



2024 Stewardship - Full Moon Of Giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-9

Luke 5:11

2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Our theme for the 2024 Stewardship campaign will be Full Moon of Giving. If we think of what a full moon does, it reflects the "Son's" light in a time of darkness. It goes through several phases to reach its fully lighted status. It is the largest celestial object we can see in the night sky and has long been regarded as a symbol of life, eternity, and love.

What better way to think of our giving for 2024 than this? Like the moon, our phases can be our normal giving, our giving with our time and talents, and our giving with special offerings. All this will lead SCC to reflect the "Son's" light more fully to the world each month of this year and will be a beacon of hope to many.

We will still ask you to pledge, but we will also realize that your giving may be done in phases. We are looking forward to going on this stewardship journey with you and truly reflecting the "Son's" light into the world.

- ◇ **January 25** - Wolf Moon - Stewardship kick-off
- ◇ **February 24** - Snow Moon - Week Of Compassion
- ◇ **March 25** - Worm Moon - Perpetual Fund
- ◇ **April 23** - Pink Moon - Easter and Disciples Fund
- ◇ **May 23** - Flower Moon - Church Camp
- ◇ **June 21** - Strawberry Moon - "Ketchup" Giving & Don't take a Vacation from Giving
- ◇ **July 21** - Buck Moon - Backpack Giving
- ◇ **August 19** - Sturgeon Moon - Food Pantry
- ◇ **September 17** - Corn/Harvest Moon - Reconciliation Fund
- ◇ **October 17** - Hunter's Moon - Crop Walk
- ◇ **November 15** - Beaver Moon - All Saints - Foundation Fund - Legacy Gifts
- ◇ **December 15** - Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Giving



We look forward to seeing Speedway Christian Church continue to reflect the "Son's" light.

Yours in service and stewardship,
Chuck and Kim Bennett

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What an eventful beginning of the year it has been. We have navigated some challenging weather with bitter cold temperatures and we have had the first snow fall of the year. All to which points to how thankful I am that our building remains WARM!



I pray that you, too, have managed to stay comfortable in this brisk weather. To our beloved friends wintering in other locations, I hope that your warmth and good weather brings you joy. It is comforting to know that not all of God's children are fighting with the weather!

As for all things related to the life of SCC, I am excited for the launch of our annual stewardship invitation *Full Moon of Giving*. I love how this year's theme connects with the lunar eclipse that will happen in early April. The stewardship invitation is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue to reflect the light of the *Son*. More details on this invitation will be mailed out soon. Be sure check your mail.

Looking to the calendar, by the next time the Spirit is published, we will again be in Lent. Lent being the forty days that lead up to Easter. That also means that it is time again for

Pancakes and Ashes February 14th @ 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

To be clear, we will enjoy pancakes together before receiving the sign of the cross on our foreheads. This practice has deep roots from the days when folks would use up the perishable items in their pantry before engaging in the spiritual practice of fasting. Equally, when we receive the sign of the cross on our foreheads, we are reminded that we have a limited time this side of eternity to do the work God is calling us to do.

Additionally, I would like to inform you that we have had a staff transition. As of January 1, Holly Polites, is no longer a part of the administrative staff of SCC. We thank Holly for her five years of dedicated service to the church and continue to hold Holly in prayer for what God has for her in the future.

Finally, I would like to end this month's remarks with a special thank you to Holly Cecil and Bill Carter for continuing to bless us with wonderful music. Holly and Bill have both volunteered their time in directing the Chancel Choir and the Joyful Ringers. If you haven't had a chance to check out some of the choir and bell performances, check out: [Youtube.com/SpeedwayChristianChurch](https://www.youtube.com/SpeedwayChristianChurch).

News and Updates from Reverend Katie Youth retreat

The Indiana region is hosting a Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Bedford for ALL of our youth in Indiana (grades 6-12) Friday, **February 16 – Sunday, February 18**. This will be like a weekend of church camp or youth group. You can find more information and the registration form at

<https://indianadisciples.org/event/winter-youth-retreat/>.

We will meet at 5:30pm Friday evening and return at 1:30pm Sunday afternoon. The fee is \$60 (includes a meal on the way to camp and one on the way back home).

Please let Katie know after you register so she will know how many people are going.

We will need help with transportation to and from camp. Please let Katie know if you can help or if you have any questions at kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org.



Valentine's Day Retreat

Our youth are hosting our 3rd annual Valentine's Day Fundraiser and everyone is invited! The event will be Friday, February 23 at 6 PM. The youth will be serving a spaghetti dinner followed by "The Newlywed Game." A free-will offering will be taken, with a suggested donation of \$15 for adults, \$5 for children, and \$25 for couples.

Please RSVP to the church office or to Katie at kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org. This is going to be a fun night with lots of laughs and will be a wonderful opportunity to help our awesome youth group raise money for upcoming projects and mission trips. Please join us!

SCC Treasurer

Thank you to Rich Hoerger for his 9+ years of serving as Treasurer for the Speedway Christian Church board. Rich has faithfully served and helped on several committees while serving as our treasurer. We are grateful for his wisdom and dedication to the church.

With Rich's retirement, this leaves the treasurer position open for 2024. If you are interested, please contact the church office for more information. Also, the Vice-Moderator position for 2024 is open. Please, pray for someone to be called to serve the church on the board.

~ Heather Dietzer

Message from the Former Moderator

As 2024 opens up to new opportunities and the obligations of 2023 are hung up in my experience closet, I wanted to reflect on my 2 years as moderator.

One thing I believe in whole heartedly, is that SCC is my HOME and the people here are my family. The compassion and grace that was shown to me over the past 2 years, as I did my best, only confirmed my feelings for the church and the people in it. Being moderator taught me so much about the church, how it runs and all the moving pieces that make things happen here or when we are doing God's work outside these walls. But this position also taught me some life lessons of my own. My biggest lesson is compassion with myself and others. I worked with so many different people and saw how different people talk to one another, think things through and work. Not everyone thinks and prioritizes like I do and that's ok! God made everyone different not only in looks, but how they react, think and operate. So I learned to stop and listen to people and really hear what they were saying because that helped me be a better leader when I understood the person better. Another lesson was that I can't do everything on my own, even if it is just easier to do it by myself. I shouldn't take away someone else's moment to serve the church, just because I think I will just get it done faster. When you do this, it takes away opportunities and other peoples great ideas. God blessed everyone with their unique thinking and that should be appreciated in the church. My biggest lesson, that I am most proud of, was how to be positive. It is so easy to get sucked in to negative gossip or events. But what you don't see is the spiral effect it has on your heart and mind. It is so easy to go in that dark place and then continue to spread the negativity and in turn, darken others hearts. Being moderator I heard some negative things and I saw people being treated (or they thought they were being treated) badly. Instead of spreading the negative, I would try and stop the spread of darkness. I would look for a different and better outcome for a situation, or try and think how the other person was feeling and why they might react or feel that way. I did a lot more asking questions and a lot less assuming I knew what others were thinking. Not only did I free myself from the dark negatives, but my heart felt lighter and more full of love. Just like God said it would. Deciding to be positive was a decision I had to make every time the negative gossip or feelings came into my ears and heart. But, overtime it has become easier for me to do this. My hope is that everyone will try to be more positive in everything and not get sucked into the negative. "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine" should become our motto!

My past 2 years as moderator have been good times and not great times, but I wouldn't trade any of it. I want to tell you all how much more I have fallen in love with Speedway Christian Church and that this position that I was terrified of, has brought my heart closer to God. He didn't move me to step up as moderator to just help the church, but God had some great lessons he knew I would learn. So let me say THANK YOU to the people of SCC for trusting me with the position of Moderator for 2 years. Your love, kind words and support mean more to me than you know. I am excited for the future of SCC and hope you all are too! Let your light shine. ~ Heather Dietzer, Now, Public Relations Chair

Please keep in Prayer

Keith Kaiser, Ken Weiss, Judy Swisher
Brad Baetsle Joan Brown

Becky Parke (Bob & Gayle Parke's daughter-in-law)
Charles Smith (brother of JoAnne Smith)

To all the dear friends at Speedway Christian Church,
You can not imagine all the joy from receiving cards,
while in the 6 weeks stay in the hospital. I felt the
prayers that were offered for me and I believe that
made the difference.

God bless each one,
Judy Swisher

Stewardship/Finance December 2023

December 2023 Funds Received	\$ 39,215
Funds transferred to cover expenses	\$ 0
December 2023 Expenses	\$ 36,252
December 2023 Income greater than exp.	\$ 2,963

2023 Year to Date (January—December)

2023 YTD Funds Received:	\$ 398,443
Funds transferred to cover expenses	\$ 49,432
2023 YTD Expenses:	\$ 460,006
2023 YTD Income less than expenses	\$ (12,131)

Speedway Christian Church
5110 West 14th Street
Speedway, Indiana 46224



Clothing Mission

Our “Clothes for People” Ministry serves homeless veterans and families surviving domestic violence and Speedway Schools.

Thanks to our friends at Fine Promotions, Speedway Christian Church received several boxes of new clothing and coats that were given to people who need clothes – and warm clothes in particular. Fine Promotions’ staff members added to the Christmas distribution by purchasing toys to make children’s Christmas happy and bright. Items were distributed to Sparky’s Closet at Speedway High School, Sparky’s Closet at Speedway Junior High School, Helping Veterans and Families (HVAF) in downtown Indianapolis, and Coburn Place, a shelter for survivors of domestic abuse.

It has been an honor to organize the Clothes for People mission on behalf of Speedway Christian Church, and a joy to work with outstanding non-profit groups who really care for the people they serve. We’ve been doing this for several years and you’d think the need would end. It doesn’t.

Thanks to Kyle for helping us deliver items to Coburn Place.
~ David Shank



*By volunteering,
you are not doing the church a favor,
you are saying yes,
to an opportunity to serve God.*

~ Rev. Katie Griffin

Ways to Help Others...

Georgia Stackhouse is in search of men’s dress shirts or ladies blouses to make adult fabric protectors to donate to rehab and or hospice facilities. Please bring donations to the church. An example of the adult fabric protector is included in the attached photo.



Reminder

In person board meetings for 2024 will be called by our church Moderator, Cheryl Kunkel. Monthly reports are still requested to be sent to Cheryl via: cheryl-rus@gmail.com or office@speedwaychristian.org. Financial reports will continue to be distributed monthly via email.

Lunch & Learn

Please join us each Monday at noon in the Bethany Room, as we discuss the scripture for the following week’s Worship sermon.

