



# Jasper United Methodist Church

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Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church / YouTube: Jasper UMC

## March 2026



### A View from the *Crowe's Nest*

Easter is almost here. And if I'm not careful, it will rush past like everything else on my calendar. The year is already moving quickly. Life is full. Schedules are packed. And it is easy to let even something as sacred as Easter simply happen.

I don't want that. I don't want Easter to just come and go. I want to experience it!

Easter has had one of the greatest impacts on my spiritual life. From Ash Wednesday, through Lent, into Holy Week services and studies, this season has consistently shaped my heart and deepened my faith. It has grown in me a greater sense of peace, purpose, hope, joy, and comfort.

But that kind of growth does not happen accidentally. It is intentional. Just as caring for our physical health requires planning — going to the doctor, getting exercise, eating wisely — spiritual growth requires attention and participation.

I once heard the Christian life described like being in a boat. When we choose to allow Christ and the Holy Spirit to live in us, we step into the boat. The current of God's amazing grace carries us down the river.

We can sit back and simply float. Or we can pick up an oar. We can hoist the sail and catch the wind of the Spirit. We can listen to our guide and move in rhythm with Him. Grace carries us — but participation makes the journey come alive. There are times when a gentle float is exactly what we need. But some of the most meaningful moments of growth come when we lean in and take part in the journey.

So, this Lenten season, I encourage you to put your oar in the water. Prepare your heart for Easter. Experience the resurrection again. Let its power, grace, and hope meet you in a fresh way.

If you would like a few simple ways to begin, here are some ideas:

- Read through one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).
- Write a short prayer or poem to God each day — just between you and Him.
- Sing or read hymns about the cross. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "The Old Rugged Cross," "Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross," "In Christ Alone," and "Amazing Love" offer rich words for meditation.
- Mark the days until Easter with Resurrection Eggs. They are wonderful for families with children, but meaningful for adults as well. You can purchase them online or make your own.
- Read a devotional or book focused on Jesus' death and resurrection. The Cross of Christ by John Stott, Adam Hamilton's books *Final Words from the Cross* or *Why Did Jesus Have to Die*, and Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails*, are all helpful resources.
- Make Resurrection rolls on every Sunday. <https://lilluna.com/resurrection-rolls/>
- Make a Resurrection Garden — large or small. (See how here in this newsletter.)

However you choose to prepare, don't let this season just pass you by. Easter is not just a date on the calendar. It is an invitation into new life.

Step into it!

Blessings,

*Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe*



## Make a Resurrection Garden

Resurrection gardens are a small replica of the garden tomb. Here's a list of supplies you will need:

- A flat tray
- Small terra cotta planter
- Potting soil
- Twigs and Twine (to make the crosses)
- Pebbles, moss, and plants as desired
- Strip of white fabric
- Stones

Here's how you make a resurrection garden:

Step 1: Place some dirt down in the tray and add the small terra cotta on its side in the tray.

Cover the top and the sides of the planter with potting soil creating a small hill. Make sure to leave the opening of the planter uncovered.

Step 2: Make your three crosses  
Using the twine and twigs make three crosses. One should be slightly bigger representing Jesus's cross. Place the crosses in the dirt beside the open terra cotta pot.

Step 3: Use pebbles, stones, faux floral greens, moss or other items to cover the dirt and create your garden.

Step 4: Place a large rock to the side of the opening of the terra cotta pot to represent the stone rolled away.

Place the garden on your table or prominent place to enjoy.



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour on Sunday, March 8

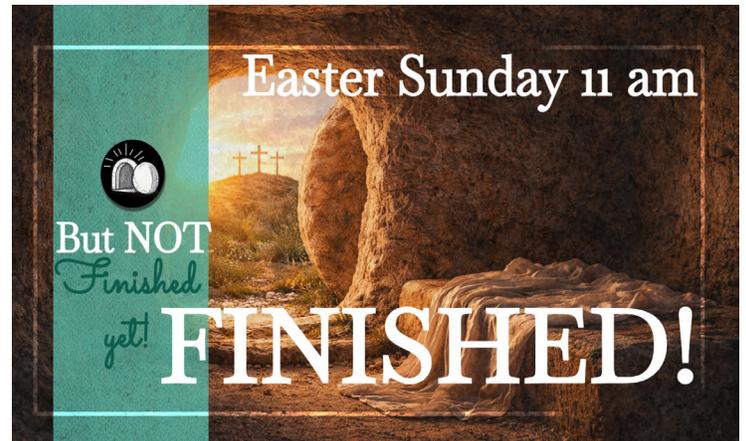
## SHARE your GREEN PLANTS!

Help us grow the garden around the tomb as we approach Easter. Bring in your green plants and add them to the scene on the stage.

You may take the plants back home after Easter.



**Share your GREENS!** Not your vegetables but your green plants. Please BRING IN your green plants to share them with us during the Lent/Easter Season. During the month of March we will be growing the garden around a tomb that will be on display on the dias. All shapes and sizes are needed. The more plants the richer the scene and blessings will be. After Easter, you will be invited to take the plants home. We will make sure someone is watering the plants during the season. BE PART OF THIS GLORIOUS SEASON!!



TOGETHER WITH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JASPER

**APRIL 5 7 AM**

Bring chairs or plan to sit in your car as bleachers are not available.  
IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL





## PRAYER LIST

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:

**Burl Chesser, Pam Edwards, Sara Fowler, Jack Green, Peggy Higgins, Maureen Huntington, Linda Judkins, Tom Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, George Montgomery, Mary Russell, Susan Sherrell, Bobbie Jean Warford**

*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, Pastor Sheila can be reached on her cell # 770-842-3025



### **At the Crossroads: Love That Kneels Decisive Moments from Jesus' Final Week**

Join us for five mid-day Holy Week gatherings, March 30-April 3 12 noon in the sanctuary. Together, we will explore the decisive moments of Jesus' final days—and how his authority, sacrifice, service, and mercy shape our faith today. Each day will feature a different pastor as they share their perspective on the greatest gift in history. We have invite all of the other churches and their members to join us.

**Lunch will be soup and sandwiches. Please make reservations by calling the church office.**

#### **Holy Week Lunch & Grow Series**

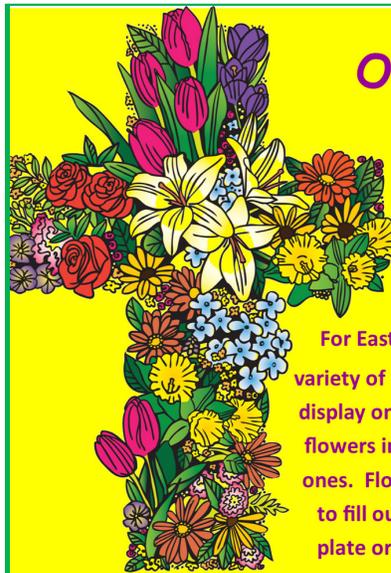
**Monday — Authority at the Crossroads - Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe, Jasper United Methodist**

**Tuesday — The Cost of Fruitful Faith - Rev. Jerry Gleason, Hinton United Methodist Church**

**Wednesday — The Crossroads of Loyalty – Rev. Preston Jones, First Baptist of Jasper (First Baptist will provide lunch.)**

**Thursday — Love That Kneels – Rev. Mark Winward, The Episcopal Church of the Holy Family.**

**Friday — Mercy at the Crossroads - Rev. Tony Boyd, First Christian Church of Jasper.**



## ORDER EASTER FLOWERS !!

For Easter this year we will be ordering a variety of blooming flowers (not just Lillies) to display on Easter Morning. You can purchase flowers in memory or in honor of your loved ones. Flowers are \$25, \$50 or \$100. Be sure to fill out a form and put it in the offering plate or to the church office by March 25.

### Easter Flowers Order Form

**Name:**

Total of Flowers Ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle each appropriate item:**

In Memory or In Honor of

Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100

In Memory or In Honor of

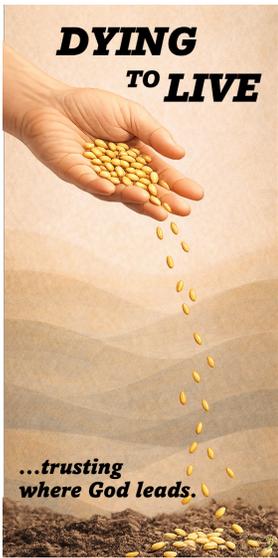
Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100

In Memory or In Honor of

Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100

In Memory or In Honor of

Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100



**NEW Sermon Series**

**“DYING TO LIVE....  
trusting God to lead”**

**The Way of the Grain of  
Wheat**

**We are called to release what  
no longer gives life, trusting  
God to bring new life from  
what we surrender.**

**March 1 — The Way of the Grain of Wheat—Communion  
Sunday**

**Text: John 12:20–26 March 8 — Jesus Knows  
Text: Mark 8:31-38**

**March 15 — Called Out of the Tomb  
Text: John 11:33-44**

**March 22 — Pouring it Out  
Text: John 12:1-8**

**March 29— When Expectations Collide  
Text: John 12:12-19**

**MISSION MATTERS**

There are still Kenya students waiting for help with their education in the form of a sponsor!! Fees, supplies and a Christmas gift for the year is approximately \$700 total. That is for boarding school! Some sponsors pay the year up front, some pay per term...there are 3 terms, some pay by the month so they have even, budgeted payments. Whatever works for you. Please pray and consider. See the bulletin board. Questions? contact Dex: 470-203-9595 or [hammerlover60@hotmail.com](mailto:hammerlover60@hotmail.com) You'll be glad you did!! Lenten offering focus will be on socks and underwear for our elementary school students right here in Pickens County. Gifts of money can go into the Lenten offering envelopes or purchases can go into the box provided in the narthex. Let's help our kids in need!!

**The United Methodist Men**



The UMM will have their March meeting at the Savoy Auto Museum in Cartersville on March

12th. We will leave mid morning and have lunch at the cafe in the Museum while we are there. Call or text Richard (678-492-6257) if you would like to join the group for this event.

United Methodist Men meet on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner is served at 6:00pm in the sanctuary with a devotion and business following. All men of the church are invited to join UMM.

For more information contact Richard Lewis: [rtlewis145@gmail.com](mailto:rtlewis145@gmail.com) or call 678-492-6257.



**The Dorcas Circle will meet  
Thursday, March 12 at 6pm.  
It will be an eventful evening meeting to stuff Easter Eggs and finalize our budget. Please plan to attend if possible!**



Join us in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:30 for coffee and donuts. They will be available from 9:30 to immediately following worship. If you aren't part of a Sunday School join us in the sanctuary for a time of casual conversation. And, as always, invite others to come and join us!!



**All MEN are INVITED!**

**March 12**

**Contact Richard Lewis for details.  
[rtlewis145@gmail.com](mailto:rtlewis145@gmail.com)**



March is here, and it's a great time to keep learning about how much God loves each of us! This month, let's discover fun new ways to show kindness, help each other, and always remember that God is with us every step of the way!

**February meeting dates and time.**

4:00 – 5:30 PM

- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25

Each gathering will include Bible stories, music, games, crafts, snacks, and activities, along with time to build friendships in a loving, faith-filled environment.

Know that God's love is with you always. We can't wait to see you next time, ready for even more adventures together!

— Amy Swancey  
 Director of Children and Youth  
[amy@jasperumc.org](mailto:amy@jasperumc.org)



March brings new opportunities to grow in our faith and connect with one another. Let's embrace this month with open hearts and open minds, ready to see all that God has in store for us. Together, we're stronger, and we can make this a month of real growth and positive change.

**March Schedule**

**Elevate Youth Nights – Sundays**

5:30 – 8:00 PM

- March 1
- March 8
- March 15
- March 22
- March 29

**Elevate Youth Nights – Wednesdays**

6:00 – 8:00 PM

- March 4
- March 11
- March 18
- March 25

Remember, God's guidance is always with you, and no matter what comes next, you are never alone.

— Amy Swancey  
 Director of Children and Youth  
[amy@jasperumc.org](mailto:amy@jasperumc.org)

# Children At JUMC You're Invited!

**KIDS OF THE KINGDOM:**  
 Every Wednesday from 4:00- 5:30PM. Children enjoy a snack, crafts, music, and a Bible story.  
 Ages: 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade - DROP OFF/PICK UP AT LOWER PRESCHOOL ENTRANCE

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**  
 Children's Church is every Sunday except the 1<sup>st</sup>. Offered for children K-5<sup>th</sup> grade at 11:00 AM service.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:**  
 During the year we host a Trunk or Treat in the fall, Breakfast with Santa in the Winter, Egg hunt in the Spring, and VBS in the Summer.

**CHURCH NURSERY:**  
 We have the church nursery available every Sunday for birth-preschool.

AGES: 6<sup>TH</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup>

# ELEVATE YOUTH

Sundays: 5:30-8:00PM  
 Wednesdays: 6:30-8:00PM

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR MUSIC, A MEAL, FELLOWSHIP, GAMES, AND A BIBLE MESSAGE. OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR SPECIAL EVENTS AND OUTINGS!



## Let's be the church together...Online.

We are moving to a new church record-keeping software called Realm. With Realm we will have more ways to communicate and better connect as a church. Everyone will have their own unique profile. You will have access to all your contact information, and you will be able to track your giving. You will be able to review your giving history, print a statement or make a new one time or recurring donation. It is always available and kept secure in an easy-to-use-online environment.

Realm will work on your phone, mobile devices and computers. The same login will access the website and the app. The church directory will be accessible then on all your devices. You will have complete control over who can see your contact and personal information. Any information you elect to make visible will only be visible to your church family.

In the next week you will receive an email invitation. In the email there will be a link for you to access the website. Once you access it.

- 1.) Check your profile. Make sure your address, email address, and phone numbers are correct.
- 2.) Download the free Connect Our Church Community app for iPhone and Android devices. You can find it on iTunes or Google Play.
- 3.) Look for new features in the next few weeks as we roll out more ways to stay connected and involved in Jasper United Methodist Church.

So, watch for your email!!!



**The Marble Festival Road Race** committee is looking for someone who is interested in being the race director for 2026. Contact Juanita Tatum for details if you are willing and able to serve in this leadership position ( nitawa27@gmail.com)



**We want to be that church...** the friendly one! Do you have an easy smile and a warm personality? If so, you may be just who our hospitality team is looking for! We would love to have someone opening the door

to greet our members as they arrive for Sunday School, and others to be available to greet and assist visitors. This is just another opportunity to create a warm and friendly environment. If you would be available to volunteer one or more Sundays each month, please contact Nancy or Mitchel Henson 770 893 2609.



**JUMC Preschool**  
JASPER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The new year has started off with ice and snow; we sure hope that is all behind us, and sunshine and warm temps are in the very near future. Registration for the upcoming school year is available and going well.

We celebrated Valentine's Day with parties and also our 100th day of school in February.

**Upcoming events:** Read Across America March 2-6th. If you are interested in coming to read to some of our classes, please let Ms. Donna know. The month of March continues to be busy with muffins with Mom, St. Patrick's Day fun, and spring pictures.

**Donna Dooley, Preschool Director**  
dooley@jasperumc.org  
470-560-9696

# **What's Happening in March at JUMC?**

## **Sundays:**

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

5:30 pm Elevate Youth

## **Wednesdays:**

4:00 pm KOK

5:00 pm Open Prayer Gathering

5:45 pm Wednesday Night Suppers

6:40 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Meetings:**

March 2-6:00 pm Trustees Committee

March 9-6:00 pm Finance Committee

March 12 -6:00 pm Dorcas Circle

March 12-6:00 pm UM Men

March 13 -4:00-7:00 pm Preschool Art Show

March 16 - 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry

March 22-2:00 -4:00 pm Congregational Meeting

March 24-7:00 pm Church Council

## **Holy Week:**

March 29 Palm Sunday-April 5 Easter Sunday

Lenten Lunches Every Day at Noon

## **April 5 Easter**

7:00 am Sunrise Service at Pickens High School Parking Lot

11:00 am Worship at JUMC in the Sanctuary