

Paradise Life
October 2026
Paradise Community Church
Celebrating 150 Years



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Be thankful for what you have. Be creative, be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, show life that you have a thousand reasons to smile.

Tech Committee

- Bobbi will schedule a meeting to gather more knowledge and prices on all of the equipment needed to install Bluetooth and record Pastor Vince's sermons for online viewing.

Misc.

- Brooke will contact Attorney Lundy to see if we can get the tax- exempt status finalized.
- Sharon from the We Care Pregnancy Center will be speaking during the service on September 20.

New Business

- Annette gave a presentation on having a coat drive to clothe the local school students (thru their free clothing closets) instead of participating in Samaritan's Purse this year. It will still run the week of Nov 15-22. She will iron out the details with the schools and update us at the next meeting.
- Brooke will order 100 Bibles at a price of 12.77 each (Dean made a motion and Bob seconded), and put another reminder in the bulletin regarding our current pew Bibles.
- Brooke will order 25 more church directories from Kendall's Kreations.
- Lori would like to have a blessing for the new teachers/back to school. It will be Sunday, September 20.
- Pastor Vince brought up the Quilts of Valor program that make quilts and honor local veterans as a potential benevolence project for this month. Dean made the motion, and Brooke seconded sending $500 for this cause. Annette is spearheading the local group.
- Starting in January we are going to have communion every month.

The next meeting will be October 8, at 7pm.

Debbie's Testimony

The Lord has been the center of my life and decisions as far back as I can remember. One of my earliest memories was going to Good News Club in one of the bungalows in Stump Creek after school with Lois Zufall being the leader. That is when I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior. As far as I know, I was the youngest confirmation student in our church confirming my infant baptism at 12 years old along with Keith Strouse, Lydia Pifer, Arnold Peace, and Denise Keller, students all older than me. I jumped at the chance to travel to annual Sunday School conferences, Youth Fellowship activities, I took my boys with me to a young adult conference at Camp Living Waters, etc. I remember Delbert Zufall telling us in Sunday School that we should know if we are saved and going to heaven. I was concerned because I couldn't say with 100% certainty that was saved. I also was concerned because I thought Jesus was coming back in 1976, according to a book and movie by Hal Lindsey, "The Late Great Planet Earth". Well, that hasn't happened yet but I do believe it will happen someday.

The Lord has showed me throughout my life that I should trust and listen to him, even though at times I have delayed or ignored his directives. Many times, I have been at the right place at the right time, causing life altering situations. I believe God will make anything happen if it is his will. I also believe Satan can nudge us to do the wrong thing so I pray that I know the difference.

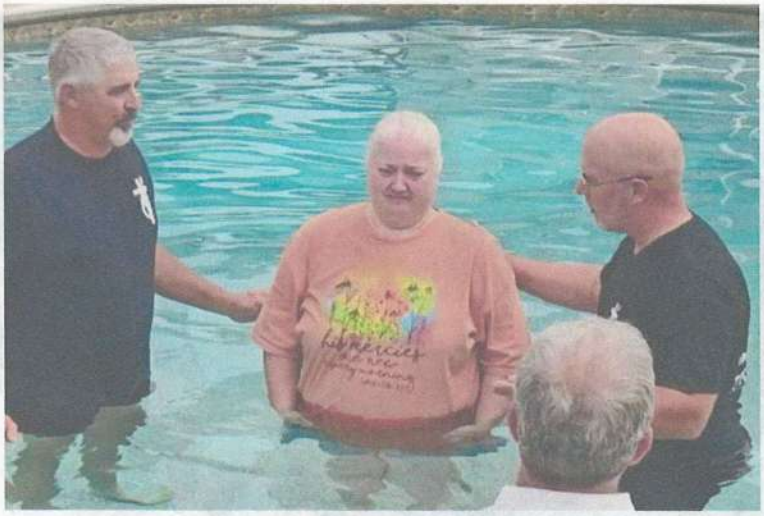
I could make a list a mile long of God's blessings in my life but I will only refer to 2. My first God Wink that showed me that God was in control was when, in 1985, I had a 35th wedding anniversary for my parents and with the monetary gifts they could travel out west. Mom and I was planning their trip when she said, "I want to go visit my cousin that I have never met in Scotland instead." My mom had cancer for a year and she knew that Dad wouldn't slow down and appreciate God's earthly beauty. One day, in the summer of 1986, she called and said, "Would you go with me to New Castle today? I need a proper birth certificate for my passport and I know that if I send for it through the mail, I will never get to go to Scotland." We loaded up my 2 small boys and got Mom's birth certificate that day. She and Grandma Clark went to Scotland for 2 weeks in July/August. She walked the Royal Mile, attended a Highland Games, attended the Military Tattoo, and visited family. She thought that she was getting a cold but she kept going. The colon cancer had gone to her lungs. Two weeks after returning home, she passed away at 57. Only God has that kind of timing and lets her enjoy her earthly life till the end!

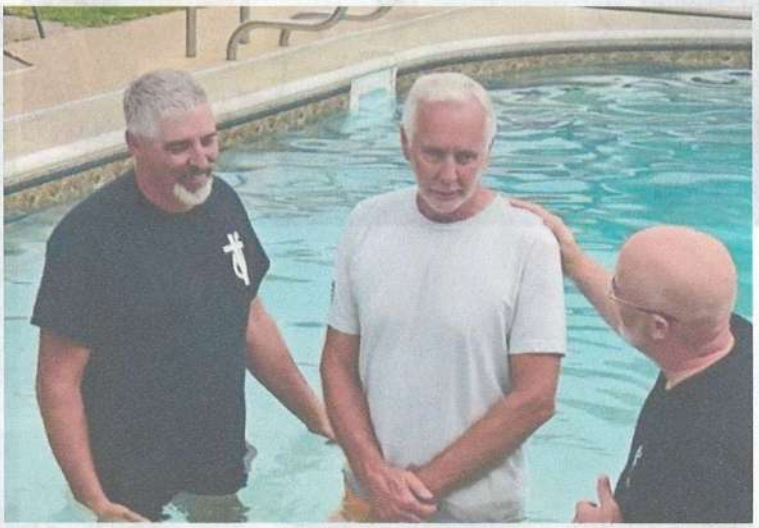
A recent God Wink happened as I was considering getting baptized as an adult. I knew the date was set as August 30. The annual Clark family reunion was going to be at my house the night before, a date set last December. I used that for a convenient excuse since I would be busy, tired, and cleaning up. Two weeks before the reunion, my cousin called and said that their family had plans and purchased tickets for the day of our reunion without knowing. Since that side of the family is the only ones that come, we had to cancel or reschedule. My excuse was tossed out the window. I told Pastor Vince that I had no excuse. God wanted me baptized as an adult! A week before the baptism, Bud's childhood friend (which I had never met) that is a minister in Delaware, made arrangements to stop in for a visit. After a nice 2-3 hour visit, he asked if we were saved. Without hesitation, I could answer, yes. The day before the baptism we received a package in the mail. I was surprised when I opened up a beautiful, leather bound, large print study Bible. God blesses indeed. I wanted a dove or even a blackbird to appear, like when John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Even though we didn't see the dove, I CAN feel the Holy Spirit a little stronger in my life and I am sure the Holy Spirit's presence will continue to grow a little stronger each day.



Baptisms: Round Two!

We were thrilled to witness 8 baptisms in July in our church family, and after another baptism service in August, we have a total of 18 people in our congregation who are walking in newness with Christ! God is doing amazing things in and through us, and we praise Him for all of it! We met on the 30th to celebrate with Bobbi Becker, Greg Ingram, Brandon Douthit, Tom Douthit, Janet Douthit, Debbie Pifer, Hailey Emigh, Joseph Bowser, and Rosanne Fillman as they were baptized. Afterwards, we shared a meal and some swimming time to enjoy the beautiful day God gave us, and we look forward to using the pool for His glory next summer. Please don't hesitate to talk to Pastor Vince if you've been thinking about being baptized; you'll never be the same again!





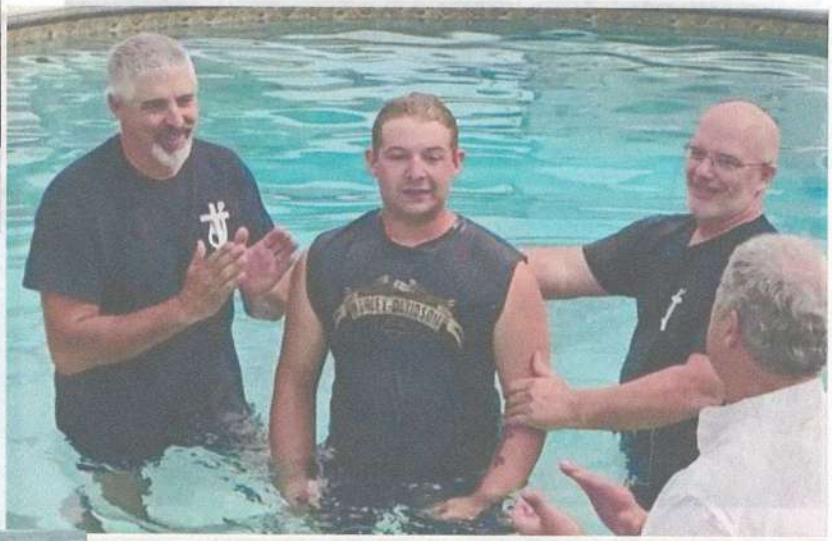
















150 YEARS IN PARADISE

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow! What an amazing milestone our church has been able to celebrate this year! God has brought us to this point through many highs and lows, and we thank Him for His faithfulness. The 1800's theme began as we arrived and had two entrances: one for the ladies and one for the men. Approximately 120 people came through those doors – Praise God! Lori Yohe, Mike and Diane Carlson even dressed in period clothes! The rest of us sported tee shirts to commemorate the day, and we send thanks to Annette Roy for ordering those. The PCC Band opened worship with the prelude "Turn Your Eyes" and also accompanied the singing of the 1800's hymns. The choir offered the "Anniversary Medley," which was a beautiful compilation of the old familiar songs. Thanks to Shayla Bowser for directing both groups! Sunni Reddinger gave the children's message, and Pastor Vince inspired us with "Giving Thanks for Your Wondrous Works." Since God gave us such a beautiful day, we crossed the road to celebrate with a picnic, greeted by the Douthits with fresh lemonade – yum! We enjoyed a delicious pig roast while spending time with present and former members of our church before the after-dinner festivities. They began with a pie-eating contest where participants were tasked with eating 4 pies. They worked hard, but one-by-one Ty Limrick, Bretley Barr, Mike Carlson (who stepped in for Dick Reed), Jackson Triponey, and Jacob Weber bowed out with Craig Limrick being the only one to accomplish the mission! Tug of War followed, with even Mei Bogardus participating, showing us all up! The kids stayed so busy between the playground and the bounce house that some weren't even noticed till they were leaving, and the high striker bell ringer was a popular attraction with all. And if that wasn't enough, the 1800's ball game followed all of this. A great big THANKS goes to the Events Committee, especially Ty Limrick for taking on leadership of this event along with the support of Brooke and Craig. You made this day amazing!
























RAGLEY'S




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JOY UNLLIMITED – MEMBERS – BIO INFO & CURRENT STATUS

Director: Eloise Pifer (Rice) Kosko DOB: 12/22/1955
Addr: PO Box 219 Luthersburg PA 15848
814-591-9887

Music has always been an important part of my life. As a young child, my parents, Hayes & Lois Pifer, had me take piano lessons from my Great Aunt Susie Trithart. I loved playing the piano and spent many hours practicing. My great aunt also encouraged me to sing. When I was only 8 years old, I can fondly remember singing a song entitled "The Holy City" at my church, the Paradise Community United Church of Christ, accompanied on the piano by her.
Every Sunday, my family and I always went to church and Sunday School and eventually I played the piano and organ for church services. My siblings (Cynthia, Lydia, Janet, Brian, Faith and Ross) and I sang for church and other events as the Pifer Family Singers. I also enjoyed singing in the church choir. After going to college and getting a degree in Music Education, I returned home and become the Choir Director for my church. Over the years, I have also directed a Junior Choir, JOY UNLIMITED, Glorious Praise and His Kingdom Singers. I have always used my gift of music to praise the Lord, and I have tried to help others share their musical talents in our worship services.
Then on October 22, 1989, I was honored to be named Commissioned Minister of Music in the United Church of Christ.
My husband, Victor Kosko, is the Cantor at the Holy Trinity Byzantine Catholic Church in Sykesville, PA. For 8 years, I have attended mass with him and also sing with him at their Divine Liturgy and Vesper Services. In the past, for 12 ½ years, I was also an organist and Choir Director for the former St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in DuBois, PA. During my 4 years at college, I played the piano and organ at the Clarion Free Methodist Church. I feel very fortunate to have experienced these different faith traditions because I have learned so much. It is wonderful going to different churches and seeing other styles of worship. After all, we worship the same God!
On October 13, 2024, I began leading the worship services at Trinity United Church of Christ in Troutville, PA as a Student Pastor. Then, on December 28, 2025, I was ordained and installed as their minister. I still continue to use my musical talents with my ministry at Trinity United Church of Christ. That is where I wish to continue my life as a song for the Lord. "Sing a new song to the Lord; praise him in the assembly of his faithful people." Psalm 149:1 is my hope and prayer for my ongoing faith journey. One of my favorite Bible verses is Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Praise the Lord!

Members:

Vickie J. Reed Rafferty DOB: 12/02/1967
Addr: 207 S 7th St, Youngwood PA 15697
724-454-9958

I started in the "2nd round" of Joy Unlimited as my older sisters were in it & I truly enjoyed singing as a very young child at Paradise. Over the years, I have been blessed with 2 children (Hope & Tony) and then 1 stepdaughter (Amanda), who brought 2 granddaughters into the family. Madelyn will be 6 on 07/13/26 & Sydney will be 7 on 08/08/26.
Over the years, I have been fortunate to experience different types of jobs, primarily in Health & Human Services as well as some in the medical & legal services fields. Within those jobs, I have dealt with people of all walks of life and some in the most difficult times of their lives. The one consistent presence I have always been able to rely on is my God and His ability to guide, guard, direct & protect me throughout & have gotten me through them all. In many of those most challenging times, I have recalled & sung several of the songs we learned in Joy Unlimited. My favorite and the most difficult one we ever sang was "Lift Thine Eyes." There are many others, but that one has offered so much strength & support when the hardest decisions were right in front of me.
I felt truly honored to have been a part of the fellowship & experiences we had within Joy Unlimited (and later, Glorious Praise), and know those memories will be in my heart forever.

Diane L. Reed Carlson DOB: 02/09/1962
Addr: 178 Harold Bundy Rd DuBois PA 15801
814-594-0872

I currently work for Carlson Auto Repair in DuBois along with my husband, Michael, and son, Matthew. I have been there for 14 years after working in a local bank for 30 years and found out that working 2 full time jobs is just too much to handle over a 5 year period. Singing in Choir kept me sane!
I have been married to Michael Carlson for 39 years and we have 2 children together, Tonya & Matthew. They have given us grandchildren, Ryan (14), Kendall (12) and Colt (5) for Tonya and Gracelynn (3) and Jack (8 months) for Matthew with his wife, Dustee. Along with them, I have a step-daughter, Nikki, and her spouse Scott, we also have 2 grandsons from them, Connor (15) & Liam (12). Tonya has 2 step-sons, Keegan (22) and Hunter (15) from her marriage to Jacob, whom passed away suddenly a few years ago. Even though we were blindsided with this death, God has guided us through everything and we are stronger Christians with our faith and belief that there is a purpose for all things that happen.
I was always encouraged to feel the music and sing or play on my flute from the time of 4th grade by Lee Paruso. She encouraged my parents to let me have an instrument to bring out the musical talent that I had at a young age. So as growing up with younger sisters & brothers, we all, as a family, began to sing in the car during "long" rides to my grandparents' house in Hormtown & Dad and Mom were the "leaders". Thus the importance of music was instilled in all of us to be able to praise the Lord & enjoy the family travels. As I got into Jr High & Sr High, my singing for Church choir and School choir along with Band was the top of my entertainment and focus. I was thrilled when Eloise started a girls singing group at Paradise Church and we were able to express our love of music to others in Church and to other organizations. I was also able to play my flute for accompaniment along with the various piano players too. We then incorporated sign language and stories with puppets to spread our message of God to others. By being able to sing these amazing songs & do programs with Eloise leading us, this helped to grow my love of God and spread the wonderful news that He is everywhere, can do anything, and will support you in all that happens with your life. I still sing in Church Adult Choir, play my flute for music accompaniment & teach the Pre-School children in the basement. It shows how much you can do with children with a song and the talents that God has given to us to bring them to love Him just as much as you do. God Bless everyone with this reunion of Joy Unlimited and spreading the word of God thru song!

Brenda Perry Frantz DOB: 06/30/1961
Addr: 30 Clearview Dr, Lebanon PA 17042

My husband Jeff and I just celebrated 42 years of marriage on June 23, 2026. We were married right here in Paradise UCC by Pastor Barry Fillman.
Afterwards, Jeff entered the UCC seminary in Lancaster, PA in 1987 and we lived on campus until graduation in 1990. While in seminary, we also lived and served in ministry in Yellowstone National Park for a summer.
Afterword, we lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan before settling in Lebanon, PA. In those churches, I continued to rely on my Joy Unlimited experience by singing in choir. I also started and directed bell choirs in church among other ministries.
I worked in grocery stores and in food service before my career took a huge turn into supporting school children with special needs and then supporting adults with developmental disabilities. My learning sign language in Joy Unlimited was a big help in that field of work.
Along the way, we've brought 3 children into the world, all of whom are now married. We enjoy 3 grandchildren and 1 soon to arrive.
The path of faith has led us into amazing places and experiences. Most recently, Jeff and I have happily made our spiritual home in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic parish in nearby Cornwall, PA, where I serve as a Eucharistic Minister.
Thank you Paradise Church and Joy Unlimited for starting me on my faith journey and for still being my companions along the way.

Valerie J. Reed (Walker) Solnosky DOB: 06/18/1963
Addr: 177 Cleveland St Sykesville PA 15865
814-541-1069

I've always loved music and singing ever since I can remember. Even in Bible School at Paradise, I loved "gym time", crafts and singing. Little did I know back then, those were the gifts and talents God gave me in my life "to be ME". Now as I am older, and reflect back on my life, I have been SO blessed to always sing through the good times and bad times, even when I didn't feel like singing – there was a song to sing! I've been so blessed to be married for 32 year to Doug Walker and we raised 3 wonderful children, Adam, Rachael & Bradley. Also, we were blessed to have 3 grandchildren and 3 step-grandchildren to fulfill our lives. In 2015, God decided to call Doug to Heaven after a short battle of cancer in his heart. Life changed for our whole family, but this time there was sad and comforting songs to sing. I always had music to fall back on. Life went on, but very differently. After about a year, God brought another special person in my life, Scott Solnosky, along with his son and daughter, Josh & Emily. Now I'm so blessed with 5 adult kids to call my own. We have our hands full with 5 great kids – I always wondered how Mom and Dad did it with 5 kids! Now I know how crazy it was, but you want to now something, we always had something to sing about and we did just that! Which brings me to where I am in life right now. Never did I realize the impact of singing in Joy Unlimited and where it would direct my walk with God in my life. Keeping music as a ministry and as a part of my life testimony, I still love to sing many of the songs we sang in Joy Unlimited. Soldier Community Church and Paradise Community Church will always hold a special place in my heart. I've realized God has always wanted me to make music be a very important part of children's lives! And to make them realize that God gives each one of them talents to use in His name, and music is a special gift He gives you to sing blessings to Him! Whether you are happy or sad, you can always sing and talk to Him – No matter what you are going through. The past several years, I've been blessed to help with the children's music from ages 3 to teens with programs and especially Bible School at Soldier. It is such a blessing to me to see all the children going to church and participate in church activities as they are the next generation of Pastors, Sunday School Teachers and leaders of our Churches. So being raised in "Paradise" and in such a wonderful church since I was little – is a true blessing and being in Joy Unlimited with both my sisters, many of my cousins and such wonderful friends, I know God has always been walking beside me and guiding and protecting me and my wonderful families! When I leave this world someday, I am looking forward to singing in God's Angel Choir – it's what I've always dreamed of and I do believe dreams come true!

Linda Gaul Carrithers DOB: 02/26
Addr: 15 Cherbourg Dr, New Port News Virginia 23606
757-846-0326

I retired on June 12, 2026 after an outstanding 42 year career at Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of HH. Throughout my career, I served as both a designer and design manager, contributing to the design and construction of submarines, aircraft carriers, commercial ships and numerous special projects. During the last 9 years of my career, I served as the Project Manager for the Digital Shipbuilding Mobile Experience – a 53 foot expandable trailer designed to train shipbuilders and showcase how Newport News Shipbuilding is leveraging technology to transform the way ships are built and shipbuilders are trained. Throughout this innovative program, I had the opportunity to engage with shipbuilders, students, Navy personnel, recruits, government representatives and community members both locally and across the country. Some memorable locations we visited include the Washington Navy Yard, the U.S. Capitol, the Virginia State Capitol and Houston, Texas.
My husband Steve and I have been happily married for 37 years. Steve retired from NASA Langley Research Center on October 31, 2025 after a distinguished career as an IT System Administrator. Our son, Trevor, continues the family's tradition of service and technology as an IT System Administrator at NASA Langley in Hampton, Virginia. I have been a faithful member of Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church since 1991 and currently serve on the Contemporary Worship Planning Team. I am deeply grateful for God's many blessings and live by the simple truth God is Good! Among my many treasured memories with Joy Unlimited, one of the most cherished was hearing the group sing "We All Live In A Yellow Submarine" at my final concert before leaving for Virginia to begin my career at Newport News Shipbuilding. In retirement, I plan to spend time with family, friends, crafting, traveling and visiting our favorite destinations including, Walt Disney World, Ocean City, MD and Myrtle Beach SC.

Wanda Perry Laughman DOB: 09/11/1967
Addr: 1003 S Main St, DuBois PA 15801

In 1985 I moved to Texas, got married and had my first child, a son, Tyler Ward. Then we moved with the military to Germany for about 7 months and I was pregnant with my second child, a daughter, Dayna. I was in the USA when she was born in 1987. I was divorced from my first husband in 1990. I was able to raise my 2 children on my own with the help of my family until 1994 when I met my current husband, Jim Laughman. We were married in 1999 and have been married for 27 years. I have 2 grandsons, Brody, 18 years old, and Tadhg, 9 year old. I have worked for Advanced Foot & Ankle in DuBois as a Medical Assistant for the past 6 years. God has blessed me through-out my life with many blessings. God is Good!

Colleen Haag Russell OB: 12/29/1970
614 Treasure Lake, DuBois PA 15801
814-590-2430

I married my husband, Brad Russell, on October 16, 1993 and we have lived in Treasure Lake ever since we tied the knot. We have 2 sons, Wesley and Jonathan. Wesley is a Lieutenant in the USCG. He is stationed in Cape May, NJ. Wes recently got married to his wife, Jordyn on April 25, 2026. Jonathan works at the FBI and lives in Clarksburg, WV. He recently got engaged to his fiancé, Maddie in January 2026.
I have worked as an RN at Penn Highlands DuBois Hospital for the past 35 years. My husband and I attend Christ Lutheran Church in DuBois and sing in the choir. I enjoy baking, exercising and spending time with our family. My husband and I also enjoy volunteering for the DuBois Challenger League and the DuBois ARC.
I enjoyed being a member of Joy Unlimited, as this group helped me be a part of outreach, musical ministry and fellowship in the greater community. I am thankful God gave me the gift of singing and enjoy using my voice to glorify God. I am very grateful for all the blessings and opportunities God has given me and my family!

Barbara Perry Allen DOB: 09/09/1965
3094 Spanish Cedar Pl, Fort Pierce FL 34946

I am so glad to have been raised in Paradise and to have been a part of the Paradise Church to help mold me as a child. Being a part of a group like Joy Unlimited teaches you to be part of a group which prepares you for many aspects of life.
After High School, I went on to nursing and while at Indiana University of PA, I met a wonderful man who changed my name to Barbara Allen and moved to Pittsburgh. We had a short, wonderful marriage and welcomed a son (Kyle) into the family. Unfortunately, we lost Troy to a brain tumor at a young age and after his passing, Kyle and I moved to Florida to be closed to my parents.
I have done well in Florida as I was always cold in PA. I am still working as a nurse and have loved being part of a team helping others improve their health and wellness. Kyle is grown and on his own and I have kept myself busy with many distractions. I have taken up marathon running and I have currently run 46 full marathons (26.2 miles), countless half marathons and 1 Ultra marathon. I am on a mission to run a marathon in all 50 states and I have completed 38 states so far. I have also become a camper. I have a teardrop camper and I take short trips on the weekend as often as I can. I love to get out in nature, hike, bike, paddle board or just sit outside and do crossword puzzles. It is where I feel most relaxed. There is so much beauty and peace out there. I am also blessed to have many good friends here and I am thrilled that Bonnie (Barkman) Warnick is now living in Florida as well. So precious to have a friendship that has lasted this many years.

Lydia Reed Gould DOB: 09/1968
3563 Allens Mills Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851
814-375-2707

Randy and I will be married 39 years this November 2026. We have 3 children with 2 born in Virginia and 1 born in Nebraska. Some of you may remember when the kids were smaller, they would come back to stay with Mon and Dad (Judy and Dick) for the summers where Samantha didn't think she had a birthday unless she was at the Jefferson County Fair. We moved back to Pennsylvania from Florida in 2005 – that time has flown by. We have 9 grandchildren now – 4 girls & 5 boys. The grandkids are into sports & 4H and keep us busy – busy.

Lisa Reed Shields DOB: 08/13/1964
740 Main St, Corsica PA 15829
814-715-4105

I was in Joy Unlimited for a couple of years before moving to the Brookville area to work on Kay Reitz's farm. In 1985, I married Don Shields and we have 3 children: Heather, Joseph & Jacob. After our separation, I started working in the kitchen of Jefferson Manor. Heather married Shawn Castellan and in 2006 my first grandchild, Lauren, was born and she was a life saver to me. I was and still am incredibly proud of her. She is now in college. They went on to have 3 more children, Isaac, Avery & Enzo, who are very special to me and going on to do great things. I didn't know if any more grandchildren were in my future, but I was blessed with 5 more from Joe. Twins, Jack & Jonah, are 9 years old, and another set of twins, Ainsley & Abraham are 4 years old, followed by Leeland who is 3 now. They all keep me busy in my spare time and I love to play with them as they learn new things. Now my son Jacob and his wife Becky have 5 children: Lexi, Jemma, Madelyn and in April they added another set of twins to my family – Rosco and Dallas. These children all have a special place in my heart!
In 2013, I began dating Ron and his family quickly became my own. He has 3 adult children with families of their own, so Ron and I have the blessing of watching 20 grandchildren grow up! It involves lots of sports, band concerts and trips to the fair to watch them show animals or whatever else they get into, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. After working 25 years at Jefferson Manor, I now hold an office job for Morrison Healthcare at Penn Highlands Brookville with no plans for retirement as of yet. I've always enjoyed meeting new people, but I love having reunions to catch up with old friends!

Laurie J Reed DOB: 07/11/1965
13 George St Apt 1A, Brookville PA 15825
814-648-4422

Daughter of Richard & Judith Reed, graduated from Punxsutawney Area High School in 1983, then graduated from Clarion University in 1997 with a BS in Accounting.
Work History: worked on Family Dairy Farm, William E Wise VMD, Pat's Printing & Nupp Printing in Sykesville, Clearfield County Supervisor of Collections (Court Costs, Fines & Restitution), Probation Officer, Court of Common Pleas of PA in Mechanicsburg for the Help Desk & Best Western in DuBois as Auditor and Front Desk
I grew up in the Paradise Community Church of Christ, joined the church & became a Sunday School teacher. I joined Joy Unlimited when it started with my sister Lisa and later Lydia & Leanna joined. I enjoyed going to different churches and other outings to sing with this group. We all had good times together. This one trip we made to Ohio to Raymond Perry's Church to sing. My Dad and Mom had a brown Chevy Conversion Van to travel to Ohio so we could sing there. On the way it broke down and we were along the side of the road & decided to practice our songs. It was a good thing we had Uncle Leon Perry with us because he figured out what was wrong and went to a nearby parts store to get the part and fixed it along the road.
Joy Unlimited brought me closer to our Lord God and I was able to teach Sunday School because of that influence. I also became a better Christian & person. It was a good time in my life to be with friends for life.

Janet Villella Douthit DOB: 07/24/1967
1354 Pike Rd, Punxsutawney PA 15767
814-590-5690

Tom and I will celebrate 35 years of marriage on October 5th, and we have 2 kids. Marrissa is an emotional support teacher at the DuBois Middle School and just built a tiny house. She blessed us with 2 grandpups, Linkie & Lexi. Brandon still lives at home and is an ironworker, so he drives to work in Pittsburgh every day. I am a hair stylist and work for my sister-in-law a couple days each week.
I wasn't in Joy Unlimited very long, but the time that I participated was great. I'm glad that we live where we do, for Paradise Community Church is a great place and close church family! I thank the Lord every day for our wonderful church family!

Penny Muth Pifer DOB: 02/08/1968
1389 Rock Dump Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851
814-771-6954

Married to Rodney L Pifer Jr for 35 years. We are blessed to have 2 beautiful grandchildren. Karsen Pifer is 5 years old and will start Kindergarten this fall. She went to pre-school and loved it so we pray for her love of learning to continue. She loves her sports and played T-ball this summer and loves to golf with her daddy. Waylon is 3 years old and is a very active boy. He loves hot rods and enjoys going on rides around the block with his Pop. He likes to go to the car shows and look under the car at their transmissions. He loves it when they do burn-outs. We attend One Life Church in Punxsutawney where my love for the Lord has grown deeply. I praise God for the miracles he has given our family over the past few years.
Joy Unlimited gave me the love for community service. I enjoyed all the fun trips to the different locations to sing and praise God. The joy we brought to our audience was obvious as Eloise would make us do hand motions and dance to get the audience involved. Very happy I was a part of Joy Unlimited.

Tammy Trithart Ragsdale DOB: 04/13/1965
205 Cottage Lane Lancaster PA 17601
717-989-4868

Currently, my husband Jeff of almost 40 ears and I are living in Lancaster, PA after living in Gap PA for almost 22 years. Jeff and I have lived in Virginia while he was in the Navy, then we moved to Illinois near Chicago when he got out of the Navy. Our goal was to move back to PA, so the Mars Corp that Jeff was working for moved us to West Chester, PA. Eventually, we moved to Gap so Jeff could commute to Elizabethtown and I could continue to work in Paoli, PA near Philadelphia as a pre-op and post-operative nurse. I have been a registered nurse for 40 years now. I have worked at several hospitals as we moved around but stayed at Paoli Hospital for 30 years. I currently am working in a large family medical practice in Strasburg, PA, as a triage/clinical coordinator RN. I went back to college at age 50 and completed my bachelor degree in Nursing.
Jeff and I have 3 children, Jacob our oldest, he is married to Katey, and is a Senior Pastor at a growing church in Quarryville, PA & he has a master's degree in Theology. My 2nd child is my daughter, Michaela, she is married to Jonah, and she has her master's degree in high school counseling and works at a high school in York County PA. My 3rd child is my son, Luke, he is married to Katie, and he has his bachelor degree in Christian Ministries and is a Youth Pastor in Strasburg, PA. I have 3 grandchildren, who are really some of the best things in my life. Jacob has 2 little girls, Zoey Jane, who is 3 yrs old & Haley Grace, who is 4 months old. Adalyn Grace Molina Landis joined our family as a foster child 2 yrs ago and was fully adopted into our family by my daughter about 1 yr ago. We love them all dearly. Our grandchildren give Jeff and I many laughs and a lot of joy.
Over the last few years, I have not been involved in singing much except for Sunday morning worship time. I still love worship music and listen to it every time I get, especially in the car on my way to work. Listening to worship music puts me in a good frame of mind for the upcoming day at work. I have often looked back over the years growing up and singing in Joy Unlimited. What a wonderful chance we had traveling around together and singing, Eloise really had endless patience with all of us.

Tracy Knarr Kuhar DOB: 03/13/1790
350 Old David Crockett Hwy, Winchester TN 37398
931-962-9082

I moved to TN in December 1995 and I am a Kindergarten teacher in the Franklin County school district. I have 2 children. Carly, who will be doing her student teaching this fall to become an art teacher and will graduate in December from MTSU and Garrett, who will be a sophomore at UAH and is studying Cybersecurity Engineering. I attend Bethel Fellowship Church which reminds me a lot of Paradise. The people there are very sweet and have a deep and genuine love for the Lord. The music skills I practiced with Joy Unlimited are being used in my new church where I sing and will soon be taking on the role of church pianist. I appreciated the opportunity to have reached out to our community with Joy Unlimited. I still remember the thanks and the impact we had on so many people through our musical ministry. I can't smell Halls cough drops without thinking of Eloise, our dedicated, overworked and ambitious leader! Thanks for helping us to not only grow our faith in God but for creating the opportunity to let that shine for others to see.

Mary Reed Hollopeter DOB: 12/05/1960
459 Sunset Lake Rd, Rockton PA 15856
814-583-5847

Brett and I will be celebrating our 40 years of marriage on December 13, 2026. I am now retired after working for many years, and I enjoy my time at home, which is something I have always liked. I watch kids 1 day a week, and I really love the time with them. I also enjoy working outside, along with knitting, crocheting, counted cross stitch, bead work, woodworking, puzzle books, reading, cooking and baking. Most of these things I learned from my mom and other women in my life.
Joy Unlimited helped me to get in front of people, which is still not one of my favorite things! The church has also helped me make needlework items for charities, using my talents for the Lord.

Lisa Shepler Triponey DOB: 06/21/1964
Addr: 3116 Paradise Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851
#814-590-6594

Paul and I celebrated 40 years of marriage on October 12, 2025. I still remember the bridal shower you threw for me that I almost didn't attend due to the Steelers playing! Our Navy life took us to Corpus Christi, TX, Milton, FL & Virginia Beach, VA where Matthew was born. We always wanted to raise our kids in the wonderful community of Paradise, so we moved back in 1992 and welcomed Daniel, James and Joel. Joy Unlimited helped me to grow in my faith, realizing that I needed to reach out and minister to others, not just hang out in the pews. God placed us in many Spirit-filled churches over the years, finally returning to the church in Paradise (where I wasn't going to get involved beyond the choir...Ha Ha!), and I stand in awe of Him every day as I see His hand at work doing things I never thought were possible. What an awesome God we serve! Adding 2 daughters-in-law (Brianna Marie Barr and Mackenzie Marie Barr...and they're not related!), we've moved into the realm of grandparenthood with Jackson and Grady. I could never have imagined the joy they bring to our lives; we are so BLESSED! Yet nothing compares to the relationship I have with Jesus Christ, and Eloise, I thank you for planting the seeds that continue to grow in my life!

Jenny Peace Shick DOB: 04/27/1962
1118 Juniata St Ext, DuBois PA 15801
814-591-6319

Wife to Joe Shick since 2011. Mom to Frank & Randy, Step-Mom to Tim & Katie, Step-Mother-In-law to Mandi & Chris, and best of all, Nana to JT, Colby, Alex & Hope, plus our bonus granddaughter, Harper, who calls me Nina. I am also mom to 2 big dogs, 1 little dog & 2 orange cats. I am very happily retired from the Postal Service since 2018 after 31 years, and I am loving my part-time job with DuBois Floral Design. I enjoy eating out, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, quilting, macramé and going to yard sales with Joe. Life is great now, but there have been many tears & storms over the years. What has helped me through the hard times is the solid foundation in God which was started by my parents & home church in Paradise and continues today with Treasure Lake Church. I know there will be more hard times to come, but God will be with me through it all. I enjoyed my years in Joy Unlimited & my favorite song we sang was "The Closing Prayer". Thanks! See you Soon!

Lisa Gaul Griffin DOB: 10/26/1965
644 Ridgemont Dr Pittsburgh PA 15220

I was ordained into ministry August 1991 at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Troutville PA. I served as Youth Minister at Calvary UCC in Philadelphia, Associate Pastor at Immanuel UCC in Needville, TX, Associate Pastor & then Pastor at First UCC in Hampton VA, and am currently serving as Pastor at St. John's UCC in Evans City, PA. I married Rich Griffin in April 2017. We were happily married as soul mates until his death in April 2025. I play soccer and softball in my spare time. I still enjoy singing. My faith is the stronghold of my life.

Valarie Weber Reinsel DOB: 04/14/1962
11933 27th St SE, Valley City ND 58072
814-715-3022

I remember my years with Joy Unlimited very fondly. Being a part of a girls' choir that performed for many churches and events made me realize how important it was to be involved in spreading the gospel. Whether we are speaking or singing, we are called to be salt & light, and Joy Unlimited was my first step in learning to share the Word with others. Not only did I get to be a part of something that brought joy to others, but I found that it also brought joy to my heart as well.
Following high school, I attended Penn State University where I joined a college youth group that also had a travelling choir. In 1988, I married my 2nd best friend, Bob (those who know me know that Jenny will always be my 1st best friend). We raised 3 children: Cody, Elliot & Sydney. We now have 5 grandchildren: Cameron & Kendra (Cody), Adalynn (Elliot), Hattie & Jace (Sydney). Bob & I currently reside in North Dakota where we are active members of Grace Free Lutheran Church. We have attended many churches throughout the years as we have moved around, but we always remain active members wherever we go. Joy Unlimited and my parents have helped me develop a servant's heart. I find that I feel more connected with Christ when I am serving others. I am blessed to have been a part of this group.

Faith Pifer Newman DOB: 08/01/1966
375 Ann Circle, Indiana PA 15701
724-422-3172

Russ and I will celebrate 38 years of marriage next month in July and lived in Virginia before moving back to Pennsylvania. I retired from teaching in 2023 after 34 years of teaching Junior High science: Biology, Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science. I started working at the front desk at the Hilton Garden Inn where I am now the Front Desk Supervisor. Our daughter Cassidy is the Breakfast Supervisor at the Hilton Garden Inn and our son Brant is a Territory Sales Manager for Steris and just recently moved to Pittsburgh after going to college and then working in Minneapolis. We love to travel! Growing up in the Paradise United Church of Christ gave me a good, solid foundation of learning to trust in God and looking to him as a source of strength.

Cheryl Buhite Yoas DOB: 04/09/1965
3515 Fran Lane, Hermitage PA 16148
724-815-9763

From the time I was 3 and stood on a chair between my parents to the present time in my church choir, singing has been a passion of mine. I was blessed to be raised in a singing family but even more blessed to be brought up singing for God in church. When I married my husband Luke, 38 years ago, I learned what singing off key meant. Yikes!! After 11 years of trying to have a baby, God gave us a beautiful son, Nathaniel through adoption. He has been such a blessing and loves to sing too. He married a lovely girl, Isabella, and they have a beautiful 10 month old son named Joseph. I have 2 special memories of Joy Unlimited. One is Lisa T. and I playing a duet on the piano. It was a blast! The second memory is Eloise telling me, after I forgot words during a solo, that this can never happen again. It was a good learning experience and ironically, it never did happen again. Thanks for letting me be part of Joy Unlimited and God Bless you all.

Nancy London Bittner DOB: 06/25/1968
305 Highland St Ext, DuBois PA 15801
814-591-1109

Brad and I have been married 32 years. We have always lived in and around DuBois. We have 3 beautiful children – Kayla is 30, Ty 28 and Alyssa 25. Kayla was married to Shaun Foley in 2025, and I am expecting my 1st granddaughter soon! I work full time as a physical therapist at Punxsy Hospital. Like everyone else, my life has taken some unexpected turns. I don't think I appreciated it fully during my days of Joy Unlimited – I was more concerned with singing the right notes! – but Eloise and this group of ladies helped me build a faith base that got me through some difficult times. I will always be grateful!

Sherri Trithart Bailey DOB: 10/04/1964
5420 Trunion Trail, Woodbridge VA 22192
703-593-0468

John & I will be celebrating our 44th anniversary next month. We are enjoying retirement, keeping busy with church ministries, travel and gardening. Our most recent trip was to Egypt. Our daughter Samantha, her husband Charles, and our only grandchild, 10 year old Krisztofer, have been living overseas but are now moving to Williamsburg, VA. We look forward to having much more time with them now.
I still enjoy worshipping God through music. And my experience with Joy Unlimited provided more confidence I would need for public speaking. Sorry I can't be there for the reunion, but I'd love to hear how you all are doing. God bless you all!

Bonnie Barkman Warnick
11643 E Confederate Dr, Glenn St Mary FL 32040
904-397-9874

Currently lives in Florida but lived in Myrtle Beach for 18 yrs before moving to Asheville NC and then to Naples, Italy. She has 1 son who lives in Wilmington NC. Art, animals and nature are where she finds connection to the Source of All.

Patty Taylor Perry
426 E Park Ave, DuBois PA 15801

Married to Jeff Perry, has 3 children, Jessica, Casey & Jason and 6 grandchildren, lives in DuBois PA and is currently home due to health conditions.

Melanie Reed Shepler DOB: 12/05/1960
138 Main Street, Troutville PA 15866
814-590-7245

Married to Kevin Shepler, has 3 children, Morgan, Adrienne and Derek & has 3 grandchildren, Bretley, Briar & Nola, and works for the US Post Office in Sykesville PA.

Janet Pifer Eastman
PO Box 141, 61 Diane Lane, Biglerville PA 17307
717-487-8707

Married to Harry Eastman, has 2 children and is a teacher.

Leanna Reed McClelland DOB: 12/03/1972
5684 Allens Mills Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851
814-661-6014

Lives with her husband, Dan McClelland in the Beechwoods area of Falls Creek on the Family Farm. Works for Dubois Area School District with the Food Services at Oklahoma Elementary School.

Becky Bonsall Anderson
54 Hill St, Troutville PA 15866

Married Richard Anderson, has 1 son, lives in Troutville PA and is a retired Bank Teller.

Stephanie Fillman
4184 Lower Park Dr, Fairfax VA 22030
703-839-2871

Lives in Virginia & is a Teacher

Mary Ann Love
3224 Marvin Ave, Erie PA 16504

Works in Sports Medicine

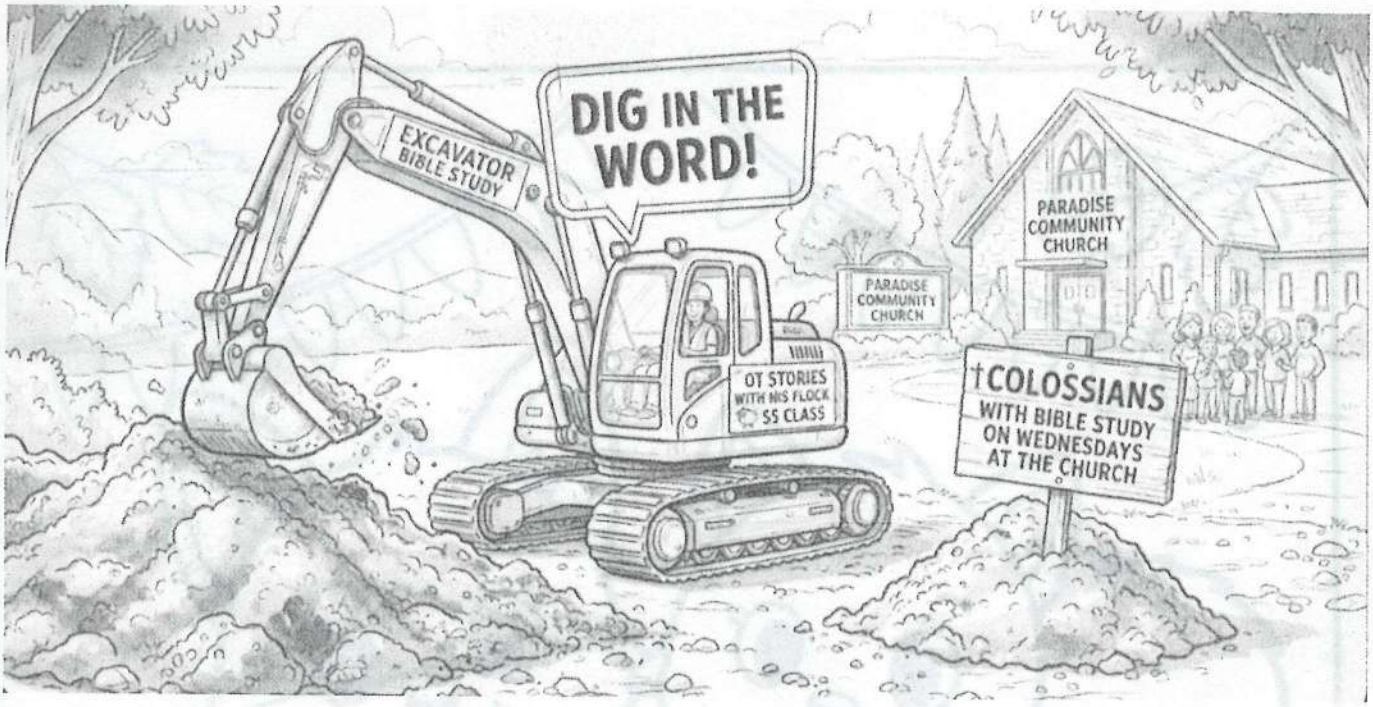
Tracy Frantz Deasey
teresadeasey1@gmail.com

Kim Walk Marshall
707 Fire Tower Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851
724-953-1445

Nikki Smith Hollenbaugh
2570 Kramer Rd, Reynoldsville PA 15851

Debbie Benninger
493 Treasure Lake, DuBois PA 15801
814-590-6356

Retired from Symmco, Sykesville.



Join us after Church for His Flock Sunday School Class, and Wednesdays at 6pm for Bible Study at the Church. (Fellowship begins at 5:30)

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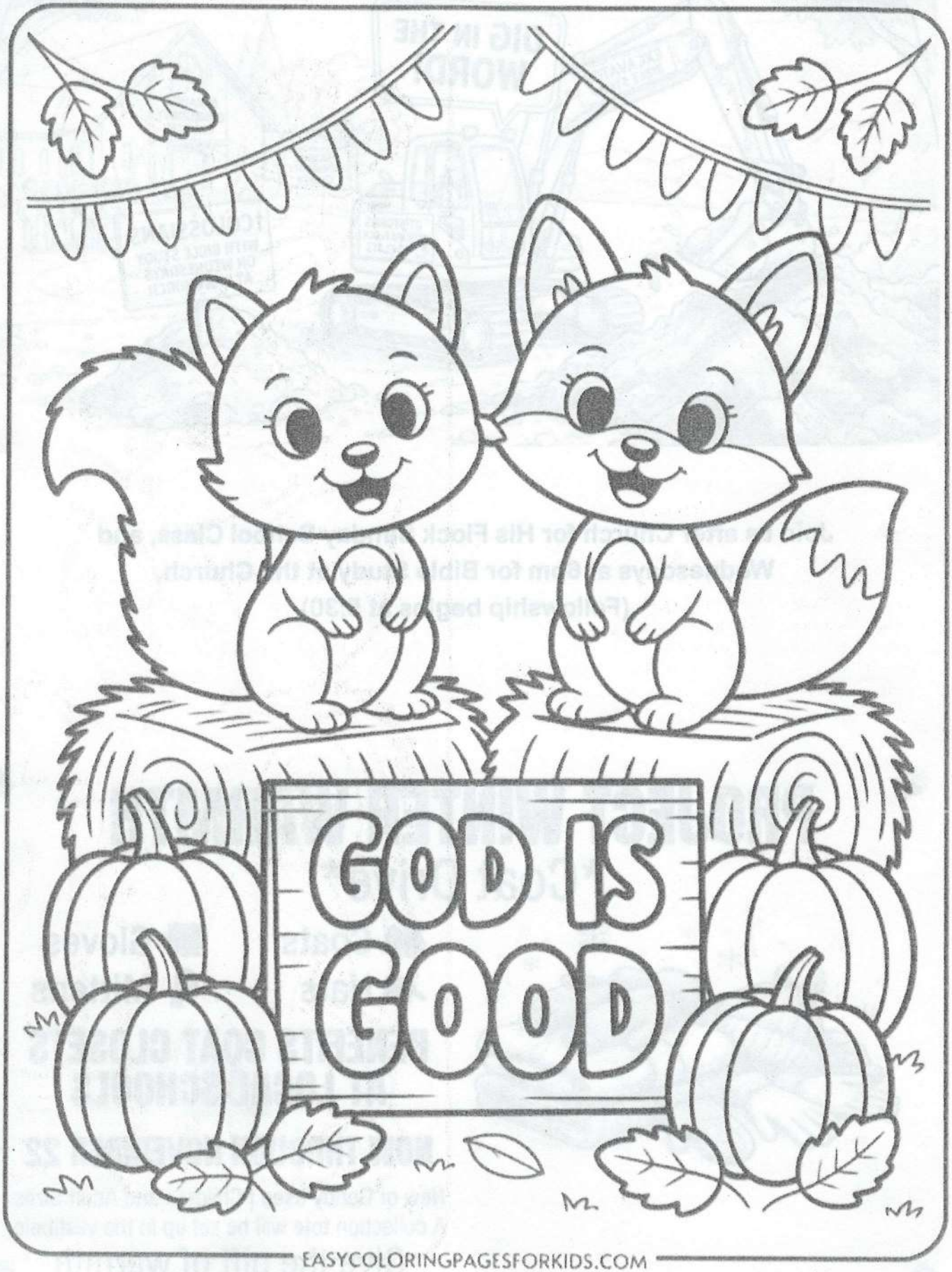
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