Open Sundays

Community Federated Church

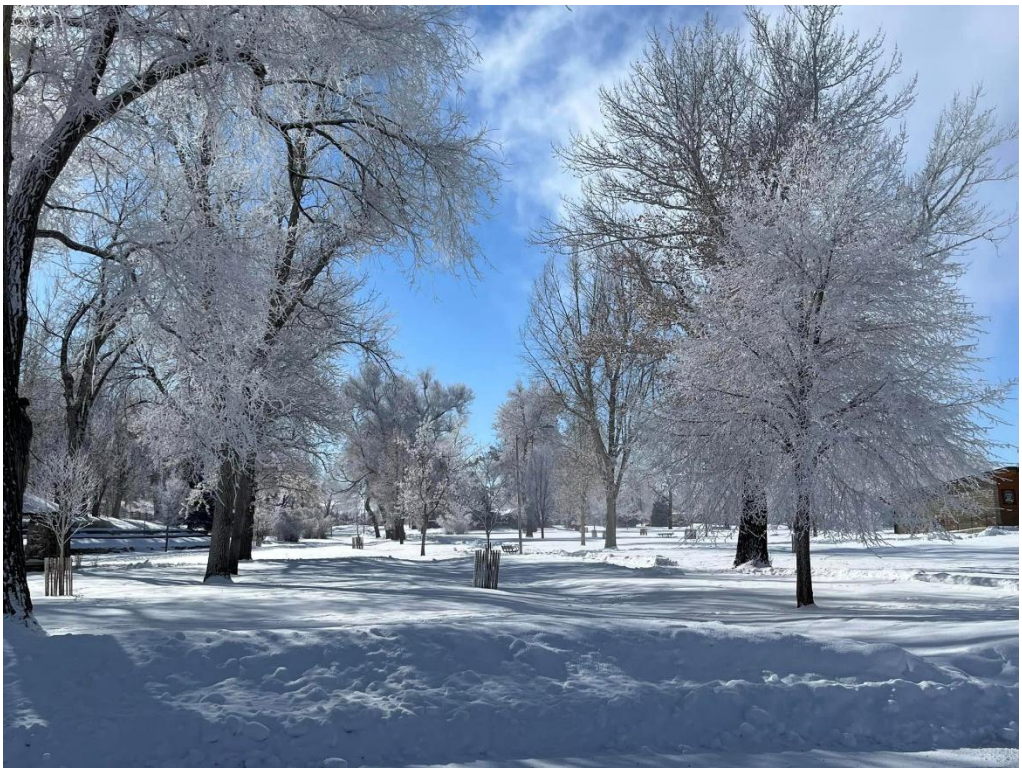


Photo credit Randy Wahler

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34

November – December 2026

Federated Community Church
Funeral Reception Policy

We are honored to assist you in this time of sorrow. Here are some guidelines you may find helpful.

You might think about how many will attend the funeral and reception.
The church will provide for any member or attendee's family a funeral or memorial service if so requested. A reception can also be provided by the church with the following reception food:

Veggie tray	OR	Fruit tray
Cheese and crackers		Cookie plate

Coffee and tea will be served with either of these choices.

If a family requests a full meal for the reception the church asks that the family purchase the food (cooked if necessary) and have it ready to serve. The church will be happy to serve and clean up regardless of which choice is made.

There is no set fee by the church for the services of our pastor or our music department but a gift of gratitude or honorarium would be appreciated.

Adopted by the session 10-26-26

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday; 9:30 – 11:30 am

Please note: these hours are subject to change if I am called away for pastoral care needs or off-site visits. Other times are always gladly arranged by appointment! Just call or text me at 307-331-6081 or leave a message at the Church Office and I'll get back to you as soon as possible.

- **Worship Committee Meeting**: Moved to Monday, November 2, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.
- **Buildings & Grounds Meeting**: Moved from to Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thanksgiving:** Office Closed Thursday, November 26th.

Heart-Felt Thanks

Janna and I would like to offer a special thank to our Pastor Liz for her amazing support and strength throughout Janna's ordeals with surgery. Her calming presence and thoughtful actions have made this experience both bearable and blessed. We are so thankful for her presence in our church. Thank you, Liz! **You** are a blessing!

Janna and Ross Kershaw

- **Children's Presentation:** December 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Christmas Cantata:** December 20, 2026, at 10:30 and 3:00.
- **Christmas Eve Services:** December 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Break:** Office Closed December 24-31. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 4, 2027.

A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't. – Charles Spurgeon

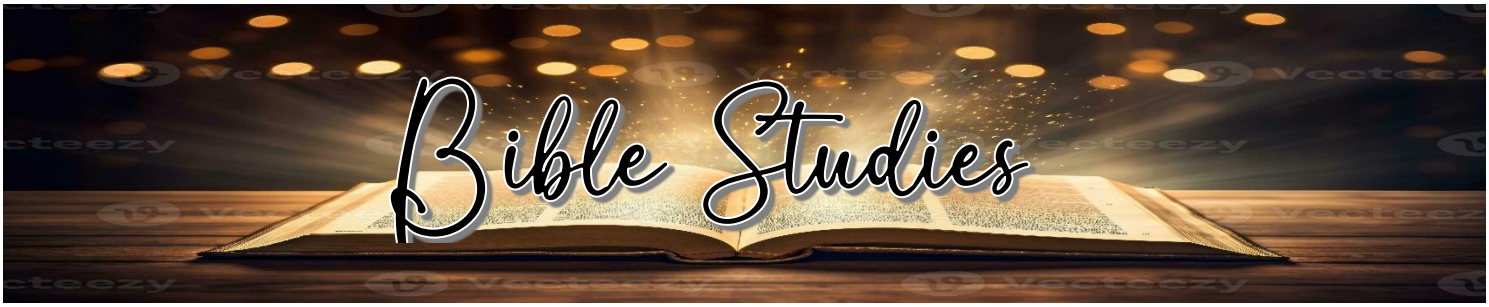
If lips and life do not agree, the testimony will not amount to much. – Harry Ironside

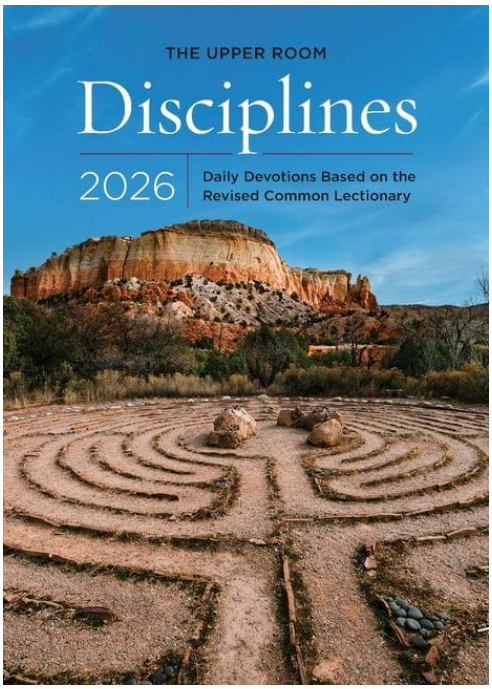
Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. – Mother Teresa

SERVICE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sunday, December 13, 2026

There will not be a service at 8:00. Instead, the 10:30 service will be moved to 10:00 so everyone can come and see a short presentation by the Sunday School Children.





<u>Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 a.m.</u>
in the Parlor and on Zoom
<u>Studying from "Disciplines 2026</u>

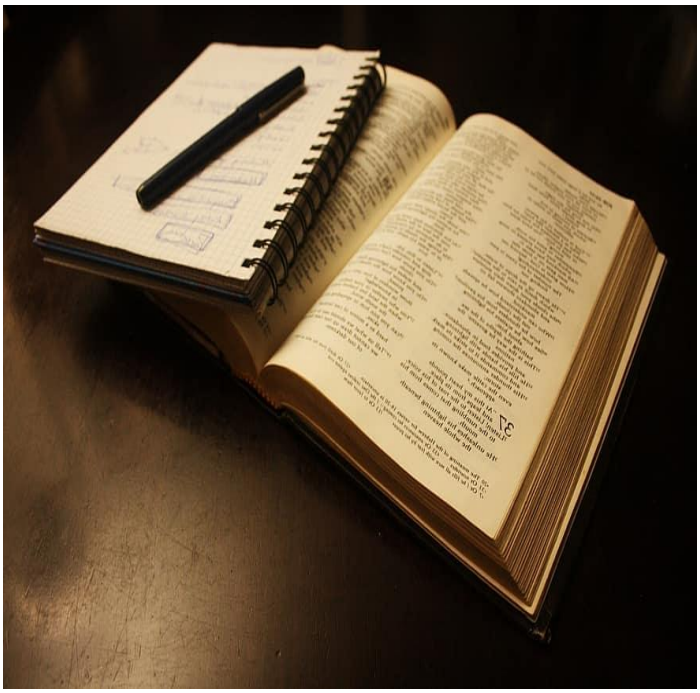
Reading and reflecting on scripture is a spiritual practice that provides daily inspiration and spiritual nourishment for those who seek God. In this best-selling devotional guide, readers encounter a diverse community of thoughtful Christian writers and theologians who guide them toward a deeper relationship with God.

Each reading in The Upper Room Disciplines includes a selected scripture passage, a meditation on the scripture, and a prayer or suggestion for reflection. Disciplines offers 7 days of engagement with the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts. Each week of devotions is written by one author and focuses on one theme to provide extended depth into how the ancient stories of the Bible apply to our lives today.

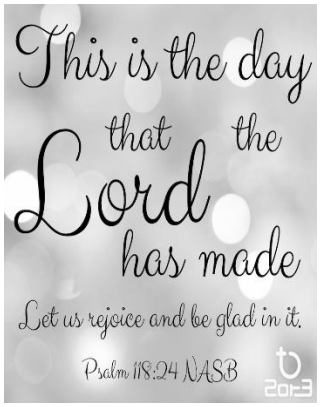
<u>Tuesday Bible Study</u>
<u>10:00 a.m.</u>
in the parlor and on Zoom

Utilizing self-led studies, the group will explore a variety of topics in the old and new testaments.

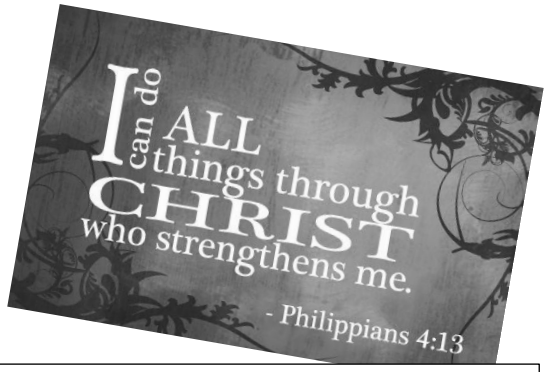
Anyone is welcome to join us at any time during the studies.



THE WORD OF GOD

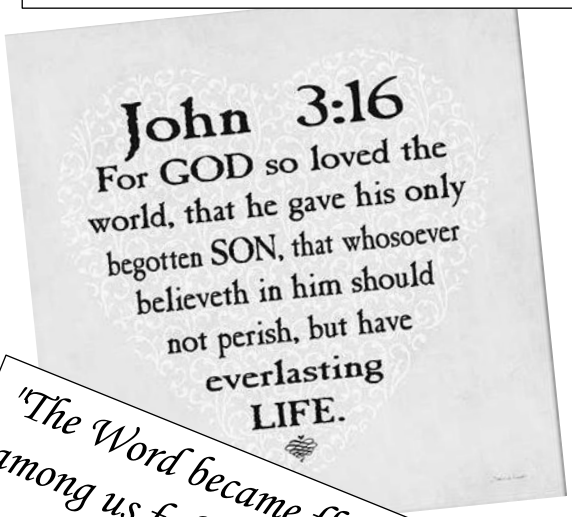


"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."
Matthew 6:34, NRSV



"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Here I Am, send me"

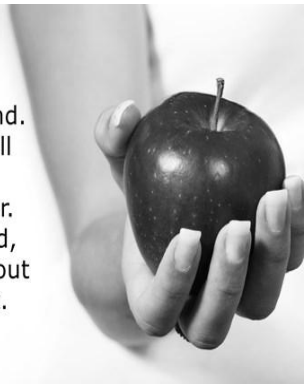
Isaiah 6:8



Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our disappointments, we forget to count our blessings. And my newest one: Worry is a sin against our belief in God.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth."
John 1:14

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.
1 Corinthians 10:13



"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1st Corinthians 13:13

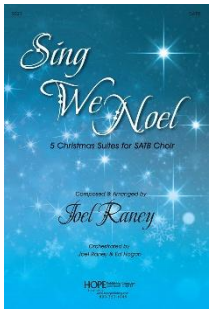
Musings from the Music Director

"The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish."
(John 1:14 The Message)

Greeting for this most special season of the Christian year. Starting with a reflective look at the saints we have lost in the last year, we move to Thanksgiving and then Advent/Christmas. What a glorious season of music!

"For All the Saints" … "A Jubilant Thanksgiving" … "Sing We Noel"

Our Choir and Orchestra are diligently working on a wonderful cantata entitled *"Sing We Noel"* by Joel Raney. It is a series of five suites celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It offers a dynamic range of musical expression, from intimate moments of reflection to powerful declarations of praise.



Once again we are pleased to draw musicians from several churches in Thermopolis to make this an ecumenical offering of inspiring music. May this music bring renewed joy to your celebration of Christmas, offering a fresh and meaningful way to share the timeless story of Christ's birth. Plan to enjoy Sunday, December 20th at 10:30 and/or 3:00.

Our Bell Choir will be bringing the musical meditation of December 6th with an arrangement of *"The First Noel",* also arranged by Joel Raney. Nancy Williams will be accompanying this wonderful arrangement of a classic Christmas Carol.

The Basin Bell Festival that was scheduled for October 17th has been moved to Saturday, April 10, 2027. Put it on your calendars. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience the blessings of English Handbells in a larger setting. The Festival will be in Powell at the former United Methodist Church (The UM and Presbyterian churches federated like us and moved to the Presbyterian church building).

I want to offer a heart-felt thanks to David VanSlyke for stepping in to cover the choir when I am away on a Sunday. His musical ability is a true blessing. We are truly blessed to have him leading music in our Middle and High schools, as well as what he offers to our church.

Blessings,

Tess

Sing We Noel

This captivating Christmas Cantata

brings the joy and majesty of the season to life in a variety of settings.

Date: Sunday, December 20, 2026
at 10:30 a.m. with an encore at 3:00 p.m.

Ecumenical Choir and orchestra.

Traditional carols as well as original compositions.

Composed & Arranged by

Joel Raney

Orchestrated by
Joel Raney & Ed Hogan

Community Federated Church
244 N. 6th Street
Thermopolis, WY

Buildings &

We served the September community meal to a fairly sparse crowd. The weather was still nice , and we did use up a bunch of corndogs and chicken nuggets left over from VBS.

Mowing at both locations ended in mid-October.

We hired Tony Larson to work on the sprinklers and blow them out for the winter. More repairs and replacements will follow in the spring.

The swamp cooler at the manse was removed for the winter. We will look into purchasing a regular AC unit before next summer. The swamp cooler will then be advertised for sale.

The squeaky garage door opener at the manse was lubricated and mostly silenced.

The heat was turned on at both buildings. The ceiling fans in the sanctuary were reversed and the filters replaced at the hall.

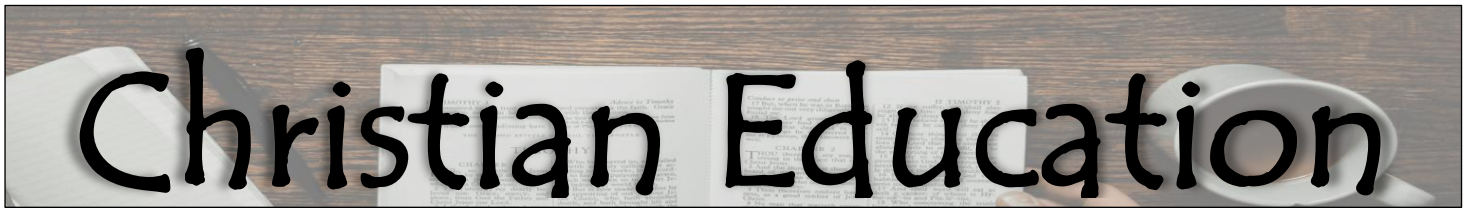
The measurement figures of the parking lot cracks was misplaced and will need to be re-done. We will check as to what sort of temperature is required for the sealing product to work.

The floor sealing project at the hall is still on our radar-just finding time and volunteers is the holdup on that one. We will see if it's possible to add some tint to help hide the stains. At least this project doesn't require a certain outside temperature range.

Our November meeting has been moved to the 17th due to a personal medical appointment.

We are always open to new members-come join us! We do have several great volunteers who have stepped up to help us with projects.

Scott Dnsmore, Chair



Ongoing:

- Sunday morning 9:00 Adult Bible Study using the book “Disciplines” (Zoom available)
- Tuesday Bible Study 9:30 Studying the book of Mark
- All church bible study Thursday nights at 6:00 with pizza, a video and lots of discussion led by Pastor Liz.

Sunday School

Sunday School is quite active with three age groups. We are going through the bible studying characters such as Adam/Eve, Noah, Joshua, Gideon, Solomon, Elijah. We begin with music, followed by a story and an activity or craft related to the lesson. Thanks to all our helpers and leaders!!!

Youth Group: Amy Culbreath is leading the youth group and they started out the year with a hayride and are meeting on Thursday nights. Thank you, Amy!!

SAVE THE DATE AND TIME

December 13th at 10:00 the Sunday School children will participate in the worship service. *** (the 10:30 service will be moved to 10:00 for this Sunday only)***

Looking Forward: VBS will be June 28th – July 2, 2027.

If the Lord is putting it on your heart to help with any of the Christian Ed activities, please see someone on the committee… we will find a place for you!!

Members of Christian Ed Committee: Joan Stetler (chair), Janna Kershaw, Marilyn Vass, Amy Culbreath, Emmy Hergert, Ray Wilber, Kelly Strampe, Heather Jones, Glenn Dunbach

Sunday School Update:

Sunday School is off to a wonderful start this fall! Our energetic group has been busy walking through the Bible from beginning to end, discovering God's amazing story and learning to trust Him, praise Him, and grow in our relationship with Him.

We began with “God Builds a Family,” exploring Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and the Israelites in the wilderness. Through these stories, we discovered that we are part of God's family and that He always keeps His promises!

Now we're exploring “The Kingdom Days,” learning that God is our true King and it is best to listen to Him. We've marched around Jericho, learned about Gideon's tiny army, listened with Samuel, explored David and Jonathan's friendship, discovered Solomon's wisdom, and witnessed Elijah's courage.

Of course, Sunday School wouldn't be complete without all the smiles and fun! From singing “Father Abraham” and “Arky Arky” to using M&Ms to shrink Gideon's army and making eggs float while learning about Solomon's prayer for wisdom, we've certainly had some memorable Sundays!

As November continues, we'll explore Elisha's miracles, the lost kingdom, and God's promise of rescue through Isaiah and Daniel before entering Advent, when we joyfully await our Rescuer, Jesus!

We're looking forward to our Christmas program, tentatively scheduled for December 13!

A heartfelt thank-you to our wonderful volunteers and every child who brings these lessons to life! Thank you, families, for trusting us to help guide your youngest disciples.

Everyone is welcome! Come visit, join the fun, and share in the joy of Sunday School. We can't wait for next Sunday!

Emmy Hergert- Sunday School Coordinator

Youth Group

Thursday evenings around 6:30 p.m. (after practices/sports), in the Friendship Hall (church basement). Open to 4th grade and up. Bible study, food and games. Contact Amy Culbreath, 307-431-2798 or amyculbreath2@gmail.com with questions.

We won't be having a community meal at the church in November or December because of the Episcopal Church's holiday meals at their church. The Membership and Outreach Committee is hosting the community meal in January. We are planning to serve Alice Toth's sloppy joes. They are delicious! Hope you can join us, and bring a friend.

We could still use a few more people to volunteer to be Coffee Hour hosts for the 10:30 service. Several months have only a couple of people serving for the whole month. Volunteers just need to make coffee and bring something sweet and savory to serve during coffee hour. Please, if you attend this service, consider taking a turn. You can call Tammy or Cindy Toth if you would be willing to help out.

The food pantry continues to have about 15-16 individuals or families that come in to get supplemental food each month. We had at least 3 new people come in during October after seeing our sign on the corner. We have regulars that come every month, and some who come only when they need to. We often hear from those that come to the pantry that they are so thankful to us for providing the food. Thank you to each of you that donate food or money for this service. We did need to buy a new refrigerator for the pantry as the old one could not be repaired.

Our prayer shawl ministry has several shawls that we can give away to someone who may need the comfort of one. Please let us know if you know of someone who may benefit from receiving a shawl. Charlotte Thomas is making more for us right now. Thank you, Charlotte! We also received one from Peggy Forgey. Thank you to Peggy also!

Once again, thank you all for your support of our projects.

Cindy Toth, Chair

This is a test to see if anyone reads the newsletter. If you see this, please email me your favorite part about being a member of Community Federated Church or a favorite church memory. Blessings, Tammy

p.s. Have you found the hidden church mouse?

Located in the Fellowship Hall, 631 Big Horn Street.
The Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Sunday and the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Sunday, November 15 at 11:30 am & Tuesday, November 17 at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 20 at 11:30 am & Tuesday, December 22 at 10:30 am

Collection Baskets are available at the church and in the Fellowship Hall for food to be dropped off. Monetary donations are also welcome.
Contact Cindy Toth, 307-631-7866, with any questions or to donate.

Food Pantry

The Impact of Food Banks During the Holidays

By Dan Lyons | December 29, 2022

Food banks play a crucial role in addressing food insecurity, particularly during the holiday season. The holidays are a time when many people are struggling to make ends meet and may not have the resources to put food on the table. As the holidays approach, families, seniors and those already struggling to make ends meet are feeling the pinch of rising food prices. Unfortunately, increased prices are forcing more and more Americans to turn to food banks and pantries for assistance. The trouble is that these organizations are also feeling the strain due to the rising costs of food. It is an unfortunate cycle that is expected to continue into the winter season. It is also a time when many people are focused on giving and helping others, and food banks provide an excellent opportunity for people to make a difference in their community. Whether it's by donating food or volunteering time, there are many ways to get involved with a local food bank and make a positive impact. Food banks provide a vital service to those in need by providing them with access to free or low-cost food.

One of the main impacts of food banks during the holidays is that they provide a sense of hope and stability to individuals and families who may be struggling. For many people, the holiday season can be a stressful and difficult time, and the added burden of not being able to afford food can make things even worse. Food banks provide a lifeline to those in need, helping to alleviate some of the stress and worry that comes with not being able to provide for oneself or one's family.

Another impact of food banks during the holidays is that they help build stronger communities. When people come together to donate food and volunteer their time at food banks, it creates a sense of unity and solidarity within a community. This can be especially important during the holiday season, when people may be feeling isolated or disconnected from others.

Food banks also have a significant economic impact on communities. When individuals and families are able to access free or low-cost food through food banks, they are able to stretch their limited resources further. This can help to reduce the burden of poverty on communities and can also stimulate the local economy by increasing the amount of disposable income that people have to spend on other necessities and necessities.

In addition to the direct impacts of food banks, they also play a critical role in addressing the root causes of food insecurity. Many food banks partner with other organizations to provide services such as job training, financial education, and housing assistance. By addressing the underlying issues that contribute to food insecurity, food banks can help to break the cycle of poverty and ensure that individuals and families are able to achieve long-term stability and security.

Overall, the impact of food banks during the holidays is significant. By supporting food banks through donations and volunteering, we can all make a positive impact in the lives of those in need and work towards a future where everyone has access to the food and resources they need to thrive.

Worship & Committee

Here we are gearing up for the holiday season. What a beautiful Fall we have been enjoying. Hopefully you have been able to sneak away and treat yourself to the beautiful colors.

Our committee hosted the October Community Meal. In November we will recognize All Saint's Day, Veteran's Day, and Christ the King Sunday. The first Sunday of Advent is November 29th. We will be seeking readers for the 8:00 and 10:30 services during Advent. If you are interested in reading, please let a Worship Committee member know. The Cantata will be presented at the 10:30 service and at 3:00 p.m. on December 20th. Christmas Eve services are scheduled for 5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

With the days becoming shorter and the temperature becoming cooler, maybe you are ready to curl up with a good book. Don't forget to look in the Library, you may just find the reading material you've been looking for.

Worship Committee members include Alice Bunch, Terri Williams, Diane Mercil, Tom Smith, Weston Jones, Leanne Correlle, Keith and Pam Kerr.

OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider giving the gift of yourself to your church & community.

Advisory & Personnel

* Church Conference Delegate

Buildings & Grounds

* Church Cleanup
* Maintenance

Church Board

* Circle J Volunteer
* Scouts
* Specials Event Support

Membership & Outreach

* Coffee Hour Volunteer
* Community Meals
* Community Service
* Doorstep Ministry
* Food Pantry
* Funeral Dinners
* Ladies Lunch
* Meals on Wheels
* People for People
* Prayer Chain
* Prayer Shawls
* Sending Cards

Music Ministry

* Bell Choir
* Choir
* Organist
* Pianist
* Seasonal Music
* Skit/Drama Presentations
* Soloist

Worship/Christian Education

* Adult Sunday School
* Banner Making
* Children's Sunday School
* Communion Steward
* Facebook Live Tech
* Ladies & Men's Lunch
* PowerPoint Tech
* PTL Breakfast Volunteer
* Seasonal/Spec. Decorating
* Soundboard Tech
* Tuesday Bible Study
* Usher
* Youth Group Leader

In Memoriam

Jack Mayfield – 11/02/25

Carol Larson – 11/27/25

Bob Overton – 12/25/25

Mike Chimenti – 1/22/26

Kay Wiecki-Wahler – 2/21/26

Marge Slack – 4/17/26

Bill Moore – 4/20/26

Ellen Galyan – 4/29/26

Joann Tidings – 06/26

Bob McCann – 9/22/26

Rex Clothier – 9/28/26

Road to Eternity

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay…

Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know,
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.

November Birthdays

Terri Williams (Bill) 10
Janet Chimenti 12
Hallie Bischoff 14
Weston Myers 14
Scott Dinsmore 15
Lucas Jones 17
Darcy Axtell 18
Monica Jones 19
Branson Dean 27
Bill Williams 30
Weston Jones 30

November Anniversaries

Sam & Mary Jane Starnes 11

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from these lists, please let Tammy know so that she can update the master list

December Birthdays

Jared Nichols 2
Mackenzie Jones 3
Bobbi Ingram 5
William Logan Bartholomew 9
Marilyn Vass 9
Owen Myers 9
Cindy Toth 12
Kathy Gregory 12
Frank Toth 13
Holden Hergert 18
Grace Rush 18
Amy Culbreath 21
Valerie Bartholomew 23
Kay Rush 25
Jordan Dean 25
Veva Blakesley 26
Rhett Williams 31

December Anniversaries

Newsletter compiled, edited and published by Tammy Smith, Secretary