



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



July 2025

Welcome Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe

Join us on Sunday, July 13 for her first Sunday at JUMC.



Pastor Sheila Crowe brings over 20 years of faithful ministry experience to our church family. A gifted preacher, compassionate leader, and visionary shepherd, she has served congregations across Georgia and North Carolina with a heart for spiritual growth, community outreach, and Christ-centered leadership.

Sheila holds a Doctor of Ministry from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, where she focused her thesis on creating multi-denominational worship centers. Her pastoral work includes leading seven churches, launching vibrant new ministries like Dinner Church, and guiding congregations through seasons of transformation and renewal.

Sheila is passionate about helping people discover their God-given purpose, equipping them to live out their faith in everyday life. She will be moving to Jasper this summer with her mother and two sons. She loves to travel, read, and share life's journey with others.

Lifted to Bloom

By Pastor Sheila

I do not have a green thumb. In fact, I'm somewhat famous for my ability to kill houseplants. Once, for our anniversary, my husband gave me a large, beautiful jade tree. It came with a sweet little note: "May it grow as strong as our love." Touched by the sentiment and determined not to mess this up, I watered it faithfully—every day. I talked to it. Encouraged it. And then it died. Turns out, jade trees are succulents. They only need water every two to three weeks. I loved it too much—straight into root rot. (Thankfully, our love was stronger than the plant!) I have gathered all my house plants on the back porch in preparation of moving. As I sat there reading my daily devotion I began to think about that poor jade tree.

In John 15 Jesus says: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser... Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." You've probably heard those words before. But here's something you may not know: in ancient Israel, grapevines weren't grown on neat trellises. They spread out low to the ground, where new shoots would drag through dirt and mud from the heavy dew and rains. Those tender branches, if left lying too long, would start to root in the soil instead of drawing life from the main vine. That led to weak, diseased growth. So what did the vinedresser do? He'd come along, stoop down, gently lift the branches from the dirt, wash them off, and tie them to a stone. This lifted them to the sunlight and reconnected them to their source. The Greek word Jesus uses for this is *airo*—it doesn't just mean "cut off." It also means "lift up." And that changes everything.

So many people feel like they're barely holding on—financially, emotionally, spiritually. They keep trying to stand on their own but life has knocked them down more than once. They're stuck in the mud and beginning to believe they'll never rise again. In times like these, God doesn't come at us with aggressive clippers in hand. No, He comes to lift us up. To clean. To support. To tie us to the Rock and help us find the light.

When I think of pruning now, I don't imagine the stripping, and chopping away of pain and loss. I see care. I see and know God's compassion. I see a loving gardener who refuses to give up on his vine. God's greatest desire is for us to bloom with possibility and hope. And under his care and guidance we can experience true abundant life. Maybe—just maybe—I'll give another jade tree a try. This time, though, I think I will start by reading the care guide and talking to a gardener who truly knows what plants need.

Elevate family!

Happy summer! Hope you are having fun and trying new things!



Thank you so much to our youth volunteers for making VBS happen. You are the best and we couldn't have done it without you! Let's continue to serve our church and community.

On July 4, we will continue our tradition of attending the fair. We will meet at the church at 5:30, share a quick meal, and walk over to the fair. We will return at dark and watch the fireworks together. Pastor Sheila and her family will be joining us for dinner, so please be on time so we can enjoy all the time getting to know them. Keep in mind that the fair tickets are a self funded activity, so please come with enough money to get ride tickets and a treat. If any adults want to help out, that would be appreciated.

I love seeing you Sunday morning! Keep it up, my friends!

Cheers!
Anna Faith Adair
Director of Children & Youth Ministry and Marketing
Jasper United Methodist Church
adair@jasperumc.org



JUMC Kids!

VBS was a BLAST. We got to serve and learn alongside our community and make some camp besties along the way! I hope you are practicing learning how to trust in God!

I hope you are having a fantastic summer. It is a joy to walk alongside you and your families. Stay tuned on how you can plug into the life of Jasper UMC!

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



*America! America!
God shed his grace on thee, and
crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.*

I can't say thank you enough to all who sang and played instruments in worship especially during the months of June and July when the choir usually gets a break. Thank you to the congregation for helping us as we navigate change in the Sunday worship service. A blended service of contemporary and tradition is sometimes difficult to master. We will keep working on combinations of musical styles to find the perfect blend for JUMC.

July 6: Patriotic worship service with guest speaker Rev. Dr. David Jones and special music from the choir.

July 13: Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe's first Sunday

July Worship Music: Worship & Praise songs from the 80's & 90's along with traditional Hymns.

August Worship Music: Contemporary Gospel and Country Gospel Music. The choir loft is open to anyone who would like to sing in worship.

Even though we are actively searching for a permanent Pianist for the 11:00 worship service, Phyllis, Justin and I are still 'tickling the ivories' to keep music flowing in worship. We also have some small groups to sing and lead music during the rest of summer. We are always open to hear your suggestions.

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



Preschool is filling up. We have very few spaces available for the upcoming year. We have added a Mothers Morning Out Program for babies age 2

months - 17 months one day per week, and Kindergarten. We are so excited that JUMC Preschool is growing. If anyone has any questions or would like to tour the preschool just let me know. I love to show the preschool to anyone who wants to see it.

Donna Dooley, Preschool Director
dooley@jasperumc.org

Marketing

If you need anything publicized for church life, please email Anna Faith at adair@jasperumc.org

Ode to Church Volunteers

by Heather Curlee Novak

There are many among you who volunteer here,
You volunteer tirelessly and (usually) with cheer.

Even though we ask you at the last minute,
It it needs to be done, we can count on you to be in it.

You help teach our children or dry the dishes,
You plant or uproot stuff based on our wishes.

Some flip pancakes, some fetch donuts,
How coffee gets made is quite beyond us.

You decorate the church and then take it down,
You host the fun things we do around town.

You greet and usher and serve communion,
Every Sunday is like a volunteer reunion!

Some of you sing and hit the right notes,
Others play music great composers wrote.

You shuffle papers for mailings and fold the bulletins
You lead classes and meetings
no matter what room they're in.

You commit for a day, a month or the year,
When you see staff coming towards you,
you cower in fear.

It's not that you're "done", you are just overcommitted
As you are kind, generous, gorgeous and quick witted!

Every great volunteer is in high demand
Without you these little jobs can get out of hand.

We know you have lives and it's hard to commit
We hope the difference you make,
makes all this...worth it.

The impact of your kindness brings many folks cheer,
JUMC volunteers; we are in awe of you this year!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again,
Well done, faithful servants, well done our friends!



I Scream You Scream We All Scream For Ice Cream!

**Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
Sunday, July 27 at 6:00 pm at JUMC**

Make a freezer of your favorite ice cream recipe.
There will be a contest for the best ice cream!
So get those freezers cranking!

(It would be great to have some cookies, too!)

You don't have to make ice cream,
just come and eat and enjoy the fellowship.



Patriotic Worship Service

Sunday, July 6
11:00 am.

The Rev. Dr. David Jones
will be our guest speaker.

There will be special music
provided by the Chancel Choir

There is no better way to celebrate
the birth of our country and our
freedom to worship as we want.

Following the service, there will be
lemonade in the lobby!

The church is always in need of servant volunteers for many areas and programs. If you have an interest in helping out call the office and we will help you find the perfect fit for your spiritual gifts.

In order to have a church we must be the church!

SUMMER JUMC OFFICE HOURS:

For the months of July & August the JUMC staff will be taking some vacation times. Office hours will still be 9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Thursday; however, it would be best to call (706-253-2100) to make sure someone is here before coming in to see us.

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR JULY 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.

July 6, 2025 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 ; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13, 2025 Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 20, 2025 Amos 8:1-12; Psalm 52 or 82; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 27, 2025 Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

Missions Matters

- Volunteer opportunities with Ruth House and Habitat. Contact: Ray Champitto, 770-329-5818 or rchamp13@bellsouth.net
- It's not too late to jump on the Kenya Team 2025, Oct. 29-Nov. 12. Contact Dex for info: 470-203-9595



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.

July's focus is Canned Fruit and Fruit Juice. Non perishable foods are always welcome.



44th Annual GA Marble Festival Road Race

Our annual Georgia Marble Festival Road Race is Saturday, October 4, 2025. This is the 44th year for the race, and the ladies of the Dorcas Circle are busy with preparations already. Here are two ways you could help right now: Family Name Sponsorships are again available on the back of the Road Race t-shirt. To reserve a spot for your family, please stop by the church office and specify the family name. We are also accepting new business sponsorships. Please make checks payable to JUMC / Dorcas Circle. If you are a business owner and would like a spot on the Road Race shirt, please contact the church office at 706-253-2100. Both Family Name and Business Sponsorships are key to a successful race. We appreciate your "teaming up" with us!



United
Women
in Faith



Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, July 10 at 6:00 pm in room 106. Plans are underway for the Marble Festival Road Race. All women are welcome to attend for light refreshments, devotions, and fellowship.

UM Men will meet Thursday, July 10 at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary for dinner, devotion and fellowship. Plans are being made for some fellowship activities and service opportunities. All men are invited to attend.

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

Requested names to be lifted up:

Pam Edwards, Karen Fowler, Sara Fowler, Judy Francis, Jerry Hall, Steve Hammer, Mitch Henson, Nancy Henson, Peggy Higgins, Maureen Huntington, Linda Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, George Montgomery, Richard Rambler, Mary Russell, 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, 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,
Greg can be reached on his cell #770-851-8305

Christian sympathy is extended to Laura Coile-Rutherford and family on the death of her daughter, Wendy Pharr.

Christian sympathy is extended to Faith McAlister and family on the death of her father.

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 time of prayer in the prayer room

Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.

For more information contact
Dex Phillips

JUMC STAFF:

Sheila Crowe.....	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
Jim Gaston.....	Assistant of Audio/Visual Ministry
Emily Countryman.....	Nursery Coordinator
Phyllis Pool.....	Pianist
Angela Ervin.....	Organist
Alan Johnson.....	Head Usher
Ministers.....	All Who Are Here