

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

office@rejoicelc.org

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
Coming in Jan
Tuesdays at 1:00PM

Dear Friends in Christ:

December has arrived and the season of darkness and light always makes me reflect on life: the past year, the opportunities for new possibilities which lie ahead, the seasons, and the journey of life and death. The following reflection was brought to my attention by a dear friend who I respect and admire. The author is Paul Weinfield. Paul is a meditation teacher, author, and songwriter. He holds a PhD in Religion from Columbia University. Paul is also a two-time cancer survivor, which has informed his approach to teaching and mindfulness.

“Leonard Cohen said his teacher once told him that the older you get the lonelier you become, and the deeper the love you need. This is because, as we go through life, we tend to over-identify with being the hero of our stories.

“This hero isn’t exactly having fun: he’s getting kicked around, humiliated, and disgraced. But if we can let go of identifying with him, we can find our rightful place in the universe, and a love more satisfying than any we’ve ever known.

“People constantly throw around the term ‘Hero’s Journey’ without having any idea what it really means. Everyone from CEOs to wellness-influencers thinks the Hero’s Journey means facing your fears, slaying a dragon, and gaining 25k followers on Instagram. But that’s not the real hero’s journey.

“In the real hero’s journey, the dragon slays YOU. Much to your surprise, you couldn’t make that marriage work. Much to your surprise, you turned forty with no kids, no house, and no prospects. Much to your surprise, the world didn’t want the gifts you proudly offered it.

“If you are foolish, this is where you will abort the journey and start another, and another, abusing your heart over and over for the brief illusion of winning.

“But if you are wise, you will let yourself be shattered, and return to the village, humbled, but with a newfound sense that you don’t have to identify with the part of you that needs to win, needs to be recognized, needs to know. This is where your transcendent life begins.

“So embrace humility in everything. Life isn’t out to get you, nor are your struggles your fault.

“Every defeat is just an angel, tugging at your sleeve, telling you that you don’t have to keep banging your head against the wall. Leave that striver there, trapped in his lonely ambitions. Just walk away, and life in its vastness will embrace you.”

Be well this day - Brian

Council Updates

In November, the Rejoice Council met with the Council of St. Stephen's to discuss our shared ministry opportunities. We discussed the upcoming Christmas season and similarities of our worship experiences and started discussing our joint worship opportunities for Lent and Easter. Several ministry and outreach opportunities were discussed including St. Stephen's joining our efforts to support Crouse Elementary this December and Rejoice joining in the packing of meals at St. Stephen on December 9. Upcoming opportunities to fellowship and study together were also discussed.

We are also finalizing our 2024 budget and preparing for the annual meeting on the 2nd Sunday of December. Please hold December 10 on your calendar and plan to attend.

We look forward to a glorious Advent season as we kick off a new church year, prepare and anticipate the birth of our Lord. May you join in all the ways to celebrate this month through concerts, caroling, gift giving for Crouse, singing, meal preparation and sharing your prayers with those around you. We will celebrate this amazing gift of Jesus' birth on December 24 at both our morning and evening worship services. This time of year is a perfect time to invite a friend, neighbor or relative to join us on Sunday mornings.

Thanks be to God!
Bethany Bryant

Stewardship Results

Thanks be to God! This Thanksgiving we have much to be thankful for. We wrapped up our 2024 stewardship campaign with record results. We received commitments for 2024 from 37 households with total commitments of \$174,000 spread between Operating and Capital funds. We expect total giving to surpass \$185,000 including those who have not pledged but routinely give. We received commitment cards from 87% of our giving units which exceeded our challenge goal of 85%, where we expect to receive a one-time challenge gift of \$3,000 for hitting that mark. More than half of our giving units committed to increase their giving, and we received commitments from 6 new households. This represents a total increase in giving of \$30,000 over current year. What an amazing response to the mission and ministry we are engaged in! With this increase we are able to expand our ministries, support our quality programming and generously support our benevolences at 10% of our operating revenues. Thank you for being faithful givers with the blessings God has bestowed.

Thanks be to God!
Bethany

Dec 24 Services - In Person and Live Streamed at 10:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

There will be a Sunday/Advent 4 worship service at 10:30am on Sunday, Dec 24, as usual.

The Christmas Eve service, both in person and Facebook Live streamed will be at 5:00pm. (NOTE: in some places the time was shown as 5:30, but the correct time is 5:00)

No service on Monday, December 25th, Christmas Day.





Hudson Ministerial Association

2023 Holiday Laundry Detergent Drive

Way to go Rejoice! We donated 21 bottles of detergent to this project!

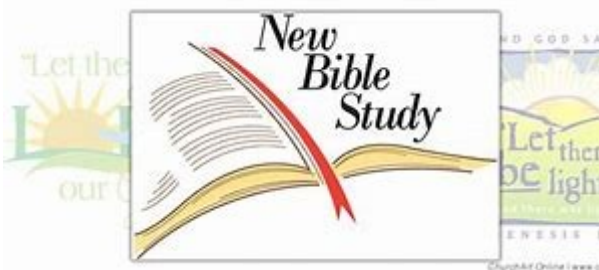
Rise Against Hunger



On Sat. Dec. 9 at 9:00am we will gather at St. Stephen's Fellowship Hall to help pack 10,000 meals. Volunteers will package dried ingredients that can be rehydrated into a nutritious meal. With enough volunteers we should be able to accomplish this in 2 hours. Sign-up at the welcome desk if you can help! St. Stephen's is located at 3725 Kent Rd. in Stow.

Coming Soon—New Daytime Bible Study

Every Sunday we hear the Gospel read – dutifully responding with praise. Why? What makes the Gospel “good news” anyway? So, on Tuesdays at 1:00pm (beginning January 9), we'll be reading and discussing the book Simply Good News by N.T. Wright. Led by Dave Denes, we will tackle this central message of Christianity. Please join us.



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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, Dec 10, immediately following worship.

Christmas Fellowship Time!

All are welcome!

EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY! Join us for a Fellowship Christmas Dinner on Sat., December 16 at 5:00 p.m. We'll be heading to Leo's Italian Social (2251 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls). A sign-up sheet will be on the Welcome Desk.



Women's Bible Study – Via Zoom

In December the Women's Bible Study group will study an "Advent" book

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

Join us Wednesdays at 8:00pm on Zoom
<https://johncarrolluniversity.zoom.us/j/628894291>

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



December Birthdays

6	Chelsea Yanda
15	Bill Holman
15	Evan Juliano
16	Mike Ramsey
20	Jenn Lue
24	Glenn Fasnacht



December Anniversaries

3	Chris & Ellen Wisbar
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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

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=eDQ3NlB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)
[pwd=eDQ3NlB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3222400299?pwd=eDQ3NlB1WEc0NnhEUCs0cDM3OW9Bdz09)

Meeting ID: 322 240 0299 Pass code: COSJ2020



Financial Report - October 2023

2023	Oct Actual	Oct Budget	Oct Variance to Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance to Budget	2023 Budget
INCOME:							
General Revenue	\$7,815	\$8,638	(\$823)	\$108,353	\$86,375	\$21,978	\$103,650
Capital Revenue	\$1,886	\$2,667	(\$781)	\$29,626	\$26,667	\$2,959	\$32,000
Other	\$2,859	\$1,251	\$1,608	\$17,326	\$12,516	\$4,810	\$15,020
Total Income	\$12,560	\$12,556	\$4	\$155,305	\$125,558	\$29,747	\$150,670
EXPENSES:							
General Expense	\$10,408	\$9,180	(\$1,228)	\$58,833	\$91,803	\$32,970	\$110,165
Capital Expense	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	\$67,970	\$45,000	(\$22,970)	\$54,000
Total Expenses	\$14,408	\$13,680	(\$728)	\$126,803	\$136,803	\$10,000	\$164,165
VARIANCE							
Total Variance	(\$1,848)	(\$1,124)		\$28,502	(\$11,245)		(\$13,495)
Benevolence Giving	\$0	\$417	(\$417)	\$3,907	\$4,167	(\$260)	\$5,000

~~ Automatic External Defibrillator (AED for short) ~~

ZOLL Fully Automatic AED Plus®

If you pair the aging Rejoice population with our Vicar's heart stopping sermons, it seemed wise to buy an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED for short).

Rejoice has received the **"ZOLL AED Plus"** that is recommended by the Red Cross. It has been installed next to the drinking fountain, in the hallway to the right, as you enter our church.

Our AED uses voice prompts to guide the rescuer through a resuscitation sequence. A short training video (20 minutes) will be shown on several Sundays following worship. Everyone is urged to attend one of these training sessions. Watch for details.

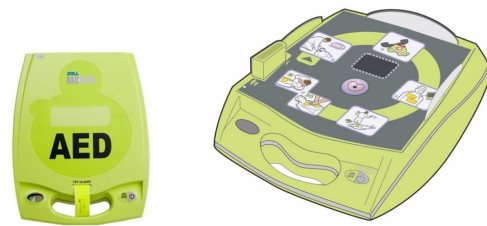
Additional training will be available for Rejoice members who are interested.

To become more familiar with using our AED, visit these websites:

www.Zoll.com or www.RedCross.org.

CPR: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

During the use of an AED, CPR will be needed. Interested members are encouraged to take a CPR class; they are available at many nearby locations, including Macedonia, and are fairly inexpensive (\$25 - \$37). Even if you learned CPR before, the methods may have changed, so if it has been a while, it might be time for a refresher course.



Text of Email Glenn Fasnacht with concerns or questions: 330-714-1688 or at gfasnacht@roadrunner.com

AED Training

There are multiple training videos for our AED available on line at:

<https://www.zoll.com/contact/elearning/videos/aed-plus>

These are different than the video shown here at Rejoice, so you are encouraged to watch them even if you have seen the training video at Rejoice.

Gratitude List

~Thank you to the known (Paige Giannetti and Sandy Molnar) and unknown donors to the quilting mission. We have received money, 12 new twin flat sheets and larger repurposed sheet sets. All in all these donations will provide over a dozen quilts. Thank you, also, from the people around the world who receive these quilts.



~Sue Holman and the Quilting group



Matthew, Mark, Luke and (Beers with) John
St. Stephens/Rejoice Fellowship
Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:00pm
HiHo Brewing
1707 Front St.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

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

~So grateful to Glenn and Nancy Fasnacht for securing the AED Defibrillator for our church. Including, installing it and providing opportunities for training!

~Many thanks to Bill and Sue Holman for checking and organizing the St. Pauly Clothing donation shed. We've had several occurrences of someone getting in, tearing open donation bags and strewing the contents inside the shed. There is now a motion sensor light and camera mounted on the outside. (And a police report)

~Thanks, too, to Jake Biltz. I arrived at church one afternoon and assumed the man clearing leaves from the walkway and parking lot was the hired landscaper, but no, it was Jake assuming the task to keep our property neat and clean!

~Always grateful when I come in on Fridays to enjoy the fresh smell of cleaning products and to know the Glenn Fasnacht has been in the building cleaning! He and his son even sham-pooed the carpeting in November! Many thanks!

~I'm amazed when I come into the building on the Friday before Food Pantry Distribution. What an undertaking those Hudson Community Service Association (HCSA) volunteers do. Have you ever seen it? Tables lined up and down both hallways, in the narthex, pantry and kitchen filled with food, paper and cleaning products and personal hygiene items. They are truly a blessing to our community!

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

HCSA November Food Pantry News

Once again we had another month of distributing to more than 80 families at the Food Pantry. Because of the sharp increase in number of families being served over the last several months, as well as financial considerations, the HCSA Board decided to limit the geographic area that Hudson Food Pantry will serve. Starting in January of 2024 we will only be distributing to those who reside in the Hudson City School District. Those currently being served from outside the Hudson City School District have been given packets of information about pantries in the areas where they live. This same information will be handed out again at our December distribution. In order to continue to adequately serve those who do live in this school district we were forced to put some limits on our distribution.

Sharing Christmas Blessings at Crouse Elementary – All are invited to help spread Christmas blessings to the kindergarteners at Crouse

- We almost have all the games needed
- Next will be to help fill the gift bags after worship on December 17. (*Can you help?*)
- And, finally to help Santa distribute the presents and spread the Christmas Cheer at Crouse Elementary on December 21 around noon. (*Need to sign up for this, the sign-up sheet is on the welcome desk*)





December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		 <p><i>From Nazareth To Bethlehem</i></p>			1	2
3 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship	4 7 PM AA Women's Group	5 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	6 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	7	18	9 Rise Against Hunger-Help package food donations at St. Stephens Lutheran 9:00am
10 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship/ Annual Congregational Meeting	11 6:30 PM Quilting Group 7 pm Church Council Meeting 7 PM AA Women's Group	12 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	13 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	14	15	16 12 - 2 PM Hudson Food Pantry December Distribution (Week early for <u>Christmas</u>) 5:00pm Christmas Fellowship dinner at Leo's Italian Social
17 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:30 Adult Formation 10:30 Worship 11:30 Help pack gifts for	18 7 PM AA Women's Group	19 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting Flute Concert, 7:00PM	20 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	21 12:00PM Help Santa deliver gifts to Crouse Elementary School	22	23
24 4th Sunday in Advent 10:30 Worship 5:00PM Christmas Eve Worship 31 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:30	25 The Nativity of Our Lord 	26 6:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting	27 7 PM Brian's Zoom Bible Meeting 8 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study	28	29	30

~~~ December Worship Helpers ~~~

10:30am SERVICE	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec	24-Dec	31-Dec	7-Jan
ALTAR GUILD	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht	McLelland/Fasnacht
COMMUNION SET UP	D Procop/J Lue	A Hagan/ K Jacobsen	D Biltz// M McLelland	D Procop/ K Jacobsen	J Lue/ M McLelland	D Procop/ D Biltz
LAY READER	Bethany Bryant	David Denes	Angie Hagan	Pete Moore	Russ Ackerman	Susan Busch
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE	Bethany Bryant	Jenn Lue	Marisa McLelland	Becky Hogue	Janet Juliano	Tim Hagan
GREETER / USHER	Paul Mallott	Russ Holford or George Arnold	Tim Boebel	Russ Holford	Tim Boebel	George Arnold
COUNTERS	N Fasnacht/ W Klukow	C Maurer/ W Klukow	Carla Maurer / W Klukow	B Bryant / W Klukow	Carla Maurer / N Fasnacht	C Maurer/ W Klukow
POWER POINT PREP	Nancy Fasnacht	Carla Maurer	Judi Boebel	Bethany Bryant	Nancy Fasnacht	Judi Boebel
SOUND BOOTH	M McLelland	Wisbar	Dan Jacobsen	Tim Boebel	Wisbar	Tim Boebel
VIDEOGRAPHER	Dan Jacobsen	Dan Jacobsen	AJ Stokes	AJ Stokes or Dan	AJ Stokes or Dan	AJ Stokes or Dan Jacobsen

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

7855 Stow Rd.

Hudson, Ohio 44236

Phone: 330-653-5980

E-mail: office@rejoicelc.org

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

Fellowship Dinner at Tulum Mexican Restaurant—Nov 11, 2023



L-R around the table: Jenn & Michael Lue, Carla Maurer, Chris Wisbar, Francine McBride (partially obstructed) Robyn Crane, Diane Procop, Frank Pancake, Bethany & Chad Bryant, Wendy Klukow (partially obstructed), Kathy & Dan Jacobsen, Nancy & Glenn Fasnacht, Juliet Jaeger. Ellen Wisbar took the pic, and I think Mike Procop was "hiding" between Chad and Wendy. Fun evening, great food!