

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

March 22, 2025



Jefferson United Methodist Church

Welcome!

We're so glad you're here! Tonight is a special celebration of faith, fellowship, and fantastic music as we welcome everyone—members, friends, and first-time visitors—to a fun and spirit-filled night of worship with the incredible gospel band Men In Black! Get ready to sing, clap, and feel the joy of the Lord as we praise together. Whether you're here to reconnect, refresh, or simply rejoice, we pray you leave tonight uplifted and blessed. Let the worship begin!

Jefferson United Methodist Church

Jefferson United Methodist Church, located in Jefferson, Maryland, was constructed in 1830. The church has been a central place of worship and community gathering for nearly two centuries, reflecting the town's rich religious heritage. Jefferson itself, originally known as "New Town," was established on November 15, 1774, by Eleanor Medley. In 1832, the community was renamed Jefferson in honor of President Thomas Jefferson. Today, Jefferson is distinguished by its three historic churches: Jefferson United Methodist Church, Jefferson United Church of Christ, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, all built in the 1800s.

The cemetery behind the church, is the final resting place for many individuals who have contributed to the town's development over the centuries. Notably, the Rice family has a significant presence, with multiple members interred there, indicating their longstanding ties to the area.

The Rice family has played a significant role in the history of Jefferson, Maryland, dating back to the 18th century. One prominent figure is Peregrine G. "Perry" Rice (1767–1841), who was born in Jefferson and became a central member of the community. He married Martha Dutrow in 1794, and together they had several children who continued the family's legacy in the area. Perry Rice's involvement in local affairs is notable. For instance, he was among the early members of the Jefferson Ruritan Club, an organization dedicated to community service. His leadership and commitment to civic activities contributed to the development and cohesion of Jefferson's community. Jefferson Ruritan Club. The Rice family's longstanding presence and active participation in civic and religious institutions have left a lasting impact on Jefferson, Maryland, underscoring their significance in the town's history.



The Jefferson United Methodist Church Cemetery stands as a testament to the town's rich history, honoring the lives of those who have shaped the community.

We're so glad you joined us today! If you're visiting, we warmly invite you to come back and be part of our church family. We gather for worship every Sunday at 9:00 AM, and there's always a place for you here. Whether you're seeking community, a deeper relationship with God, or just a peaceful place to start your week, we'd love to see you again. Come as you are and experience the love, grace, and hope that we share together each Sunday morning!

10 Remarkable Discoveries

That Prove the Bible is a Reliable Historical Document

The Bible is more than a spiritual guide—it's a historical record rooted in real people, real places, and real events. These 10 discoveries confirm what the Bible has claimed all along. Scripture isn't just about faith—it's grounded in facts.

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls – Proof of Biblical Accuracy

Discovered: 1947–1956 in Qumran caves, near the Dead Sea

Significance: These ancient scrolls include texts from almost every Old Testament book, dating back over 2,000 years. The most complete scroll—Isaiah—is virtually identical to the modern Bible version, proving that the Scriptures have been preserved with astonishing accuracy over centuries.

Why it matters: Critics often argue the Bible has been changed. The scrolls prove otherwise.

Supporting Scripture:

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” — Isaiah 40:8

2. The Tel Dan Stele – Historical King David

Discovered: 1993 in northern Israel

Significance: This 9th-century BC stone inscription mentions the “House of David,” confirming David’s historic reign. For years, skeptics claimed David was a myth. This archaeological find proves otherwise—David was real, just as Scripture said.

Why it matters: Establishes the Bible’s reliability in recounting Israel’s royal history.

Supporting Scripture:

“Then all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them... and they anointed David king over Israel.” — 2 Samuel 5:3

3. The Pilate Stone – Confirmation of Jesus’ Trial

Discovered: 1961 in Caesarea Maritima

Significance: This limestone block bears the inscription: “Pontius Pilate, Prefect of Judea.” It is the only known physical evidence of Pilate’s existence—the Roman official who sentenced Jesus to be crucified.

Why it matters: Proves a key figure in the trial of Jesus was a historical person.

Supporting Scripture:

“So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.” — Mark 15:15

4. The Pool of Bethesda – Real Place of Healing

Discovered: Excavated in the 19th century near St. Anne’s Church in Jerusalem

Significance: John 5 describes a pool with “five porticoes” where Jesus healed a lame man. Skeptics once believed this was a metaphor—but archaeologists found the pool exactly as described, with five colonnaded porches.

Why it matters: Verifies a specific New Testament location tied to Jesus’ miracles.

Supporting Scripture:

“Now there is in Jerusalem... a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda... and in these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed.” — John 5:2-3



5. The Pool of Siloam – Site of a Miraculous Healing

Discovered: 2004 during sewer repairs in Jerusalem

Significance: Mentioned in John 9, this pool was used by Jesus to heal a blind man. Its exact location and layout matched biblical descriptions.

Why it matters: Validates another detailed Gospel account involving Jesus' miracles.

Supporting Scripture:

"Go," He told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means 'Sent'). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing." — John 9:7

6. Hezekiah's Tunnel & the Siloam Inscription – Engineering Confirmed

Discovered: 19th century in Jerusalem

Significance: 2 Kings 20:20 describes King Hezekiah's tunnel, built to protect Jerusalem's water supply from Assyrian invasion. The tunnel was found, along with an inscription inside detailing the workers meeting in the middle—exactly as the Bible described.

Why it matters: Confirms the engineering feats and historical accuracy of biblical kings.

Supporting Scripture:

"He made the pool and the tunnel by which he brought water into the city." — 2 Kings 20:20

7. The Cyrus Cylinder – A King's Decree Matches Scripture

Discovered: 1879 in Babylon (modern Iraq)

Significance: This 6th-century BC artifact records King Cyrus of Persia's decree allowing exiled peoples (including Jews) to return home. This aligns with Ezra 1, which says Cyrus let the Jews rebuild the Temple.

Why it matters: Secular history confirms prophetic fulfillment and Jewish return from exile.

Supporting Scripture:

"In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia... he made a proclamation... 'The Lord, the God of heaven... has appointed me to build a temple for Him at Jerusalem.'" — Ezra 1:1-2

8. The Caiaphas Ossuary – Name of the High Priest

Discovered: 1990 in a burial cave in Jerusalem

Significance: An ossuary (bone box) inscribed with "Joseph son of Caiaphas" was found, likely belonging to the high priest who interrogated Jesus.

Why it matters: Affirms the identity of a key New Testament figure tied to Jesus' trial.

Supporting Scripture:

"Then the high priest Caiaphas... said, 'It is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.'" — John 11:49-50

9. The Rediscovery of the Hittites – A "Lost" Empire Found

Discovered: 19th–20th century in modern-day Turkey

Significance: Once dismissed as fictional people invented by biblical writers, the Hittites have since been proven real, with their own capital city (Hattusa) and written records.

Why it matters: Refutes the claim that the Bible made up ancient civilizations.

Supporting Scripture:

"So Ephron's field in Machpelah near Mamre... was deeded to Abraham... in the presence of all the Hittites." — Genesis 23:17-18

10. The Babylonian Chronicles – A Nation’s Fall Recorded

Discovered: Various tablets found in Babylon

Significance: These tablets describe the Babylonian conquest of Judah and the exile of its people, aligning with biblical accounts in 2 Kings, Daniel, and Jeremiah.

Why it matters: Corroborates the historical events leading to and during the Babylonian exile.

Supporting Scripture:

“So Judah went into exile, away from her land.” — 2 Kings 25:21

A Faith That’s Rooted in Fact

The Bible isn’t just a book of spiritual wisdom—it’s a **trustworthy historical document**. These discoveries confirm people, places, and events described in Scripture. If archaeologists and historians can uncover this much evidence in just the past century, what more proof do we need that the Bible is telling us the truth?

Jesus said:

“If you do not believe me when I speak of earthly things, how will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?” —

John 3:12

Let the facts speak for themselves. The Bible is true—not just spiritually, but historically. And that truth is an invitation to trust the God behind it all.

God’s Prophecies: The Bible’s Evidence of Truth

One of the most compelling reasons to trust the Bible is its unmatched record of fulfilled prophecy. Unlike vague predictions or lucky guesses, biblical prophecies are **specific, detailed, and verifiable**—and many were written **hundreds of years before their fulfillment**.

A **prophecy** is a message from God revealing what will happen in the future. In the Bible, these prophecies weren’t wishful thinking or ancient superstition—they were bold declarations of events that defied human logic and odds. Scholars estimate there are over **2,500 prophecies** in the Bible. Of those, more than **2,000 have already been fulfilled**—with stunning accuracy.

When Were They Written?

Prophecies span thousands of years, from Moses (around 1400 BC) to John the Apostle (circa 95 AD). For example, **Isaiah wrote around 700 BC**, foretelling the virgin birth of the Messiah (Isaiah 7:14), and **Micah predicted Jesus would be born in Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2). These prophecies were recorded **centuries before Jesus was born**, and yet they were fulfilled in exact detail (see Matthew 1:23 and Luke 2:4-7).

Jesus Alone Fulfilled Over 300 Prophecies

From His lineage, place of birth, betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13), to His death alongside criminals (Isaiah 53:9), Jesus fulfilled more than **300 Messianic prophecies**—many of which He had no human control over. The odds of one person fulfilling just **8** of these are 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (that’s 1 in 10¹⁷)!



What Does This Mean for Us?

The Bible’s track record of fulfilled prophecy is unmatched in any other religious or historical text. No other book dares to predict hundreds of events across centuries with 100% accuracy. This evidence isn’t just for believers—it’s a **call to skeptics** to reconsider the Bible not just as a religious book, but as a **historically verifiable and divinely inspired one**.

And Yet—Some Prophecies Are Still Unfolding

The Bible isn't done. Prophecies about the return of Christ, the rise of global conflict, and the ultimate restoration of creation are still ahead. Just as the past has proven the Bible right, the future will again confirm God's Word.

"I am God, and there is no other... declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things not yet done." — **Isaiah 46:9-10**

The fulfillment of prophecy is not just proof—it's a promise. If God was faithful to fulfill His word before, He will be faithful to fulfill it again. **For the skeptic, this is evidence worth exploring. For the believer, it's a reason to stand firm in faith.**

Dear Friends,

Whether you are a long-time member or visiting us for the first time, I want to personally thank you for being here. It is a joy to gather together in God's presence, worship as one, and be reminded of the unshakable hope we have in Christ.

No matter where life has taken you, God's promise is the same: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11). That hope is real, it's alive, and it's available to each one of us. At Jefferson United Methodist Church, we are building a community grounded in love, grace, and the joy of walking together in faith. If you're looking for a church home, I sincerely hope you'll consider making Jefferson your place of worship and connection. We'd be honored to walk alongside you in your spiritual journey.

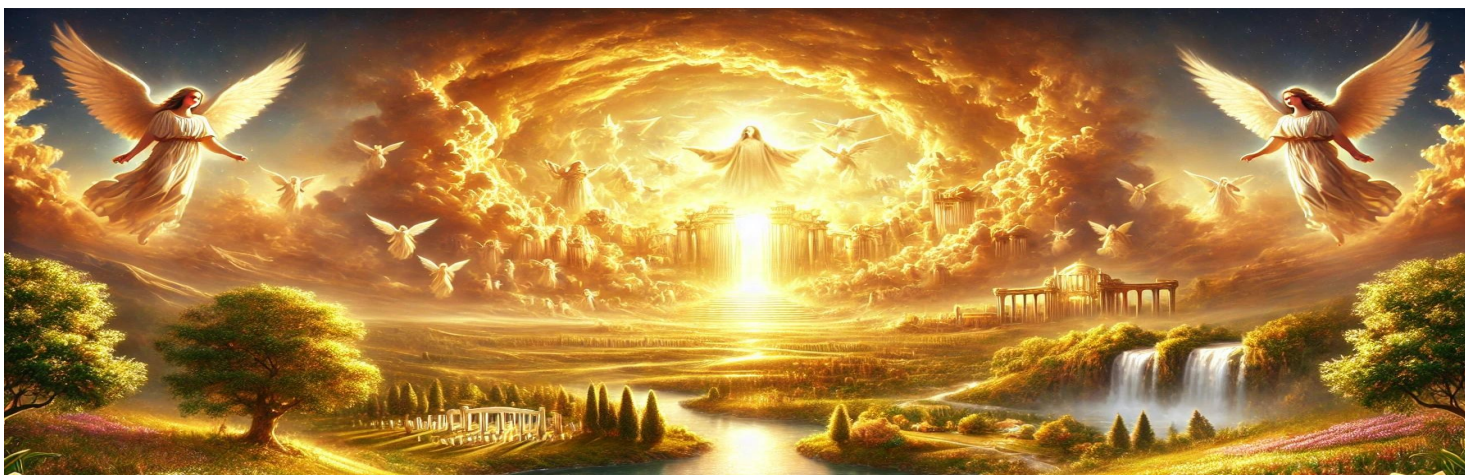
You can follow us on Facebook at @JUMCMD to stay updated on upcoming services, events, and ways to get involved.

If you ever need prayer, support, or just someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can contact me directly at pastormarkjarema@gmail.com or by phone at 443-977-0760. May God bless you with peace, purpose, and renewed hope.



With grace and gratitude,

Pastor Mark Jarema





March 23 - No Worship Service or Children's Sunday School

March 25 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 29 - 9am -12 Jefferson Church Summit with Pastor Mark and Pastor Katie at Jefferson UMC

March 30 - Easter Flower orders are due

April 6 - Holy Communion

April 6 - 4pm Chili Cook Off and Bake Sale fundraiser to be held at Jefferson Ruritan. See Carol Waple if interested in cooking chili. Bake goods are needed for our bake sale and auction. Proceeds will go to general fund and children's ministries.

April13 - Birthday Celebration

April 17 - 7pm Maundy Thursday Service - Pastor Amy preaching at Jefferson UMC

April 18 - 7pm Good Friday Service

April 20 - 6:30am - Easter Sunrise Service outside at the Myers Farm at 3514 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson

April 20 - 9am - Easter Service in the sanctuary

A Special Thank You to Men In Black

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the gospel band Men In Black for blessing us with your time, talent, and heart for worship at Jefferson United Methodist Church. Your powerful music and spirit-filled presence turned our sanctuary into a place of joyful praise and deep reflection. Thank you for leading us in a night of celebration, encouragement, and connection with God. Your ministry through music touched hearts and lifted spirits, and we are so thankful you chose to share your gifts with our church family. We pray that God continues to bless each of you as you use your voices and instruments to glorify Him and inspire others.

With appreciation and love,

Pastor Mark Jarema

Jefferson United Methodist Church

