



TOWER BELLS

December 2025

As we enter a new season of change, we acknowledge both the challenges and the opportunities before us. Our beloved buildings have been a source of blessing for generations, but the constant maintenance and upgrades

have placed a heavy strain on our finances. Congregational giving has been inconsistent, and our annual budget alone cannot sustain the level of care our facilities require.

To meet this challenge, we are launching the **Legacy Fund for Capital Maintenance and Improvement**. This endowment will ensure that our buildings are properly maintained and improved without burdening the annual operating budget. Already, God has blessed us with generous commitments: **\$100,000** anonymously pledged to begin the fund; **\$40,000** pledged as a challenge grant to inspire further giving; The **Brick Opportunity**, which holds great promise for raising significant endowment money. This fund represents more than financial stability—it is a commitment to preserving our sacred spaces for generations to come.

Our financial condition also impacts the timing of calling a full-time residential pastor. Although, we are laying the groundwork now. A reliable plan is being developed to cover salary, benefits, moving expenses, and the costs of the committee itself. This careful preparation will allow us to move forward faithfully and responsibly.

In the meantime, interim leadership will be provided in a collaborative way: A **teaching elder**, appointed by the presbytery, will serve as session moderator, advisor, and supply preacher. A **co-moderator** from among our elders will coordinate session agendas, serve as spokesperson, and provide congregational leadership. The **Session**, organized around administration, worship, education, property, communication, and spiritual care, will guide the church as a council. **Deacons** will join in this shared leadership, receiving ongoing training to serve the congregation well.

Our liturgical year will continue to be observed, with worship and fellowship events planned by the Session. The music program remains strong under the leadership of **Tommy Clay**. Preaching will be provided by a variety of voices: **Terry Albright, Cliff Lyda, and the presbytery-appointed moderator** will each preach once a month. Guest preachers will fill the remaining Sundays, offering a rich diversity of perspectives. This variety will ensure a quality preaching ministry throughout 2026, strengthening our church for the long term.

This plan is still in outline form and will require the efforts of all to fully develop. The congregation looks to its leaders for strength and stability. You are called to be positive, calm, patient, faithful, and willing to innovate. Above all, we are called to trust God in this time of change, believing that new opportunities for mission and ministry will emerge from old paradigms.

Together, we can rebuild our financial strength, sustain our worship and mission, and prepare for the future God is shaping for us.

*Your friend,
Suzie Cornelio*

December Birthdays:

Richard Beale	2 nd	Micheal Spettel	11 th	Rob Mattson	21 st
Anne Bancroft	5 th	Kati Slobodian	12 th	Kathryn Noles	28 th
Angela Henley	5 th	Joel Thomas	12 th	Margie Cram	29 th
Frances Thomas	10 th	Cliff Lyda	20 th	Jordan Thomas	31 st

Did you Know? Our church property is more than a place for worship—it has become a true beacon in the community. Week after week, our buildings are alive with activity, serving both our congregation and our neighbors. We use our property five days a week for nine regular activities, not including monthly committee meetings, special events, or staff gatherings. Ten different community groups make use of our facilities every month, often seven days a week. Recently, our property has hosted a wedding and reception, a family reunion, RCMA gatherings, the *Feed the Neighborhood* event, a baby shower, a family Christmas party with nearly 100 people, another Christmas celebration, and even a parking lot rental. In addition to these events, we continue to host four ongoing mission programs that provide consistent support and outreach. When we say “a lot is happening here,” we mean it. Our property is not only a center for worship and fellowship—it is becoming known throughout the community as both a hub of missional work and a welcoming venue. This reputation reflects our commitment to opening our doors, sharing our resources, and living out our faith in tangible ways.



Rejoice for unto us a savior is born!
Wishing you a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Session: Rev. Cliff Lyda, Moderating, Robert A. Mattson, Clerk
Ruling Elders Class of 2025 Wayne Bodiford, James Browning, Rick Mills, Gladys Wade
Class of 2026 Terry Albright, Dave Compton, Kim Daley, Jackie Bodiford
Class of 2027 Ron Bloor, Elliott Kane, Tony Marvin, MaryKay Payne
Deacon Chair Sharon Flatter sflatter@windstream.net

Financials for November, 2025: Year to date through November 30th:
Revenue YTD \$224,000.; Expenses YTD \$262,000.; Deficit YTD \$38,000.

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