

*Our mission is to introduce all people to  
Jesus Christ and the exhilarating power and  
undefeatable joy He brings to life!*

NOVEMBER 2022

# GOOD NEWS

A monthly publication of Immanuel Lutheran

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## Behold! I Do A New Thing!

*by Pastor Rebecca Craig*

**S**ometimes it's hard to remember that we have a God who is always looking to the future, rather than the past. Oh, he points to the past, reminding us of the things he has done when we think he's not listening or isn't really there, but ultimately we have a God who looks forward, gives us promises for a future that we have yet to fathom, and "makes all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

- Creation was new once.
- God's covenant with Abraham was new.
- Freeing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt was new.
- The incarnation was new.
- The resurrection was new.

- Pentecost was new.
- The church springing up outside Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria was new.

So why, as Christians who believe in a God who is always up to something "new," do we cling so hard to the past? The way things "used" to be?

As we have emerged from a long almost three years of Covid precautions, we yearn for things to "return to normal." Yet, we are discovering that try as we might—whatever "normal" once was has changed. We live in a new reality and it's difficult for us to adjust to those changes and instead, we keep

*(continued on page 2...)*

*God with us*  
**Immanuel**

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive  
Palm City, FL 34990  
772.287.8188  
immanuelpalmcity.org



**Pastor Rebecca's**

## MONTHLY MESSAGE

*(...continued from page 1)*

wanting to grab hold of what once was, looking backward instead of forward to the new future.

I know I'm guilty of it. I know I grow nostalgic for "the way things were." I want things to be like they were before the world went wonky.

But if there is one thing I have learned about life—you can never go back, as much as I'd like to at times. We continue to march forward, always forward.

It's human nature to be fearful, even "suspect" of "the new." Because if it's new, it means it's different and means something is changing. And... no one likes change because it's unfamiliar and it's scary.

There's a reason every time God is about to do something "new" the words "Fear not" are spoken. God knows that the "new thing" frightens us.

Admittedly, I don't know exactly what "new" thing God is up to in our time, but I know that God is definitely up to something new. It's almost a palpable feeling that hangs in the air. That the ushering in of God's Kingdom is not reliant upon

*(continued on page 3...)*



# GATHERING TOGETHER



*by Pete Morello  
Council President*

I cannot believe that this year is so close to over! I am not going to lie my favorite time of year is November and December. Although we all have so much to do and there is a real sense of "hustle and bustle"; it is also the time of year that we make sure we come together as a community. We come together and break bread or wishbones and feel thankful for those relationships. Matthew had it right when he wrote "where two or more are gathered, I am there in the midst of the them." Community attracts the Holy Spirit.

At the end of October, Emily and I sent our children with the youth to Camp Luther Springs, with Ms. Brittany & Pastor Maryanne from Living Faith. It ignited all the amazing memories that Emily and I have from camp when we were younger. People coming together in the same space is magical and I think that is why God asks us to gather to worship, because that is the "secret sauce" that grows the Holy Spirit within ourselves. Although it is nice to watch the service from home in my PJs knowing that my offering is recurring online, so it is okay I do not put an envelope in the plate, I found that I was not truly present and growing my faith. Pastor Chad and Pastor Rebecca always say that true faith is built on the relationship you have with God and others. I know that for me relationships are built best and kept strong when we all come together. That is why Thanksgiving is so special. When we come together to eat and delight in giving thanks, we feel full in our bellies and in our hearts.

If you have visited the church lately you have seen that we have inherited some large concrete drains along with other building materials and a tractor. We are moving along with the parking lot construction. Our congregation has done all we can to prepare for this project. The Construction company, the Engineers, Surveyors, Landscape designers have all been very helpful and quick to respond to our questions. We have been blessed with an excellent team and I am sure you will all be able to see that blessing once the parking lot is done. Thank you to all that gave to the LIFTT Campaign to help this dream of ours come to light. The transformations allowed through the LIFTT campaign, and the relationships built when we come together in the sanctuary to worship are proof that "With God all things are possible." ■

# HAPPY THANKSGIVING



by Cheryl Gundersdorff  
Deacon

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us. For Americans, it is a special holiday to pause and give thanks. It is the holiday that garners the most travel as families and friends gather together for a special meal, renew relationships (or tolerate them for one day), relive memories and make new ones.

The question is, what are we giving thanks for and to whom?

Nothing ruffles my feathers (pun intended) more in November than when people say happy turkey day. Sadly, there are too many people who see Thanksgiving as nothing more than a day off work to gorge on turkey and all the fixings and binge watch football. God, the one to whom our gratitude should be focused on, is no where on their agenda. Which means God most likely isn't even a part of their daily lives (their choice, not God's).

As Christians we don't really need a special holiday to express our thanks to God. We will, of course, still enjoy that day. On Thanksgiving, like every day, we will give thanks to our God, who abundantly blesses us with all things good. How can we not give God thanks every day when we think about how much he loves us, to the point of having Jesus give up the glories of heaven and becoming flesh and blood to die for us. Jesus' death and resurrection gives us more than pardon from our sins. It also gives us eternal life with him. It gives us hope, fills our hearts with undefeatable joy and exhilarating power through his Holy Spirit. The things we can be thankful for are as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Perhaps getting our feathers ruffled when someone says happy turkey day is a good thing because it gives us an opportunity to introduce them to the God who loves them and blesses them each day. So, I invite you to join me in introducing the "turkey day people" to an amazing God worth giving thanks to. Just remember to do it in a spirit of love with a smile. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family and friends. ■

## MONTHLY GOOD NEWS DEADLINE

The deadline to submit items for the monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month. Items received after the 15th may or may not make it into the newsletter. To submit items, send an email to: [ilcmedia2655@gmail.com](mailto:ilcmedia2655@gmail.com)

(...continued from page 2)

the church just doing churchy things like it's always done. That perhaps we are being moved to focus even more on what we're doing out in the community around us. How are we serving those around us? When people think of Immanuel, do they think of that pretty building? Or do they think of the difference we're making in the lives of families with Family Promise? With people who benefit from our Souper Sundays? What other things should they think about when they hear Immanuel?

Pr. Chad and I listened to a speaker, Reggie McNeal, this past week at our conference on ministry in Leesburg. He pointed out that Jesus did not tend to do most of his ministry inside a church building. He was out and about and among the people when he did his most significant work, gave his most memorable sermons.

Now, we already knew this, but it was helpful to hear it reiterated. Worship is indeed an integral part of what we do as a community of faith. It's where we heard God's Word preached, it's where we are able to build relationships and community with one another, and it's where we hopefully find spiritual refreshment and edification. Worship prepares us for living out our Christian calling in the world—to serve and love our neighbors, provide for the needy, and advocate for the marginalized in society.

So it made me think: What "new thing" in the world in this new kind of reality are we being called to be and do? The disciples didn't really know where Jesus was leading them—they just followed and learned along the way. Where is Jesus leading us? ■

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COUNCIL**

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benefiting



For more info and to purchase tickets:  
tykesandteens.org/festivaloftrees-2022

772.210.0145

givehelp@tykesandteens.org  
Fliers available in the narthex

Tykes & Teens has been a leading provider of the highest quality evidence-based mental health services and programs for children and adolescents for more than 25 years.

**We now have more ways for you to give!**



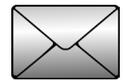
**Mobile**

Text: IPCGIVE  
to 77977



**Online**

immanuelpalmcity.org



**Envelopes**

**MONTHLY GIVING REPORT**

A report of our giving compared to the approved budget the congregation agreed to at the annual meeting. We're including last year as a comparison as well

	Sept 2022	Sept 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Given	\$26,780.61	\$29,177.02	\$307,528.90	\$322,001.81
Budgeted	\$41,332.00	\$44,240.00	\$402,987.00	\$431,340.00
Difference	(\$14,551.39)	(\$15,062.98)	(\$95,458.10)	(\$109,338.19)

**OPERATING FUND INCOME & EXPENSES**

Our year-to-date operating income and expenses using the latest report of the treasurer.

Through 9/30/2022	ILC & IELC
Income	\$709,863.97
Expenses	\$760,715.78
Difference	(\$50,851.81)

# 2022 Family Promise Bed Races

## *\*Fastest Bed Winners!\**

Nearly \$27,000 raised!



### IMMANUEL STAFF

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Deacon

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Organist & Choir Director

Vacant

Contemporary Worship Leader

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Director of Early Learning Center

Rebecca Painter

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Sexton

Leeona Reid

Text: 772-444-5148

### *Prayer Requests*

To add someone to the prayer list or to the prayer chain contact:

Cheryl Gundersdorff: 772-221-8939

[cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:cherylgundersdorff@ilcpalmcity.org)





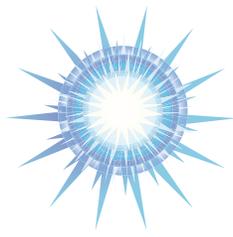
Brittany Lustig

# YOUTH & FAMILY UPDATE

This is the season for giving thanks. Thank you all for your unending support of our youth group. Between the wreath fundraiser, Fall Festival, and so many of you helping with Sunday School, I'd like to say a big thank you. I encourage you and your families to use this month within our community to spread God's love and thanksgiving with everyone you encounter.

At the end of October I took our Confirmation kids to Luther Springs. Pastor Maryanne, of Living Faith Church in Tradition, helped transport and led the material of the retreat. We were able to take 10 of our kids and they had such a fantastic time! If you see one of them, ask them what they learned about the Reformation! They know a whole lot about Martin Luther now! We even wrote new lyrics to Queen's: We Will Rock You; all about the Reformation!

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# CHILDREN, Y

## Beautiful Holiday Evergreens



### YOUTH FUNDRAISER!

ORDER NOW!

ENDS NOVEMBER 7TH

It's time to order those beautiful, long-lasting wreaths and swags for Christmas decorating! Catalogues and order forms are available in the narthex or visit the website:  
[sherwoodfundraiser.com/ILCPalmCity](http://sherwoodfundraiser.com/ILCPalmCity)  
Make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran Church



# YOUTH & FAMILY

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Let's have a wonderful November of thanksgiving. Let us share the good news of Jesus and continue to be great mentors for our youth that walk with faith and trust in our Lord!

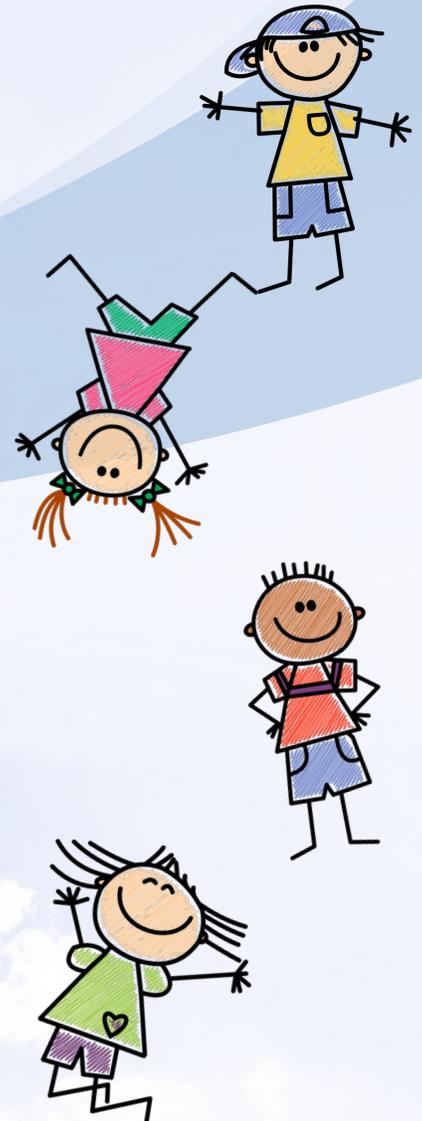
Sending you all my love! ■

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## Upcoming Events

- Confirmation, Nov 20th  
10:45 am, Rm 203



# PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



## Tony Vaughan

2-year-old Teacher

I first came to know Immanuel preschool as a mom and instantly felt right at home. Over the summer I helped as a teacher's aide and quickly realized this is right where I wanted to be. It is so incredibly rewarding to see the world through these young bright minds and I am just so excited to be a part of their learning and growth! My family and I moved to Palm City from Ft. Lauderdale in 2021 and we absolutely love it here. We have two boys Carter, 3, and Maddox, 18 mos and our sweet dog Molly. We enjoy spending time with family and friends and football Sundays. Thank you for the warm welcome. I look forward to a great year! ■



# COMMIT TO DISCIPLESHIP

by Paula Tsufis, Stewardship Committee



For the past three years I've been part of the Lay Leader Network in Northeast Minnesota. We meet quarterly for most of a Saturday to take a deep dive into Scripture and classic and contemporary Christian authors such as Bonhoeffer and Henri

Nouwen. We ponder and discuss the challenges of ministry in our increasingly secular culture. This year we are looking more closely at what it takes to be servant leaders in our congregations and elsewhere.

At our last session, one of our Instructors, Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner, taught a session on "Tenets of Christian Leadership." The first tenet is "Commit to Discipleship." In this time of Christians of all stripes sharing their "beliefs," I was struck how these tenets were structured around active practice:

- A disciple worships regularly
- A disciple lives and grows in community within the church and the greater kingdom of God
- A disciple has an active prayer life.
- A disciple serves others within the church and through their daily callings in the life of the world
- A disciple accompanies others with the good news of God's kingdom
- A disciple faithfully stewards God's creation including proportional first-fruits financial giving to the ministry of the church
- A disciple practices lifelong learning from the holy scriptures and the confessions of the church, along with a growing awareness of God's presence in the world.

As a member of the Stewardship Committee, I'm of course usually talking and writing about financial giving. The reality is that generous giving comes from a life oriented towards following Christ, being a faithful "disciple." I consider this list a good start for contemplation on how well our daily actions are truly a reflection of our Christian beliefs. Maybe a good list to post on your refrigerator for family conversation or to tuck in your Bible for a daily reminder? Peace be to you and your family this Thanksgiving holiday. ■



# EARLY LEARNING CENTER



by Rebecca Painter, IELC Director

October was a fun and busy month here at Immanuel Early Learning Center. The children had a blast decorating their classrooms and preparing for Halloween. The Halloween Parade was a huge success. The children had a fantastic day and looked adorable in their costumes. A big thank you to all the families who brought in treats and helped out!

The theme for the month of November is Fall and Family. In addition, we will be talking to the children about giving, sharing and thankfulness. The children have been working with the colors red, brown, yellow, and orange and are learning to make other colors with the ones they have. Our bulletin boards are covered with "turkey" handprints, fall leaves and pumpkins and they look amazing.

A very special thank you to Judy and John Wakeman for doing a fun fall project with our VPK classes. The children loved it.

As we count our blessings, we are thankful to the Congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church and are so grateful for the support and kindness you show us each and every day. Happy Thanksgiving. ■

## We Want You With Us!

by Ron Froehlich

It was two and a half years ago that we heard of COVID-19. Fortunately, Immanuel was already in the process of installing equipment that allowed us to live stream our worship services when everything was closed down. Live streaming was meant to serve our shut-ins and those looking for a church to attend.

Now, vaccines have mitigated many of the risks for most of us. We now go to medical appointments, attend classes, buy groceries and eat out at restaurants again.

Participating in worship with your fellow believers is an important aspect to forming church community at Immanuel.

We want you to ...

... confess with us.

... pray with us.

... sing hymns with us.

... hear scriptures with us.

... commune with us.

... serve with us.

... volunteer with us.

... present your offering with us.

...receive God's forgiveness and blessing with us.

It is time that those who are able again participate in worship at Immanuel. We look forward to seeing you!



Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team, we will be doing a Children's book drive for Salvation Army Compassion House. There will be a box in the Narthex for donations. Contact Doug Behnke with questions. 772-485-9788



## ADULT EDUCATION

### Deborah Circle

2nd Monday of the month  
3 pm • Choir Room

### Sisters in Spirit

3rd Tuesday of the month  
7 pm • Panera

### Word on Wednesdays

2nd Wednesday of the month  
5:30 pm • Townies

## FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE MINIS- TRIES

### Quilts of Valor

Weds 6:00 pm • Room 202  
Info: Jackie Koch, 772.834.8058

### Altar Guild

2nd Wednesday of the month  
10 am • Room 202  
Info: Marj Smith, 772.286.8974  
or Belinda Lowe, 772.634.0194

### Stephen Ministry

2nd Monday  
6:30 pm in Room 202

### Wednesday Bridge Group

Wednesdays at 1:30 pm  
Room 201

\*On hiatus until further notice\*

### Souper Sundays

Every Sunday @ 4:30 pm • FDC  
Immanuel's Weeks to help are  
the 3rd and 5th Sundays  
Contact: Marcie Balow  
772.283.0982 or  
mbalow45@gmail.com

\*Carry-Out only until further  
notice\*

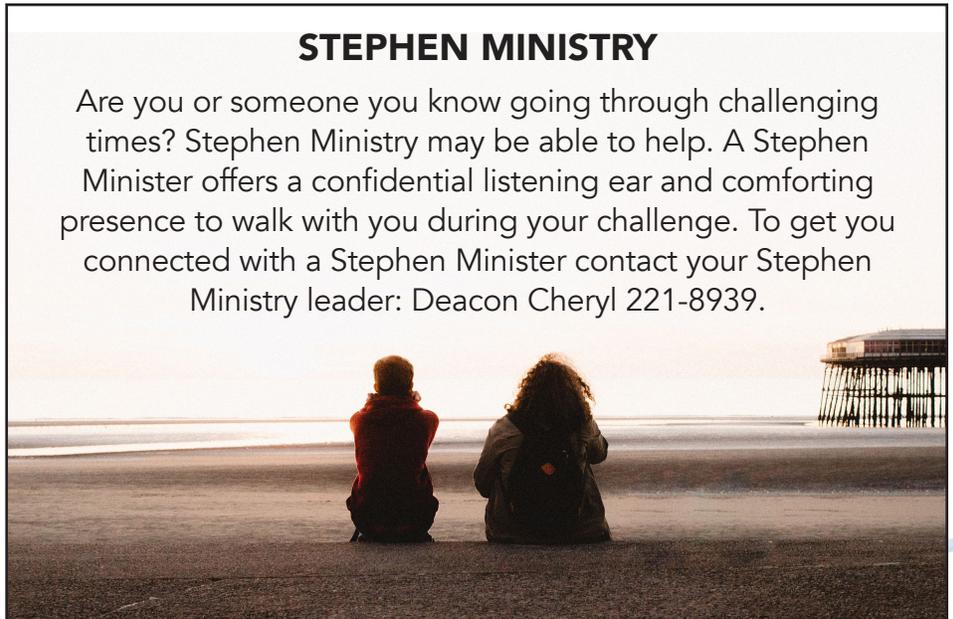


### Deborah Circle Women's Ministry

Are you looking to expand your Biblical knowledge and draw closer to Jesus? Come to the Deborah Circle Bible study Monday, Nov. 14th at 3PM in the choir room as we explore the Gospel of Matthew. Contact Deacon Cheryl 221-8939 for more information and to RSVP.

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Are you or someone you know going through challenging times? Stephen Ministry may be able to help. A Stephen Minister offers a confidential listening ear and comforting presence to walk with you during your challenge. To get you connected with a Stephen Minister contact your Stephen Ministry leader: Deacon Cheryl 221-8939.



### Prayer Chain Ministry

Our Immanuel prayer chain is always available to pray for you or those you know in need of prayer. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 to request prayer or to become a member of our prayer team



### BRIDGE GROUP

Join us  
Wednesdays  
in room 201 at  
1:30 pm to play  
bridge. Anyone  
who would  
like to play is  
welcome.





## Souper Sundays

Immanuel Lutheran volunteers serve every third and fifth Sunday.

To volunteer, contact Marcie Balow at 283-0982 or [mbalow45@gmail.com](mailto:mbalow45@gmail.com) or sign up in the Narthex

## MUSIC MINISTRIES

### Contemporary Worship Team

Sundays @ 8 am • Sanctuary  
Contact Brittany Lustig  
[brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org)

### Bell Choir

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Chancel Choir

\*Suspended until further notice\*

### Cornerstone Singers

Saturdays @ 5:15 pm • Sanctuary

### Children's Choir/JAM

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm • FDC  
Contact Brittany Lustig  
[brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:brittanylustig@ilcpalmcity.org)



## Sisters in Spirit Women's Ministry

Come Experience the Heart of Jesus with the ladies of Sisters in Spirit. We meet Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 7PM at Panera Bread in Palm City. Contact Deacon Cheryl Gundersdorff 221-8939 for more information and to RSVP.

## PATHWAYS

DISCIPLESHIP FOR  
SMALL GROUPS

**Want to deepen your relationship with God and other members of the church? Join one of our Pathways Small Groups.**

Pathways is about being changed by God's love into the person God has called you to be. It involves immersing ourselves in God's Word, communicating with God through prayer, and serving our fellow human beings...all while deepening our relationships with one another.

Groups can be in-person or online via zoom. Sign up in the narthex or on our website, [immanuelpalmcity.org/pathways](http://immanuelpalmcity.org/pathways)

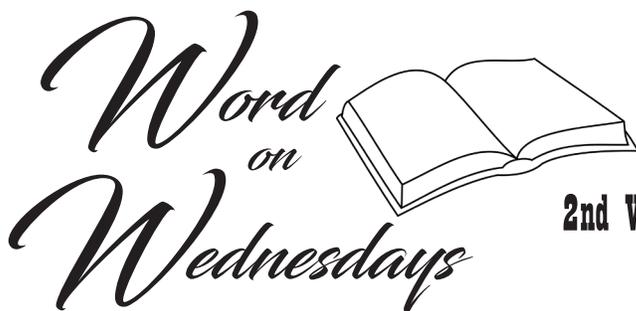
If you have questions about what Pathways entails, please contact Pastor Rebecca at [pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org](mailto:pastorrebecca@ilcpalmcity.org)



## Altar Guild Meeting

The Altar Guild will meet on Wednesday, November 9, at 10 am in Room 202 (second floor of FDC). We will be covering the holiday schedule and will discuss our Christmas luncheon. We are always looking for more volunteers to help serve communion and care for the altar. PLEASE consider joining us.

For more information, call Marj Smith at 772-286-8974 or Belinda Lowe at 772-634-0194.



**2nd Wednesdays • 5:30 pm**  
at **Townies**  
TAVERN

Join Pastor Rebecca the second Wednesday evening of the month at Townies Tavern in Palm City for some Bible Study or Theological discussion over apps & taps and take advantage of Townies "Wine Down Wednesday" deals.

**Wednesday, November 9th**



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& EARLY LEARNING CENTER

2655 SW Immanuel Drive  
Palm City, FL 34990  
772.287.8188  
immanuelpalmcity.org

### Regular Worship Schedule

Saturdays:

6:00 pm

Relaxed Traditional

Sundays:

9:30 am Contemporary

11:15 am Traditional

All services available via  
livestream on our website or  
through our app.

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Nonprofit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Stuart, FL  
Permit No. 144

# Thanksgiving Eve WORSHIP

November 23rd

6 pm

*followed by*

*Pie Social*

*(Outdoors on the patio & lawn)*

*If your last name begins with M-Z please bring a pie and drop it off in the FDC  
on the 23rd between 2-4pm so we can cut and plate the pies.*