



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

February 2025

As seen from the Meadows...

Can it be February 2025 already? As we find ourselves here at the beginning of a new year, I have a one key item of interest to share this month. Please read and consider the needs of our church.

Not sure, you may know this but money is a hard subject to bring up in a church. Well, here in 2025, JUMC has to bring our financial situation to the forefront. Since 2020 we have cut our budget \$165,468. This has been needed due to the fact that we have not been meeting our budgeted expenses. Our 2025 budget is \$524,700; you can receive a copy of the full budget by reaching out to the church office. We will also have them available on the usher table in the back of the sanctuary. Our general giving funds our budget. General Giving is money given with no strings attached. General giving is what we give first. *Proverbs 3:9 Common English Bible* ⁹ Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first of all your crops.

In 2024 our general offering, the money that funds our budget, was 66% of all the money given to JUMC. Our budget is where salaries are paid. There have been months I waited a week later to be paid so the other staff members could be paid on time. Our budget makes sure the building has power, heat and air conditioning, so we are comfortable. Our budget funds our ministries to children, youth and adults. These budgets have been cut over the last few years as our general giving has gone down. Our budget pays our vendors that do work and provide services to maintain and upkeep our property and buildings. We have had to hold some of those checks until we had money in the bank to cover these expenses. We consider ourselves blessed that most of these vendors have understood and been gracious with us. Our budget also contains missional giving. We send \$6000/year to feed the schoolchildren in Obaga, Kenya and \$4000/year is donated to local nonprofits/ministries in Pickens County. This \$10,000 has been shared each month or quarter. Our missional giving through the United Methodist Church has not been sent on a regular basis. In 2024, we donated only one month to our United Methodist missional giving also known as our Apportionments. Over the last few years, this has been my heaviest burden to carry, as your pastor, for JUMC. The JUMC budget in 2024 was \$586,377. We received by donations \$428,401 for the general budget of the church. JUMC received an additional \$216,956 for restricted funds, book studies, retreats and other non-budget related items. Our restricted funds money are, as the name states, restricted. Many of our restricted funds do wonderful ministry, but restricted funds are understood as "Second Mile" giving. Second mile giving comes after our "First Crop" giving. Lydia and I give our "First Crop" giving at the beginning of the month. If JUMC shares that we need donations to help pay for a new HVAC unit then Lydia and I make a sacrifice and write another check, if we feel led. This is "Second Mile Giving". It means we make a sacrifice. Either we move money from savings or we give up something that month or for a few months to cover that "Second Mile Gift". The Meadows' "First Crop Gift" makes sure the JUMC can fulfill the general budget and meet the expenses laid out in that budget.

This is a good bit to take in and maybe more than many of you wanted to know. I thank those of you who are regular in your giving and you truly give your "First Crops Gift" to ensure JUMC's general budget is maintained. Together we can turn this around and be the financially stable church we were in 2015-2019. 2025 can be the year we make this happen, may God lead us on that path.

Yours in Christ,

Greg

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

JUMC STAFF:

Greg Meadows.....	Pastor
Cathy Riley.....	Director of Music / Office Manager
Anna Faith Adair.....	Director of Children & Youth Ministry/Marketing
Donna Dooley.....	Preschool Director
Peggy Litherland.....	Financial Manager
Paul Singletary.....	Director of Audio/Visual Ministry
Lydia Meadows.....	Assistant of Audio/Visual Ministry
Emily Countryman.....	Nursery Coordinator
Phyllis Pool.....	Pianist
Angela Ervin.....	Organist
Alan Johnson.....	Head Usher
Ministers.....	All Who Are



We will be having our Valentines Day Parties on Wednesday, February 12th at 11 am. We will be out of school the week of February 17-21 for Winter Break.

Registration for the new school year will begin in person Feb.4-7th and online Feb. 10th. We are extremely excited for the new school year. We will offer two new classes for the upcoming year, Mothers Morning out one day per week, and a 5-day kindergarten class.

Donna Dooley, Preschool Director
dooley@jasperumc.org



Elevate family!

Happy February! We are moving right along with our programming. I wanted to take this opportunity to speak on some changes going forward. We are moving our time of youth music to Wednesdays during our Midweek gathering. On Sundays, Elevate will be during the 5:30-7 slot. We eat from 5:30-6, so please be on time so you have plenty of time to enjoy Snack Supper. In February, we will meet the 2nd, 9th, and 23rd.

We launched our Midweek gathering this semester! It's a time to fellowship and grow together! Be here on Wednesdays from 4-5:30!

I want to chat a minute about Sunday mornings. I love seeing y'all in worship and so does the rest of the church. I want to encourage you to make a point to worship with us. Our students are welcome to sit with me and participate in worship.

Let's talk SLR! We will be going March 7-9. Please note everyone will need to submit a \$50 deposit by February 9th, our Super bowl party. This deposit saves your bunk and we cannot adjust numbers after this date. Please let me know if you are inviting friends so I can have an accurate count.

Reminder to fill out our community calendar! I want to be able to support you during all your extracurricular! Also, please sign up for the text thread by texting @elevate107 to 81010.

Cheers!
Anna Faith Adair



It is nice to get back to being together!

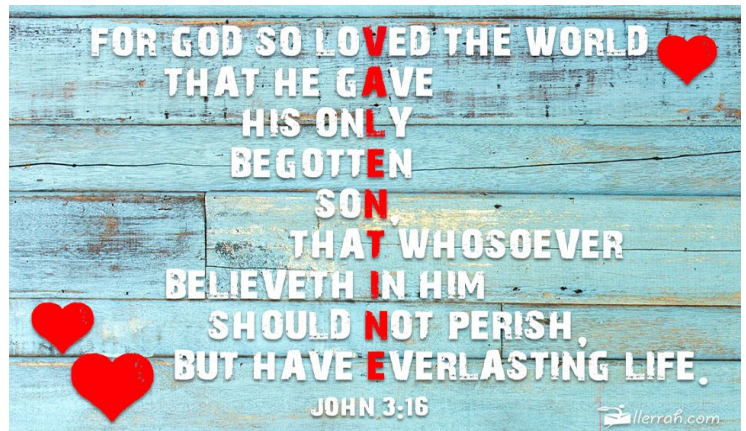
We are going to have Children's Church during the 11:00AM Worship service on February 2nd and 16th! It is such a joy for the whole congregation to see kids in church on Sundays!

We are going to have a special service at KOK on March 5th. Pastor Greg and I are going to be holding an "Ash Wednesday" chapel for our kids and youth. There will be a time of sharing the meaning of Lent and an imposition of ashes.

Save the date! Our annual Easter Egg hunt is April 16th! We are accepting candy donations this year- we have plenty of eggs!

I am so blessed to be a part of this church! I would love for you to sign up for our text alerts by texting @jumcki to 81010.

Cheers!
Anna Faith
Director of Children Ministry & Marketing
adair@jasperumc.org





*"The Lord is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and helps me.
My heart leaps for joy and with my
song I praise him. Psalm 98:7*

Music is such a vital part of the worship experience. We try to connect the scripture, sermon and music to the same theme each week. This means we may sing some songs everyone does not know. It is ok to learn something new! You may end up with a new favorite hymn.

If music gives you joy and you would like to be in a small group, join the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, or Praise Team. Because ALL God's creatures have a place in the choir!

January **Wednesday** music schedule:

- 4:30 pm-KOK Choir
- 5:00 pm-Youth Hand Chimes
- 5:45 pm-Chancel Bells
- 6:30 pm-Chancel Choir

If you have questions or need more information, let me know.

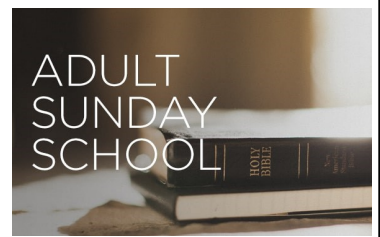
Cathy Riley, Director of Music
criley@jasperumc.org
706-253-2100 or 618-384-6254

Help spread the word! Positions to be filled:

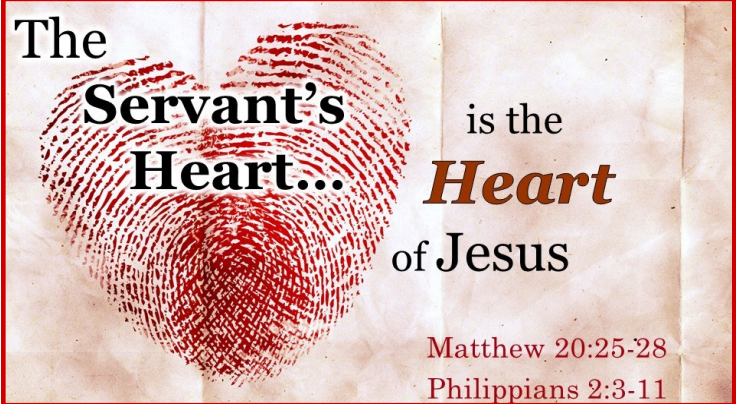
- Pianist for the Chancel Choir and 11:00 Worship service
- Contemporary Praise Team Leader for 9:00 worship service

Adult Sunday School

Everyone is invited to join one of our adult Sunday School classes. Check them out to find one that fits!



- **Living Word** (various ages) meets in room 101. Living Word uses book study material and the leaders rotate.
- **New Horizons** (various ages) meet in room 105. They use the Cokesbury Quarterly and the leaders rotate.
- **Serendipity** (age 50 and above) meets in room 106. The class uses a variety of discussion material. Class members rotate teaching.
- **Virtual Class:** email a request to Greg Meadows to be put on the list.



C.A.R.E.S.



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

February's focus is Personal hygiene items- Shampoo, Body Wash, Lotion, Deodorant

The Marriage Enrichment Group

Lydia and Pastor Greg would like to invite you to join them for the 2025 Better Marriages Georgia Getaway, February 28-March 2, 2025. Our Getaway will be in Chattanooga, Tennessee this year and it is a wonderful place for a getaway.

Get more information and register at bettermarriagesga.org. If you have questions, reach out to Lydia at lmeadows1130@gmail.com or Pastor Greg at greg.meadows@ngumc.net.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2025:

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.

- February 2, 2025 Jeremiah 1:4-10 ; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
- February 9, 2025 Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11
- February 16, 2025 Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26
- February 23, 2025 Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38

Missions Matters

Your **Advent Offering** response to upgrade sewing machines in the Jewels Tailoring School was overwhelming! Your generosity of over \$6,000 will replace all of the present sewing machines and provide needed supplies for their Salon School. Praise the Lord!

Locally JUMC is supporting Revolution Church as they serve as a **warming center** during frigid temps.

Kenya: Thomas and Merab will be in the U.S. for the month of March. Their dates at JUMC are **March 19 & 20 and 25-31**. They will visit small groups, KOK, Youth and be in services on March 30. We look forward to seeing them for a first hand report from Obaga village, Kenya. If you would like to provide a meal for them in your home or a restaurant there will be a sign-up soon.

Kenya team 2025 dates are Nov. 3-17. Sign up on the bulletin board. For more information see Dex at hammerlover60@hotmail.com or 470-230-9595

Sponsor a Kenyan student. School started in January but it's not too late. See bulletin board!



On December 2, 2024, eight men and two women from the North Illinois, East Ohio, West Ohio & North Georgia Conferences of the UMC responded to the ERT (Emergency Response Team) requests from the South Georgia Conference to do what we could. The path of Helene was more than 100 miles wide with continual lightning strikes & many tornadoes in addition to wind & rain. Camp Tygart in Ray City, a UMC camp housed us, giving us a place to sleep & cook our meals.

The people helped through the UMCOR (United Methodist Commission on Relief) ERT effort are those without insurance or are underinsured and those whose coverage doesn't include debris removal or limited coverage for direct damage for a covered structure. Our team worked for three days at five homes in Graham City clearing, limbing & cutting up trees. The ten team members traveled a combined thousands of miles with compassion, commitment & equipment to help in big & small way. The homeowners were either elderly or single parent homes.

Word traveled fast among the local patrons of who we were and why we were in Graham City (pop. 264) offering many thanks for our efforts. So, when your good fortune comes at the cost of another's misfortune, do something! Pay attention to the Spirit of Christ. Say yes, take one small step in faith & see where God leads. You won't be disappointed!

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:

Marty Beaver, Beth & Bill Boggs, Joan Britton, Gage Cheek, Pam Edwards, Karen Fowler, Sara Fowler, Judy Francis, Jerry Hall, Mitch Henson, Nancy Henson, Peggy Higgins, Maureen Huntington, Linda Jager, Linda Judkins, Tom Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, Terry Long, George Montgomery, Richard Rambler, Jan Palmer, Scott Rumery, Susan Sherrell, Betty VanValkenburgh, Linda Waitsman, Marcy Walker

Retreat at Jasper Assisted Living: Carolyn Omundson, Hoyt & Carolyn Jenkins

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

Cedarhurst Assisted Living: George Hall

Our active military family: Kalyn Brooks, Lily Bowen, Max Edward Caylor, Alex Davis, Amber Forsyth, 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.

JUMC Email Prayer Chain

Prayer concerns can be requested by emailing or phoning the church office and an email will go out to all addresses on the prayer chain. If you would like to be part of the JUMC email prayer chain group, contact the church office by emailing criley@jasperumc.org.



All are welcome to join a prayer group in the prayer room

Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.

For more information contact
Dex Phillips



United
Women
in Faith



The UMM and UWF are going to meet together for Dinner on Thursday, February 13 at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. For more information contact Richard Lewis or call the church office at 706-253-2100.