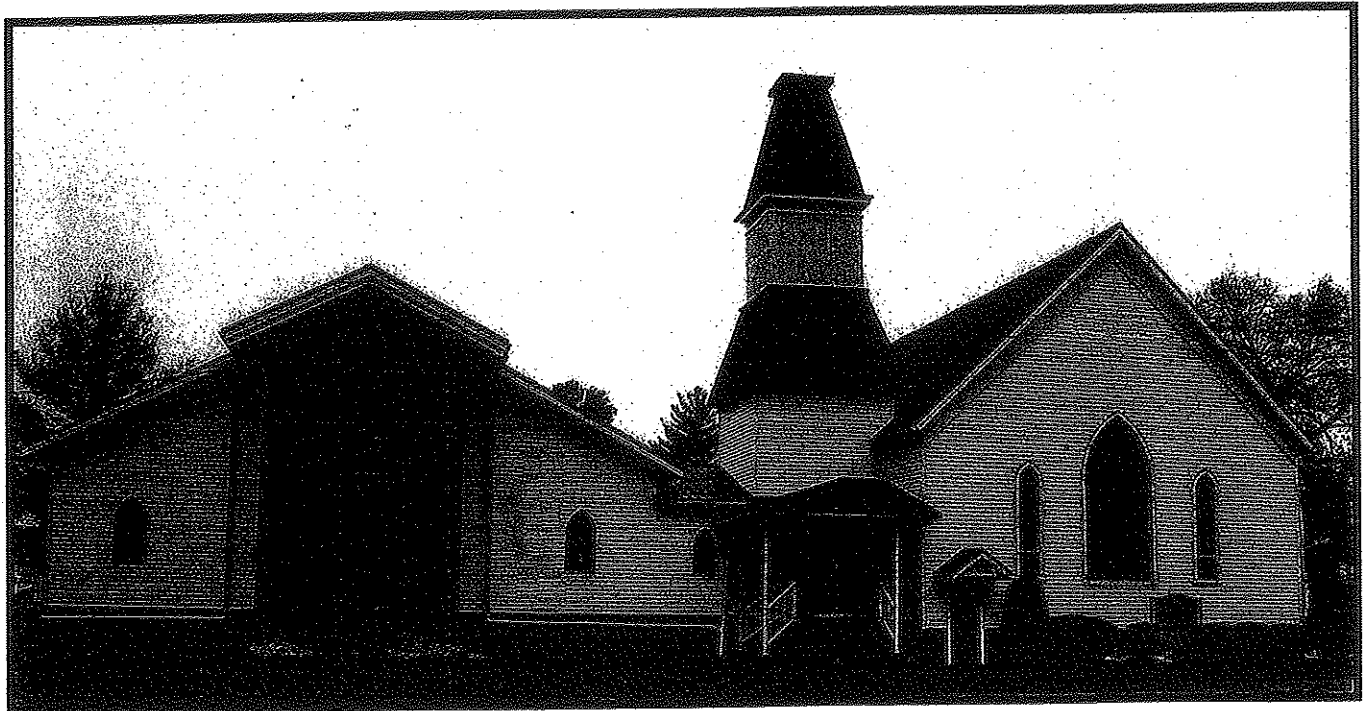
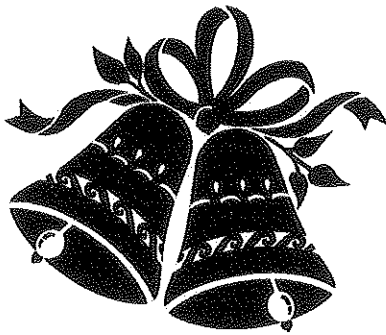


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*The  
Chimes*

*October Church News*



BY CILLEA HOUGHTON

JUNE 8, 2023 1:30 PM

Anne Wilson leaned on her faith to tell the story that helped her heal through “My Jesus.” In June 2017, tragedy struck the Wilson family when her older brother, Jacob, died in a car accident at the age of 23. The singer was only 15 at the time when she was faced with a crossroads.

“I remember this gut feeling of, ‘I’m going to make a decision right now, I’m either going to trust God or do this all on my own,’” Wilson recalls to American Songwriter about the gut-wrenching moment when the police came to their house to deliver the devastating news. “It’s hard trusting God in moments like that, and it was really hard for me. I knew in my heart that I have to trust God or I’m not going to survive this tragedy, and I think my family felt the same way.”

Wilson remembers a particular moment when she turned around to face the doors of the room where her parents were talking with the police and surrendered herself to a higher power.

“I remember in that moment I needed to do that and when I did that, I felt like this weight lifted off my shoulders, but I could breathe a little bit lighter and I felt like it’s going to be okay, I’m going to get through it, God has a plan for all of this,” she continues. “That obviously kept me going and kept me from giving up...and that eventually led to us writing ‘My Jesus.’” After her brother’s passing, Wilson found that she was journaling in a more “intentional way,” chronicling the specific details of the day and how she was feeling. She started noticing that the journal entries were more like prayers, consistently referring to God as “my Jesus.” The writing process later found her in the room

with her co-writers, fellow Christian singer Matthew West and Jeff Pardo, the three talking about loss and all the emotions that come with it.

“I think when you lose someone you love, it’s very helpless,” the Kentucky native describes. “You feel like you can’t even take your next breath, and that’s how I felt. I felt very devastated. I really wanted to give up on my life and just wanted to go be with my brother. But I knew at the end of the day that God was going to work it all together for good, and it was what got me through the loss.”

During the conversation, the lyrics started pouring out, as Wilson sings about a burden that’s too heavy to carry, feelings of emptiness and longing for healing. *His love is strong and His grace is free/And the good news is I know that He/Can do for you what He’s done for me/Let me tell you ‘bout my Jesus/And let my Jesus change your life*, she sings triumphantly in the chorus.

The lyrics are as much an invitation as they are a proclamation of her faith and the doors she felt open for her following the tragedy. Growing up in Lexington, Kentucky, Wilson had aspirations of being an astronaut, so much so that she and her parents visited NASA when she was in eighth grade, and intended on going to college to one day be an astronaut. But everything changed when her brother passed, setting her path toward a new purpose. “What was special about it was when my brother died, that’s when God started to really open doors for me in music,” she observes.

From the desk of Pastor Joel

This is the story why Anne Wilson wrote "My Jesus," the song that we sang last Sunday, September 22, 2024. She describes a moment when Jesus said to her, "Anne, do you trust Me?" Her answer was, "I trust You!" After the lyrics to the song, you will get the story. She co-wrote this with Matthew West and Jef Pardo.

### My Jesus

Are you past the point of weary?  
Is your burden weighing heavy?  
Is it all too much to carry?  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
Do you feel that empty feeling?  
'Cause shame's done all its stealing  
And you're desperate for some healing  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

He makes a way where there ain't no way  
Rises up from an empty grave  
Ain't no sinner that He can't save  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
His love is strong and His grace is free  
And the good news is I know that He  
Can do for you what He's done for me  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, amen, amen

Who can wipe away the tears  
From broken dreams and wasted years  
And tell the past to disappear? Oh  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
And all the wrong turns that you would  
Go and undo if you could

Who can work it all for your good  
Let me tell you about my Jesus

He makes a way where there ain't no way  
Rises up from an empty grave  
Ain't no sinner that He can't save  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
His love is strong and His grace is free  
And the good news is I know that He  
Can do for you what He's done for me  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, amen, amen  
Amen

Who would take my cross to Calvary?  
Pay the price for all my guilty?  
Who would care that much about me?  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus, oh

He makes a way where there ain't no way  
Rises up from an empty grave  
Ain't no sinner that He can't save  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
His love is strong and His grace is free  
And the good news is I know that He  
Can do for you what He's done for me  
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus  
And let my Jesus change your life

Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, amen, amen  
Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah (amen, amen)  
Let my Jesus change your life

**Meaning Behind the Song "My Jesus": Anne Wilson Looks to a Higher Power**

## Announcements

**TRUSTEE'S:** Will meet on October 16, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the Rose Room

**DIACONTE:** TBA.

**WOMENS'S FELLOWSHIP:** Will meet on Tuesday, October 15 at 9 a.m.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Will Meet on October 2, 9, 23 and 30 at 6:30 p.m.

**TRUNK OR TREAT:** October 26, 2024 at the Pecatonica Fall Festival, Trunk or Treat 3:15-5pm

**THANK YOU:** We would like to thank all of you for the support and prayers after the loss of our son in law Clark Harmon. Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for serving the lunch following the service. Thank you Pastor Joel for you care and support to Kami and our family. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family. Randy and Teresa Gobeli

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To the Women's Fellowship for their recent outreach program for the Pecatonica Food Pantry. Their recent purchase of nearly 400 rolls of toilet paper from Malcolm Eaton in Freeport, along with the acquisition of an additional 400 free rolls has given the Pantry an opportunity to direct more funds toward to the purchase of much needed food. Who says that helping people eat better and helping disabled adults to live a more meaningful life has to be a dirty job

**October is Respect Life Month.** One way we can practice solidarity is by meeting the tangible needs of moms to have access to prenatal vitamins and diapers. **Throughout October,** Lifeline Coalition is partnering with the Madonna Renewal Center to collect prenatal vitamins and diapers for the moms in our community who are in need.

**REMINDER:** All contributions for the CHIMES newsletter are due to the Office by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month.

### MONTHLY SUMMARY

**Monthly Budget \$6,731.92**

#### August

#### January -August

General Fund    Income \$3,285.00  
Expense \$10,189.49

\$40,704.60  
\$63,191.98

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Birthdays

1—Dennis Freedlund  
2—Karleen Merchant  
5—Judy Beuth  
6--Brody Hilton  
11- Effie Hoppe  
13-Randy Gobeli  
17-Barb Daubs;  
23-Colin Viel  
25- Peggy Whitney  
31-Alvie Myers

#### Anniversaries

6-Chuck & Theresa Ackerman

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Diaconate minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:02am by Jennifer Lloyd. Present were Barb Daub, Julie Glasior, Bev Hilton, Jennifer Lloyd, Karleen Merchant, Delores Poppen , Bev Weerda and Pastor Joel Hicke.

Pastor Joel opened with prayer.

Minutes from the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were read by Karleen. Barb motioned to accept. Second by Julie. Motion carried.

Treasurers report was given by Bev W. There is \$770.53 in our account. Barb made motion to accept report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie. Motion carried.

There was no Pastor report given.

Karleen reported that she attended the National Day of Prayer event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at First Covenant in Rockford.

The comments on the Mother's Day gifts were positive.

VBS was a big success. We had over 30 children that attended. The format of the teachers each taking a day, instead of one person doing the week, was well received.

We had four, (three children and one parent) who went to Camp Emmaus and received some Scholarship money. All reported having a wonderful time. Anyone who is interested in going in 2025, can check out camps and then let Diaconate or Trustees know, as scholarship money is allocated for next year.

Everyone who drove the people mover, at the Winnebago County Fair, had an enjoyable time and many people were thankful for the rides.

There was a discussion on Praise Hymns. We will continue to use the 10 that have been suggested, unless Pastor Joel has a different choice, to go with his sermon.

A newsletter from another church was passed around. It was agreed that we should have all events on the church calendar, including Sunday worship, etc. Julie has been finding children's games, word games, etc. and they have been included in the Chimes. It was agreed that we should continue that.

Saturday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup> there is a Community Pancake/Sausage Breakfast from 7:30-10am in Fellowship Hall. Workers are needed. If you have a shirt from driving the people mover, please wear it to this event.

Rally day to kickoff Sunday School, will be Sunday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. Later in the Fall we will have a Bible Sunday, when we find out who is attending and which Bible will be age appropriate.

We are hoping to have Events for youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade-high school. We agreed that we have to find out what works best for the youth, before we schedule an event.

This year, we are going to take part in the Pecatonica Fall Fest Trunk or Treating. It will be Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Details to follow.

Bears/Packers/other team's paper goods drive, will be Sunday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Wear your favorite team's jersey that day.

We will have a Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wed. Nov 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Pastor Joel will check with area churches to see if any pastors would like to participate.

The First Sunday in Advent this year is Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. It was agreed that we will have the banner and Advent Candle Holder up that Sunday. We will also decorate the sanctuary after the service that day, since the Sunday prior, is before Thanksgiving.

With no further business, Bev H made motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bev W. Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted, Karleen Merchant, Secretary

Board of Trustees, Seward Congregational Church

August 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Peggy Whitney.

Present were: Peggy Whitney, Matt Cowman, Maury Daubs, Effie Hoppe, Brenda VanHauen & Nancy Kirby. Pastor Joel was not feeling well and was excused from the meeting.

The minutes from the July Meeting were read by Brenda. Matt motioned to accept the minutes. Brenda second. The motion carried.

Financial Reports were given by Effie, Brenda and Maury. Discussion regarding investments and upcoming CD renewals. Matt made a motion to accept the financial reports. Nancy second. The motion carried.

Pastor Joels report was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS: Tree removal work due to storm damage has been completed. Jacob Lenox will return to remove large tree (probably November) located north side of the Parsonage. Peggy will contact Jacob. Nancy will contact Legacy fencing to remove fence section allowing access. Fence at Parsonage has also been repaired by Legacy Fencing.

Matt is working on replacement of Parsonage deck. Randy will assist Matt in completing this project.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion regarding Sound Booth equipment. Damaged from Storm. Matt made a motion to replace current system with 75" TV mounted, computer w/ Office 23, 16 channel board totalling approximately \$2,000. Maury will have work will be completed prior to September 8, 2024. Brenda second. Motion carried.

Maury submitted a request for \$950 from the Scott Funds. \$450 to cover the costs of (2) Breakfasts. September 7, 2024 and a 2nd Date tbd. And \$500 to be used as scholarship funds for Summer Camp 2025. Brenda made a motion to approve. Matt second. Motion carried.

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Effie second. Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm.

Submitted by:  
Nancy Kirby

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study 7 p.m.	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	7	8	9 Bible Study 7 p.m.	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	14	15 Women's Fellowship 9 a.m.	16 Trustees 6:30 p.m.	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.	21	22	23 Bible Study 7 p.m.	24	25	26 Trunk or Treat Pecatonica Fall Festival 3:15-5 p.m.
27 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Communion	28	29	30 Bible Study 7 p.m.	31		

Subject: ASAP

Ever wonder about the abbreviation ASAP?

Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will

begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry  
ASAP - Always Say A Prayer

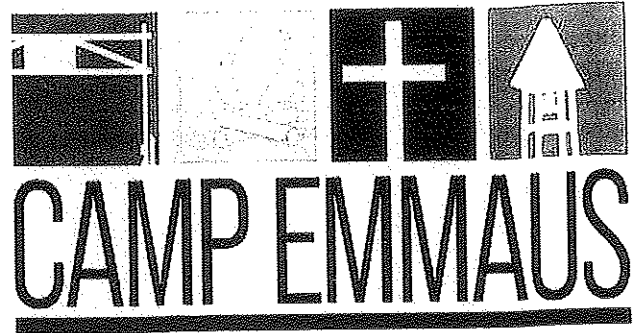
In the midst of family chaos,  
Quality time is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest  
ASAP - Always Say A Prayer

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather  
ASAP - Always Say A Prayer

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs  
ASAP - Always Say A Prayer

My instructions were to send this to people that I  
wanted God to bless and I picked you!  
Pass this to people you want  
to bless.....ASAP!





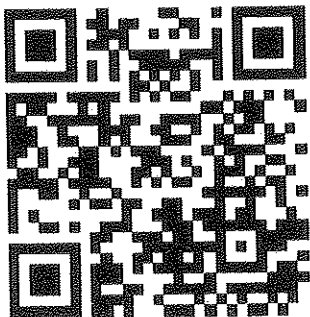
Dear Friend of Camp Emmaus,

As we close out our summer season we would like to take the opportunity to thank our camp community, volunteers, and donors. Camp Emmaus would not be possible without YOU! No matter your connection to our beloved camp, its vital ministry can only thrive with the time, talents, and resources you provide.

We invite you to celebrate the camping season and our community of volunteers and supporters for a Celebration Lunch on September 21st at 1pm. Lunch will be served immediately followed by a program and an auction featuring a signed Caleb Williams helmet. Proceeds from the auction will go to support the Camp Emmaus general fund allowing your gifts to be used for all aspects of our ministry. If you are unable to join, please consider engaging with us in another way! We are looking for camp testimonials which you can use the QR code below to enter - you will need to sign in using a google account. We are also hoping you will sign up to receive our newsletter and follow our social media profiles. Finally, we ask you to discern making a gift directly to the camp or via our wishlist which can be found in our newsletter.

Our camp holds a special place in many of our hearts – the spaces, the people, and the Spirit all create a community that is difficult to find anywhere else. Thank you for your partnership and your prayers.

Blessings to you,  
Your Camp Emmaus Board



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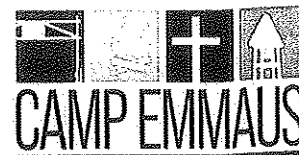
[www.campemmaus.org](http://www.campemmaus.org)

[campemmaus@live.com](mailto:campemmaus@live.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/CampEmmaus>

Logo Designed by  
Debbie Noffsinger

# THE EMMAUS ROAD



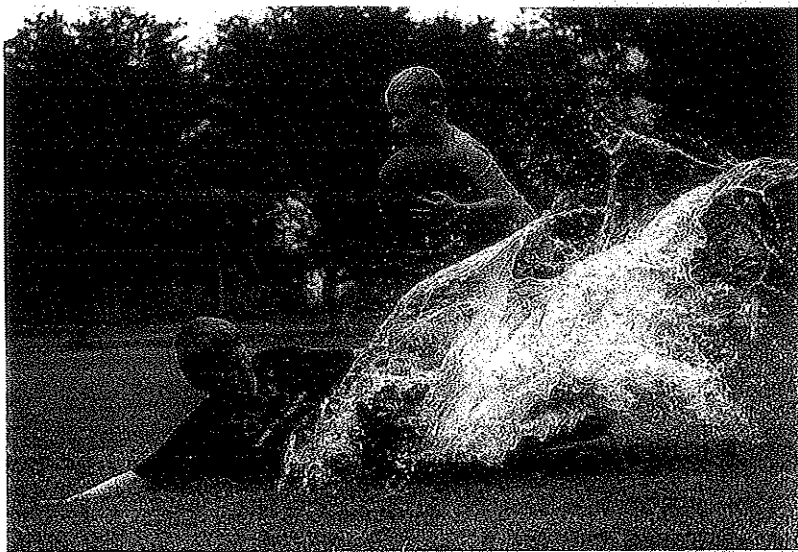
Camp logo by Debbie Noffsinger

FALL 2024

Camp Emmaus • PO Box 128, Mt. Morris, IL 61054

[www.campemmaus.org](http://www.campemmaus.org)

## Celebrating a sensational summer



### SUMMER 2024 BY THE NUMBERS

76th year of ministry at Camp Emmaus

112 campers attended

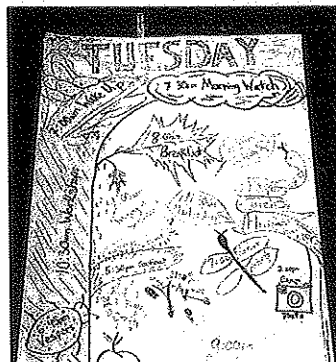
52 staff and volunteers

13 Church of the Brethren Illinois/

Wisconsin congregations represented

80 percent of campers with Brethren  
connections and/or congregations

0 trips to the hospital!



### 2025 SUMMER CAMP DATES

May 23-26 Memorial Day Family Camp

June 13-14 CIT Training

June 14-15 Elementary Camp (grades K-2)

July 6-12 Survivor Camp (at Camp Mack, Ind.)

July 13-19 Senior High Camp (grades 9-12)

July 20-26 Middle School Camp (grades 6-8)

July 27-31 Intermediate Camp (grades 3-5)

Aug. 1-3 Young Adult/Young at Heart Camp

Aug. 3-6 Target Sports Camp

Aug. 7-9 Women's Camp

Aug. 22-24 Men's Camp

Aug. 29-Sept. 1 Labor Day Family Camp



## Kids Actives



Here are some ways to make a pumpkin craft using leaves:

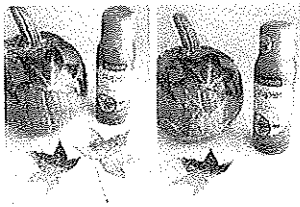
### Sticky pumpkin leaves

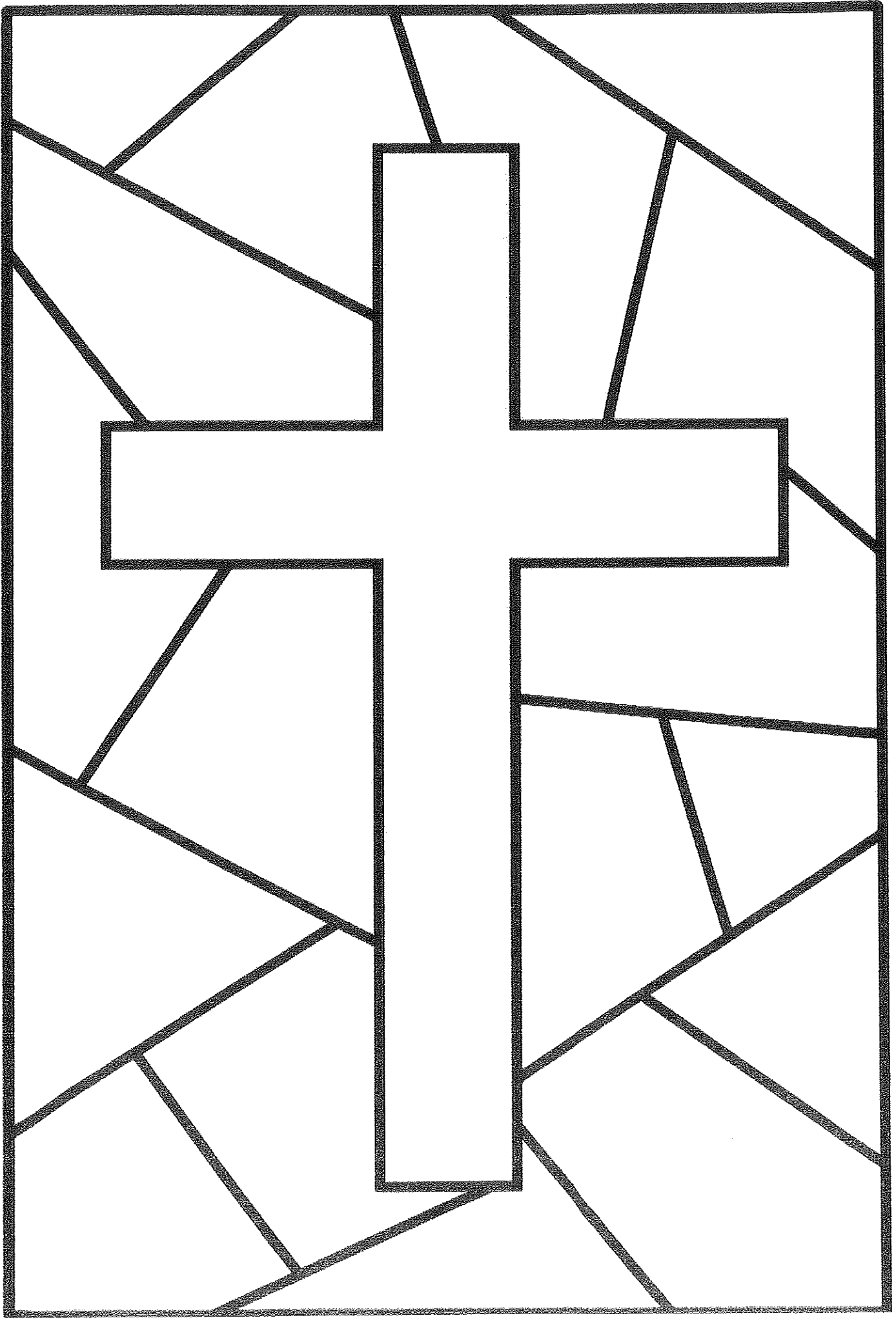
Cut out a pumpkin shape from cardboard and make it sticky with clear tape or contact paper. Then, gather orange leaves to decorate the pumpkin.



### Painted pumpkin with leaves

Paint a pumpkin a color that contrasts with the leaves or leave the pumpkin unpainted your choice. Then apply glue and stick the leaves on in any pattern. After the leaves are dry, brush on a little more glue to keep them in place.





When it comes to prayer, do you ever wonder where to start?

God desires for you to approach Him with confidence and longs for a deep relationship with you through prayer. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

For I know  
the plans I have for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope  
and a future.  
Then you will call on me  
and come and pray to me,  
and I will listen to you.  
You will seek me and find me  
when you seek me  
with all your heart.

Don't worry, God will help you, if you ask Him. Just know that every time you PRAY, you are investing in your future. There are a variety of different printouts included in this month's Chimes to help you and/or your family organize your/their thoughts and prayers. We hope you find them as a helpful tool to use for all ages!

-The Diaconate Committee



# 5 FINGER PRAYER

## Thumb

Pray for family  
and friends

## Index Finger

Pray for  
Teachers and  
Mentors

## Middle Finger

Pray for Church  
and Government  
Leaders

## Ring Finger

Pray for the  
Homeless, the Weak  
and Hurting

## Pinkie

Pray for Your  
Own Needs

Let's spend some thinking and reflecting about who Jesus is to us and what is it like to have Jesus as a F R I E N D

Jesus thinks I am .....

When I am sad & lonely, Jesus says....

I can feel or sense Jesus when....

I know Jesus loves me because...

# My Prayer List:

**Ways I will pray for my family and friends:**

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**Ways I will pray for my world:**

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**Ways I will pray for my community:**

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**Ways I will pray for my church:**

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**Ways I will pray for myself:**

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**Ways God has answered my prayers:**





# Jesus Teaches About Prayer



Ask

Seek

Knock

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:10 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 11:1-9 (NIV).

P R A Y Y B S L E F X E B P H  
 U K I N G D O M L T S P D Q A  
 A Y Z A U B Q Q S E E E R X L  
 U Q B S B U R W F Z A A E G L  
 O R R K P U J I U R Z D C K O  
 O N E O L F N P I P I A Q H W  
 T A A P X A A F V I X E M M E  
 E M D E D M F T W T F S N U D  
 M E C N H R D O H N L F B D W  
 P P K K R N E G R E S M Y Y U  
 A V N I I Q I C C G R T C D Y  
 T N O F U N J C E S I N S A O  
 I J C W D K S D G I J V Q I A  
 O Q K I F B E K P I V J E L A  
 N M M W N M J J P V W E M Y P

FIND	PRAY	OPEN	TEMPATION	FRIEND
SEEK	FATHER	NAME	KNOCK	RECEIVE
MIDNIGHT	DAILY	TEACH	LEAD	BREAD
SINS	KINGDOM	HALLOWED	FORGIVE	ASK