

TIDINGS OF JOY

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2026

Inside this issue:

Staff / Birthdays	2
Anniversaries	3
Council	4
Soup Suppers	6
Blood Drive	7
Heroes	8
Worship & Music	9
JOY!Formation Family Fun Day	10
WELCA / LENTEN SERVICES	11
Fight Hunger Family Fun Day	12
Blessing Bags	13
Mosley Concert	14
Clarinet Choir Concert	15
Feb. Bible Read- ings/ Communion at Home	16
New Bible Study Help Needed	17
Coming to JOY!	18
Joy Calendar	19



LOVE, LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD



And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. (Acts 16:13)

Dear JOYful Family,

Lydia and her “ya-ya sisterhood”. That’s who Paul and Timothy met and struck up a conversation with. Sharing their faith. That simple.

On the last Sabbath day of 2025, we went “outside the gate” to a riverside to participate in Cassidy’s baptism. The encounter in Acts led to the baptism of Lydia and everyone in her household. *Faithful innovation.*

Curiosity just might lead to new, dynamic relationships that will cut through the noise and confusion of the “spin cycle”. The urge, the quest, the hunger for spirituality permeates society. People crave hope and a sense of belonging. In this Epiphany-turning-to-Lent time, the Holy Spirit continues to be revealed among us.

Lydia was the first European convert to Christianity, and founded the first church in Philippi. The Holy Spirit’s nudge planted the seed and set the course.

Continued on Page 3

SCAN FOR ON-LINE
GIVING



Our mission is to share the Good News of grace and love with all through worship, service, and fellowship.



MEET OUR STAFF

CHURCH STAFF & OFFICERS

Pastor-Art Wuertz

Administrative Assistant-
Zsuzsanna Jobbagy

Director of Music-Silas Daniel

Choir Director-Linda Aker

Handbell Director-
Melissa Daniel

Sexton-Carson Faris

Treasurer-Terry Owen

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS:

President- Karin Campbell

Vice President-John Voyles

Secretary- Linda Aker

Treasurer-Terry Owen

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Richard Cognetti

Carson Faris

Don Fields

J.R. Frederiksen

Doug Juhl

Diana O'Neill

Paul Spellman

Patty Willoughby



DATE	NAME
02/01	Calvin Kraft
02/03	Liz Young Linda Aker
02/08	Judy Remy
02/12	Bob Kolch
02/14	Diane Knox
02/17	Nancy Moisuk
02/19	Thommy Ilmrud
02/22	David Mitchell



Continued from Page 1

We listen, then we learn by trying things out. The changes that will come when we transform ourselves by the renewing of our minds will most likely come NOT by training manuals or programs but by simple human interaction. This will be accompanied by processing and reflecting. I imagine this happening not just gathered around the tables in Swenson Hall but also in diners, coffee shops, hair salons, driving ranges, and pickleball courts.

Terry Owen and others will be putting on our traditional ***Lenten Soup Suppers***. They will run from ***February 25th – March 25th, 5:00-6:00 (note new time)***. ***Then we will gather in the Sanctuary for worship at 6:30.*** Our prayer is that guests will come, especially those who long for home-made soup and fellowship. In other words, an ***Outreach*** focus. I encourage you to seek Terry out and offer your help in this witnessing opportunity.

I will show up ***any time, any where you want to meet up, hang out, and be led by the Holy Spirit in holy conversation and relationship cultivation!***

Pastor Art



DATE	NAME	NO. of YEARS
02/02	Robert Miller and Susan Holmes	6 yrs.
02/14	Jim and Erika Russon	51 yrs.
	Lloyd Unfred and Cathy Rosol	39 yrs.
02/17	Bob and Barbara Johnson	52 yrs.
02/18	Wayne and Denise Armstrong	42 yrs.
02/24	Earl and Dawn Winblad	25 yrs.

Congratulations

Swenson Hall Forum Meetings.

Submitted by Ray Ihlenburg

COUNCIL

Three meetings were held (January 16, 17, and 18) to present the conceptual approaches for the renovation of Swenson Hall. While the meetings could have had more folks in attendance, those that came provided good input and good opinions that will help to finalize the 2-5 Year Plan chapters concerning Swenson Hall.

The current direction suggests the renovation of the garage to become the church offices to be followed by the renovation of Swenson Hall. This renovation can develop more meeting rooms in Swenson Hall to meet the demands from our ministries and potentially from the community. Basically, the building will get new flooring, lights, paint, built-in storage cabinets, and some changes to access. At this time, the kitchen area will be updated as a warming and food serving area. However, there are other suggestions that need review to include in the eventual scope, even if implementation increases costs. The real task ahead is balancing the scope of the project so that Joy is financially conservative while striving to resolve as many of the space and functionality issues as possible.

Finally, it is proposed to host similar forums, in mid-February to present the ideas for the potential Narthex addition. Following these meetings, ideally the 2-5 Year Plan can be worked on and drawn to a close.

Council Officers for 2026

At the regularly scheduled Council meeting, new officers were elected.

The Council Officers are:

Karin Campell, President
John Volyes, Vice-President
Linda Aker, Secretary
Terry Owen-Treasurer

The other Council members are :

Rich Cognetti
Carson Faris
Don Fields
JR Fredericksen
Doug Juhl
Diana O'Neill
Paul Spellman
Patty Willoughby

At the February Council meeting, the ministry liaisons will be determined.



ARE COMING!

Wednesday, February 18th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season.

***Our Lenten soup suppers will begin on:
Wednesday, February 25th from 5:00-6:00 pm***

During the five Wednesdays of Lent, Swenson Hall will be serving delicious soups . Everyone in the community is invited to attend. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Everyone is invited to attend our Lenten worship service after the dinner. (6:30pm in the Sanctuary.) There is no fee for the meal; freewill love offerings are accepted.

Sign-up sheets for the dinners will be posted in the Narthex .

We will need volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean-up. All inquiries can be directed to

***Terry Owen office: 352-854-4509 ext. 4
cell: 717-571-9752***

***MARK THE DATES: Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Wednesday, March 25, 2026***

TIME: 5:00 PM—6:00 PM ~~~ PLACE: SWENSON HALL



LIFE SOUTH BLOOD MOBILE COMING: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

7:30 am -1:00 pm

How would you like to be a real



?

Not the candy type, but a *REAL LIFE* saver. It is easier than you think: no training courses to take or pay for, no text books to buy— it takes just a bit of your time. Every time someone walks into the blood mobile and donates blood, they become life savers. A single donation of whole blood saves 3 lives. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can make an appointment.

Life South is helping their community hosts by giving back. As a non-profit host, Joy is eligible to receive a community grant from Life South. What do we have to do? Our goal is to have 15 donors sign up at our drive. If we reach our goal, we qualify for a \$300 grant for our efforts. The importance of donating can never be understated. Helping others gives you that warm-fuzzy feeling inside. So spread the word that the Life South blood mobile will be here. Encourage people to come out and donate.

Let's DO IT!



Joy Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 1st

7:30am-1:00pm

LifeSouth tote bag for all February blood donors!



LIFE SOUTH Community Blood Centers



Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and have given 12-16 year-olds receive written parental permission.

“HEROES OF THE MONTH”

JUDE GONZALEZ & PATTY WILLOUGHBY

They had the great idea to show the girls at our
JOY!House how to make Christmas cookies!

The girls and their foster moms were so thrilled!
It has led them to take an interest in our church,
even coming to worship!

This is God’s work in action, lovingly “baked into” our life in Him.

Congratulations to Jude and Patty!

They also both sing in the choir,
are here on Wednesdays quilting and card making,
and Patty is newly elected to our Church Council.



WORSHIP & MUSIC

Jean Groth has been joyfully preparing our bread for Communion,. During the last W&M meeting we heard there may be individuals who would like to help in this endeavor. Jean has graciously passed her recipe (printed below) for anyone who would like to help. If you have any questions, you can contact Jean at 607-372-7276.

Communion Bread

2 c. Whole wheat flour
1 c. White flour
1 1/4 tsp. Baking powder
1 1/4 tsp. Salt

Cut in 4 tsp. Oil. (I use olive oil)

Mix , and add to dry ingredients till well mixed
3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp. Very hot water
3 Tbsp. honey
3 Tbsp. Molasses

Dough should be sticky

Divide into 6 pieces and roll into 1/4 inch thick circle
Mark with a cross
Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes
Remove and brush with oil, bake an additional 5-8 minutes
Remove and cool.

Joy!formation – New Member Orientation

Are you interested in learning more about becoming a member of Joy?

Our Joy!formation classes offer a welcoming space for information, conversation, and connection. These two sessions are a chance for us to get to know one another, answer your questions, and share the wonderful ways God is at work in our congregation

February Class Date

February 3 -7:00–8:30 pm • Swenson Hall

(Swenson Hall is located at the far end of the parking lot. A map is available at www.joylcocala.org.)

New members will be received on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at the service of your choice (Sun. 8:15am or 11:00 am, or Wed. 5:30 pm).

We look forward to welcoming you into the Joy family.

ATTENTION JOY'S LADIES!!!

Joy's “Family Fun Day” will be here before we know it.

One of the attractions is the JEWELRY TABLE.

Please go through your unused jewelry and consider donating it for this sale.

You can give the items to Linda Aker or Debbie Zander.





WELCA NEWS

It's never too early to [plan ahead!](#)

The next WELCA meeting is February 16 at 11AM.

Once again, we will have a dynamic speaker, and, as always, delicious food. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Mark your calendar. Plan to have a laugh or two, excellent fellowship and a speaker.

Come join us!

Carson Faris

Lenten Services

ASH WEDNESDAY-

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 beginning of Lent

Wednesday evening service will be at 6:30 PM

Drive through ashes will be distributed from

12:00 NOON—1:00 PM under the alcove

Wednesday night services (2/25-3/25) during Lent will be at 6:30 PM.- the topic will be “By Faith”



Hunger is a physical drive for food, causing stomach pangs and fatigue, but also refers to the chronic lack of access to sufficient, nutritious food, leading to malnutrition and severe global issues like famine.

We here at JOY can make a difference by participating in our **FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY** program. Held on the last Sunday of each month we can reduce hunger both locally and globally.

You can help by

- 1)making a monetary donation to ELCA WORLD HUNGER.
- 2)You can contribute non-perishable food items to our INTERFAITH FOOD BANK drive.

Every dollar, every box or can, helps someone in need.
No offering is too small!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY AND LOVE.

**FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY IS:
February 22 nd**



**LOOKING FOR FACE PAINTERS
FOR JOY'S "FAMILY FUN DAY"
SAT., MARCH 28TH.**

**Please contact Linda Aker
if you can do this.**

**Tel # 352-291-7597 (home)
352-895-2473 (cell).**



Blessing Bags 2026

OUTREACH

The Joy Lutheran Church Outreach Committee is happy to announce the commencement of this year's Blessing Bag mission! The recipient of this year's bags will be Isaiah 117 House (located in Ocala). If you are not familiar with Isaiah 117 House they are a national nonprofit organization that provides a safe, loving home-like environment for children who have been removed from unsafe homes and are waiting to be placed into foster care. At Isaiah 117 House every child, upon arrival, receives a bag of essential items to make them feel at home.

The goal of this year's Blessing Bags is to supplement those bags. We hope to add a stuffed animal, socks, healthy snacks, cozy blankets and some travel size toiletries.

Rather than request donations from our congregation for these items, we have unanimously agreed to request a cash donation, a Love offering to help supply the items needed. The decision was made for the sake of consistency and uniformity and to ease the burden on the congregation. Donations will be greatly appreciated and accepted on March 1st, 8th and 15th. Before and after worship. This collection schedule will give us time to shop for the necessary items. Beautiful homemade bags have again this year been made by Diane Wanat. We plan to pack 50 bags on April 16th. As we get closer to that date more information will be available. We would love to have your help, if you are able, to pack the bags.

Having such a wonderful organization to donate our bags to make this mission so much more meaningful. Children in need are children we want to help. Together as a congregation we can do wonderful things. As always we extend our most sincere thanks for your love and support!

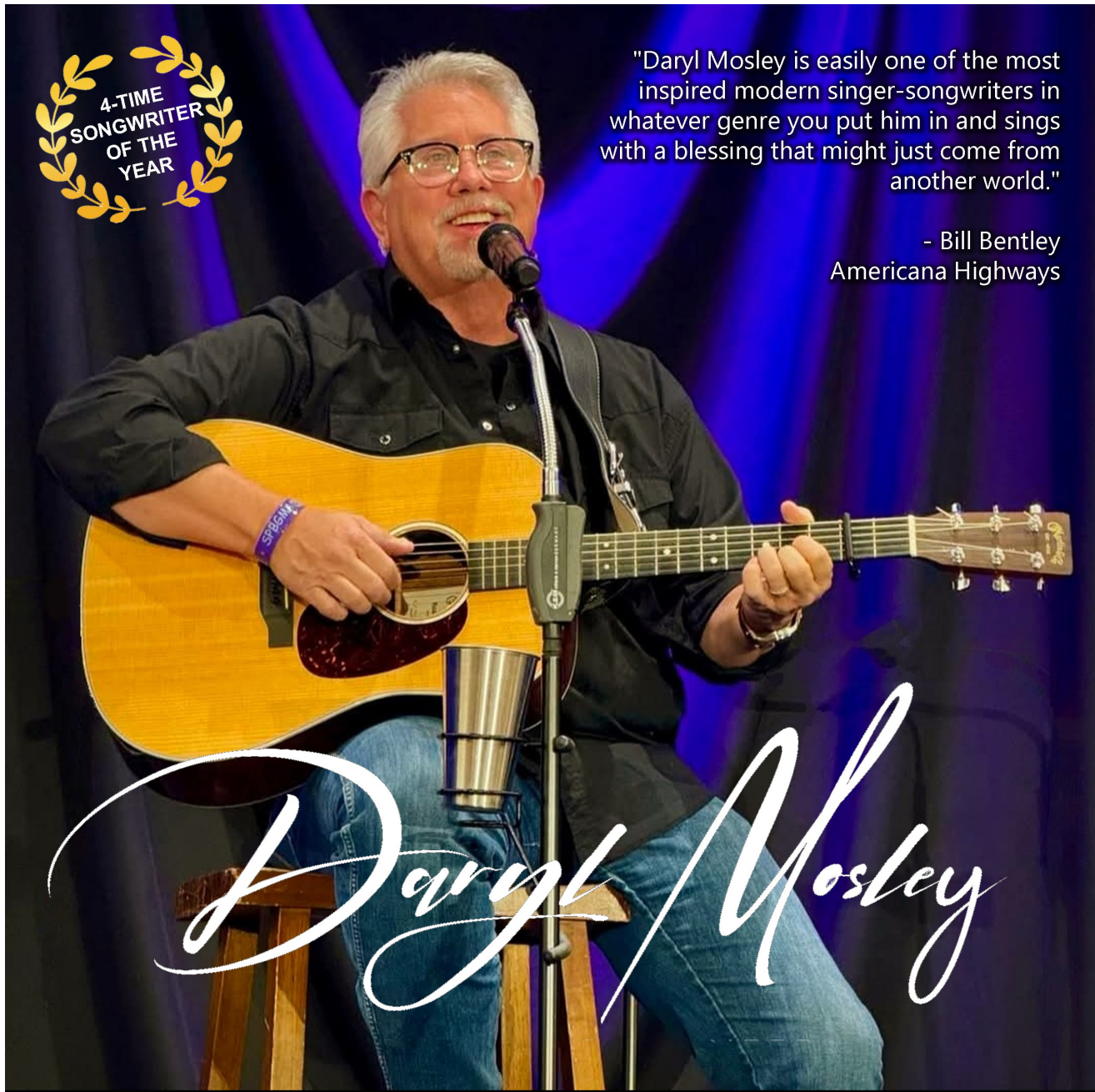
Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. Susan Zumbahlen dorrisday2@yahoo.com or 708-408-7730 and the entire Outreach Committee





"Daryl Mosley is easily one of the most inspired modern singer-songwriters in whatever genre you put him in and sings with a blessing that might just come from another world."

- Bill Bentley
Americana Highways



Daryl Mosley

SINGER SONGWRITER STORYTELLER

Saturday, February 14 2pm

Joy Lutheran Church
7045 SW 83rd Pl; Ocala, FL

www.darylmosley.com

Seasons of JOY

Concert Series

2025-26 Season

A New Musical Adventure

Gainesville Area Clarinet Choir



The Gainesville Clarinet Choir was organized in 2018 primarily from members of the Gainesville Community Band and Gainesville Pops. This multi-generational group is composed of enthusiasts

playing clarinets of all sizes, from the Eb soprano to the contra bass, giving it the same range as a full orchestra or concert band. The choir plays many different styles of music from folk songs to pop tunes to classical transcriptions to original compositions. The Gainesville Clarinet Choir performs several concerts per year in the Gainesville area at various venues such as churches, retirement homes, and art galleries. This spring we are excited to premiere several new arrangements transcribed just for us by our former member Will Eberhardt and our longtime composer-in-residence Kay Hoff, as well as some longtime springtime favorites.

February 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
at JOY Lutheran Church (7045 SW 83rd Place, Ocala, FL 34476)

Free Admission. Reception follows concert.

BIBLE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Feb. 1	MICAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	MATTHEW
	6:1-8	15	1:18-31	5:1-12
Feb. 8	ISAIAH	PSALM	1 CORINTHIANS	MATTHEW
	58:1-12	112:1-10	2:1-16	5:13-20
Feb. 15	EXODUS	PSALM	2 PETER	MATTHEW
	24:12-18	2 or 99	1:16-21	17:1-9
Feb. 18 ASH WEDNESDAY	JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17	PSALM	2 CORINTHIANS	MATTHEW
	or ISAIAH 58:1-12	51:1-17	5:20b--6:10	6:1-6, 16-21
Feb. 22	GENESIS	PSALM	ROMANS	MATTHEW
	2:15-17; 3:1-7	32	5:12-19	4:1-11

Communion at home!

*If you desire communion at home,
Please contact the church office
to schedule a visit.*

Our office telephone #: 352-854-4509

*Office hours are Monday-Thursday
8:00 am—3:30 pm.*

*You can always leave a message . We will get in touch
with you as soon as we can.*



BIBLE STUDY

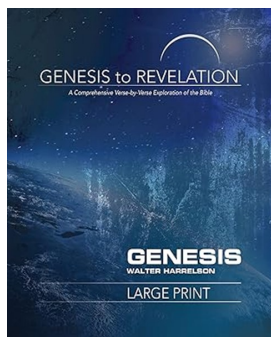
With Charlie.....

*Are you ready for a new adventure in bible study?
It's happening!*

*Beginning:
Monday, February 2nd, 2026 at 1:00 pm, in the Narthex*

*Prepare to navigate :
“GENESIS to REVELATION”*

This study of the entire Book of Genesis begins with the creation story and ends with Jacob and his family reuniting. Some of the major ideas explored in this Book of the Bible are: personal relationship with God, the mystery of God, God's unconditional love, courage to face the unknown, and turning evil into good. The meaning of the selected passages is made clear by considering such aspects as ancient customs, locations of places, and the meanings of words. The simple format makes the study easy to use. Includes maps and glossary with key pronunciation helps.



**Participants will need to purchase the book:
Genesis to Revelation: Genesis Participant Book
by Walter Harrelson (Author)
The book is available through
Amazon and Barnes & Noble**



Your help is Needed!!!

***The Concert Series is looking for someone
to oversee the Hospitality refreshments
following Joy's once each month concerts.***

For more information please contact:

***Linda Aker — Tel.# 352-291-7597 or 352-895-2473 or
Linda Kraigenow—Tel.#352-304-8722 or 203-231-9979***

THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO BE OUR GUESTS

HEAR THEIR STORY AND SEE THEIR BEAUTIFUL OLIVEWOOD CRAFTS

On Feb 15 2026 and during both services, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after each service we will be hosting at the church Narthex a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olive wood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income . For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars , the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem , the COVID-19 pandemic , and recently the catastrophic war in Gaza for the past two years , due to this tourists are afraid and unable to visit the Holy Land . This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income . The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites ,

Please help support our Christian brothers and sisters in the town of Bethlehem where Christ was born by purchasing their carvings.

A Christians family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services.

It is never too late to help. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem .

Dr. George Ghanem
Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative
www.hlsc.org



PLEASE NOTE CHANGES ON THE CALENDAR

***Starting with our ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
on 2/18- Wednesday night worship Services will be at 6:30 PM***

***Services will be preceded by our Soup Suppers from
5:00 to 6:00 pm in Swenson Hall starting 2/25/26.***



FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Worship Svcs: 8:15 and 11:00 A</p> <p>Blood Drive- 7:30A-1:00P</p>	<p>2 Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p> <p>Member Care 1:00 P</p>	<p>3 Beginners' Bible Study 11:00 A</p> <p>JOY!Formation 7:00 P</p>	<p>4 Happy Hands 9A Joyful Hands 9:30A</p> <p>Choir Reh. 3-4:30P</p> <p>Worship Svc 5:30P</p>	<p>5 LMM- 8:15A</p> <p>Publicity-1:00P (N)</p> <p>BCR -6:30P (S)</p>	<p>6 Bells 10:00A (S)</p> <p>Holy Hiatus 7P (OC)</p> <p>Cristo La Rocca set up 7:00 P</p>	<p>7 Spiritual Gifts Class-10A-2P (N)</p> <p>Cristo La Roca Mtg 10:00A-3:00P</p> <p>Cleaning Service 3-5</p>
<p>8 NEW MEMBER SUN</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM</p>	<p>9 Stephen Min. 9:30A</p> <p>Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p>10 Property <u>10:00 A</u> Beginners' Bible Study <u>11:00 A</u> Finance <u>1:00 P</u></p> <p>Worship & Music <u>6:30P (N)</u></p>	<p>11 Happy Hands 9AM</p> <p>Joyful Hands 9:30 AM</p> <p>Choir-3-4:30 PM</p> <p>Worship Svc 5:30 PM</p>	<p>12 TIDINGS DEAD- LINE 8 AM</p> <p>Wear Gloves Lunch</p> <p>Outreach 1:30 P</p> <p>Council Exec. Bd. 3:00 P</p> <p>BCR-6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>13 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p> <p>Cleaning Service 2-4PM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Daryl Mosley Concert 2:00 P</p>
<p>15 WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM</p> <p>Holy Land Chris- tians @ Church</p> <p>Gainesville Clarinet Concert 3:00 P (S)</p>	<p>16 Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p> <p>WELCA LUNCH 11:00 A</p>	<p>17 Beg Bible Study 11AM</p> <p>Council 1:00 P</p>	<p>18 Happy Hands 9AM</p> <p>Joyful Hands 9:30 AM</p> <p>Drive thru Ashes 12-1 P</p> <p>Choir-3-4:30 PM</p> <p>Ash Wed Svc 6:30</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BCR 6:30 PM-S</p>	<p>20 BELL CHOIR-10 AM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Cleaning Service 2-4PM</p>
<p>22 FIGHT HUNGER SUNDAY</p> <p>WORSHIP SVC 8:15 & 11:00 AM</p>	<p>23 Stephen Min. 9:30A</p> <p>Charlie Bible Study 1:00 P (N)</p>	<p>24 Beg Bible Study 11:00A Council 1:00P</p>	<p>25 Happy Hands 9:-00A</p> <p>Joyful Hands 9:30A</p> <p>Choir-3-4:30P</p> <p>Soup Supper 5-6 P</p> <p>Worship Svc 6:30P</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BCR 6:30 P(S)</p>	<p>27 BELL CHOIR-10 A</p>	<p>28 Myrtles Cleared 9:00A</p> <p>Cleaning Service 2-4PM</p>
<p>PLEASE observe the following deadlines for copy ready articles to be placed in the bulletin and the newsletter.</p> <p>Bulletin deadline is Monday 8:00 am Tidings deadline is on the 15th of the month. Thank you. Susan</p>						

Contact Us

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www.joylcoala.org
www.facebook.com/joylutheranchurch.ocala



FEBRUARY 2026

***Our vision:
"Joy is a spiritual community sharing
the love of Christ in a challenging
world".***

