ReSounds

The Newsletter of ResoundingJoy Church

September 2026

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Resounding JOY —CHURCH— Presbyterian Church (USA)

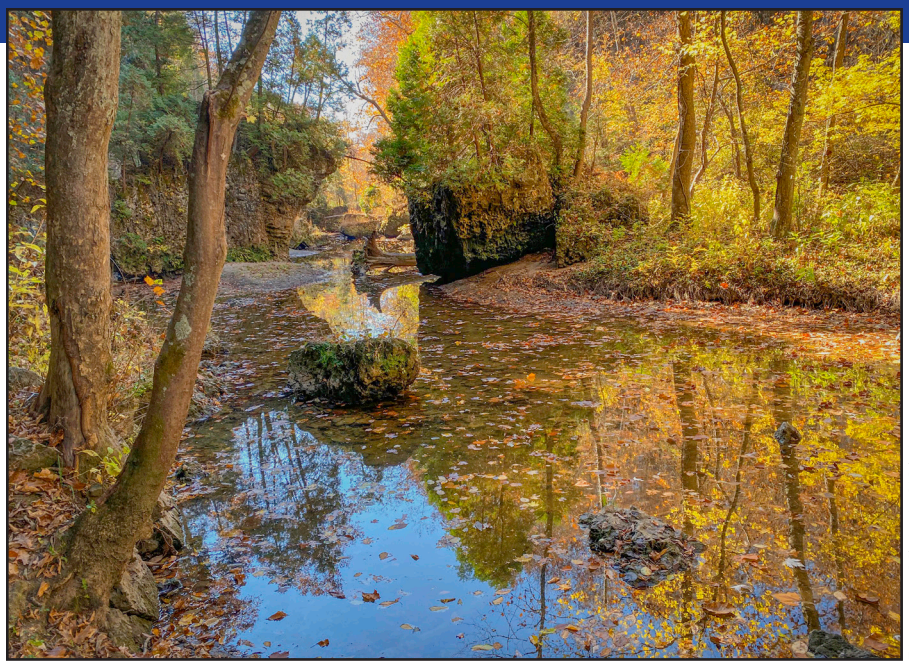

Photo by Michele Wright

Help. Thanks. Wow.

An Autumn of Prayer

How does prayer work? I don't know. Does prayer do something? Without a doubt. Is there power in people coming together to prayer? Absolutely.

In our year two "shift" at RJC, we will begin with a focus on prayer. Like I put above, I don't know how prayer works but I do know that things happen when people pray. I have felt it. I have seen it. It is shared throughout scripture.

For us here, to put it bluntly, if we want to see change, transformation, and growth, we need to be people of prayer praying for those very things.

So, this fall, our focus in worship will be on prayer and inspired by Anne Lamott's beautiful, hopeful, powerful, and funny book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. This book simplifies prayer down to these three simple words — help, thanks, and wow.

Too often, I hear people say that they're "not very good at prayer" but as I explore that with them, it seems that people don't feel what they offer in prayer is as eloquent as what they hear or read from others. But pretty much every prayer that has been written, shared, and offered can really be boiled down to these three — help, thanks, and wow.

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RJC Shirts

Resounding Joy Church shirts are available! Just go to the website or follow this link:
https://bit.ly/rjc-shirts
Let's spread the joy everywhere!

Attendance

August 2:	81
August 9:	75
August 16:	83
August 23:	68
August 30:	72

Online average:
15 unique viewers per Sunday

Forever Young

Forever Young is a social group for members of all ages that go out to lunch once a month. We will be meeting **Friday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m. at O'Charley's**, 11315 Princeton Pike.
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**

Save the Date!

A One-Year Celebration and Ribbon Cutting!

Sunday, September 27, we are going to be celebrating our one year anniversary as a congregation with a ribbon cutting in coordination with the Colerain Chamber. We're still working out the details of the celebration but be sure to be in worship that day and be part of the celebration. And, like any good party—who will you bring with you?

Our Values

From Pastor Ed
A year ago, as we began our community together as Resounding-Joy Church, we shared a guiding statement based on the JOY part of our name. We center on Jesus (J), we are open (O) to all, and we say Yes (Y) to God's call to serve. Those three ideas form the basis of who we are as a Christian community.

As we begin year two, the Session has added four values drawn from this guiding statement. These values will help us guide our next steps as we move from focusing on simply bringing us together (year one) to beginning to be intentional towards growth and outreach (years two and following).

Those values are:
• **Grow in Faith:** We seek to help all to follow the Way of Jesus through engaging worship and study.
• **Belong:** We seek to demonstrate compassion and grace so all feel welcome and may find belonging.
• **Act:** We seek to act for fairness for all through service and mission.
• **Innovate:** We seek to embrace new ideas and creative approaches to ministry and outreach.

These four values will be used by the Session to help us make decisions on how we use our resources and make decisions towards our future.

We also hope that these will very much become part of our congregational DNA — that we each will seek to live these out in our day-to-day faith lives. May we each make a commitment to intentional growth in faith, to not only seek belonging for ourselves but also help others find belonging, that we will be people of action in the same ways we see of Jesus in the Gospels, and that we will cultivate imagination and openness to new ways of sharing the message of Jesus.

Here we go into year two!

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
— Matthew 18:20

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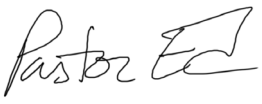
God, help me/us with this challenge we are facing. God, thanks for what you did in my friend's life. God, wow, that was/is amazing. Simple as those.

So you are invited not only into what we'll do in worship with this but also to a weekly time of prayer each Sunday morning in the conference room at 9:30 a.m. We will be coming together to pray these three simple prayers. Help, Thanks, Wow. We will be praying for the needs of the church (people who are ill, recovering, etc.) but also praying for growth and transformation in and through RJC. We'll be asking for God's help in these areas. We will be giving thanks for what we are seeing and experiencing of God's work. And we will also be lifting up wow and awe moments. Help. Thanks. Wow.

Let us pray together.



Pastor Ed

My Trip to Israel

By Betsy Hall
February 1-8, 2009



Sounds simple enough—a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Israel, a part of the world I had never been to. And the cost was reasonable since I would be accompanying my husband on a business trip. So why was I hesitating, telling everyone who would listen that I didn't want to go? I was afraid. The recent unrest in Gaza, with Hamas firing rockets into southern Israel and the Israelis retaliating and finally sending their armies into Gaza to destroy much of the area, made me believe the whole country was in turmoil. I couldn't have been more wrong. Although the situation was very serious, it was isolated to a small area in southern Israel. The rest of the Israelis were going about their daily lives, living, working, raising their families, but ever vigilant about the threat to their country. We were assured that it was safe in the area where we were staying. Looking back, had I decided not to go, I would have missed one of the most memorable experiences of my life.

We departed Sunday, Feb. 1. We arrived in Tel Aviv about 6:00PM on Monday night (Israel is 7 hours ahead of Cincinnati) and met our driver who took us to Caesarea, about an hour's drive north. I didn't see much of Tel Aviv that night but realized it was a large metro area by the number of office buildings and cars on the highway. We arrived at the Dan Caesarea Hotel, had some refreshments, and went right to bed.

When I finally awoke around noon and went out on the balcony, I was stunned to see what a beautiful country I was in. The landscape reminded me of southern California or Florida. Off in the distance I could see the Golan Heights with their expanding settlements. From the other side of the hotel I could see the Mediterranean—just barely. I was anxious to venture out. I had walking directions to the national park which surrounds the old city of Caesarea. This was a "resort area" built by King Herod on the shores of the Mediterranean. The area surrounding the hotel was relatively undeveloped. Next door was the Dan Caesarea Golf Club, the only 18-hole golf course in Israel. On this day I turned left toward the Mediterranean. On the way, I saw large groves of trees that I would later discover were banana plantations.

Old Town proved to be an interesting mix of restaurants, shops, and museums contained within the national park. There were tours in English, but I declined in favor of wandering around on my own. The major excavations have revealed Herod's palace, a theater, a hippodrome, and other ancient structures. It was strange to have newer buildings juxtaposed with the ancient, but much of Israel is that way. Near the harbor is a dive shop. There are actually steps leading into the water, which is very clear. Several young men were fishing off the rocks with large poles. The seafood here is the best I have ever had (maybe with the exception of Lake Erie walleye!).

That night, Avi and his boss, Naham, took us to dinner at a local restaurant. Avi asked me how I liked Israel so far. I told him I loved it. The climate was perfect—sunny, highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s, and low humidity. I loved the landscape, the friendly people, and of course experiencing a different culture. He then asked me if I was afraid to travel to Israel. I thought Darwin had said something to him, but Avi said, "No, I just wondered what you thought before you came here." I admitted I had been afraid, but that fear was intensified by the US media coverage of the unrest in Gaza. Avi, like all Israelis, is very aware of how his country is portrayed in the media. He was quick to tell me the retaliation in Gaza was a last resort and a necessary tactic in order to maintain the security of their country.

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As I later discovered, not all Israelis favor this harsh military approach. I was very honest with Avi when I said there are times I do not feel safe even in my own neighborhood and city because of the high crime rate and the proliferation of guns. Darwin and I also learned that Naham, who emigrated from Russia, recently became a citizen. "Do you need to take a test, like in the US?" I asked. "No," he answered, "you just need to be Jewish." Avi explained that you must prove that your mother is Jewish, and then citizenship is granted. Because of the large numbers of Russian immigrants, Russian is now the second most-spoken language in Israel, similar to Spanish in the US in its widespread usage.

On our final night in Caesarea, Darwin and I had dinner at Crusaders Restaurant which is right on the harbor. We had a traditional meal which begins with 8-10 plates of various salads and appetizers, followed by an entrée of fresh seafood and roasted potatoes. I believe this is the healthiest I have ever eaten and would love to adapt that diet to my life in the US. I especially loved the sesame seed paste called "tahini," garbanzo beans (chick peas), and tabouli.

The next day around noon, we left for Tel Aviv. We saw beautiful new soccer stadiums in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. On this drive we were able to see much more of the countryside between Caesarea and Tel Aviv. There is still some untouched area, but like the US the land is rapidly being developed for both residential and commercial use. Our driver Mati pointed out the different neighborhoods and



places of interest in Tel Aviv. From our hotel balcony we had a view of the Mediterranean on one side, and the city on the other. It was a warm afternoon, and we immediately went out to walk along the beach. It was crowded with people enjoying the sun, playing paddle ball and volleyball, and even swimming (although the sea really is not warm enough in February!). There were sailboats of all sizes out on the water, and on Saturday we would see kids racing their small boats. There was also an Israeli naval boat patrolling the shore, and it occurred to me that this was a vulnerable place for Israel.

Friday, we scheduled a tour of the old city of Jerusalem, which was easily the highlight of our trip. We decided to take a small van/bus with about 15 people in the tour group. It was an interesting mix of businessmen and women, tourists, and students, all of whom spoke some English. Our driver and tour guide, Raffi, spoke excellent English and had an in-depth knowledge of the history and points of interest we would visit. The trip from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is an upward ascent from sea level to about 2600 feet. Raffi pointed out many interesting sites along the way, including the Latrun Tank Museum and Fortress which houses many of the armored vehicles used in Middle Eastern conflicts, including Israel's war for independence. There is also a monument to the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). As you enter Jerusalem, what strikes you is that all the buildings—whether ancient or modern—are white. A municipal ordinance, which dates back to the British governance in 1918, mandates that all buildings must be faced with Jerusalem stone (meleke). Today the various types of limestone used in buildings are mined locally in the West Bank. Our first stop was Mt. Scopus, the home of Hebrew University. As one of the highest points in Jerusalem (2705 feet), it provided a panoramic view of both the old and new cities. The Israelis are very proud of Hebrew University, as it was funded entirely by the generous donations of Jews around the world.

The rest of Betsy's story will be in the October edition of ReSounds

September Bible Readings

9/1/26	Job 1:1-3:26	1 Cor. 14:1-17	Psalm 37:12-29	Proverbs 21:25-26
9/2/26	Job 4:1-7:21	1 Cor. 14:18-40	Psalm 37:30-40	Proverbs 21:27
9/3/26	Job 8:1-11:20	1 Cor. 15:1-28	Psalm 38:1-22	Proverbs 21:28-29
9/4/26	Job 12:1-15:35	1 Cor. 15:29-58	Psalm 39:1-13	Proverbs 21:30-31
9/5/26	Job 16:1-19:29	1 Cor. 16:1-24	Psalm 40:1-10	Proverbs 22:1
9/6/26	Job 20:1-22:30	2 Cor. 1:1-11	Psalm 40:11-17	Proverbs 22:2-4
9/7/26	Job 23:1-27:23	2 Cor. 1:12-2:11	Psalm 41:1-13	Proverbs 22:5-6
9/8/26	Job 28:1-30:31	2 Cor. 2:12-17	Psalm 42:1-11	Proverbs 22:7
9/9/26	Job 31:1-33:33	2 Cor. 3:1-18	Psalm 43:1-5	Proverbs 22:8-9
9/10/26	Job 34:1-36:33	2 Cor. 4:1-12	Psalm 44:1-8	Proverbs 22:10-12
9/11/26	Job 37:1-39:30	2 Cor. 4:13-5:10	Psalm 4	Proverbs 22:13
9/12/26	Job 40:1-42:17	2 Cor. 5:11-21	Psalm 45:1-17	Proverbs 22:14
9/13/26	Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22	2 Cor. 6:1-13	Psalm 46:1-11	Proverbs 22:15
9/14/26	Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12	2 Cor. 6:14-7:7	Psalm 47:1-9	Proverbs 22:16
9/15/26	Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18	2 Cor. 7:8-16	Psalm 48:1-14	Proverbs 22:17-19
9/16/26	Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14	2 Cor. 8:1-15	Psalm 49:1-20	Proverbs 22:20-21
9/17/26	Song of Sol. 1:1-4:16	2 Cor. 8:16-24	Psalm 50:1-23	Proverbs 22:22-23
9/18/26	Song of Sol. 5:1-8:14	2 Cor. 9:1-15	Psalm 51:1-19	Proverbs 22:24-25
9/19/26	Isaiah 1:1-2:22	2 Cor. 10:1-18	Psalm 52:1-9	Proverbs 22:26-27
9/20/26	Isaiah 3:1-5:30	2 Cor. 11:1-15	Psalm 53:1-6	Proverbs 22:28-29
9/21/26	Isaiah 6:1-7:25	2 Cor. 11:16-33	Psalm 54:1-7	Proverbs 23:1-3
9/22/26	Isaiah 8:1-9:21	2 Cor. 12:1-10	Psalm 55:1-23	Proverbs 23:4-5
9/23/26	Isaiah 10:1-11:16	2 Cor. 12:11-21	Psalm 56:1-13	Proverbs 23:6-8
9/24/26	Isaiah 12:1-14:32	2 Cor. 13:1-14	Psalm 57:1-11	Proverbs 23:9-11
9/25/26	Isaiah 15:1-18:7	Galatians 1:1-24	Psalm 58:1-11	Proverbs 23:12
9/26/26	Isaiah 19:1-21:17	Galatians 2:1-16	Psalm 59:1-17	Proverbs 23:13-14
9/27/26	Isaiah 22:1-24:23	Galatians 2:17-3:9	Psalm 60:1-12	Proverbs 23:15-16
9/28/26	Isaiah 25:1-28:13	Galatians 3:10-22	Psalm 61:1-8	Proverbs 23:17-18
9/29/26	Isaiah 28:14-30:11	Galatians 3:23-4:31	Psalm 62:1-12	Proverbs 23:19-21
9/30/26	Isaiah 30:12-33:9	Galatians 5:1-12	Psalm 63:1-11	Proverbs 23:22

Bookies Book Club

On Tuesday September 29 at 3 p.m., Bookies Book Club will meet at **StoneBridge Clubhouse, 10290 Mill Rd. 45231**. The book to be discussed will be:

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Questions can be directed to **Nancy Wade: nlwemail@aol.com**

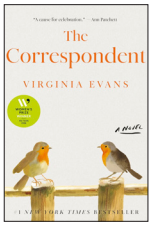
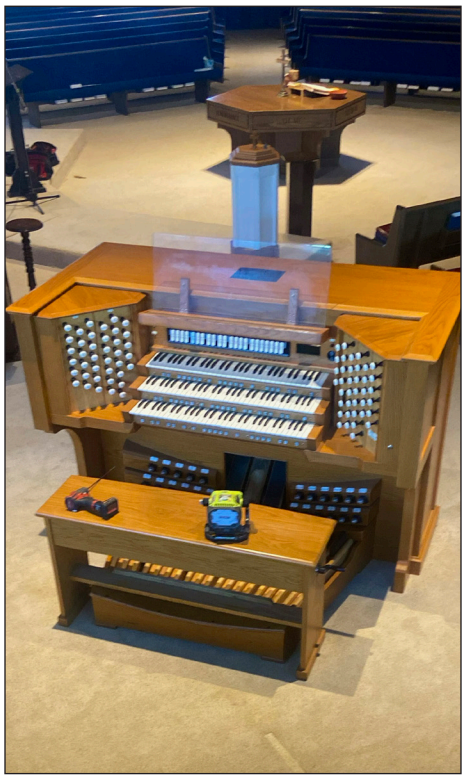


Photo of the New Organ Coming Soon



Come, let us sing for joy to God; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and extol our God with music and song.

— Psalm 95:1-2

Session Summary

August 19, 2026

The Session of ResoundingJoy Church opened with a reading by Pastor Ed Goode from Romans 12 — part of what Ed called "Paul's greatest hits."

Among the Updates Shared:

- **Pastor Ed will be away starting August 26**, with the Rev. David Annette providing backup pastoral care (Rose Taul covers Labor Day). This fall, worship turns toward a season on prayer, drawing on Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*. It will include an informal prayer time Sunday mornings from 9:30–09:50 a.m. in the conference room — details in the newsletter.

- The Deacons received a gift from a former member who passed away, and Session approved a new budget line so those funds can carry over year to year.

- **On the organ and pews:** the current target is to have the organ in place by September 6, pending electrical work flagged by the fire marshal. The plan is still to remove all pews at once and complete the sanctuary decoration together so the space reads as finished rather than in-progress. Members will be able to take a pew home with pickup timing announced once the removal date is set.

- The Technology Grant application was not successful. Planning continues for the Ribbon Cutting/ Grand Opening on **September 27** with the Colerain Chamber — the organ will be featured if ready, with an ice cream social in the mix.

- **Session finalized the church's values statement:**
  - We seek to help all follow the Way of Jesus through engaging worship and study — **Grow in Faith**
  - We seek to demonstrate compassion and grace so all feel welcome and may find belonging — **Belong**
  - We seek to act for fairness for all through service and mission — **Act**
  - We seek to embrace new ideas and creative approaches to ministry and outreach — **Innovate**

- **Committee highlights:** the fire marshall's report flagged electrical issues tied to the organ and extension cord use throughout the building, with a permanent fix in progress. Tree work continues after storm damage, and bids are being gathered to refinish the fellowship hall floor. A scavenger hunt is planned to have a fun activity in October, and the Mission committee will serve the Colerain football team on September 18, with "Pass It On" launching September 6.

- **Mark your calendars**: Newsletter deadline (Aug 24), Ministry Night (Sept 2), Session (Sept 16), CHS Football Dinner (Sept 18), One Year Event (Sept 27)

Please continue to keep our Session, Deacons, and ministry leaders in your prayers as they guide ResoundingJoy Church into its next season of ministry.

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

Practical Grace

On the third Saturday of every month, the **Practical Grace Non-Food Pantry** at ResoundingJoy Church distributes approximately 1700 nonfood items to needy people in the community and is expected to grow. 135 people were served in August — another increase!

In September, we are collecting deodorant and toothpaste (we do NOT need toothbrushes). Please put your donation in the black can in the Gathering Space (next to the Deacon bin). Practical Grace would gratefully accept financial donations as well.

New Pay-it-Forward contribution program: Thanks to the generosity of Paul Sabla, you will be reimbursed $1 for every product donation. There are forms in a holder above the donation can in the Gathering Space. Use that form to track your donation purchases and turn that form in at the end of the month for reimbursement. No judgment about what you do with the reimbursement, but it would be greatly appreciated if you put it back into more product purchases for the pantry or make a financial donation to Practical Grace.

Feeding the Team



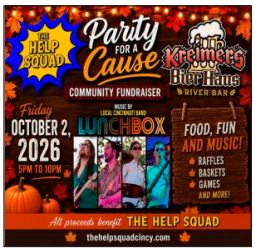
We will be feeding Colerain's football team and coaches pre-game on September 18 — 120 young men and coaches.

Setup starts at 2:15 p.m. in CHS's cafeteria. We're serving tacos and are looking for the following contributions: we have tortillas and taco beef but would like to add some taco chicken (suggesting shredded chicken breast or shredded rotisserie chicken flavored with taco seasoning); 15–16oz bags of shredded lettuce; chopped onions; chopped tomatoes; 12–5 lb. bags of shredded cheese; four 48 oz. tubs of sour cream; six bottles of taco sauce; nine 20-count variety pack fruit cups; misc desserts; and — of course — volunteers to serve.

If you can provide any number of the items above (e.g., you can contribute four of the 12 needed) or are available to serve, please sign up on the poster in the gathering space or notify Doris Haubner via email or text. ***Thank You!***

The Help Squad

Thank You! to everyone who supported our August golf fundraiser. It was our best year yet! The next opportunity to assist our mission of providing emergency financial assistance and wrap-around services to single-parent families, seniors and veterans in Colerain/Green/Delhi Townships and the City of Cheviot, will be our **Party for a Cause on Oct 2** at **Kreimer's Bier Haus Riverbar, 5-10 p.m.**



Join us for a fun evening featuring the band Lunchbox. Food and alcohol available for purchase. Free admission. Grab family and friends and be part of helping our neighbors in need.

Have a little time to volunteer? The Help Squad can always use you! We are looking for people to serve as Care Managers, helping vet applicants and assisting qualified applicants in getting the help they need. If you feel led by the Spirit to help in any way, visit thehelpsquadcincy.com and click on the Volunteer tab, or reach out to Samantha Jasper or Doris Haubner (contact info in our Directory).

Giving Away

Mission has empty 5-gallon buckets and lids we'd be happy to give away. We will have more as we continue to rebottle the all-purpose cleaner in the additional 26 buckets. Please contact Doris Haubner if you want any of the buckets, which are currently located in the back garage barn.

SON Ministries

For September: Saltine Crackers
SON donations go in the Deacon box in the gathering area.

Meijer is offering SON an additional Simply Give program thru Sept. 26. The double day is Sept. 12, where your donation would increase 2x (eg. $10 becomes $30). If you send a check made out to SON Ministries marked "Simply Give," it is tax deductible. Please have checks to SON by Sept. 7.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**2** **6 pm**–Ministry Night	**3**	**4** 11 am–AA Meeting 3 pm–CHS Cross Country Team Dinner	**5** 11 am–AA Meeting
6 **9 am**–Bible Study **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**7** 7:30 pm–AA meets **LABOR DAY** **Office Closed**	**8** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**9** 9:30 am–Northwest Women's Club **6 pm**–Ministry Night	**10**	**11** **12 pm**–Forever Young 3 pm–CHS Cross Country Team Dinner	**12** 11 am–AA Meeting
13 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**14** **6 pm**–Deacon's Meeting 7:30 pm–AA meets	**15** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**16** **6 pm**–Session Meeting	**17**	**18** 12 pm–CHS Football Team Dinner 3 pm–CHS Cross Country Team Dinner	**19** **10 am–Practical Grace Pantry** 11 am–AA Meeting 3 pm–Celebration of Life: Hunter Family
20 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**21** 7:30 pm–AA meets	**22** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**23**	**24** 10 am–Kissel Park Condo Assoc.	**25** 3 pm–CHS Cross Country Team Dinner	**26** 11 am–AA Meeting 1 pm–CJ Maker Studio, LLC
27 **9 am**–Bible Study **9:15 am**–Choir **10:30 am**–Worship **RJC Ribbon Cutting** **11:45 am**–Bible Study	**28** 7:30 pm–AA meets	**29** 6:00 pm–Cub Scouts 6:30 pm–Boy Scouts 7:30 pm–Men's Bible Study	**30**			

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