

Our Mission
“To rejoice in, and share
the good news of Jesus Christ “
with all people”

Rejoice Voice

**Rejoice! Lutheran
Church**
7855 Stow Road
Hudson, OH 44236

Brian Suntken, Vicar

Contact Rejoice!
330-653-5980
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www.rejoicelc.org

Church Council
Jake Biltz
Bethany Bryant
Tim Boebel
Liz Franke
Pete Moore
Chris Wisbar
Mike Procop

**Bulletin and
Newsletter**
office@rejoicelc.org

Sunday Worship
10:30am
(In-person, Face Book
Live, or posted later on
our website)

Adult Formation Class
9:30am on Sunday

Bible Studies
Wednesdays
7:00pm & 8:00pm

Lately, I have been reflecting about the importance of community. Chaotic times make people afraid and uncertain. In the past couple of years Americans have grappled with a lethal virus; the issues of racism, white privilege, and police brutality; record unemployment; a government which does not seem to be working for the people; and the slow demise of the institutional church. It would be so easy for all of us to simply shut ourselves away in the hopes that when we awoke, all these struggles would be gone.

Jean Vanier, the founder of the world famous l'Arche community for the mentally handicapped and their care givers, wrote a unique and brilliant book many years ago entitled: **Community and Growth**. In it, he writes about the nature and meaning of community.

“Community is like an orchestra: each instrument is beautiful when it plays alone, but when they all play together, each given its own weight in turn, the result is even more beautiful. A community is like a garden full of flowers, shrubs, and trees. Each helps to give life to the other. Together, they bear witness to the beauty of God, creator, and gardener extraordinary.

“Community brings together people of very different temperaments. Some are organized, quick, precise, and efficient. Others are open, flexible and love personal contact. Others are shy. Others are extroverts, optimistic, and even a bit exalted. God calls all these opposites together to create the wealth of the community. It may not be easy at first. But gradually, we discover what a richness it is to live with such a diversity of people, and such diversity of gifts. We discover that difference is not a threat but a treasure and that variety is the evidence of life.” (page 251 and 252)

As a lifelong musician and one who enjoys gardening, Vanier's imagery speaks to me in a powerful way. Think for a moment, if an entire orchestra that was made up of cellos! It would be wonderful if we were listening to the music of Villa-Lobos morning, noon and night. But that would get tedious after an hour or two. The cellos need the violins, violas and basses for the richness of harmony. And what if the strings did not have the woodwinds, brass and percussion? There would be little or no Beethoven, no Tchaikovsky, no Verdi, no Vaughan Williams, or Copland. What a sad world that would be.

Or think of a string quartet: two violins, viola, and cello. When attending a performance of chamber music, I enjoy watching how the musicians in that 'community' pass the melody back and forth to one another. The first violin finishes a phrase and hands it to the cellist and vice versa. The ensemble is such a rich example of what it means to be community. No one has all the gifts. None of us can play the melody all the time (no matter how badly we want to). The musical composition is enhanced when each one of the musicians plays their part in an effective way for the good of the whole ensemble.

Continued on page 2...

Novatian (c. 200–258) was a leading presbyter of the Roman Church, and one of the most noted personages in the Church of the third century CE. Few details are known as to his life but Novatian was a man of learning and had been trained in literary composition.

In his treatise, “**On the Trinity**”, Novatian penned:

“After all these things (referring to the creation) had been accomplished, God placed man at the head of the world – man made to the image of God, endowed with intelligence, discernment, and prudence so that he could imitate God. Although the primordial elements of his body were earthly, nevertheless the substance was infused by a heavenly divine breath. When God gave man all these things for his service, he willed that mankind alone should be free” (Chapter 1).

Is it possible to look upon the events of the last few years and see that each person is “made to the image of God – endowed with intelligence, discernment, and prudence”? That the black man, the white woman, the Asian teenager, the Indian elder are all made in the image of God? God is best understood in the diversity and that, as Vanier expressed, “*difference is not a threat, but a treasure and that variety is the evidence of life.*”

The richness of our nation, and the Church for that matter, is the diversity of its people and their gifts. While some try to divide us by color or privilege, by education or by wealth, we must cherish and defend the fact that our differences are not a threat but a true treasure to be celebrated, discovered, trusted, and used for the betterment of the whole. Guided and supported by the power and wisdom of Almighty God, may we have the grace and courage to make it so.

Brian

Council Updates

Congratulations are in order! On September 17, the congregation voted to approve two significant items that have set our congregation on a new path. After 5 years of experiencing first hand the shortage of pastors across the country, the congregation voted to hire Brian Suntken as Vicar. Brian has been a true blessing to our weekly worship and bible studies through his engaging sermons and educational sessions. This arrangement is made possible through our newfound partnership with St. Stephen Lutheran in Stow, Ohio such that the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism can be provided to our members. This covenant with St. Stephen's is only the first step in our ministry journey together. We will be stronger together in our worship, education, prayer life, fellowship and service to others. Effective October 1, we will celebrate the start of this formal covenant with St. Stephen and will welcome Brian as an official and newest member of Rejoice. Please plan to attend and share your well wishes with Brian and the entire congregation.

Now the real work begins. As Council leaders and congregational members, we can turn our full attention to the work God has called us to do. These commitments should bring stability and consistency for us to move beyond the business as usual activities of the church and allow us to have a bigger impact on our community than ever before.

Thanks be to God!
Bethany Bryant



Reformation

Reformation Sunday is October 29, 2023



The Protestant Reformation was a religious movement that swept through Europe and began in 1517 when Martin Luther wrote a document referred to as his "95 Theses." He is said to have nailed it to the door of Whittenburg's Catholic Castle Church in Germany. Luther was against the Catholic Church's corrupt practice of selling indulgences to absolve sin.

Luther's "95 Theses" suggested two central beliefs:

- (1) The Bible is the central religious authority.
- (2) People may reach salvation only by their faith and not by their deeds.

The teaching of Luther can be summarized in three phrases:

**Grace alone, Faith alone,
Scripture alone.**

The Diet of Worms was a council that was led by the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in the city of Worms. In 1520 at the Diet of Worms, Martin Luther was asked to retract 41 of his "95 Theses." When Luther refused, he was declared an outlaw and a heretic.

In 1520 the bible was in Latin only, and the priests could read it, but ordinary people could not. In 1522, while in hiding, Luther translated the New Testament into German. The dawn of the printing press made it possible to print and distribute Luther's "95 Theses" and the translated Bible to the people.

Martin Luther's religious beliefs formed the basis of Lutheranism. Lutheranism would usher in a new religious age for Europe, breaking up the Catholic Churches and dividing Europe into religious factions. The Protestant Reformation influenced major features of Western culture, including freedom of religion, freedom of conscience, and the dignity of the individual.

Born in Eisleben, Germany, in 1483, Luther was ordained to the priesthood in 1507. Luther was a German priest, theologian, author, hymnwriter, professor, and Augustinian friar and one of Western history's most significant figures. Luther died in 1546 with Pope Leo X's excommunication still in effect.



Help Wanted...Singers!

The Worship Committee is "In Search Of" singers that enjoy contemporary praise music and are interested in being part of a group to lead songs during worship.

Rehearsals will start October 15 at 9:30am to learn new music.

Looking for individuals committed to learning and rehearsing for a quality sound. Come prepared to work, smile and have fun!

Please contact Derek Carter at rejoicemusicdirector@gmail.com with any questions or interest.

Fellowship Time! All are welcome!

Come out and join us for our next Fellowship Dinner on Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Tulum Mexican Restaurant (8910 Hadden Rd., Twinsburg - Ph#330-998-6117). A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk. Please contact Marisa (mclellandmarisa@gmail.com) with questions or if you would like a ride.



Women's Bible Study – Via Zoom



The Women's Bible Study group began a Life Guide Bible Study entitled, "Motherhood" on Sept 27.

No pressure, no homework! Just fellowship time with Christian friends studying God's Word.

Join us Wednesdays at 8:00pm on Zoom

<https://johnncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/628894291>

Contact Lisa Ramsey with questions/problems at lisaruns1969@gmail.com or 234.380.2090

Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**Join us on Wednesday's at 7:00pm.
Everyone is invited.**

Here's the zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

[pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NIB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299 Pass code: COSJ2020



October Birthdays

5	Marilyn Olzmann
17	Dan Jacobsen
19	Sue Simmons
31	Bob Treend



October Anniversaries

14	Paul & Monica Leszek
30	David Denes & Robert Poshedley

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, or it is incorrect, please help us update our info. Contact Carla Maurer at office@rejoicec.org

Financial Report - August 2023

2023	August Actual	August Budget	August Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$7,429	\$8,638	(\$1,209)	\$94,494	\$69,100	\$25,394	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$2,032	\$2,667	(\$635)	\$25,838	\$21,333	\$4,505	\$32,000
Other	\$3,503	\$1,251	\$2,252	\$14,268	\$10,014	\$4,254	\$15,020
Total Income	\$12,964	\$12,556	\$408	\$134,600	\$100,447	\$34,153	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$4,011	\$9,180	\$5,169	\$43,668	\$73,444	\$29,776	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$39,970	\$36,000	(\$3,970)	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$8,011	\$13,680	\$5,669	\$83,638	\$109,444	\$25,806	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	\$4,953	(\$1,124)		\$50,962	(\$8,997)		(\$13,495)
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$2,657	\$3,333	(\$676)	\$5,000

Hall Library

*October 15-21, 2023
is
Friends of
Libraries Week*

Are you a book worm? If so please check out the Rejoice Hall Library where you will find lots of books of interest to enjoy.

One book you might like to read is titled "Simon Peter, Flawed but Faithful Disciple" by Adam Hamilton. It tells the story of Peter, an ordinary guy, who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. *Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today.*



Adam Hamilton is an award winning author of many books that relate faith to everyday life. He is the Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas.

Gratitude List

~ I am extremely grateful for Bethany Bryant and all the leaders at Rejoice, Bishop Barbins, Pastor John, and Vicar Brian who have worked diligently to form our alliance with St. Stephens and Vicar Brian. It is a Win! Win! Win! for all of us!

Anonymous

Jig Saw Puzzles

Did you know that there is a Jig Saw Puzzle Exchange at Rejoice? It is located in the hallway between the bookcases. Working Jig Saw puzzles improves problem solving skills. They require patience and concentration, which can help improve focus and attention span. They also require analytical thinking, as you have to figure out how the pieces fit together. They help to improve cognitive skills, critical thinking, and logical reasoning.

Plus Jig Saw puzzles are fun and you can work them alone at your leisure, or with family and friends. So check out Rejoice's Jig Saw Puzzle Exchange, and take a puzzle, keep a puzzle, donate a puzzle, or bring one back. But most of all, have fun working the puzzles!



Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with) John



Thursday, October 5
7:00pm
Brew Kettle, Hudson

Join your St. Stephen friends and family on a Brewery Trail at The Brew Kettle Hudson, 11 Atterbury Blvd, Suite 1, 2 & 3.

Order your favorite beverage (it doesn't have to be a beer) and snacks and catch up with friends.

The Brew Kettle offers a full menu including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options.



Helping Hands at Our Church, Spreading the Love of Jesus ...

This month we focus on Glenn and Nancy Fasnacht. Glenn and Nancy just became members last spring, but both have jumped right into getting involved and helping everywhere they can:

- Beside cleaning the church weekly, Glenn has been busy cleaning out the furnace room and he did some cosmetic painting there.
- He winterized the leaf blower and put it in the storage shed.
- He moved the banner shelf to the classroom. When he bought and assembled a new banner shelf that more appropriately fit the banners, then gave our previously used shelf unit to the quilters.
- With weeks of testing, he figured out what was wrong with the keyboard, and fixed it.
- He organized some cupboards in the kitchen and helped with cleaning out the refrigerator/freezer following the power outage.
- He repaired the warming tray from the kitchen.
- He bought and donated a new hand-vac for the kitchen.
- He's been emptying wastepaper baskets and recycle bins, and hauling that trash to the shed, and occasionally to the street on pick-up days.
- Using two boards and two vices, he made a temporary fix for the kitchen roll-up door, until repairs can be made in a few months.
- He built a shelf in the conference room for the wireless router that had been sitting on the floor.
- He bought and installed door stops on all the doors.
- He has been helpful with improving our recycling efforts at Rejoice by educating us about what is and is not recyclable
- He built our name tag board and repaired/replaced our outdoor sign boards

Meanwhile, Nancy has...

- Made the name tags
- Painted the beautiful stones in our entryway garden
- Helped with many administrative tasks in the office, including the newsletter
- Joined the rotation for making the weekly power point
- Joined our team of offering counters

Please let the church office know if we missed anyone's good deeds, because we want to recognize all helping hands





October 2023

(October is Pastor Appreciation month)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship Blessing of Quilts	2	3 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	4 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	5 7 PM Matthew, Mark, Luke and Beers with John Fellowship with St. Stephens at Brew Kettle 11 Atterbury Bl. Hudson	6 Women's Retreat at Lake Chautauqua	7 Women's Retreat at Lake Chautauqua
8 Women's Retreat at Lake Chautauqua 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 PM Quilting Group 7 PM AA Women's Group	10 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	11 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	12	13	14
15 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 PM AA Women's Group	17 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	18 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	19	20	21 Fellowship Dinner at Tulum Mexican Restaurant in Twinsburg, 6:00pm
22 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23 7 PM AA Women's Group	24 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting Solstice Flute Concert, 7:00pm	25 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	26	27	28 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry October Distribution
29 Reformation Sunday 9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship	31 					

~~~ October Worship Helpers ~~~

10:30am SERVICE	1-Oct	8-Oct	15-Oct	22-Oct	29-Oct	5-Nov
ALTAR GUILD	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht
COMMUNION SET UP	K Jacobsen/ D Procop	M McLelland/ D Procop	K Jacobsen/ M McLelland	A Hagan/ K Jacobsen	D Biltz/J Lue	K Jacobsen/ D Biltz
LAY READER	Susan Busch	Jenn Lue	Angie Hagan	Pete Moore	Tim Hagan	Russ Ackerman
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Russ Ackerman	Pat Bull	Marisa McLelland	Becky Hogue	Bethany Bryant	Pat Bull
GREETER / USHER	Paul Mallott	Russ Holford or George Arnold	Paul Mallott	Russ Holford	Tim Boebel	George Arnold
COUNTERS	W Klukow / B Bryant	B Bryant / N Fasnacht	W Klukow / N Fasnacht	B Bryant / P Giannetti	C Maurer/ W Klukow	B Bryant / N Fasnacht
POWER POINT PREP	Judi Boebel	Nancy Fasnacht	Bethany Bryant	Carla Maurer	Nancy Fasnacht	Judi Boebel
SOUND BOOTH	Wisbar's	Wisbar or Marisa	Wisbar or Marisa	Dan Jacobsen	Wisbar or Marisa	Tim Boebel
VIDEOGRAPHER	Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes	Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes	Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes

Help is needed in all Worship Help areas. Please see Carla to volunteer!

Lay Reader – read the Scripture for the day. Readings can be emailed in advance for you to preview.

Communion Assistant – help with distribution of the Sacrament holding the wine and juice “The blood of Christ shed for you!”

Communion Set-up – cube bread and place in cups/basket, Pour wine into cups using sanitized hands and minimize touch of the communion elements.

Usher – make sure everyone has a bulletin, a chair, or any other assistance. Light the candles prior to the worship and extinguish them after worship.

Offering Counter – count the Sunday offering and prepare it for deposit.

Altar Guild – ensure that altar coverings (paraments), communion cloths and banners are clean and changed seasonally (can be done prior to Sunday) Fill altar candles with oil, as needed.

Power Point Prep – using the weekly bulletin as a guide, copy/paste the Order of Worship into a Power Point presentation (can be done at home in advance and emailed to the soundbooth).

Videographer – each week we live-stream the worship service. A new system is in place that is user friendly and training is available.

Sound booth tech and PowerPoint – sit at the sound booth, advance the power point slides when appropriate, and run the equipment.

Training is available for each position.

If you are unable to serve on the scheduled date, please make every effort to find a replacement and contact the church office no later than Wednesday, prior to the date you are scheduled. 330-653-5980

REJOICE! LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hudson, Ohio 44236

Phone: 330-653-5980

E-mail: office@rejoicelc.org

We're on the web!
www.rejoicelc.org

Pics from God's Work,
 Our Hands Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023



Personal Care Kits Assembly Table



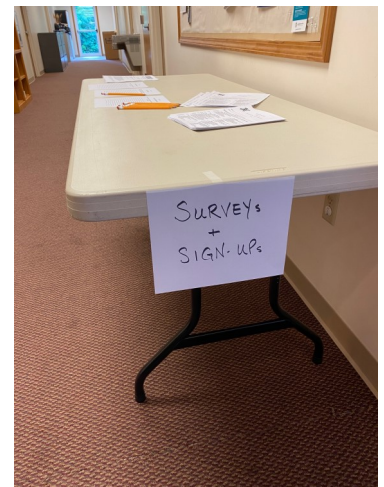
Quilting Loom



Foreground, L-R, Millie Carr, Ginny Pillsbury, Robin, Bill Clothier



L-R, Mike Procop, Diane Procop, Noah Lue, Michael Lue, Grace Lue and Jenn Lue



Time and Talent Surveys