

News and Announcements and *some exciting news from a former Pastor for January 4, 2023*

End of Year Giving Statements

Once again, to save paper and postage, the church will not be doing widespread printing up and distributing annual giving statements. Everyone can now easily generate their own statements from their Realm account whenever they like. **If you do require a hard copy done the traditional way, please just let the office know and we can provide one.** If you haven't accessed Realm and need a new invite sent, just let the office know. You can also see all your current giving and history all the way back to 2008. Below are easy step by step instructions to print your giving statements.

Accessing Giving Record & End of Year Giving Statements

To generate and print out giving statements from your Realm account-

- Log into Realm
- Click on "Giving" on the left side of the page. It will automatically show your gifts for *this* year, to date, to verify your gifts.
- For Yearly Statements, click the Filter button (that droopy triangle symbol) and change the Gift Date Range to "Last Year". then click the blue "Filter" button.
- To print, simply click the Printer Icon. A report will generate, and you can click the Printer Icon in that window to print your statement.
- Done! 😊

Respectfully,

The Church Office & Finance Committee

2023 Giving Envelopes are now available in the Narthex.

Faith Hope Circle is meeting THIS THURSDAY and continues to meet the first Thursday of each month, September through June. We meet in the hall at 12:15 bringing a bag lunch and a drink. Our goal is to support our church and community. All women of the church and community are cordially invited to attend.

From the Outreach Committee – "The holiday has come and gone in a flash. Outreach is taking a moment to thank everyone who participated in any of our holiday opportunities. With your help we donated lots of groceries to the soup kitchen and supplied Christmas dinner and presents to 5 local families and 5 local seniors through the county's Holiday Sharing program. We also helped the Child Development Center provide and distribute socks, mittens, gloves and hats to children and adults in our local homeless community. And the members of our Faith/Hope Circle provided cookies and care to our members and friends who are currently housebound. We love being a part of this giving community. With sincere gratitude, the Outreach Committee"

From Pam Mertz - During October, November and December (excluding both the Harvest Fair and the Christmas Fair), sales of rabbits, hearts, dog collars and key rings earned \$58 for the general fund. The 2 craft fairs earned \$35 and \$25 respectively from the sale of these items, and those proceeds were shared with both Childcare and Mt. Carmel. As always, thank you for your continued support.

If you are visiting the church during the week, please be careful of the children at the school.

We ask that if you are driving in during drop-off or pick-up hours that you wait behind the cars as to not endanger any of the children getting in and out of the cars. These lines move rather quickly. Morning hours are typically 8:15-9:15 and then afternoon is usually 11:30-12:30. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

We want to remind you that we are still using Zoom for our Sunday Services. Zoom allows you to join us from wherever you may be!! (Join us in your pj's with a morning cup of coffee) As most of you who Zoom our worship services know, I greet Zoom attendees as they sign on, take Zoom attendance, and assign names to phone numbers as phone callers sign on. I open the Zoom meeting at 9 a.m. to give people time to sign on. I encourage you to sign on early to avoid the crush of people signing on at the last minute. The earlier you sign on the easier it is for me to attend to the greeting responsibilities. It also gives us a chance to chat and share prayer requests. **If you should have any problems logging in, please alert Jennifer in the office.**

If you have prayer requests, even if you plan to share them at Sunday worship, you may forward them ahead of time to Jen at the church office and she will compile a list to be used on Sunday morning.

The Announcements and Bulletin for Sunday's service are included as attachments to this encouraging word. Please feel free to print them out and either bring them with you to the service or to use them as your guide as you Zoom the service.

This week we have some exciting news from our former Pastor Bob Paulen

Dear Friends,

As a former pastor at your church, I thought some folks might be interested in this piece of news about one of my activities in retirement. The USA Track and Field Awards Committee has selected me as the 2022 Age Group - M 85-89 Athlete of the Year for America. This award was based on a review of athlete performances for the year. I won all 5 events I entered at the National Indoor Championship, all six events entered at the National Outdoor Championship, and broke three American records. The records were set in the short hurdlers, both indoors and outdoors, and the long hurdles which is only contested outdoors. The other events that I won at each championship were the long jump, triple jump, high jump and pentathlon. (The indoor pentathlon consists of the long jump, 200 meters, 1,500 meters, discus and javelin. The outdoor events are the high jump, long jump, short hurdles, shotput and 1,000 meters.)

I shall be going to Poland in March to represent the USA at the World Masters Athletic Championships. Hopefully I'll be well conditioned and represent our country with a top effort.

Blessings to all,

Bob