ReSounds

November 2026

The Newsletter of ResoundingJoy Church

8735 Cheviot Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45251

(513) 385-8973
office@resoundingjoy.church
www.resoundingjoy.church

Service: Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Edward Goode
Organizing Pastor
ed@resoundingjoy.church

Brad Caldwell
Music Director
brad@resoundingjoy.church

Lori McDonough
Worship Leader
lori@resoundingjoy.church

Tammy Manger
Church Administrator
office@resoundingjoy.church

Michele Wright:
Communications Director
michele@resoundingjoy.church

Ryan Hamilton
Digital Coordinator
ryan@resoundingjoy.church

Resounding JOY CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (USA)

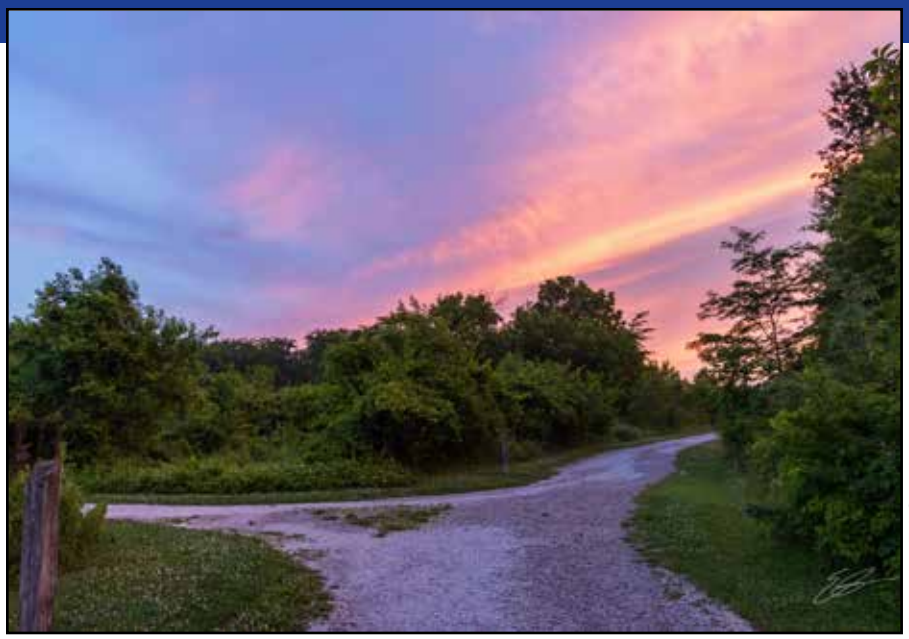


Photo by Ed Goode

A Commitment to Growing

Three Different Ways

It is that time of year in the life of the church. Leaves are turning and starting to fall, the temperatures are getting a bit crisper (as are the sounds of leaves crunching underfoot), some discussions of Advent and Christmas are starting to emerge, and each of you is waiting expectantly for the ResoundingJoy Church (RJC) financial pledge card to arrive!

All of those are true except probably the last one. Please let me know if you are excited to receive your financial pledge card because you'll be the first person who has ever said that.

But if you *are* excited about your financial pledge card, I am sorry to say that you may be a bit disappointed when your stewardship mailing comes in mid-November because this year's ask is about more than a number on a card.

The request you'll receive is about your (and our) commitment to growing in 2027.

We need to grow spiritually as a community of faith. The reality of church growth is that the more people within the church are growing in their following of Jesus, the more a church grows in other ways (energetically, numerically, financially, etc). This isn't a statement on current spiritual maturity but a reminder that growth doesn't come first through programs and activities, it comes through how God works through us.

Continued on next page

Per Capita

From Lee Knisley Sanders, Treasurer

Friends, we are blessed to be a connectional church. That means we are connected with churches around the Cincinnati area through our Presbytery, with churches in the Midwest through our Synod, and with Presbyterian churches around the country and world through PC(USA). Our church and sometimes our individual members benefit from programs initiated by each of these organizations.

One example is that the Non-Food Pantry has received $15,000 from the Presbytery this year! And the Synod has been training ruling elders to preach, to provide more pulpit supply for the presbyteries. (And the moderator of the Synod, the Rev. Chip Hardwidk will be in our pulpit soon!)

Often, grants are obtained to fund the work of these "higher judicatories" but much of their support comes from the per capita we pay as individual members. So I encourage you to pay your per capita ($36 per person for 2026) if you have not already done so. RJC has already received more than 3 times what it pays in per capita! And every time you pay your per capita, it means that that money does not have to come out of our budget! Thanks to all who have already generously paid!

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
— Matthew 6:21 NIV

Continued from front page

We need to grow in expanding our outreaches in the community. In worship on November 8 and in the information sent out after, you'll hear the specifics of these key steps. These will involve ministries that are already present and ministries to people who are not yet connected to RJC. With each of these, they won't "just happen" — they'll need your energies, your time, and your financial giving.

And third, we need to grow in our willingness to let go and remember that what we do here isn't just about us. Early on I shared about my 60/40 concept for our common ministry. The idea is that none of us should expect that 100% of what we do connects with us, speaks to us, agrees with us, etc. Instead, a baseline for us is 60%. It is my hope and prayer that 60% of what we do connects with each person in our various ministries. But the other 40%? That is what is connecting with people other than ourselves. It might be that it connects with that person across the sanctuary from you, or it might be the person who hasn't even heard of RJC yet. It is when we take our 60 and add the other 40 that we get 100%. That other 40% is the "letting go."

To see all of this in action, I encourage you to read the first 15 chapters of the book of Acts between now and November 8 (two chapters a day essentially). These first 15 chapters tell the story of the first several years of the early church.

You'll see the ways that they did all three of these things and what God did through them. You'll see the ways that they committed to growing spiritually and what the Spirit did through them. You'll see the ways that they gave in so many different ways (energy, time, resources) and how God used that giving. And you'll see the ways that they worked towards letting go and looking to what others needed — you'll see the 60/40 concept at work.

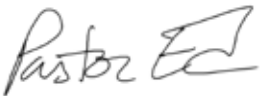
"You'll see the ways that they gave in so many different ways (energy, time, resources) and how God used that giving. And you'll see the ways that they worked towards letting go and looking to what others needed — you'll see the 60/40 concept at work."

Honestly, this is a harder ask than a financial one. Giving financially is an act of faith, and it matters, but it can be done in a moment: writing a check, setting up online auto-pay, or placing something in the weekly offering.

What I've shared here asks for more than that. It asks for our hearts, our time, and our willingness to let go. But if we are to grow into what we believe God is calling us to be, we need to take these courageous steps together, and we will see God's work through us.

More to come on (and after) November 8.

Grace, Peace, Love, Hope, and Joy,



Pastor Ed

Giving Thanks for These Hands

From Pastor Ed

Friends, thank you for your beautiful and kind wishes since the death of my mother-in-law, Lynne Snow. I am so grateful for your prayers and support these last few months as Amy has been away and especially in these last few days as well. In gratitude for her life, I wanted to share this piece that I wrote back in August after one of my last times with Lynne.

Over the last few weeks, I have referenced some things going on in my life that have been weighty. One of those has been my mother-in-law, as her health has started to take a difficult turn and we were with her these last few days as she transitioned into hospice care. I am so grateful that we got to spend these days with her before her health begins to shift further in the coming weeks and months. While we were there, I did what I often do for people in hospice care. I photographed her hands.

I wrote the following to give thanks for her and for many of the ways these hands have been a part of my life.



These hands helped to raise the woman I love.

These hands were among the first to welcome me to a new family.

These hands held those of my almost-wife in the minutes before our wedding.

These hands held a go-kart steering wheel after I accidentally t-boned you on the track.

These hands were the first of our family to hold our newborn twins in the NICU while a tornado warning prevented us from meeting you there.

These hands helped in every way possible as two sleep-deprived parents were learning what parenting was really like.

These hands tightly embraced a cup of coffee every morning.

These hands held our surprise third child with the same love and joy as the first two.

These hands helped teach these young ones to write, to draw, to shape, to create, to cook, to play.



These hands made, shared, and ate lots of cookies (the hands didn't eat them but you know what I mean).

These hands loved to pet dogs.

These hands prayed for us and for others more times than we will ever know.

These hands regularly opened the Bible to listen to the Spirit speak.

These hands held another steering wheel as you earned your nickname of Leadfoot Lynne.

These hands served others as a Deacon and helped people feel the love of Jesus.

These hands held grandchildren's tiny hands that eventually outgrew your own.

These hands clapped with joy and pride as each grandchild graduated and was embraced,

These hands, now marked with signs of age and of an unfair cancer, still show all the ways they nurtured, cared, held, and loved.

These hands will soon be held by those of a Savior who will say those beautiful words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Forever Young

Everyone is welcome! We will be meeting **Friday, Nov. 13, 12:00 p.m. at Barnesburg Tavern**
5761 Springdale Rd.
If you plan to join us, please contact **Jill Pepple** at **(513) 739-6828** or **pepplejill@gmail.com** or **Pat Ossenschmidt** at **(513) 385-9154** or **patio9154@fuse.net**

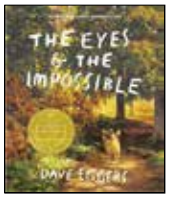
Attendance

October 4:	85
October 11:	72
October 18:	87
October 25:	74

Online average:
15 unique viewers per Sunday

Bookies Book Club

Tuesday, November 24 at 3 p.m., StoneBridge Clubhouse, 10290 Mill Rd. 45231.
We will be discussing ***The Eyes and the Impossible*** by Dave Eggers.Questions? Contact: **Nancy Wade nlwemail@aol.com**



Bestowals of Advent — Our 2026 Advent Devotional

From Pastor Ed
No novel this year drew me in quite like ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi. It was one of those stories that, once I got past the first few chapters, I had a hard time putting down and was so sad when I reached the final page. I wasn't sad as much about the ending but about the fact that the book had to end.

In the book, Theo (the central character) offers what he called "bestowals" to the residents of a small town in Georgia called Golden (Hence, "Theo of Golden"). These bestowals are what he sees in the sketched portraits of town residents that hung on the walls of the local coffee house. He would purchase the sketch, find the resident, and then share the drawing along with his blessing as they sat on a bench in the center of town.



It is these bestowals that form the basis of the Advent devotional that I am excited to share with you all in the holy season coming up. Co-created with my friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins, each day of Advent draws upon the Bible reading for that day (from the daily lectionary readings), incorporates one of our photographs (David and I are both obsessive photographers), and a "bestowal" we wrote based on the reading and the photo.

I will also be leading Thursday small groups based on the reflections starting on December 3 to go a bit deeper with what is shared. These will be at 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.

David and I hope that this is a deep blessing to you in this season.

November Bible Readings

11/1/26	Jer 37:1-38:28	1 Timothy 6:1-21	Psalm 89:38-52	Proverbs 25:28
11/2/26	Jer 39:1-41:18	2 Timothy 1:1-18	Psalm 90:1-91:16	Proverbs 26:1-2
11/3/26	Jer 42:1-44:23	2 Timothy 2:1-21	Psalm 92:1-93:5	Proverbs 26:3-5
11/4/26	Jer 44:24-47:7	2 Timothy 2:22-3:17	Psalm 94:1-23	Proverbs 26:6-8
11/5/26	Jer 48:1-49:22	2 Timothy 4:1-22	Psalm 95:1-96:13	Proverbs 26:9-12
11/6/26	Jer 49:23-50:46	Titus 1:1-16	Psalm 97:1-98:9	Proverbs 26:13-16
11/7/26	Jer 51:1-53	Titus 2:1-15	Psalm 99:1-9	Proverbs 26:17
11/8/26	Jer 51:54-52:34	Titus 3:1-15	Psalm 100:1-5	Proverbs 26:18-19
11/9/26	Lamentations 1:1-2:22	Philemon 1:1-25	Psalm 101:1-8	Proverbs 26:20
11/10/26	Lamentations 3:1-66	Hebrews 1:1-14	Psalm 102:1-28	Proverbs 26:21-22
11/11/26	Lamentations 4:1-5:22	Hebrews 2:1-18	Psalm 103:1-22	Proverbs 26:23
11/12/26	Ezekiel 1:1-3:15	Hebrews 3:1-19	Psalm 104:1-23	Proverbs 26:24-26
11/13/26	Ezekiel 3:16-6:14	Hebrews 4:1-16	Psalm 104:24-35	Proverbs 26:27
11/14/26	Ezekiel 7:1-9:11	Hebrews 5:1-14	Psalm 105:1-15	Proverbs 26:28
11/15/26	Ezekiel 10:1-11:25	Hebrews 6:1-20	Psalm 105:16-36	Proverbs 27:1-2
11/16/26	Ezekiel 12:1-14:11	Hebrews 7:1-17	Psalm 105:37-45	Proverbs 27:3
11/17/26	Ezekiel 14:12-16:41	Hebrews 7:18-28	Psalm 106:1-12	Proverbs 27:4-6
11/18/26	Ezekiel 16:42-17:24	Hebrews 8:1-13	Psalm 106:13-31	Proverbs 27:7-9
11/19/26	Ezekiel 18:1-19:14	Hebrews 9:1-10	Psalm 106:32-48	Proverbs 27:10
11/20/26	Ezekiel 20:1-49	Hebrews 9:11-28	Psalm 107:1-43	Proverbs 27:11
11/21/26	Ezekiel 21:1-22:31	Hebrews 10:1-17	Psalm 108:1-13	Proverbs 27:12
11/22/26	Ezekiel 23:1-49	Hebrews 10:18-39	Psalm 109:1-31	Proverbs 27:13
11/23/26	Ezekiel 24:1-26:21	Hebrews 11:1-16	Psalm 110:1-7	Proverbs 27:14
11/24/26	Ezekiel 27:1-28:26	Hebrews 11:17-31	Psalm 111:1-10	Proverbs 27:15-16
11/25/26	Ezekiel 29:1-30:26	Hebrews 11:32-12:13	Psalm 112:1-10	Proverbs 27:17
11/26/26	Ezekiel 31:1-32:32	Hebrews 12:14-29	Psalm 113:1-114:8	Proverbs 27:18-20
11/27/26	Ezekiel 33:1-34:31	Hebrews 13:1-25	Psalm 115:1-18	Proverbs 27:21-22
11/28/26	Ezekiel 35:1-36:38	James 1:1-18	Psalm 116:1-19	Proverbs 27:23-27
11/29/26	Ezekiel 37:1-38:23	James 1:19-2:17	Psalm 117:1-2	Proverbs 28:1
11/30/26	Ezekiel 39:1-40:27	James 2:18-3:18	Psalm 118:1-18	Proverbs 28:2



Holiday Musical Outing

Come enjoy the musical, "Cinderella," written by **Joe McDonough, Lori's husband**. This is Cinderella with a twist, where Cinderella wears high top sneakers and doesn't want to go to the ball! We're putting together a group to attend a performance at Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, 1127 Vine St., on **December 30 at 7:00 p.m.**

With our group rate, tickets are **$42 for adults** and **$24 for children ages 4–18**. To reserve your ticket, payment is required when you sign up. Please make checks payable to **Lori McDonough**.

A signup sheet will be available in the gathering area and all **orders and payment must be in by December 13th**. You can also sign up online at **https://bit.ly/rjc-cinderella**, or get more information by contacting Lori at **513-420-4464** or **lori@resoundingjoy.church**.

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship!

Session Summary

October 21, 2026

At its October meeting, the Session of Resounding Joy Church reflected on our journey as a congregation and discussed exciting opportunities for ministry and growth in 2027.

Growing Our Church and Community Connections:

- Session unanimously endorsed plans for new steps to work on intentional growth in 2027 and beyond. These will be detailed further to the congregation in early November but they will center on building on our current outreach ministries and other steps to engage those who are not yet a part of RJC (or any church). Related to this are plans to simplify the church website, creating community flyers, improving building signage, and making improvements to the bathrooms near the sanctuary.

Stewardship and Finances

- Our 2027 stewardship emphasis will encourage everyone to consider how they can contribute to the life of RJC through their time, talents, spiritual growth, and financial gifts. This emphasis will be presented during worship on November 8.
- Session also endorsed the proposed 2027 budget. Although the church again anticipates operating at a deficit as we continue to build and grow, giving was approximately $7,000 ahead of pledged expectations at the end of September 2026, and we have significant reserves. We are grateful for the congregation's continued generosity and commitment.

Updates and Upcoming Activities

- The church organ is now operational and is being voiced to suit the sanctuary. Plans for an organ dedication will be announced later. Beginning in January, nursery care will be available on Sundays as needed, with Sunday School teachers ready to serve families. The Fellowship and Fun team reported on several planned activities. Session also approved the 2027 Communion schedule, including home Communion as needed.
- Session recognized that adjusting to life beyond the merger's initial "honeymoon period" can bring mixed emotions over changes. We are encouraged to address concerns directly and constructively as we continue building our shared identity.

Moving Forward Together

- As RJC looks toward 2027, we remain focused on welcoming new people, strengthening relationships, deepening our faith, and serving our community. Thank you for supporting our church through your prayers, presence, service, and generosity as we continue to follow God's leading together.

Thank you to everyone who gives time, energy, prayers, financial support, and creativity to the life of ResoundingJoy Church.

This summary was initially created by ChatGPT using the Session minutes but was reviewed and edited by Pastor Ed, Clerk of Session Lori McDonough, and Church Treasurer Lee Sanders.

Mission News

Prepare Affair

Mark Your Calendars — People Working Cooperatively has been strengthening our communities for 50 years by providing critical home repairs, energy conservation, and accessibility modification for eligible homeowners. On November 21, PWC will partner with Colerain Township for the Colerain Give-back Day, dedicated to older or disabled adults and veterans who need assistance with yard work. If you are not physically able to assist, maybe you have family members that could pitch in. If you'd like to join a team, please contact Doris Haubner. For more information, go to 10th Annual Colerain Township Give Back Day • Colerain Township. **www.pwchomerepairs.org/prepare-affair**.

Nate's Toy Box

Nate's Toy Box is a memorial charity that provides gifts for kids vetted through the Northwest Local School District and SON Ministries food pantry. From Nov. 1 through Dec. 6, we will collect: new toys up to $35 (ages 0-5th grade), family board games, card games (Uno, etc), books (ages infant-teenager), puzzles (up to 350 pieces) and $15 fast food gift cards. Choose an ornament off the tree and return your unwrapped item under the tree — please return the ornament. ***Thank you for being a Christmas blessing to kids in our community.***

Little Brothers

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly is a non-profit, volunteer-based organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly. By visiting, socializing, and offering programs that promote independent living, they strive to meet the emotional and physical needs of their elderly friends. We will be collecting throw blankets for their holiday give-away — any size and any kind. We've committed to at least 50. Just leave your gift under the tree through Dec. 6.

Christmas Cookies

We will be delivering Christmas cookies to three local fire houses. Each fire house is close to the location of our three legacy churches. So, one near RJC, one near the former PRP, and one near the former GHCPC.

Christmas Joy

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The **Christmas Joy Offering** provides support for at-risk children, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Look for envelopes in the pews from Nov 29 through Dec 20. You can also make your Christmas gift contribution financially by cash, check, or online — just make sure to indicate "Christmas giving" in the notes area.

Practical Grace

The Practical Grace Non-food Pantry giving continues to grow every month — we served 159 people (a record for PGNFP) in October! Your product or financial donations are critical for us to continue meeting the needs of our neighbors. November's collection will be paper towels and toilet paper. Leave your gifts in the black bin in the Gathering Space or make your financial donation noting "PGNFP."

The Help Squad

Throughout October and November, **The Help Squad** is collecting gently used and new coats. Leave donations either in the box by the back/side door (D5) or in the bin outside the back door.

S.O.N. Ministries

November's collection will be canned fruit and kids' hats and gloves for their holiday distribution. SON will accept any non-perishable food item as well as laundry and personal care items at any time. You can put items in the Deacon's box or drop them off at SON during their open hours on Mondays from 10-Noon or Wednesdays 10-Noon or 4:30-6:30pm

Thank you, for your faithful and generous giving.

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
— 2 Corinthians 9:7

Resounding JOY —CHURCH—
Presbyterian Church (USA)

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**2** 7:30 pm–AA meets **6 pm**–Deacon's Meeting	**3** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**4** **6 pm**–Ministry Night	**5**	**6** 11 am–AA Meeting	**7** 11 am–AA Meeting
8 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**9** 7:30 pm–AA meets	**10** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**11** 9:30 am–Northwest Women's Club	**12**	**13** **12 pm**–Forever Young	**14** 11 am–AA Meeting
15 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**16** 7:30 pm–AA meets	**17** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**18** **6 pm**–Session Meeting	**19**	**20**	**21** **10 am**–Practical Grace Pantry 11 am–AA Meeting
22 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**23** 7:30 pm–AA meets	**24** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**25**	**26** **THANKSGIVING**	**27**	**28** 11 am–AA Meeting
29 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**30** 7:30 pm–AA meets					

Events in black are affiliated with ResoundingJoy Church • **Events in blue are outside groups**