Lord, guide our nation."

When we pray, God promises something precious: "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:7)

This peace guards us when the news cannot.



**PONDER with**

**Lewis....**

**DO YOU LOVE  
ME?**

In John's gospel, John tells in Chapter 21 about an experience he and some of the other disciples had with Jesus at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee), John 21:15-17 (The Message)- "After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes master, you know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' He then asked a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' 'Yes, Master, you know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Shepherd my sheep.' Then he said it a third time; 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked for the third time, 'Do you love me?' so he answered, 'Master, you know everything there is to know. You've got to know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.' "

In these verses, two Greek verbs are used for "love": Agapao-to love deeply, used for divine love and the love which the law demanded;

#### ***MARCH Newsletter***

**Deadline : February 11th.**

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

[From the Pastor con't]

2. Live with faithful steadiness.

In uncertain times, faithfulness itself becomes a testimony. God does not ask us to control the future. He asks us to trust Him today.

"Stand firm. Let nothing move you." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Standing firm often looks very ordinary:

- continuing in worship,
- choosing forgiveness,
- showing patience,

trusting God one day at a time.

Many of you carry a quiet wisdom shaped by years of walking with God. This kind of steady faith is deeply needed not only by our church, but by our families and our grandchildren.

3. Let love be visible in small ways.

In a divided and anxious world, Christian love shines brightest when it is lived out simply and sincerely.

"Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Love becomes visible through small acts:

- a phone call to someone who is alone,
- a word of encouragement,
- a prayer offered quietly,
- a gentle response when others speak harshly.

These acts may seem small, but God uses them to bring light into dark places.

Jesus reminds us: "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

We shine not by arguing louder, but by loving faithfully.

Jonestown UMC has been a place of prayer, faith, and service for generations. In times like these, the Church is called to be a place of calm, not chaos; of hope, not fear; of truth spoken in love.

Let our church be known for:

prayer that is sincere,  
faith that is steady,  
love that is visible,  
and hope that does not fade.

As we live this way, we offer a quiet but powerful witness to our community.

As we continue this journey through 2026, I offer this blessing for you:

May the Lord give you peace when the world feels unsettled.

May He strengthen you when you feel weary.

May He comfort you when your heart feels heavy.

May your home be filled with calm, your days with purpose, and your life with hope.

And may the peace of Christ guard your heart—today and always.

In Christ's abiding love,

Pastor An

Jonestown United Methodist Church

(Ponder ...Continued)

Remembering his three denials of the Lord and aware now of his weakness uses the word phileo in his reply.

In the third time that Jesus asked the question about his love, He used the phileo word that Peter had used and used again in reply.

Peter, as he remembered his past, felt unworthy to express his love to Christ by the strong word agapao and used the weaker word phileo.

Question for each of us. If we would be asked this question, what would our response to Jesus be?

Psalm 89 gives some thoughtful statements on love.

Verses 1 &2 " I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations, For I said "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish your faithfulness."

Verse 14 "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."

Gloria and William Gaither wrote a hymn called " I Could Never Out Love the Lord.-verse 1 and chorus "There've been times when giving and loving brought pain, And I promised I would never let it happen again. But I found out that loving was well worth the risk, And that even in losing you win." - chorus; " I'm going to live the way He wants me to live, I'm going to give until there's just no more to give, I'm going to love, love 'til there's just no more love-I could never –never out love the Lord!

My life, my love, I give to Thee!

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:** Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will be meeting in February on Tuesday the 10th. We are planning a Valentines lunch out. At this time we are planning to go to the Hilltop Café at the Lebanon County Vo-Tech for an 11:30 reservation. Please sign up in the narthex by Feb. 1st. Indicate if you will need a ride. Those would meet at the church parking lot by 11:00 am. All ladies are welcome.

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 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 resume on Friday, February 6th, starting at 6 pm until 9pm. Come and go at your convenience. We will meet in the classroom next to the nursery. Bring any craft or project you would like to work on. Puzzles and coloring books are available too. Join us for some fellowship and fun. Pizza is ordered for those wanting dinner. Call Karen Bene if you have questions at 717-673-2833. Hope you can join us.

**KIDS CLUB:** February 8, 2025 from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music, snacks

Heroes of the Bible Series.

### **Don't miss our great Sunday School Opportunities:**

Nancy Rautzhan: Adult Bible Study

John Hall: Adult

Gary Miele: Youth

Brenda Rudy: Children

### **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](http://www.jonestownumc.org) and the newer site is [www.jonestownmethodist.org](http://www.jonestownmethodist.org). Keep an eye on both sites. Are you interested in helping with keeping the sites updated?

**Food Box Distribution** Food Box packing February 13, 2026 at 6:00pm. February Food Box Distribution, Saturday February 14th 1:00pm.

### **RELEASE TIME:**

Anyone interested in helping with Release Time in any capacity please see the flyers on the Narthex table. Release Time began on October 9 2025.

**NAR-ANON:** A new 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.

FEBRUARY MISSION PARTNER –

**JOY Pantry**

Special Offering Envelopes for JOY will be available Feb. in the narthex and on the windowsills.

Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

**DECEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Budgeted for **DECEMBER** = \$12,400.00

Actual for Dec. Income = \$16,592.00

Actual Expenses for Dec. \$12,918.00

**LCCM NOON MEAL**

**First Fridays, 10:00am**

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

**February 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**

**February 14 @ 1PM**

Area United Methodist Churches have been distributing food boxes over the last two years to needy families in our area. You can help prepare for assembly Thursday 2/12 in the afternoon, late Friday morning 2/13 and help assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM, and/or help distribute the boxes to those who come on Saturday 2/14 at 1PM. (Setup at ~12:30PM)

**OUR 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 & Eleanor 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)

\*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



Nursing Home on Tuck St. in Lebanon. Cards can be sent to their home addresses, as they can for Lewis Artz, Phil Lengle, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, Bonnie Rickard, Peggy Fortna, and Linda Lee. A list of these addresses for all is on the JOY table in the narthex. All would appreciate knowing you are thinking of them! Don't forget the Care Booklets in the circular rack available for you to take. Since we are all members of a "Care Team", the Care Coordinator will contact members of the church when a need arises to see who can help with a meal or any other need. If you would be willing to make and deliver a meal to someone when the need arises, please let Pam Gray know, so she has a list of who to call to help. Also, if you know of a care concern, please contact her.



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](http://joypantry.org). Please mail monetary donations to: JOY Food Pantry, P.O. Box 121, Jonestown, PA 17038. This past month we donated about 282 lbs. of food to the pantry. Thank you for your generosity particularly at this time of lost jobs and food shortages!



**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. Some additional items needed at this time are: corn and red beets, baked beans, canned pasta, chunky soup, Ramen soup, cream soups,

**KID'S CLUB:** February 8, 2026 from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music, snacks

Continuing the Heroes of the Bible Series.

**YOUTH MINI RETREAT:** Saturday February 14th, 8:30am breakfast & devotions in downstairs kitchen, 11am snow tubing, lunch out, then back to church for afternoon activities. End 5pm.

**WINTER SOCIAL:** Dinner Detective Game followed by Karaoke Roulette. For ages 8-99. Saturday March 14th 5:30-7:30. For tickets and info see any member of The Rock Band - Lori, Jody, Tiffany, Caydence or Arina. Please come join us for a night of fun, food and fellowship. Test your detective skills with our Who am I? Game - a who's who of old testament characters. Dinner will include an appetizer, choice of entree, drinks and dessert.

**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. Ellie Artz and Frank Sebastian continue in the nursing home, and would love to hear from you or see you if you can visit. Both are in Lebanon

## CHURCH EVENTS

### WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Tuesdays 6:30pm- Conversation 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

### FEBRUARY EVENTS:

- Feb 6 Fri. 10:00am—LCCM Noon Meal
- Feb 8 Sun. 5:30-7:30pm Kid's Club
- Feb 9 Mon 6:45 Church Council (Ad Board)
- Feb 11 Newsletter Articles Due for February
- Feb 13 Fri. 6:00pm—Food Box Assembly
- Feb 14 Sat. 1:00pm—Food Box Distribution.
- Feb 14 Sat. 8:30 am-Youth Mini Retreat
- Feb 16 Mon Trustees 6:30
- Feb 16 Mon Worship Mtg 6:30
- Feb 18 Wed Ash Wednesday Service at Ono Church 7:00pm
- Feb 21 Saturday . 10:00am-1:00pm—NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day

Lenten Service Will be held at the following locations and dates at 7:00pm:

2/18. Ono. Jin Chan An. I am the Resurrection & the Life John 11:25  
2/25 Fredericksburg Robb Faller. Good Shepherd John 10:11  
3/4 Emmanuel Brian Rhea. Bread of Life John 6:35  
3/11 Jonestown. Matt Whayland. Way Truth Life John 14:6  
3/18 Belle Grove Gail Rickard. Light of the world John 8:12  
3/25 Lickdale. Tom Robinson. I Am the Gate John 10:9

## **CELEBRATE OUR GUESTS:**

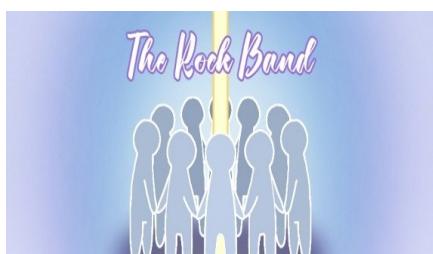
We have seen a number of guests joining us for worship and at a variety of events sponsored by the ministries of Jonestown Church. There are some small bags to be handed out to our guests that include a brochure about our church, a refrigerator magnet with the contact information for our congregation, 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 on February 3, 10, 17 and 24 - 6:30-7:30pm**

Please join me for prayer. We will have a short devotion, and then we will spend time with our Father. Personal prayer, prayer for our country, our community, our church family, and each other. It will be ALL of our time with Him. Teri Light



**With Lori Jackson Tuesdays continuing on February 3, 10, 17 and 24 7:00pm-8:30pm**

**THE ROCK BAND:** - Tuesday night youth Bible study. Current study on Spiritual warfare - "Girl's With Swords" by Lisa Bevere.

**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????

## **SUNDAY INCLEMENT WEATHER?**

In case of inclement weather, check for an email from the church, or text from a church member, to let you know if church is cancelled.

In case of cancellation, there could possibly be an online service, (@ Jonestown United Methodist Church on Facebook), at approximately 10:00am.



### **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.”**

### **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Bryan Rudy
- 5 Travis Unger
- 6 Shirley Fortna
- 6 Ryan Showers
- 6 Sawyer Showers-Mann
- 7 Harry Moyer
- 7 Maddox Showers
- 8 Doris Crouse
- 23 Peg Fortna
- 24 Connie Mentzer
- 25 Dawn Miele
- 25 Ernie Shuey
- 26 Judy Mowry
- 27 Caydence Williams



### **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Frank & Jan Sebastian

### **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:**

- Scripture Reading
- Streaming/video/PowerPoint
- Church Decorating for various seasons
- Serving on our leadership teams
  - Staff Parish Relations
  - Nominations/Lay Leadership\
  - Trustees
  - Outreach
- Kids Club / Childrens ministries Volunteer
- NL Clothes Closet/Joy Pantry
- For any further information on any of these opportunities, send a note to:  
[info@jonestownumc.org](mailto:info@jonestownumc.org)

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Holy Communion Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	<b>2</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Sunday School 10:00 Kick Punch 6:00 Ripped 7:00	<b>3</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM NL Clothes Closet 4:00-7:00	<b>6</b> JOY Pantry 10:00-Noon LCCM Noon Meal 10:00	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15 Kids Club 5:30-7:30	<b>9</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Sunday School 10:00 KickPunch 6:00 Church Council 6:45 Ripped 7:00	<b>10</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>11</b> Newsletter Articles Due for March	<b>12</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM Unload Trailer 4:00 Nar-Anon 6:30	<b>13</b> JOY Pantry 10:00-Noon Food Box Assembly 6:00	<b>14</b> Food Box Distribution 1:00
<b>15</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	<b>16</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Kick Punch 6:00 Worship Mtg 6:30 Trustees 6:30 Ripped 7:00	<b>17</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday Lenten Service 7:00pm Ono Church	<b>19</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM	<b>20</b> JOY Pantry 10:00-Noon	<b>21</b> NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day 10:00-1:00
<b>22</b> Worship 8:45/11:00 Sunday School 10:00 Praise Team Reh 10:15	<b>23</b> AA Meeting 6:00 Sunday School 10:00 Kick Punch 6:00 Ripped 7:00	<b>24</b> JOY Pantry 10-Noon Conversations With The Father 6:30 The Rock Band 7:00	<b>25</b> Lenten Service 7:00pm Fredericksburg UMC	<b>26</b> JOY Pantry 4-7PM Nar-Anon 6:30	<b>27</b> JOY Pantry 10:00-Noon	<b>28</b>