



Jasper United Methodist Church

128 W. Spring Street, Jasper, GA 30143

Phone: 706-253-2100 www.jasperumc.org

Facebook: Jasper United Methodist Church / YouTube: Jasper UMC

November 2026



A View from the *Crowe's Nest*

We like to play games in our family. We have played The Game of Life, Monopoly, Disney Trivial Pursuit, Spades, and Oh Hell, to name a few. And when we play, we play to win. We are a competitive bunch! One of our favorite games has definitely been the game of Spoons.

Spoons is a card game in which everyone tries to collect four matching cards. When someone succeeds, they grab a spoon from the middle of the table, and everyone else scrambles to grab one, too. The catch? There's always one fewer spoon than players. And in our family, that apparently meant anything short of bodily injury is acceptable.

I have great memories of people standing on chairs, with their arms extended high in the air so no one could take their spoons. Others jumping across the table trying to wrestle a spoon from someone's hand. Spoons went flying through the air!

Once, my husband and I jumped up from the bench to grab a spoon. When we both plopped back down at the same time, the bench collapsed, sending us crashing to the floor! And there was the time someone laughed so hard they wet their pants. (That person shall remain nameless!)

But the truth is I don't remember who won any of those games. Though my son in law has said more than once, "Is there any game your mother isn't good at?" No instead, remember the laughter. I remember sacrificing furniture for victory. I remember my mother dancing. I remember my grandchildren rejoicing when they knew the answer and the adults didn't. And when I remember that it makes me smile not just on the outside, but deep inside.



Isn't it interesting that what seemed so important in the middle of the game isn't what we remember when the game is over?

This November, we're going to have a little fun with some familiar board games in a sermon series called Kingdom Games: Playing by Different Rules. We'll explore Monopoly, Chess, and The Game of Life. And we'll discover that some of the rules we've learned about success, possessions, and winning don't look much like the rules Jesus taught.

Because in God's Kingdom, winning isn't always what we think it is. Sometimes the wisest move is giving something away. And sometimes what matters most can't be counted, bought, or put on a scoreboard.

Take some time this month to remember the games you played growing up? Who did you play with? What games made you laugh? What lessons did you learn? And when the game, what turned out to matter the most?

So join for Kingdom Games, I promise you won't have to jump across a table, wrestle anyone for a spoon, or sacrifice any church furniture! And you might be surprised at what God can teach us around a game board.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe



What is Operation Christmas Child?

The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 244 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 175 countries and territories.

In 2025, Samaritan's Purse collected 12.2 million shoebox gifts globally.

Anyone can pack a shoebox. Individuals, families, churches and groups fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, personal care items and fun toys, such as dolls or soccer balls.

Learn how to pack a shoebox, view gift suggestions, find the nearest drop-off location, and Follow Your Box at samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Do not include candy; soap; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; seeds; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items, such as snow globes or glass containers; or aerosol cans.

Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through Follow Your Box and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.

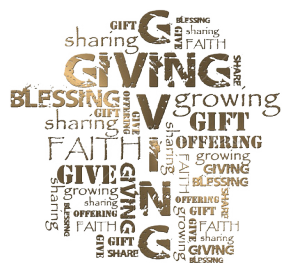
Participants who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse samaritanspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child's specific age and gender, then finish packing the virtual shoebox by adding a photo and personal note of encouragement.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine.

Delivered into the hands of children through local churches, every shoebox gift is an opportunity to share about Jesus Christ and God's love.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE DISPLAY IN THE CHURCH SANTUARY!!!!

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 is finishing up a very busy and fun month. In October we had our western day, fall festival, fall break, the first 50 days of school, and Halloween parties. It was such a fun month. The month of November will be a

little slower, so that we can think about all the things we are thankful for.

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



MISSION MATTERS

“OVER AND ABOVE for Kenya”

JUMC has been supporting our widows (Jewels) in Obaga Kenya for a long time by paying salaries and a Christmas celebration. Salaries are:

1. Village Manager @ \$350/mo.
2. Tailoring Teacher @ \$200/mo
3. Hair dressing teacher @ \$50/mo
4. Cooks who fix lunch for primary school twice a week @ \$60/mo.

Paid by quarter that is \$1980/qtr.

A Christmas celebration for 60 ladies plus children is \$2000.

The Kenya Ministries account serves these needs. It needs help.

There is a collection jar at the door. The goal is \$4,000 by December. Your offering, over and above your tithe, will make Christ visible in Kenya. On line please find the Kenya Ministries choice.

New Kenya students on the bulletin board are up for sponsorship in 2027. Give a kid an education!! Sign up!

Questions? contact Dex:

470-203-9595 or hummerlover60@hotmail.com

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

Notes from the Music Desk!



Music Ministry News

There is lots happening in our Music Ministry, and it is wonderful to see the music, fellowship, and excitement growing in our church!

Our choir is **now in full swing**, and we would love to welcome anyone who would like to join us. Whether you have sung in a choir before or simply enjoy singing, there is a place for you! Rehearsals take place on Wednesday evenings immediately following Church supper, at approximately 6:40 p.m. Come along, meet the team, and be part of the joy of making music together.

We are especially excited as we learn our Christmas program for Christmas Eve. We have a wonderful evening of **Carols by Candlelight** in the making, and we are looking forward to sharing a beautiful and meaningful celebration of the birth of Jesus with our church family and community. There is much to prepare, but the excitement is building!

Our second **Porch Jam** was another great success! We enjoyed wonderful music, good fellowship, and a lovely time together—even if it did get a little chilly towards the end! A big thank-you to everyone who came along, performed, listened, and helped make the evening such a success. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our next Porch Jam on **Sunday, November 15th**. We look forward to another evening of music and community fun!

I will be heading off on vacation—or “holidays,” as us Aussies say—for a couple of weeks this month, but I will be back before Thanksgiving. In the meantime, the music will keep going! A big thanks to **Carole Fallgren**, and **Phyllis Poole** for making sure our music program, and the choir, continue to minister while I'm gone.

Our **KOK** are also busy learning their Christmas music, and they are having a wonderful time preparing for the season. They will be sharing a little concert on **Wednesday, December 9th**, during Church supper. It will be a lovely opportunity to celebrate their enthusiasm and enjoy the sounds of Christmas through the eyes and voices of our children.

There is so much to look forward to over the coming weeks! Thank you to everyone who gives their time, talents, and enthusiasm to our Music Ministry. Whether you sing, play an instrument, perform, or simply enjoy listening, there is a place for you. Let's continue to make a joyful noise together!

Blessings and happy singing!

In Him, Kate

The Dorcas Circle



The November Dorcas Circle meeting will be held Thursday, November 12th. 6 pm

We will be having a “Friendsgiving” celebration. Bring a covered dish and join us for an evening of fellowship.

Our annual ladies Christmas dinner will be held on Monday, December 7th, 6 PM. All ladies are welcome and invited. Meat will be provided, bring a covered sidedish or dessert. Don't forget your white elephant gift, a check or cash for the Murphy Harpst Home collection, and a small gift or card to reveal your secret prayer sister.

SAVE THE DATE:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP -

DORCAS CIRCLE LADIES AND UMM WILL BE SETTING UP AND DECORATING THE CHRISMON TREE.

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BE A PART OF THIS WONDERFUL TRADITION



The United Methodist Men

For the month of November, the men's group will have their second Thursday meeting at the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville. We will plan to arrive at the museum around 10am, and will try to coordinate some carpooling prior to that. We will gather for lunch at the cafe in the museum.

Call or text Richard Lewis with any questions (678-492-6257)."



Happy November, Kids of the Kingdom families! We are so thankful for each of your precious little ones and the joy they bring to our ministry. As we enter this season of thanksgiving, we are reminded of how blessed we are by God's love, goodness, and faithfulness. This month, we look forward to helping our children grow in their faith, learn more about Jesus, and discover the many things they have to be thankful for!

November Dates & Times: 4:00-5:30PM

November 4th

November 11th

November 18th : KOK FRIENDSGIVING

***NO KOK* - November 25th**

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, we pray your homes are filled with love, laughter, and gratitude for all the Lord has done. May we continue to encourage our little ones to have thankful hearts, show kindness to others, and share the love of Jesus wherever they go. Thank you for allowing us to be part of your child's faith journey. We are so grateful for our Kids of the Kingdom family! Have a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

Joyfully serving Him,

Amy Swancey

Director of Children and Youth

amy@jasperumc.org

770-403-2259



Happy November, everyone! As we head into a season centered around gratitude, it's a great time to pause and reflect on God's goodness and the ways He continues to work in our lives. Our prayer is that this month brings opportunities for our students to grow deeper in their faith, strengthen their relationships with one another, and learn to seek God in every season. We're thankful for each student who is part of our youth group and look forward to all that God has in store!

November Dates & Times: 5:30-7:30PM

November 1st

November 8th

November 15th

November 22nd : ELEVATE FRIENDSGIVING

***NO ELEVATE* - November 29th**

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let's remember that gratitude is about more than what we have—it's about recognizing who God is and trusting Him in every circumstance. We encourage our students to live out their faith, be intentional in showing kindness, and look for ways to be a light to those around them. We are so thankful for our youth group and the opportunity to walk alongside these students as they grow in their relationship with Christ. We hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Joyfully serving Him,

Amy Swancey

Director of Children and Youth

amy@jasperumc.org

770-404-2259 cell



stories of impact

Homeless Care Package Testimony

Our care packages for homeless have been a BLESSING. While out running errands on a Monday morning, a homeless veteran was noticed just outside the local WalMart parking lot. After parking I had an opportunity to give the veteran one of our care packages and to pray with him. His immediate response was thankfulness and “bless you ma’am and your church.” He never broke eye contact and neither did I. We both had tears rolling down our cheeks. I was so touched I couldn’t even speak.



Judy Crain



Family Connection - Resource Center

If you missed our Collaborative Meeting last month, you may have missed some very exciting news! A few months ago, we were connected with the Gilmer County chapter of The Salvation Army, who had a laundry and shower trailer they hoped could be put to use

somewhere in North Georgia. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to bring it to Pickens County, and **this week, the trailer will officially arrive at the Community Resource Center!**

Access to showers and laundry is a significant need for many of the individuals and families we serve, particularly those experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Having this resource available will allow us to provide practical support that can make a meaningful difference in someone’s day and help restore a sense of dignity and stability during a difficult time.

Our community has already embraced this project in an incredible way. Since sharing the news, donations of shampoo, soap, and other hygiene supplies have been pouring in. We are so grateful for everyone who has already contributed and helped us get this project off the ground.

For this program to be successful, **we are looking for volunteers** who are willing to help with laundry services, cleaning, basic maintenance, and client reception and intake. If you are interested in volunteering, donating supplies, or finding another way to support this new resource, reach out to Leslie or visit our website to complete a volunteer application or make a donation.

Good Neighbor Project – Welcome Mat

“Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe takes loving our neighbors to a whole new level. One Sunday morning, she challenged our congregation with a beautiful initiative: she encouraged us to take welcome mats provided by Jasper United Methodist Church and bring them to our neighbors. The goal was simply to introduce ourselves, listen, and learn a little about them. We never truly know what challenges the people around us are fighting.



Sometimes, our neighbors aren’t just the ones living in houses next door, but individuals struggling to a point that we cannot comprehend. My mom and I recently met a young couple living in a tent in the woods while waiting for government housing. They had left their previous homes to escape violence and drugs, choosing to brave the elements just to get on their feet. They were the very first people I thought of when I grabbed my welcome mats. Most of us might look at a tent and think it’s not a home, but they are making the best of their situation—so that is home to them.

When I met up with them and gave them the welcome mat, they were so excited. They placed it right outside their tent, took a picture, and sent it to me immediately. It warmed my heart to know that something so small could bring happiness to a couple going through so much heartache.

Pastor Sheila came up with the perfect way to open the door, reminding us that no matter where someone lays their head, they are still our neighbor and they are cared for. Her leadership ensures that nobody in our community ever has to feel isolated or forgotten.”





Gather your family and friends, divide into teams, and put your knowledge to the test! Each correct answer earns one point. No Googling, no peeking, and no help from Alexa! The team with the most points earns Thanksgiving bragging rights for an entire year!

Round 1: The Real Story

- 1 In what year did the famous Plymouth harvest celebration take place?
- 2 How many days did the celebration last?
- 3 Which Native American people participated in the gathering?
- 4 Which president proclaimed a national Thanksgiving holiday during the Civil War?
- 5 What popular Thanksgiving dessert was NOT served at the 1621 celebration?

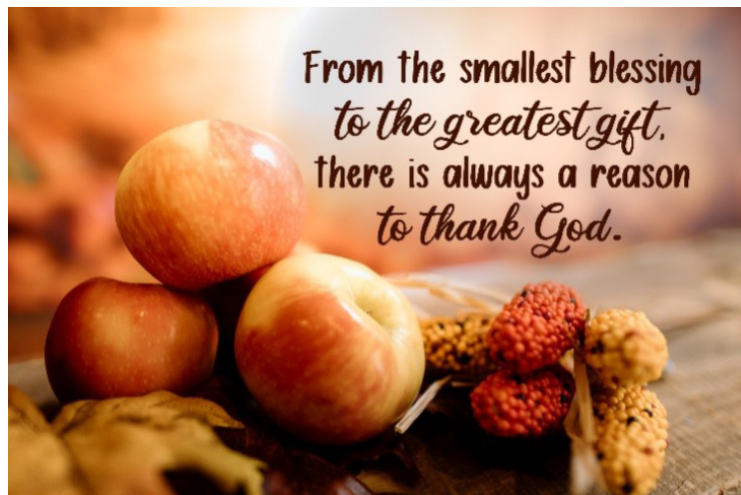
Round 2: Food, Glorious Food!

- 6 What Southern Thanksgiving favorite is traditionally made with crumbled cornbread, broth, onions, and celery?
- 7 True or False: Ripe cranberries can bounce.
- 8 Which famous Thanksgiving side dish was created by Campbell's in 1955?
- 9 What is a male turkey called?
- 10 What is the name for the day after Thanksgiving when Americans traditionally flock to stores for holiday bargains?

Round 3: Strange but True!

- 11 Which president began the modern tradition of officially pardoning a Thanksgiving turkey in 1989?
- 12 What kind of animals appeared in the first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade instead of giant balloons?
- 13 Which Peanuts character serves toast, popcorn, pretzels, and jelly beans for Thanksgiving dinner?
- 14 In the sitcom Friends, which character famously put a turkey on her head?
- 15 Which U.S. state produces the most turkeys annually?

Look for the answers later in this newsletter!



PORCH JAM SESSION

NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC

NOVEMBER 15
5-7 PM
FREE EVENT
Everyone Welcome!

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

Come play – or just come listen.

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

Family-friendly secular & Christian music

Children Activities

Open jam session

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs!
JASPER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Making Christ Visible

NOVEMBER 15
5-7 PM
FREE EVENT
Everyone Welcome!

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JASPER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Making Christ Visible



Making Christ Visible

in our community and the world
so that they might know and love God.



WORSHIP
Make Christ visible through worship by gathering to praise God and inviting others to join you.

Try this:
Invite a neighbor, friend, or co-worker to church or to one of our upcoming events.



HOMES
Make Christ visible in homes through love by living out your faith in your home and with all ages.

Try this:
Share a meal, pray together, or talk about something you're thankful for this season.



COMMUNITY
Make Christ visible in our community through service by knowing, serving, and caring for our neighbors.

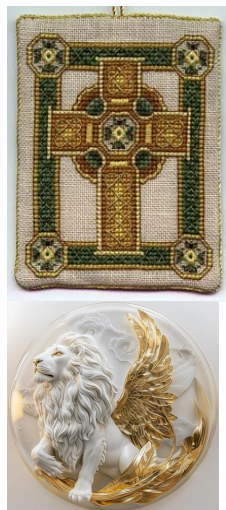
Try this:
Introduce yourself to someone new, take a welcome mat, or find a small way to help a neighbor in need.



WORLD
Make Christ visible in the world through love and service by supporting mission efforts near and far, including our partners in Kenya and through our apportionments.

Try this:
Pray for our mission partners, give to support their work, and learn more about how God is working around the world.

Through love, worship and service.



Calling all Woodworkers, Crafters, Quilters, and Artist

Our Church theme for Christmas 2026 is the "Beauty of Chrismons." We want to adorn the church with Chrismons. So, we are inviting you to create a Chrismon to put on display during the advent season. It should be predominately white and gold. They can be stitched, crocheted, embroidered, created from clay, painted, wood, or from whatever art form you feel comfortable using. They can be any size but to be placed on the Chrismon Tree they cannot be bigger than 4"x6". YOU CAN MAKE MORE THAN ONE!

To learn more about Chrismons and see examples check out <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/chrismons> <https://www.umc.org/en/content/christian-symbols-and-chrismons>



Round 1: The Real Story — Answers

- 1 1621
- 2 Three days
- 3 The Wampanoag
- 4 Abraham Lincoln
- 5 Pumpkin pie (No modern-style pumpkin pie was served at the 1621 celebration.)



Round 2: Food, Glorious Food! — Answers

- 6 Cornbread dressing (A Southern favorite traditionally made with crumbled cornbread, broth, onions, and celery.)
- 7 True (Ripe cranberries can bounce because they have tiny air pockets inside.)
- 8 Green bean casserole
- 9 A tom (also called a gobbler)
- 10 Black Friday



Round 3: Strange but True! — Answers

- 11 George H. W. Bush (He began the modern tradition of officially pardoning a Thanksgiving turkey in 1989.)
- 12 Live animals from the Central Park Zoo (The first Macy's parade in 1924 featured live animals instead of giant balloons.)
- 13 Snoopy
- 14 Monica Geller
- 15 Minnesota (Minnesota produces the most turkeys annually in the United States.)



Come with US!

KENYA

**An Adventure
An Experience
A Mission**

October 6-20, 2027



How to Join the Team

-  **Must be 12 years or older.**
Those under 18 must have a parent or approved adult traveling with them.
-  **Team members may pay monthly or in three payments.**
-  **Fundraising materials to recruit donations and sponsors will be provided.**
There will also be team fundraisers to help offset the cost.
-  **Team meetings will be held monthly by Zoom starting in March and will increase closer to travel time.**
-  **We will have a daily devotional and worship time while on the trip.**

Interested in joining the team?
Call Rev. Dr. Sheila Crowe • 706-253-2100

-  **Consult your local health department for shot information.**
-  **A valid passport and eVisas are required.**
-  **Use of tobacco and alcohol on trip is prohibited.**
-  **English is spoken in Kenya.**
-  **Request the interest form and sign the commitment and code of conduct form.**