

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2023

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LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.” (Isaiah 40:5)

Dear JOYful Family,

We give thanks, we proclaim Christ as King, and we welcome new members as we begin our Advent journey. That’s just for starters in this closing month of 2023. There will be gatherings, traveling, worship, music, and family reunions. We prepare Him room. That means in our hearts. The world will push back on that endeavor. The prince of lies will tell us that God doesn’t care, is not involved, because war continues. The relentless feeds of bad news, propaganda, and divisive rhetoric will sap our spirits and hopes if we let them. When everything around us conspires to decrease our faith, even in a season of holy joy, we will gather and worship in spite of it. We come to adore the Christ child, to marvel at the mystery of Word made flesh. It is an opportunity to boldly share the love that became incarnated under circumstances

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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

Organist/Pianist—Silas Daniel

Handbell Director—Melissa
Daniel

Sexton—Harold Decker

Treasurer—Terry Owen

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President—Robert Irish

Vice President—

Ray Ihlenburg

Secretary—Linda Aker

Treasurer—Terry Owen

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

JR Frederiksen

Hank Groth

Ethel Kleiner

Stanley Mahabeer

Joy Olsen

John Voyles



Lee Stewart	12/02
Gail Schoenwisner	12/02
Rich Cognetti	12/02
Robert Irish	12/05
Dot Sweeney	12/07
Betty DeLong	12/09
Linda Neblock	12/09
Margret Todd	12/10
Richard Arntzen	12/10
Ray Ihlenburg	12/10
Ginger Clairmont	12/11
Bill Peters	12/13
Janet Johnson	12/13
William Berlin	12/17
Diana O'Neill	12/17
Karl Gunther	12/18
Paulette Kuzmanovich	12/20
Terry VanEffen	12/21
Sally Wheeler	12/24
Jack Mixdorf	12/26
Joyce Ryan	12/27

Continued from page 1 that never seem alien or strange, because every generation can relate to the story that is good, that is true. There should be quiet; there should be sacred serenity when we consider how we are saved not by military might or privilege, but by humility, simplicity, and peace.

I see it, I feel it. I have given in to beginning this journey a little earlier than I normally do. We might even put up the Christmas tree in the Wuertz home before Advent starts! Why do we quibble about when the “correct” time is? When the Spirit hits you, it hits you! I see and feel Advent hope personified in you, my brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a given that not everyone will go along with everything that happens at Joy. Decisions will meet with disagreement, aspects will be added or subtracted, someone will be disappointed – or worse. Embrace the new, be reconciled to the different. Jesus will still talk to us and hold out his arms in welcome. He is our gift, all we truly need.

I look forward with JOY!ful anticipation to our fellowship, worship, and service of our Lord who returns and will return once and for all when our Heavenly Father is good and ready. I’ll see you in church in Advent and Christmas.

Love, Pastor Art



Joe & Judy Spillane	12/17	58 yrs.
John & Barbara Marvin	12/21	45 yrs.
Tamara & Wallace Thomas	12/28	38 yrs.
JoAnn & Ray Boyer	12/29	72 yrs.
Jim Wolfer & Judy Nolan	12/31	42 yrs.

Stewardship Commitment Summary

STEWARDSHIP

Our new Vision states that we will share the love of Christ through our generosity. Created in the image of our generous God, we are made to reflect God's generosity. As we grow in generosity, we grow in godliness and discipleship.

And we are very generous at Joy! Our commitment campaign was a great success. So far, we have 84 family units who pledged in the amount of \$215,707. This is a 40% increase from last year. If you haven't yet made your commitment for 2024, you can do it any time.

We also have so many who give their time and talent every week. There are so many "givers" at Joy, who, behind the scenes quietly and generously give of their talent and their time.

We are growing in our faith. Thanks be to God, and thanks to all of you for your support!



ALTAR ANGELS

As we enter the season of Advent we turn our thoughts and hearts to the preparation of the coming of our Lord Jesus. As part of this celebration we will beautify our church and decorate the altar with lovely Christmas Poinsettia plants.

This Christmas we will order 60 plants. If you wish to order a plant please fill out the form (PRINT) attached with a check or cash for the amount shown and place it in the offertory plate.

The forms for the Poinsettia plants will be in the Narthex from November 19 to December 10, 2023. Let us make this a joyful Christmas and fill our church with beautiful plants to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts.

In His Love, Vicki Valli



**POINSETTIA
PLANTS
FOR JOY**



*The Altar Guild would like to invite you to provide a lovely plant for the Christmas altar decorating again this year. Poinsettias will be \$ 10.00 each. Please enclose your check or cash, with this form in an envelope and return them by no later than December 10th. They will be available "By Order Only". (We are ordering 60 plants, on a first come, first serve basis.) (Please **PRINT** all information below.)*

of plants ordered _____ Enclosed \$ _____

Given By _____

In Memory of _____

Do you wish to take the plants home?

Circle One: Yes No

The Poinsettias not taken home will be given to the sick and shut-ins of the congregation.



OUTREACH MINISTRY**EVANGELISM & OUTREACH**

MEETS THE 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 2:30

OBJECTIVES:

1. To reach seekers and “nones”
2. Personally invite someone to church
3. Engaging conversations with leading questions, like “when I say ‘church’, what pops into your mind?”
4. Set up “meeting posts” in various places. Pick a time and spot, and Pastor Art will be there! We can have Biblical/theological conversation, inviting #3 above.

There are so many possibilities as we place our vision out there.

#2 in “Joy’s Vision For The Future” - to share Christ’s love by caring for those...beyond by listening to the needs in our community.

The “nones” are looking for spiritual connection and community OUTREACH opportunities more than doctrine.

COME JOIN US! At least, share YOUR thoughts on this aspect of Joy’s vision – and God’s mission.

“Roll out the holly, put up the tree before my spirit falls again”

Seasons of JOY Concert Series

Proudly Presents our

Third Annual Christmas Concert

**Mark your calendars for
Sunday, December 17th, 2023 at 3:00 PM
in our Sanctuary**

**Take a break from the hustle and bustle of December and
celebrate the Christmas season with us.**

**The Christmas concert has always delighted its attendees and
this year will be no exception.**

**A wide variety of musical talent at JOY brings to you the
sounds and songs of the season.**

Refreshments will be available after the concert.

**A freewill love offering will be taken, with the proceeds
supporting the Wear Gloves Ministry here in Ocala.**



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP**BIG *THANKS* TO OUR
TREAT PROVIDERS!**

A huge THANKS! to the many faithful bakers, and providers of goodies for our Food and Fellowship on Sunday mornings and our Hospitality Team for the wonderful spread during Concerts and events. Gratitude also for Harold and Jeff who faithfully prepare coffee and drinks every Sunday! We are so grateful for your skills and your generosity.

As you Share the love of Christ through food, the fellowship grows, and friendships grow. We have the opportunity to get to know each other and also our visitors on Sunday mornings and at the Concerts.

This is the work of the Lord!

If you would like to become a member of the Hospitality Team for events, or if you would like to be on a 'Treats Team' for Sunday mornings, please let Lynn Ihlenburg (lynn.ihlenburg@gmail.com) know of your interest.

We are working on the 2024 Schedule!



OUTREACH MINISTRY

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

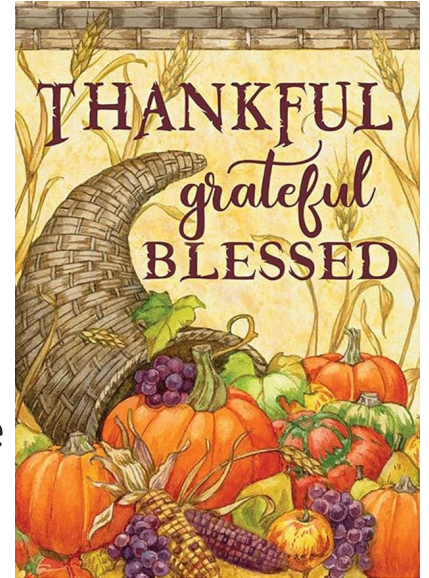
We cannot say it often enough.

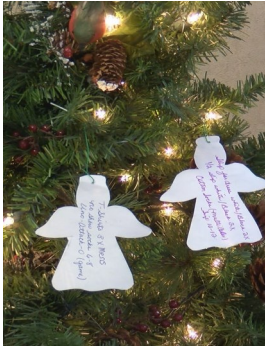
Due to your generosity we were able to put together 12 Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes. Three went to families known to our congregation members and 9 went to Pastor Dan to deliver to the families in the forest. We know that many families had no idea how or what they could provide for their Thanksgiving meal. Now they are fed. Each of you are such a blessing to JOY and to our friends and neighbors.

You are all doing the work of Christ here in Ocala.

In Matthew 25: 35 Christ said “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.” When asked when we did this His reply : “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matt. 25:40)

May God’s blessings continue to shine on each and everyone of you.





"JOY'S" ANGEL TREE



"We give because God has given us so much."

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, we should have our "Angel Tree" set up in the Narthex. The tree is decorated with Angel Ornaments for the residents of Timber Ridge. Each ornament will list some items that the resident would like to receive.

If you take an ornament, please wrap your gift in a box, attach the ornament to the box, and place the gift under the tree. Deadline to turn in the gifts is December 17th, to ensure delivery in time for Christmas.

Please prayerfully consider participating as the Holy Spirit leads you. Thank you. God Bless You!
Outreach Ministry Team

JOY'S OUTREACH ROOM is the collection site for our yearly on-going donations. During the refresh, these donations have been on hiatus. Now that we are back "home" we would like to remind you of the items that we collect all year long.

1. Tools 4 Teaching– School Supplies
2. Pull tabs-from canned goods—for the Ronald McDonald House
3. Feminine Hygiene Items-for the women's shelters
4. Cancelled Stamps-Jennie Halvorsen– for Tubfrim– organization helping handicapped children
5. Cards– for our Happy Hands Card Ministry– Cards only (Please no notepads, stickers, or other stationary items)

BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
12/03/2023	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
12/10/2023	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
12/17/2023	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thes- salonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
12/24/2023 Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
12/24/2023 Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
12/31/2023	Isaiah 61:10--62:3	Psalm 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

Did you know?

*Our Sanctuary is 'hearing aid-friendly',
and also connects with Bluetooth.*



Our bulletin and music for the hymns is available on our website and can be accessed by scanning the QR code on the LEFT.

It will take you to our Worship Tools : click on HYMNS
You can view the music for the entire service on your phone or i-pad.



Home-bound & Assisted Living

Homebound

JoAnne Boyer
 Frank Jarvis
 Barb Johnson
 Bill Mooney
 Mike Noble
 Merrick Owen
 Diane Plesser
 Barbara Todd
 Pat Ulrich

Brentwood at Fore Ranch

Ralph Wright

Bridgewater Memory Care

Odd Bjerkmann

Bridgewater Park Assisted Living

Bob Vogel

Brookdale of Canopy Oaks

Marilyn Husted

The Bridge at Ocala

Grace & Arnold Hansen

Marion Woods Asst.

George Spong

Life Care Center of Ocala

Violet Frey

Palm Gardens

Military

Ray Allen
 Jessie Bleikhardt
 Christopher Borkenheim
 Gorwin Boyd
 Jamie Boyd
 Jeremiah Caspersen
 Cody Ehulund
 Daniel Miller
 Benjamin Numa
 Samuel Stephenson
 Matt Willerick

Around the World

Caregivers
 Congress
 First Responders
 Hospital Workers
 Police Departments
 President
 Relief Workers
 Children of War-
 Foster Parents
 Missing People
 Persecuted Chris-
 tians
 Travelers

Economy
 End all the vio-
 lence
 Environment
 Jobs

ALL THE PEOPLE OF
 THE WORLD
 Especially:

China
 Cuba
 Egypt
 Haiti
 Iran

Israel
 Iraq
 Kenya
 Libya
 N. Korea
 Pakistan
 S. Korea
 Syria
 Ukraine
 USA

Current Needs:**Ongoing Needs:**

Elizabeth Barker
 Barrett Family
 Maria Brousseau
 Tom Burck
 Elizabeth
 Aud Enslow
 Elnora Feti
 Freebourn Family
 Marlene Gallagher
 Bill Hubbard
 Sherry Jackson
 Tom & Mary Ellen Kelly
 Joyce Kerlin
 Jim Kuzmanovich
 Art Menut
 Mary O'Rondo
 Daniel Painter
 Pam
 Kristen Quigley
 Tom Rasswell

Shirley Reents & Family
 Kyle Rusk
 Marc Sendik
 Lee Stewart
 Mike Sylvester
 Stephen Thomas
 Todd Family
 Vicki Valli
 Ken Werner
 Norman Zanchettin

***"To be a Christian without
 prayer is no more possible
 than to be alive without
 breathing."***

—Martin Luther

Noreen Anderson
 Sean Aronson
 Paul Bispo
 John Bond
 Jennifer Brady
 Lucy Brown
 Helen Buckley
 Jerry Campbell
 Alfonso Cave
 Jack Cawley
 Sharon Cawley
 Darlene Clairmont
 Kylene Clemens
 Ed Correo
 Marguerite Cox
 Barbara Dean
 Deena
 Diane
 Linda & Ken Erhardt
 Scott Fair

Millie Fetterhoff
 Morris Foreman
 Katie Fransen
 Fred
 Joanne Olson Finnorn
 Beth & JR Freder-
 iksen
 Lynn Garno
 Timothy Gause
 Maleila Gonzalez
 Chris Gorman
 Jennie Halvorsen-
 Norm Halvorsen
 Randolph Hardy
 Ray Heinzen
 Diane Hendricksen
 Bertha Hendrickson
 Bobby Hyatt
 Bob Irish
 Barbara Johnson
 Lynn Shineman Juhl
 Joyce Kerlin

Joe Kenney
 Kerry
 Patsy Kleeman
 Lori Kleiman
 Cheryl Kemmer
 Betsy Kutscher
 Cleo LeForge
 Cindy Leonard
 Grant Liples
 Helen Lofsten
 Tim Long
 Dorothy McCord
 Mike
 Phyllis Minos
 Karl Nettles
 Dylan Nerud
 Asta Marie Nielsen
 Mike Noble
 Ed & Terry Owen
 Joe Parra
 Pat & Paul

Mary Pfeiffer
 Diane Plessner
 Sharon Polus
 Linda Raffa
 Karin Rokjar
 Art Schneider
 Elizabeth Smithson
 Lorraine Souch
 Sonja
 Denise Stevens
 Diana O'Neill
 Karyn Thomas
 Jeff Tuckey
 Pat Ulrich
 Cindi Valli
 Greg Valli
 Candace Welsch
 Joel Weiss
 Barbara West
 Cathy Willoughby
 Irene Willoughby

Earl Winblad
 Irene Winton
 Marge Wlodarczyk
 Bill Wojcik
 Raymond Woodall
 Mary Wright
 Ralph Wright

JOY CINEMA PROUDLY PRESENTS!

Bring a
Friend

FREE !!

COMING ATTRACTION!

Relax &
Enjoy

FREE !!

*Tuesday,
December 26,*

2023

At 1:30 PM

*JOY
Lutheran
Church
Sanctuary*

352-854-4509

ext. 2

A young minister brings electricity to an English village during the late 20th Century, threatening a local tradition involving a candle capable of delivering Christmas miracles. According to local legend, an angel visits the quaint hamlet of Gladbury every 25 years, touching a candle produced by the local candlemaker, and giving one lucky family a Christmas miracle. Now the year is 1890, and as Christmas approaches, youthful minister David Richmond (Hans Matheson) arrives in Gladbury convinced that the locals will embrace the convenience of electricity with open arms. Meanwhile, the tempestuous candlemaker sees electricity as a direct threat to his livelihood, and plots to ensure that the legend is preserved. When the one blessed candle disappears, however, the citizens of this quaint hamlet have a Christmas like none ever before.



PLEASE NOTE

Please observe **article deadlines** for both the **Sunday Bulletins** and the monthly **Tidings**. Submit proofed, copy ready articles as word (Preferably) or pdf documents .
Deadlines are 8:00 am on the dates indicated on calendar.

Prayer Request deadlines are 8:00 am every Tuesday for inclusion in the prayer list that week.

Remember there is no Newsletter without your submissions.

Thank you.



2023

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 TOPS 8-9:45am BELLS 10:00 AM	2 Christmas Program & Luncheon 11:30A
3 <i>ADVENT I</i> New Member Sun. Worship Services: 8:15 and 11:00 am	4 Worship & Music 6:30PM	5 Bulletin Deadline	6 St. Nicholas Day Joyful Hands- 9:00am Happy Hands 9:30AM Worship 5:30pm	7 Hanukah Begins "ROMANS" Bible Study 11:00 AM	8 TOPS 8-9:45am BELLS 10:00 AM	9
10 <i>ADVENT II</i> Worship Services: 8:15 and 11:00 am	11 Stephen Ministry 9:30AM	12 Bulletin Deadline	13 Tidings Dead- line Joyful Hands- 9:00am Happy Hands 9:30AM Worship 5:30pm	14 "ROMANS" Bible Study 11:00 AM	15 TOPS 8-9:45am BELLS 10:00 AM	16
17 <i>ADVENT III</i> Worship Services: 8:15 and 11:00 am Blood Drive 7:45-1:00PM Christmas Concert 3:00 PM	18	19 Bulletin Deadline Council Christmas Party 11 AM	20 Joyful Hands- 9:00am Happy Hands 9:30AM Worship 5:30pm	21 Start of Winter "ROMANS" Bible Study 11:00 AM	22 TOPS 8-9:45am BELLS 10:00 AM	23
24 <i>ADVENT IV</i> <i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> Advent Service 10:00 AM Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 6:00 PM	25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE IS CLOSED CHRISTMAS	26 Kwanzaa Starts Bulletin Deadline Tiding Angels- 9:30am JOY Cinema 1:30 PM—Sanctuary	27 Joyful Hands- 9:00am Happy Hands 9:30AM Worship 5:30pm	28 "ROMANS" Bible Study 11:00 AM	29 Interfaith Dinner Delivery	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Worship Service 10:00 AM						

Dear Members of Joy,

Hello! We would again like to show our gratitude to Pastor Art and staff this Christmas for all the extras they do for us throughout the year by giving them a monetary gift. If you would like to be a part of this, please give your gratuity to Rita Cowan or Susanne Beech at the Wednesday night 5:30 pm service, Susanne at the Sunday 8:15 am service, or Rita at the 11:00 am service. There will also be a box marked "For the Staff" located in the Narthex if you would like to place your gift in it. Please note that checks should be made out to Rita or Susanne. We will be accepting your kindness through Sunday, December 17, 2023 and will be giving the staff their gifts before the Christmas Eve Service. Thank you in advance and if you have any questions, you may reach us at:

*Rita Cowan at 352-425-2785
Susanne Beech at 352-425-2619*

God bless!



The Four Sundays and Themes of Advent

- **First candle / Sunday: HOPE (The Prophecy Candle)**

The First Sunday of Advent

The first Sunday usually has the theme of prophecy, and in particular, the prophets in the old testament who predicted the arrival of Jesus are remembered. For this reason, the first candle, also known as The Prophecy Candle, represents hope found by Christians in the anticipation and arrival of Jesus.

- **Second candle / Sunday: PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle)**

The Second Sunday of Advent

Known as The Bethlehem Candle, the candle lit on the second Sunday of Advent is to remind Christians of the journey Mary and Joseph took to get to Bethlehem from Nazareth. For many Christians, it is an example of trust in God and a demonstration of Faith. It is also known as the peace candle.

- * **Third candle / Sunday: JOY (The Shepherd's Candle)**

The Third Sunday of Advent

The third candle is Pink, it represents joy at the happy occasion of Christ's birth. It is also known as The Shepherds Candle. In the Bible the Shepherd who visited Jesus first encountered angels. Those angels said to the shepherds "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." It is this Joy that Christians remember on the third Sunday.

- **Fourth candle / Sunday: LOVE (The Angel's Candle)**

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The last Sunday before Christmas Day is when the fourth candle is lit. This candle is known as The Angel's Candle and represents love, which is at the core of Christmas.

Source: Wikipedia.org <https://en.wikipedia.org>

<https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/advent/>

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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Ocala, FL
Non-Profit
Organization



Our Mission is to:
SHARE THE LOVE
AND GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH
WORSHIP AND SERVICE

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