



Dear JOY Family and Friends,

I meant to get this out at the beginning of December, but it has been a very good and busy time at JOY. So, let's catch up!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On November 28th, we welcomed Grete Carlson, and Bob and Linda Struve to JOY! We're so pleased to officially welcome them to the JOY family!



Grete Carlson



Bob and Linda Struve

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in becoming members, please contact Pastor Clayton. You can talk to him after worship, by phone (612) 396-2953, or via email at pastorclaytonwilfer@outlook.com.

BAPTISMS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2nd

On Sunday, January 2nd, during worship we will welcome two new members to the body of Christ! Cara Rachlin and her daughter, Abigail Rachlin.



A LOOK BACK AT FALL



Make a Difference Day

An enthusiastic group from the JOY family came out this year to help a couple with their yard work. Thank you to Geoff Sharp for being the project lead. Geoff set up a tent with JOY banners so we could do outreach along with the yard work. We were blessed to have several people stop by the tent. The couple we helped were given a Bible and we prayed for them as well. It really was a blessed morning.

Spooky Blast

We participated in Spooky Blast (the new version of Halloween in the Hills). It was in a different location which was much more family friendly. Over 2,500 people attended the event, and our booth was busy all night! Thank you Sharmon Sharp for being the project lead and to everyone who bought candy and who volunteered that night.



Operation Christmas Child

Last year, JOY Church put together 62 shoeboxes. This year, we did 130 – more than double! Way to go JOY Church! For the third year in a row, we were the drop-off site for Fountain Hills.

This year's total shoebox count was 1,428 for the town. It took 92 cartons to hold all the boxes. Last year's count was 1,278, which means that we exceeded last year by 150 boxes! Thank you to everyone who

donated, and to everyone who volunteered their time. A special thank you to Regina Jenkins, Judie Agee, and Jean Duke for being project leads.

Thanksgiving Day Parade

JOY Church was in the Thanksgiving Day Parade. In fact, we were the only church float that was in the parade. We handed out all 600 of the small bags with candy and our business card as well as all our loose candy! It was a lot of fun! And special thanks to Judie Agee for playing her saxophone.



Thanksgiving Worship



I gave the message for the Thanksgiving Community Worship sponsored by the Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association. The Holy Spirit seemed to be moving that night as I joked, "I have Lutheran theology but can preach like a Baptist!" 😊 If you want, you can view it [here](#). The message starts at 18:40

NEW ALTAR AREA



The new altar area has been built! The reasons for the new altar area are:

Increased space, visibility & flexibility

- It's basically the same size and area that we had been using but it's now elevated so everyone will be able to see singers, choirs, musicians, bell choir, etc. In addition, we can host larger choirs such as the choir from the AFLC.

Accessibility

- The new steps are just 6" high. There will also be moveable ramps for wheelchairs.

Esthetics

- We can now run all the cables and cords under the altar and the two side platforms. This provides no cords to trip over, which is also a safety feature.
- New carpet. As previously mentioned, the carpet that was to be installed was not the right color. The dye lot was off. We have ordered a different color and **it's supposed to be installed next Friday, January 7th!** After the carpet is installed, we will have a dedication.

Cost was covered

- This project was possible because of an unsolicited donation to pay for the costs.

Thank you to Paul Langworthy for being the project's lead and for everyone who helped build it!

NEW ALTAR LIGHTS

New Altar area lights have been installed. These lights offer much better coverage and flexibility than what we had been using. For example, they can be easily programmed for just one area (e.g., pulpit, lectern, bell choir, etc.) as well as combined areas, and can be dimmed to a warm/yellow light as we did for Christmas Eve, or “regular” light for Sunday. All of this is done with a lightboard in our tech booth. Like the Altar, this was possible because of key donations. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS EVE

It was a beautiful Christmas Eve service. We had approximately 109 people join us, which was wonderful given it was a very rainy day along with the on-going pandemic. It was a beautiful and spirit-filled night. If you haven't yet watched, you can view it [here](#). Be sure to watch to the very end when the camera pans the whole church during “Silent Night.” It's wonderful to see all of the candles being lifted up unto Jesus.



ALL CHURCH MEETING



I realize that the phrase “Church Meeting” or “Church Business” might not fill you with excitement and delight. 😊 At the same time, it's an important meeting that we hold once a year. We vote on budgets, Board membership, and other business as needed.

The All-Church Meeting is on February 6th, immediately following worship.

If you have any questions or concerns that you would like addressed, you can let any of the Board members know, or Pastor Clayton.

FINANCIAL GOAL

Overall, this has been a good financial year for us. Although we are under our budget for contributions, we have not had to go into our reserves. Praise the Lord!



At the same time, we would like to replenish our operating cash. This is the money we use for day-to-day operations of the church. We have about a one-month buffer before we'd have to go into our reserves. That's a pretty thin margin should anything out of the ordinary occur.

Our year end goal is \$24,000. You can mail any donations directly to the church, or you can also give [online through our website](#). There's a special dropdown box that will let you designate your contribution for year-end giving.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYER

North Chapel (Scottsdale Bible of Fountain Hills) has organized a time of prayer on New Year's Day.

All are invited to join us on New Year's Day, January 1st, as we take time to pray over the entire Lower Verde River Valley including Rio Verde and the Ft. McDowell Reservation.

At **8:00AM** we will pray at these four locations:

1. *Scottsdale Bible of FH* 15202 N Fountain Hills Blvd. Central Location
2. *Reigning Grace Ranch* 28614 N 172st, Rio Verde NW Location
3. *Adero Canyon Trailhead* SW Location
4. *EagleView RV Resort* SE Location (East of Main Entrance, meet on road)

Then, at **9:30AM**, we'll meet at the Amphitheater at The Fountain Park for prayer and you can choose to either walk around the lake or hike The Overlook Trail where we will also take time to pray for the Yavapai nation. For more info please contact Kevin at steeleaz@aol.com

PRAYERS FOR JOY FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Please lift Wayne Hanson in prayer, specifically for his heart strength and oxygen flow. Also, Susan Stills who has been worshipping with us online for a long time has a loved one, Mike, who has COVID and is in dire circumstances. Please pray for his recovery.

FILLED WITH GRATITUDE

I have been filled with such gratitude this past year. First, I am so grateful for the work of God at JOY. We not only have seen greater growth in the number of people, but a greater growth in the love and knowledge of Jesus. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, drawing us ever closer to Jesus to the glory of God the Father. It is His steadfast promise of love and new life that is being made manifest for us. Second, I am grateful for all of you. I am grateful for the love you have for Jesus, and for the work and dedication of building up the body of Christ at JOY Church.

May God continue to richly bless you throughout the new year.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor Clayton

