North Star

February 2017

Making Disciples - Making a Difference

North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
www.northpres.com

Phone: 607-734-2977
Fax: 607-734-2978
Office Hours: Monday- Friday, 9 am-2 pm

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Meet our Staff:

Rev. David Preisendanz	Pastor
Office Schedule	Monday - Thursday (before lunch is the best time to reach him)
	northprespastor@stny.rr.com
Deb Stamp	Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Office Schedule	Monday - Friday (hours vary)
	northpresyouth@stny.rr.com
Paul Holland	Music Director
Office Schedule	Tuesday, 2 - 4pm & during rehearsals
	northpresmusic@stny.rr.com
Barbara Mosher	Church Organist
	northpresorgan@stny.rr.com
Heather Flandreau	Church Administrator
Office Schedule	Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm
	northpresoffice@stny.rr.com
Pat Richards	Financial Secretary
Office Schedule	Tuesday 4pm - 6pm
	northpresfinance@stny.rr.com

Find us on facebook

Please – remember your church in your will!

My dear friends,

I would like to thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the endless kindness and sympathy you have shown me upon the death of my dear mother on January 17. My family and I were able to be with my mother 24 hours a day for the last 10 days of her life; to share with her our love; and to receive her love, even after she was unable to speak. I was with her when she passed away, at 2:00 a.m.– and that was a profound gift to me, and to her.

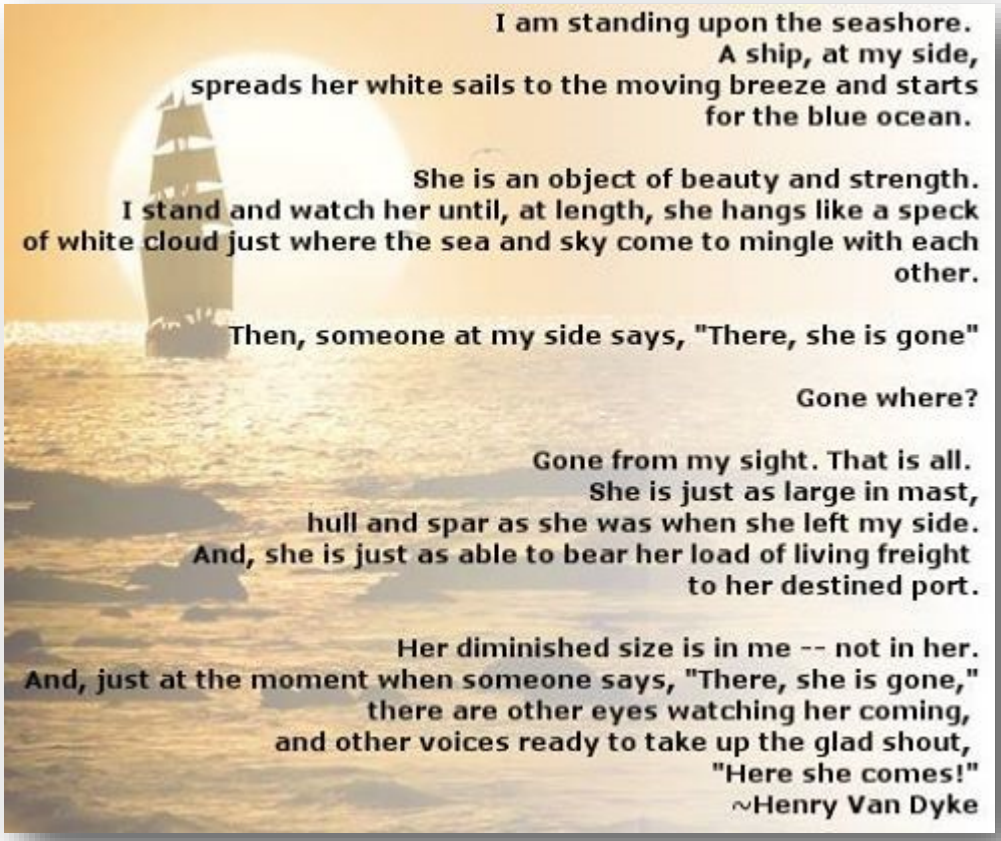
Thank you for the grace and understanding that allowed me to be away, on such short notice and for such a long time. Thank you, Joel Robinson, for offering to preach on January 15, which relieved me of the burden of traveling back to Elmira in the midst of our family's vigil. Thank you for the dedication of the sanctuary flowers, and for the cards and the countless expressions of concern and sympathy. I have been truly blessed by my church family.

Last June, my father Edward passed away, and now my mother Jeanne has stepped from this life into the next. The burden of losing two parents in seven months is a heavy one, but our God gives us everything we need to find our way through our dark valleys.

With a sad and grateful heart, I thank you again.

Faithfully yours,

David



Bring your donations to tackle hunger and poverty in our community.

Let's change the game! Together we can turn the nation's largest weekend of football into its largest weekend of caring.

DATE/TIME Sunday, February 5, 2017 | 9:30 am

LOCATION North Presbyterian Church, during the worship service

COLLECTING FOR The North Pres Food Pantry

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING℠

souperbowl.org

A **Christian Education** program for Children & Youth ages 3-18 is available each Sunday morning starting at 11:00 in the 2nd floor classrooms. Come join us as we take a journey learning about God and his plan for us. For more information on programs for children & youth contact Deb Stamp at 734-2977 or northpresyouth@stny.rr.com.

Wednesday Bible Study began a new 22 week study of Isaiah on January 4. This study explores prophecy, repentance, forgiveness and hope. Anyone is welcome at any time. Bring your lunch and join us at **noon on Wednesdays in the Brisbane room**. Call Bobbi Furnas at 733 -4712 for more information.

"Attention Men of God":

A new **Men's Bible Study** series will begin on January 9 entitled "Not a Fan". It is a six week DVD-based study based on the book of the same name by author Kyle Idleman. The following is taken from Kyle's website and best describes what this study is intended to produce: "Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus Christ issued a compelling and challenging invitation: "Follow Me." Jesus is not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants completely committed followers. Built around the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, Teaching Pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY, this one of a kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus."

Make plans now to attend. We will meet either in the Keyser Library or in the Edmunds Room (depending upon availability) **Mondays at 7:00 pm**. Out by 8:30 pm.

The **Women's Bible Study** is on hiatus. This group meets on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the library. Women of all ages are invited to attend. Keep an eye out in upcoming bulletins and the March issue of the North Star for more information on future study plans. This is a great time of fellowship and learning! Be brave, step out of your comfort zone, and give it a try!

February Worship Volunteers

Greeters
2/5 Ethan Wilson & Gunner Wilcox
2/12 Joan Barneski
2/19 Audrey Lutz
2/26 Peg Densberger

Ushers
2/5 Team Vanderhoff
2/12 Team Allison
2/19 Team Patno
2/26 Team Campbell

Worship Assistant
2/5 Linda Palmer
2/12 Cindy Kalweit
2/19 Jeff Richards
2/26 Annette Ajamian

Communion: Intinction
2/5 Annette Ajamian, Cathy Campbell, Suzie Hoskins, Sheryl Patno, Annette Stevens, Joe Rolls, Pastor David

Children & Youth Message
2/5 Linda Palmer
2/12 Cindy Kalweit
2/19 Jeff Richards
2/26 Annette Ajamian

Nursery & Wee Worship
2/5 Ann Motley & Glenda Solowiej
2/12 Karen Wilson & Barb Duryea
2/19 Mickey Vischansky & Deb Stamp
2/26 Liz Wilson & Linda Palmer

Tech Booth
2/5 Bill Furnas
2/12 Joel Buice
2/19 Tim Allison
2/26 Ed Wilson

Prayer Partner
2/5 Joan Barneski
2/12 Suzie Hoskins
2/19 Annie LeFevre
2/26 Becky Kowulich

Counters
2/5 Annette Stevens & Jim Mosher
2/12 Phil & Lynda Carpentier
2/19 Kurt & Cindy Kalweit
2/26 Annette Stevens & Jim Mosher

Flower Delivery
2/5 Audrey Vanderhoff
2/12 Maxine Burroughs
2/19 Joe DiCinti
2/26 Sheryl Patno

Fellowship Time
2/5 Wendy Swatling & Chris Miller
2/12 Bobbi Furnas & Mickey Vischansky
2/19 Maxine Burroughs & Linda Palmer
2/26 Glenda Solowiej & Ann Motley

Congregational Care

Pastor David will normally be in the church office Monday – Thursday, and the best time to reach him at the office will be before lunch. If you need to reach him after office hours, please call him at home, (607) 397-3173. If your call is normal church business, please save the call until office hours; call him at home whenever the matter cannot wait until the office is open.

february

February's Fellowship Dinner will be held on **Wednesday**, **February 1 at 5:30 pm.** We are serving meatloaf accompanied by mashed potatoes, string beans, and a green salad. Beverages and dessert will be provided as well. We hope to see you there!

NPC hosts a monthly blood drive, usually held on the first Thursday of every month. We will host a Community Blood Drive this month on Thursday, **February 2** from noon to 4 pm. New and returning donors are welcome. Please contact the Red Cross at 1-800 RED CROSS or www.redcrossblood.org for an appointment.

Sunday, **February 5** is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. The children and youth of North Pres will be wearing their favorite football jerseys and collecting donations of non perishable food items that will benefit our Food Pantry. Please join our children as they help the outreach mission of North Pres Food Pantry continue to serve our neighbors in need.

Please join us on **February 5 at 11:00** am for a presentation on **Camp Whitman**. Learn all about the camping adventures it offers our youth. Questions will be happily accepted and if we don't know the answer we will make sure we find out for you. Everyone is invited, especially the children (grades 3-12) and their parents and guardians. The presentation will be held in the Sanctuary after fellowship time. Hope to see you there!

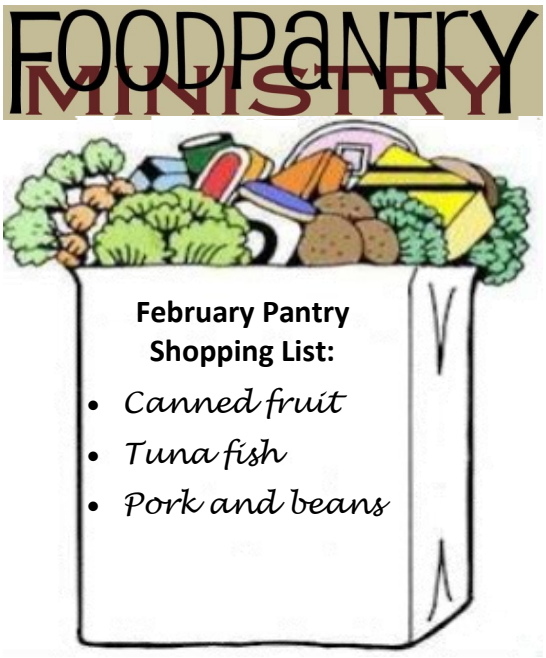
There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, **February 11 at 8:00 am**. Come join the men of NPC for a time of fellowship and delicious food. We hope to see you there!

There will be a church workday on **February 11 at 9:00 am**. We will be working on important projects around the church. Please come and help, heavy lifting is not required!

Cheryl Allison	February 2
Gene Chatas	February 2
Robert Vischansky	February 3
Tim Allison	February 4
Evan Kuhl	February 4
Robert Emanuel	February 5
Bob Hansen	February 6
Tony Hicks	February 8
Lois Patno	February 9
Lauren Sevey	February 9
Matthew Hendershot	February 12
Susan Emanuel	February 14
Kyle Washburn	February 14
Grace DiCinti Mann	February 22
Khloe Washburn	February 22
Wendy Swatling	February 23
Luke McNaughton	February 24

The church offices and the Food Pantry will be closed on February 20 in observance of President's Day. Heather will be out of the office on February 3, 9 and 16. Pastor David will be off on Sunday, February 12.

On February 28, join us **at 5:30 pm** as we celebrate Shrove Tuesday for the fourth consecutive year. We will have waffles, pancakes, bacon, sausage and eggs. If you are able to help with meal preparation, please contact Jeff Richards. Thank you, and we hope to see you there!



Worship and Event Cancellation Information: In the event of a severe weather forecast which would make traveling hazardous, NPC worship services and events may be canceled and rescheduled for another date.

A decision to cancel will normally be communicated no later than three hours before the time when the service/event is scheduled to begin.

The church office and food pantry will follow the inclement weather delay/closure decision of the Elmira City School District.

Information regarding cancellation will be disseminated through a congregational email, the church's Facebook page and the church's outgoing phone message.

February 5
Wanda Stebbins
PO Box 191
New Market, AL 35761

February 12
Margaret Carney
48 Colonial Drive
Horseheads, NY 14845

February 19
Erin Jacob
907 West Gray Street, Apt. B
Elmira, NY 14905

February 26
Joyce Jankowski
91 Decker Parkway West
Elmira, NY 14905

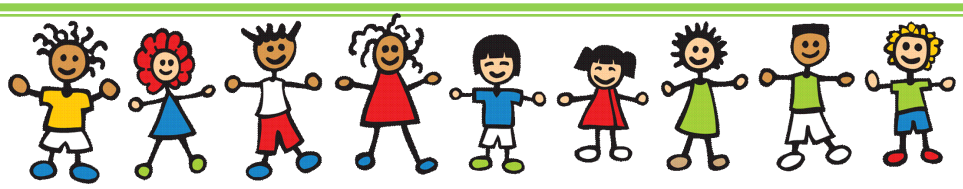
February 5
Joan Barneski
The Batrowny Family

February 12
Stacy Bean
Anne Beattie
Amy Blake

February 19
Brenda Bobby
Alex Bottcher
Jim Bottcher

February 26
Norma Brooks
Joel & Linda Buice

- African-American History Month
- Souper Bowl Sunday, *February 5, 2017*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2017*
- **Presidents Day, *February 20, 2017*: Church Offices and Food Pantry Closed**
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 26, 2017*



CHILDREN & YOUTH

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.

What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!

Happy February everyone! It may be cold and somewhat dreary out most days but don't lose hope. Spring is right around the corner. Youth Ministry is already thinking about and making plans for Souper Bowl Sunday, re-introducing our youth to Camp Whitman, the intergenerational group mission trip, Children and Youth Sunday and VBS. We have a full agenda and plan to get a jump start on it as soon as possible.

We would like to have one male teacher in the Jr/Sr. High Sunday school class. The class is growing and it would be nice to have another teacher to help Mary Ruth out with the curriculum on a weekly or biweekly basis. We would also like to welcome Pat Richards on board. Pat has graciously volunteered to help out with youth group. With the numbers growing we need extra eyes and ears to help keep things moving along smoothly.

Christian Ed would also like to strengthen our list of substitute teachers. If you would be interested in helping out once in a while when our teachers are away or out sick we would be very grateful.

I am extremely excited for the New Year ahead and the chance to work with Pastor David and our Sunday school staff to insure a quality learning experience for all our children and young adults.

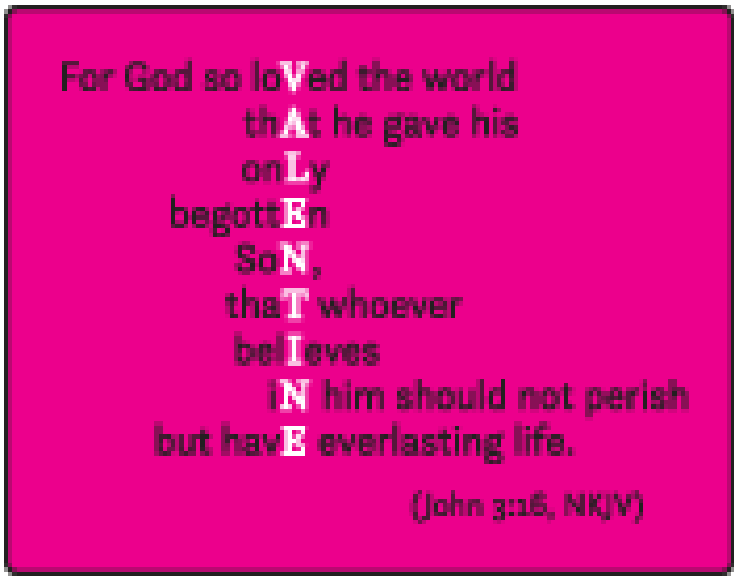
Blessings in Christ,

Deborah Stamp
Director of Children and Youth Ministry

youth group SCHEDULE

February 12

February 26



Board of Session

Session Summary

1/24/2017

1) The meeting was called to order by Rev. Preisendanz and opened with Scripture and prayer led by Richard Gawenus.
2) Minutes of the December 19, 2016 stated Session meeting were reviewed and approved.
3) The Session received the financial statements for December and the year-end summary for 2016 as reviewed by the Treasurer.
4) Rev. Preisendanz expressed his gratitude and thanks to the congregation of NPC for their patience and understanding during his mother's sudden illness and passing. He is especially grateful to Joel Robinson for volunteering to preach on January 15th.
5) Plans for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation were finalized.
6) Installation of Elders was scheduled for Sunday, February 19th during worship.
7) Session approved the recommendation from the Buildings and Grounds Committee to spend up to $1000 to re-key the ten exterior doors. Funds will come from the Capital Improvement s account.
8) Session approved the recommendation from the Finance Committee to renew a PCUSA term note in the amount of $13,490.13. The committee considers this loan as a mission/outreach of NPC as these funds are made available to churches within the PCUSA for small building projects.
9) The Finance Committee Chairman reported that 2017 pledges came in $20,000 above the goal set by the stewardship campaign.
10) Session approved five Special Offerings of the PCUSA for 2017 as recommended by the Mission/ Outreach Committee.
11) The Mission Committee Chairman reported that NPC is sponsoring Diego Garcia through the Border Buddies mission. The sponsorship pays for one year of schooling, supplies and uniforms for Diego. Look for his picture on the bulletin board in the Brisbane room.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kalweit, Clerk of Session

Mission & Outreach

Border Buddies, Honduras – Border Buddies co-founder Glenda Miller updated us on their important work at the January 8th Adult Forum. She reviewed the variety of ministries they are undertaking in Honduras. Volunteer opportunities abound, and they are working hard to raise funds for a new van to transport the volunteers to the work sites. NPC has provided annually to Border Buddies the school tuition for a young lady. As we have learned in the past, children are only required to complete the first grade. Any schooling beyond that is a expense. For most families, this cost is insurmountable. The school year runs from February through November. At the Forum, Glenda brought "new faces" – students that need sponsors. Our former student, Maria, is on to other adventures. Our new student is Diego Garcia. Diego will begin 7th grade in February. Please pray for Diego and all of the students as they try to better their lives in a very difficult and dangerous region of the world.

Prayers of gratitude and thankfulness for the members of NPC! We truly are a "mission" church. There are five special offerings taken during the year as approved by Session – look at what we have been able to accomplish:

One Great Hour of Sharing	$570.26
Church World Service Blanket Sunday	$230.00
Pentecost (youth at risk)	$100.00
Peace & Global Witness	$265.00
Christmas Joy	$680.00

This is in addition to the regular support for NPC and its many missions and benevolences! Thank you – the Holy Spirit is at work infusing the power of love in our community and the world.

Please consider joining the Mission and Outreach Committee –
there are a variety of ways to serve…many hands make light work!

Fellowship Committee

More than 50 people participated in First Wednesday Dinner on January 4. The main dish was spaghetti, served with a wonderful meat sauce prepared by Glenda Solowiej. We also had a green salad with bell peppers and cucumber slices. Fresh loaves of Italian bread from Kountry Krullers complemented the meal that was topped off with several different homemade cakes.

The January Men's breakfast consisted of French toast, bacon, juice, fruit and coffee. Joel Buice played a sermon for us to listen to that questioned how we use our time. Do we waste it or are we using that time to do God's work while we are on this earth.

The pavilion at Grove Park has been reserved again this year for our annual August summer picnic. The last three years it has been preceded by an outdoor church service. I need to discuss with Music and Worship Committee whether we will be having the outdoor service again this year. We have had two consecutive years of increased attendance since moving to Grove park for the picnic and worship service. The first year 53 people attended. That number increased to 58 in 2015 and increased again to 63 in 2016. We have the pavilion reserved from 10 am to 2 pm Sunday August 13th, 2017, which is the earliest the park service will accommodate our electrical needs on Sundays. The service would again start at 10:30 a.m., one hour later than normal worship time. The picnic follows immediately. Congregation members are asked to bring folding chairs for additional seating if they would like, and a dish to pass of their choice for lunch. The Fellowship committee will provide hot dogs, hamburgers and condiments for both.

Looking ahead to the next two monthly meals, the first Wednesday dinner in February is the 1st. In keeping with our recently developed tradition, we will celebrate Shrove Tuesday on the 28th of February, the day before Ash Wednesday. There will be no Wednesday dinners in the months of March or April.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Richards
Fellowship Committee Chair

The North Presbyterian Church Food Pantry started off 2017 with quite a bit of extra to hand out, thanks to an Advent program at First Presbyterian Church.

First Pres had a "reverse Advent", in which families daily placed food or personal care items into boxes at home, and then brought those boxes to First Presbyterian Church. Items collected included pasta, soups, spaghetti sauce, canned vegetables and fruits, and non-food items like paper towels, soap and toilet paper.

The multitude of boxes and bags were brought into the North Pres pantry over the Christmas holidays, and stacked onto shelves by Pantry volunteers.

One of those volunteers was 10-year-old Brenna Wilson, who worked in the pantry during the school break. "Volunteering was pretty fun," Brenna said. She had been looking for a place to volunteer, as part of a school assignment, and decided on the pantry. "Mom and grandma approved," Brenna said. "Grandma is very proud of me" for working so hard at the pantry, Brenna said.

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 5:00: Worship & Music 5:30: Fellowship Supper 6:15: Bell Choir 7:00: Praise Band 7:30: Chancel Choir	2 8:30: Yoga 12:00: Blood Drive 1:00: CA$H 6:30: AA Meeting	3 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts	4 8:00: AA Meeting
5 9:30: Worship/Communion 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Camp Whitman Presentation 	6 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: CA$H 7:00: Men's Bible Study	7 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA$H 6:30: AA Meeting 7:00: Coffee w/ the Pastor	8 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:15: Bell Choir 7:00: Praise Band 7:30: Chancel Choir	9 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA$H 6:30: AA Meeting	10 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts	11 8:00: Men's Breakfast 9:00: Church Work Day 1:00: Birthday Party 8:00: AA Meeting
12 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Christian Education 6:00: Youth Group	13 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: Deacons Meeting 1:00: CA$H 6:30: B&G Meeting 7:00: Men's Bible Study	14 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 1:00: CA$H 5:00: Finance Meeting 6:30: CE Meeting 6:30: AA Meeting 7:00: Coffee w/ the Pastor	15 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:00: Embroidery Guild 6:15: Bell Choir 7:00: Praise Band 7:30: Chancel Choir	16 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA$H 6:30: AA Meeting	17 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts 	18 8:00: AA Meeting
19 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Christian Ed	20 Church Offices and Food Pantry Closed 1:00: CA$H 7:00: Session Meeting 7:00: Men's Bible Study 	21 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA$H 3:15: Staff Meeting 6:30: AA Meeting 7:00: Coffee w/ the Pastor	22 Bulletin Info Due 9:00: CA$H 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Bible Study 6:15: Bell Choir 7:00: Praise Band 7:30: Chancel Choir	23 8:30: Yoga 1:00: CA$H 6:30: AA Meeting	24 10:00: Food Pantry 5:15: AA Meeting 5:30: Girl Scouts Newsletter available	25 2:00: Girl Scout Event 8:00pm: AA Meeting
26 9:30: Worship 10:30: Fellowship 11:00: Christian Education 6:00: Youth Group	27 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: CA$H 7:00: Men's Bible Study	28 8:30: Yoga 10:00: Trust Women 1:00: CA$H 5:30: Shrove Tuesday Supper 6:30: AA Meeting 7:00: Coffee w/ the Pastor				