



Tidings of Joy

“Joyfully Reaching Out to Others in Christian Love and Service”
Joy Lutheran Church, ELCA



Volume 39, Issue 12

3174 Jupiter Blvd. SE – Palm Bay, FL 32909

December 2023

Staff

The Rev. John David Bryant - Pastor
Steven K. Weiss – Organist

Worship Time(s):

Sunday

Traditional Worship Service
10:00a.m.

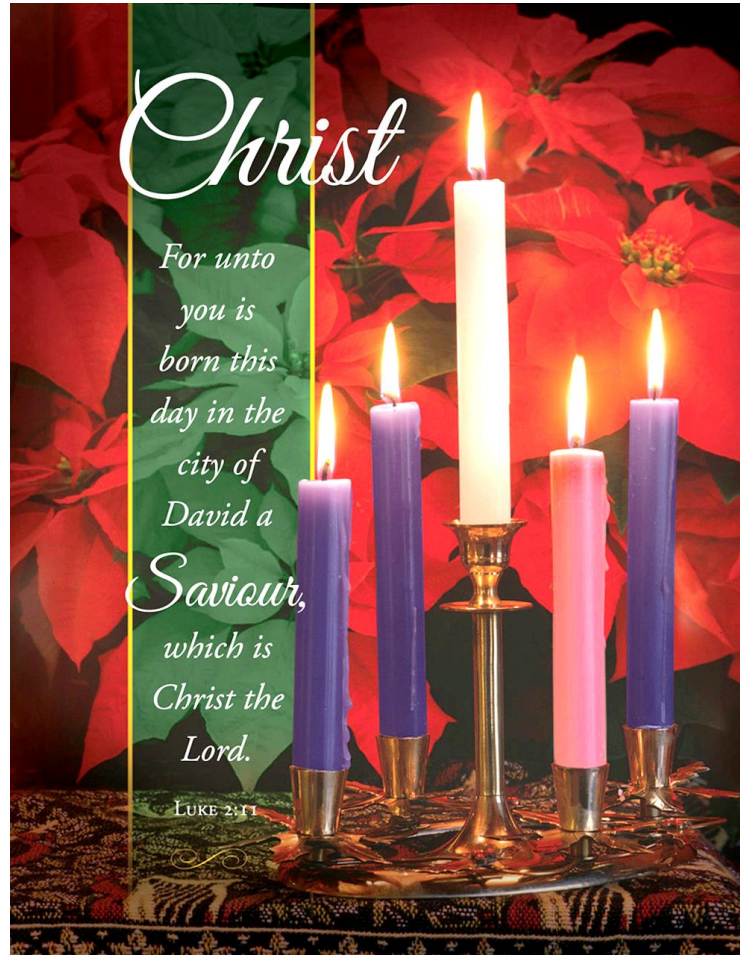
**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT SERVICE
7:00pm**

Church Office Phone:
321-951-0166

Pastor's Email Address:
prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com

Church Email Address:
joylutheranpb@gmail.com

Church Web Site:
www.joylutheranelca.com



Christ

*For unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of
David a
Saviour,
which is
Christ the
Lord.*

LUKE 2:11

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT SERVICE
7:00pm**

"**Office Hours:** Weds and Thurs 9am-2pm, and by appointment. It is strongly suggested to call ahead before dropping by. Pastor is off Mondays. Best means to contact pastor is 321-312-7339 or prjdbryant4tide@gmail.com."

Pastor's Point

Pr. John David Bryant

Friends—

There is an anonymous poem, often attributed to Marie Losavio or C. L. Anderson, that goes:

“You tell what you are by the friends you seek, By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time, By the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear, By the spirit in which your burdens you bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh, By records you play on your old phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk, By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat, By so simple a thing as how you eat.

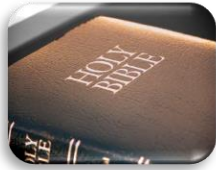
By the books you choose from your well-filled shelf; In these ways, and more, you tell on
yourself. So really there's not a grain of sense, in trying to maintain a false pretense.”

This sobering poem is on my mind as we sit in the growing beauty of our Savior's birth. It has
me wondering what it might look like if we were to make gifts of our self-improvement and our
self-care to Jesus. While we are never worthy to receive the gift of Jesus, and while it really isn't
about us making ourselves worthy either, isn't it faithful to ask ourselves, “What do the ways I
live my life have to say about how much (or little) I esteem the great gift that is Jesus?”

Given John the Baptist's declaration in Advent 2A's gospel (Matthew 3:1-12), “Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven has come near,” I find myself wondering: Could we give the gift of being
kinder? Could we give the gift of being more patient? Could we give the gift of offering more
time to others? Could we become okay with things going wrong? Could we let go of
perfectionism? Might we love others less selfishly? Might we abandon saying hurtful things?
Might we respect the individuality of all others, especially a child? Might we give the gift of
supporting Christ's Church even when it acts foolishly or doesn't meet our approval? Might we
make participation in Christ's Church more central and more vital? Might we make Christ's
manger just as central in our life as it is on our table? Then, as we are doing everything we are
able, will we fully rely on God to do the rest, faithfully trusting God to get us all where Christ
intends to take us?

Ponder these things as we ponder what the birth of Christ means to us and for us. I will ponder
these things along with you as I go home to Georgia from 12/26 to 1/5. Enjoy Pr. Pam McMillan
while I am away. She'll be with you 12/31 and 1/5.

Peace---
JDB+



Gospel Readings

Lectionary "B" for December

December 3	Mark 13:24-37
December 10	Mark 1:1-8
December 17	John 1:6-8,19-28
December 24	Luke 1:26-38
December 31	John 1:1-18

Midweek Advent Taizé Services

Join us for midweek Advent Taizé services at Blessed Redeemer Episcopal 1225 Degroodt Rd SW, Palm Bay

Father Brian Turner provides piano accompaniment. Pastor Bryant leads the readings and meditations on **12/6, 12/13, 12/20 @ 5:30pm.**

Taizé is a prayer service (pronounced <ah-ZAY>). Named for the monastic spiritual community in Taize, France, this unique form of contemplation invites you into an awareness of God's presence through chant-like songs, scripture, and silent meditation.



Next meeting:
December 20th at 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00pm



Sunday Reflections

Every Sunday morning 8:30 AM.

Adult Forum on the Sunday Readings. Don't miss out, we would love to have you join us.

Linda Carol Poppe

ADVENT NIGHT

December 2nd

We will be holding Advent Night on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 4:00pm. This is the time we all get together and decorate the tree. We will have desserts to share and will decorate and listen to some Christmas music. Please come join us!



Joy to the World!

CHRISTMAS TREE LEGEND



Because it stays green all through the year, the evergreen tree is symbolic of the eternal life offered to Christians through faith in Christ.

The treetop points up to heaven.

A star signifies the star which guided the Wise men to Bethlehem.

The lights represent Christ, the "Light of the World."

Gifts beneath the tree are representative of God's gift of his only begotten son, who brings Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy.



Order forms and envelopes will be provided in the bulletin and/or in the narthex on November 26th.

Cost will not be more than \$10 per plant.

NOTE: Please be sure to take your poinsettias home, following Christmas Eve service on December 24th.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Annual Christmas Luncheon

December 2, 2023

12:00 p.m.

Olive Garden restaurant on 192

Sign-up sheet in narthex



WELCA Eve Circle Bible Study
will not be meeting in December.

Did You Know?

Did you know....

The ELCA is in a period of deep reflection and soul-searching. The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to create a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church. More about the commission and its purpose is available through the Living Lutheran. If the name of the commission sounds familiar to you, it's probably because you were around in 1982-1987 when the Commission for a New Lutheran Church met and ultimately recommended that predecessor bodies unite in 1988 to form the ELCA.

Lower Susquehanna Synod Asst. to the Bp. Carla Christopher explains the impetus for the commission, saying:

“Church itself has changed. The people coming to church have changed, and the systems necessary to support the work the church is doing have changed. The economy around how church functions—everything from volunteer labor and a full-time pastor with one vocation, churches that were culturally monolithic—none of these things are necessarily a given anymore. We want to make sure that churchwide is resourcing the best places where mission is happening and innovation is happening, that synods have the ability to support and address and equip rostered [ministers] for the future, that seminaries have relevant curriculum, and that parishioners have the ability to be active and involved even if they're not traditional parishioners.”

It is crucially important to keep oneself apprised of the work of this commission. At intervals, it seeks input from ELCA members and visitors. Take every opportunity when it seeks input to give input. Your voice matters. Your voice counts.

If you have questions about the process, the person from our synod who participates on the commission is [Cheryl G. Stuart](#). Cheryl was synod council vice-president here in the Florida-Bahamas Synod for several years. She is an attorney whose law office is in Tallahassee.



**SERVE THE
HOMELESS**

Daily Bread Inc

815 E. Fee Ave, Melbourne, FL

Daily Bread needs blankets (please no quilts or comforters - they are too heavy to carry), hoodies or sweatpants in all sizes. Thank you for your generosity. Your donations can be given to Connie Steinhorst, Chris Allebaugh & Elaine Heine.

FREE hot meals are served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 7 days a week

JOY Lutheran Church Team serves meals the 4th Friday of each month. Please contact Chris Allebaugh (321-388-2555) if you can help. Thanks to each of you for your support of this ministry. Please remember DAILY BREAD depends on volunteers.

Volunteers are needed for dining hall, outreach center and warehouse – help needed 7 days a week.

Worship and Music

We have entered the busy time of year. I wanted to give you some information on what is coming up in December.

✠ The Poinsettia sign-up sheet will be out in the narthex Nov. 26th. The cost of the plants will be \$10.00.

✠ We will be holding Advent Night on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 4:00pm. This is the time we all get together and decorate the tree. We will have desserts to share and will decorate and listen to some Christmas music. Please come join us!

✠ Christmas Eve morning service – Since the 24th falls on a Sunday we will be having two services. The morning service will be a more condensed service. We will be using continuous communion that morning.

✠ Christmas Eve – Service begins at 7:00pm. We will have special music for that service. I do not know at this point if they will be playing prior to the service. More information on that will follow.

✠ Christmas Day – Linda Carroll will be holding a Christmas morning service. She will be sharing the information regarding that service with the congregation.

Chris Allebaugh

OPEN BIBLE STUDY



All Are Welcome

We will be using the Augsburg Fortress Adult Bible Studies.

Meets on Tuesdays 2-3 pm at church.

First meeting will be Tuesday December 5th.

Lessons for Dec/Jan/Feb quarter are FAITH THAT GLORIFIES GOD.

December's sessions are Faith of Ruth, Faith of David, Family of Faith, and Faith of Elizabeth and Mary.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are most welcome to come join in.

Questions? Talk with Linda-Carol Poppe.

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH & CAROLS



Monday, December 25th, 11am in the fellowship area of the church.

You are cordially invited to come to a "Christmas Day Family Brunch" with "Christmas Carols." We will enjoy a light brunch and dessert. There will be books of thirty favorite Christmas Carols, so we can raise our voices in joyful song.

Linda-Carol will accompany on piano.

If you would like to help, please talk with Linda-Carol Poppe.



JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Dec. 2, 2023, WELCA Christmas Luncheon 12:00 @ Olive Garden
Dec. 21, 2023, Young at Heart Luncheon @ 12:00 – potluck & Chinese auction

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Eve Circle (Bible Study) – No Bible Study in December

Dorcas Circle (Quilting circle) – every Tuesday @ 10:00 a.m. (except Christmas week)

Rachel Circle (knitting/crocheting circle) - every Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m. (except Christmas week)

Ruth Circle (crafts) – No meeting in December



Annual Christmas Luncheon for ALL WOMEN OF JOY LUTHERAN

CHURCH - December 2, 2023; 12:00 p.m. @ Olive Garden restaurant on 192 - Signup sheet in the narthex.



DAILY BREAD hygiene kits: Thank you for another twenty hygiene kits to Daily Bread in November. We appreciate everyone's help in this project and Ruth Holm's son, Pr. Norm Holm of Calvary Chapel for his contributions. The ladies of Rachel Circle put kits together and deliver them to Daily Bread where they are in need. If you would like to contribute, items needed include deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, hair combs and brushes for women & men, razors for men & women, wash cloths, chap stick or lip balm, fingernail clippers or nail file, sunscreen, and gallon size zip lock bags.

**Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization – Fall Gathering
Nov. 10-12, 2023**

Theme: Holy Ground – God Still Speaks

“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world.” Ps. 46:10

139 attendees

Love Offering: \$4,887.00 total to SoZo Kids

Breakdown - \$2,966.00 collected at Gathering, \$740 gift cards, \$1200.00 collected earlier.

Communion Worship Service Offering: \$2,366.00

Harriet Bryant was JOY's delegate. Elaine Heine & Connie Steinhorst attended as participants.

Chaplain & worship leader: Pr. Trixie Richter of St. Philip's in Mt. Dora.

Bible Study Leader: Sister Michell Collins, Asst. to the Bishop Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod of the ELCIC.

Youth Shepherd Tabitha Richter, we had 3 teenage girls in attendance.

SoZo Kids were the 2022 and 2023 love offering. SoZo helps struggling families in rural poverty living in the Ocala National Forest area. Specifically helping children break the cycle of poverty & become productive members of society. SoZo provides financial assistance, education, mentoring, teen pregnancy prevention, after school programs, summer programs, tutoring, food, and back to school clothes, haircuts & school supplies. Many families in the Ocala National Forest have no electricity. SoZo helps 7500 families so the children can have a better future.

- The business meeting elected new officers.
- Worship, business meetings, Bible Study and workshops made up the weekend.
- Workshops varied from a session of Choir, financial assistance, laughter yoga, ukulele worship, crafts, growing your congregational unit, If God still speaks, who listens, Campfires to Burning Bushes and many more.
- This weekend was a summer camp theme. Sat. night was “craft night.”
- New Love Offering for 2024 & 2025 is Graceway Village in Ft. Pierce. Graceway helps residents who struggle with poverty, food scarcity, homelessness, and other tragic needs. They feed the hungry, provide clothing to low-income families and provide help with workshops to improve lives with basic life skills. Free hot meals are provided 4 nights a week & delivered to homebound residents. This is a Christian based agency serving everyone regardless of race, religion, sex, or ethnicity. They hope to expand by building a Family Restorative Living Facility for families threatened with homelessness. It will be a temporary housing situation helping families to learn life skills leading to self-sufficiency.
- This was the first year for a Fall Gathering at the Warren Willis Methodist Conference Center in Fruitland, FL. It is a nice facility, and everyone had a wonderful time.

WELCA November

WELCA's Holiday Festival was held on Saturday November 4th from 9:00am to 2:00pm with 52 Vendors. Several were cancelled due to illness and some because of another Show.

The Congregation was extremely helpful this year. When we said "All hands-on deck" that's exactly what we had.

The Men of Joy once again put up the big canopy and took it down as well and helped put the Church back together for Sunday's service. We had a large group of members helping to put the church back in order. WELCA Ladies appreciated all the help and support that was given to us. Without this help and support, we would not have been able to have our Festival.

Our Bake Sale was an enormous success thanks to Dot Kirsch and Mary Ann Jones. We had a surprise at the Festival Jim and Sue Tyler and Gunner Heim made arrangement for us to have a car display. We had fifteen cars on display.

The proceeds for the Craft Show are:

- Vendor Fees \$1,435.00
- Silent Auction \$1,598.00
- Bake Sale \$208.00
- WELCA Ruth Circle \$376.00
- Food Stand \$447.00
- Total \$4,064.00

WELCA made their yearly donation of \$400.00 to Gifts from the Heart Christmas Store and \$150.000 to the Boy Scouts for candy for their Trunk or Treat event.

The WELCA Fall Gathering was held November 10-12 at Fruitland Park. We had three ladies representing Joy. Harriet Bryant was our delegate and voting member., Connie Steinhorst and Elaine Heine.

Our next meeting and Pancake Breakfast and election of officers will be January 6, 2024.

Respectfully submitted.
Marjorie Maenpaa, WELCA President

Property Committee

The recent damage from the termites in the shed has been taken care of. The area was sprayed and eradicated of the termites. The damage was repaired, and the shed was reorganized in the process of making better use of the existing space.

The new Office 365 Program will be rolled out in December first. JOY Lutheran Church Gmail addresses will be replaced with new Microsoft Outlook email addresses. The current Gmail addresses will be forwarded to the new email addresses.

During the Annual WELCA Craft and Silent Auction Event, the septic system started to back flow. The tanks were pumped out and on Monday following the show the pumps and the systems were inspected and addressed. The recommendations were to have a riser installed on one of the tanks allowing us to check and clean the filter as needed without having to dig the tank up.

During the craft event it was discovered that several of the customers and members were driving on the drain field. We will need to address this and prevent people from driving in the field in the future.

The organ was repaired recently, but additional work will need to be done to address some of the issues. Steve Weiss will coordinate the work with the repair person.

The pastor's office received additional upgrade in the form a new desk, bookcase, and an office chair. The items were received as a donation from The Cornerstone Financial Group.

The Scouts have offered to purchase and install a shed along the existing sheds at the back of the church. The scouts will acquire and install the shed. Should the scouts leave, the shed will become the property of JOY.

The next project will be the cleaning and painting of the exterior doors of the church. We will start the project on December 1st, 2023.

There will be no work group meeting on the day after Thanksgiving November 24, 2023.

Erik U. Mäenpää

We welcomed Bishop Pedro Suárez on November 19th as he led us in worship.



Thank you, everyone, for whatever part you played in Bishop Suárez and his wife's visit. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal and great fellowship.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be December 14, 2023, at 11:30am.

If you would like to learn more about this committee, please join us on Wednesday.

You can contact Barbara Herndon if you have any questions.

Men of JOY

If you are one of the men of the congregation, come and join in our social breakfasts and our projects for the congregation. Our breakfast outings are the first Saturday of the month. Contact Jim Collins or Gary Krause where we will be meeting.

Along with our usual socializing, we discuss some group business and other ministry activities for this year.

Gary Krause, President
Jim Collins, Recording Secretary

Young at Heart ❤️

Young at Heart will be meeting on **December 21st at noon**. All are welcome, especially those fifty-five and over. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors. Lunch will be potluck, followed by a Chinese Auction.

Please check with *Marjorie Mäenpää* if you are not sure what to bring to share.

We always have a wonderful time getting to know each other. So, please come out and join us. Always check Sunday's bulletin for any changes.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



&



Coffee, Snack, and Cold Drink after Worship.

If you enjoy the "Coffee Fellowship," consider signing up to host a Sunday. The signup sheet is in the narthex.

WELCOME to JOY!

Scan the QR code for important links.
JOY Lutheran Guest wifi:
password -welcome2joy



- + Visitor Information
- + Digital Giving
- + Prayer Requests
- + JOY website



BACKPACK PROGRAM

"BREAD OF LIFE" BACKPACK PROGRAM

The "Bread of Life" backpack program for Turner Elementary School is a wonderful outreach to our community. So, please be generous in your monetary donations, as we provide food for as many as seven families each weekend. This program is so very important, especially with families barely making ends meet. The cost is approximately \$190 per week.

Thank you everyone for your donations and helping with the packing and delivery of the backpacks.

See Charlotte Abrahams for any further details concerning this great outreach program.

We are looking to go to ten families per week.

Newsletter

Tidings of Joy is only as good as the input received from Church Council, WELCA, Men's Group, Various Committees, Circles, etc. Please provide David Steinhorst with your news, thankyou's, updates, etc. for the **January 2024 Tidings no later than December 22nd.**

email David Steinhorst
dsteinhorst@cfl.rr.com
or provide a printed copy.

We care about you!



If you so desire, please let us know when you or your family is in the hospital. If you want to have information about your hospitalization and basic condition released to Joy Lutheran Church, you need to inform the hospital. Also, please have someone call the church at 321-951-0166 and let us know if you have been hospitalized.

Please contact the church office, if you would like to have a visit from Pastor Bryant, or a Stephen Minister, or would like to be listed for prayer support.



We especially pray for Friends, Family, and Members of Joy.

WHO ARE:

- Suffering the loss of a loved one.
- Suffering from pain or illness.
- Suffering from depression or loneliness.
- Recovering from illness or surgery.

Lord, look upon those in need with eyes of mercy. May Your healing hand rest upon them, may Your life-giving powers flow into every cell of their body and into the depths of their soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring them to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kingdom. Amen.

JOY CORE VALUES

Worship: Joyfully experiencing Christ through word, music, sacrament, and prayer

Property: Providing the physical means to fulfill the spiritual needs of church and community

Outreach: Extending Christ's compassion and care to others

Fellowship: Enjoying each other's company

Welcoming: There is a place at Joy for everyone

Education: Getting to know the Word

Relationships: Everyone is worthy of care and respect

2023 Church Council

Pastor: Rev. John David Bryant

President: Barbara Herndon

Vice President: Mary Sherman

Secretary: Kelly Arner

Treasurer: Kim Tolley

Financial Secretary:

Council Members at Large:

Chris Allebaugh

Sue Getter

Renee Harper

Tom Hennessy

Linda Kratzer

Erik Mäenpää



December Birthday Blessings

12/02	Hannah Herndon
12/06	Linda Kratzer
12/07	Jim Breeden
12/14	Bill Kemmerer
12/14	Stuart Lengel
12/17	Tom Hennessy
12/19	Bob Getter
12/19	Jeffery George
12/21	Holly Walsh
12/24	Kristina Walton
12/26	Andrea Christensen
12/26	John Manaseri
12/27	Harry Cannon
12/31	Susan Getter

Notify the church office if corrections need to be made to the Birthday List.



The Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. If you would like to have flowers in honor of or in memory of someone please choose the Sunday and sign up. You may put your check for **\$25.00** in your offering envelope and indicate that you are paying for flowers. There may be some dates blocked out by Worship and Music, for the Festival Sundays. If someone has already signed up for the date you wanted, please choose a date close to the one you want, or let the church office know you have signed up, so two vases of flowers can be ordered. Flowers are provided by “**Emma’s Flowers.**”



Eternal Candle

If you would like to provide the **Eternal Candle** you may also sign up on the Flower Chart for the month you wish. The cost is **\$30.00 for the month.**

Joy Financials

GENERAL FUND	January - September	October	Year thru October
Income (pledged)	\$72,698.41	\$9,920.57	\$82,618.98
Income (unpledged)	\$45,094.08	\$7,351.45	\$52,445.53
Income - Total	\$117,792.49	\$17,272.02	\$135,064.51
Expenses	\$135,049.05	\$24,451.99	\$151,582.84
Overage/(Shortage)	(\$17,256.56)	\$738.23	(\$16,518.33)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	January - September	October	Year thru October
Income (pledged)	\$4,201.20	\$513.21	\$4,714.41
Income (unpledged)	\$837.27	\$60.10	\$897.37
Income - Total	\$5,038.47	\$573.31	\$5,611.78
Expenses	\$7,868.13	\$1,597.95	\$9,466.08 **
Overage/(Shortage)	(\$2,829.66)	(\$1,024.64)	(\$3,854.30)

** Council Approved a new riding Lawnmower. MOJ & WELCA each contributed \$1,000 towards the purchase.

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					8:30am Property Workday	12pm WELCA Christmas Luncheon @ Olive Garden
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting		8:30am Property Workday	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting	11:30am Fellowship Meeting	8:30am Property Workday	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship		10:00am Dorcas Circle Quilting	10am Rachel Circle Knitting/Crocheting 7pm Council Mtg	12pm Young at Heart	8:30am Property Workday 10:30am-1:00pm Daily Bread Team	
24	<i>Christmas</i> 25	26	27	28	29	30
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship 7:00pm Candlelight Service	11:00am Brunch & Carols				8:30am Property Workday	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am Adult Forum on Sunday's Readings 10:00am Worship						Check website & messages from Pastor Bryant for changes in schedule.