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PATHWAYS SEPTEMBER 2022

*You show me the path of life. In
your presence there is fullness of joy.*
Psalm 16:11

Find us on social
media @FCCStow!

Welcome Sunday Fiesta Lunch! **September 18th, 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Just after church on the 18th, we're going to be celebrating our Welcome Sunday and Jonathan's return from his Renewal!

Changing Décor on Sept. 11th After Service

Extra hands will be needed to make light work of this big task! Hang around after service to help out! This should only take about 30-45 minutes.

Music Notes – First Rehearsals in September!

The Rehearsal Schedule is printed within for your benefit!

Woman's Picnic – Fellowship Hall

September 17th, Noon

Voices have been heard! It's time to gather again! Bring a dish to share. Drinks and paper plates will be provided.

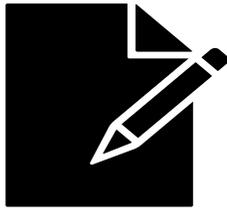
Trustee's Meetings Resume

Sept 25th following Sanctuary Service

Location of meeting T.B.A.

Loaves and Fishes + Pantry, August 18th, 4-6 p.m.

Elder's Epistle, September 2022



As summer draws to a close, our time of clergy renewal (a.k.a. Jonathan's Sabbatical) also is drawing to a close.

Jonathan will return to church on September 18, which doubles as Welcome Sunday, which triples as the next Loaves & Fishes + Pantry. The Membership Team is planning a special meal to celebrate his return. Look for more details as we get closer to the 18th.

Congregational renewal is also part of the sabbatical process. Many of you attended our church chats, which helped us discover what renewal means for our congregation. You'll see the results from that discovery process in various activities and in reports in upcoming Pathways.

One desired activity in particular was for some kind of outreach program in which all generations can participate. The Elders believe that we have identified just such an outreach opportunity. We're doing some further investigation and expect that we'll have good news about that presently. If all goes as we expect the event will take place this fall at the church after Jonathan's return.

This has been an interesting summer with all the different voices that we've heard from the pulpit.

I'm looking forward to this Fall as the effects of our clergy and congregational renewal take hold and help mover our church boldly into the future.

Shalom,
Tom Safford
Elder Chair

Welcome Sunday Fiesta Lunch!
Sunday, September 18, 2022, 11:15
a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Jonathan's long-awaited return from Pastoral Renewal is just a few short weeks away, and it's time for Welcome Sunday! Finally, we can celebrate in person with the members of our congregation and our guests ...Jonathan, Julie, AJ, and Violet included! Thanks to the Lily Grant, and help from a number of interim pastors, this summer was full of opportunities to hear new voices, grow ourselves spiritually, and experience Sabbatical in many ways. We are all so grateful for the Sabbatical experience, and we are ready to take our renewed faith and energy into another season of our church!

Please join us for lunch at the church after worship. Lunch, dessert, and beverages will be served. Reach out to anyone on the Membership Committee, or, to the Church Office with any questions. All are welcome to the Welcome Sunday Fiesta Lunch!

Changing Décor with Ann Halpin!
Sept. 11th, Sunday After Service

In order to prepare for the upcoming Welcome Sunday, Ann will be changing décor around the church. If you have time to help out, it would be **extremely helpful** if you can stick around after church on the 11th to remove any of the green décor, which can be found on the Baptistry, the Banners in the Hallways and Sanctuary, wreaths, anything in the gathering area, including tablecloths, and all door decorations. Any found décor can be carried upstairs and piled on the pews

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Loaves & Fishes + Pantry August Report

When Loaves & Fishes opened for business on August 18, we had 96 ears of corn ready to serve along with three varieties of subs (ham, turkey, or veggie), watermelon, and cookies. When we closed at 6:00pm we had 0 (zero, zilch, nada) ears of corn remaining. That's right, we served 96 meals to members of our community.

Meanwhile, the Pantry portion was also busy. We gave groceries to 35 households consisting of 30 seniors, 34 adults, and 25 children totaling 89 people served. We used up all the grocery bags we'd prepared ahead of time and had to make up new bags on the fly.

On one hand it's sad that so many people in our community need our help, but on the other hand it's good that we're here to help. We couldn't give this help without the support of every member of our congregation.

On Saturday morning preparing for the August meal, it looked like elves in Santa's workshop. Some people were slicing and dicing vegetables. Some prepped corn, some were cutting up watermelons. We set up an assembly line to make 100 subs, turkey, ham and veggies (Thank you Mike Kostensky for all the meat and cheese!). Sunday we added all the subs left from Church chat. We had just enough!

Our next Loaves & Fishes + Pantry will take place on September 18, which is also Welcome Sunday and Jonathan's return. It looks to be busy Sunday!. We are having our last summer picnic with hot dogs, mac and cheese and baked beans. We are anticipating a large turnout. Need you!

Bulldog Bags Donation Items

Due Sept. 7th: Toothpaste and Toothbrushes

Due Oct. 12th: Bar Soap (Unscented)

Due Nov. 9th: Fruit Cups

or in the balcony by the bell tables. With a few hands, this shouldn't take us longer than 30-45 minutes!

If you have any questions, you can reach out to the church office or call Ann at 330-524-2228

2022. If you are interested in being part of this year's Laity Sunday please let Jonathan know or indicate your interest on a Sunday Connection Card.

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Woman's Picnic – Fellowship Hall **Saturday, Sept. 17th, Noon**

We are having a Summer picnic September 17th at noon. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and paper plates provided. We will be gathering downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Come, it has been too long since we were together.

Trustees Resume Meetings

The Trustees will resume meeting monthly on September 25th following the 10:00 (or 10:30) service. Watch for location.

Music Notes **September 2022**

This is a reminder that choirs are gearing up for the fall. As you can see, we have plenty of opportunities to get involved with the music making (glorifying God with our talents, of course) and a few opportunities that are not on a regular schedule. For instance, we have a brass choir that meets for special occasions.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jr Church

Children K-5th grade begin 10:30a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with their families. Following Children's Message, children have the opportunity to attend Jr Church.

There is a need for adult volunteers in Jr Church. Stop down and see us! Sign-ups are available on the "Kids in Worship" table in the Sanctuary

**Children worship with their families when there is a 5th Sunday in a month. Kids in Worship activity bags are also available*

Child Care is available during 10:30a.m. Worship for infant to PreK

Save the Date!

Trunk or Treat

Sunday October 23, 3-5pm

More information soon!

Here is the rehearsal schedule for this fall with starting dates.

<u>Group</u>	<u>First rehearsal</u>
Joyful Noise	Wednesday, September 7, 7-8pm in room 201
Joy Bells	Thursday, September 15, 6:00-7:15 in the bell balcony
Chancel Choir	Thursday, September 15, 7:30-9:00 in the choir room (We will sing on Sunday, September 18 at the 10:00 service.)
Children's Choir (yes, we're back!)	Sunday, September 25, during Children's Church
Children's Bell Choir (Crusader Bells)	Sunday, September 25, begin 10 minutes after the service and meet for 30 minutes

The Children's Choir will be meeting during the
Children's Church time on Sunday
mornings. Our goal for them this year is to
teach them Christian children's choruses and
have them sing in church on the last Sunday
of each month, beginning in October.

Children's Bell Choir will follow the same
routine we did last year. We will meet in the
Bell Balcony 10 minutes after the service
ends and rehearse for 30 minutes. Those
who are also in the youth group will
rehearse with us on the days they don't meet
with the youth group, just like last year.

Chancel Choir is always open to new
members, Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass. If
you have previous experience singing in a
choir, please consider joining us on
Thursdays. We have a great time of
fellowship, prayer and music making.

YOUTH GROUP

September Youth Group

Sunday, September 18th!

11:45 am-1:15 pm

Welcome Youth Group!

We will be discussing this year's
theme and playing kickball! Lunch
will be provided.

Upcoming events:

***Pumpkin patch and pumpkin
carving!***

***And we can't forget about our
annual trunk or treat event!***

School is back in session! And
with a new school year that brings a
new year of youth group! We've
invited some new members this
year from our pastor's class and we
have so much to look forward to!
This year's theme is Life Hacks.
We will be discussing some of our
own life hacks as well as how our
faith can help to be a life hack as
well. With the Labor day weekend
in the beginning of this month we
are only going to meet once in
September, but gear up for lots of
fall fun next month!

-Katie Taylor, Director of Youth

Joy Bells is also looking to recruit new ringers. If you have experience reading music and/or have rung before, this is the place for you. We have 5 octaves of bells to ring but are currently ringing three and a half. Lots of room for more.

Joyful Noise is looking to recruit new members as well. If you want to learn to read music, or want to learn to ring bells, this is a great way to get started.

Debi and Frank Walker are hosting a "Welcome back!" event at their house on Saturday, October 15, 2:30-6:30. Members and spouses of Chancel Choir, Joyful Noise, and Joy Bells will have the chance to fellowship and reconnect that afternoon. More details will follow via a flier in your folders at the first rehearsal.

Ukraine: Six Months On
Partners Respond and Look Ahead
(Article from 08/24/22)

Six months ago, on February 24, 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. From the beginning, Week of Compassion, through ecumenical partnerships with ACT Alliance and other partner networks, has been and continues to respond both to immediate needs and long-term recovery plans.

Today, we recognize the six-month mark of this crisis - and note that Ukraine should be freely celebrating their nation's independence day, August 24. The impact of the war is being felt around the world through the energy crisis and food insecurity brought on by the geopolitical situation. At the same time, other crises persist worldwide and Week of Compassion continues to respond to needs in

Afghanistan, eastern Africa, Syria, the Philippines, recent U.S flooding, and more.

Crisis response demands this attention to basics first - food, shelter, safety - especially in areas where fighting remains intense, but our ecumenical partners are experienced in adaptability, too. Hungarian Interchurch Aid opened border welcome points in the early days for those driving and walking across the border, transitioned to supporting those arriving by train shortly thereafter, and have now opened a centralized refugee hub in Budapest to offer wrap-around response serving ongoing needs.

Churches have been at the forefront of the response. Because they are part of the community, churches can respond quickly and then engage for the long haul, serving in a sustained way to meet emerging needs. Clergy also meet people's spiritual needs, offering prayer and support, and churches are significant contributors of volunteer and financial resources.

Plans are underway for addressing key issues: ensuring children's access to education while schools are being used as shelters, and providing safe, warm, dignified accommodation during the winter months close at hand. As the war carries on, the needs will not diminish in Ukraine, nor in other parts of the world. **Week of Compassion, alongside ecumenical partners worldwide, will continue to support those displaced by the war as long as there is need.**

*(A Prayer for Ukraine is
continued on the next page)*

A Prayer for Ukraine

*God of what has been and what will be,
May your Spirit of Comfort rest on all those
who find little rest at all.*

*As the death toll rises.
As war drags on, and hopes lag behind.
As needs evolve and situations change.*

May your Peaceful Kin-dom take hold.

As we pray for war to cease.

*As we share the work of response and
care.*

*As we rebuild and recommit to holy ways
of being whole.*

*May the Wisdom of the Ages resonate
again,*

*That what we need, we already have, and
more to share.*

*As neighbors respond, and 'neighbor' is
redefined.*

*As compassion multiplies when all else
declines.*

*As generosity and partnership bring hope up
close.*

God of all peoples, all places, all times,

May your people, right here, right now,

*Be the people you've created and called us
to be,*

*Overflowing with your love, overwhelmed by
your abundance.*

*May your blessings be known, in every
person, in every place, for all time. Amen.*