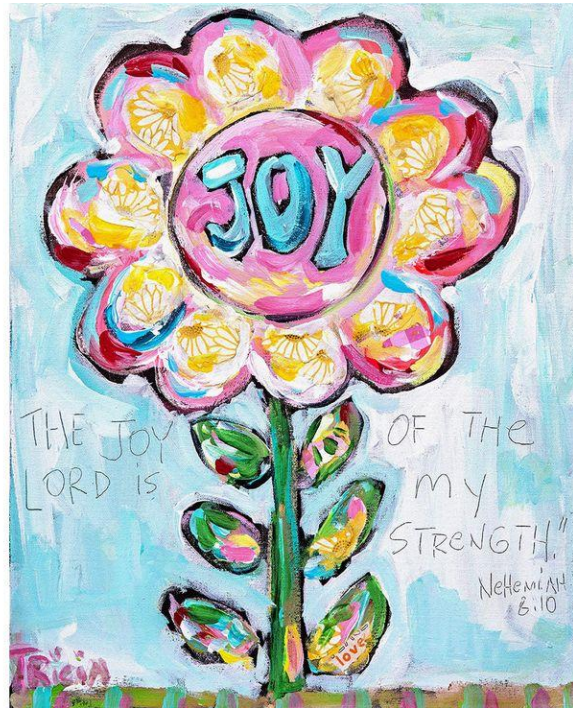


Summer of Joy 2026



'Summer Joy' haiku by Susan Davis

Our church on the hill
with a doorway that's open
for all to attend

Devotional Guide to Our Summer Together

Joy – definition

: a feeling or state of great happiness or pleasure : delight, bliss

: a source or cause of delight

Nehemiah 8:10b

For the *joy* of the Lord is your strength.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the *joy* that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Friends,

I hope your summer is filled with joy! Our stewardship theme for 2026 is joy. This summer, I am excited to engage in teaching, preaching, and reading endeavor for our church where we continue our theme of joy. Joy is a deep, strong emotion that does not mean we have to jump up and down or share a false smile. Joy opens us to be delighted in, find happiness with, and enjoy different moments of our lives deeply.

On the final night of a Yucatan Mission Trip, our mission team had dinner together. We were celebrating, reflecting on our trip, honoring our hosts, and taking one last breath before heading home. I remember sitting there, listening to stories, eating good food, and being filled with a deep sense of joy. The problem was I was exhausted. I was not looking forward to airports, flights, and customs on the way home. But I was joyful. It dawned on me that even if my physical and mental states did not showcase the emotion, I was experiencing joy and gratitude for the ministry of our trip.

This moment left a lasting impression on my heart where I began to see over my life, there were times of joy that I was not aware of because I was focused so much on what was going on along the surface. For instance, when I held both my nephews in my arms when they were babies, while I was making sure they did not cry, I was overjoyed to know these new lives. When Vicki walked down the aisle at church, I had tears of joy because of God's amazing grace throughout my life. When Peyton graduated from high school and began her journey to college and beyond, I was keenly aware of the joy of being a part of her life and the joy knowing she is a blessing to the world.

We find, experience, and tumble into joy throughout our lives. With newborns, at baptisms, for graduations, during weddings, and even through tough times, joy is present. Joy grounds us and reminds us of hope. I asked our staff, elders, and deacons to share where they find joy, specifically over the summer months, and the answers themselves were a joy to read.

Joy was found and experienced by watching baseball, outdoors hiking, being with good friends and drinking good coffee. Joy is found in gardening, viewing evening sunsets, taking road trips, being in the yard with sun (plenty of sun) and longer days. Joy can be found in open windows, walks, and clear night skies where one can see the moon and stars. Joy is seen in children, social interactions, families, friends, and our church community. Joy is experienced in music, sitting on the porch, the smell of freshly cut grass, and in harvesting.

I'm sure we can list many other places joy is shared and found. One of the many places we experience joy and where we can encourage others in joy is at church. Our church is a community of people who desire to know Jesus and while life is full of ups and downs, Jesus calls us to follow him. This summer, as we reflect on joy, I'd like to invite you to join in worship, read scripture, and take a moment each day to pray in JOY.

This Summer of Joy devotional booklet will be a guide. As you read, reflect, and pray, know that others are participating in the same journey. To make this a useful guide, there are four main components of connection.

1. Daily scripture
 - a. We are invited to take our bible, read the verses, and reflect. There is space for you to write thoughts, journal, doodle, or develop a 'to do' list. Pick a time during the day when you have a moment. Maybe at breakfast or at sunset, but give yourself space to read, listen, and find joy in God's Word.

2. Daily prayer
 - a. Pray in JOY. This is a simple way to guide our prayers as we seek Jesus, lift up Others, and then Yourself. You can pray anyway you'd like, but sometimes we need help focusing. If so, then pray in JOY.

3. Weekly worship
 - a. Every week this summer we will be worshipping with and reflecting on joy. You are invited to come as you are, invite others, and worship our living Lord.

4. Weekly check-in
 - a. Rather than a formal bible study, we will check-in to talk about scripture and pray every week on Wednesday evening at 6pm via Zoom. You can find the link in the book or email Pastor Alan (dorway@firstpreschurch.com) to get the link sent to you electronically.

Peace, *Alan*



Weekly Wednesday Summer of Joy Zoom Check In

A time to gather via Zoom to talk about the readings, reflect on the sermon, talk about what is bringing you joy, and to pray. This will be a 30–45-minute time. Use the below Zoom link to join.

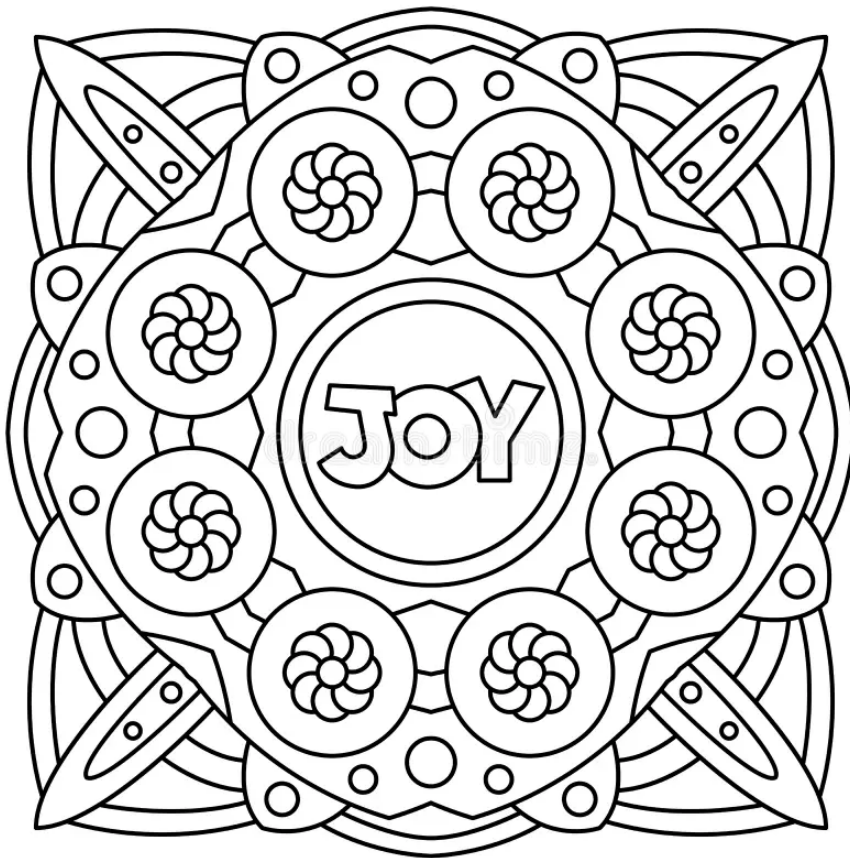
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84013494173?pwd=a6xehZbvRqNkhFRb2wjSdndS6Kwbhm.1>

Meeting ID: 840 1349 4173

Passcode: 262330

Coloring and Doodle Page



June 28 – *The Joy of Expectation*

Nehemiah 8:10b;
Philippians 2:1-5

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

June 29

Psalm 5

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

June 30

Matthew 13:44-53

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 1

1 Chronicles 16:7-34

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

July 2

Luke 3:10-17

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 3

Philippians 3:12-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 4

Psalm 2; Psalm 47

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 5 – Outdoor Joy

Psalm 84

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 6
Genesis 1

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 7
Psalm 30

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 8
Psalm 50

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

July 9
Micah 4

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 10

2 Corinthians 4

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 11

Colossians 1:3-23

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 12 – *The Joy of Gardening*

Psalm 65; Galatians 5:1, 16-26

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 13

Psalm 1

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 14

Matthew 6:25-34

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 15

Psalm 63

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

On July 15th

**The Gathering – 5:30pm
in Westminster**

We continue our 3rd
Wednesday gatherings for
food and community. We
will be watching the
movie, *Inside Out*.

Dinner begins at 5:30pm.

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

Those online will be added
to our evening event.

July 16

2 Peter 2:1-10

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 17

Matthew 13:1-9

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 18

1 Corinthians 3:1-15

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 19 – Joyful Music

Psalm 43; Psalm 150

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 20
Isaiah 6

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 21
Ephesians 5:6-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 22
Psalm 95; Psalm 100

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

July 23
Colossians 3:12-17

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 24

James 5:13-20

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 25

Acts 16:19-34

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 26 – *Good News of
Great Joy*

Isaiah 12; Luke 2:8-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 27

Matthew 2:1-13

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 28

Isaiah 11:1-9

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 29

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In

@ 6pm

July 30

Luke 1:46-56

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

July 31

John 1:1-18

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 1
Matthew 13:44-53

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

*August 2 – The Joy of
Laughter*
Psalm 30:1-5; Luke 18:15-17

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 3
Romans 12:9-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 4
Genesis 18:1-15

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 5

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

August 6

Mark 5:21-43

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 7

Luke 6:20-36

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 8

Isaiah 56:1-8

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 9 – *The Joy of Stillness and Wonder*
Psalm 8 and 19

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 10
Matthew 5:1-16

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 11
Proverbs 14: 3-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 12
1 Chronicles 29:10-22

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

August 13

Hebrews 7:26-8:6

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 14

Psalm 46

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 15

Colossians 1:15-29

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

What has brought you joy
in the last week?

So far this summer, where
have you been surprised by
joy?

August 16 – *The Joy in
Difficult Moments*

Psalm 96; James 1:2-8

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 17

Habakkuk 3:17-19

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 18

John 16: 16-24

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

When has God provided
joy in your heart and you
did not expect it?

When did someone
encourage you with joy?

August 19
Zephaniah 3:14-20

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

The Gathering
Dinner at the Interfaith
Family Shelter

We are having dinner with our friends at the Interfaith Family Shelter! Hot dogs, burgers, salads, and s'mores await.

More information to come, but we will gather at the Family Shelter (2520 Cedar St.) at 5:30pm to eat, build community, and sing songs together.

No Zoom Check-In tonight.

We hope you can join us at the Family Shelter!

August 20

Romans 8

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 21

Matthew 7:1-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 22

John 11:17-27

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

*August 23 – The Challenge
of Nostalgia*

Psalm 126; Ezra 3:8-13

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 24
Mark 2:18-28

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 25
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 26
Colossians 2:15-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray
Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

August 27

1 John 4

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 28

Philippians 3:1-11

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 29

Philippians 3:12-21

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 30 – Let's Eat with Joy

Isaiah 55

All Church Picnic After Worship

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

August 31
Luke 7:36-50

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

September 1
Matthew 22:1-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

September 2
Psalm 65

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Summer of Joy Check-In
@ 6pm

September 3
Jeremiah 31:1-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

September 4

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

September 5

Luke 15

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

September 6 – *Joy for the Year*

Ephesians 4:1-6

It's a **JOY** to Pray

Jesus _____

Others _____

Yourself _____

Where do you hope to find joy in the fall?

Thank you for participating in our Summer of Joy!

Summer of Joy

Quick Notes

Every Sunday – Worship at 10am

Wednesday Check-In's @ 6pm
Beginning July 1st on Zoom

The Gathering – July 15th
Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner at 6pm
Watching the movie – *Inside Out*

The Day after Christmas in July
Get ready for some mid-year holiday fun

The Gathering – August 19th
Dinner at the Interfaith Family Shelter
2520 Cedar St. – meet there at 5:30pm
Hot dogs, s'mores, and songs

All Church Picnic – August 30th
After worship @ Legion Park

Fall Kick Off – September 13th