



Dear JOY Family and Friends,

It's been a bit since our last newsletter. **There's a lot to catch up on!**

## WE'RE GROWING

Our prayer has been to grow during the summer, not just in the winter. Just the opposite of what you would imagine for Fountain Hills. And God has graciously been answering our prayer! Praise the Lord!



Continue to pray for our growth.

Continue to invite by saying, "Come and see!"



## LOOKING TOWARDS FUTURE NEEDS

As we grow and look toward the future, there are three main facility needs that the Board and I foresee.

### 1. More room is needed for fellowship

- It's pretty crowded around the food & coffee tables after worship. There's not really any place to sit, enjoy some coffee and snacks, and talk with friends, etc.
- We don't have any space that allows us to host receptions for weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. And we don't have a kitchen that could support such receptions or events.

### 2. There is very limited space for classes

- Currently, we have one room that is used for Bible study, TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) and exercise classes. We are getting to the point where the classes will not easily fit into the rooms.
- There are a number of Christian workshops and events (some from the AFLC) that need breakout areas.
- We had to turn down some opportunities to meet community needs. For example, there was a micro-school (similar to a small charter school) that was looking for space. Our available space was too small.

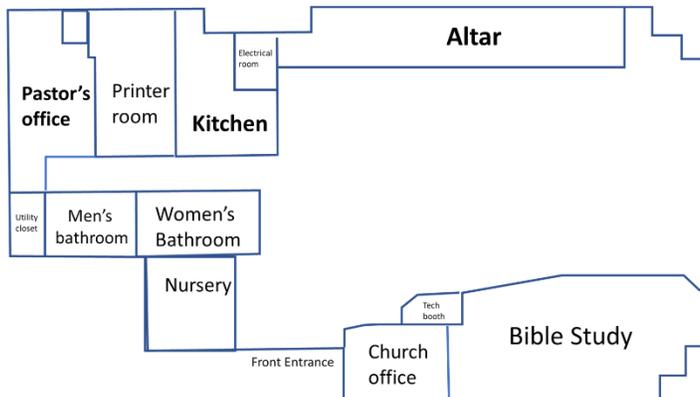
### 3. Sanctuary capacity

Studies have shown that when a church is 80% full, visitors feel it is "too crowded" and there is nowhere for them to sit. The current capacity of the sanctuary is 115, which means that 90 is that 80% mark. Last Spring, we were trending around the low to mid 70s. If the Lord continues to grow JOY Church, we will most likely meet or exceed the 80% level this year.

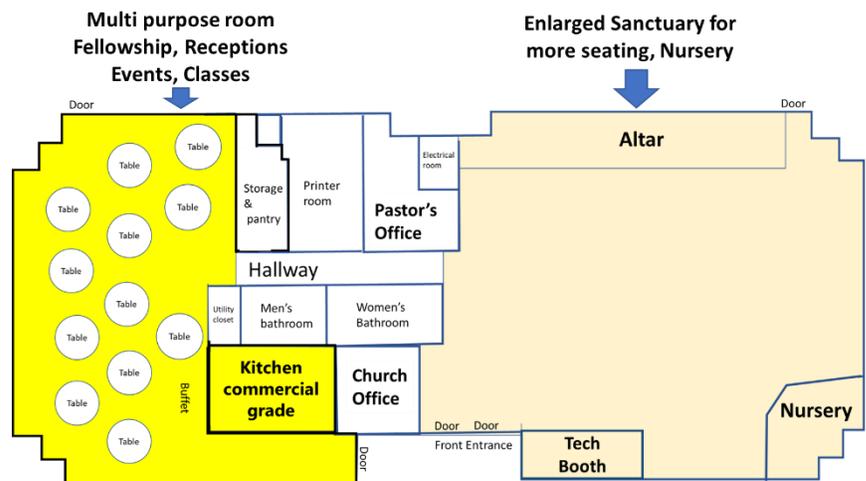
## A Working Plan to Meet Future Needs

Therefore, the Board and I have put together a working plan focusing on finishing the other side of the building and expanding the sanctuary. Please see the attached pictures for reference.

### Current finished space



## Working ideas for Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary



## Our Request

1. More than anything, we are asking people to pray about this project.
  - Is this a wise course of action given our current and future growth?
  - Will it be to God's glory?
  - Will it help build up the body of believers?
2. Lovingly share your thoughts and ideas with each other and the Board.
  - The board members are Jim Duke, John Forgille, Debi Reed, Linda Patterson, Pam Cupp and Jane Cook
  - We have set up a new email account for the Board: [JoyChurchBoard@outlook.com](mailto:JoyChurchBoard@outlook.com)

## MISSIONS

At the All-Congregation meeting in February, there was a discussion about our mission work. A missions team was formed and consists of Geoff Sharp, Sean Lynch, John Forgille, and Jim Duke. On Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, Geoff Sharp gave a presentation on the work the team had done. His full presentation can be found during the announcement section [here](#). Below is a brief synopsis of his presentation.

JOY Church had been supporting the Nogales mission and they are now self-sufficient! Our funding is no longer required.

The team presented three recommendations for our Mission Outreach – all of which the Board has approved!

### 1. Help at Calvary Free Lutheran's food bank, Desert Manna, in Mesa

- Calvary Free Lutheran is our sister church and part of the AFLC. They have a food bank which gives out 350 – 600 boxes of food each Saturday. Before COVID, we were helping on a semi-regular basis.
- The plan is to start again and help on a regular basis.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month is our day to help at Desert Manna.

- **Starting Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**
- Meet at JOY at 7:00 a.m. to carpool
  - Return to JOY around 11:30 a.m.
- We will Pack & distribute food boxes. And for those who are willing, we will pray for individuals receiving the food boxes



### 2. Support the AFLC mission in Villarrica, Paraguay

- The AFLC has a number of missionaries in other countries. One area is Villarrica, Paraguay.
- We will be supporting Matthew (Mafu) & Ednay Abel and their children: Zoey, Ian, and Boaz. You can find out more about them [here](#).
- We've sent \$3,310 to finalize the purchase of land. We'll also send 5% of our offerings (approx. \$600/month) for the Abel's Paraguay mission support

### 3. Designate the 3rd Sunday of each month as Mission Sunday

- On the 3rd Sunday of each month, there will be time during announcements to keep the congregation up-to-date on our mission outreach including Desert Manna, the Abel's in Paraguay, and other activities.



This is a very exciting and new chapter as we do the work that Christ Jesus has called to do!

## GROWING AS DISCIPLES THROUGH MINISTRY

Jesus has called each of us to be His followers, His disciples. There are two basic ways to grow as His disciple: 1) Learning from His Word 2) Applying His Word in acts of ministry. Both are necessary and Jesus repeatedly emphasized both. He knew that it's often in the applying what you've learned that you truly grow as a follower of Jesus.

At JOY Church, there are many ministry opportunities and many ways you can grow as a follower of Jesus!



### Prayer Ministry

- We have an email prayer ministry that is administered by Cheryl Cagle.
- **Prayer Requests:** Anyone can send in a prayer request at [JoyChurchPrayers@outlook.com](mailto:JoyChurchPrayers@outlook.com)
- **Prayer Partner:** A prayer partner both receives and prays for the requests. If you'd like to be a prayer partner, email Cheryl at [JoyChurchPrayers@outlook.com](mailto:JoyChurchPrayers@outlook.com)

### Ministry Within the Church (as Part of Worship)

On an on-going basis, we need people to be Greeters, Ushers, Scripture readers, Fellowship (Coffee Hour), and the Tech Team. Sign-up sheets are on the table by the kitchen.

### Ministry Outside of the Church

Coordinators are needed for

- **Make a Difference Day** (Fountain Hills sponsored event in which people help clean up yards, some in-home cleaning, etc.)
- **Spooky Blast** (Halloween event sponsored by Fountain Hills)
- **Operation Christmas Child** (the shoeboxes that we've put together the last 4 years)



Please contact Pastor Clayton if you are interested in any of the coordinator positions.

## Food Closet

With rising prices (food, gas, rent, etc.) more and more people are finding themselves needing a little extra help, even in our own community (Fountain Hills, Rio Verde and Ft. McDowell).



The Fountain Hills Christian Ministerial Association, which Pastor Clayton is a member and this year's president, is establishing a Food Closet to be housed at First Baptist Church in Fountain Hills. People will be vetted and referred to the Food Closet by churches within the ministerial, or the Good Samaritan Fund which is sponsored by the ministerial.

The Food Closet will have boxes of staples for person/families in need. Each church is assigned specific items for the boxes.

### The launch date is August 15<sup>th</sup>

Food Distribution will be Monday thru Thursday from 9AM to 3PM.

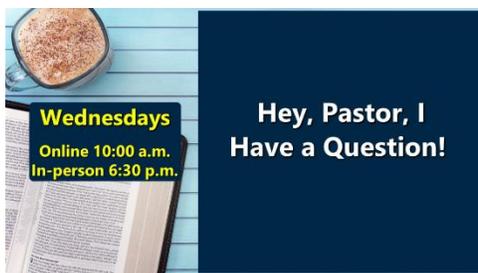


There are 11 churches involved in supplying the necessary items for stocking the Food Closet.

### JOY Church has been asked to donate three food items:

- Peanut Butter
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned spaghetti (e.g., SpaghettiOs)

These items may be dropped off anytime at JOY Sunday – Thursday during normal office hours  
There are bins for each item of food.



## BIBLE STUDY

There will be *no* Bible study on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Hey, Pastor, I Have a Question

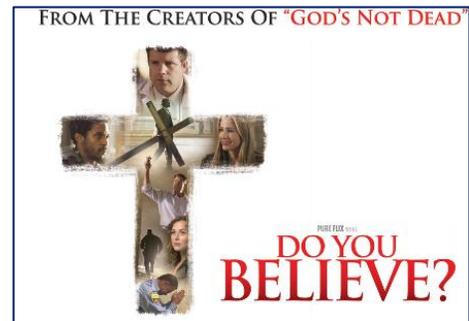
We've been taking a summer break from our study in Genesis and will be exploring questions that you have about faith, the church and why we believe what we believe. We will continue this through August.

We will start up our regular Bible Study in September.

## MOVIE NIGHT

We have a movie night coming up!

“When a local pastor is shaken to the core by the visible faith of an old street corner preacher, he is reminded that true belief always requires action. His response ignites a faith-fueled journey that powerfully impacts everyone it touches in ways that only God could orchestrate. More than a movie, it's a question we all must answer in our lifetimes: “DO YOU BELIEVE?”



### “Do You Believe?”

Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.

As always, the movie, popcorn and soft drinks are free. Bring a friend!



## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

I will be out of the office on the following dates:

**Monday August 1 – Friday, August 5.** I will be taking classes at the AFLC's Summer Institute of Theology.

**Thursday, August 18 – Sunday, August 21.** I'll be at St. Peter's Church in Illinois. They've been without a pastor for two years and have been using my sermons during their worship. It's a wonderful partnership in ministry and I thought it'd be good to visit in person. Pastor Shealds Smith will be leading worship at JOY on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

August 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Out of office	2 Out of office	3 Out of office	4 Out of office	5 Out of office	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Out of office	19 Out of office	20 Out of office
21 out	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## COMMUNION – GLUTEN FREE WAFERS

There are some people who are celiac (allergic to gluten found in wheat) and some who are not allergic but don't do well with gluten. Therefore, for those who take communion by processional, we now have gluten free bread wafers. Please let the communion server know if you desire a gluten free wafer.

## LIVE STREAMING

Please remember that you have one of three choices to view our live streaming: Our Website, YouTube, and Facebook. All three links can be found under the [Live Streaming](#) tab on our website. If one of those sites isn't working well during live streaming, please try switching to another.



Finally, be assured that everything we stream is recorded and you can access the recorded version on our [YouTube channel](#).

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a great way to keep up-to-date on JOY Church and to share the gospel message.

**Facebook** You can “like” our [Facebook page](#). We post not only live-streaming, but Scripture verses several times a week plus other happenings at JOY.

**YouTube** We now have 106 subscribers on [YouTube](#)! That means our reach and the reach of the gospel is getting wider all the time. Please consider subscribing and encouraging others to do so as well.



**Podcast** You can listen to our audio sermons on your phone, tablet or computer via Apple or Google podcasts. Did you know that we have people from not only around the US, but Ireland, Germany and the Philippines as well?!

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your love and faithfulness to Christ Jesus and His gospel. Thank you for your love and faithfulness to the ministry of JOY Church.

God's grace and peace through Christ Jesus be with you.

Pastor Clayton