



NORTH STAR

April 2023

Making Disciples...Making a Difference

Worship: Sunday at 9:30 am
North Presbyterian Church
921 College Avenue
Elmira, NY 14901-2048
www.northpres.church
Phone: 607-734-2977

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April, 2023
A Letter from Pastor Hansen

I was recently a guest on a podcast hosted by the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, the Rev. Leah Ntuala, called “Clergy in Collars, Getting Coffee.” Among other things, we talked about my favorite question in the Book of Order. As part of every ordination, installation, or commissioning, we ask the person or people standing before us “Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” We did not have the Book of Order open in front of us and we talked as if creativity was also listed in the question – which it is not. We do not, explicitly at least, ask people to serve with creativity. And yet, I would argue that creativity is implied in that question, because when we act with energy, intelligence, imagination, **and** love, it requires creativity.

We often refer to people who are artistically talented as being creative – and they are. However, creativity is far broader than that. Creativity is what allows us to discern that a conversation is not going well and instead of doubling down or walking away, we take the chance of imagining how the other person might be feeling or what they might be going through and we try to put ourselves in their shoes. It takes creativity to shift how we think and to change how we communicate with someone. This is not easy. It requires effort and practice. It requires us to step back and reflect. It requires us to use our imagination. And it requires us to act with love. When we do all these things, we engage with the world around us differently than before and we are changed for the better.

Regardless of whether we are ordained as a minister, a ruling elder, a deacon, or not ordained at all, we are all called to serve with “energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” We are all called to serve with creativity. This means that we have to be willing to change and to adapt. What worked yesterday, may not today, and what works today, may not work tomorrow. This is how life works. Seasons change. Weather changes. Winds shift. Within these cycles there are constant shifts and movements that make each day different from the last. This is no accident. God created a universe which is constantly moving and changing – and we cannot stop that.

We are called to ask: where is the Holy Spirit calling us to think and act creatively? Where is Christ Jesus leading us to act with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? We are all asked these questions each and every day. Sometimes we will get it wrong (and really wrong at that); and sometimes we will get it right. However, the more we ask, the more often we carefully discern where God is calling us to act with creativity, love, mercy, and grace, the more often we will get it right.

In these coming days, weeks, months, and years, let us trust our God and lean in to God’s grace with all we have, because God’s grace is the grace that gives us the freedom to answer “will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love” with creativity and hope, knowing that yesterday’s answer may not be today’s and today’s answer may not be tomorrow’s. And that, my friends, is a good thing.

Warmly in Christ,
Pastor Evan



<https://www.facebook.com/North-Presbyterian-Church>



Visit
Our
Website

<https://www.northpres.church/>



JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

**If you would like to donate Chancel flowers (suggested donation of \$42),
please contact Lori Lee at 607-739-3176.**

Available Sundays for April and May 2023 are:

April 16 & 30 and May 7, 14, 21 & 28.

Please take the flowers home to enjoy after the service.

If you are not in the sanctuary on
your chosen date,
we will be in touch with you to make a plan.

April Worship Volunteers

Tech Booth

April 2	Bill Furnas
April 9	Bill Furnas
April 16	Steve Allison
April 23	Steve Allison
April 30	Bill Furnas

Ushers

April 2	Kate Hansen, Nancy Isaacs
April 9	George Batrowny, Pat or Jeff Richards
April 16	Janice Williams, Phil Carpentier
April 23	Jerry Russell, Joe Rolls, Bob Russell
April 30	Wendy Swatling, Barb Duryea

Communion

April 9	Suzie Hoskins, Wendy Swatling, Tim Allison Kate Hansen, George Batrowny
April 23	Jim Mosher, Linda Palmer, Sylvia Tuller, Pam Caroscio, Wendy Swatling

Greeters

April 2	Joanie Barneski, Alice Kain
April 9	Ann Motley
April 16	Allie & Scott Sevey
April 23	Janice Williams
April 30	Linda Palmer

Youth Reader

April 9	Payton Hoskins-Thomas
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Counters

April 2	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards
April 9	Janice Williams, Jim Mosher
April 16	Annette Stevens, Jim Mosher
April 23	Allison Sevey, Wendy Swatling
April 30	Phil Carpentier, Jeff Richards

Wee Worship

April 2	Karen Wilson, Barb Duryea
April 9	Liz Wilson, Wally Ferriter
April 16	Deb Stamp, Payton Hoskins-Thomas
April 23	Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich
April 30	Allie & Scott Sevey

Worship Assistant

April 2	Wendy Swatling
April 9	George Batrowny
April 16	Linda Palmer
April 23	Wendy Swatling
April 30	Kate Hansen

Coffee Hour

April 2	Bobbi Furnas, Pat Richards
April 9	Barb Duryea, Cheryl Allison
April 16	Linda Palmer
April 23	Wendy Swatling, Janice Williams
April 30	TBD

Youth Usher

April 2	Alexii Hoskins-Thomas
April 9	David Hansen
April 16	Wally Ferriter
April 23	Paityn Perry
April 30	Payton Hoskins-Thomas

TOGETHER WE MAKE A FAMILY



April 2:
Ann Beattie

April 9:
William & Brenda Bobby

April 16:
Alexander Bottcher

April 23:
Laurie Burdick

April 30:
Maxine Burroughs

Jesus tells us
to pray without ceasing
for the good of God's people.

Our Homebound Friends

April 2:
Glen & Dorla Bolt
105 Morrow St.
Elmira, NY 14904

April 9:
Hope Dubois
8 Aspen Ridge Apartments
Elmira, NY 14904

April 16:
Liz Bush
37442 Loganberry Ct
Wedgewood Manor
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

April 23:
Margery Schornstheimer
758 Silver Pine Dr.
St. Augustine, FL 32092

April 30:
Rita Dery
550 Wilmette Ave., #217
Ormond Beach, FL 32174

*Please send a
card to our
Homebound
Friends
today!*



Welcome!

**We would like to remind everyone
that they are welcome to attend
Session Meetings.**

**If you are interested in attending one,
please contact the church office.**



Weekly Prayer Chain Email

Did you know that you can pray or be
prayed for? You are invited to let the church
office know how you would like to be
involved.

We are stronger together.



Children and Youth Ministry April 2023

March has been a fun month. We've had some fun and interesting messages for the kids. I just finished a four-week curriculum that involved donuts, lots of different kinds, shapes and sizes. It was amazing how good the attendance was. We were talking about Lent and how some folks give up something special or important to them for Lent and my kids, grade 3-5, decided to give up one thing. We settled on a length of one week since most hadn't done it before. I was impressed with how seriously they took it and how well they did!

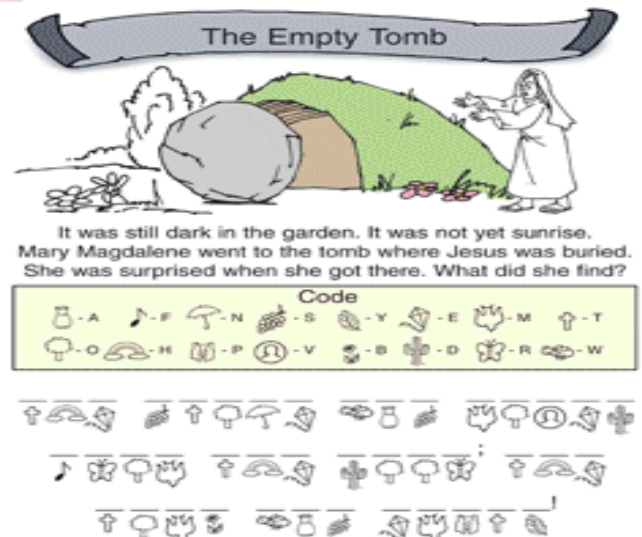
Our youth group attendance has been great from both churches and the kids (and adults) have been having a good time. We will be doing a river cleanup on April 22 as part of a community service project and in May we would like to attend Camp Whitman clean-up day on Saturday, May 13th, from 9:30am-3:30pm.

Our little ones are all excited about Easter, with visions of chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs dancing in their heads! I'm hoping we have good weather for Easter so that we can have our annual Easter egg hunt outside. The eggs are almost all filled.

Plans for VBS are coming along and volunteers have begun to sign up. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Suzie Hoskins, Ann Motley, Becky Kowulich or myself. We have openings for Recreation, Bible, Crafts, Kitchen (serving and cleanup) and Registration.

As we enter this last week before Easter, may the Holy Spirit guide you and may you find peace and joy as we rejoice in our risen Lord!

Blessing in Christ,
Deb Stamp
Dir. of Children and Youth Min.

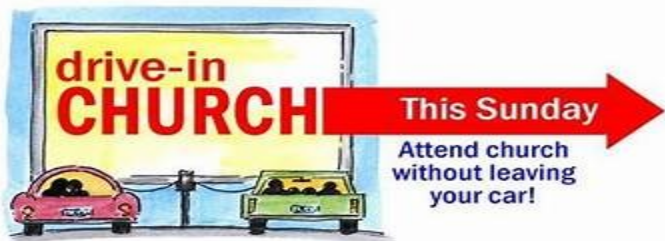


Did You Know?



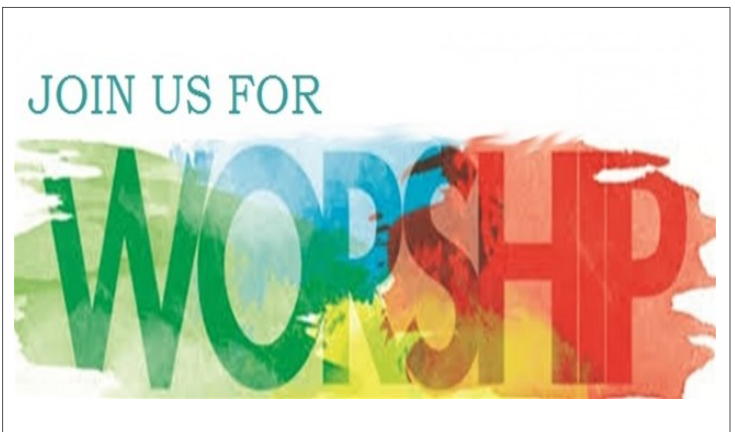
COVID RULES FOR NORTH PRES

- To the extent allowed by the State of New York, masks are now optional in our building and in the sanctuary, including during worship.
- The lyrics for the praise songs and hymns will continue to be sent with the Zoom link .
- We will revisit our COVID rules as new information/mandates are received from NYS.
- Thank you all for your patience and understanding. We're all in this together!



Parking Lot Worship:

- Please use only the North Entrance (towards Roe Ave.)
- Please tune your radio to 1700AM.
- Please exit through the South Entrance (towards the college).



Sanctuary Worship:

**Please join us for in person
Worship on Sunday mornings
at 9:30 am.**

**Check out our facebook page or
church website for special services
throughout the year, including**

**Worship in the Park
and weekly Lent and
Advent services.**



Zoom Worship

- Zoom service link will be emailed each week for those who would like to participate via Zoom.





Committee/Coordinator	Email Address
Audit	audit@northpres.church
Buildings & Grounds	campus@northpres.church
Building Use	building_use@northpres.church
Clerk of Session	session@northpres.church
Deacons	deacons@northpres.church
Education	education@northpres.church
Fellowship	fellowship@northpres.church
Finance	finance@northpres.church
Mission & Outreach	misson_outreach@northpres.church
Nominating	nominating@northpres.church
Staff Relations	staff_relations@northpres.church
Tech & Communications	tech_com@northpres.church
Treasurer	Financial_sec@northpres.church
Worship & Music	worship@northpres.church

Staff	Email Address
Church Administrator	office@northpres.church
Director of Youth Ministries	youth@northpres.church
Music Director	music@northpres.church
Organist	organist@northpres.church
Pastor	pastor@northpres.church



Meet the Staff

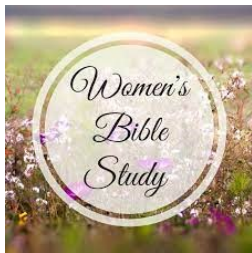
Pastor Evan Hansen	Pastor
Open Door Office Hours: T & W 1:30-4pm	
Paul Holland	Music Director
Sharon Reynolds	Organist
Randy Cornell	Pianist
Deb Stamp	Director of Children & Youth Ministry
Gretchen Duffy	Office Administrator

NOTICE: As CDC/NYS guidelines change, please stay tuned to our FB page & website for updates.

Reminder

Important Reminders:

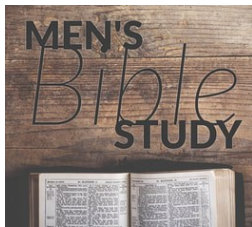
- The church office needs your contact information. Please let us know if anything has changed.
- If you need to contact the church office for any reason, please feel free to email office@northpres.church or call (607) 734-2977 Tues-Fri 9am to 3:30 pm.
- Please be sure to check the bulletin or our FB page for any updates to our COVID procedure.



Women's Bible Study
meets Tuesdays
at 6:00 pm in the library.
The group will pause during Lent.
For more information please contact
Suzie Hoskins.



**Join us for
Wednesday Noon Bible Study**
Please feel free to bring your
lunch!
For more information please
contact Bobbi Furnas.



Men's Bible Study
meets on Tuesdays at
6:00 pm in the Brisbane room.
For more information please contact
Kurt Kalweit.



Adult Sunday School is
studying the Book of Job.
Please join us!



Sunday School meets
each week after
worship. Hope to see
you there!



Praise Band rehearsals
are on Wednesdays at
7:00 pm.

The Good News
Singers' practices are on
Sundays at 10:45 am.



Bell Choir rehearsals are on
Wednesdays at 6:15 pm.

Chancel Choir
rehearsals are on
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.





Our next Saturday breakfast will be on April 8, at 8am, followed by the monthly Buildings and Grounds work day.



While we are still in Lent, there will be no Wednesday dinner in April.

Our next Wednesday dinner is scheduled for May 3 at 5:30 pm. The menu will feature pulled pork, homemade applesauce, salad and dessert. We hope you can join us for dinner before we head to Wednesday evening service in the sanctuary.



Second Place East, Inc.



**April donation
request**

PILLOWS



Feeding the hungry has long been our church's mission, and we have an opportunity to go out into our community to do just that.

NPC received a donation from the Panosian Foundation in January, and Session voted to direct that money to a new community outreach offered at **Grace Episcopal Church**, which now holds a **Wednesday night dinner** every week, starting at 5 pm.

Volunteer crews of 6-8 people set up, cook, serve and cleanup for up to 100 people. Our money will help buy the food – but our hands and feet can help feed our neighbors.

If you are interested in volunteering to help serve food and clean up at one of the dinners, please contact Pat Richards or the church office. Dinner Coordinator Calvin Barnstead says that the second and fifth Wednesdays of the month are the most in need of help, so we will probably try to set up a group for Wednesday, April 12; Wednesday, May 10; or Wednesday, May 31. Setup starts at 3 p.m., and the dinner runs until 6:30 pm.





Renovation

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF MEN

house

Hello my name is Chris Lugo.

I pray that God's Love, Mercy and Grace find you this day. I am writing to you about this most necessary ministry Renovation House.

I come to Renovation House on July 28, 2022. I was just your average person. I had a beautiful family, a house and two cars, the American dream. Then those rough spots in life came about. It shook me to the core, and I turned to the bottle for comfort. I lost everything. The only bright spot was that in my darkest moment, I turned to the light of the Lord. Shortly after that I enrolled into the Renovation House. (What better place than a faith-based rehabilitation center)


Since I came to Renovation House the transformation that the Lord has done in my life has been miraculous. (John 3:30 says; He must increase, but I must decrease.) To be able to come to a place like this and be still and feel the tangible presence of God has been a blessing in my life. For I know that I have gained the most precious gift while I have been on this mountain side. For I know that as I walk in the Lord all things are possible. For if I could be sober for almost 3 years on my own strength what more with the Lord on my side. Philippians 4:13; I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.)



I want to thank you for being part of the Renovation House family. I could not have come here without your prayers and donations. They have made a difference in all the student life's here on this mountain side. I thank you with all my heart.

Chris Lugo

379 Dean Creek Road Spencer, NY 14883
Cell (607) 738-9709 Tel (607) 589-4413 Fax (607) 589-7383 renovationhouse777@gmail.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 396 Spencer, NY 14883



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22
12-3 P.M.**

HOW TO BE AN ALLY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN GENEVA
24 PARK PLACE, GENEVA, NY**


***Meaningful allyship
begins with empathy.***

If you care about the native people of our region and you want to learn more about the experiences of the Iroquois over the last 500 years, this is the perfect event for you!

The Witness to Injustice / KAIROS Blanket Exercise™ is an interactive simulation led by elders from the Onondaga Nation and non-native allies from Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON) in Syracuse.

This event is open to those ages 14 and older, free of charge.

To learn more about this event and to register by April 15, contact yyamwg@pbygenval.org.

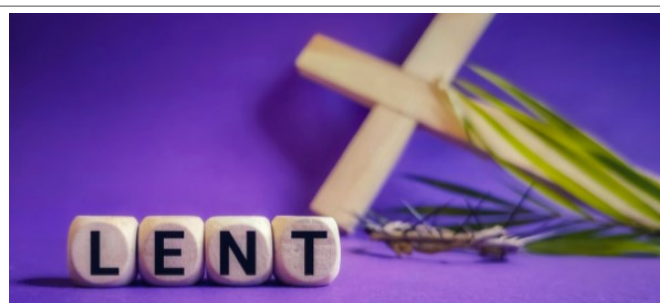
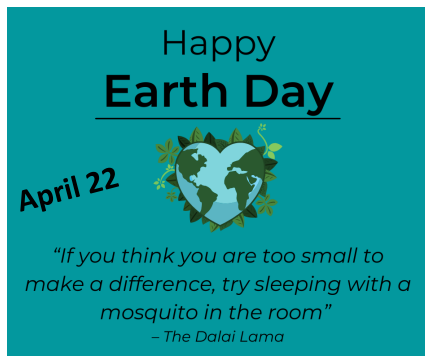


From the Presbytery



Spreading the Vision of Matthew 25 across the Church

The PC(USA) believes that we are called to serve Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies – rural and urban, small and large, young and not-so-young. From affordable housing to community gardens to equitable educational and employment opportunities to healing from addiction and mental illness to enacting policy change – there is not just one way to be a part of the Matthew 25 movement.



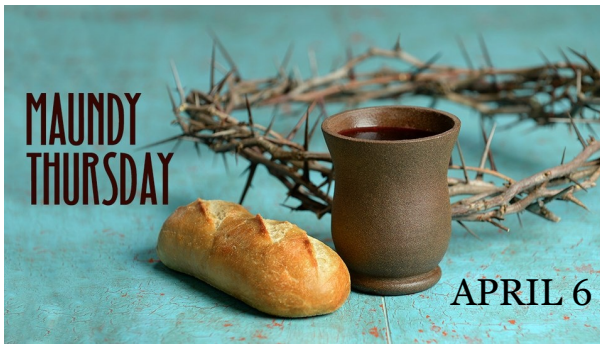
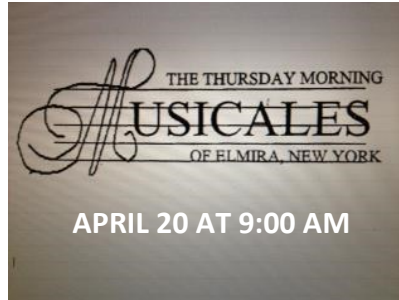
Schedule for Lent Services:

Maundy Thursday - 7 pm service
with Communion

Easter Sunday - 9:30 am service
with Communion



April 18, 2023



Our local chapter of TOPS meets on Mondays at 5:30 in Willits Hall. If you're interested, please call the church office for information.



Yoga meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:45 in Willits Hall. If you're interested, please contact the church office for more information.

Board of Session
April 23
6:00 pm

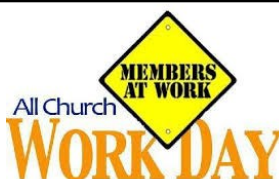


**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on April 6 starting at noon. If you're interested in signing up to give blood, please visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

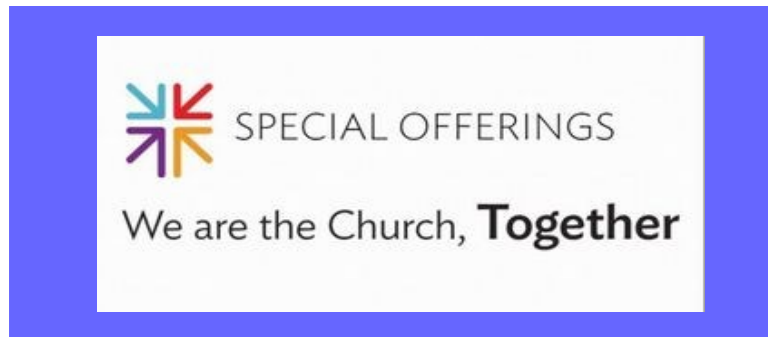
Our next Work Day
will be April 8.
Please join us!



Kindermusik



Kindermusik meets on Tuesdays at 3 pm and Thursdays at 10 am and 5:15 pm. For information on how your child can participate, please contact the church office.



He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

-Micah 6:8(NRSVUE)

Special Offerings for April:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Easter Offering
- Per Capita



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NAME _____

ENVELOPE # _____

A CONTRIBUTION TO:

_____ BELL FUND	\$ _____
_____ CAMPERSHIPS	\$ _____
_____ CONGREGATIONAL CARE	\$ _____
_____ FLOWER FUND	\$ _____
_____ FOOD PANTRY	\$ _____
_____ MEMORIAL FUND	\$ _____
_____ OPERATION FUND	\$ _____
_____ ORGAN FUND	\$ _____
_____ PIANO FUND	\$ _____
_____ YOUTH PROGRAMS	\$ _____
_____ OTHER	\$ _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DESIRES AND
PUT INTO COLLECTION PLATE.

THANK YOU FOR THE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

With fewer members using envelopes, the Finance Committee wanted to remind everyone that we have these envelopes at the welcome center. These envelopes offer a number of options for special donations or memorials. Next time you receive an unexpected blessing consider celebrating it with a special gift.

Joel Robinson,
Finance/Stewardship

NPC Board of Session

Session Summary

March 19, 2023

Quarterly Dinner meeting

The Clerk determined that a quorum was present.

Rev. Hansen called the meeting to order, and the meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Hansen.

The minutes of the February 19, 2023 Session meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

The Treasurer reviewed the Financial Statements including the Profit and Loss Budget Performance for February 2023, noting that income is slightly under budget, which is not unusual for this time of year. \$30,000 was transferred from the Endowment Fund to pay bills in February. The Treasurer's report was received, with thanks, by the Session.

Following dinner, a discussion was held regarding the final chapters of "God, Improv and the Art of Living".

The meeting adjourned in prayer at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kalweit,
Clerk of Session



APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 April Fool's Day
2 Palm Sunday 9:30am -Worship Service 10:30 am-Coffee Hour 10:45 Good News Singers Practice 11:00am Sunday School	3 5:30 pm -TOPS	4 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00 am -Staff Relations Mtg 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study	5 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm -Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Praise Band 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	 6 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 12:00 pm -Blood drive 5:15 pm - Kindermusik 7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Svc/Communion	7 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	8 8:00 am -Saturday Breakfast Saturday Work Day
9 Easter Sunday 9:30am -Worship Service 9:30 am - Communion 10:30 am-Coffee Hour 10:45 Good News Singers Practice Easter Egg Hunt	10 5:30 pm -TOPS	11 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Comm & Tech 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Womens's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm -B & G Mtg	12 Bulletin Info Due 9:30 am Finance Mtg 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm -Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Praise Band 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	13 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 1:00 pm -Mission & Outreach 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	14 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	15
16 9:30am -Worship Service 10:30 am-Coffee Hour 10:45 Good News Singers Practice 11:00am Sunday School	17 5:30 pm -TOPS	18 Tax Day 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study	19 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm -Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 4:00 pm -CE Meeting 6:15 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Praise Band 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	20 8:45 am -Yoga 9:00am -Thurs Morning Musicales 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	21 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	22 Earth Day 10:00 am - Youth Group River Clean Up
23 9:30am -Worship Service 9:30 am - Communion 10:30 am-Coffee Hour 10:45 Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm - Board of Session	24 Newsletter Info Due 5:30 pm -TOPS 	25 8:45 am -Yoga 1:30 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 3:00 pm - Kindermusik 6:00 pm - Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm - Men's Bible Study	26 Bulletin Info Due 10:00 am -Food Pantry 12:00 pm -Bible Study 1:30-4:00 pm -Pastor's Office Hours 6:15 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Praise Band 7:30 pm -Chancel Choir	27 8:45 am -Yoga 10:00 am -Kindermusik 5:15 pm - Kindermusik	28 10:00 am -Food Pantry 5:15 pm -AA	29
30 9:30am -Worship Service 10:30 am-Coffee Hour 10:45 Good News Singers Practice 11:00 am Sunday School						