

SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 9
NOVEMBER 2021

1906 S. Lenna Avenue
P.O. Box 545
Seffner, FL 33583



From Pastor Loli ...

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.
2 Corinthians 4:15

COVID has thrown a wrench in many a good plan, particularly for the holidays.

...BUT, one good thing that could come out of it, as we seek to safely return to our routines, is the creation of NEW TRADITIONS!
You don't have to do things just because, "we've always done it that way!"because you haven't!

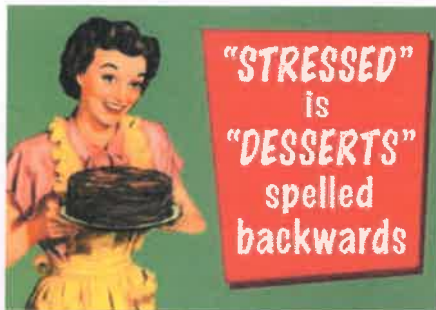
You probably didn't do it last year, and the world did not stop spinning.

So, be intentional about how you proceed with your holiday planning and celebrations this year.

How can we celebrate in ways that are less stressful?

Allow for more time sharing and enjoying each other's company?

And how can we acknowledge and give thanks for God's continued presence and care in our lives and in our world.



Our Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for people to discover God's love, seek God's purpose, and do God's will.

Our Vision Statement

Glorifying God with mind, body, and soul.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEFFNER

Pastor: Lolimarta R. Reiter

Kara Rutherford, Admin. Assist.

Logan Sorey, Music Director

Sheila Donohue, Organist

TJ Childs, Worship Leader

Lauren Sorey, Youth Leader

Laura DeLeury, Nursery

Telephone: (813) 689-4412

FAX: (813) 689-3840

E-mail:

kara@seffnerpres.org

Web site:

www.seffnerpres.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Session Members

Carina Brushwood
Congregational Care

Carol Dolphin

Stewardship

Bob Friskney

Fellowship

Jay Heidt

Facilities

Patty MacEwen

Administration

Isabel Reiter

Youth

Carol Shick

Worship

Deborah Thatcher

Mission

Melissa Triebwasser

Christian Education

Cammie Williams,
Clerk of Session

**Newsletter items for
Dec 2021 & Jan 2022
due by November 15th.**
Please submit items to
kara@seffnerpres.org

**Worshipping Together
live stream and in-person
9:30 am Contemporary
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional**

**All Saints Day
New Member Class
Children's Worship Class
November 7th**

**Communion Sunday
Receive New Members
November 14th**

**Christ the King Sunday
November 21st**

**1st Sunday of Advent
November 28th**

**Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9am-2pm**

Join us for Worship at
www.seffnerpres.org
click on **Worship**
or go to
www.facebook.com/seffnerpres

**Thank you for your
FAITHFUL Support
of our MINISTRY!**

You can put your tithe/offering
in the mail and send it to:

**Presbyterian Church of
Seffner
P.O. Box 545
Seffner, FL 33583**

A Convenient Option...
You can also set it up with your
bank as "Bill Pay", you are also
able to give your tithe/offering or
donate by making a secure gift
through our website.

Children's Worship Class Sunday, November 7th after 11am service.

Whether you have participated in this class before or not, we invite you to come and remember what our sacraments are about, make communion bread, have acolyte training, and (for our adventurers) check out the top of the bell tower! We also want to take this opportunity to have a short parent meeting to talk about how we can better provide for our children's spiritual life and nurture. Lunch will be provided for all who attend, so please let the office know how many of your family will be here (kara@seffnerpres.org).



Whether you have participated in this class before or not, we invite you to come and remember what our sacraments are about, make communion bread, have acolyte training, and (for our adventurers) check out the top of the bell tower! We also want to take this opportunity to have a short parent meeting to talk about how we can better provide for our children's spiritual life and nurture. Lunch will be provided for all who attend, so please let the office know how many of your family will be here (kara@seffnerpres.org).

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT CELEBRATION! Sunday, November 28th after the 11am service

Bubba the Advent Angel would like to cordially invite you to join us for a time of crafts, fellowship, and fun! The amount of glitter will be enough for both glitter-lovers and glitter-not-likers; the Christmas music will fill our hearts and the air with joy (at both the inside and outside stations); and there will be food to nibble on and sustain your crafting! We will also be hosting our Gingerbread House contest! Please join us and plan on bringing a friend to start the Christmas Season off right!

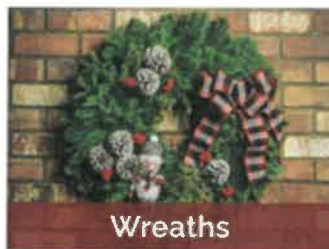


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES

Sunday school for students K-12 is held **EVERY Sunday** during the **9:30AM** service! We hope to see you there!

A very **important Montreat Parent Meeting** will be held on **October 24th at 12:15** in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a child attending, we need you to attend!

Presbyterian Church of Seffner Youth



WE EARN 15%

*Supporting our fundraiser is easy...
Simply decorate your home or send
an elegant evergreen gift!*



SUPPORT OUR CAUSE



- 1 Visit www.LynchCreekFundraising.com/c/273811
- 2 Click on a product category or Shop Online
- 3 Choose a Team Member to support (if applicable)
- 4 Click Shop Now to give back 15% of your purchase!

ENTIRE PRODUCT AVAILABILITY ONLINE

PREFER TO ORDER BY PHONE? CALL 1-888-426-0781 AND REFERENCE CAMPAIGN #273811

CANTATA AND FESTIVAL CHOIR

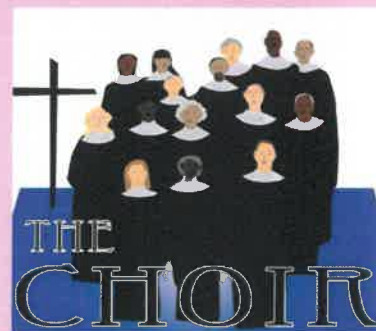
It is that season again! Before the pumpkins have shriveled and the goblins evaporated, the Christmas displays are appearing. Soon we will not be able to go into a store without hearing recorded "holiday music." It is all right to enjoy it (or not) but the chance to experience a fresh LIVE performance is at our doorstep.

Every year during Advent, members of this church present an original cantata, a program of Scripture readings and songs celebrating the coming of Christmas. And thanks to the creative work of Logan Sorey our choir recorded a cantata last year despite the pandemic.

For 2021 the choir, enhanced by the festival singers, is preparing "**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**" to be presented as part of the combined worship service on **December 12**.

As in past years additional singers, our much beloved "festival singers," will be joining voices with the choir in cheerful and prayerful expectation. Over my 20 years here I have seen people coming together and enjoying the practices as much as the final result. Think about joining our merry band.

Practice is on Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm and the cantata part usually ends about 8:00 pm (loosely speaking!) Our regular choir stays on a little longer to prepare for Sunday and you are free to stay or leave as you wish. Happy days are coming! -- Sheila Donohue



WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

Well, it's been a few months of being in the sanctuary with the contemporary service, and it feels great- for so many reasons. Firstly, the time spent apart due to Covid sure reminded us of how much we miss being the whole church and also hearing our voices all mingled together. Additionally, we're dialing in the new sound system more and more each week, and it's sounding really great. Finally, there is new music that has come out as contemporary worship recording artists have had many months to work in studios.

One of my particularly favorite artists, David Crowder, just released an album called "Milk & Honey" which he began writing after the big tour WinterJam was shut down like so many things in the Spring of 2020. Crowder says of that time, and while he was writing this album: "We may feel like we're in the wilderness right now, but I believe God's with us- I believe he's still present, I believe he's still active and I think we're going to get to sing about the beauty on the other side of this when we're done. So, all the songs were pretty hopeful, they weren't bleak."

One of my favorite songs from this album I'll be teaching us soon: "God Really Loves Us" was the last song written for the album, as Crowder was wrapping up sessions and finally being able to collaborate with other musicians. Crowder tells us that he wrote this song with the hope of it being sung loudly in the churches as we come together again, as a community; understanding God better because we're next to one another.

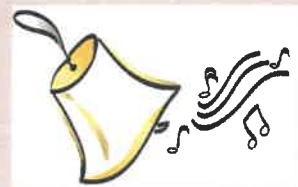
So I invite you to check out the album and the song, both available to listen for free on YouTube- as well as to continue making steps back into the church as you feel comfortable to do so. It is always a wonderful thing to look out from the stage to see new faces, and faces we haven't seen in a while. Take care, TJ

I CAN HEAR THE BELLS!

Happy November from your bell choir! We are excited to be ringing again and are preparing some beautiful music for you during the upcoming season! We will be playing on Christmas Eve, and hopefully a few specials through the advent season!

In the upcoming months we are planning to take a short break and send the bells off for refurbishment. When they return, we excitedly invite you come stop by and give them a try and quite literally "ring in the new year"! If you are interested in starting before February, we invite you to stop by the bells room on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 and give it a whirl!

- Logan





MISSIONS HAPPENINGS

Save the Date: **November 5th and 6th** yard sale in the church Fellowship Hall. Your help and gently used unwanted items are needed. We're taking small donations of items now, please put them in room 8; bring larger items the week before the sale. Proceeds from this sale will go toward The Deep Well and general mission projects.

The Congregation and VBS have **donated \$6,717.00 to The Deep Well Project.**

The Mission team has matched \$4,000 giving us \$10,717 ! We are more than 2/3 of the way to our goal of \$15,000. Please continue to donate towards this wonderful project that will eliminate thousands of steps for a whole community to get clean sustainable water. Again as mentioned we will use ½ of the money earned in this next yard sale towards the Deep Well.

Our Second Annual 5th Saturday Serve was a great success. We were able to buy \$800 worth of materials and build 6 picnic tables for Cedarkirk. We also made homeless bags, a hot meal and a bag lunch for the homeless population in the Gibsonton area. We had over 25 people volunteer and we all had a great time. We plan to make this an annual event and hopefully next year we won't be limited in what we can do in the community. Again thank you for all that you do so that we can serve as the hands of God.

Bikes for Jesus

For the past several years, we have been able to give Beth-El Migrant Mission and Foster Angels bikes. Last year because of Covid19 and all the company shut downs, we were not able to buy many bikes due to shortages and high prices. Your support was tremendous and we were able to buy and build about 30 small bikes and then gave gift cards to teens in Foster Care and at Beth-El Migrant Mission.

We seem to be in the same predicament this year. Bikes for teens are extremely expensive and we cannot buy small bikes in large numbers and we have been asked by Beth El and Foster Angels to donate items for teens as they are often left out. **We would like to ask the congregation who have not donated money to the Bikes for Jesus Program to consider buying a larger 26 " bike and bringing it to church on dedication Sunday. We have a goal of 30 bikes.**

We will still put together the smaller bikes on **Saturday, December 4th at 8:30 am - 1:00 pm.** If you have any questions please talk to Deb Thatcher or Janet Holzman.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Thanksgiving is a time for giving thanks. Certainly, we should be thankful all year long, but it's really nice to have a holiday that reminds us to stop and say thank you for all our many blessings!

We would like to say a big Thank You to all the many people who have so beautifully been the hands and feet of Christ in our congregation.

- for all the delicious cooking you have done for our church family! We appreciate the many meals you have prepared throughout the year and for the times you brought in dishes for funerals and memorial services.
- for your help driving friends and church members to church or appointments as needed.
- to all who took the time to send cards or make calls on behalf of our church family.
- to Joy Lavazza for all the Birthday cards and "Thinking of You/Get Well" cards that you have sent throughout the year!
- to everyone, for praying for our friends and families, for our church and the work we do of loving each other and our community. It is because of your prayers and service to one another that we have been truly blessed, through all the challenges of the past couple of years.
- for your love, care and concern for one another.

Thanks be to God!

YOUTH AND MONTREAT

After leaving Montreat this summer, our youth group was ready to dive deeper into the Bible and make Bible study a practice. We are currently studying how to approach the Bible with different study tools to help us better understand the scripture.

On **Wednesday, November 3rd** at our normal 6pm youth group time, we plan to meet up at **Brandon Starbucks** because there's nothing better than filling your cup with coffee and Christ!

We are hoping to get together for **Veteran's day to carve pumpkins** and have a **bonfire**, location TBA, so be sure to check your emails/ remind for more info on this Fall get together.

We look forward to seeing youth each Sunday in our Sunday School classes, and of course every Wednesday Night at 6pm in the youth room.



Love. Grow. Serve.

WORSHIP TOGETHER!

The Worship Committee and Pastor Loli are planning a **Worship Education Event** to help our young church members understand more about being a part of worship. We'll talk about the sacraments, the elements of worship, make bread, check out the bell tower, and do acolyte training! **We ask that parents be a part of this experience and encourage all of you to come, even if you've done the class already!**

So mark your calendars, **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH after church**, and keep your eyes open for more details!

We are looking forward to this event!

THANKSGIVING for Meals on Wheels



Our Church will be preparing Thanksgiving dinner for the Meals on Wheels recipients who are unable to be with family. We are asking for volunteers to provide approximately 10-12 pumpkin or apple pies and 10-12

pumpkin or banana breads. Look for a sign up sheet in the narthex or call Janet Holzman at 813-681-2548 to let her know what you can provide. These items will be needed no later than 10:00 am on Wednesday, November 24th. Items may be placed in the Church freezer (**CLEARLY MARKED THANKSGIVING**) prior to Wednesday.

If you are a **high school student** needing community service hours or a college student who would like to have an opportunity to do service in the Church during a holiday break, please come Wednesday afternoon from **noon to 2 pm** on the day before Thanksgiving to help with some pre-packing and other prep work for Thursday morning.

There will also be an opportunity for congregational members who would like to **have dinner in the fellowship hall at about noon on Thanksgiving day**. Please contact the church office or Janet Holzman 813-681-2548 to make a reservation.

FELLOWSHIP

The "**Steward Cafe**", aka fellowship hall, will be open for dine-in after the combined 11:00 am worship service. Take out will be available, reservations required by **Sunday October 24th**. So mark your calendars for Sunday, October 31st. The menu will be **chicken & yellow rice, black beans, plantains, garden salad & a delicious dessert!** Also tables will be set up in the courtyard for those not comfortable with dining indoors.

Looking ahead to the **Advent Season**, we're looking forward to safely celebrate with the Cantata, pot-luck luncheons & cookie & punch receptions (Lord willing and the Covid numbers don't rise). And of course the second annual **Ginger Bread contest** will return! **Pick-up your kits Sunday, Nov. 21st** and bring your Ginger Bread House **completed by Nov. 28th**, the 1st Sunday of Advent. So check your bulletins & newsletters for more information as the busy holiday season fast approaches.

**No Food or Drink
Allowed in Sanctuary**



We remind everyone to be mindful to please keep food and beverages in the courtyard. Trash receptacles are available to dispose of cups and napkins prior to entering the Sanctuary.



Blessing Bags are still being created and will now be placed in the fellowship hall for pick up. Please pick up a few and hand them out. We are in need of gently used or new ball caps and t-shirts.



Resource Pet Center
We continue to collect old towels, and blankets and newspapers for the Pet Resource Center on Falkenburg. Your donations are making a difference!

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Liturgist: Deborah Thatcher
Gate Keepers: Open, Greg Uebel
 Close, Ron Smith

November 7th

Usher 9:30am: Carina Brushwood
 Head Usher: Jay Heidt
 Usher/Greeter: Dewey Walklin
 Greeter: Anne Heidt
 Acolyte: Finley Heidt
 Office: Sara High (11/4)

November 14th

Usher 9:30am: Cammie Williams
 Head Usher: Jim High
 Usher/Greeter: Sara High
 Greeter: Janet Holzman
 Acolyte: Caroline Boyd
 Office: Jim High (11/11)

November 21st

Usher 9:30am: Carol Dolphin
 Head Usher: Jeff Mason
 Usher: Christine Spangler
 Greeter: Nancy Mason
 Acolyte: Lotte Triebwasser
 Office: TBD (11/18)

November 28th

Usher 9:30am: Joann Williams
 Head Usher: Dave MacEwen
 Usher: James Boyd
 Greeter: Patty MacEwen
 Acolyte: Noah Boyd
 Office: Cammie Williams (11/25)

TEMPLE KEEPERS

Jay Heidt
 on or before 11/6

Ed Holzman
 on or before 11/13

Jim High
 on or before 11/20

Mark Williams
 on or before 11/27

Ed Kelsey
 on or before 12/4



**CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY!
 GIVE A FINANCIAL GIFT
 TO THE CHURCH**

Birthdays

Greg Uebel	11/2
Dyan Taylor-Harris	11/3
Anthony Harris	11/4
Liz Poole	11/4
Tracy Messina	11/6
Patty MacEwen	11/8
Carol Shick	11/10
Bill Combs	11/11
Kai Abe	11/13
John Voelpel	11/16
Chad Triebwasser	11/17
Finley Heidt	11/21
Gabe Heidt	11/22
E.J. Paynter	11/23
Anna Doucette	11/24
Johanna McCoy	11/28

Anniversaries

David and Carrie Childs	11/7
John and Betty Lou Harp	11/12
Karen and Rick Kosan	11/16
Barbara and Larry Connell	11/16
Mike and Peg Johnston	11/26
David and Patty MacEwen	11/27

CHANGES to your Address, Email, or Phone #? Please let us know. Make a note of this in your directory:
Joy Griffin
 2203 Durant Rd.
 Valrico, FL 33596



THERMOSTATS !

The thermostats are **PRESET**, please **DO NOT RESET** or put on hold. If you need to cool or heat, simply use the **UP** and **DOWN** arrows; when you leave, hit **RUN** and it will reset to original setting.

FAN should always remain on **AUTO**.

FACILITIES

Tenting treatment for termites is scheduled for **November 29**, so the entire church campus will be **off limits 11/29 through 12/1**. More details will be made available in your bulletins as the time approaches.

HUGE THANK YOU
 from



Greg Uebel sends his appreciation for the outpouring of cookies!

Please continue to pray for the team and the inmates.

Generosity
 changes everything

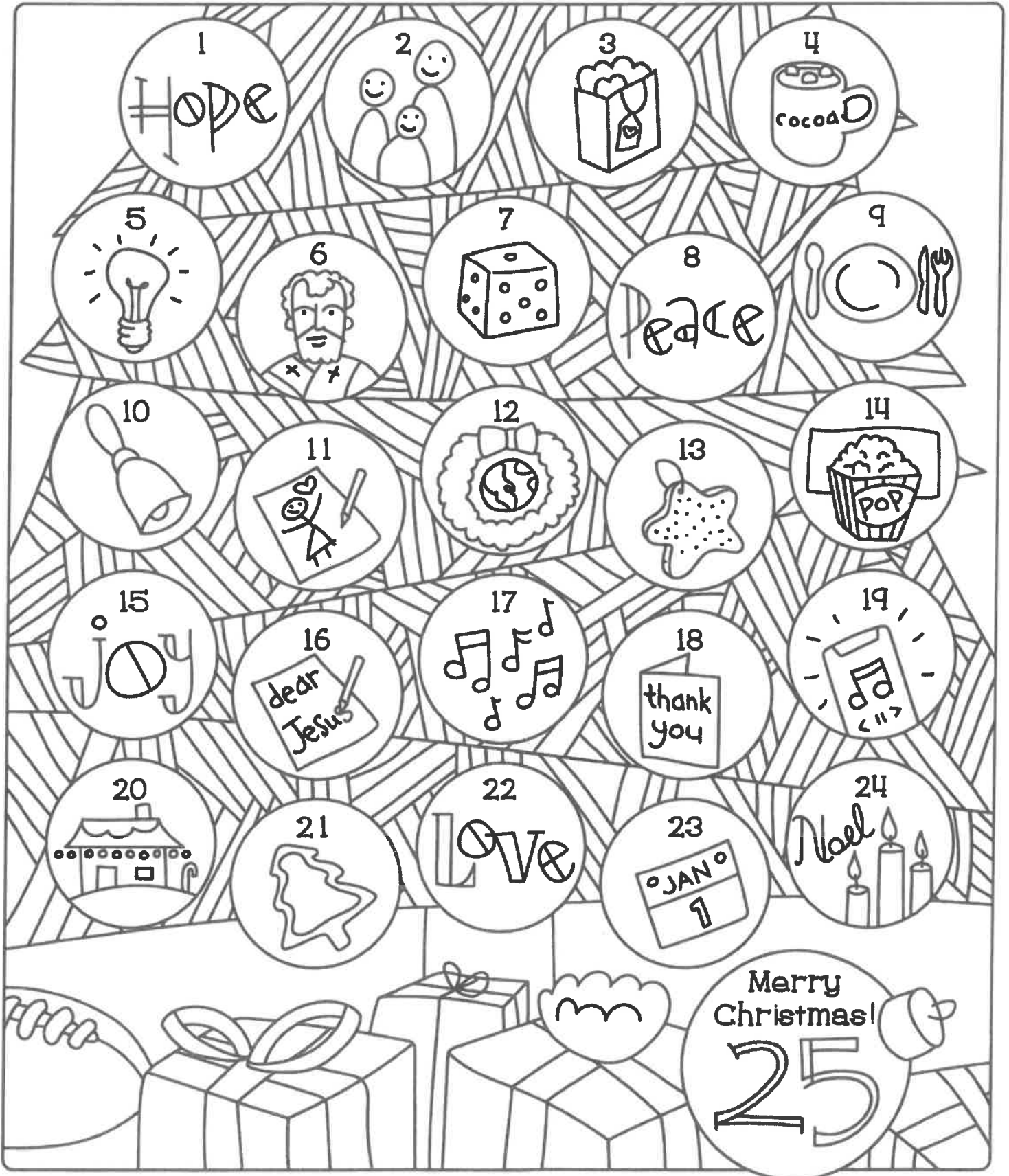
FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

YTD	Actual	Budget
September 2021		
Income	\$ 169,035	\$ 191,961
Expense	\$ 176,301	\$ 191,961
Net (+/-)	\$ (7,266)	

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 4 pm Advent Music 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	4	5 8am-2pm Yard Sale	6 8am-2pm Yard Sale
	<i>Committees Meet Throughout the Week</i>					
7 <i>All Saints' Day</i> 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 pm New Member Class 12:30 Child. W. Class Committee Reports Due	8	9 7pm Session Meets	10 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 4:30 Staff Meeting 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	11	12 11am Women's Bible Study	13
14 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Reception for New Members	15 Newsletter Items Due for Dec./Jan. Issue	16	17 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	18	19	20
21 <i>Christ the King</i> 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship Pick up kits for Gingerbread house	22	23	24 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	25 Office Closed 	26 11am No Women's Bible Study	27
28 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 pm Advent Crafts	29	30	<i>Church Closed for Tenting</i>			

ADVENT activity calendar



You can find the activity pages in the narthex!