You are all invited to attend our annual Thanksgiving Breakfast on November 24 at 8:00 am. Please RSVP by noon on Tuesday, November 22 to office_ecc@bellsouth.net or 227-2285.

Stories and Songs of Christmastime

Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Followed by a Chili Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Greetings, my friends:

The last few months, and especially the last 2 weeks, have been an emotionally grueling time for many of us. We have been hurt and upset by the national rhetoric of hatred and divisiveness. We’ve been hurt by conversations with our families. We worry about the future – the future of our environment, the future of our well-being, and the future of the well-being of marginalized communities.

Feeling pain, feeling fear, feeling despair, we connect with the words of Jeremiah:

Thus says the LORD: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.

– Jeremiah 31:15

Listening to pain is difficult. I tend to live as a person of hope, a person who sees the silver lining, who thinks things are going to be okay. Listening to pain is difficult. But NOT listening to pain – not honoring it, not allowing ourselves or others to sit with it – causes pain as well. Sometimes, we just have to sit with it, to hear it, to refuse to be comforted. Sometimes, all we can do is sit, listen, weep, and sit some more.

No matter what our pain is, maybe the best thing we can do is to just listen to each other. Speak. Listen. Lament. Sit with. Be present with each other. May we share life together: honestly, humbly, compassionately.

Peace & Blessings to you all,

Pastor Jay
**Here’s What’s Going On...**

### Mark Your Calendars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Go East Go Eat Run! 6:30 am at Shelby Bottoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day Breakfast, 8:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Decorating of the Sanctuary for Advent, 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Room In The Inn ~ <a href="http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017">http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Hanging of the Greens ~ Songs &amp; Stories of Christmas, 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Chili Supper after Service, 6:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Room In The Inn ~ <a href="http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017">http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Choir Sunday ~ 1 Worship Service, 10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Covered Dish Lunch (with Santa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>2 Christmas Eve Services, 6:00 pm &amp; 8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 24</td>
<td>Room In The Inn ~ <a href="http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017">http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabab29a5f94-20162017</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Christmas Day ~ 1 Worship Service, 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>New Year’s Day ~ One Worship Service, 10:00 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**DECEMBER 4 AT 10:10 IN THE SANCTUARY – TO APPROVE 2017 BUDGET AND CELEBRATE 2016**

### Yoga Class Holiday Schedule:

**Eastwood Yoga Class**

*We will have class Nov 28, Dec 5, and Dec 12 at 6pm. Class will then resume in January.*

### Volunteer for Room In The Inn!

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044EABAB29A5F94-20162017](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EABAB29A5F94-20162017)

If you would like to volunteer to help with Room in the Inn for one or more Fridays this winter, simply sign up by clicking on the Sign Up Genius link above, or contact our current Room In The Inn Coordinator, Cynthia Kern, 615-400-0470, [Cynthia_Kern@yahoo.com](mailto:Cynthia_Kern@yahoo.com).

### Discounted Nashville Ballet Tickets!

Jan Morrison has created a link with a 20% discount already applied so people can click on the link and buy tickets for any performance they want:

[https://patron.tpac.org/nbal/events/detail/nutcracker-2016-ballet?promo=NUTTYKIDS](https://patron.tpac.org/nbal/events/detail/nutcracker-2016-ballet?promo=NUTTYKIDS)

**Eastwood’s Angel Tree**

Eastwood’s outreach committee is once again sponsoring children from Family and Children’s Service during the holidays. If you would like to adopt a child please see Sue Caudill and Emily Nourse. If you would like to buy gifts you can pick a child under age 13. If you would like to buy gift cards you can pick a child age 13 and older. Thank you so much!
But those who hope in God will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

While our work at the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) College in Johannesburg, South Africa has been a rewarding and moving experience, most of the time we were not always sure about the impact of our work. But there were reminders like Tsepo, a pastor and final year student in the Diploma in Ministry program, who excitedly shared how much he has learned and has applied to his ministry. He said, at age 63, that he now plans to enroll in the Bachelor Theological degree program. Yes, at times like that, we are reminded of the book of Isaiah and the added strength that comes from God.

After having served for almost 28 years in Africa, we have mixed feelings about leaving Africa for the last time and heading to North America to prepare for retirement. Africa, and the people who have blessed our lives there, remain very much in our hearts and have helped us grow in our Christian faith. There are moments when we would like to remain planted here. And yet, we realize that our work in South Africa is coming to a close. As they say in Sesotho, “Hona mona, hona joale” - right here and now.

The Church in Africa is alive and well, truly an indigenous, homegrown faith. We feel privileged in having been allowed to serve here in Southern Africa and the many friendships we made. Right here and now, we have been blessed.

James & Jayanthi Wilson serve with the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA), seconded to the South Africa Synod and assigned to the Kuruman Moffat Mission. Their appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Churches Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

### October 2016 Year-to-Date Budget Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>October Actual</th>
<th>October Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$31,256.16</td>
<td>$23,387.49</td>
<td>$236,166.09</td>
<td>$225,605.02</td>
<td>$271,982.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$23,000.78</td>
<td>$20,142.93</td>
<td>$218,420.86</td>
<td>$225,594.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bottom Line</td>
<td>$8,255.38</td>
<td>$3,244.56</td>
<td>$16,745.23</td>
<td>$10.67</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to Heidi Hoeft, upon the passing of her dad, Roy Hoeft, on November 8.

We express our deepest sympathy to Sandra Stratton and Martha Carroll, upon the passing of Sandra’s mom on November 13.

PRAYER LIST

Jere Adams
Laura Benanti
Elsie Burbank
John Burbank
Sandy Burton
Carl DeBlasio
Asher Curtis
Charity Eden
Atia Ellithorpe
Norene Forrester
George Francis
Steve Franke
Sergio Galvan
Julie Hartung
Grant Houston
Jan Hutchins
Bill Ivie
Peggy, Cassie & Michelle Jackson
Ben & Marilyn Kooch
Anna Lombardo
Rhonda Love
Georgetta Madole
John Madole
Teresa Madole
Raul Marin
Lula Martin
Elizabeth Maynard
Jeff Moreland
Mark Nelson
Rob Page
Sara Parker
Theresa Prochnow
Alison R. & Family
Melodie Simmons
Melissa Smith
Rodger Speegle
Art Stafford
Thelma Tanley
Candice Thigpen
Sara & Harry Valentine
Cleva Thomas & Thomas Wade
Stephen Wallach
Evelyn Ware
Deana Watson
Audrey Grace Williams
Thomas Williams
Billy Winkle
Molly Wrigley
Ralph Young

Thank you to the PEACE SERVICE TEAM for serving our congregation in December.

Elders:
Bob Frech, Sharon Frech, Julie Howard
Deacons:
Adam Howard, Courtney Rogers-Perrin, Jeremy Taylor
Months Serving:
December, April, August

Bates (Taylor & Stephanie, Sidney, Benjamin)
Clark (Jordan & Meagan, Ruby)
Collier (Lauren)
DeVos (Skylar & Suzanne, Elliot)
Ellis (Mandy)
Ellithorpe (Grace)
Frech (Bob & Sharon)
Freeman (Dennis & Shelley, Emeline)
Gaines (Ryan & Molly)
Guisler (Kristina, Simeon Page, Francis Page)
Howard (Adam & Ann, Lila, Hollis)
Howard (Bruce & Julie)
Hudson (Peggy)
Husband (Ann)
Ivie (Bill)
Jardieu (Chris & Katie)
Kummer (Steve & Jennifer, Elsa, Greta)
Nourse (Emily)
Nowak (Tim & Jamie, TJ)
Parker (Lori, Jagger)
Pendley (Justin & Cortney, Liam)
Rogers-Perrin (Courtney)
Satchell (Stacey)
Schafer (Kirk & Liz)
Sovereign (Rae) + Szczesniak (Diane)
Stocks (Earl & Beverly)
Taylor (Jeremy & Juanita, Catherine)
Thomas (Harmonie)
Whitbey (Sheryl, James)

Special thanks to Jeremy Taylor, who is our Lead Deacon this month, coordination our worship service and fellowship meal teams.
December 2016
The Peace Service Team will be serving.

9:00 am SCRIPTURE READER
December 4
   Stephanie Bates

December 11
   Tim Nowak

December 18
   1 Service @ 10:00 am

December 25
   1 Service @ 10:00 am

10:30 am SCRIPTURE READER
December 4
   Dennis Freeman

December 11
   Lauren Collier

December 18
   Emily Nourse (10:00 am)

December 25
   Sharon Frech (10:00 am)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE
December 4
   Sharon Frech (9:00 am)
   Teresa Pecinovsky (10:30 am)

December 11
   Julie Aaron

December 18
   Choir Sunday

December 25
   Julie Aaron

LECTIONARY READINGS
12/4:
   Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12
12/11:
   Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11
12/18:
   Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
12/25:
   Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December Birthdays
Kristen Hudson   December 8
Grayson Frech    December 10
Matt Holdren     December 10
Rae Sovereign    December 12
Jennifer Kummer  December 13
Viki Matson      December 14
Mandy Ellis      December 16
Brian Reed       December 16
Christy Overall  December 17
Beverly Nelson   December 18
Charlotte Watkins December 22
Reanna Edwards   December 27
Katie Burton     December 28
Bernadette Reed  December 28
Ian Vanags       December 31

December Anniversaries
Sharon and Jimmy Conklin
   December 9

Rae Sovereign & Diane Szczesniak
   December 20

Julie and Silas Mathes
   December 30

Linda & Scott Jamieson
   December 31
“Shining our light by welcoming all people, building community, and serving God and neighbor.”