

# JEFFERSON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our mission is to make ROCK-SOLID disciples of Jesus Christ to change Jackson County and the world.  
We Become Disciples when we Celebrate! Connect! and Contribute!

Published July 24, 2019

Look inside for great ways to:  
**Celebrate!**  
**Connect!**  
**Contribute!**

## A Note from Pastor Chris Laskey

We'll, it's been another quick summer! I pray you've had some downtime this summer and have been able to make some great memories with family and friends. Our family has been blessed by the ability to take a couple quick beach trips and we have also enjoyed a fair bit of company as friends from both Germany and the Netherlands came for a visit this summer. We also bring in-town guests to church when they are here, and they really enjoyed worship and the warm-welcome received, so thank you!

While it's been a quick summer, it has also been a very productive summer from a ministry standpoint. We had a lot of great things take place, including:

- The first "Winning Warriors Camp" for Jackson County
- "Roar" Vacation Bible School serving over 100 kids!
- The first "African Mission Trip" sent from JFUMC/Outpost
- Middle School Youth Mission Trip—River of Life, Ellijay, GA
- High School Youth Mission Trip—St. Simons, GA
- Annual Back Pack Ministry & Clothes Closet

In addition to all these wonderful ways our church has served the community and the world, the Outpost Task Force has been busy gathering information pertinent to the Outpost Property Site Plan that was rolled-out in May. There is a lot of fact-finding required at this point and information will be shared in the upcoming months about the process moving forward. It's a great time to be at JFUMC and Outpost! Thank you for your prayers, presence, gifts, service, witness, and faith in your pastor and church leadership.

*Pastor Chris*



**August Sermon Series:**  
**"Holy Cow! Trying to Live for God in An Ungodly Culture"**

We are praying for back-to-school families in worship on August 4th in all locations

## Jefferson First United Methodist Church Sunday Services

9:30 am Modern Worship at the Outpost Campus, Jackson County Comprehensive Highschool

11:00 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

## ADULT Discipleship

August is a busy month with summer activities ending and school beginning. Please consider investing time in a small group experience as you plan your fall schedule. **Online registration with more details coming in August!** Until then, here are some things to look forward to and start praying about.

**Disciple Bible Study (Wednesday Evenings):** Disciple Bible Study provides a rich experience that will take you deeper in scripture than you've ever been.

**Connect Group Registration is just around the corner.** Who doesn't need a night (or day) with food, fellowship, and a little discussion to keep you on track throughout the week?

**Interested in leading a connect group? Contact Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098 for info!**

**Sunday School** - Ongoing Groups meeting on Sunday mornings. Note: The Open Door Class resumes meeting on August 4th (see below for details).

**The Open Door Sunday School Class** will start back on Sunday, August 4th, at 9:45 a.m., in Room E-2 in the Education Building. We invite people of all ages to join us as we study "Max on Life" by Max Lucado. **"Why Me? Why am I here? Why did this happen? Can you help me understand? Where's the lifeline? Where can I turn? Is there any hope? We have questions. Real, important and challenging questions. Questions about family, finances, and forgiveness. Unsettling questions regarding illness, death and eternity. Don't we crave answers to these questions that tug on the deepest parts of our hearts? Max Lucado has received thousands of questions and wrestled with plenty of his own. In these eight Bible study sessions, one of today's most trusted pastors takes on life's most important questions. Here's hoping that his answers to the questions of others will help you find answers to your own."**

**Wednesday Night Café & Connections**

Café & Connections begins on **August 14<sup>th</sup>**! Dinner will be served from 5:45-6:30 with kids, youth, and adult activities following from 6:30-7:30. The suggested cost of the meal is \$5 per person or a maximum of \$15 per family. We have a lot of fun events planned for Wednesday evenings this fall! Save-the-Date magnets will be available in worship and at the church office but here is a list of the first several dates so you can put them on your calendar:

**8/14:** Wednesday Café & Connections Kick Off! BBQ & Bingo for all ages  
Barbeque is on the menu! Bingo Night for all ages after we eat!  
Nursery provided for children 0-3

**8/28:** Lego Club for the kids; nursery provided for children 0-3

**9/11:** All ages service project; nursery provided for children 0-3

**9/25:** Fall Fun activities for kids; nursery provided for children 0-3

**Enjoy not having to cook and fellowship with current and new friends!**

## Service Opportunities

Make Service a part of your life! Contact Renee Hilley, 404-372-6796 for more information!

### Backpack Ministry

THIS week! Drop-Off clean clothes this week at the church office. And, give of your TIME: Clothes Closet Set-Up—7/25 & 7/26, 6-8p; Distribution Day help Saturday from 7:30-11:30a.

### Operation Christmas Child

It's never too early to start packing shoeboxes! Each shoebox represents a child who will hear the Gospel story for the first time.

- We have already begun collecting items for shoeboxes! Please consider donating small toys, hygiene products (no liquids), small books and school supplies to place in shoeboxes during our OCC Packing Party later this fall (11/10). Donation bins are located in the Fellowship Hall or you can bring them to the church office or drop off to Renee Hilley on Sundays.
- Start packing now! OCC has an online packing option that allows you to pack a shoebox online, picking specific age groups, items, and even a chance to include a note and picture! Boxes are \$25 each and include the \$9 shipping cost. The boxes packed online are sent to the least reached areas around the world! Go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/> and follow the steps!
- We have a great team of folks serving with this particular ministry! We would love to have you be a part of the fun, too! Please contact Renee Hilley if you would like to hear more about the many ways to serve with OCC at Jefferson First & Outpost.

### iServe Dates:

Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>: Commerce

Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>: Athens

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: Pendergrass

Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>: Pendergrass

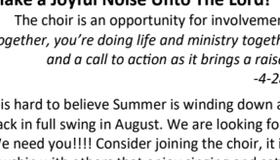
Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>: Commerce

Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: Athens

### Our Daily Bread Dates:

Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>

Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>



Let's **PRAY UP** our **SCHOOLS!**—Bring a friend, child or spouse or come by yourself. Go to the area school of your choosing at **7p on Thursday, August 1st** the night before school starts to walk around the school and pray for the students and staff. Last year we covered many of our schools; let's do it again! Text Tiersa Laskey (770-519-5399) your name and what school you will pray for in-person & we will list what schools will have people conducting prayer walks!

## TRADITIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY

### Make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!

The choir is an opportunity for involvement. *"When you join a choir you're not just singing notes together, you're doing life and ministry together. The choir is a mouthpiece for songs of encouragement and a call to action as it brings a raised dynamic level to the theme or special services."*

-4-28-16 Benson Blog

It is hard to believe Summer is winding down and fall is just around the corner. The Chancel Choir will be back in full swing in August. We are looking forward to exciting music and praising God through song. We need you!!!! Consider joining the choir, it is a wonderful way to have a lasting and meaningful fellowship with others that enjoy singing and setting a tone of worship through music. We meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm.

### Handbells

Handbells are a wonderful way to praise God. If you read music and are interested in joining please contact Carole for more information on our practice schedule. We usually have quarterly presentation throughout the year. So dust of your note reading skills and join us.

Contact Carole Frankum at [carole@jfumc.com](mailto:carole@jfumc.com) or see her following worship any week!

## Women's Book Club

**Women's Book Club**—Any and all women book lovers are welcome to join us this month or any month! We read a variety of fiction, chosen by individual members. Pick a book we are reading that interests you and just show up any time. For August, read *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. From Amazon: "The Instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller; *The Silent Patient* is a shocking psychological thriller of a woman's unexpected actions and of the therapist obsessed with uncovering her motive." Join us **Tuesday, Aug. 6th, 6:30p** at the home of Barbara Glover. Text Tiersa Laskey, 770-519-5399 for more information and directions.

## Children

We hope everyone has enjoyed their summer! It is hard to believe it's already time to students to go back to school! Please be in prayer for all of the students, teachers, administrators, and parents as they begin a new school season.

Here's what's coming up for the kids:

**Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>:** First day of school for Jefferson City Schools & Jackson County Schools

**Sunday, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Time to move up! Kids will begin attending their new age groups for Sunday morning activities:

Infants-3 year olds: Nursery

Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade: Nursery

Sunday School at JFUMC (9:45-10:45am)

Children's worship during the 11:00 service

New Middle Schoolers: If your child has recently entered Middle School and would like to serve as a volunteer with the younger kids on a monthly basis, please call, text, or email Renee.

**Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>:** Lego Club 6:30-7:30pm at JFUMC

**Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>:** Fall Fun Activities 6:30-7:30pm at JFUMC

**Acolytes Needed!** For all students 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up who would like to serve as an acolyte for our traditional service, please call or text Mandy Rose at 770-653-0641.

**Join Us!** Our Kids Ministry team is looking forward to the fall and being together again! If you would like to become a part of our team, please contact Renee at 404-372-6796. We would love to have your help with the kids (nursery, Children's Worship, Wednesday Nights, or Sunday School) or behind the scenes (prepping lessons, checking kids in at Outpost, and more)

**For more information about any events, please contact Renee Hilley at 404-372-6796 or [renee@jfumc.com](mailto:renee@jfumc.com)**

## YOUTH NEWS

### Youth Move Up | Sunday, August 4th

We welcome 6th graders to Middle School Youth Group and 9th Graders to High School Youth Group on August 4th! Please look for the Fall Youth newsletter that will be published soon with exciting details for Move Up and the Fall!

### Youth of Service!

Your youth have been busy this summer and I am very proud of how they stepped up and out to help others. Our Middle School Youth served in Gilmer County helping local people with needs in June. Some of our High School students went to Africa to serve Life For Children ministry in Kenya. Our goal was to serve God by helping to build a live-in dormitory for girls, but so much more happened! The parallels of our sermon series on Acts have not been lost on me. We are ordinary people to whom God said "Go"! And we receive according to His promises.

Not only was my perspective changed on what I have and need, but my eyes were opened to the magnitude of our Lord. He is at work-everywhere! His plan transcends me and He is busy.

His creation is beautiful.

His people the world over are the same and are unified in faith.

Peace and joy is found in Him even in the midst of poverty and especially when we allow His grace to pour out of us.

I saw His suffering in the poor and the desolate.

Out of my element, I understood His meaning when He says, "Come to me as a little child" and how His power is made perfect in weakness.

He showed our team that He is the LIVING God and a glimmer of just what that means. We left Kenya with the life lessons still in process-the Spirit continues to teach our team. Our holy responsibility to live the gospel is upon us and our faith is firmer for having stretched it.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.

Lord, I confess that I did not know. I thank you for opening my eyes. I pray you continue your work in us all. I pray for your people the world over and for nonbelievers everywhere. May your kingdom come and may we glorify Christ in service to You. Amen.

Thank you for reading. I will see you in worship! Sincerely, Martha

Contact: Martha Shannon-Tonge | 706-654-7646 | [shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com](mailto:shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com)

## Additional News & Information

### Church Chicks

Church Chicks continues to be an open group for any women! Would you like more fellowship with other Christian women? Bring a snack and join us for the next one on **Wednesday, August 21st at 5:45pm** at the home of Kim Theberge, 537 Jefferson Walk Circle, Jefferson. Contact Kim Theberge at 404-805-3416 for more information!

### Hospitality

Thank you so much to all who serve to make Sunday mornings special! If you are not currently serving please consider helping with either the traditional campus or the Outpost campus as we gather on Sundays, helping with set up or take down once a month, or follow up with people who are visiting. If you would like more information about serving in Hospitality, please contact Alice Lipscomb, 770-307-6098.

### Outreach

As we move toward fall and Winter our church will have opportunities to get involved in fall festivals and Christmas events. These opportunities will allow us the chance to meet people and invite them to church. If you are interested in volunteering in the fall outreach ministry, please call and Alice 770-307-6098.

### Ruth Circle End of Summer Picnic

Ruth Circle is delighted to host a women's end of summer picnic luncheon at 12:30pm on Sunday, September 29th in the Jefferson 1st United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. All women and their friends are invited. Childcare will be provided. Plan now to attend! *RSVP to the church office by Sept. 15th*

### A Note from our Lay Leader, Martha Shannon-Tonge

Hello everyone! It has been an interesting summer. Actually, it has been a life changing summer. I got a chance to help with the winning warriors camp and vacation bible school, but I also travelled with our Mission team to Africa. We spent time with Life for Children ministry in Kenya. Our goal was to serve God by helping to build a live-in dormitory for girls, but so much more happened! The parallels of our sermon series on Acts have not been lost on me. We are ordinary people to whom God said "Go"! And we receive according to His promises.

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Contact: Martha Shannon-Tonge | 706-654-7646 | [shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com](mailto:shannonvs@shannonvetservices.com)

Find out more, register for events, and give at:

**JFUMC.com OR Outpost129.com**

Follow us on Facebook:

**Jefferson First United Methodist Church OR Outpost**

### Our Church Staff and Contact Information

188 Martin Street, Jefferson, GA 30549 | 706-367-8667 | fax: 706-367-5843 | [jfumc.com](mailto:jfumc.com)  
Office Hours | 9:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Senior Pastor

Director of Youth, Outreach & Discipleship

Director of Children's & Service Ministries

Office Manager

Preschool Director

Choir Director

Outpost Worship Leader

Accompanists

Nursery Staff

Rev. Chris Laskey | 706-983-2416 | [chris@jfumc.com](mailto:chris@jfumc.com)

Alice Lipscomb | 770-307-6098 | [alice@jfumc.com](mailto:alice@jfumc.com)

Renee Hilley | 404-372-6796 | [renee@jfumc.com](mailto:renee@jfumc.com)

Danelle Gragg | 706-248-3564 | [danelle@jfumc.com](mailto:danelle@jfumc.com)

Trina Riggott | 706-247-3899 | [trina@jfumc.com](mailto:trina@jfumc.com)

Carole Frankum | 706-677-1570 | [carole@jfumc.com](mailto:carole@jfumc.com)

Kevin Whitfield | 706-248-0603 | [kevin@jfumc.com](mailto:kevin@jfumc.com)

Crystal Tucker | Beth Pastor | Jan Purgason

Becky Kyle | Nicole Nash

For questions or additional information, or to remove your name from our distribution list, please contact the JFUMC office at [jfumcoffice@gmail.com](mailto:jfumcoffice@gmail.com) or call 706.367.8667