



The *Pathfinder*

Jonesborough United Methodist Church

March 2026

There are a lot of parallels between children in a physical sense and being a child of God. One of the most blatant similarities is gratefulness – or the lack thereof. Children are often self-centered and at times are hardly aware of the kindness that is extended to them by their parents. They are simply consumed with their next meal, the need for touch, etc.

As God’s children, our awareness and appreciation of divine kindness should be as natural as breathing fresh air. Yet that is not always the case. We need eyes that see and hearts that believe that God’s kindness extends to us.

Psalms 103 is such a wonderful treat to feast on during the morning! As I was reading it this morning, I reflected on what it would be like to have never experienced God’s kindness. I imagine it would be a life of bitterness, hopelessness, “un-grace”, even hatred.

As we read Psalm 103, we see that God has provided pardon for our sins, our diseases healed, redemption of our lives from the pit, lovingkindness/compassion, and years of good things. We received “it all!”

Out of that kind of generosity, the psalmist gives us a great portrait for living: Compassion for others, Gracious words, slowness in our anger, and a love toward those who “fear God”.

In this season of Lent, I pray that you will experience, the forgiveness of Oneself, the elimination of Guilt, and right relations with others. And in all things may we be able to do as the Psalmist said in verse 22: “let my whole being bless the Lord!”

Blessings! Rev. Richie



March 2026 Sermons

- 3/1 John 3: 1-17 “The Teacher Gets Schooled”
- 3/8 Exodus 17:1-7 “The Back to Egypt Committee”
- 3/15 Psalm 23 “When We Need Comfort”
- 3/22 Ezekiel 37: 1-14 “Valley of the Dry Bones”
- 3/29 Philippians 2:5-11 “Attitudes”

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

John 12:13 NRSVA

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!’



Our church family lost three more great men recently and we want to express our sympathies to their families.

Bob Davis passed away on 2/5/26
Scott Gilham passed away on 2/14/26
Charlie Barnette passed away on 2/25/26.

Clothing Give-away Coming Up Soon

Diane's Closet is coming up April 25th. Start preparing your Spring and Summer clothing to bring starting Wednesday of that week. More information will be available in next months Pathfinder.

Mission of the Month: Appalachia Service Project is a Christian ministry, open to all people that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Each year more than 15,000 volunteers serve with ASP, providing critical repairs for more than 350 families.

ASP believes all people should be able to live in affordable, safe and sanitary housing. Please help ASP continue this mission with your generous donations.

Need Help?

Our congregation offers a limited amount of financial assistance for utilities and other needs based on giving through our communion offerings and other sources. Please check with the church office for current availability. Our pastor is available for a number of pastoral topics such as Assurance, Salvation, Temptation, Baptism, church membership, funeral service pre-planning, Spiritual disciplines, wedding planning, and questions regarding United Methodist beliefs. Feel free to schedule appointments with the church office. We have a number of sources for referrals in clinical counseling areas of Financial management, Grief Counseling, Emotional, Alcohol and drug dependency, Estate planning, and Family counseling. Contact us in the church office for referrals in your geographical area. If you are looking for a small group opportunity, we have several established groups with open doors. However, we are always looking to start new groups. If interested, let us know.

Groups & Social Events

Children's Ministry

Greetings, church family! Below you will find upcoming events and activities in our children's department:

- Our unit of study for the month is "Easter- The Journey to the Cross." We will continue to use the Cokesbury Curriculum- Bible in Life by David C. Cook. Our scripture readings will be from the gospels of Matthew and Luke
- Remaining Adventure Kids dates for the semester: 3 / 4, 3 / 11, 3 / 25, 4 / 8. Our Wednesday evening activities will be centered around WWJD (What Would Jesus Do)?
- Easter Egg Hunt will be at Golden Oak Park in Jonesborough on March 28, from 2:00-4:00 PM. I have the park reserved for our church. There is a covered pavilion with tables and bathrooms. The park is fenced in with playground equipment for us to enjoy!
- We would like to extend a warm "Thank You" to the Open Door classroom for the awesome treat bags and cards! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Also, we are so grateful to everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts in our program. Many hands and hearts have worked together at our church to build our program.
- We enjoyed our time together at Just Jump Trampoline Park! A great way to release all of the energy inside of us! Let's Jump for Jesus!



CYB Senior Adult Group

We will meet up at Mellow Mushroom in Johnson City on March 12th at 11:30am for lunch. If you would like to join us then RSVP text to Sharon Moore at 423-631-2086

Busy Hands with a Purpose

This group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. If you sew, crochet, quilt or just like hanging around ladies who do, then you are welcome to join us.

Youth Ministry

February was a fun and productive month for our youth group! We enjoyed a movie night filled with laughter, snacks, and great fellowship. We also began refreshing and updating our youth center! We're excited about the improvements taking place as we continue creating a welcoming, engaging space for our youth.

Please note that we will be on vacation February 28th – March 8th. We are so thankful for our amazing volunteers who will be stepping in during that time to keep everything running smoothly!

Mark your calendars for Destination Unknown on March 22nd! More details coming soon. Our outreach event, Food With Friends, is also coming up, and we will share the official date as soon as it is finalized.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the youth ministry!

JAMA Food Pantry

We at JAMA have been blessed this year with your faithful donations of food and funds. If you would like to donate in March we would like Cat and Dog food. Monetary donations are always accepted as well.

Volunteer Opportunity

Tim Winter, the current treasurer of the Jama pantry is stepping away from that position; Linda has agreed to assume that position and the Jama board has elected her to said position. That means she will have to step away from being the secretary. The Jama board is looking for a volunteer to replace her; the secretary records the monthly board meeting then transposes the recording to printed material. The secretary then sends those board minutes out to the board members. The secretary may also send out other board related announcements as directed by the board President. (The volunteer coming into replace Linda should have typing capabilities). If you would be interested in volunteering please contact Joe or Linda Likavec.

The Sarah Mayes Circle—United Women of Faith

Our vision is turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth. Come join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is March 10th.

Calendar of Events, Birthdays, and Anniversaries

3/03 & 3/17 Busy Hands with a Purpose meet at 10am in the FH

3/04, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 Prayer Time at 6pm in the Prayer Room, open to everyone

3/08 Social Sunday at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall

3/10 Sarah Mayes Circle meets at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall

3/12 CYB will meet for lunch at 11:30am at Mellow Mushroom

3/14 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 10am in the Fellowship Hall

3/15 Celebration of Life for Scott Gilham from 2-4pm at The Heritage in Jonesborough

3/29 Destination Unknown for the Youth Group (details coming)

*Every Sunday the Youth meet at the Youth Center from 6-7:30pm

*Every Monday Pack/Cub Scouts will meet here at the church from 6-8pm in rooms 102, 103, 201 & 211

*Every Tuesday at 7:30pm AA will meet in the Youth Center

*Every Wednesday at 12:00pm Kiwanis will meet in the Fellowship Hall or Room 102. Youth meet at the Youth Center 6:00pm for Bible Study

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*Every Wednesday at 12:00pm Kiwanis will meet in the Fellowship Hall

Youth meet at the Youth Center 6:00pm for Bible Study

* Every Thursday the BSA Troop meetings will be in the Youth Center from 6-8pm

3/1 Jasmine Bowling

3/6 Debbie Myers

3/8 June Terry

3/9 Tom Snodgrass

3/16 Tim Furches

3/18 Stephanie Furches

3/19 Gail Lewis

3/27 Betty Durman

3/29 Linda Reynolds

3/30 Carolyn Brown, Joe Lane



3/11 Duncan & Nikki Pont

3/22 Kenneth & Barbara Love

3/24 Billy & Sue Russell



During 2026, we renew our commitment to God and God's Church through...

Our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness.

Your tithes and offerings support: worship, children and youth ministries, music ministry, buildings where we learn and grow spiritually, staff who lead and serve, missions and outreach, Christian fellowship, and the teaching/preaching of the Gospel.

Weekly needs 2026: \$10,800.85

What we've received YTD 2025: \$ 54 .021.50

February Offerings Per Week: 2/1 \$16,711 2/8 \$19,341 2/15 \$13,010.40 2/22 \$4824.10

Attendance

2/1 Online Worship

2/8 166

2/15 136

2/22 143