BREAKFAST

Thursday, November 22
at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

You are all invited to attend our annual Thanksgiving Breakfast!
Please RSVP office_ecc@bellsouth.net or 615-227-2285

SONGS & STORIES OF CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 2, 5PM
CHILI SUPPER TO FOLLOW
Greetings, my friends:

Is life a zero sum game? Does victory for someone need to mean defeat for someone else? Can we celebrate success without also deriding or humiliating others?

Many of you know the story of Hannah. Hannah was a young woman who REALLY wanted a baby. Her husband’s other wife (remember, this is an ancient story from a culture with different values) mocked Hannah because she was childless. So when Hannah finally gave birth, she celebrated, thanking God for the great blessing: *My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God.*

But alas, she doesn’t stop there. She goes on: *My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.* I imagine we all understand. When someone’s been mocking us, humiliating us, teasing us – it’s so tempting to give it back to them, especially when the tables are turned. Sometimes we just want to shout: “In your face!” But do we have to celebrate our good fortune at someone else’s expense?

Obviously, I don’t think so. And I don’t feel like God is thrilled when we give thanks by putting down others. If God created us all, and God loves us all, then surely God wants each of us to succeed. God wants each of us to experience blessing, to support each other, to celebrate with each other.

During this Thanksgiving week, I invite us to thank God for the blessings in our lives. And I also invite us to do our best to pray for the well-being of others, especially any who may be on the short end of the stick. God’s kingdom comes when we all succeed.

Peace & Blessings to you all,

Pastor Jay

---

**Thoughts from Jay**

---

**ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 4</th>
<th>9:00 am</th>
<th>66</th>
<th>11:00 am</th>
<th>91</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 11</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 18</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.*

– 1 Samuel 2:1
Here’s What’s Going On...

Mark Your Calendars...

**November**
- 22: Happy Thanksgiving!
- 22: Go East, Go Eat Run/Walk, 6:30 am
- 22: Thanksgiving Breakfast, 8:00 am
- 26: Elders’ Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 28: E/C/A with Hunter Rhodes, 6:30 pm

**December**
- 1: Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent, 10:00 am
- 1: Clothing Swap in the Fellowship Hall, 6:30 pm
- 2: Stories & Songs of Christmas, 5:00 pm
- 3: With a Chili Supper afterwards in the Fellowship Hall
- 3: Stories of Advent, Monday Night Series, 7:00 pm
- 7: Room In The Inn
- 10: Stories of Advent, Monday Night Series, 7:00 pm
- 16: Covered Dish Brunch with Santal 10:00 am
- 17: Stories of Advent, Monday Night Series, 7:00 pm
- 19: The Longest Night: A service of remembrance & grief , 7:00 pm
- 21: Room In The Inn
- 23: One Service at 10:00 am
- 24: Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 pm + 8:00 pm
- 25: Merry Christmas!
- 30: One Service at 10:00 am

Advent is a time to slow down, to breathe, to focus. Join us as we meet to tell our stories and the story of Advent.

**December 3, 10, and 17**

The doors will be open at 6pm for a time of silent prayer, meditation, or just a break from the busy day. Come for the whole time or for whatever time you can. Starting at 6:30 we will have a short time of song, stories, and sacrament.

This year we will focus on our stories. God’s stories. Real stories. Through telling God’s story, we can experience hope, peace, joy, and love. And through telling our own stories, we can experience God through each other.

As always, all are welcome regardless of race, age, creed, physical abilities, marital or economic status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Once again Eastwood is sponsoring the Angel Tree which will benefit children served by Family and Children’s Service. All children served are living in Davidson County. Many of them are living with relatives like grandparents and aunts and uncles instead of with their birth parents. The large majority of the children attend Metro Nashville Public Schools and all are living below the federal poverty guidelines. On Sunday Nov. 25 and Sunday Dec. 2 ornaments which have information about the children will be available during both services. Gifts will be due back on Dec. 9. For more information please see Emily Nourse. emilyknourse@gmail.com
November 11th the youth group had their third annual Love Feast with the youth of Woodmont and Alameda.

It was an amazing time of food, fellowship, and communion service in the sanctuary.

To support our efforts to reduce, reuse, recycle, our next clothing swap is Saturday, December 1 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Renew your wardrobe with us and bring any gently used or new items that are taking up space. Swap for things that look even better on you just in time for the holidays. We have a wider range of sizes this time and many different styles. If you can’t make it but still want to purge, leave your donations in bags on the benches by the red doors in the Education Building. Questions, call Jami at 615-480-5547 or email jamidesign@yahoo.com.
Before moving to Haiti, I studied a petit (little) bit of Kreyol before I arrived in country, enough to think I was ready to chat with the Nationals here. Umm… non. By the time it takes for me to put together a sentence, the moment has already passed.

I have been silenced, unable to contribute to the conversations around me. Getting a bank account and visiting the doctor have become faith exercises in the goodness and integrity of strangers. One enduring quality of Haitians is their generosity of patience and kindness. Not one person has shown any hint of frustration with me attempting to speak Kreyol.

In a typical Haitian classroom, students sit as close to each other as possible, kids chat, teachers loudly instruct, there are no overhead lights, and chalkboards still show the previous lesson, unable to be completely erased.

Placing me in the front of a classroom of 26 to 71 teenagers to compete with the hundreds of voices swirling around the room, I can’t out-shout anyone! I’m amazed how the students can see and hear, let alone comprehend, in this setting, but it shows me their grit to be successful. The Haitian culture of overcoming obstacles is inspiring, especially at such a young age.

I may have felt like I lost my voice, but God definitely has not! God speaks to me through the gentleness and hospitality of CONASPEH, through the students’ joy and smiles. Through God’s grace, the Holy Spirit is always with me, giving me back the voice I thought I lost.

*Bondye do ou, fe’ pa ou, M a fe’ pa M*. God says, do your part and I’ll do mine. (Haitian proverb)

Michelle McKay serves with the National Spiritual Council of Churches of Haiti (CONASPEH). Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and your special gifts.

### October 2018 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>$25,682.46</td>
<td>$29,879.84</td>
<td>$283,225.75</td>
<td>$286,370.81</td>
<td>$361,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$24,060.82</td>
<td>$24,477.84</td>
<td>$283,614.21</td>
<td>$295,841.90</td>
<td>$361,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Line</td>
<td>$1,621.64</td>
<td>$5,402.00</td>
<td>-$388.46</td>
<td>-$9,471.09</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Continued Prayer Requests for ECC Members:
Jere Adams, Anna Bridgers, Jenna Brown, Sandy Burton, Sydney Hinton Cook, Sharon Frech, Taylor Hinton, Grant Houston, Chris & Katie Jardieu, Erica Lane, Teresa Madole, Kevin McCormack, Teresa Pecinovsky, Stephen Ministry Class, Michael Witt

Continued Prayer Requests for Friends of ECC:

Thank you, PEACE SERVICE TEAM, for serving during December.

**Elders:** Bob Frech, Sharon Frech, Julie Howard, Cindy Lovelace
**Deacons:** Rae Sovereign, Stacey Satchell, Adam Howard
**Months Serving:** August, December, April

Bates (Taylor & Stephanie, Sidney, Benjamin)
Brown (Jenna)
Clark (Jordan & Meagan, Ruby)
Collier (Lauren)
DeVos (Skylar & Suzanne, Elliot)
Dingui (Sica & Harmonie, Sica)
Ellithorpe (Grace)
Frech (Bob & Sharon)
Freeman (Dennis)
Gaines (Ryan & Molly)
Guisler (Kristina, Simeon Page, Francis Page)
Howard (Adam & Ann, Lila, Hollis)
Howard (Bruce & Julie)
Huber (Ryan)
Hudson (Peggy)
Jardieu (Chris & Katie, James)
Johnson (Liz)
Kummer (Steve & Jennifer, Elsa, Greta)
Lovelace (Gene & Cindy)
Mize (Nikki, Amelia)
Nourse (Emily)
Nowak (Tim & Jamie, TJ, Jordan)
Parker (Lori)
Pendley (Justin & Cortney, Liam)
Rogers-Perrin (Courtney, Auguste)
Satchell (Stacey)
Smallwood (Chris & Megan)
Sovereign (Rae) & Szczesniak (Diane)
Sprigler (Merideth & Joseph, Emma, AJ)
Stocks (Earl & Beverly)
Taylor (Jeremy & Juanita)

Special thanks to Rae Sovereign (pictured here with her partner, Diane Szczesniak) who is our Lead Deacon this month, coordinating our worship service and fellowship meal teams.
LECTIONARY READINGS

12/9: Baruch 5:1-9; Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11
12/16: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
12/23: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10
12/30: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Volunteer to help at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084aaca2fa64-20182019

December Birthdays

Pam Heathman December 1
Roberta Gallagher December 3
Cameron Heathman December 4
Kalie Rhodes December 4
Kristen Hudson December 8
Seona Siemssen December 9
Grayson Frech December 10
Matt Holden December 10
Rae Sovereign December 12
Jennifer Kummer December 13
Chris Smallwood December 13
Lige Crow December 14
Viki Matson December 14
Mandy Ellis December 16
Brian Reed December 16
Christy Overall December 17
Beverly Nelson December 18
Nikki Mize December 19
Scout Neal December 22
Charlotte Watkins December 22
Reanna Edwards December 27
Katie Burton December 28
Bernadette Reed December 28
Ian Vanags December 31

December Anniversaries

Joan and Todd Liebergen
December 30

Julie and Silas Mathes
December 30

Linda & Scott Jamieson
December 31

Room In The Inn Dates:
December 7
December 21
December 24
January 4
January 18
February 1
February 15
March 1
March 15
“Shining our light by welcoming all people, building community, and serving God and neighbor.”