

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



Dear JOYful Family,

The rapture is supposed to happen today, according to someone. Our daughter saw it in a news feed on her phone. Maybe it will occur the day you actually read this. Or, if my calculations are correct(!) October 23rd, 2040. Or sometime in the year 3000, since a day to God is as a thousand years. You get, I hope, that I'm being facetious. The point being, we can predict all we want. Not even our Lord Jesus knows the hour, day, week, or year.

We also know, I hope, not to trust much of what the news curates to fit our algorithms. The media knows which buttons to push and when to push them. We can choose a measured, thoughtful response rather than a triggered reaction. It's not easy, I know! The past two Sundays here at JOY!, I have focused my sermon on deliberative dialogue or holy conversation. I am thankful for the responses to the questions that these troubling times pose to us. We can speak a message of reconciliation, peace, and harmony. Many diverse opinions need not divide us. I think our role as thoughtful Christians is to transmit that message to everyone who has lost

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SCAN FOR ON-LINE
GIVING



***Our mission is to share the Good
News of grace and love with all
through worship, service, and
fellowship.***



MEET OUR STAFF

CHURCH STAFF & OFFICERS

Pastor-Art Wuertz

Administrative Assistant-

Zsuzsanna Jobbagy

Director of Music-Silas Daniel

Choir Director-Linda Aker

Handbell Director-

Melissa Daniel

Sexton-Carson Faris

Treasurer-Terry Owen

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President-Ray Ihlenburg

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary-Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Karin Campbell

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

J.R. Frederiksen

Hank Groth

Doug Juhl

Paul Spellman



<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>
<i>10/06</i>	<i>Jean Jarmel</i>
<i>10/07</i>	<i>Marian Spitzack</i>
	<i>Rebecca Spees</i>
<i>10/08</i>	<i>John Cobb</i>
	<i>Gene Dietz</i>
<i>10/11</i>	<i>Phil Shirley</i>
<i>10/14</i>	<i>Norm Newman</i>
<i>10/16</i>	<i>Susan Holmes</i>
	<i>Debbie Holmes</i>
<i>10/19</i>	<i>Jackie Assante</i>
<i>10/23</i>	<i>Douglas Hines</i>
	<i>Jude Gonzalez</i>
<i>10/26</i>	<i>Lloyd Unfred</i>
<i>10/28</i>	<i>Diane Julian</i>
<i>10/29</i>	<i>Judy Gunson</i>



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hope in the powers that be.

While the world and our nation seemingly spin in chaos, we hold fast to the truth spoken and lived by Jesus. It is only in him that we can completely believe and trust. His faith, poured out literally in his life's blood, affirms the justice that our Heavenly Father alone administers. Our response is one of obedience and gratitude for the righteousness He declares is ours.

Without you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, or my family, I would be truly floundering. I know most of you feel the same. If that is true for us, it can certainly be true for anyone who is drowning in despair.

I will show up *any time, any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!*

Pastor Art



<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i># YRS</i>
<i>10/01</i>	<i>Diane & Ed Wanat</i>	<i>12 yrs.</i>
<i>10/08</i>	<i>Bruce & Elaine Froeschl</i>	<i>52 yrs.</i>
<i>10/10</i>	<i>Tom & Patti Ittner</i>	<i>27 yrs.</i>
<i>10/19</i>	<i>Kurt & Dawn Cook</i>	<i>1 yr.</i>
<i>10/21</i>	<i>Jim & Kim Hessel</i>	<i>21 yrs.</i>
<i>10/22</i>	<i>Karin & John Campbell</i>	<i>31 yrs.</i>
	<i>Gene & Peggy Dietz</i>	<i>20 yrs.</i>
<i>10/28</i>	<i>John & Janet Voyles</i>	<i>30 yrs.</i>
<i>10/31</i>	<i>Lori & Thommy Ilmrud</i>	<i>1 yr.</i>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ray Ihlenburg

COUNCIL

Dear JOY Members,

I remember exactly where I was sitting when John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

I remember where I was when I heard about the Twin Towers. And now, I will always remember where I was when I learned that Charlie Kirk had been assassinated.

Why do these things happen?

Each time, America responded with sorrow—and with a renewed sense of unity and love for neighbor. We turned toward God with fervor and worshipped Him as never before. Charlie was murdered because he boldly proclaimed his worldview: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He shared that truth everywhere he went. And still, we ask: why? The only answer I can fathom is evil—evil that preys on the disturbed, the mentally ill, and those who lose sight of reality.

I commend Pastor Art for his words of grace and boldness during the service following Charlie's murder. I read that if your church didn't mention Charlie Kirk in a positive light, you were attending the wrong church. Hooray for JOY and the loving people we are.

Recently, I overheard a conversation about new people joining our church. Our welcoming and loving spirit is the deciding factor for many. That is our true witness.

I trust each of us will continue to pray for the life of our church and the decisions ahead. Let us consider how best to welcome everyone and strengthen our outreach—through fellowship, AA support, prayer and study meetings, worship services, concerts, and all the endeavors our Evangelism and Outreach Ministry supports.

Please pray for wisdom for our church leaders as they discern the path forward. Pray for vision beyond ourselves, to provide for others. And pray for leadership that will help us fulfill our mission: "sharing the love of Christ in a challenging world."

In faith and hope,
Ray

THE BUS! THE BUS!

Yes, it is that time of year when the ***LIFE SOUTH BLOOD MOBILE*** will be visiting our campus.



Mark the date and time:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025-7:00 AM—1:00 PM

Once again you have the amazing opportunity to give the gift of life. One pint of blood can save 3 lives! It does not take long, is practically painless, and all it costs you is a bit of your time.

Won't you take time to give the greatest gift you can to someone in need? You can also tell your friends all about it-and give them the opportunity to help .

Walk-ins are always welcome.
Appointments are encouraged.



Commitment Sunday is October 12.

We hope you will **GROW IN GENEROSITY** by **INCREASING** your commitment for 2026 giving faithfully, knowing that your contributions make a lasting impact through the ministries of Joy Lutheran Church.

COMMITMENT CARDS WILL BE SENT TO YOU ON OCTOBER 2ND.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Growing with JOY, Growing in Generosity

<p>Bible Studies</p> <p>Concerts</p> <p>Worship Experiences</p>	<p>Angel Tree</p> <p>Quilts</p> <p>Tools 4 Teaching</p>	<p>Expanding our reach</p> <p>Wear Gloves Ministry</p> <p>SoZo Kids</p> <p>Interfaith Ministries</p> <p>Hunger in Ocala and beyond</p> <p>Disaster Relief</p>
<p>Blessings for our members</p> <p>Spiritual Gifts Classes</p> <p>Luncheons</p> <p>Social & Fellowship Events</p> <p>Card Ministry</p>		
<p>Blessing the Animals</p> <p>Family Fun Day</p>	<p>Supporting Others</p> <p>Joy House</p> <p>AA</p> <p>Isaiah House</p>	<p>We can do all this... and more. With your help.</p> <p>Please consider an increase in your giving for 2026.</p>

WATCH THIS VIDEO ABOUT GENEROSITY

<https://vimeo.com/1108686493?share=copy#t=0>



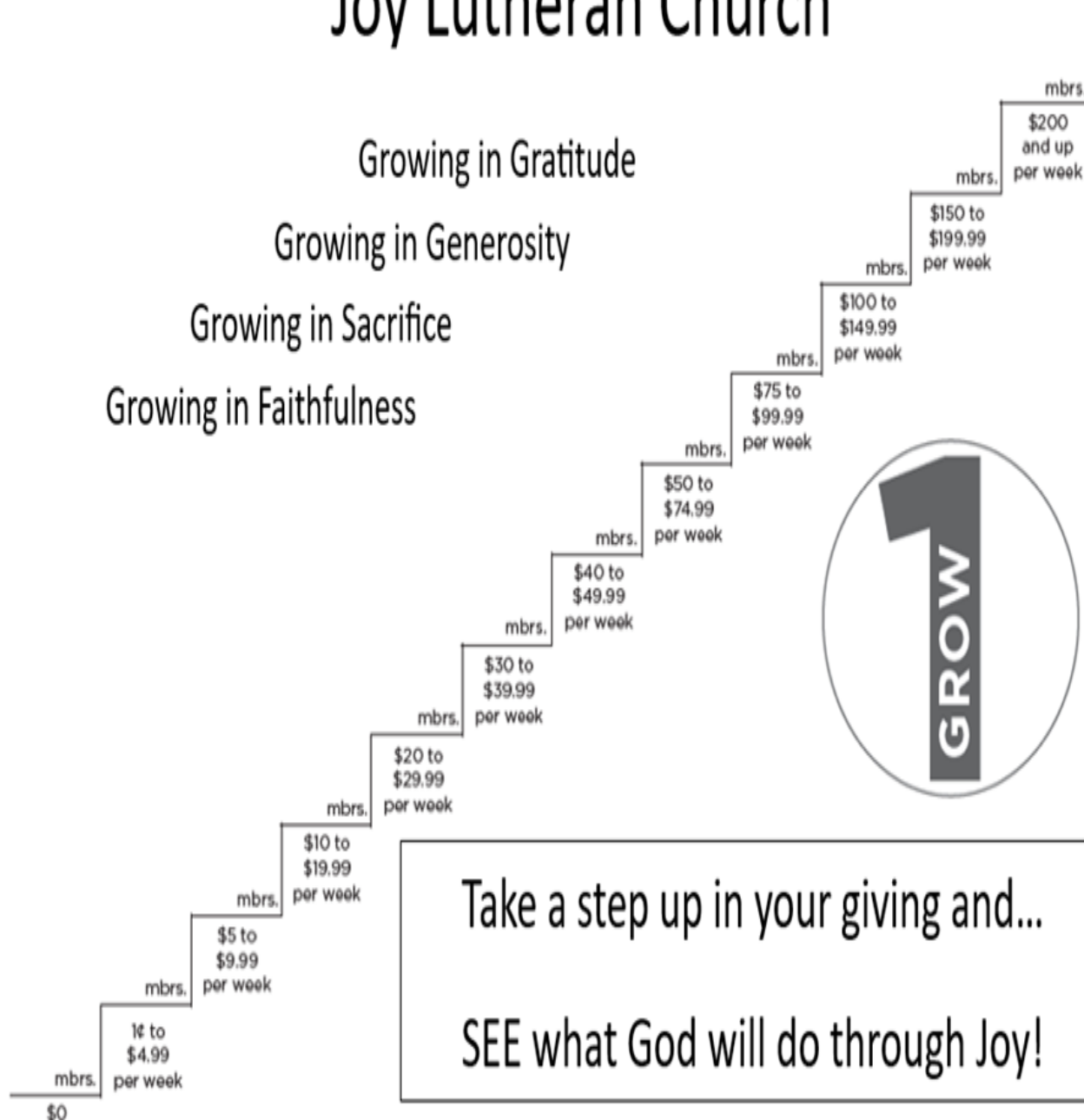
Joy Lutheran Church

Growing in Gratitude

Growing in Generosity

Growing in Sacrifice

Growing in Faithfulness





DISCOVERING
GOD'S VISION
FOR YOUR
LIFE

*You and Your
Spiritual Gifts*

Spiritual Gifts Discovery
Come as you are. Leave inspired.

OCTOBER CLASS

Two sessions:

Saturday, October 18 and 25

(You must attend both sessions)

Time: 10:00am – Noon ~~ Swenson Hall

Cost: \$10 per person

**REGISTRATION STARTED
SEPTEMBER 21**

Advance registration: lynn.ihlenburg@gmail.com

SOMETHING FOR US TO THINK ABOUT

Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Don't live your life regretting yesterday. Live your life so tomorrow you won't regret today.
—Catherine Pulsifer

As senior citizens, it's natural that we spend time looking back over the events of our lives—good or bad. It's not that we're "living in the past," as many accuse us. It's rather that memories warm us up inside; nostalgia feels good.

As for the sad things, we don't dwell on them. As pastor Rick Warren said, "We are products of our past, but we don't need to be prisoners of it."

Still, as we consider the past, it is possible we might have regrets. When we make choices in life, many of them don't matter and are quickly forgotten. Chocolate or strawberry? Red or blue? Cotton or nylon? Earth tones or neon? Jane Austen or Thomas Hardy? Beethoven or Mozart? Apple or PC?

When AARP took a survey, however, of what seniors most regretted about the choices they made in the past, they narrowed the many responses to five. See if any of these resonant with you. The top five—

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
2. I wish I didn't work so hard.
3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

Does this list include some of your own regrets?

I ask, because our Bible reading today from Joshua 24 concerns an old man nearing the end of his life. In his youth, he had been a spy, scouting out the land of Canaan and reporting to Moses. Then he succeeded Moses and led the Israelites across the Jordan. He was the victor in the famous battle for Jericho when the "walls came a-tumblin' down."

I don't know if he had regrets. But in this reading, he challenges all of Israel to make a choice. If they made the right choice, they would never regret the choice they'd made. He said, "Choose this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (24:15).

The past cannot be changed. But your future can. It can be regret-free. Whom will you serve?

—Timothy Merrill

For the full AARP article, see Bronnie Ware, "5 Top Regrets of the Dying," aarp.org. [no date] Retrieved April 15, 2023.

Prayer: Lord, I have no other God but you. Today and for my remaining years, I choose you. Amen.



FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY



ELCA
World Hunger

FIGHT HUNGER 2 WAYS IN 1 DAY

JOY! designates a special offering on the last Sunday of every month to alleviate world hunger. **ELCA World Hunger** supports 149 programs in the US (several right here in Florida), and in 63 countries. You may contribute using the envelope in your set of church envelopes or with a pew envelope with checks made out to Joy Lutheran Church.

Interfaith Food Bank—You can help fight hunger locally by donating non-perishable food next Sunday. The cart for the food bank will be in the Narthex. All the items are gathered and taken to Interfaith. Every can, box or bag that is given helps someone who otherwise may not have a meal to sustain them.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and love.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

OCTOBER FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY IS:

OCTOBER 26th



**Photos of
Doreen and
Dave
Robinson's
last delivery!**

**Thank you
for your
donations.**



BIBLE READINGS FOR *OCTOBER* 2025

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Oct. 5	Habakuk	Psalm	2 Timothy	Luke
	1:1-4; 2:1-4	37:1-9	1:1-14	17:5-10
Oct. 12	2 Kings	Psalm	2 Timothy	Luke
	5:1-3, 7-15c	111	2:8-15	17:11-19
Oct. 19	Genesis	Psalm	2 Timothy	Luke
	32:22-31	121	3:14--4:5	18:1-8
Oct. 26	Jeremiah	Psalm	Romans	John
	31:31-34	46	3:19-28	8:31-36

WELCA NEWS



WOMEN of JOY!

You are invited to attend our upcoming WELCA meeting on Monday, October 20th at 1130AM. We have had several dynamic speakers this year. We are expecting another great speaker. We always have good food (we are Lutherans!), fun and “womenship”. Come join us and bring a friend. There will be a welcome gift! About dynamic speakers, October’s speaker will be Mayor Ben Marciano. Y’all come.

-Carson

21st Annual Blessing of the Animals



JOY Lutheran
Church
7045 SW 83rd Place
Off Hwy 200—Ocala, FL

**Saturday, October 11, 2025 11:00 am
in our Memorial Garden**

**"All creatures great and small "
are welcome to our Garden.**

***"If you bring them, we will bless
them!"***

**Any questions please call
Terry Owen
@ 352-854-4509 X4
Animal Blessing Chairperson**

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Your donations to our August Tools4Teaching fund drive were sorted, packed, and delivered on Wednesday, September 17th. Our thanks go out to everyone who made this drive a success. Special thank you to Sharon Johnson and Susan Zumbahlen for delivering the items. The store helps teachers secure much needed items for their students in the Marion County School System.

As the song says *“the children are our future, Teach them well and let them lead the way. Show them all the beauty they possess inside ”*—through your generosity we are a step closer to helping them have the tools they need to succeed.

God bless everyone who gave and bless the children who will be receiving these items.



Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

2025-26 Season

A New Musical Adventure

The Gainesville Brass Quintet

The GBQ returns to Joy to perform in an encore concert!

Organized in 1985, the Gainesville Brass Quintet has performed throughout the North and Central Florida regions. The group



performs a wide variety of music ranging from baroque canzoni to modern transcriptions of pop and jazz tunes as well as a wide selection of the modern brass literature. North Florida's fine arts radio station, WUFT, has repeatedly broadcast the Gainesville Brass Quintet in concert. Recently the quintet co-produced a performance of brass and organ music with the Mayport Naval Station Brass and the Ancient Cities Brass from Jacksonville, Florida. Additional concerts include St. Simons, Island, Bradenton, Florida, St. Augustine and Fernandina Beach.

October 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)

Free Admission. Reception follows concert.



A Better Approach to Parkinson's

OFF-KEY CHORALE

MARION

IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Weekly on Wednesdays
1:30pm - 2:30pm
October 1 - November 19

**Fall Series: "When the Saints Go Marching In -
A Celebration of New Orleans"**

The Off-Key Chorale is a unique singing group for people with Parkinson's, their families, caregivers, and volunteers.

Created by Artistic Director Joseph Caulkins and accompanied by live music, the program helps participants strengthen their voices through singing while fostering fellowship, connection, and community

JOY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
7045 SW 83RD PLACE
OCALA, FL



IN PARTERSHIP WITH



TO REGISTER:
Scan QR Code
or Visit
NeuroChallenge.org



A New Musical Adventure

Seasons of JOY Concert Series

2025-26 Season Schedule

The “Amazzing” Steel Drum Ensemble - Sep. 28, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Hold on to the summer for one more weekend!

The Gainesville Brass Quintet - October 26, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Encore concert by Gainesville’s premiere brass ensemble.

Brick City Ringers - November 16, 2025, 3:30 p.m.
Ocala-based community handbell ensemble.

A JOYful Christmas Celebration - December 21, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Joy’s Fifth Annual Christmas Concert!

Dr. John Behnke - January 25, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Organ lovers rejoice!

Gainesville Area Clarinet Choir - February 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Meet almost the entire clarinet family in one afternoon.

Paul Hyatt - March 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Joy’s very own bass-baritone extraordinaire returns to the stage!

Raresong - April 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
Return to the renaissance with period dress and instruments.

Magic of Bronze - May 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
Advanced community handbell ensemble from Orlando.

John Wilkinson - May 31, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Talented and passionate singer and pianist from northeast Florida.

The Stompers - June 14, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Dixieland group straight out of The Villages, Florida.

Happy Day in Paris - July 19, 2026, 3:00 p.m.
Our hometown duo, accordionist Ray and multi-instrumentalist Janet resume their *tour d’Europe*.

All events are free and open to the public. Reception follows each concert.
Joy Lutheran Church
7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476

JOY



2025

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for <u>copy ready articles</u> to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</p> <p>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month. Thank you. Susan</p>			<p>1 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM</p>	<p>2 LMM- 8:15 AM CE MINISTRY 11AM BCR-6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>3 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	<p>4 Cleaning Svc 2-4</p>
<p>5 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM</p>	<p>6 Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N Member Care 2:30 pm</p>	<p>7 Beginners' Bible Study 11 AM</p>	<p>8 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM</p>	<p>9 Wear Gloves Lunch Share Outreach 1:30 PM BCR-6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>10 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	<p>11 Blessing of the Animals 11 a Cleaning 2-4PM Pineland Conf Gathering</p>
<p>12 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM LifeSouth Blood Drive 7-1</p>	<p>13 Stephen M. 9:30AM Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N</p>	<p>14 Property 10 AM Beg BibleStudy 11AM Finance 1 PM</p>	<p>15 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM</p>	<p>16 Council Exec. Bd 3 PM BCR 6:30 P M-S</p>	<p>17 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	<p>18 Spiritual Gifts 10 AM-SH Cleaning 2-4PM</p>
<p>19 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM</p>	<p>20 WELCA Lunch 11:30 am Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N</p>	<p>21 Beg BibleStudy 11AM Council 1 PM</p>	<p>22 Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship Svc 5:30 PM</p>	<p>23 BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>24 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	<p>25 Spiritual Gifts 10 AM-SH Cleaning 2-4PM</p>
<p>26 Fight Hunger Stewardship Ministry Awareness WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM CONCERT 4:00PM</p>	<p>27 Stephen M. 9:30 a Charlie Bible Study 1 PM-N</p>	<p>28 Beg BibleStudy- 11Am</p>	<p>29 Interfaith Joyful Hands 9AM Happy Hands 9AM OffKey Ch. 1:30 Choir-3-4:30 PM Worship 5:30 PM</p>	<p>30 BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>31 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	

Contact Us

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OCTOBER 2025

Our vision:
***“Joy is a spiritual community sharing
the love of Christ in a challenging
world”.***

