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POWERED BY THE SPIRIT AND THE SUN! HOMEKED BY THE SPIRIT AND THE SUN! 20th Anniversary Solar Panel Project!

I am so happy to share that this past Sunday at a special congregational meeting, COJ members voted to move forward on a plan to purchase a solar power system! Remarkably, despite dozens of votes being cast, this motion was carried UNANIMOUSLY! Quite frankly, this overwhelming level of support came as a surprise to everyone and speaks to the sense of excitement that this effort is inspiring among our people. I wanted to take a moment to share a little of why we are pursuing this solar project, and how we are planning to turn our dream into a reality.

As we approach 20 years of ministry in this building, Church Council has enthusiastically endorsed this project because we believe it will be a blessing to COJ on multiple levels. For one thing, as energy costs continue to rise, this solar power system will allow us to realize major savings as soon as it is turned on. And these savings are only set to grow as energy costs rise over time. This means that over the long term, we will be able to devote more of our budget and attention to ministry and worry less about energy costs.



Mark Your Calendar!



**Community of Joy
Vacation Bible School
June 19—23, 2023
REGISTER NOW!**

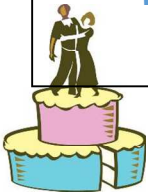
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People Page

May Birthdays

6th: Suzanne Davis
 8th: Carol Grant
 15th: Ava Rousselle
 17th: Mary Bencke
 18th: Juliette Schick
 22nd: Lillian Parrott
 29th: Terri Maser

Wedding Anniversaries in May



May 10th: Dennis & Kris Simpson
 19th: Stephen & Leah Felty
 Phil & Laura Reu
 27th: Scott & Paula Thomas



Charlotte Griffith
 Donna Doles
 Dick & Peg Tool
 Connie White
 (Stephanie's mom)
 Joan Bouty, Louise Scott
 Warren Sullivan
 Charles & Suzanne Davis
 Steve Gamrath
 Paul & Jackie Anderson
 Lori Brown (4/2)
 Eli Basden (4/2)
 Ron Tafoya (4/3)
 Brad Brauer (4/5)
 Jason Eckelbarger (4/9)
 Journey Hanna (4/9)
 Claudia Eckelbarger (4/9)
 Jason Mechelbarger (4/9)

Jeff Shodean family (4/9)
 Shotwell family (4/9)
 David Brown (4/9)
 Eloise Spradley (4/9)
 Geneva Ellis (4/9)
 Gayle Philipps (4/9)
 Monika & Jasmine Brown
 (4/9)
 Sandy Rubio (4/9)
 Family of Ron Tafoya/ Anne
 & Sean Kinney (4/17)
 Mary Halverson (4/23)
 Gayle Phillips (4/23)
 Tony Chau (4/23)
 Danielle Castle (4/23)
 Austin Eckelbarger (4/23)

If you know of a person or a situation that you would like included in our prayer list, please email them to Earlene (earlene@communityofjoy.com).

COMMUNITY OF JOY

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www.communityofjoy.com

Pastor:

Pr. Paul Schick
pastor paul@communityofjoy.com

Director of Administration:

Earlene Shroyer earlene@communityofjoy.com

Worship Leader:

Jon Shodean jon@communityofjoy.com

Treasurer: Dick Tool, Greg Quintana

Bookkeeper: Earlene Shroyer

Proofreader: Jean Potabi

Congregation Council

Lee Glauvitz—President
 Chris McGill—Vice President
 Karen Lenoski—Secretary
 Sandy Edwards
 Bill Kostel
 Diane Parham

Ministries Leads

- ✦ **Altar Guild:** Debbie Sciortino
- ✦ **Confirmation:** Pr. Paul Schick
- ✦ **F.E.A.S.T.:** Deborah Williams
- ✦ **Fellowship:** Neal Shotwell
- ✦ **Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry:**
Sandy Edwards
- ✦ **Memorial Committee:** Bill Potabi
- ✦ **Sunday School:** Stephanie Schick
- ✦ **Tech Ministry Leader:** Kristen Sillence
- ✦ **Worship Accompanist:** Keith Jordan
- ✦ **Beer Buddies:** Tony Sciortino

For any reports or information, contact the appropriate person listed above

Announcements



Solar Panel Project Approved Unanimously!!

This past Sunday we held a Special Congregation meeting where the congregation unanimously voted to move forward on a solar panel project. A big thanks to Bill Kostel, who led the meeting and has spearheaded this effort.

Now that this motion has passed, we will need to raise roughly \$30,000—which will be generously matched by the Memorial Fund. With all the excitement and support that was evident on Sunday, we know that we can count on your support to move this project forward. Over the coming weeks and months, please expect to hear more about how you can be part of making this dream a reality!



*We welcome Zane,
child of McKenna Hutton
and Micah Martinez,
who was born on April 19,
2023, 5 lbs. 15 oz., 18.25”*

Meal Train for McKenna

COJ member **McKenna Hutton** and her partner, Micah, have a new beautiful baby son, Zane. A **Meal Train** has been set up to help them out the first few weeks after the delivery.

Please visit this website to sign up to take McKenna and Micah a meal:

<https://mealtrain.com/wqn96w>



***If you are sending a Door Dash gift card,
don't forget to also select an available date on the calendar!***

Announcements



A Celebration of Life Service for Barbara Shotwell will be held on Saturday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m.

A Memorial Service for Ron Tafoya will be held on Friday, June 30th at 10:00 a.m.

Men Alive! is going LIVE!

Men Alive! is going LIVE with the Men's Breakfast! We have been meeting via ZOOM for the past two years and are going to join together in person in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturdays, May 13th & 27th** at **8:30am** for a hearty breakfast, insightful conversation, prayer, and to continue our study of Matthew Chapter 6.

All men, young or old, are welcome to join us. If you have any questions or want to confirm that you will be joining us for breakfast, drop Charlie a note at cwfiedler@gmail.com.

A Visit from Luther House Campus Ministry, UNM

June 25, 2023

We are pleased to share that on Sunday, June 25th we will be receiving visitors from Luther House Campus Ministry. Their current pastor, Rhonda Newby-Torres, along with her students will be joining us for worship—and sharing the sermon—as well as connecting with us during fellowship after the service. We encourage you to come and meet these partners in ministry, especially if you know of any young people who may want to explore Luther House in the future.

Community of Joy

Beer Buddies



The Next Meeting -
Thursday,
May 18, 2023
at 6:00 p.m.

Worship News

Why do I worry?



Worry is something that I have wrestled with since I can remember. In many ways I can be totally carefree and just roll with things, but in other circumstances, not so much. I tend to work out possible scenarios and outcomes until it consumes me. I become hyper focused on what “could” be and tend to miss the moment. I get tense and argumentative even at the smallest things and it isn’t until later that I realize how self-absorbed I have been.

Well, there was a recent event in my life where my tendency to shut everything else out became very evident however, I was reading Proverbs 12:25 and one verse stood out, it states: *“Anxiety in a mans heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad”*. That really got me thinking about what makes me thankful and happy in my life. If I am completely honest, its not the tangible things I hold but the conversations that I have with people, or the sharing of experiences and the great stories that come out of it.

This verse really helped me to snap out of my worry and “what-if” thinking of the moment and helped me to see a bigger picture, one where I am surrounded by people who care and are in this life with me and one where a loving God calls me into His arms. I was able to let go of some of my attention and repropose it toward what was more important. It’s hard sometimes to see beyond our worry, suffering, pain, or fears, but I hope you are encouraged by this and that it helps you to remember that we have a hope in Jesus, in His Word, and in relationships with each other. And these gentle reminders through love give us an insight into a God who openly embraces us no matter where we are or what circumstances we come from.

Be well.
Jon

THANK YOU TO OUR April VOLUNTEERS!

Ushers:

Lee & Jill Glauvitz, Chris McGill, Pat Shodean, Dennis & Kris Simpson

Readers:

Ron Bencke, Lynette Schurdevin, Charlie Fiedler, Pat Shodean, Greg Edwards, Karen Lenoski, Jake Maser, Roci Gainey-Graham

Communion Assistants:

Diane Brauer, Melissa Eckelbarger, Laura Reu, Pat Shodean, Dennis & Kris Simpson, Greg Edwards

Altar Guild:

Sandy Edwards, Lynette Schurdevin, Pat Shodean, Kris Simpson, Deb Sciortino

Audio/Video Team:

Diane Brauer, Sandy Edwards, Lynette Schurdevin, Zach Shotwell, Kristen Sillence

Nursery Attendants:

Michaela Lovell, Olivia Rousselle, Raven Sillence

Counters:

Donna Huxtable, Jean Potabi

Youth & Children's Ministry

Blessing of the Graduates & Confirmation Sunday Sunday, May 21, 2023

Sunday School

Sunday mornings from 11:05—11:45 p.m.

Children's Sunday School is available for preschool to 6th grade. If you are interested in volunteering, have questions about Sunday School, or to register children to participate, please see **Stephanie Schick**. You can register your children for Sunday school in person, or do so beforehand by picking up a registration form online or at the church.

THE FINAL FEAST Gathering *(for the summer)*

Date: May 10 (6-7:30 pm)

Potluck: Mexican Fiesta (begins at 6 pm)

Activity: Bingo! (6:30-7:30 pm)

High School: At our monthly FEAST gatherings we will have programming for our high schoolers. Some months we will plan a program tailored to this age group, other months we will invite them to join in with our multigenerational activities.

Confirmation: Seventh and eighth graders are invited to participate in confirmation on most Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm. If you have a child of confirmation age not currently involved, please contact Pr. Paul about the meeting schedule.

You Can Never Thank People Enough

A big **Thank You!** to

Pete Doles—for all of his work keeping COJ's irrigation system operational

Dennis Simpson—for repairing and restriping COJ's parking lot—a HUGE job!

**WE
APPRECIATE
YOU!**

Vacation Bible School



Community of Joy 2023 Vacation Bible School June 19—23, 2023

This summer, come be a part of Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Vacation Bible School as we explore *It's All About Grace*

When? June 19—23, 2023

What Time?

Grades K-6: 9am—2pm Mon.—Fri.

Registration forms are on the counter between the offices, or online at communityofjoy.com

Anxious to help with planning or ministry to youth?

We need helpers during both the day sessions and the evening session. Places for everyone. Just let the church office know you're interested.

Mark your calendars! This is a great opportunity to participate in one of COJ's landmark-and very fun ministries.

There are sign-up sheets on the counter outside the office— please sign up to provide lunch, dinner, or snacks.



VBS – Biggest Need!! Housing for Camp Staff

We are hosting 4-5 staff members coming to help us run VBS this summer. We will have two male and two female staff. We need a (or more then one) home for the week.

Do you have room to house 2 or 4 staff this summer for one week? They will arrive Sunday, June 18 from camp in Colorado and will return back after camp on Friday June 23. **All host families must be fully vaccinated and provide proof in accordance with RTLC policy.** You will need to provide a place to sleep and breakfast. Lunch and dinner will be provided by other congregation members. Staff will have their own transportation.

Please let Earlene know as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Joyful Hearts Women's Ministry



Sunday, April 30th is the final day to sign up for the Derby Day Tea Party so we can know how much food will be needed! The Derby Day Tea Party is our official kickoff to collect items for Haven House, the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County. The list of items to be collected will be finalized at the Joyful Hearts May meeting and will be announced on or shortly after Mother's Day. Our collection period will be from Mother's Day (May 14th) until Father's Day (June 18th).

Derby Day Tea Party on May 6th!

On **Saturday, May 6th, from 2-4pm**, Joyful Hearts will kick off our fundraiser for **Haven House**, the only domestic violence shelter in Sandoval County, with a **Derby Day Tea Party**. This event is open to all (women and men)! We will have "Derby delights", tea, a hat contest with prizes in three different categories (Fanciest, Most creative/original, and Wackiest), Derby trivia, and more! A free will offering will be collected and donated to Haven House. Also, if you're interested, the official Kentucky Derby colors are red, black, gold, and white!

Beginning on Mother's Day, we will start collecting specific items (these items will be published in the May newsletter) that Haven House has designated as most needed. This collection will continue until Father's Day, when all the items and monetary donations will be collected and given to Haven House.

Beginning Easter Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table, so we can get an approximate number of attendees.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at sandraledwards1957@gmail.com



Joyful Hearts Meeting

Joyful Hearts will be meeting on **Saturday, May 13th at 10am** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be discussing plans for upcoming projects and events.

All women are welcome to join us! For additional information, you can contact Sandy Edwards, President, at sandraledwards1957@gmail.com

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN JUNE!!

Beyond Our Walls


Storehouse West

We are doing great with our drive-thru donations for Storehouse West. If you would like to donate, simply swing by the outside church entrance and drop off your **non-perishable** food donations in the cart.



- | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| Boxed Cereal (cold) | Canned veggies | Sugar Substitutes |
| Crackers—saltines, club, wheat, any variety | Canned tuna or meat | Coffee |
| Mac & Cheese | Canned fruit | Dog/Cat food |
| Canned tomatoes | Pasta & sauce | |
| Hamburger Helper | Canned pasta | |
| | Sugar | |

Monetary donations for on-going needs can also be made by check to **Storehouse West** and mailed to:
Storehouse West, 1030 F. Veranda Dr. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

 The Storehouse West Kids Clothes Closet would appreciate donations of children's swimwear and boys baseball caps. These could be left with the food donations.

*Over 150 lbs. of food were delivered to Storehouse during the month of April.
 Thank you for your donations!
 Please continue to support Storehouse West and help feed our community.*

SERMON ON THE AMOUNTS

Giving for Year through March 31, 2023

Giving	Actual	Budget	Actual Giving more/(less) than Budget
Programs:	\$44,422.00	\$47,250.00	(\$2,828.00)
Building:	\$11,105.00	\$13,350.00	(\$2,245.00)
Both Funds:	\$55,527.00	\$60,600.00	(\$5,073.00)

Thank you for your faithful financial stewardship.

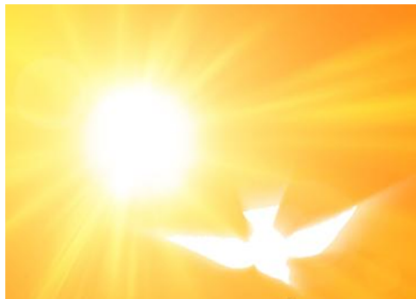
Online Giving on Community of Joy's website

Did you know that our website has a link to online giving? On the top tab of our page, you can now find a link that says "Giving", as well as a *Giving Button* on the front page. Simply click on one of these links and follow the instructions to offer a recurring or one-time gift. Gifts can be made by card or by account transfer.

The office will be closed on Memorial day, May 29, 2023

Pastor's Ponderings

POWERED BY THE SPIRIT AND THE SUN!



Continued from page 1

But even beyond this, we believe that caring for this Earth we all call home is not a distraction from our identity as God's church, but rather part and parcel of what it means to follow Jesus. Increasingly, if you ask young people today, they will tell you that any spirituality that does not involve creation care is not one they want to follow. Indeed, how can we love people, if we don't also protect the world that sustains them? Thus, in the larger scheme of things, this project is an expression of our faith, not a distraction from it- as it expresses how God calls us to be good stewards of this world and treat it with reverence and love.

So that's the WHY of this whole thing, but we still need to discuss the HOW. After much research, we have selected the solar company we intend to work with. (A huge thanks to Bill Kostel for leading this effort, and to Jon Shodean for his technical expertise!) In the coming weeks we will seek to negotiate an agreement with them in line with an earlier estimate they provided.

Meanwhile, our job will be to raise roughly \$30,000. The total project is closer to \$60,000, however the Memorial Fund has generously offered match donations up to 30k to help us reach our goal.

Based on the level of support we have seen, I am very optimistic that with a little effort and the amazing generosity you have always shown to this ministry, we will be meet this goal without the need for outside financing.

In the coming months, please expect to hear more about this solar project, and please consider how you might offer your support to help make it happen.

May we all be powered by the Spirit and the Son- and the Sun!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Paul

A WAY TO SUPPORT COJ's GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Smith's Inspiring Donations

This is an easy way to provide funds to Community of Joy's **Good Samaritan Fund**.

If you are not already a Smith's Rewards Card member, you can register for one at <https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/i/community/smiths-inspiring-donations>
Then, link your account with **Community of Joy Church (MJ324)**.
Use your Smith's card every time you shop. It's as simple as that.



During the period of January 1 — March 31, 2023 we earned \$28.80 for the Good Samaritan Fund!

Holy Week at Community of Joy Church

He Is Risen!



Our Church



Marcus & Pat Sanders

We Welcome our Newest Members!

On Sunday, April 16th we welcomed two new families into our community.



George Swenson & Peggy Decker



The Children's Message



COJ Hiked to the San Ysidro Trails area Sunday, April 23, 2023



Special Music—Megan Williams singing "The Goodness" last Sunday

