



Johnson County Fire Protection District

122 W. Young • Warrensburg, MO 64093 • (660)747-5220 • Fax (660)747-9791
jcfpd@jcfpd.net • www.jcfpd.net

Chief Larry W. Jennings
Assistant Chief Dee Bennett
Board President Mark Lenger
Board Vice President Aaron Collett
Board Member Scott Hackler
Secretary/Treasurer Mackenzie Schuette

NEWS RELEASE – Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Follow-up on Leeton United Methodist Church Fire Investigation

LEETON, MO – The Johnson County Fire Protection District has been made aware that juveniles have been identified in connection with the October 20 fire at the Leeton United Methodist Church.

The fire was determined to be intentionally set, prompting a joint investigation led by the Missouri State Fire Marshal's Office with assistance from the Johnson County Fire Protection District, Leeton Police Department, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, and the Johnson County Fire Investigation Unit.

Fire Chief Larry Jennings expressed appreciation for the coordinated effort among agencies and the continued support from the Leeton community.

"This investigation moved forward quickly thanks to the expertise and cooperation of all involved," Jennings said. "The Fire Marshal's Office and our local law enforcement partners have worked closely together throughout this process, and we're grateful for the professionalism shown by everyone working to find answers."

The Leeton United Methodist Church, built in 1896, sustained significant damage in the fire but remains standing. Firefighters were able to preserve several items from inside the historic structure.

"The strength and resilience of Leeton have been evident since the night of the fire," Jennings added. "This church has long been a gathering place, and that spirit will carry on."

The Johnson County Fire Protection District appreciates the ongoing partnership among local, county, and state agencies throughout this investigation.

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For more information contact:

Captain Joe Jennings, Public Information Officer
122 W. Young Avenue, Warrensburg, MO 64093
Office: (660) 747-5220