

It is the mission of Jackson Center United Methodist Church to: Embrace the needs of all people to bring the love of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior

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The Guided Light

A Word From The Pastor

Stephen Luzader

Hello Beloved,

Jesus was sent to a time and place where His people were being oppressed in their own country by a ruthless system of government that favored the citizens of that empire but trampled on the rights of the other people living in the empire. Jesus was part of a marginalized group because of the tribe he had been born (SENT- important word) into.

At that time there was a group of people called Zealots. The Zealots were "freedom fighters" in Judea, they were people who wanted this oppressive system of government gone and replaced by their own rule. They were so opposed to this system that had them marginalized to the point that their lives didn't really matter to the powers that be, that they would riot and demonstrate. History tells us that Roman soldiers did not travel alone in Jerusalem because the Zealots did not travel alone and if they could they would drag a Roman soldier into an alley and slit their throats. These people were committed to their cause. Well, in 66 AD/CE they got their wish, they had a full out rebellion against this tyrannical government ruling in their country.

Now, I say rebel, and not revolt because a revolution succeeds in the change they want to see and a rebellion does not.

That's right, they lost. They did have some success in the early part, but finally they were crushed in 70 AD/CE (Though Masada held out until 73 AD/CE). Not only did they not win, they lost their country and didn't get it back for another 1,878 years. I think it's fair to say that their way did not work.

Remember I said that Jesus was alive during part of this time (before the rebellion) when the Zealots were trying to have their voices heard through different types of civil disobedience. So, here is the question, WWJD? OR more so, what DID Jesus do? Surely, He saw the injustices happening around Him. He saw his fellow country people being brutalized and even killed. He didn't just see it, He lived it.

Not one riot or demonstration against Rome, not even an organized peaceful protest. Jesus understood that there was another way. He told of another Kingdom in which ALL could be citizens. However, this Kingdom does not play by the same rules as all the governments in this world play. This Kingdom was based on Unselfishness, Love, Acceptance, Hope, Joy, Peace, and yes Justice for all. Its reign does not come from any physical form that we comprehend, in fact, it has been and is already here. We choose to not see His Kingdom because we want to play by the rules that this world has given us – or that we have given each other. Jesus understands that no laws, or systems of government that this world can create can achieve what God has already given to us. We can replace, overthrow, amend, impeach all we want to, and all we will get is another failed way –
continued on page 2

history does teach us that.

In that way we are a lot of Zealots, huh?! You know the cool thing? Jesus had a Zealot in his 12. Simon, the Zealot. Something else, remember they didn't travel alone, wanna bet He had at least one more? Lots of fingers point to Judas, it would explain a lot. Hey, how do you think Simon felt working alongside Matthew, the Roman tax collector, who had sold out to the system? Jesus showed Simon a different way and Simon spent the rest of his life trying to show others God's Kingdom. Well, anyway, that might be cool and all, but here is the hard part – helping others (or ourselves) to see this other Kingdom – this other way. You see, it takes time, it happens, usually from one heart to another. It happens when those of us who do see this Kingdom actually live as though we are citizens of that Kingdom and not of any in this world. When people see us living this way it helps them to see this other Way. When we live like citizens of this world it just confuses people. It is hard to live this different Way, so God gives us His Living Spirit to help us (if we listen). Even then, we aren't perfect so we forgive and ask for forgiveness (which is another cool part of God's Kingdom). Trust me, I know it is hard to live as a citizen of God's Kingdom, and it's even harder to help others to see it. I think that's why we (Christians) tend to act like Zealots too much, because like a few of the 12, we want to see this change in a way that we understand, and we want to see it happen for all, right now, so we try to tell Jesus to make His Kingdom come now, missing that it is already here. Here is a punch to the gut, personally; I believe that is what Judas was trying to get Jesus to do when he betrayed Jesus. In that scenario Judas thought he was doing the right thing, but he did not understand. I know I have been guilty of doing that myself.

Racism is not the cause, it is a symptom. It is a symptom of fear, but fear is not the cause, fear is also a symptom. Fear is a symptom of selfishness. We can treat the symptom, just like we treat the symptom of a cold, and it will make us feel better for a time, but it will come back until we treat the cause. Jesus understood this truth, which is why He showed us, His followers, how to change our selfish hearts and then how to help others to change theirs. That IS His Kingdom, that is the other Way, a world where no selfish heart exists. His Kingdom has come, may we be open to seeing it, and courageous enough to live as its citizens.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Stephen Luzader

JCUMC Officers & Committee Chairs

Chair: Ed Maxwell
Recording Secretary: Ann Bell
Treasurer: Wendy Carter
Trustees Chair: Ron Ludwig
Finance Chair: Todd Lotz
SPRC Chair: Kim Voress
Outreach Chair: Amanda Shaffer
Lay Leader: Brent Kerns
Lay Member, Annual Conference: Wendy Carter/Kim Voress
Congregational Care Coordinator: Emily Allison
FLC Treasurer: Jack Toomey
Childrens' Ministry Director: Morgan Shaffer
Student Ministry Director:
Worship Chair: Pastor Stephen Luzader



The Heart of America By Patricia Bankhead

America, land of the free
 Home of the brave
 Set off the fireworks
 Let your banners wave.

From sea to shining sea
 All across the land
 Let people of all races
 Come together hand in hand.

United we stand,
 Divided we fall
 Let's put aside our differences
 Once and for all.

Thanking God for our freedom
 Lets make a joyful sound
 In the heart of America
 Let love always be found.

Childrens Ministry

Morgan Shaffer

Nothing much to report on the children's ministry front. I am hoping to be able to kick Bible Buddies off again in September. In the meantime, if anyone has suggestions for things that they want to see for kids in the church, please feel free to contact me. I welcome all ideas! I am passionate about growing the children's ministry in this church.

Church Improvements

Now that things are finally opened back up, we would like to move ahead with some more updates/improvements for the church. Listed below is a **WISH LIST** of the things we would like to see in the church. If you would like to purchase any of the things listed below, or **HELP** with the purchase of anything, please contact the church office and Amanda or Pastor Stephen will be happy to assist you. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask!

- Sound Board for sanctuary
- New sound table/cabinet
- 65" SMART TV for fellowship hall
- 42" TV for nursery
- Mounts for TV (3)
- Closed Circuit installation
- Streaming Software for Sunday worship
- Glare screens for TVs in sanctuary (4)
- 4x6' Magnetic Dry Erase Boards to replace chalkboards (5)
- 3x4' Magnetic Dry Erase Board to replace chalkboard
- Set of dry erase markers/erasers (6)
- New computer for church office
- New computer for pastor's office
- New desk for church office
- Diaper bag for nursery
- Pack n' Play for nursery
- New/gently used toys for nursery
- Chairs for lounge (2)
- Chairs to replace hallway chairs (2)
- Patio table/chair set (2)
- Shelf for women's bathroom
- New toilet seat for women's bathroom
- New flooring for both bathrooms
- Items for nursery changing table (diapers, wipes, lotion, powder)
- Feminine products for women's bathroom
- AED machine for church
- Prayer candle stand
- Votive candles for stand

Ushers/ Counters/Pew Angels

The Ushers for July are Brent Kerns and Ed Maxwell. The money counters are the Voress Family. The Pew Angel is Erin Pence.

This Month's Events

July 9th, 7pm

Fellowship Hall, JCUMC

Church Council Meeting

Lay Readers

Lay Readers for the month of July are:

July 5th – Barry Elliott

July 12th – Bev Wren

July 19th – Karen Sprague

July 26th – Bev Suttles

Card Ministry

Emily Allison

From May 15- June 11 Emily sent out 12 cards in the name of the church – 6 praying/thinking of you, 1 surgery, 1 recovery, 4 congratulations.

Prayer Chain

Do you have a prayer request through the week that you would like added to the prayer chain? If so, you can do so by calling Rose Ann Kerns at 937-596-5214. If you are not on the prayer chain, but would like to be, please let Rose Ann know and she will get you added to a chain.

UMW News

Sharon Zimpfer

No report given.

Online Giving

We are excited to announce that we can now accept online offerings! Signing up is as simple as going to our church website and look for the offering icon. That button will take you to the offering page for our church. Simply sign up and begin giving online today! There is also a link on Facebook as well as a video to show you how to sign up. If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact the church office and Amanda will walk you through the process.

Church Council

Amanda Shaffer

The JCUMC Church Council met on Thursday June 11 at the church with 8 members present. Pastor Stephen opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. The Scripture verse was from Romans 12:9-10.

Wendy and Jack gave the financial reports for the church and the FLC. Wendy asked the council for permission to move the payroll to a company who specializes in working with churches. Motion was made and passed unanimously. Wendy let council know that the computer in the sanctuary has been paid off, and that apportionments are being caught up after the shutdown. Brent moved and Ron seconded to approve all the financial reports, motion passed.

Finance committee report was given by Ed, as Todd was not able to attend. Discussion was had about the property next door, it is estimated that we will gain 20-25 parking spaces once the house is gone. The district committee has approved us purchasing the property, that letter is on file in the office. There was also discussion on which kind of mortgage the church should get for the property, it was

decided that that decision should be made by the finance committee.

Todd brought it to Ed's attention that the church needs an updated Corporate Authorization Form on file at the bank. This form authorizes individuals to do business on behalf of the church. After discussion, it was decided that there would be 6 people on the form. It was moved by Brent and seconded by Jack to pass the Corporate Authorization Form, motion passed unanimously.

Ron gave the trustees report, he knows there are some things that still need to be completed at the church. He is getting the parts from Todd to fix the bathroom at the parsonage. He is also taking care of the leak at the FLC. He said that upon investigation, the new HVAC unit was not installed properly, and so has been leaking around it. John Mann caulked around it to fix it for now, but Ron is waiting on a couple of estimates to come in to fix it permanently. Ron and Sheryle fixed the ceiling in the kitchen. Ed suggested to Ron that we maybe look for a new HVAC service once our contract with Chilltex runs out, it was suggested that we look into Steve and Ted's service.

Brent reported that he has been helping to get the church opened back up. He is pleased that so far, there hasn't been any complaints on the measures we've taken so that we could have service.

Pastor Stephen didn't have much to report other than General Conference has been postponed until August 2021.

Old Business: The church modernization was discussed: Deb Elliott said she has a tv that she would donate, someone needs to reach out to her and see if that is still the case. The organ has been offered to Grace Lutheran, it sounds like they are going to take it pending final approval from their council.

We need a new church historian. Tom Woodruff has been asked, Stephen is waiting to hear back from him.

There was discussion about the new rules to use the FLC exercise room. Amanda has received some pushback on the rule of no gym use, and wanted to discuss with council how to best handle the situation. After much discussion, it was decided that the church would charge an extra \$5/month for gym use, and users would be required to sign a separate release form for any kids who might be using the gym, and NO ONE may use the gym on Wednesday evenings during the prayer meeting. Wendy moved and Emily seconded, motion passed. Amanda will reach out to users and let them know of the change.

New Business. The prayer group will be restarting on June 17th at the FLC. John Jenson reached out to Ed, he will be trying to put in a larger a/c unit at the Food Pantry. Vic Hurley reached out to the church, he would like to help out with weeding and trimming at the church, if possible.

With no other business before the council, Ed closed the meeting with a prayer. The next council meeting will be July 9th at 7pm in the fellowship hall.

Worship Committee

Rev. Stephen Luzader

The worship committee met on June 16th in the fellowship hall. Stephen informed the group that we are hoping to be able to ease restrictions by the end of July. We discussed some different worship ideas for the near future – some *continued on page 4*

of them were: Easter in July, hymn sing (when we have hymnals back). We want to push a “Come As You Are” campaign, where we push that no one cares how you dress, come and worship with us!

We need to recruit more special music.

Grace is more than likely going to take the organ, we are waiting to hear a final decision.

Ricki and Sharon would like to look into a new clavinova, they are going to go look next week and price new ones. There was some discussion about the old clavinova, what to do with it IF we decide to get a new one. We need to look into ways to offset the cost if we decide to move forwards.

Back to Church Sunday is September 20. The Uncalled Four will be singing, Stephen would like to see if the school choir would also perform. The church picnic will be the same day.

The worship committee will meet again on August 18th at 7pm.

SPRC News

Kim Voress

No report.

Outreach News

Amanda Shaffer

Nothing really to report on Outreach, we are hoping to have a meeting in July to start planning fall events.

Church Library

Have you checked out our church library, located across from the coffee bar? We have lots of new and old books, both fiction and non-fiction available for you to check out! All you have to do is sign one out on the clipboard, and then sign it back in when you are done!

Starting next month, we will feature the “Pastor’s Pick” – a book the Pastor recommends in our library.

Be sure to check it out today! If you have any questions, please let the office know. Happy reading!



JCUMC

COVID-19 Plan of Action

Due to the recommended restrictions and best practices from the Governor, health officials, and the West Ohio Conference of the UMC, the Jackson Center UMC has developed the following plan of action to protect our parishioners, staff, and facilities. While these are recommendations rather than directives, we sincerely hope that all who enter our facilities will abide by our wishes. Thank you for your understanding and recognizing the needs of others.

1. The building is being cleaned and sanitized with the best resources we have available. We ask you do your best to keep the facility clean & report any area of concern.
2. If you are not feeling well, we would ask that you stay at home until feeling better. (Note: Pastor Stephen's message will continue to be on our Facebook page.) You must NOT be symptomatic before entering for worship or other meetings. Avoid contact with other people within reason and check your temperature frequently. Get adequate sleep, eat well-balanced meals, and hydrate to ensure a healthy immune system.
3. We will limit our size of any gathering to the Phase-In recommendations from health officials, the Governor, and the Bishop. On May 4th we will limit any gathering to 10 or less. Beginning with our anticipated opening date of May 24th, we will try to limit our gathering size to 50 or less. Then, when we are released to Phase 3, there will be no limitations on gathering size.

These dates and numbers are subject to change.

4. Clean and disinfect any frequently touched objects or surfaces.
5. Avoid exposure to those who are ill, especially if they show signs of respiratory symptoms. If you are their caregiver, please remain at home for at least 5-10 days after their improvement before going out.
6. Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, arm, or a tissue. Dispose of tissues in a trash receptacle.
7. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (Sing the Traditional Doxology or Happy Birthday for time).
8. Frequently use the hand sanitizer that is available throughout the church, especially if you are unable to wash your hands.
9. Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet when possible. Greet others from a distance and avoid personal contact such as hand shaking and hugs.
10. To assist in maintaining the physical distancing, we will be temporarily marking every other row in the sanctuary as "Do Not Sit." You may need to move from your normal spot and we ask that you only share the open rows with your family. We know that isn't always possible so, if you sit with others, we ask that you sit at the end of the rows when possible.
11. Extra tissue boxes and trash receptacles will be available throughout the building. Please use and dispose immediately after use.
12. We will be removing the pew Bibles and Hymnals from the rows for disinfecting and not

replacing them during these restrictions.

13. With the hymnals removed from the rows, we will use the screens/monitors for the words to hymns and rituals. Anyone wishing to have music, there will be copies of the weekly hymns available at the entrances.
14. We will continue the use of the pre-packaged juice and wafers for communion at least through July and then look at alternative methods of sharing communion until we can be safe with the intinction method again.
15. While not requiring anyone to do so, we **strongly** urge **all** in attendance to wear a mask while inside the building. We have many older generation members who are more at risk and we want to make the surroundings as safe as possible for every person in attendance. Hopefully, you can bring your own, but if not, the church is having some cloth masks made. If you use one of these, please take it home with you for reuse. They are washable as needed.
16. We will not be passing the offering plate during services. We will have the plates placed near the doors for you to drop in your offering. Remember that we now offer on-line giving so you can eliminate the handling of envelopes, checks, and extra cash. You can set up an auto payment weekly, monthly, or use as a one time payment. It is safe and easy to do once you establish an account. This is a time when we need you to remember your tithes and offerings to your church as our reserves are dwindling due to a lack of services. In addition, money counters will be supplied with *continued on page 5*

hand sanitizer and requested to maintain proper distancing when counting. We urge those counters to use all precautions necessary when handling the money and envelopes (i.e. avoiding licking of fingers before counting checks or cash.)

17. Ushers will be available before the service to assist with reminding and offering of masks, helping you to locate the hand sanitizer, and pointing out the offering drop. They will **not** be handing out the bulletins or hymn handouts but can show you the location to pick one up.
18. Restrooms are small and until Phase 3 of opening, we ask that no more than 1 person at a time use the facilities. Disinfectant wipes will be made available to wipe down door handles and surfaces.
19. A checklist for safe food handling is posted in the kitchen for anyone using those facilities. We ask that you follow all recommendations when preparing or serving food.
20. Normal office hours have resumed as of Monday, May 4, 2020 but we ask that you call for an appointment before stopping in. The doors may be locked during office hours so calling is necessary to ensure entry.
21. In-home and hospital visits will be limited to a phone call, Zoom visit, or prayer chain requests. Anyone wishing a virtual visit should call the church office to request a call or prayer. Do not assume someone is aware of your need. Due to any possible health risk to our staff and/or the patient, there will not be any physical visitation until restrictions are lifted for hospital visitation.

22. Adult Sunday School classes may meet if social distancing is observed but we strongly urge those to consider your surroundings before deciding. Pre-school class through Senior High Teens will not meet and we appreciate your patience as we phase back into those younger classes in the future.

We expect and prayerfully hope these changes are for a short period of time but the recommendations will remain in place until more restrictions are lifted and we are confident on establishing a “new normal” for our church. It is important to remember that **WE are the church and not the building.** Communicate with friends and family to help those in need of assistance, especially the older members of our community. We are responsible for the ministry of the church and we need you more than ever to pray, care, and support your local church and her family. Consider encouragement of others by positive messages, cards, or calls. More than ever during this occurrence, we need to be the hands and feet of Christ. Thanks for your understanding and cooperation!

July

Birthdays/Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Connie & Harold Helman	4 Bruce & Sandy Lotz
5 Dave Mann Bruce Lotz	6	7 Jeff Payne Anthony McDermitt	8	9 Scott Doseck Eric Shaffer	10	11
12 Luke Doseck	13 Bart Smith Eileen Christler Nicholas Braun Alex Adams	14 Matt & Alison Barkman Clara Mae Leininger	15	16 Bryanna Davis	17 Brad Wren Bev Suttles	18 Jillian Mann Tom & Bev Suttles
19	20 Hank & Sharon Zimpfer Tia McDermitt	21 John Klinger	22	23 Kathy Myers	24 Steve Christler	25 Cora Mae Heintz Darrell & Mary Lou Stewart
26	27 Brandi Ricker	28	29	30	31	



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