



Jasper United Methodist Church

128 W. Spring Street, Jasper, GA 30143

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September 2026



A View from the *Crowe's Nest*

This month, Beijing hosted the 2026 World Humanoid Robot Games. More than 2,000 robots competed in events ranging from running, soccer, boxing, and weightlifting to housework, hotel service, and emergency response. Some of the robots were astonishing. One ran the 100-meter dash in 8.64 seconds faster than the human world record. But apparently, the engineers had spent more time teaching it how to run how to stop. After crossing the finish line, the robot crashed into a padded barrier tumbling like a toddler trying to walk in a bouncy house.

During the gymnastics competition, one robot couldn't stick the landing. With one foot suspended in the air, it hopped and stumbled like someone trying to put socks on while standing up until gravity sent it crashing face forward. Soccer matches offered their own entertainment. Robots ran into each other, fell over, and struggled to get back up. After one robot tumbled to the ground repeatedly tried kicking it into the goal.

The competitions were both impressive and amusing. Technology has come a long way but robots have a lot to learn about being human. They can be programmed to run, kick, lift, and dance. But they cannot be taught how to truly love, feel compassion, recognize the loneliness behind someone's smile, choose to forgive, or sit beside a grieving friend.

Perhaps the most revealing moments came after the robots failed. Human beings rushed onto the field, carry the robots away, repair what was broken, and help them get back in the game. That is a picture of what it means to make Christ visible. We live in a world filled with people who are running hard, trying to keep up, and crashing into walls. Others are carrying burdens so heavy they have falld and cannot get back up. They do not need us to stand by and judge their performance. They need someone who will notice, move toward them, and help carry the weight.

Jesus moved toward people who had fallen. He noticed those who others ignored and passed by. He welcomed those who felt excluded. He offered forgiveness to people burdened by failure and hope to those who needed it. Jesus didn't just tell them God loved them. He made that love visible.

Making Christ visible does not require us to perform perfectly. In fact, some of the clearest glimpses of Christ appear in the way we respond to imperfection in ourselves and in others. Christ becomes visible when we extend patience instead of irritation, grace instead of judgment, and encouragement instead of criticism.

Making Christ visible is more than performing an act of kindness. It is allowing the love we have received from Christ to take visible form through us. May we move toward those who are hurting. May we lift, carry, and support one another like Christ. And, may others catch a glimpse of something greater than humanity through us. May they see Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe

Making *Christ* Visible

**Wednesday Night Suppers RETURN
STARTING September 9, 2026**

Catered by Kloe's Kitchen

Adults \$12
Children (under 10) \$6
Family of Four \$40

FELLOWSHIP SUPPER - Catered by Kloe's Country Cooking

Served Wednesdays, 5:45-6:30 pm

Name: _____

How many: ____

These reservations are: ____Permanent ____Non-Permanent for dates: _____

Cost: \$12 adult, \$6 children under 10 years, \$40 family of 4

Please make your reservation or cancellation by Friday morning.

(All dinners must be paid for if you do not attend and have not cancelled by Friday morning.)

September Menus:

9th—Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Peanut Butter Cake

16th—Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Navy Beans, Peach Cobbler

23rd—Beef Tips & Rice, Squash Casserole, Peas, Yellow Cake with Icing

30th—Pork Chops, Mac-n-Cheese, Slaw, Apple Cobbler

Making Christ Visible: Funding the Mission

“Making Christ Visible” is more than just a statement. It is a vision of the church we believe God is calling us to become—a church where people experience the love of Christ, encounter Christ through worship, and see Christ through service. But a mission does not move from words on a page to lives in our community without the prayerful participation and generosity of God’s people.

We need your help and commitment. The ministries are vital and extensive. It will require approximately \$39,000–\$50,000 to fulfill those plans. That is a significant investment, but behind every number is a person. Behind every hamburger, pantry box, welcome gift, neighbor visit and more is another opportunity for someone to experience the love and hope of Jesus Christ.



We are not asking simply, “How can we fund these projects?” We are asking a much more important question:

What could God do through us if we joined our prayers, gifts, creativity, and service around one shared mission?

In the coming weeks, I invite you to pray about how you can help make this vision possible. Consider giving a special financial gift beyond your tithes. Or maybe you could help gather food, offer creative abilities, welcome guests, share our events, or visit our neighbors. Every gift matters, and every person has a part. Contact Pastor Sheila and let her know your commitment.

Our mission is simple: **Making Christ Visible.**

Together, let us give it hands and feet. Let us create places where people are welcomed, worship is alive, neighbors are served, and the light of Christ shines beyond the walls of our church.

Love

Hospitality - \$7,500 Update front entry area with rugs and new furniture,
Purchase Visitor QR Tags. Upgrade visitor welcome gift

Worship

Creative Worship Experiences during the year - \$3,000
Ramp to Stage - \$2500 one time expense
Promotional Materials and Ads \$3-5,000
Front Porch Jam and Music Programs \$3000
Short Film – Working Title: Circle in the Darkness \$3,000

This film will use local talent and be used to promote the message and hope of Jesus Christ in our community. It will be submitted to the 168 Christian Film Festival competition.

Service

Little Food Pantry Boxes
 Sponsorship per location \$6-\$12,000 yearly
 Storage Building \$10-15,000 one time expense
Good Neighbor Project
 Quarterly Neighbor Gifts and materials \$500- \$1000 per quarter

TOTAL: \$39,000-50,000

Let’s make Christ visible!

NEW BIBLE STUDY

It is Well ...

*walking away from anxiety
and into God's Word!*

Wednesdays

STARTING SEPTEMBER 9

Room 106

4:30-5:30 PM



SEPTEMBER 20
5-7 PM
FREE EVENT
Everyone Welcome!

PORCH JAM SESSION
NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC

OUTSIDE UNDER THE
PORTICO
AT
JASPER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
128 W. Spring Street

MUSICIANS: BRING YOUR INSTRUMENT.
EVERYONE ELSE: BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR.

Family-friendly secular & Christian music | Open jam session

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs!

JASPER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Making Christ Visible

NOW HIRING

Administrative Assistant



JASPER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Part-time • Four days weekly • 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

We're looking for someone who is:

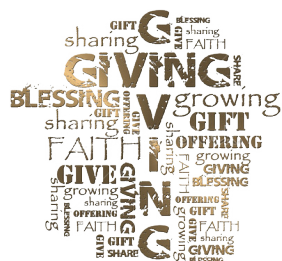
- ✓ Welcoming, dependable, and organized
- ✓ Skilled in Microsoft Office and communication
- ✓ Able to multitask and maintain confidentiality
- ✓ Experienced in an office setting (2+ years)

Send résumé to Pastor Sheila Crowe
preacher@jasperumc.org

Making Christ Visible



Online Giving



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



JUMC Preschool



Preschool started our new year with teacher preplanning the week of August 4 -7th. We had several training sessions that included new teaching on behavior, CPR, Safe Sanctuary, and Active Shooter. Our goal is

to assist all our teachers with the necessary training to insure the best possible experience for them as well as our students.

Students returned on August 10th, we had tears on Monday, and every day since has been better. At this time, we have 67 students enrolled, but we are having inquiries weekly and expect to be full soon.

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

MISSION MATTERS

Hygiene kits: All of the items for the hygiene kits have been signed for. Praise the Lord. Assemble date to be announced.

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



Moses misunderstands his doctor's orders.

We love our visitors! It is exciting to see new faces and a privilege to welcome them into God's house. If you see someone who may be a first time guest, please direct them to the welcome center after the service. They will receive a welcome gift that includes a spiral notebook and pen, the monthly newsletter, information about ministries and activities here and a visitor registration/prayer request card. If you have suggestions for something that could be included in the gift bag, please let us know.

On Sunday mornings, for the past couple of months I have had the pleasure of opening the door to welcome those who enter the upper side door. Mike Ledford and others in the Men's group have welcomed and assisted at the portico door. It has been a blessing to us, and we hope it instills a sense of warmth and belonging to those who enter. If you would like to join our welcoming committee, let us know.

Consider opening the door for those who enter from the lower parking lot or being a hallway greeter. The more smiles the better!

If you have thoughts or suggestions to enhance our hospitality efforts, please let us know.
Nancyhenson.bt@gmail.com

Notes from the Music Desk!



Hey there!

I am thrilled to say the choir room is now cleared to make room for **two rows of chairs, providing seating for 18 people,** **and** the storage room next to the choir room is now organized and has now easy access to all of the music drawers. I also rearranged all of the props for easy access and made sure the floor was clear so that any choir music can be pulled out without difficulty. I also documented all of the choir music we currently have, giving me a clear record of our available choral arrangements

The choir has already had **two rehearsals with excellent attendance,** and I am very encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment that have been shown. We are off to a wonderful start, and it has been exciting to work together and begin building our music ministry. At this time, I am teaching the choir **two new songs,** while also spending time polishing and strengthening several songs they already know. This will give us a short but versatile portfolio of music that we can confidently draw from for upcoming worship services and special occasions.

Our plan moving forward is for the choir to **sing most Sundays,** becoming a regular and meaningful part of our worship experience. As we continue rehearsing and adding new music, I hope we will build not only a strong collection of songs but also a choir that enjoys ministering together and sharing their gifts with the congregation. I am very excited about the direction we are heading and look forward to seeing the choir continue to grow in confidence, fellowship, and joy as we serve together through music.

Beginning in **September, we will start preparing our special Christmas music,** giving the choir plenty of time to learn, rehearse, and polish the selections. Our goal is to build a beautiful collection of Christmas music that we can share throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

In addition to singing Christmas music throughout the season, we are planning for **at least two special choral presentations,** giving the congregation opportunities to experience the choir in a more focused and meaningful musical offering. We will also prepare and lead the congregation in familiar Christmas carols for our **Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight service.** I am especially excited about this opportunity to create a worship experience filled with music, warmth, and fellowship as we celebrate the Christmas season together.

Beginning in **September, we will also launch our community music jams,** creating an opportunity for musicians, singers, songwriters, and families to come together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Our first community music jam is scheduled for **Sunday, September 20th, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** We will set up under cover just outside the entrance doors, providing a comfortable space for everyone to gather, listen, participate, and enjoy an evening of music and fellowship.

I will also be spreading the word throughout the music community to the **writers, singers, and performers I know,** inviting them to come and share their talents. Our goal is to create a **Christian and family-friendly music environment** where people of all ages can feel welcome and where local musicians have an opportunity to connect, encourage one another, and share their gifts. I am excited about the potential for these music jams to become a regular community gathering and another way for our church to reach out, build relationships, and bring people together through music.

In Him, Kate



We have had such a wonderful start back to Kids of the Kingdom! It has been a blessing to see our children come together each Wednesday to learn more about God, grow in their faith, and build friendships along the way. We are so excited for all that God

has in store for this year as we continue teaching His Word and helping our children discover what it means to live for Him!

SEPTEMBER DATES:

Wednesday's 4:00-5:30PM

September 2

September 9

September 16

September 23

September 30

+ Get ready for Trunk or Treat to be held on October 28th!

Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to join us each Wednesday for Bible lessons, games, crafts, music, snacks, and lots of fun as we grow together in God's love.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's faith journey! We pray that each week at Kids of the Kingdom brings your family closer to Christ and reminds our children just how much God loves them. We can't wait to continue growing, learning, and serving God together!

In His Name,

— Amy Swancey
Director of Children and Youth
amy@jasperumc.org
770-403-2259



We've had such a great start back to Elevate Youth Group! It has been exciting to see our students come together, grow in their faith, and build meaningful friendships. We are looking forward to all that God has in store as we continue to grow deeper in His Word and learn what it means to live boldly for Christ!

Join us as we start back up this August!

SEPTEMBER DATES:

Sunday's 5:30-7:30PM

September 13

September 20

September 27

*No Elevate on September 6th

+ Get ready for Trunk or Treat to be held on October 28th!

We are so thankful for the opportunity to walk alongside our students as they grow in their faith and relationship with Christ. Our prayer is that they would continue to seek God, stand firm in His Word, and be a light to those around them. We can't wait to see how God continues to work through Elevate!

— Amy Swancey
Director of Children and Youth
amy@jasperumc.org
770-403-2259

The Dorcas Circle



Thursday September 10th @ 6pm

Special and fun board game night

Bring your favorite game and sweet or salty snack to share! All ladies welcome.



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.

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:

Mike Brown, Deanie Chesser, Pam Edwards, Judy Ferris, Martha Foster, Sara Fowler, Mitch Henson, Peggy Higgins, Kathy Huntington. Maureen Huntington, Linda Judkins, Tom Judkins, Don Larson, Joyce Leist, Laurie Miles, George Montgomery, Rick Phillips, Mary Russell, Ashley Schaeffer, Susan Sherrell, Gerald Thurman, Connie Tudor

Christian sympathy is extended to Pastor Sheila and family on the death of her mother, Bobbye 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

How to Make Christ Visible This Month

- **Notice someone.** Look for the person who is alone, new, overlooked, or struggling—and begin a conversation simply by introducing yourself to them.
- **Practice visible kindness.** Pay for someone's meal, deliver a treat, write an encouraging note, or offer help without being asked.
- **Check on a neighbor.** Take your neighbor a small gift of flowers or a package of cookies. Ask how they are doing and take time to really listen to their answer.
- **Feed someone.** Donate food to our CARES ministry. Take someone a meal—not because they are in need, but simply to let them know they are loved and remembered.
- **Participate in worship.** Sing, pray, respond, share your gifts, and encourage others rather than merely observing on Sunday morning.
- **Speak hope.** Replace criticism, complaining, or gossip with words that bring grace, encouragement, and peace.



The Power of Community

Leslie Long – Pickens County Family Connection and Community Resource Center.

Every journey begins somewhere, and this family will always hold a special place in our hearts as the very first clients to walk through the doors of the Community Resource Center.



PICKENS COUNTY
family connection

It was our very first day. Boxes were all in the floor, and the only furniture was a small couch. A single mother and her two young boys came to us after a series of incredibly difficult circumstances had left them without a home or any of their personal belongings. They needed more than just resources. They needed hope, encouragement, and a community willing to walk alongside them.

Thanks to the generosity and collaboration of our community partners, we were able to connect the family with clothing, food, and essential resources. As they secured a new home in Dawson County, partners including the Community Thrift Store and Sleep in Heavenly Peace helped furnish their home, providing the comfort and stability every family deserves!

Today, this family is moving forward one step at a time and creating a new beginning together. We are honored to have played a small role in their journey and grateful to witness their resilience and determination!

Stories like this remind us why the Community Resource Center exists. Sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is believing someone's story, listening without judgment, connecting them with the right resources, and reminding them they don't have to face life's challenges alone. When our community comes together, hope grows, lives change, and families find the support they need to thrive!