Joyful News - November

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A Word from Our Pastor

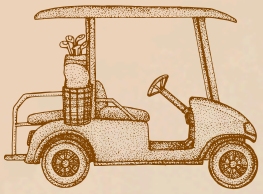
As November arrives, we begin to see signs of the approaching holiday season. For many, this is a joyful time filled with traditions, gratitude, and anticipation. For others, the holidays can bring feelings of loneliness, grief, or sadness. And for some, it may be a mixture of all these emotions. Our lives are complex and our emotions generally reflect that fact.

As a community of faith, we are reminded that God meets us in every season of life. The Psalms offer honest cries of loneliness and longing (Psalm 42 and 142), while Scripture also overflows with songs of praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 30 and 111). Our faith makes room for both. We do not have to hide our pain or diminish our joy to come before God just as we are.

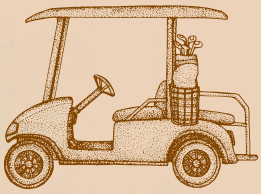
As November unfolds, let us consider how we might care for one another. A phone call, a shared meal, an invitation to worship, or a simple question—"How are you really doing?"—can remind someone they matter. We can celebrate with those who are joyful and sit compassionately with those who are hurting.

This holiday season, may our church be a place where every feeling is welcome and everyone has a place at the table. Whether we enter these days with excitement, uncertainty, or a little of both, may we remember that God's love holds us all. Together, we can share that love with our neighbors, offering to all signs of hope, companionship, and grace.

Peace,
Pastor Julie



Shoe Box Golf Scramble



This summer and the continued heat has made holding our golf scrambles very difficult. Adding to the problem has been not enough players turning out to make a scramble feasible. Such was the case for September when we ended up with only four contestants. So.....we went to dinner!!

While we enjoyed fellowship over a good meal, the problem was there were not enough of us to raise much money to support the cause for which the Shoe Box Scramble is intended, that is, helping the under privileged high school students of Mountain Pine and Jessieville High Schools. We are going to try again in November on the second Sunday, 11/8, at Isabella GC. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, dinner after golf will be at Cafe Isabella.

Even if you do not play golf, we ask you to please consider supporting this Missions Project by marking a donation envelope ˝Shoe Box Golf Scramble` and placing it in the offering plate. The students of Mountain Pine and Jessieville High Schools will appreciate it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	13,055	22,933	181,951	206,400
Expenses	21,037	22,933	184,553	206,396
Surplus	(7,982)	0	(2,602)	4

Cash on hand	511,754
Liabilities	1,402
Dedicated Funds	391,020
Total Liabilities	392,422
Operating Capital	119,332



Ken Poulsen, treasurer

Congregational News

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, November 8. Please save the date and plan to attend this important event in the life of the congregation.

Greening of the Church

Each year we prepare the church for the seasons of Advent and Christmas with a time of decorating called the Greening of the Church. This year the event will take place on Monday, Nov. 23rd at 9:00 a.m. Many helpers are needed to set up trees, decorate them, set out candles, hang greenery, etc. Please mark your calendars now, and join us on Nov. 23rd to make our church festive for the Advent and Christmas seasons.



On a personal note.....This is the last newsletter I will create for all of you. I'm retiring. My last day to work will be Friday, October 30th. When I took this job, I had no idea how many wonderful people I would meet and come to care for. You all welcomed me, tolerated my mistakes as I learned, made me laugh, and filled me with Joy. I'm looking forward to "spur of the moment" road trips with my husband, visits to see family (especially grandchildren), and much more. I try to live my life with no regrets, so while I'm sad to leave, I have no regrets about my decision. A life with regrets is a life not fully lived. My heartfelt thanks to all of you. I will continue to pray for you all and for the growth of this church. ❤ Laura Thompson

November Birthdays

Terry Sterzik	Nov.3	Joyce Geraghty	Nov.17
Kathleen Weyant	Nov.4	Judy Klein	Nov. 22
Don Gohr	Nov.8	Noel Desbiens	Nov.26
Don Fisher	Nov.11	Mary Cordes	Nov. 28
Sue Fisher	Nov.11	Joanie Ibinger	Nov.30

November Anniversaries

Adam & Julie Edmonson	Nov.2 (30 yrs)
Ken & Suzi Poulsen	Nov. 11 (48 yrs)
John & Joan Plautz	Nov.20 (50 yrs)

Sometimes we let our worries or regrets take over. Anxieties may lessen after talking it out, in confidence, with someone who cares. Your perspective may change.



Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

STEPHEN MINISTRY OF JOY IN CHRIST

* CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE *

Contact Pastor Julie or a Stephen Leader

CRAFT AND LEFSE SALE
December 5

This yearly sale was originally a project of the Women of Joy. It is now a whole church project with the Fellowship Committee organizing it. So everyone, men and women, can be a part of this project which will raise money for the mission and ministry of the church.

We will be making lefse again and would love your help. Lefse is made in several steps. Some steps are easy and some require a little skill and practice. We make lefse as a group and enjoy each other's company as we work. Please watch for announcements of scheduled days to make lefse and consider joining us.

We will also sell handcrafted items at the sale. We will have some projects preplanned with supplies purchased using a Thrivent grant. But we welcome other donations of crafts. Christmas items, small gifts and useful crafts, such as microwave bowl holders, potholders, and scrubbie pads all sell well. Watch for details of our project days in future e-blasts. And, if you enjoy talking to people and selling, there will be a sign up sheet for helping the day of the sale.

LEFSE MAKING SCHEDULE

You are invited to join the cooking group (men and women) to make Lefse. If you have questions please contact: Melanie Pederson, Dianne Degner, Karen Sterzik or Lynda Grasse. If interested in helping, just come and we are happy to show the ins and outs of Lefse making. Join us for one session or all sessions, your help is needed.

Tuesday, November 3rd at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 5th at 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 12th at 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17th at 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, November 19th at 1:00 p.m.

˝God's Work / Our Hands˜ in Action

On a recent October Wednesday, a Joy in Christ volunteer group was still smiling after assembling 170 lunches for distribution. At Jackson House in Hot Springs free hot lunch is available 6 days per week to those experiencing food insecurity. Many local groups assist, including one from JiC, usually serving 120 to 180 meals daily. The Jackson House mission is to provide a number of programs for short-term or emergency crisis assistance for basic needs without bias. If God is calling you to use your hands for this work of His, contact Jerry Fager for more details.

Phil Keller, Linda Keller, Jerry Fager, Janice Main, Susan Maser.

Not pictured: Dorothy Fager





LOVE LUNCHES

Joy in Christ will once again be blessed to serve the hungry in Hot Springs on Sunday, November 15th at the Salvation Army. If you would like to learn about this ministry or be a part of the crew that day, please contact Karen Sterzik. We need 3 more bakers to make 4 dozen cookies each for that day's lunches as well. If you would like to bake cookies for that day, please contact Karen Sterzik. As the weather begins to cool, if you find you have sweaters or sweatshirts you no longer wear, please consider donating them for distribution along with the lunches that day. Socks would also be a blessing as the nights get chilly. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our ˝We Give Thee but Thine Own˜ stewardship event this year resulted in 39 Intent-to-give cards returned out of a possible 75. That's a 52% rate of return. The annual amount was $4,010, up from $3,382 last year - a whopping 18.6% increase. Most returns included a completed Time and Talent form which will help our committee chairs immensely in finding helpers to carry out their plans.

A big THANK YOU to all who responded to help us to do God's Work with Our Hands!

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Nov 1 Daylight Saving Time end • 8:30am Hospitality • 9am Worship	2 • 12:30pm Mahjong	3 • 9:30am Hymn Planning • 9:30am Lefse making • 1pm Lake Forest • 3:30pm Bible Study	4 • 11am Fellowship	5 • 9:30am Education • 1pm Lefse making	6	7 • 4:30pm Hospitality • 5pm Worship • 6pm Dinner
8 • 8:30am Hospitality • 9am Worship • 10am Congr. Meeting • 1pm Golf Scramble	9 • 12:30pm Mahjong	10 • 9:30am Communicatior • 2pm Mt Carmel • 3:30pm Bible Study	11 Veterans Day • 9am Finance • 9:30am Lefse making • 11am Jackson House	12 • 9:30am Education • 1pm Lefse making • 5pm Singles Dinner @ I	13	14 • 4:30pm Hospitality • 5pm Worship • 6pm Dinner
15 • 8:30am Hospitality • 9am Worship • 12:30pm Love Lunches	16 • 12:30pm Mahjong • 1pm Stephen Ministry	17 • 9:30am Lefse making • 3:30pm Bible Study	18	19 • 9:30am Education • 1pm Worship&Music • 1pm Lefse making	20 Newsletter Deadline • 9am Council Meeting	21 • 4:30pm Hospitality • 5pm Worship • 6pm Dinner
22 • 8:30am Hospitality • 9am Worship	23 • 9am Church Greening • 12:30pm Mahjong	24 • 1pm Friendsgiving • 3:30pm Bible Study	25	26 Office closed Thanksgiving Day	27 Office closed	28 • 4:30pm Hospitality • 5pm Worship • 6pm Dinner
29 • 8:30am Hospitality • 9am Worship	30 • 12:30pm Mahjong	Dec 1 • 1pm Lake Forest • 3:30pm Bible Study	2	3 • 9:30am Education	4	5 • 4:30pm Hospitality • 5pm Worship • 6pm Dinner


Joy in Christ
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