

# Crosswinds

Church of the Cross

November 2022



Dear Church of the Cross UMC,

As we enter November it is a time of remembrance and Thanksgiving. We always start the month out with All Saints Sunday on the first Sunday of the month and we end the month with Thanksgiving as we enter Advent. It is a month of reflection, remembrance, thanksgiving, and preparation. We begin the month remembering the loved ones we have lost. We end the month giving thanks and celebrating the loved ones that are still with us.

We enter the month with solemn remembrance of all the saints who have left us. We take time to remember all they meant to us, how they helped us when we were in need, how they were there when we felt alone, how they loved us. We remember that it has never been too long to grieve, and whether they passed away this month or 50 years ago, we still miss them in our lives. We remember that our grief, our loss is a reflection of our love for them, and how much they loved us. Part of this month is to remember those who we have lost, to honor that loss, and know that you are not alone.

As we near the end of the month we celebrate Thanksgiving, a time we meet and eat with family and close friends. A time when we celebrate all those currently in our lives and how they help us, are there for us, and love us. We take this time to reflect on all people and blessings we are thankful for. We take time to see all those in our lives who we love and are loved by. It is a time to honor them and give thanks for all they mean to us.

At the beginning of the month, we remember and mourn those loved ones that are no longer with us. At the end of the month, we give thanks and rejoice at all the loved ones still with us. This is a month to remember, see, and truly feel loved by all the people that surround us in our lives. It is a time to see the Holy Spirit living and reaching out in our loved ones. It is a time of celebration.

Amen

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## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

December articles need to be submitted by  
November 21.

ALL submissions need to be emailed to  
[cotcumc@gmail.com](mailto:cotcumc@gmail.com)

Please assist the editor by e-mailing your  
information (or ask a friend/spouse to assist  
you.) Thank You

## Trustee Report

The biggest challenge for the Trustees has been finding contractors to insulate the area above the kitchen / office area between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. A Spring 2022 roof leak had ruined a large portion of the existing fiberglass insulation. After a great deal of frustration and follow up, Jim Parris finally got Buckeye Specialty Products, based in Seville, to come out and provide a bid. We did have another bid from a company that came in early Spring 2022. Several contractors wanted to bid based on the area size we told them and not even visit our site to see the unique challenges of our situation. We wanted all the contractors to visit to do an onsite inspection. We have accepted the Buckeye Specialty bid but we do not have a firm installation date. The sooner the better with the rapidly changing temperature we are experiencing. The expense will be coming out of the Capital Fund.

We have signed into 24 month contracts for gas and electricity for the church property. The Trustees did not want to go on a month to month variable basis with the wild swings we have been experiencing in the markets. But the fixed rates that we agreed to, are considerably more than the past fixed rates which were expiring at 9/30/22. While the gas contract has serious penalties for early termination, the electricity contract will give us a much better opportunity to lock into lower rates if they become available.

The replacement of the French door at the parsonage has been approved but the project could be completed well into 2023 as we get scheduled into contractor's plans - the company was chosen due to its great installation labor price and reputation.

Jack Carroll  
Trustee Chair

## Covenant News

The Covenant Team is busy serving our church family as well as reaching out to our community.

The fall has been filled with projects and we look forward to opportunities to reach others as we approach the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

In early October the Sewing Guild had a successful event at our church and has expressed interest to do it again next year. The food profit was \$910 for the day.

It seems that much of our team's service centers around the kitchen, so we now have new matching aprons! Thanks to Sue Parris for making that happen.

We have several projects in the works. As many of you are participating in packing a Samaritan's Purse shoebox, we express our thanks and remind you that the boxes need to be returned by November 6.

The Homecoming/ Thanksgiving dinner is being planned. More information will be coming soon so check for bulletin announcements.

Beginning with Advent, we will be collecting hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and tissues for Cornerstone Elementary School. Pastor James and Debbie Huttie will check if there is a need at other schools as well. These items will be collected through mid January and then will be distributed to the school/s.

Christmas is a time for baking and we are going to share our home goods of cookies and breads with our fire and police departments to express our appreciation for their service to our community. Drop off baked goods to share on December 18. More detailed information will be in the bulletins as time gets closer.

Blessed to serve,  
Joann Carpenter  
Covenant Chair



# November



## November

- 7 Pastor James Lance
- 10 Ralph Cochrell
- 11 Maxine Shelley
- 14 Peyton Mullet
- 17 Natalyn Baisden
- 21 Deb Carroll
- 22 Tom Kreider
- 24 Kellie Mullet
- 26 Brady Marshall
- 30 Ginna Phillips

## Sunday Morning Worship

### Sunday, November 6

#### All Saints Sunday

**1 Corinthians 13**

**Psalm 42**

**Sermon: "To Love and Lose"**

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### Sunday, November 13

**Romans 13:1-14**

**Sermon: "To Live in This World"**

~ ~ ~

### Sunday, November 20

**Romans 15:1-6, 16:17-27**

**Sermon: "United We Stand"**

~ ~ ~

### Sunday, November 27

**First Sunday of Advent**

**Malachi 3:1-7**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Sermon: "A New Hope"**

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Do you enjoy crafts and food?

Come to the OARD Craft Show November 4 and 5 and support our church by purchasing some delicious food prepared by women of our church.



## Pray for Missions

### International

TMS Global—Jasin Muhlbauer

Heifer International

CAMO

### Local

People to People

The Salvation Army

## A Look Ahead November & December

### Teams and COMMITTEES

Nov. 1 Covenant Team 7PM

Nov. 8 Trustee 7PM

Nov. 15 One Board 7PM

### OARDC Craft Show

November 4 and 5

### Advent Bible Study

#### The Heart That Grew Three Sizes

4 week study begins:

Smithville— Nov. 29 10am

COTC— Nov. 30 6:30 pm

### LET'S GIVE THANKS

&

### FELLOWSHIPTOGETHER!

Join us after church on Sunday, November 20 for a Thanksgiving meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Invite a friend.

### Grief Group Sundays

Nov. 20- Jan. 8, 2023

2 PM @ Smithville UMC



November 27- January 15  
We will be collecting hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and tissues to donate to Cornerstone Elementary



Drop off homemade cookies and breads **December 18** to thank our fire and police workers!

## **The Value of Experience**

I can remember, I think back in the 1980's, our church was having some serious financial problems. The Finance Committee would meet after each Sunday's offering was counted and determine what bills we would pay. It was not a fun time. One day when I was the only one home, I decided I had to speak directly to God. So I went down in the basement and said aloud, "God, I need your help! You know my struggle. Here we are all alone. No one can hear. Please come and talk to me or send an angel to talk with me." And I waited in the silence for a several minutes. Nothing happened! No voice in the darkness. No white being with wings showed up.

It wasn't until some time later that I realized God can, but doesn't speak directly to each of us. At least not to me. If you listen carefully, He will and does speak to each of us through others. It can be through a close friend, another church member or a complete stranger. Maybe you can hear Him whisper in the wind or in the sounds heard during a hike. Maybe even through your pet. Your experience will help you see.

Someone said to me, "If you want to hear God speak, read your Bible out loud." Now, that was a neat thought. Have you experienced that?

The point is: We need to share our God with others! That's why we have church. That's why we have Sunday School, Food, Fun and Fellowship and Wednesday night activities. That's why we volunteer to help at the upcoming Arts and Craft Show, have Trunk-or-Treat and offer several other ministries between now and the end of the year. We all have a wealth of knowledge and experience. We all need to participate in a ministry. That's what Christians are called to do. We have experienced the joy this brings.

Pastor James became our pastor on July 1<sup>st</sup> and he is a good man. We need to rally around his leadership and support him. It is not an easy task to have to lead two churches. Thank heavens, our year end Conference reports are about wrapped up. The One Board is working on several things. A couple board members are leaving after serving their time and will have to be replaced. A Nominations and Personnel Team is working on that. There is a team working on bringing our Church Usage Policy up-to-date

A remodeled kitchen and changes in the cost of keeping the church going have caused that. And, the Finance Team is working on the 2023 budget. It's all things we have done before and they are important.

It is also very important that we develop ministry for next year. What do we need to do to meet the needs of those around us that others don't already offer? Do we need a singles or young couples group? What special services can we supply? Should we offer wealth management or some other educational ministry? Do we need any special education to support our outreach? Would the congregation support hiring someone to lead a new outreach? What can we do to support our present members and home-bound that we don't offer now? Do we need to plan extended use of our facilities? Do we have to take a Sunday service "on-the-road"? How can we utilize our new outdoor worship center?

Showing God's Grace and Blessings to others is very important and something we already do. But, what more can we do? We all know the world is in great turmoil today. It has splintered into many groups with their own ideals and beliefs. In many ways I feel churches have supported this by their promotion of some of these groups. I believe we have to promote the one thing we are sure of. The basics! A resurrected Christ and the knowledge we have eternity to look forward to. That will be the best experience!

Thanks and God Bless!!

Larry Ouwerkerk  
One Board Chair

## **Bible and Today Class**

The Bible and Today Sunday School class (northeast corner of Fellowship Hall) is starting a study entitled "The Angels of Christmas Hearing God's Voice in Advent" by Dr. Susan Robb. It is meant to be a four week study, but there is so much material and discussion we will be using this study until early next year. Sunday School is held from 9:45 – 10:45am on Sunday mornings. If you are looking for a study on Sunday morning, you are welcome to join us.

**Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and His courts with Praise; give Thanks to Him and Praise His name.**



**Psalm 100:4**

As we enter the month of November, we celebrate All Saints Day honoring those who have gone before us. Our hearts turn to gratitude for family and friends and we start looking forward to all the “Holiday” activities & gatherings. What if we fully embraced **Psalm 100:4** during the entire month of November? What would that look like?

How am I personally going to **Enter His gates with Thanksgiving**? Have I shown those around me and those I love my gratitude for all they bring to my life? How am I showing the Lord I recognize and acknowledge all the blessings, protection and love He has showered on me? What can I do to let my spiritual mentors know I saw Christ through them and I grew because of them?

Enter **His courts with Praise**. Praise can be silent or boldly expressed and always needs to start in the heart. Often we think of Praise in relationship to the Lord. What if our praise had a broader reach? Let’s share our praise and encouragement with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Perhaps even our encouragement and listening to those that don’t know the Lord is actually a Praise to the Lord.

**Give Thanks to Him and Praise His Name.** Let’s make the whole month of November a month full of Thanks and Praise in all the ways we can. Fully embracing Psalm 100:4 on a daily basis is not easy, nor was going to the cross.

Deb Carroll

SPRC Chair

**Finance Report**

As you can see by the chart, we are staying in the black and actually putting a little back into our rainy day account. As we move forward to 2023, the board is in the process of putting together a budget. We are putting items in the budget that are only identified as future missions. This to allow monies to be budgeted for projects that the church identifies as priorities in the coming year. Pastor James has said we will be identifying 2-3 projects for the church for the next year so we have tried to budget for that without knowing exactly what will be needed. The budget does reflect input from the Trustees, Worship and Music, Covenant Team, etc.



**Rebekah Lay—Trail to Eagle**

Thank you to Rebekah Lay for the beautiful outdoor chapel space which she recently completed as her Eagle Scout project. Here are some highlights about this outstanding scout:

- ◆ Helped start the Girls Troop 68G of the Boy Scout Troop 68
- ◆ Founding member of the Troop
- ◆ Part of less than 8% of scouts that earn the Eagle Award
- ◆ Competed 8 weeks of flight training provided by the US Air Force
- ◆ Member of Wooster High School’s National Honor Society, band, and student paper
- ◆ Future plans are college and ROTC
- ◆ Recipient of “God and Life” Award (part of the “God and Country” Award)
- ◆ Recently led the task of rebuilding the dilapidated amphitheater, built by Jonathan Page in the 1990’s. We now have a beautiful outdoor chapel space with the addition of the cross.
- ◆ Awaiting her final Board of Review from Killbuck District as the last step before the Eagle Award.

1/2022-9/2022		
Fund	General Fund	Mission
Income	\$ 133,908.20	\$ 9,344.40
Expense	\$ 136,615.65	\$ 10,525.22
Net	(\$ 2,707.45)	(\$ 1,180.82)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 37,010.60	\$ 1,704.40