



# Jasper United Methodist Church

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Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church / YouTube: Jasper UMC

## April 2026



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

I have lots of experience with moving. In fact, I have moved over fifteen times. There's something about moving that has a way of revealing truth. You open a drawer and find things you forgot you had. Things you once thought you couldn't live without. Things that used to matter... but don't anymore. Things that you never needed and things that you wonder where in the world did this come from? And, then comes the big question: *What do I take with me, and what do I need to let go?*

Through all those moves, I've learned this: We carry far more than we need—not just in boxes, but in our hearts. We carry old expectations. Old hurts. Old ways of doing things. Even old versions of ourselves. And if we're not careful as we move forward, we drag all of that with us into the next place where God is leading.

From the very beginning, life has been marked by change. When Adam and Eve stepped out of the Garden of Eden everything changed. Nothing has been the same since. The world shifted. Life changed. Relationships changed. Needs changed. What we often miss though is that God didn't abandon humanity in that moment—He met them in the change. And He has been doing that ever since.

Abraham had to leave home. The Israelites had to leave Egypt. Joseph, Mary and Jesus had to leave Bethlehem. The disciples had to leave everything familiar to follow Jesus. And, again and again, God worked when people were willing to move.

We are in a season of change. Even our church office is moving. That can feel uncomfortable and be a little overwhelming. I mean, "we have always done it that way," right? And, change is hard if we only see it as a disruption. But every move is also an invitation.

An invitation to ask: What do we really need? What has served its purpose? What is God asking us to carry forward—and what is He asking us to release? Moving forces clarity. You don't pack what is broken beyond repair. You don't carry what no longer serves a purpose.

And you certainly don't take everything with you—because you simply can't. That's not loss. That's freedom. Not everything from yesterday belongs in tomorrow. Letting go isn't forgetting. It isn't dismissing what was. It's trusting that God is not finished yet. That the past is only a building block for to the future.

As we move—physically, spiritually, and as a church—what are you holding onto that God may be asking you to release? And what might you discover if you did? Because on the other side of letting go... is often something more wonderful than we expected.

Not because change is easy. But because God is faithful. And wherever He leads, there is always more life waiting than we can carry from the past.

Blessings,

*Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe*



Our What next Meetings? have been so informative and helpful! We have heard from multiple officials and agencies that work here in Jasper and Picken's County to make a difference.

Out of those meetings we have identified the following needs:

- Childcare for low income
- Transformation to and from medical appointments
- Elderly - respite/caregiver/support
- Shoes for Low Income Children (Family Connection)
- Replacement Hearing Aids and eyeglasses - children
- Warming Centers
- Ramps (Habitat Mark Hinton) Mentorship for all ages
- Underwear and Clothing needs for children Donation and Resource Center
- Help for Single Parents
- Coordination of resources and benefits

With that in mind we will be moving the church offices down into the building and working with Family Connection to create a Community Resource Center. (More information about the move and plans can be found in this newsletter.

On April 19th we will hold our next meeting to look at JUMC and seek God's design and will for our future vision and ministry.

Additionally, we will be discussing our GDOT funds and where and what special project we should proceed with as we prepare our building and facilities for the continuation of God's work.

Be sure to join us on April 19th at 2pm in the Sanctuary as we continue this important work.

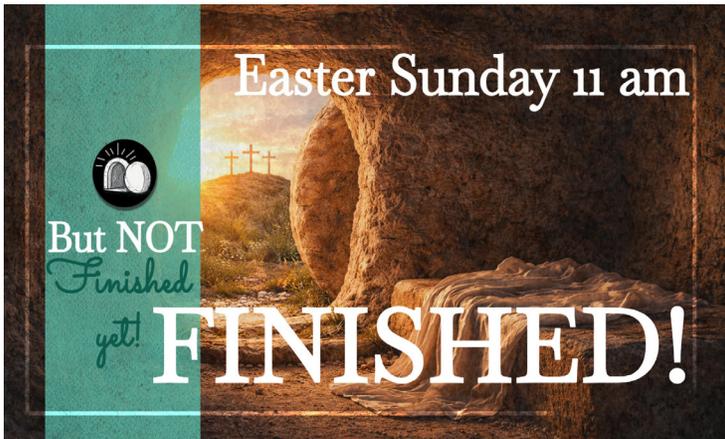
## Meeting to Discuss GDOT Funds for a Building Special Project

April 19, 2- 4PM

At our April What's Next? Meeting we will be discussing our GDOT funds from the sale of the property.

According to the Book of Discipline the monies received from the sell can only be used for the church building and grounds. A portion of the funds were used to pay off the loan from ourselves to cover the HVAC work from a year or so ago. An additional \$200,000 from the sale has been placed into a 11-month CD. These funds will be retained as an emergency monies for major repairs and maintenance. The remaining funds will be held in a designated fund for the building and grounds. Approximately 50% of those funds will be used for one big project yet to be determined.

The Trustees have identified several potential projects: replacing the carpet in the sanctuary, replacing and upgrading the sound and A/V system, repairing the driveways and entrances to the building, repairing the parking lot, new signage in and out of the building, landscaping, painting the interior, modernizing the foyer and removing the steeple in an effort to reorient the entry area of the church to the portico near the sanctuary. These projects will be discussed.




# SUNRISE SERVICE

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

## Online Giving



Use your smart phone to Scan the QR Code to make an online donation to the church. Fill out the information and send.



### CHURCH OFFICE MOVING

God is doing great things here at Jasper United Methodist Church. To provide opportunities for those things to happen and in an effort to be better stewards the Trustees and Finance Team

have approved several efforts.

Effective June 1, 2026, the church offices will move into the main building. This change will make things like the copier, computers and materials more accessible. It will better utilize the space that we have and will create an opportunity in response to our "What's Next?" meetings to happen.

The offices will move into rooms 100-103. To facilitate this change, a reception window will be cut in the narthex area. Storage areas will be cleaned out, and supplies will be stored up in the brick building and moved into the storage buildings in the back. Shelving will be added in the room where the pastor's current office resides. The Living Word Sunday School class will be invited to move to a new location. And all the walls will be painted.

This move will then leave the brick building vacant for a restructuring of use. The Trustees and Pastor Sheila are currently evaluating the possibility of it becoming a Community Resource Center. This was identified as a major need for our county. This office would provide coordinated information and access to community resources as well as provide a data base of services rendered and to who those services were given.

Several organizations are working together to make this happen. The church will retain the property. Negotiations are underway for the cost of operating and maintaining the building. We believe the cost of this move will be significantly less than \$5000. It will depend on how much sweat equity we as a congregation put into the move.

## Music Ministry

Sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD! Bless his name!  
Share the news of his saving work every single day!  
Psalm 96:1-2

Spring is here! A time of new growth, new beginnings, and new songs! The thing about music is that it can be an old song with new meaning. We can sing an old song and hear the message for the first time! We can sing an old song with a new tune or rhythm and feel new joy! What is your favorite hymn or praise song? We plan to sing some of your favorites and teach some new songs during this time of new life!

### Rehearsal schedule for April:

KOK Music: Wednesdays at 4:30 pm

Early Elementary with Ms. Amy

3rd - 5th Graders - Handchimes with Ms. Cathy

Chancel Choir: Wednesdays at 6:40 pm

Interpretive Movement: Sundays immediately following worship

For more information or questions about any group in the music department, please feel free to contact me. We would love to have you join us!

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



In a meeting last Fall, the Council of Bishops moved The United Methodist Church a step closer toward full communion with the Episcopal Church.

In anticipation of that relationship Pastor Sheila and

Rev. Mark Winward of Episcopal Church of the Holy Family here in Jasper will be swapping pulpits on April 26. The sermon that day will focus on being the united church of God. This will be a great opportunity for us to begun to build a communion with each other. Please make plans to be here.

United Methodist and Episcopal leaders have been in conversation together to work toward full communion. This full communion agreement is not proposing a merger of our churches," the proposal says. "Yet we seek to live into the vision given to us by Jesus, who prayed that we may all be one."

"All of us, as bishops of The United Methodist Church, have been consecrated to the work of unity — unity within The United Methodist Church and unity throughout the whole of the Christian church," Bishop B. Michael Watson told his colleagues. Watson is the Council of Bishops' ecumenical officer. United Methodists and Episcopalians have joined in bilateral talks since 2002.



## 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



## We're Updating Our Church Directory

Cathy and the office volunteers are working to clean up our membership rooster. We are asking church members to assist us by updating your information in Realm. Or you can call the church office to make sure your correct address, phone numbers, and email address are in the file. Additionally, You are invited to submit a photograph of you and your family. This information will be used to create in-house a church directory to be distributed among the membership.



At the Crossroads:

*Love That Kneels*  
Decisive Moments from Jesus' Final Week

Lenten Lunch and Learn

12:00 noon • March 30th through April 3rd

### 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.**

# WELCOME

*Come On In*

#### Hospitality Committee

All of us are on the hospitality committee. Some make the coffee and bring treats for our fellowship hour, others open the door with a smile or assist at the portico door.

Ushers make sure we have a bulletin in hand. Volunteers prepare our Wednesday Night Suppers. In many ways each of us has an opportunity to be hospitable to everyone we see each Sunday. Visitors decide whether or not to return based on their first impression, and a welcoming smile can make a huge difference. Please encourage guests to drop by the welcome center to receive information about our church. Let's be the church that makes everyone glad they came, visitors and members alike.

We need a few more people to occasionally assist with the Sunday morning coffee as well as to serve as greeters at our entrance. If you feel led to help our church grow in this way, please contact Nancy & Mitchel Henson, 770-893-2609 or contact Pastor Sheila.



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!!



The JUMC Preschool Art Show was a wonderful success, with a tremendous turnout. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

April starts off with our annual egg hunt and Easter Parties, then we move into Spring Break. When we return, preparation for graduation will begin with cap and gown pictures on the 23rd of April for Pre-K and Kindergarten. The first week of May is teachers appreciation week, please thank a teacher for all they do this week.

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



## MISSION MATTERS

We had a wonderful response to the Lenten giving of socks and underwear for our local school children. Thank you for Lenten offering funds to help those kids with glasses and hearing aids. Insurance buys one but they are easily lost or broken with no recourse. Missions begin in our own backyard! God bless you!

Questions? contact Dex: 470-203-9595 or hummerlover60@hotmail.com

You'll be glad you did!!



### The United Methodist Men

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 or call 678-492-6257.



### The Dorcas Circle

Due to Spring Break, Dorcas Circle will meet on Thursday, April 16 at 6:00pm. Sonia Addison, the Executive Director of The Ruth House will be joining us to give an update on recent developments and the progress of the transition house. All ladies are welcome to join us.



### 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)



Above all,  
love each other  
deeply.

1 Peter 4:8



As April begins, we look forward to a month of growth, fellowship, and fun in our youth group as we also celebrate Easter—the reminder of the incredible hope and new life

we have through Jesus.

**KOK DATES AND TIMES FOR APRIL:**

**\*WEDNESDAYS 4:00 TO 5:30P.M.\***

04/01 - KOK EGG HUNT

04/15 - KOK

04/22- KOK

04/29- KOK

**\*NO KOK 04/08 - SPRING BREAK\***

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

As we celebrate Easter this month, may the hope of the resurrection inspire us to keep growing in faith, encouraging one another, and sharing Christ's love wherever we go.

— Amy Swancey  
Director of Children and Youth  
amy@jasperumc.org



April gives us the opportunity to slow down and reflect on the message of Easter, remembering the sacrifice and victory of Jesus while continuing to grow deeper in our faith together.

**Elevate Youth Nights – Sundays**

5:30 – 8:00 PM

April 5th NO ELEVATE \*EASTER SUNDAY\*

April 12th NO ELEVATE \*SPRING BREAK\*

April 19th ELEVATE

April 26th ELEVATE

**Elevate Youth Nights – Wednesdays**

6:15 – 8:00 PM

APRIL 1ST ELEVATE

APRIL 8TH NO ELEVATE \*SPRING BREAK\*

APRIL 15TH ELEVATE

APRIL 22ND ELEVATE

APRIL 29TH ELEVATE

Thank you for continuing to show up, ask questions, and grow in your faith—may the hope we celebrate at Easter encourage us to live boldly for Christ throughout the month ahead.

— Amy Swancey  
Director of Children and Youth  
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.



Make your reservation by noon on Mondays.

Call 706-253-2100

*April's Menu*

- April 1 Meat Loaf, Potatoes, Broccoli, Dump Cake
- April 15 Chicken Pot Pie, Salad, Banana Pudding
- April 22 Spaghetti, Salad, Apple Crunch
- April 29 Pork, Sweet Potatoes, Apples, Lemon Pie



"If you think the Lord moves in mysterious ways, you should see long division."



# JUMC VBS 2026



## Save The Date

JUNE 15TH - 18TH  
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

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MARK IT IN YOUR CALENDARS SO  
YOU CAN BE SURE TO  
PARTICIPATE AND VOLUNTEER!  
MORE INFO WILL COME AS WE  
GET CLOSER.

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# What's Happening in April at JUMC?

## Sundays:

9:30 am Coffee and Refreshments

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

6:00 pm Elevate Youth

6:40 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, April 6-Friday, April 10 Pickens County Schools Spring Break

## Meetings:

April 6 - 6:00 pm Trustees Committee

April 13 - 6:00 pm Finance Committee

April 13 - 3:30 pm Stephen Ministry

April 16 - 6:00 pm Dorcas Circle

April 16 - 6:00 pm UM Men

April 19 - 2:00 -4:00 pm Congregational Meeting

## Holy Week:

March 30 -April 3 12:00 pm Lenten Lunches

## April 5 Easter

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

11:00 am Worship at JUMC in the Sanctuary