



Celebrating Our Journey

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Newsletter 2

Significant events:

- Prayer ministry March 27 – April 1
- Information sessions April 6 – April 12
- Advanced Commitment – Campaign leadership May 3- 4
- Commitment Sunday - regular stewardship and *Celebrating Our Journey* May 18
- Celebration Sunday June 1

Prayer ministry March 27 – April 1

During this dedicated time, add a special time during daily prayers to focus on the success of *Celebrating Our Journey* and our annual Stewardship Campaign. Also, devote prayers to your personal commitment to these campaigns.

Information Sessions April 6 – April 12

Members will be asked to attend one of fifteen possible meetings hosted in member homes and at church. A variety of times, days and locations are provided to make attendance as convenient as possible. We ask that each member make a special effort to attend one of these sessions. The sessions are for information purposes only. No one will ask for a contribution or commitment and none will be accepted at these sessions.

Advanced Commitment for Church and Campaign leaders May 3 – 4

Members of the *Celebrating Our Journey* leadership team and other church leaders will gather for presentations followed by the request of an advanced commitment. The leaders will be asked to lead by example.

Commitment Sunday – May 18

During a special service the church members will be asked to present their commitment cards for both the *Celebrating Our Journey* campaign and our annual stewardship campaign. Members should have concluded their prayerful consideration and discussions with their families. If families need additional time for prayer and discussion, they

should take the time. In any event, members are asked to present their commitment cards during the two weeks, prior to June 1. Commitment Sunday will include a special event in additions to our special service.

Celebration Sunday – June 1

The result of our prayerful efforts will be announced and celebrated as a spiritual family.

Simultaneous Campaigns – Celebrating Our Journey and Annual Stewardship

Celebrating Our Journey is a special campaign spanning three years directed toward three goals. One goal is to repair or restore the facilities that are the Jonesville United Methodist Church. Our church home is old and presents many challenges that have not and could not be addressed through the funds normally available in our annual budget. Some projects were of an urgent nature and were funded by the Trustee's endowment. This endowment has been depleted as a consequence. Our present campaign will also restore the endowment. Goal two is the satisfaction of debt. Our church has a mortgage that dates back to the reconstruction and expansion of the church in the early 1980's. More recently, the church borrowed to rebuild the bell tower that was in disrepair and posed a threat to the entire church structure and safety of our members. By paying off this combined debt we will no longer have an annual debt service. As a result, we will have money available in our annual budget for additional programs, ministries and missions. The third goal of the campaign is a dedicated mission's effort. A significant number of our members have long believed that Jonesville United Methodist Church should do more to share our good fortune with our community and the world. In recognition of our responsibility to give much because we have received much, we are making a special effort to missions during the campaign.

The annual stewardship campaign is our yearly effort to support all the regular and ongoing activities of Jonesville United Methodist Church. The costs of operating a church are subject to all the normal pressures that exist on the resources of any family. In addition, we have special programs, ministries and missions. These costs continue to grow from year to year. Payments for ongoing obligations cannot be deferred and the resources cannot be redirected to other goals. Therefore, in consideration of our commitment to annual stewardship, please do not "rob Peter to pay Paul." We must continue our regular commitment to support the annual budget. Prayerfully consider an incremental increase in your commitment to help meet increasing obligations.

The commitment to *Celebrating Our Journey* cannot rely on comfortable giving. We will have to go beyond normal, comfortable giving. This is a special three year effort, a sacrificial effort, prayerfully discerned by each family. Our commitment to *Celebrating Our Journey* will allow the church to service the present generation with programs, ministries and mission that go beyond our present capabilities and serve many generations yet to come. We are not asking for equal giving. We are asking that you consider equal sacrifice.

From the past.....
Into the future.....

