



November 26 through December 2, 2023

Dear Friends in Faith,

I'm really glad I, or we, don't have to be 'the best.' I'm deeply grateful for that clear little thought in these days as we celebrate Thanksgiving.. It means we are free from competing with the billions of God's children in any way, shape, or form. We are free to be the person God created each of us to be. As a pastor, I am free to try something a little off the wall in a sermon, not having to worry if it is the best idea.

Being freed from comparing oneself to others, letting go of competing with the neighbors, casting off the mantle of perfection is a wonderful thing. We have no concerns about best dressed, most delicious pot luck dish, quickest wit or latest latte. If an acquaintance gushes about the best ever movie they just saw we can offer a grace filled smile and then go home to contemplate whether or not we want to take it in.

The Apostle Paul wrote, I have learned to be content in whatever situation I find myself in. If I have plenty or if I'm in great need, if I am well fed or hungry.

A few years ago I was blessed to visit Malawi. One of the beautiful experiences of being in Chiphoola in the dry season was taking a stroll in the cool of the evening. Pushing back from the supper table Pastor Wickson would invite us to take a walk along the paths of the village. We'd stroll by the home of a parishioner and he'd call out to the children in the yard. Soon someone would come bringing a few chairs and we'd sit down to chat for a bit. We'd share the joys of the simple pleasure of being together. It mattered not that we had no cold soda, no chips and dip, no fresh cookies from the oven. There was no pretense, there were no airs. The blessing was in having a visit, a few moments together, grace personified.

As we approach the blessing of the Thanksgiving Day when many of us will sit down to a feast I offer these questions:

Does it matter if the bird is a little less than perfect?

Could the cranberry sauce be a tad juicy?

Might that one cantankerous uncle be welcomed with open arms?

Can we find a way to share the blessings of this season with grace?

I'm happy not to worry about anything being 'the best' and simply be...be present, be together, be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous and faithful.

with deepest gratitude for you,

pastor bob



Preparing for the Christmas Season

As we worship together!

November 26	Christ the King Sunday with communion Decorating the Church
December 3	Advent 1 Baptism of Wyatt Moreno Gingerbread House Decorating
December 10	Advent 2 Children's Program: "Straight Outta Bethlehem"
December 17	Advent 3 Cantata: "We Call It Christmas Because of Jesus"
December 24	Advent 4 10:00 am Approaching Bethlehem
December 24	Christmas Eve 6:00 pm Meeting Jesus at the Manger with Carols & Candlelight



Worship

- Sundays through December 10, Kids Christmas Choir will be rehearsing from 9am to 9:45am
- Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays at 7pm and Cantata rehearsal is at 8pm
- Congregational Meeting on December 3 following worship

Congregational Care

- Adult Sunday School from 9am to 9:45am
- Sunday School for children 3 yrs. to 6th grade is during worship
- Gingerbread House Decorating on December 3 following congregational meeting

Missions

-

Operations

- Year to date (end of September)
Expenditures \$161,808 Received \$134,363
Per Capita expense \$7,515
Received YTD \$1,913
96 in worship on November 19 (in-person and on line)



December

2023

37



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
Wyatt Moreno Baptism Congregational meeting 3 Gingerbread House decorating Youth Group	4	Women's Holiday Dinner 6pm 5 Choir 7pm Cantata 8pm	Big Band rehearsal 7pm 6 Story Time 10am	Big Band Concert 7pm 7	8	9 Jacob's angels
Children's 10 program Youth Group Christmas Party	11 Property Meeting 6:30pm	12 Deacons 6:30pm	13 Story Time 10am	14 Choir 7pm Cantata 8pm	15	16 Cantata dress rehearsal
Cantata 17 Youth Group Christmas Caroling	18	19	20	21 Choir 7pm	22	23
24 10am service 6pm service No Sunday Sch.	25	26	27	28	29	30
No Sunday Sch. 31						



NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Bob & ChrisAnn Goossen 11/09	Liz Cagnon 11/01	Barbara Corsi 11/22	Gina Arzberger 11/27
Tom & Terri Owczarzak 11/12	Dorothy Elko 11/11	Amy Muslin 11/23	Cherryl Lachowicz 11/30
Rich & Christina Palmer 11/14	Maude Williams 11/11	Sarah Jane Shaffer 11/24	
Alli & Nick Feszko 11/16	Michelle Riddle 11/12	Elaine Verostek 11/24	
Eric & Kristen Nan 11/20	Bev Abate 11/19	Elizabeth Repman 11/25	
Marcy & Edward Zombeck 11/24	Trudy Boggs 11/21	Morgan Lewis 11/26	



CELEBRATING YOU
on YOUR
Special Day

*You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

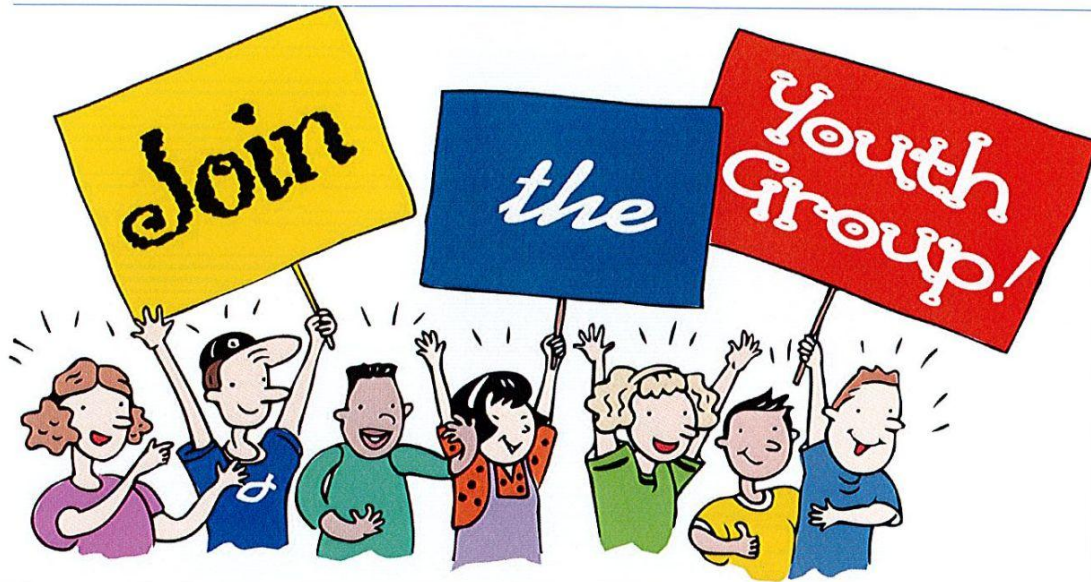
Psalm 16:11

November

2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Story time 10am Turkey dinner 6pm	2 Choir rehearsal 7pm Cantata 8pm	3	4
5 Youth Group 6-7:30	6 Property meeting 6:30pm	7 Women's Assoc. 6:30pm Finance Committee 6:30	8 Story Time 10am Ruth Circle 1pm	9 Choir rehearsal 7pm Cantata 8pm	10	11
12 Baptism of Callan Crosby (Fouse) No Youth Group	13	14 Presbytery 6pm Deacons 6:30pm	15 Story Time 10am	16 Choir rehearsal 7pm Cantata 8pm	17	18
19 Youth Group 6-7:30	20 Deborah Circle 6:30pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 7pm Cantata 8pm	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Communion Youth Group 6-7:30	27	28 Session 7pm	29 Story Time 10am	30 Choir rehearsal 7pm Cantata 8pm		



November 5 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

November 12 – Peggy is away

November 19 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

November 26 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

December 3 – 11:00 Gingerbread House

Decorating Fellowship Hall – See attachment

December 10 – 6-7:30 Youth Group Christmas Party

December 17 – 6-7:30 Youth Group Christmas Caroling

Need at least 2 helpers at Youth Group

No Youth Group December 24 and 31

Garden of Knowledge Library

As we expand our library, we have created an Amazon wish list that you may purchase books for our library. The books range in age from newborn to young adult. Here is a link to our wish list: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/11KT1O8IDN6AG/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2



Best Family Ever by Karen Kingsbury and Tyler Russell (authors)

Much-loved storyteller Karen Kingsbury's Baxter Family books have captured the hearts of millions who have come to think of the Baxter family as their own. Now Karen Kingsbury and her son Tyler Russell tell the childhood stories of the beloved Baxter children—Brooke, Kari, Ashley, Erin, and Luke—to inspire and entertain younger readers. The first book in the Baxter Family Children series.

Brooke is the perfect older sister. For that reason, Kari and Ashley work hard to make their parents just as proud of them as they are of Brooke. Each girl has her own talents. Brooke is an excellent student. Kari is a great soccer player. Ashley, a talented artist. And they are always there for each other. But when the news comes that Dr. Baxter is moving the family from Ann Arbor to Bloomington, Indiana, and the Baxters need to leave the only home and friends they've ever known, no one is happy. Saying goodbye is hard but the family still has what's most important—their faith and their love for each other.

Recommended for ages 8-11. (This is an Accelerated Reader book also.)



Riley Mae and the Ready Eddy Rapids by Jill Osborne

If you're gonna run for your life, you gotta wear the right shoes.

Life is rapidly changing for pre-teen shoe spokesperson Riley Mae. After escaping near disaster at the top of Half Dome in Yosemite, Riley, her family, and her Swiftriver co-workers fly to a secret hideout in Northwest Montana. But when the plane's malfunction leads to a rough landing, Riley wants nothing more than to return to friends, church, and home. Then she meets Sunday, a ten-year-old boy from Kenya who wrestles fish, battles bears, and tackles leukemia. While her rigorous raft training for the marketing campaign brings a few bumps and bruises, Riley now feels up for the challenge.

Everything looks as bright as the glistening fool's gold on her "Ready Eddy" river sandals, but everything is not as it seems. Riley soon learns that life is as unpredictable as the raging waters, which, if she is not careful, will sweep her away and into the hands of an enemy who is even closer than she thinks.

Recommended for ages 9-12. (This is an Accelerated Reader book also.)

After a complete inventory of our Garden of Knowledge Library, we are missing some books, many were checked out prior to the pandemic. Please check your children's books at home and see if you have any from our library. You can return them to Christina Palmer. Thank you!