

# TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2026

Inside this issue:

Staff / Birthdays	2
Anniversaries	3
New Members	4
June Concert	5
Women's Enrichment	6
New Connections	7
Outreach	8
Fight Hunger Sunday	8
Chronic Pain	9
Congregational Meeting	10
Shepherd Ministry	11
June Bible Readings	12
JOY Information	12
JOY Calendar	13
"About June"	14
Savy Caregiver Training	15



LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



*Joy is a spiritual community sharing Christ in a challenging world.*

Dear JOYful Family,

Just this morning, I experienced a true “God wink”, Holy Spirit moment. On my way here to church, I decided to stop by my favorite new coffee shop, Biggby’s in the Publix at Cherrywood shopping center. As I looked for a parking space, I prayed, “God, may what I am about to risk doing bear fruit”. I walked in with a sign I had made yesterday, which says “FREE PRAYER”, and a picture of hands raised up to the sun. I had tape on it, ready to attach to whatever table I sat at. As I awaited my frozen honey vanilla brew, another customer approached and asked if I would pray for her friend who is going through a divorce. Almost instantly, **my** prayer was answered. As is often the case with me, seeing I was wearing a clerical collar, she said, “Thank you, Father” on the way out.

The point of this is certainly not my faithfulness, but God’s active response. How can this spiritual community of JOY engage the outside world more faithfully? What I did involved minimal risk and was easy. (I am a simple guy, like the apostles before me). We just keep going in trust and faith. Questions and conversation can be very significant opportunities. Listening without judging or trying to force a conclusion is much appreciated as we share our faith. Allow yourselves to be vulnerable in those moments, by having the love of Jesus and the power of the

*Continued on Page 3*

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

SCAN FOR ON-LINE GIVING



<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9NX>



## 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-Caroline Bernard

### CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President- Karin Campbell

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary- Linda Aker

Treasurer-Caroline Bernard

### OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Terry Owen

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



DATE	NAME
06/02	<i>Anne Burkett</i>
06/03	<i>Penny Davis</i>
	<i>Lee Bay</i>
06/04	<i>Ron Piper</i>
06/05	<i>Mike Beaver</i>
06/06	<i>Emery Bjerkmann</i>
06/10	<i>Marcia Cox</i>
06/11	<i>Doreen Robinson</i>
	<i>Dawn Cook</i>
	<i>Kurt Cook</i>
06/12	<i>Dalila Borrego</i>
06/13	<i>Jean Groth</i>
06/18	<i>Sheila Mixdorf</i>
	<i>Jerry Wieland</i>
	<i>Dolly Schember</i>
06/19	<i>Linda Ware</i>
06/20	<i>Barbara Zachos</i>
06/21	<i>Terry Owen</i>
06/24	<i>Jennie Halvorsen</i>
	<i>Joe Spillane</i>
06/28	<i>John Henderson</i>
06/29	<i>Jill Davis</i>

*Continued from Page 1*

Holy Spirit guide you in relating with people where they are and on their terms.

This coming month will have continuing action learning experiments, like the Women's Spiritual Enrichment group, facilitated by Lynn Ihlenburg, and a Tuesday evening pain management group led by Council member Diana O'Neill. "New Connections" on the first Sunday of the month before worship. I LOVE the innovative spirit I am seeing here at JOY! Let's see some action learning experiments sprout forth beyond our church campus. With our building plans, let's just say that for *twenty years* we have "kicked that can" so far down the road, almost to a dead end. We WILL move forward in trust and faith. Believe that fresh expressions in word and action will make new disciples. Following Jesus is more than just a panacea for the woes of the world that beleaguer us. Following Jesus IS life and love. As we bring dreams and hopes to fruition by sharing and inviting people into our conversation of possibilities for our facilities (neat rhyme, huh?) we will grow God's kingdom. It will come, in accordance with His holy will.

We are alive!! Can you feel the vibe? (almost a rhyme)...

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

*Pastor Art*

## *Happy Anniversary*

<i>DATE</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i># YRS.</i>
<i>06/03</i>	<i>Don &amp; Yvonne Conner</i>	<i>48 yrs.</i>
<i>06/08</i>	<i>Norman &amp; Jennie Halvorsen</i>	<i>69 yrs.</i>
	<i>J.R. &amp; Beth Frederiksen</i>	<i>58 yrs.</i>
	<i>Thomas &amp; Margaret Randall</i>	<i>48 yrs.</i>
	<i>David &amp; Jen Hudson</i>	<i>35 yrs.</i>
<i>06/12</i>	<i>Ken &amp; Jean Kutscher</i>	<i>60 yrs.</i>
<i>06/15</i>	<i>Jim &amp; Paulette Kuzmanovich</i>	<i>58 yrs.</i>
<i>06/22</i>	<i>Rita &amp; John Brokaw</i>	<i>4 yrs.</i>
<i>06/26</i>	<i>Art &amp; Carolyn Salzlein</i>	<i>61 yrs.</i>

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST JOY FAMILY MEMBERS**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026**

**ILENE CASPER**

9642 SW 92nd PLACE ROAD  
OCALA, FL 34481  
ON TOP OF THE WORLD

**ANDY & JACKIE NUCCIO**

9315 SW 91st CT ROAD  
OCALA, FL 34481  
RENNAISSANCE-OTOW

**ED & LINDA LUSHBAUGH**

6241 SW 95th PLACE  
OCALA, FL 34476  
CHERRYWOOD PRESERVE

**BARBARA & DAVID SELDEN**

6858 SW 95th CIRCLE  
OCALA, FL 34481  
SANDALWOOD-STONE CREEK

**SAM McHENRY**

10081 SW 30th AVE. ROAD  
OCALA, FL 34473  
MARION OAKS

**LOUISE WERNER**

7105 SW 113th LOOP  
OCALA, FL 34476  
LINKSIDE- OAK RUN

**JAMES & JILL WHITMAN**

1006 SW 98th AVE  
OCALA, FL 34481  
PINE RUN

**WE WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION  
IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER!**

# Seasons of JOY

## Concert Series

### 2025-26 Season

### *A New Musical Adventure*

## Southland Dixie Stompers

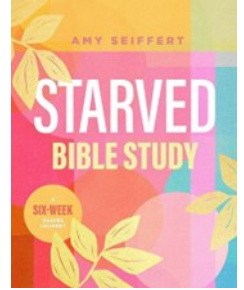
Join us for an afternoon with the Southland Dixie Stompers feels like stepping into the lively streets of New Orleans, where every note carries the spirit of jazz's birthplace. Their performance blends joyful brass melodies, swinging rhythms, and soulful improvisation. All that's needed is some gumbo, jambalaya and a beignet! From foot-stomping classics to playful, high-energy solos, the band brings warmth, charm, and an irresistible groove that gets the whole crowd smiling, swaying, and completely swept up in the music.



**June 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary  
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)  
Free Admission. Reception follows concert.

# *This Summer...*

**Women's Spiritual Enrichment Group**  
**Saturdays at 10:00am • Swenson Hall**



**Led by Lynn Ihlenburg**

Join us this summer for two refreshing women's studies designed to nourish your spirit, strengthen your faith, and have some fun. Come as you are...and by all means bring a neighbor or friend – or anyone you meet who might like a little spiritual nourishment.

***No registration needed—no purchases. Just come when you can.***

## ***Two - 6 Session Studies***

**Study 1: *Starved* by Amy Seiffert -**

**Begins June 6, 2026**

In a world overflowing with noise—phones, social media, politics, and endless demands—we often find ourselves spiritually underfed. This study helps us recognize what we're consuming, what's consuming us, and how Jesus offers the nourishment our souls truly need. Together, we'll walk from spiritual starvation toward satisfaction and strength.

**Study 2: *It's All Under Control* by Jennifer Dukes Lee**

**Begins July 25, 2026**

If you've ever wished God would hand you a detailed map—or if you find yourself gripping tightly to plans, outcomes, and expectations—this study offers a gentle reset. We'll explore how to release the illusion of control, trust God's steady hand, and live more freely as the women God created us to be.



***This Summer... Come early for worship on the FIRST Sunday of each month for...***

## ***New Connections***

***June 7, July 5, August 2***

A relaxed gathering for newer members, recent visitors, and anyone wanting to feel more at home at Joy. Whether you've been worshiping with us for a few weeks or a few months, or a few years, this is a chance to meet others who are also finding their way into the life of the congregation.

**If you're looking for a gentle next step, this is it.**

**No agenda, no pressure.**

***It's simply a welcoming doorway into deeper community.***

***Come early for 10am worship***

***Doors open at 9:15am***



***Start with conversation • Stay for worship***

## Interfaith Shelter Dinners

OUTREACH

The Interfaith shelter meals, served on the 29th of every month, is looking for volunteers to serve the months of September and November 2026.

If you feel you could help this worthy mission please sign up on the bulletin board across from the kitchen or email

Lynne Shineman [imsrest@yahoo.com](mailto:imsrest@yahoo.com)

Thank you

## FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY

THE LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH IS OUR FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY.

*YOU CAN HELP!*

- 1) **ELCA WORLD HUNGER-MONETARY DONATIONS USING YOUR NUMBERED DONATION ENVELOPES OR THE PEW ENVELOPES.**
- 2) **INTERFAITH FOOD BANK-NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS CAN BE PLACED ON THE CARTS PROVIDED**

**YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

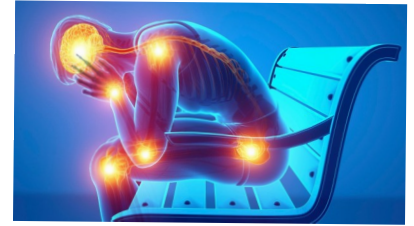
**OUR NEXT FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY DATE:**

**June 28<sup>th</sup>**



# CHRONIC PAIN

CHRONIC PAIN



## *HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?*

**Do you or someone you know suffer from Chronic Pain?**

**A new six week discussion group will be starting to discuss helpful ways to tackle chronic pain and enhance your life. We will not concentrate on doctors, medications, or prognoses. Instead we will discuss ways you can feel more in control of your body and your life, by concentrating on the power and healing effects as we strengthen our Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, and Social aspects of Chronic Pain.**

**Led by Diana O'Neill, the group will meet in**

**Swenson Hall**

**Tuesdays, at 6:00 pm**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> — July 14<sup>th</sup>.**



**Group will be limited to 10 people.  
A sign-up sheet will be posted in the  
Narthex.**

**SPECIAL  
ANNOUNCEMENT**

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



**Church Council is calling a special**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
Sunday, June 7, 2026  
11:30 am**

**The only item on the agenda will be the approval of the proposed changes to Joy's Constitution.**

**No other items will be addressed.**

**Please mark your calendars and come prepared to hear the changes and cast your vote.**

## **SHEPHERD MINISTRY**

**Did you know you have a Shepherd here at Joy?**

**Your Shepherd is named at the bottom  
of your listing in our church directory.**

**They are a point of contact in case of:**

- ♦ **emergency**
- ♦ **if you are sick, in the hospital, preparing and recovering from surgery**
- ♦ **needing transportation**
- ♦ **needing help around the house**
- ♦ **needing a visit from Pastor**

**This is a component of our Member Care Ministry.**



## BIBLE READINGS FOR JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
06/07/2026	HOSEA	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	5:15--6:6	50: 7-15	4:13-25	9:9-13, 18-26
06/14/2026	EXODUS	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	19:2-8a	100	5:1-8	9:35--10:23
06/21/2026	JEREMIAH	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	20:7-13	69:7-18	6:1b-11	10:24-39
06/28/2026	JEREMIAH	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	28:5-9	89:1-4,15-18	6:12-23	10:40-42

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JOY:

**E-mail:**            [joyocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:joyocalafl@gmail.com)

**Web Site:**        [www.joylcoala.org](http://www.joylcoala.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](http://www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](http://www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)

**Photos & Videos to:**

[Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com](mailto:Joyocalaconnect@gmail.com)



# JUNE

# 2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> Member Care 1 P (SH)	<b>2</b> Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH)	<b>3</b> Joyful Hands 9A CE-2PM (SH) WELCA Bd 11 A Worship Service 6:30 pm	<b>4</b> Publicity 1P Stewardship 3P BCR 6:30 P /Synod Assembly	<b>5</b> Cleaning Svc. 1-3 /Synod Assembly	<b>6</b> Starved 10A (SH) Sam Lesson 10A (S) /Synod Assembly	
<b>7</b> New Connection- 9:15 A W&M MINISTRY 8:45A (Music Room) Worship Svc: 10 AM Congregational	<b>8</b> Stephen Min. 9:30 A	<b>9</b> Beginners' Bible Study 11A (SH) Finance 1P Chronic Pain 6P (SH)	<b>10</b> Joyful Hands 9A Worship Svc 6:30P	<b>11</b> Wear Gloves Lunch Share (OC) Outreach 1:30P (SH) Council Exec M 3P	<b>12</b> Cleaning Service 1-3 P	<b>13</b> Starved 10A (SH) Sam Lesson 10A (S)	
<b>14</b> Worship Svc: 10 AM Concert 3P (S)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Beg Bible Study 11A Chronic Pain 6P (SH)	<b>17</b> Joyful Hands 9A Worship Svc 6:30P	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Cleaning Service 1-3 P	<b>20</b> Starved 10A (SH) Sam Lesson 10A (S)	
<b>21</b> WORSHIP SVC 10 AM	<b>22</b> Stephen Min.9:30A (SH)	<b>23</b> Beg Bible Study 11A Chronic Pain 6P (SH)	<b>24</b> Joyful Hands 9A Worship Svc 6:30 P	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Cleaning Service 1-3 P	<b>27</b> Starved 10A (SH) Sam Lesson 10A (S)	
<b>28</b> FIGHT HUNGER SUN. Worship Service 10 AM	<b>29</b> Interfaith Dinner Share	<b>30</b> Beg Bible Study 11:00A Pineland Ministers Mtg. 12 Noon Chronic Pain 6P (SH)	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b><i>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for copy ready articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Thank you. Susan</i></b></p> </div>				

## ***“JUNE IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER”***

*As the song says, June is busting out not only in nature, but in celebrations as well.*

*Some celebrations and observances:*

*June 1-30-Pride Month-Celebrating LGBTQ pride, coinciding with the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall riots.*

*June 1-30-Men’s Health Month-To raise awareness about preventable health problems and encourage early detection.*

*June 1-3—Shavuot– Jewish Festival of Weeks*

*June 4—National Cheese Day*

*June 6—Eid al-Adha-Islamic Feast of Sacrifice-honoring Abraham’s willingness to sacrifice his son.*

*June 8—National Best Friends Day-origin 1935-ish*

*June 14-Flag Day - Continental Congress’s adoption of the “Stars and Stripes” June 14, 1777*

*June 15-Father’s Day –Started in 1909– in Spokane, WA*

*June 19-Juneteenth-Commemorates the announcement in Galveston Texas of emancipation to the last enslaved people of the state.*

*If you Google June celebrations you will find one, if not more, things to celebrate for each day.*

*Anything from Moonshine day-to VCR Day . I am sure you will find more ways to celebrate.*

*Ps: I especially like National Chocolate Ice Cream Day*

We received the following invitation for a Savvy Caregiver Training if anyone is interested.

# Savvy Caregiver Training

ARE YOU PREPARED TO CARE FOR A LOVED ONE WITH MEMORY LOSS AND CONFUSION?

The Savvy Caregiver Program is a FREE, seven-week training designed for family caregivers who assist individuals with dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and cognitive decline.



## LOCATION

Marion Senior Services  
1101 SW 20th Court  
Ocala, FL 34471



## DATE

Mondays  
July 6th to August 17th, 2026



## TIME

1:00pm to 3:00 pm



## REGISTER TODAY!

Contact Michelle Johnson

- Email: [johnsonm@agingresources.org](mailto:johnsonm@agingresources.org)
- Phone: 352-692-5250



Contact Us

7045 SW 83rd Place  
Ocala, FL 34476

Phone: 352.854.4509

Fax: 352.854.4845

email: [joyocalafl@gmail.com](mailto:joyocalafl@gmail.com)

[www.joylcoala.org](http://www.joylcoala.org)

[www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](https://www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)

[www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala](https://www.instagram.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala)



*JUNE 2026*

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

S. W. 80th Street



JOY Lutheran Church

S. W. 83rd Place



S. R. 200

4.5 Miles to I-75

Paddock Downs Homes

4.5 Miles to County Hwy 484