

Monthly Newsletter

JEFFERSON UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

October 2025



Prayer Ministry

One of the first things I noticed when walking into the church fellowship building from the lower parking lot was the prayer and praise wall. What a testament to a prayer ministry at Jefferson UMC. I love the prayer tags. As I mentioned in worship a couple of weeks ago, we can make the most of this ministry. Before you exit the building, why not take a tag or two off the board and take them home to pray for the person or situation specified? If it's praise, celebrate, rejoice, and thank God. On the other hand, if you have a concern or praise to share, why not fill out a tag and hang it on the wall, so that others can pray for your request or celebrate your praise. Let's pray for every request and thank God for every praise on the board.

From Your Church Council

The Jefferson UMC church council has approved two capital improvement projects that address safety issues on our property. The two projects include repairing our parking lot (repairing potholes and resealing) and repairing the canopy over the entry door to the social hall. These projects benefit the safety of us all. The total cost of these capital improvements is estimated to be \$18,100. The parking lot costs \$13,500, and the canopy costs \$4,600. Since we have already incurred a significant unexpected expense of \$11,200 to repair the social hall air conditioning, we are seeking contributions, in addition to your regular offerings, to a capital improvement fund to help cover the cost of the parking lot and canopy repairs. If you contribute online via Vanco, there is a category for the capital fund. If you contribute through the offering plate, please mark your additional contributions for the capital fund. Thank you for your stewardship of Jefferson United Methodist Church.

JUMC Ministry Staff:

Rev. Dr. Tom Hoeke,
Pastor

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Laurie Conboy,
Church Secretary

office.jeffersonumc@gmail.com

Bridget Joyce,
Communication Coordinator

communication.jeffersonumc@gmail.com

Joe Balogh,
8:30 A.M. Organist

BJ Collins,
11:00 A.M. Worship Musician

Alyssa Gephart,
Custodian

“Rooted in Christ”

Written by Pastor Tom Hoeke

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you...” John 15:11-12

Connie and I have a 3 ½ year-old Newfie-doodle named Mocha. She is a very pleasant, gentle, and loving dog. Before Mocha, there was Sierra, a golden retriever, Tacoma, a black lab, and before her, there were Shadow, a golden retriever, and Sable, a collie. Over the years, we have tried to train our dogs to at least obey the basic commands. However, they have a few things to teach us. They teach us how to love and care for one another, how to have fun and relax, and how to follow. Consider the following:

- Greeting people – they are the first ones at the door, greeting with their tails wagging as if to say I missed you so much, and I am glad you are back. It doesn't matter whether one has been gone for a week, a day, or even just an hour.
- Display happiness and joy – dogs are not afraid to show their joy as they jump up and down or run around in circles when it's time to have fun.
- Relax – ever watch a dog on a warm sunny day with a nice fresh bowl of water, just relaxing and taking it easy
- Know when to keep quiet and show compassion – when one of us is feeling sad or upset, they sense that and nuzzle right up to the person feeling that way, quietly staying there until they feel better.
- Remain friends even in the midst of conflict - When they get yelled at for something they have done wrong, they don't get upset. They just back off a bit, but if you call their name, they are right there in a second, waiting to please you and be your friend.
- Be part of a fellowship group - When one dog barks, others do so as well, even if they have no idea why. They just want to belong to the group and be part of the action.
- Watch out for each other. When we had two dogs at a time, and one of them was left outside while the other was inside, the one inside would remind us that the other was still outside. When we let her in, the other checked things out to make sure everything was okay. Loyalty is number one – dogs will follow you anywhere, anytime.

Think about it for a moment. Aren't these all things that Jesus taught us? He taught us to love and to follow him.

- Greet each warmly and gladly – every time we see one another
- Show it when you are happy – show your joy in Christ
- Relax and get the rest that you need. A life of discipleship cannot be effective if we are worn down and overburdened. If we don't take care of ourselves, we can't care for others.
- Know and act when you need to care for someone and do so quietly
- If someone gets upset at you for doing something wrong, don't pout, back off a bit, apologize, and remain friends
- Make every effort to be part of a fellowship group – laugh and play with your friends in the church
- Watch out for each other and make sure that the other is ok
- Follow Jesus every day, all the time, wherever he leads you – hold nothing back in following Jesus

God Bless,
Pastor Tom



If you feel inclined to write next month's “Rooted in Christ” section, please email Bridget Joyce at communication.jeffersonumc@gmail.com!

NEW SERMON SERIES, “Why It Matters”.

Have you ever wondered why certain parts of your life are important to you? For example, why are religion and Christianity important? In this six-week sermon series, we will consider why religion, Christianity, Jesus, the Church, Jefferson United Methodist Church, and you are essential to God and the building of God’s Kingdom here on earth. We will explore questions such as why religion is so vital to so many people and why there are so many religions. Then we’ll drill down into Christianity and what makes us stand out from other religions. We’ll also look at the Church and specifically Jefferson United Methodist Church, discovering our role in the community and society. Finally, why are you important to God, the church, and Kingdom building? God has called and gifted each of us, so how are we responding?

Topics Explored:

September 28 - Religion Acts 17:22-31, James 1:26-27

October 5 - Christianity Acts 11:19-26, Ephesians 2:8, 1 John 4:8

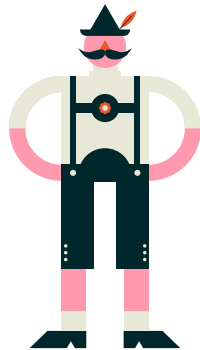
October 12 - Jesus Colossians 1:15-20, Matthew 16:13-20

October 19 - Church Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-17

October 26 - Jefferson UMC 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 15:1-10

November 2 - You Matthew 5:13-16, 1 Corinthians 1:27

Octoberfest



Octoberfest. Hosted by the Fellowship Committee:

Date: October 25th, Time: 4 PM – 7 PM

The Committee will supply bratwurst, sauerkraut & kielbasa, chicken & pork schnitzel, and beverages. A signup sheet with other suggested items will be available soon.



Worship Times and Locations

Office Hours:
Thursdays 9 AM - 12 PM

Church Phone:
412-653-3222

Church Address:
310 Gill Hall Rd. Jefferson Hills, PA
15025

8:30 A.M. Worship:
Traditional in the Sanctuary

11:00 A.M. Worship:
Blended in the Sanctuary