JOY GROUP NEWSLETTER

November and December 2026

A Note from JOY

Hello, JOY friends! As we move into the fall and Christmas season, we are grateful for the fellowship, laughter, and service that make our group special. We have enjoyed a wonderful year together, and we are looking forward to gathering around the table, sharing a good book, and blessing children through Operation Christmas Child. We hope you will join us!

JOY in 2026

		
St. Patty's Party	**Sock Hop**	**Boo Bash**

From book club conversations to festive parties, 2026 has been full of friendship, fun, and fellowship. Thank you for making JOY such a special group!

Book Club Date Change • November 17

Date change: Our November book club meeting has moved from November 10 to November 17. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. The theme will be Thanksgiving potluck. Please RSVP to Cyndi at **cyndiandscott818@gmail.com** **or call 703-615-7022** so we can coordinate the menu. We'll share a meal and plan our booklist for 2027.

Operation Christmas Child • November 13

We had such a wonderful response to **Operation Christmas Child** last year that we are excited to support our church project again by packing shoeboxes filled with thoughtful gifts for children. **Our goal is to pack 50 boxes:** 25 for girls and 25 for boys, ages 8–10. If you plan to purchase any of the items listed below, please let Cyndi know by **November 6** so she can keep track of what is being donated and coordinate the collection.

If you would prefer to make a monetary contribution instead of purchasing items, a $10 donation will help cover the cost of one box. Please make a note that the donation is for the JOY Group Operation Christmas Child project.

Contact Cyndi Allen at cyndiandscott818@gmail.com or 703-615-7022 to sign up.

Packing party details: Friday, November 13, at 11 a.m. in the 2/90 classroom on the adult hallway. Last year, it took us only about an hour to pack all the boxes! Please join us as we pack these gifts with love and prayer.

Items Needed – Links included are amazon suggestions only, you may purchase from wherever you like.

Quantity	Item
50	Toothbrushes
50 packs	Pencils
50	Pencil sharpeners
50	Notebooks
50	Beach balls
50	Drawstring bags
50	Jump ropes
50	Washcloths
50	Sunglasses
50	**Small stuffed animals (generic, or 25 for girls and 25 for boys) - received**
50	Hair combs
25	Friendship bracelets
50 packs	Generic stickers
50	Kazoos
25	Small toys for boys
	Mini dinosaurs 82 pieces
25	Small toys for girls
Other	Toy Options
	Pack Animal Pop Balls 30 pack (2)
	coloring books

Child of Promise • December 19

Judy Piper will once again be organizing a JOY outing to **Child of Promise** in Goldsboro, North Carolina, Saturday, December 19. Child of Promise is a Christian, Broadway-style musical that tells the story of Christ's birth through music, drama, choir, and orchestra. It is a beautiful way to enjoy fellowship while celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

- Tickets are $10.
- The bus will leave GCUMC at 9:15 a.m.
- We will stop for lunch at Jay's Kitchen, and everyone will pay for their own meal.
- Showtime is 2 p.m.
- The bus is expected to return to the church between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please let Judy know by **November 23** at **jrpiper114@gmail.com**

JOY Christmas Potluck • December 10

JOY Christmas Celebration! We'll get together one last time in 2026 for our annual Christmas Luncheon. We'll provide chicken, so bring your favorite side dish or dessert and come ready for a festive afternoon of food, laughter, fellowship, and fun activities as we celebrate Christmas together!

Thursday, December 10, from 1–3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.