The Grapevine



"On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When he saw them he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'" (Luke 17:11–19, ESV)

As Thanksgiving approaches, we will inevitably be inundated with reminders to be thankful. And we should be! We have much for which to give thanks. Every person who walks this earth, whether Christian or not, receives what theologians call common grace. It is the goodness that God extends to all people.

Every morning you rise out of bed is a gift. Every breath that fills your lungs is a gift. The laughter of children is a gift. The warmth of the morning sunlight as it streams through your bedroom window and falls upon your face is, indeed, a gift.

In Luke 17:11–19, Jesus heals ten lepers, yet only one returns to give Him thanks. All ten received mercy, but only one stopped to acknowledge its source. Only one thought to return and give thanks.

Too often in my own life, I resemble the other nine. My eyes are too often blind to the grace and goodness that surround me.

Of course, being thankful doesn't mean we should pretend that life is without hardship. Some of us are facing unimaginable struggles: illness, grief, broken relationships, and financial difficulties. God's Word never asks us to deny our suffering or to pretend that life is filled only with goodness. It is not. Brokenness exists in this world and within us.

My encouragement to this congregation as we approach Thanksgiving is simple: Do not allow the brokenness of this world to blind you to the goodness of God.
Pay attention to where you fix your eyes, my friends. For where your eyes are fixed, your heart will follow.

Faithfully, Pastor Josh Miller

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Joys and Concerns

- *Margie Orth -in the hospital*
- *Cynthia Hill - broken wrist*
- *Carol Jean Neal*
- *Amelia Wolfe-high school student in ICU for 100 days-serious liver, pancreas, and kidney issues*
- *Gage Thompson - student going through cancer treatments*
- *Kathy Zerkle Struman - pancreatic cancer*
- *Mike Terebinski - prostate cancer*
- *Tricia McMaken*
- *Rich Spear - (Tammy's brother in law)*
- *Helen Allen - (Cheryl's Aunt) pancreatic cancer surgery this week*
- *The family of Robert Speakman*

Continued Prayer for those with ongoing health issues and/or Cancer.

Nevin Elleman
Ruth Caldwell
Kathy Shellhaas
Patty Taynor
Lynda Mott
Judy Taynor
Darrell Miller
Bob Houshel
Marty- Marilyn Rowe's brother

BLESSING BOX



The Blessing Box is being used every week. Non-perishables are needed.

Happy Birthday!

Jane Worthington, Christy Wilhelm, Jill Benham, Lucas Hershberger, Jason Bailey, Tom Bailey, Donna Owens, Ben Sutherly, Jennifer Petrick, Brianna Thompson, Amanda Benham, Julie Harris, Taylor Dunivan, Ed Beeson, Tarah Fox, Grayson Russell, Lynda Mott, Katie DeMange, Grace Sprankle, Lou Ann Wray, Penelope Horner, Randy Mott, Austin Hess, Art Blackmore, Gaile Knife, Beckett Clark, Nicky Bailey, Jim Benham, Tom Roeser, Jennie Gearhardt, Jesse Laughman, Kelly Sentman



HAPPY Anniversary

Jeremy & Amanda Paulus,
Matt & Heather Gilliland, Ben & Julia Sutherly,
Jon & Regina Duff, David & Sandy Swigart,
Greg & Amy Morrow, Dennis & Linda Zerkle,
Brian & Faith Elleman, Art & Trudy Blackmore



YOUTH GROUP



Nov. 22: there will be a coffee and hot chocolate bar in the basement after church for donation to kick off our Christmas Card delivery service that will begin on Nov. 29th.

Nov. 29: Youth members will deliver Christmas cards to members who attend during church services. There will be a box outside the library for Card collection. Donations collected will be used to buy food for various food pantries and Blessing boxes around the county.



Important Dates

NOV 2 - DEACON BD MTG - 7 PM

NOV 3 - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
*Wednesday's at 12:30pm

NOV 3 -CANTATA & CHOIR PRACTICE
*Wednesday's at 7pm

NOV 7- CRAFT BAZAAR, 9AM-2PM
NOV 8- HONORING THE VETERANS
NOV 8- COVE SPRING KIDS
NOV 10 - WOMENS FELLOWSHIP
NOV 11 - VETERANS BREAKFAST AT MIAMI EAST HIGH SCHOOL, 8:30AM

NOV 21 - FRIENDSGIVING 5:30PM
NOV 22- COFFEE & HOT CHOC. AFTER CHURCH
NOV 26- THANKSGIVING
NOV 29 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOV 29 - COMMUNION
DEC 6 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will be selling the rugs at the ETCC Craft Bazaar on Nov. 7, 9a-2p.



We have a meeting on **Nov. 10th from 10am to 2pm.** Please bring a dish to share for lunch. Contact Diana if you have any questions, 937-875-1004

COVE SPRING KIDS

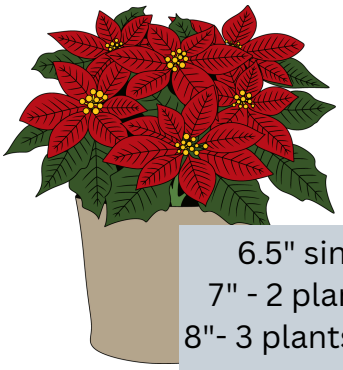


NOV 8: Cove Spring Kids, after church 10:30am to 11:45am
NOV 15: Christmas Program practice will start during Jr. Church each Sunday
DEC 6: Christmas program
Dress Rehearsal will be Dec. 6th immediately following church for a short time
DEC 13: Christmas program will be held during the church service.

Cove Spring Kids is for children in pre-k through elementary. Please join us!

Cantata and Choir practice every Wednesday at 7 pm. Please consider joining us!





Poinsettia Orders due Mon. Nov. 23
Red, White or Pink

6.5" single plant = $8.50
7" - 2 plants in one pot =$19
8"- 3 plants in one pot = $32.99

Christmas for Kids Angel Tree



We plan to do this program again at Cove Spring Church. We will get the information to you as soon as we get it.

It was a beautiful fall evening for The Harvest Party, that was filled with laughs from the children and adults this year. The kids enjoyed games, a scavenger hunt, sack races, and even a donut eating contest.















The adults enjoyed tasting chili from the 15 chili's that were entered into the Chili cook-off. Everyone voted for their favorite and enjoyed fellowship with others. Winners from the cook-off were: 1st: Ian Robbins, 2nd: Julia Sutherly, 3rd: Carol Meyer

NOVEMBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 **Deacon Bd. Mtg 7pm**	3	4 *Women's Bible Study 12:30pm* ***Cantata -7pm Choir Practice***	5	6	7 *Fall Craft Bazaar 9a-2p*
8 Honoring the Veterans *Cove Spring Kids*	9	10 *Women's Fellowship 10 am*	11 Veterans Day Breakfast at MEHS 8:30am *Women's Bible Study 12:30pm* ***Cantata -7pm Choir Practice***	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 *Women's Bible Study 12:30pm* ***Cantata -7pm Choir Practice***	19	20	21 **Friends-Giving Meal 5:30pm**
22  ***Hot chocolate & coffee after church***	23 *Flower orders due* 	24	25 *Women's Bible Study 12:30pm* ***Cantata -7pm Choir Practice***	26 HAPPY Thanksgiving	27	28
29 **Communion** ***1st Day of Advent*** 	30					



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus

THANK YOU

Thank you so much to our congregation members that have given their time and talents over the past year to make Cove Spring Church so special. Your love and commitment are a blessing to the church and to all who walk through our doors.



Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
— 1 PETER 4:10, NIV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need to fill 4 Deacon Board positions for 2027
- We have many committees that we need volunteers for 2027

SERVING OTHERS

Opportunities to serve Cove Spring Church in 2027

We need volunteers to serve in 2027 for these special events:

- Graduation
- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Easter Party
- Bible School
- Harvest Party
- Children's Christmas Program
- Christmas Treats Committee

More Committees:

- Funeral Dinner Committee
- Church Sign Committee
- Christmas Decorating
- Missions Committee
- Audio Visual Team

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We also need any phone # & address updates for the Yearbook

Officers:

- Deacon Board
- Trustee

Please email covespringchurch@gmail.com or talk to Betsy Staley if you are interested in any of the serving opportunities. Thank you!!

Betsy Staley, 937-608-0807

Church Business Meeting Minutes, October 13, 2026 *Draft for Approval*

Tom Wallace called the Regular Church Business Meeting to order at 7:00 PM and opened with the Lord's Prayer. There were 18 members present. Minutes were published from the July business meeting in the August newsletter and they were available in each vestibule for review. Tom asked for approval of the minutes as distributed and no corrections were made. Wade Wilhelm made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes. Mark Staley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: The treasurer's report was distributed to members who were present. Dan Sutherly explained that the capital improvement amount of $15,000 was primarily due the cost of painting the church basement and lower vestibule. He explained that the budget we are currently operating under was approved last year. Debbie Faulder made a motion to approve the financial report. Seconded by Diana Wilhelm. Motion carried.

Finance Committee: There was a quarterly meeting last week and the Finance Committee worked to appropriate salaries for hiring new positions.

Deacon Board: Josh Gearhardt reported that there was a worship service held at the Miami County Fair. The deacons have been busy with the process of hiring Pastor Josh and they have continued adding information to the Pastor Handbook, which will be a great resource for Pastor Josh. They have been making plans for the upcoming year, as well as establishing a system to evaluate the pastor's position in one year's time. There has been discussion on filling the position for the youth ministry that will become vacant at the end of the year. Stephanie Miller has expressed interest in helping with the younger kids, while Brian Bensman and Michelle Robbins expressed interest in working with the older kids. The deacons will schedule meetings to discuss those details further with Stephanie, Michelle and Brian. Several deacon positions will be coming open as their terms will expire and we are in need of volunteers to fill those vacancies. The deacons expressed their appreciation for the diligent work of the Pulpit Committee and they are excited to welcome Pastor Josh to Cove Spring Church. They are also grateful for the meaningful services that Pastor Don Trumbull provided while we were searching for a new pastor. The deacons also asked for clarification about Love Offerings.

Trustees: No report.

Security Team: Mark Staley reported that there would be a meeting at Matt and Amanda Howell's home on Saturday, October 17, to complete the qualifications required to be part the security team.

Music Committee: Wade Wilhelm reported that the Christmas Eve Cantata will start at 8:00 PM on December 24th. Stephanie Miller has joined the Praise Team and they are now in need of another microphone. The paper copies of sheet music will be replaced with iPads. New music has been ordered. The Praise Team will be singing at the Courtyard at Troy (assisted living facility). Christmas Caroling is planned for December 6 after church service. There are several new choir members, including Genevieve Benham, Ronda Hershberger and Richard Fidler. Gospel Fest at the Miami County Fair was a huge success, providing 5 hours of music for fair goers to enjoy. Darin Williams stated that the piano is still working for now, however the hard drive's storage is full, requiring previously recorded songs to be deleted in order to add others. The piano's electrical system has sustained damage from a storm. There was discussion about purchasing a contained power source or finding another way to protect it from further damage. Wade also mentioned that they will be looking for an organist.

Audiovisual Team: Randy Mott reported that there are now three people are running the Power Point presentations in the crow's nest during church services. They are possibly adding one more microphone. An additional Ring camera subscription has been purchased so Pastor Josh can have security access for both the church and the parsonage.

Flower Committee: Darin Williams reported that the summer arrangements have been taken down and the fall flowers have now been placed on the altar. Christmas poinsettia prices from Andy's Garden will be available soon and all orders need to be placed by Thanksgiving. The committee is planning to decorate after Thanksgiving and that date will be announced.

Youth Group: Michelle Robbins expressed her gratitude for the appreciation gift she received during worship service. She reported that the youth group took the summer off, then held their September planning meeting with eight kids present. They plan to deliver Christmas cards to the congregation beginning on November 29th. The youth members plan to hold a fundraiser on November 22 and will serve coffee and hot chocolate after church. They will also help set up the nativity scene after Thanksgiving. Michelle shared that there is a growing need for a fellowship hall to be added to the church.

Cove Spring Kids: Michelle Robbins stated that they took the summer off, but have resumed meetings, averaging between 5-8 kids at Cove Springs Kids. They held a bake sale at the Blessing of the Farmers service and had a lemonade stand as a fundraiser. The Harvest Party is planned for October 31st at the Lostcreek Memory Barn. It is open to the entire congregation and all are encouraged to participate in the chili cook-off.

Women's Fellowship: Diana Wilhelm reported that the ladies have been cutting jeans into strips for rag rugs. They were happy to have Pastor Josh join them at the last meeting. They're preparing for the Craft Bazaar at the Elizabeth Township Community Center on November 7 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM, where they will be selling baskets and Cat's Meows, in addition to the rag rugs.

Missions: No report

Blessing Box: Diana Wilhelm reported that there is a need for more food for the Blessing Box. People in our community are using the food consistently and it is being refilled several times each week.

Church Secretary: Betsy Staley reported that the committees for 2027 are currently being filled and there are still several openings that need to be filled. She encouraged everyone to join a committee for next year as a way to be connected as a church body. She is preparing postcards for the Christmas season once the dates are confirmed. Anyone with changes to addresses or phone numbers should notify Betsy so the contact information can be updated in the 2027 yearbook.

Other Committee Reports (Custodial, Grounds, VBS, Decorating, Funeral, etc.):
Custodial report: Josh Gearhardt reported that they are still working to remove the wax from the pew cushions. He kindly requested that extra care be taken with the wax candles at the Christmas Eve service. He suggested that a refundable deposit be collected from both members and non-members for all church rentals, which would be returned if the church is left in satisfactory condition. A form will be created to be included in next year's yearbook. Betsy Staley made a motion to collect a $300 refundable deposit for all church rentals. Sandy Swigart seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Josh has been meeting people and is working to build relationships with people in the congregation. He has spoken to church committee members and is establishing connections with community members. He is grateful for the warm welcome his family has received and he appreciates all the food, cards, prayers and help unloading the moving truck.

Vacation Bible School: Michelle Robbins reported that the 2026 Scuba-themed VBS program was huge success. The kids had fun while learning about Jesus. They enjoyed the decorations, activities and especially the tasty snacks.

Decorating: Darin Williams will need help setting up the Christmas tree and he hopes to have that done by the first Sunday of advent on November 29.

New Business:
Dan Sutherly followed up on Josh Gearhardt's request for guidance on how Love Offerings are distributed. He clarified that in years past, Love Offerings were given to the pastor only. Moving forward, if a special offering is collected for any other need, its purpose will be specified prior to the collection. At that point, funds would not be deposited into the General Missions Fund and would be donated directly. Dan reiterated that the Missions Committee is solely responsible for determining who receives the budgeted mission funds. The Missions Committee and Finance Committee will begin developing language to explain those guidelines if the money collected from a Love Offering is intended to go to a recipient that is not already listed on the approved missions budget.

Ronda Hershberger stated that the nativity scene is in very poor condition and likely needs to be replaced. If anyone has suggestions on that project, please contact the Staleys.

Diana Wilhelm reported that Myrna Yoder dropped off forms for free FISH Thanksgiving dinners.

Randy Mott shared that the Elizabeth Township Community Center is offering 25% off of memberships from November 2-7 only.

Jill Benham asked if she could purchase blinds/curtains for the basement windows. Dan Sutherly stated that she could purchase the necessary supplies and she would be reimbursed.

The meeting ended with a prayer led by Pastor Josh.

A motion was made by Diane Wilhelm to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Robbins seconded motion. The next regular business meeting will be held on January 12, 2027 at 7:00 PM in the church basement. Tom Wallace adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.

Submitted by Heather Gilliland