



November
2023

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-5

Dear Fellowship members and friends!

As the crisp fall air surrounds us and the leaves fall gently to the ground, we enter November in a season of reflection and thanksgiving. It is with immense joy and gratitude that I write this article, as Reformation Sunday marked a significant milestone in our shared journey of faith. We are celebrating ten years of ministry together at Fellowship and it is a time to look back with gratitude and forward with hope.

Reflecting on the past decade, I am reminded of the many moments we have shared together. We have celebrated births, marriages, and achievements. We have provided comfort and support in times of loss, illness, and uncertainty. We have seen our youth grow into young adults of faith, we have embraced newcomers into our church family, and we have said goodbye to others. We have worked together to serve our community, reaching out to those in need and spreading the love of Christ far beyond our church walls. It is through these shared experiences that we have grown stronger and closer as a church family.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, your dedication to our church family, and your commitment to God's work. It is your love, your prayers, and your faith that have sustained us through the joys and challenges of the past ten years.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, let us remember to be thankful for the blessings of the past and the opportunities of the future. Let us remain steadfast in our faith, knowing that with God's guidance and our unity as a church, there is no challenge too great, no obstacle too insurmountable.

In this season of gratitude, I encourage each of you to take a moment to reflect on the blessings in your life and to express your thanks to those around you. Let us make thanksgiving not just a day on the calendar but a way of life, as we celebrate not only a decade of ministry but a lifetime of God's goodness.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor for the past ten years. I look forward to the journey ahead, as we continue to grow and serve together in the name of our Lord.

With a heart full of thankfulness and love,

Pastor Robin

See you in church!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-person Worship Masks are optional. Please feel free to wear a mask if you are more comfortable with one on.

The Smoky Row Food Pantry is at 7260 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus. The most needed items for October, November, and December include:

- Baby items (diapers - all sizes) and wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Winter coats (new or gently used)
- Food staples, including food items for the holidays
- Hygiene items
- Toilet paper



Place donations in the containers located in the Narthex. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Sunday School Come join our Sunday School classes for youth and adults at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings! The youth class is taught by Pete and Lilly Cardimen. Susan Wolfe facilitates the adult class which is studying the Old Testament, based on a DVD curriculum by Amy Jill Levine.



Women's Dinner and Guys Night Out Update The next women's dinner will be on Tuesday, November 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Cap City Diner, 6644 Riverside Dr., Dublin, OH 43017 (614) 889-7865. If you need transportation, please let Pastor Robin know. The next Guys Night Out will be on Wednesday, November 8th, 6:00pm, at Roosters on Sawmill Road. All are welcome!

One Rollator Available If you are in need of a rollator, please let Pastor Robin know and take from the coat rack area. Please return to the church when you no longer need the rollator.

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars, don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!

All Saints Sunday - November 5 If you have a loved one (family member or friend) who has died in the past 12 months whom you would like remembered on November 5th, please contact Pastor Robin or add your loved one to the list on the table in the narthex.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FALL CONGREGATION MEETING & CONSECRATION SUNDAY! - November 12th

Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with Vanco Mobile - If you would like to give to Fellowship with your smartphone, please download Vanco's smartphone app, **Vanco Mobile**. Vanco Mobile will enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.



Pastoral Care Request If you have a pastoral care request (hospitalization, upcoming surgery, need for counseling, etc.), please call Pastor Robin at (937) 725-4930. If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin know so it can be scheduled. It does not need to be a pastoral emergency...just an opportunity to get to know you better.

Staying Connected Program for the Elderly - Ohio has a program for the elderly to "stay connected." You get to pick the hour to receive the phone call. For more information, here is the link: <https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/get-help/staying-connected/> .

Holy Communion We celebrate Communion weekly. All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to join us in the celebration of Holy Communion. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

WORSHIP
VOLUNTEER
opportunities



Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service, please let Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, lectors, counters, and greeters are needed. Not sure what these roles involve or never done it before? We will be happy to help you out! We are also looking for fellowship hosts following worship on the 1st Sunday of each month. Sign-up on the table in the narthex.

Veteran Recognition Sunday on November 12th On November 12, we will again recognize all the veterans at Fellowship. If we have your information from the bulletin insert for last year's Veteran's Day Recognition Sunday, we will use the information we have. Otherwise, please provide the office with your information.

EFT for 2024 - If you use EFT for your offering or would like to start using EFT, we need to hear from you for 2024. There are EFT sign up sheets and extra faith promise cards in the office.

Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)

September 3	22/4/41 views	October 1	29/19 views
September 10	34/19 views	October 8	30/23 views
September 17	29/21 views	October 15	31/19 views
September 24	47/32 views	October 22	28/25 views
		October 29	19/33 views

Thank you note from Amy Wargowsky:

Dearest Fellowshipians,

Thank you so much for your farewell gift, all the delicious cookies, and your support over the past few years. I will miss playing for you, but I'll be back to visit from time to time. Be sure to give Pastor Robin a hard time in my absence. Wishing you all the best!



Amy



Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on November 4th!

Fellowship's Purpose : "To share God's love and grace through our words and actions."

May we always strive to fulfill this purpose as we go through our individual day-by-day lives and as we work together as a community of God's people.



Growing in Faith Together is our Stewardship Campaign's theme. We are called to contribute our time, talent, and treasure as part of our service to God. On *Sunday, November 12* we will celebrate our Consecration Sunday when we will commit our financial resources in support of Fellowship's mission. Please plan to attend that Sunday and bring your Faith Promise card to turn in during the worship service.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on *Sunday, November 12* immediately following the worship service. We'll discuss the proposed 2024 budget and then vote to (hopefully) approve it. Copies of the proposed budget were mailed to all member families; if you did not receive your copy, please contact me and I will get a copy to you. In addition to the budget, we'll review highlights of the past year and recognize new members received by Fellowship over the past year. Please plan to stay for this important meeting.

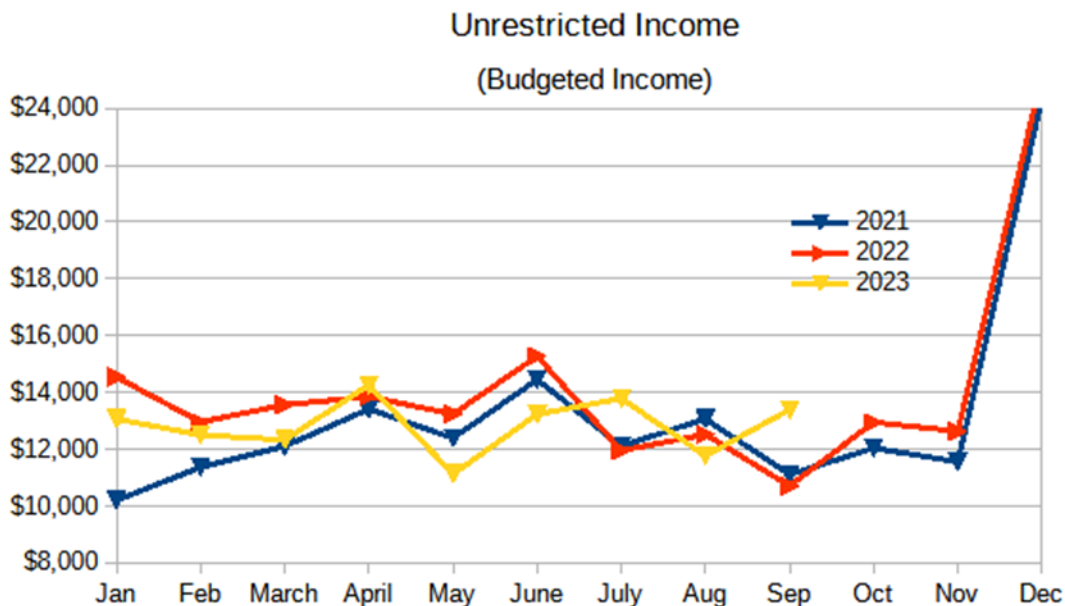
Renew! Re-energize! Reinvigorate! Rebirth! Update – We have called five members of Fellowship to serve on the "Rebirth" team. The team includes Mike Rankin (team leader), Pam Crispin, Karen Harris, Andy Smith, and John Votino. The team is in their start-up phase of this effort to look critically at Fellowship and to develop and propose a plan to re-energize our service to God. We ask God's guidance for the team and all members and friends of Fellowship as we move forward in God's love and service.



Our financial status is stable for the third quarter of 2023. Our bank balances heading into the fourth quarter are at \$39,054.34. The total balance is down as we have spent a significant amount of the gift from Grace Lutheran Church of Pennsylvania. Overall, our Unrestricted Cash Assets remain stable.

We completed the audit of our financial practices in August. It's been more than 7 years since our last audit. This is a significant accomplishment. Thanks to Sarah Lude for all the work she put in reviewing our financial data and practices as well as many of our policies related to the conduct of our financial affairs. She identified several things for us to consider implementing to improve our operations.

In the third quarter and throughout the year, our income has tracked comparably to prior years. (2023 is in Yellow, if you are reviewing this as a PDF). You can see we are very similar to our previous years.



In the third quarter, we made our quarterly benevolence payment to the Southern Ohio Synod of \$1,250. This money goes to the operations of the Synod as a whole, including the salaries of the Bishop and her staff, programs that they run for the benefit of the congregations, such as Thrive, and others, and their benevolence to the ELCA.

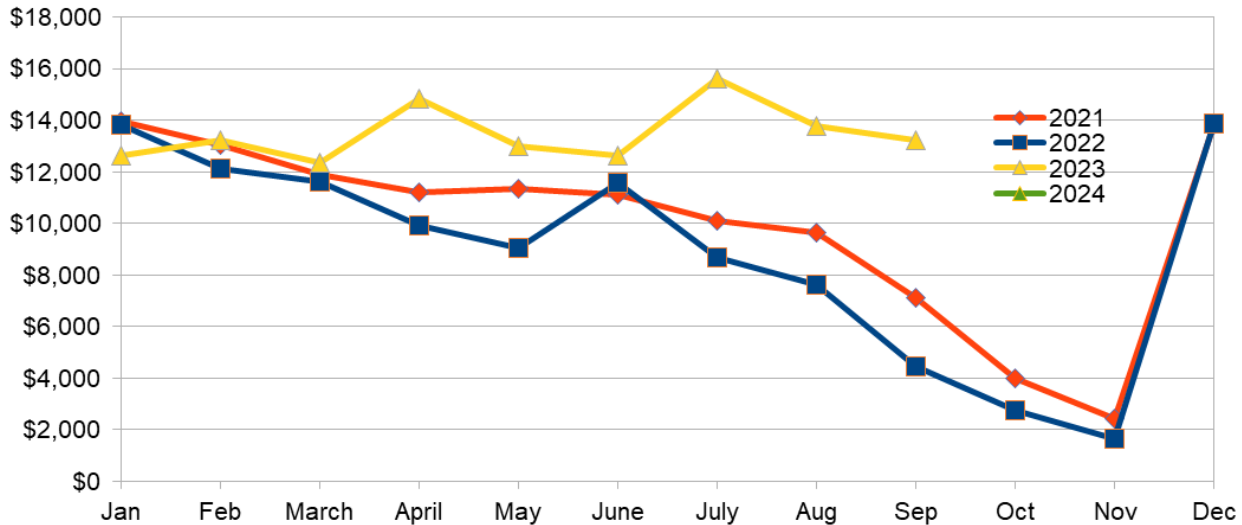
We have used the gift from Grace Lutheran of Pennsylvania to help fund a number of our local social services organizations including LSS Food Pantries, Smoky Row Food Pantry, Family Mentor Foundation, and more. These activities are led by our Outreach Team, chaired by Pete Cardimen.

As interest rates have gone up this year, we are now receiving 3% interest on our MMA (savings) account. We are receiving about \$80 a month in interest.

However, our the 5 year fixed rate on our mortgage expired in May, and it will now readjust each year. Our monthly mortgage payment has gone up about \$200 per month as the interest rates have climbed this year.

Again, our Unrestricted Cash is trending comparably to prior years.

Unrestricted Cash Assets



Below are the first quarter 2023 statistics of our bank balances, income and expenses.

Thank you again for your support. Your support makes our ministry go and supports our mission of sharing God’s love and grace through our words and actions.

I am happy to answer any questions you might have about our financial status.

Todd Engen, Treasurer

tcengen@att.net

614-226-4965

Bank Balances as of 9/30/23:

BANK ACCOUNTS		
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$5,294.58	
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	\$33,759.76	
Total Bank Accounts	\$39,054.34	
	MORTGAGES & LOANS	\$250,616.90

3rd Quarter 2023 Financial Update

Todd Engen, Treasurer

Third Quarter Income:

CONTRIBUTION INCOME	Actual	Budget Percent	Budget	Budget Difference
UNRESTRICTED	\$39,261.79	105.56%	\$37,194.99	\$2,066.80
DONOR RESTRICTED	1,190.00	0.00%	0.00	1,190.00
Subtotal Contribution Income	40,451.79	108.76%	37,194.99	3,256.80
INTEREST INCOME	260.21	10450.20%	2.49	257.72
TOTAL INCOME	40,712.00	109.45%	37,197.48	3,514.52

Third Quarter Budget Comparison of Expenses by Area:

	Actual	Budget Percent	Budget	Budget Difference
ADMINISTRATION	\$22,257.36	98.30%	\$22,641.42	\$384.06
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	1,017.64	103.71%	981.24	-36.40
WORSHIP	216.88	41.19%	526.50	309.62
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	250.00	124.99%	200.01	-49.99
EDUCATION & YOUTH	121.86	70.13%	173.76	51.90
OUTREACH	1,250.00	100.00%	1,250.01	0.01
PROPERTY AND SUPPORT	11,232.31	77.05%	14,577.75	3,345.44
STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	0.00	0.00%	37.50	37.50
OTHER EXPENSES	247.38	0.00%	0.00	-247.38
RESTRICTED FUND EXPENSES	2,149.44	0.00%	0.00	-2,149.44
RESTRICTED SUB-FUNDS	47.89	0.00%	0.00	-47.89
TOTAL EXPENSES	38,790.76	96.04%	40,388.19	1,597.43

Third Quarter Mortgage Principal Payments:

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
MORTGAGES & LOANS	2,407.72	2,400.00	7.72	100%

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurer	Todd Engen
Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Interim Organist	Ruth Albert
Sub. Pianist/Organist	David Fleisher, Ruth Albert
Choir/Band Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	George Biemel
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin

At-large Council Members

Angela Kidd
Bill Lude
Susan Wolfe

Team Coordinators

Congregational Life	Vacant
Education & Youth	Vacant
Outreach	Pete Cardimen
Property	John Votino
Stewardship	Vacant (Council)
Worship	Karen Harris

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Worship Servers Schedule for November 2023

	November 5	November 12
Asst. Minister	Mike Rankin	
Lay Reader	Mike Rankin	
Counter	Andy Smith	Bill Lude
Greeter	Kathryn Tucker	Karen Harris
Fellowship Host		---
Altar Guild	Kathy & Tracy Farel	Kathy & Tracy Farel

	November 19	November 26
Asst. Minister	Paul Wargowsky	Sonya Thelin
Lay Reader	Paul Wargowsky	Sonya Thelin
Counter		
Greeter		
Fellowship Host	---	---
Altar Guild	Kathy & Tracy Farel	Kathy & Tracy Farel



Worship Servers Needed!

If you can fill any of our openings for assisting ministers, readers, counters, greeters or fellowship hosts or help out in future months, please call or email Pastor Robin. Thanks!

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 <i>Reformation Sun.</i> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - NA	31 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - CJMC Ping-pong	1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	3 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	4 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
5 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 10:00 am - Worship 11:00 am - Executive 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	6 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - NA 8:00 pm - BOE Set-up	7 <i>Election Day</i> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Women's Dinner	8 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Guys Night Out 7:00 pm - Worship	9 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	10 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	11 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 10:00 am - Fall Clean-up
12 10:00 am - Worship 11:00 am - Cong. Mtg 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	13 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - NA	14 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Council	15 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	16 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 1:30 pm - SICC Prs 8:00 pm - CJMC	17 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	18 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
19 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	20 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - NA	21 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	22 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	23 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	24 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	25 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
26 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 pm - CJMC	27 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - NA	28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	29 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Fritzi Bear	Zach Jaeger
George Biemel	Don Johnson
Major N Crispin	Lillian Kachic
Byron Engen	Ed Lathy
Dominic Frey	Frank & Leena LeMay
Margery Gress	Pete & Sonja Meighen
Cheryl Hamilton	Ray & Carol Ward

November Birthdays

Frank LeMay	11/01
Karen Henry	11/10
Don Poland	11/11
Chris Tonn	11/14
Tracy Farel	11/21
Peter Meighen Jr.	11/22
Lillian Kachic	11/23
Bill Farel	11/25
Amanda Laucher	11/28

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jim Barnett, Bill Lude's friend
Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey's mother
Jennifer Grogg, Frey family friend
Justin Grogg, Frey family friend
McKenna Harris, Karen Harris' granddaughter
William Leach, Karen Harris' brother
Denton Matheis, Sonya Thelin's sister-in-law's nephew
Nora Murphy, Margary Gress's friend
River Opper, Cindy Frey's friend
Jacki Pendleton, John & Cathy Votino's friend
Scott Reimer, John Votino's friend
Charlotte Schall, Pastor Robin's mother



Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

DEATHS:

Barb Fisher, member
Leigh Johnson, Jim & Carol Jaeger's niece's children's half sister
Bill Mustaine, Margery Gress's friend
Albert Salemme, Pete Cardimen's co-worker's brother

November Anniversaries

Major & Carolyn Crispin 11/29



Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a diverse, thriving community of faith where all are welcome to celebrate God's love and grace.

November 2023 Newsletter