

# Jonestown United Methodist Church

## May 2026 Newsletter

From the Pastor: **“Growing in Grace, Living in Love”**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

As we enter the month of May, we begin to see the beauty of growth all around us. Trees become fuller, flowers open, and the earth seems to breathe more deeply again. After the quiet waiting of winter and the joy of Easter in April, May gently reminds us that new life is not only something we celebrate, but also something that continues to grow.

That is true in faith as well.

Many of us would welcome a life that changes quickly and easily. We would like peace to come fast, relationships to heal at once, and faith to become strong without struggle. But most of the time, God works in quieter ways. He often shapes us patiently, faithfully, and little by little.

The Bible says: “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

What a comforting promise. God does not begin His work in us and then walk away. He is patient with us. He continues what He starts. Even when progress feels slow, God is still at work.

That truth matters, because many people carry hidden burdens. Some are dealing with health concerns. Some are grieving losses that others cannot see. Some are worried about family, finances, or the future of our country and our world. Some are simply tired. In times like these, it is easy to feel that we should be stronger, more settled, or further along than we are.

But God does not ask us to be finished. He asks us to remain open to His grace.

Sometimes spiritual growth does not look dramatic. Sometimes it looks like choosing patience one more time. Sometimes it is a prayer whispered in weakness. Sometimes it shows kindness when life feels heavy. Sometimes it is continuing to trust God even when answers are slow.

This, too, is holy growth.

Jesus said: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:35)

Those words are simple, but they reach deeply into everyday life. Faith is not only what we say on Sunday morning. It is also how we speak at home, how we treat neighbors, how we respond when we are disappointed, and how we carry ourselves in a weary world.

In a culture that can feel hurried, divided, and often harsh, a gentle Christian life becomes a powerful witness. A patient word, a listening ear, a faithful prayer, a small act of service—these things may seem ordinary, but God often uses ordinary love to do extraordinary work.

**Continued Page 2**



**PONDER** with

Lewis...

**GRACE**

Ephesians 2: 1-10- The Message  
It wasn't that long ago that you mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose His temper and do away with the whole lot of us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on His own, with no help from us! Then He picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

Now God has us where He wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all His idea, and all His work. All we do is Trust Him enough to let Him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!

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June Newsletter

Deadline: May 13<sup>th</sup>

Jonestown United Methodist

109 West Market Street

PO Box 750

Jonestown, PA 17038

Phone: (717) 865-4369

Email:

[info@jonestownumc.org](mailto:info@jonestownumc.org)

Web: [www.jonestownumc.org](http://www.jonestownumc.org)

[www.jonestownmethodist.org](http://www.jonestownmethodist.org)

Facebook: Jonestown United Methodist Church

[From the Pastor continued]

In

**our own community, we know how much a steady presence matters. We have seen how simple faithfulness blesses others. A visit, a card, a phone call, a meal, a kind conversation after worship, these are not small things. They are part of how God cares for people.**

**That is why May can be a good month to ask a simple question:**

**How is God inviting me to grow in grace and live more deeply in love?**

**For some, that may mean slowing down enough to pray each day.**

**For others, it may mean letting go of an old resentment.**

**For others, it may mean reaching out to someone who feels forgotten.**

**For still others, it may mean receiving God's love more personally and trusting Him in a new way.**

**Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, please remember this: God is not only interested in great moments. He is also present in quiet faithfulness. He is forming us in ways we may not always see right away.**

**And that gives us hope.**

**As followers of Christ, we do not grow by our own strength alone. We grow by grace. We grow through worship, prayer, Scripture, fellowship, repentance, kindness, and daily trust. Over time, God shapes our hearts so that our lives begin to reflect the character of Jesus more clearly.**

**That kind of growth matters not only for us, but for our children, our grandchildren, our neighbors, and our church. The world does not only need more opinions. It needs more people whose lives are rooted in grace and shaped by love.**

**As we continue through this spring season, may we not rush past the quiet work of God. May we welcome it. May we give thanks for it. And may we become, by His grace, people who bring peace, encouragement, and hope wherever we go.**

**We would be honored to walk this journey of faith with you at Jonestown United Methodist Church. Whether you have worshiped with us for many years or are simply looking for a place to begin, you are warmly 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 the Lord continue His good work in you. May He strengthen your heart, deepen your faith, and help you grow in grace and live in love. With Christ's love,**

**Pastor An  
Jonestown United Methodist Church**

(Ponder...Continued)

We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join Him in work He does, the good work He has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

D.L.Moody, a great preacher and evangelist of the past was involved in the use of the hymn "Grace Greater Than Our Sin." First verse: Marvelous Grace of our loving Lord, Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt! Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured-there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

4<sup>th</sup> verse-Marvelous, infinite matchless grace, Freely bestowed on All who believe! You that are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? Chorus—Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Not only be a grace Receiver. Also be a grace Giver. You can demonstrate grace to others through acts of kindness, generosity, encouragement or forgiveness.

You can say, "I love you", but be sure that you also demonstrate that love!

"For God so loved the world that He gave "... John 3:16

**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:** Our ladies' group, "Friends Together", will not meet in May. We will have a potluck picnic at Memorial Lake Park on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00. All ladies are welcome to come, and bring a dish to share. More information will follow in May with a sign up. We will then take a break for summer and begin our meetings again in September.

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 Spring and Summer 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 be on Friday, May 1, starting at 6 pm until 9. 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.

**June 5** will be Ladies Night out in June, starting at 6 pm until 9. Also, we will take a break for the months of July and August as summer schedules are busy.

**The King's Kids:** May 17, 2026, from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This is the last King's Kids before the summer months' break.

There will be no King's Kids over the summer months.

For 1st grade -5th grade

There will be lessons, games, music, and snacks Continuing the Heroes of the Bible Series.



**RELEASE TIME:**

Release time for this school year is over as of April 17. Watch newsletters and bulletins for next school year's opportunities.

**NAR-ANON:** A group meeting at the church on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> 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

**FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION:** Food Box Packing is on May 8, 2026 at 6:00pm. May Food Box Distribution is on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 1:00pm.

MAY MISSION PARTNER –UMCOR  
Special Offering Envelopes for UMCOR, One Great  
Hour of Sharing, will be available for May in the  
narthex and on the windowsills in the sanctuary.  
Envelopes for NL Ministerium are always available.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**  
2026 Budget per month = \$12,500  
March actual figures  
Income = \$11,650  
Expenses = \$11,000

**LCCM NOON MEAL**  
**First Fridays, 10:00am**  
**Jonestown UMC Service at**  
**Free Noon Meal will be on**  
**MAY 1st**

JUMC is responsible for preparing the  
noon meal the first Friday of each month  
through volunteers from our congregation,  
adults in the winter, fall, and spring, and  
our Youth Ministry in the  
summer. Currently we make about 100  
lunches distributed to those in need noon-  
1pm. If you are interested in helping,  
contact Howard Lee (717-228-7249) or  
Bob Hillegas (717-865-7478)

**Free Food Box Distribution**  
**MAY 9 @ 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 5/7 in the  
afternoon, late Friday morning 5/8 and help  
assemble boxes Friday evening at 6PM,  
and/or help distribute the boxes to those who  
come on Saturday 5/9 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 Artz  
(717-865-3447)

John & Nancy Rhen (717-865-4317)

Teri Light (717-813-8347)

Gary Miele (717-383-2941)

Team 2: Jeff & Diana Waltermyer  
(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 Waltermyer (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:



**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 Lenge, Nancy and John Rhen, Doris Crouse, Bonnie Rickard, Peggy Fortna, and Linda Lee. A list of these addresses 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.



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, 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: 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!

## 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

### MAY EVENTS:

- May 1 Fri. 10:00am---LCCM Noon Meal
- May 1, Fri Ladies Night Out 4:00pm -6:00pm
- May 8 Fri 6:00pm--- Food Box Assembly
- May 9 Sat 1:00pm ---Food Box Distribution
- May 11 Mon 6:45--- Church Council ( Ad Board)
- May 13 Newsletter Articles Due for June
- May 16 Saturday 10am-Noon NL Clothes Closet Community Shopping Day
- May 17 Sun. 5:30-7:30pm--- King's Kids
- May 18 Mon Trustees 6:30pm

We need someone that would be willing to keep the large sign in front of the church up to date with current events. It entails changing the letters when the events need updating. If you could take this on, please let Pat Sheehan know and he will give more details.

Thanks.

**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?

**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, etc.

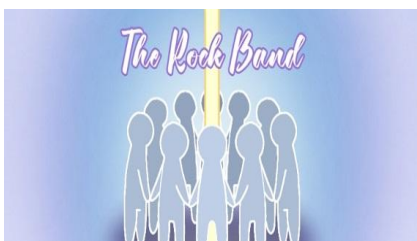
In addition to personally welcoming and getting to know people you are either meeting for the first time or are getting re-acquainted with, we are inviting those normally attending to share one of the guest bags while introducing yourself and personally welcoming guests/visitors.

**CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

**Tuesday evenings on May 5, 12, 19 and 26 - 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 May 5, 12, 19 and 26 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????

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

Psalm 97:12 “Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.”



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

5 Carol Luch  
5 Ryan Showers, Jr.  
5 Laura Edcius  
6 Ryan Unger  
7 Dylan Lambrecht  
7 Lorna Sheehan  
7 Donald Werni  
8 Christine Spangler  
9 Karson Showers  
12 Kashton Showers-Mann  
13 Frank Baird  
14 Sharon Ingram  
18 Ruth Winklebleck  
21 Phil Lenge  
30 Latisha Baird

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

11 Steve & Claudia Clark  
18 Brad & Kim Rhoads  
25 Chuck & Ingrid Steiner  
31 Ernest & Elaine Shuey

**PASTOR AN'S MAY SERMON SERIES**

**May 2026 Sunday Worship Sermon Schedule**

As part of our Easter Season journey, “Living as Easter People,” we invite the congregation to prepare prayerfully for worship each week by reading the Scripture passages in advance and coming ready to receive God’s Word together.

**Sunday, May 3, 2026 Scripture: Acts 2:42–47 Sermon Title: A Church Shaped by Grace**  
**Sunday, May 10, 2026 Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3–5 Sermon Title: A Faith That Lives in a Family**  
**Sunday, May 17, 2026 Scripture: Colossians 3:12–17 Sermon Title: Clothed with Christ**  
**Sunday, May 24, 2026 Scripture: John 15:12–13 Sermon Title: Greater Love**  
**Sunday, May 31, 2026 Scripture: Hebrews 12:1–2 Sermon Title: Running the Race with Faith**  
**We encourage all who are able to read the Scripture each week ahead of time, pray over it, and come with open hearts as we continue to grow together in faith during this Easter season.**

**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](http://www.jonestownumc.org). Or access directly at the following address: <http://www.jonestownumc.org/egiving.html>.

**Please Note:** As we are sure everyone is aware this winter has been a challenge for the church. We missed two Sundays entirely and had several others where the attendance was low due to inclement weather. Those Sundays not only affect the attendance but also the support through offerings. Unfortunately, the missionaries and local missions we support and the regular expenses continue. So, please join us each Sunday as we worship the God of all. Also, if possible, help to make up some of the lost offerings during this spring as we celebrate the return of warm weather and the beauty of this earth that God has created.

Thanks!

The Finance Committee

# May 2026

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

