



Jasper United Methodist Church



85 West Church Street, Jasper, GA 30143

Phone: 706-253-2100, Fax: 706-253-2110, www.jasperumc.org

Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church / YouTube: Jasper UMC GA

May 2023

As Seen from the Meadows

As we begin the month of May, we will be celebrating a staff member's time with us and I want to share with you all my plans for July. I also want to thank everyone who read last month's newsletter.

In August 2019 a young man joined our staff to assume the duties of Director of Youth/Marketing Ministry, Eric Justice. Most everyone knows by now that Eric will start a new job with the Joy House Counseling Center on May 1, 2023. He has spent four years sharing God's love with our youth and we are thankful for his heart and his passion for God. We wish him well as he follows this calling in his life. Moving forward, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and I will place an ad on the North Georgia United Methodist Conference website under job opening on May 1, 2023. We will receive resumes until May 31. Interviews will be scheduled during June. The goal is to have someone in place by July 1, 2023. This way the new person can work alongside Eric for the month of July. Please be in prayer for the Justice family, our youth group and our church as we navigate this transition.

July last year for me was a time of renewal for my soul and spirit. I had never done it before but I took the whole month off for vacation. The years prior 2019, 2020, 2021 and the first six months of 2022 were filled with, well just a lot of tension, frustration and questions. There were moments, if given the chance, I would have retired just to get away from the tension, frustration and questions. So in place of retirement I took the month of July 2022 as vacation. Now during that time I focused, thanks to Vacation Bible School, on Matthew 14:22-33, Peter walking on the water with Jesus. Take some time to read it for yourself once again. I read the text; I prayed concerning the text and I pondered the text repeatedly. God did a work within me with these words and I realized I was focusing on the storm around me and not focused on Jesus. I am sharing this again because I am planning to take most of July 2023 for vacation to renew and revive my soul and spirit. I am nowhere near the place I was in 2022 and I do not want to go there again. I feel this time of renewal once a year can help me keep those feelings at bay. I am planning to take the first three weeks off in July, including Sundays July 2, 9, and 16. I will preach Sundays, July 23 and 30, but the week between will be vacation, as I will be working on things around our home that need attention. Please know that I will still be available in case of emergencies. Lydia and I have not ironed out all our plans for the time but as of right now, we should not be more than four hours away at any given time. As I write this I am not sure what my focus verse will be this year and I am seeking God's guidance to reveal it to me. Who know, it may come from VBS again this year. I ask for your understanding and your prayers.

Last month I spoke candidly concerning our financial situation and many folks have responded. The month of April's giving has been consistently better than the preceding months. I want to thank you and encourage us to continue. I know we are still seeing our finances in the red but it will take more months as April has been to bring us into the black. God is leading us that way; let's continue to follow.

As always, Lydia and I want to thank you for allowing us to serve you. We know what we do is a calling and we do not take that lightly. We also know it is a privilege and an honor, so thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Yours in Christ,

Greg



Registration for the 2023-2024 year is in full swing! We still have openings with limited availability in some classes. For more information about our program and to register visit www.jasperumc.org.

Wednesday, May 17: Last day of preschool
 Wednesday, May 17: Pre-K graduation 9:00 am
 Wednesday, May 17: Tiny Tots, two's and three's;
 Spring recital 11:00 am.

Peace, Love, Joy,
 Kelly Wisniewski, Preschool Director



May Sunday Acolytes

May 7: Mackenzie McKean
 Kayson Moore
 May 14: Vera Payne
 Sophie Lindsey
 May 21: Edy Countryman
 Hannah Countryman
 May 28: Gracie Bail
 William Bail



United
 Women
 in Faith

SEEKERS CIRCLE:

The Seekers Circle is looking for more ladies to join our small group. We enjoy fellowship, hear devotions, and share prayer needs. A few of us stay afterwards to clean the refrigerator and all of us leave with a renewed connection with our sisters in Christ. Join us on **Thursday, May 11 at 10:00 am in room 106** and always on the 2nd Thursday.

The refrigerator will be purged and cleaned on Thursday, May 11. Everything that has expired will be discarded. Anything without an identifying group name will be discarded as well.

DORCAS CIRCLE:

Ladies: Please join us on **Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm in room 106** for our next Dorcas Circle meeting for fun, refreshments, fellowship, laughter, and devotions. For more information, contact Suzanne Hardison at 770-894-1505.



Sunday, May 14: KOK will be performing at the 11:00 am worship service.

Calling all superheroes! Our Vacation Bible School will be held **June 19th, 20th, and 21st (three days)** this year! We are in need of those who would like to serve in this ministry. Here are some of the areas we need people to serve:

Director of Preschool
Bible Storyteller (Preschool & Elementary)
Preschool/Kindergarten Leaders
Student Guides to take them from station to station
Craft Leader (Preschool & Elementary)
Assembly Leader & Puppet Guide
Recreation Leader (Preschool & Elementary)
Snack Leaders for Children
Snack Leaders for Adults
Clean Up Crew

If you would like to help, call (706) 253-2100 or email me at kwisniewski@jasperumc.org.



VBS invites children ages 3 through rising 6th graders to answer the call to serve God together. Join the Professor and Super Meer, the adorable meerkat, as young Heroes learn to strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build

each other up. **Online registration will begin in May. You can register at www.jasperumc.org.**

Kelly Wisniewski
 Director of Children's/Preschool Ministry
kwisniewski@jasperumc.org



The United Methodist Men meet the **second Thursday of each month in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm** beginning with dinner. The next gathering is **May 11th**. All men are invited to attend for fun, food, friendship and fellowship.

For more information contact Barry Hardison at barryhardison@windstream.net or 404-218-7539.



What a whirlwind of a year! I cannot believe that we are already at the end of the school year. The Summer

schedule is listed below for all you planners out there! You will not want to miss these events of fellowship.

As I follow God's leading and calling to serve our community through Biblical Counseling at the Joy House, my heart aches to leave the JUMC community and youth that I have been able to serve for the past 4 years. I know that God is preparing the next youth pastor to come in and serve the youth and JUMC as a whole. I will be staying through July 31st to help through this transition. My hope and prayer is that the seeds that have been sown continue to be watered and God will use the youth at JUMC to be light and salt to our community. Please be in prayer for the SPR and Pastor Greg as they begin to receive resumés and please pray for me and my family as we seek to be obedient to the calling that God has placed on our hearts.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our summer events!!

Monthly Schedule:

May 3: Gospel of John Bible Study (4:00-5:45)

May 7: Elevate Youth: Influence (4) (5:30-7:00)

May 10: Gospel of John Bible Study (4:00-5:45)

May 14: No Elevate (Mother's Day)

May 17: Gospel of John Bible Study (4:00-5:45)

May 21: Senior Recognition/Last Elevate

Summer Schedule:

June 14: Family Picnic at Bent Tree

June 16: Pool Party

June 19-21: Vacation Bible School

June 24: River Tubing/White Water Rafting

July TBA: Fireworks and Fair

July 16: Rome Braves Game

Soli Deo Gloria,

Eric Justice

Director of Youth & Marketing at JUMC

ejjustice@jasperumc.org

Stephen Ledford Memorial Scholarship

Applications for the Stephen Ledford Memorial Scholarship are now available. The scholarship is intended for a high school senior who is active in the Jasper United Methodist Church and plans to attend a post secondary school. **Senior Recognition Sunday will be held May 21, 2023. All seniors will be recognized and scholarships will be awarded.**

The application deadline is Tuesday, May 2, 2023. Applications will be available at the Church office and can be downloaded from the church website at www.jasperumc.org.

Music and Worship Arts

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

We are so blessed to have such wonderful teenagers in our church and this year is extra special with the Class of 2023. We look forward to what the future has in store and will be here with open arms (with a big hug) to welcome them home along their journey.

KIDS OF THE KINGDOM: Our Spring Musical, **ESTHER ORDINARY FAITH** will be presented in the 11 am service on Mother's Day, May 14 th . T-shirts have been ordered and we'll wear them along with a pair of jeans and tennis shoes that morning (extra t-shirts are available). Please plan on meeting in the choir room at 10:30 for warm-ups. Preschool KOK should meet in the choir room at 10:45 to put on their red robes.

YOUTH CHOIR PARENT/YOUTH MEETING will be May 7th at 4:45 pm. All youth and at least one Parent need to attend this final meeting for our **SUMMER MUSIC TOUR 2023** where daily schedule, rules and regulations, what to pack list, family assignments/duties will be given out. Final payment, t-shirt sizes and permission sheets are due at this time. **SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY** will be on May 21st

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED: cases of water and Gatorade are needed for SMT 23. We are now going to Charlotte, NC to be a part of **CROSS** missions at Myers Park Presbyterian Church with other youth for the week. We'll enjoy a day at Carowinds Amusement/Water Park on Friday and head home on Saturday, June 10 th .

Here's the Schedule for the next month for the 11 am service:

May 7th-11 am Communion-Chancel Choir

May 14th-Mother's Day-KOK Musical

May 21st-Senior Recognition Sunday-Chancel Choir

May 28 th -Chancel Choir

June 4 th -Youth Choir

Looking ahead:

July 2nd-ANNUAL PATRIOTIC SERVICE-one Worship Service at 11 am

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns

Soli Deo Gloria,

Roxanne B. Golden

Music/Worship Leader

rgolden@jasperumc.org



Fellowship Suppers

5:45-6:30 pm
Adult \$6.00
Child (under 10) \$4.00

Reservations and Cancellations

must be made by Monday noon of each week
Phone 706-253-2100

There are only 2 Wednesday Dinners in May;
the 3rd and the 10th. Be sure to get signed up!

Call the church office to have names put on the list.
(Names will be on the list for 2 months)

Pray for those who are in need of our Lord's Healing Touch:

Ricky Anglin, Donna Andrews, Elise Andrews, Beth & Bill Boggs, Joan Britton, Merry Grey Caylor, Phil Cole, Etta Cramer, Caitlin Donohue, Doris Estes, Judy Ferris, Chris Fairley, Sara Fowler, Patty Gehring, Jack Green, Nancy Hammer, Peggy Higgins, Don Larson, Steve Lawrence, Joyce Leist, Ruth Lovern, Jennie Mayes, Patricia Mayes, Linda Mills, George Montgomery, Julie Pate, Marcia Phillips, Richard Rambler, Mary Russell, Marcy Walker, Mildred Wilson

Wildwood: Marilyn Hannah (Elaine Hannah's sister-in-law)

Retreat at Jasper Assisted Living: Ruth Lovern, Carolyn Omundson, Nancy Whitmore, Hoyt & Carolyn Jenkins

Chestnut Ridge in Cumming: Marilu Weeks

Rock Creek Manor: Sam & Barbara Peddicord, Jerry Cohn, Donna Dicus, Dayton & Mary Ann Adams

Cedarhurst Assisted Living: George Hall

Our active military family: Kalyn Brooks, Lily Bowen, Max Edward Caylor, Alex Davis, Elliot Gallagher, Emerson Gantz, Dillon Gassaway, David Grossman, Alec Gryski, Dustin Hall, Shawn Hancock, Eric Hunter, Jason Kiernan, John Kiernan, Austin McCormick, Brian Mosiello, Justin Mosiello, Peter Nunn, Stanley Peters, Brett Rush, Mitch Rich, Nathan Russell, Jessie Sams, Ahmed Sohail, Jason Stanley, D. John Thomas, Jesse Vaughan, Steven Walsh, Nathan Watson, Jeremy Willis

Please call the church office if you have a prayer concern, update or to notify us of any family illnesses, deaths or hospitalizations.

For any emergencies after office hours,

Missions Matters

- A huge thank you for your support of Kenya mission fund raisers (Wed. dinner, Taste of JUMC/ Silent Auction). Praise the Lord. Our goal of \$4,000 for the medical clinic and \$1,500 for a house for a widow have been MET!!! Y'all are awesome!
- There are a few more Kenya students to sponsor. See the bulletin board in the narthex.



to Stan Adams, Steve Hammer and John Tatum for building a wonderful ramp on my house making it much easier with my wheel chair. I'll think of your kindness each time I use it.

Betty VanValkenburgh



May's focus is non-perishable food items.

Items can be brought to the church and placed in the C.A.R.E.S. corner in the narthex.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2023:

A lectionary is a collection of readings from Sacred Scripture. Readings are arranged according to the Church's calendar and are intended to be read at the regular, weekly gathering of God's people. The weekly readings include scriptures from the Old Testament, a Psalm, an Epistle and a Gospel.

If you would like to read along with the lectionary, the following are the May scriptures from the United Methodist Church Program Calendar:

May 7, 2023	Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
May 14, 2023	Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21
May 21, 2023	Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11
May 28, 2023	Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Sunday Worship Schedule

In-Person:

9:00 am-Contemporary Worship Service

9:45 am-Sunday School

11:00 am-Traditional Worship Service

Online:

Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church

YouTube: Jasper UMC GA

Office Hours:

9:00 am-4:00 pm Monday - Thursday

JUMC STAFF:

Greg Meadows	Pastor
Roxanne B. Golden	Music/Worship Leader
Eric Justice	Director of Youth Ministry & Marketing
Kelly Wisniewski	Director of Children's/Preschool Ministries
Cathy Riley	Office Manager
Peggy Litherland	Financial Manager
Paul Singletary	Director of Audio/Visual Ministry
Barbara Gaddis	Nursery Coordinator
Nathaniel Singletary	Contemporary Worship Leader
Angela Ervin	Organist
Ellen Whitten	Pianist
Justin Davis	KOK Music/Pianist
Ministers	All Who Attend