

OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS



**GLASSBORO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GUMWRAPPER**

March 2019

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

—John 13:34-35

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

You may have heard, and if not, you soon will, that the special session of General Conference met this week to decide on our denomination’s policy regarding same-sex marriage and the ordination of practicing homosexuals. The GC narrowly passed the Traditional Plan which maintains our current policy that homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching” and calls for stricter measures taken against those who violate this policy. You can read Bishop Schol’s message concerning the decision below for more details.

Some are pleased with the decision. Many are hurt by it. Most are wondering what’s next. I know I am. Will the denomination split? Will clergy and congregations leave the United Methodist Church? What will it mean for those who stay? There are many questions being asked and no answers yet. This plan that passed is now in the hands of our Judicial Council who will determine if this plan violates our United Methodist Constitution. We have months to go until we get a clear picture of what’s next for our denomination.

The effects, however, are happening now. More than policy, this decision affects people. It affects people in our families, community, and church. It affects people of every orientation who hold every interpretation of Scripture, especially those who are LGBTQ+. It affects our witness in the world to those who see this as an outright statement that LGBTQ+ people are not welcome in God’s family. Regardless of where we stand on policy, we the local church, must be united in love and compassion for everyone. We must not be a stumbling block on anyone’s way to Jesus Christ. We must instead commit to being in ministry to and with LGBTQ+ people affirming their—your—infinite worth to God and growing together in the faith and love of Jesus Christ.

What does this mean for our congregation? While councils and conferences decide on policy issues, we at First United Methodist will continue to be the loving church family we have always been.

We will continue to welcome all people with open arms and without judgement.

We will continue to wrestle with the Scriptures and strive to lead holy lives.

We will continue to reach out to our community with the grace-filled love of Jesus Christ.

We will continue to pray for the church and the world that the Love of God, the Grace of Jesus Christ, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit would unite us all as the family of God.

Bishop Schol has called a special Annual Conference on March 16th at which we'll discuss what this means for our Greater New Jersey Annual Conference. I am calling a congregational meeting on Monday, March 25th at 6:30pm so that we can have a conversation about this. Until then, let us keep praying and keep loving God and our neighbor.

Yours in Christ, Pastor John February 27, 2019



Message from Bishop Schol Concerning General Conference

“Put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity” – Colossians 3:15

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Special General Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered in St. Louis, MO February 24-26, 2019 and passed the Traditional Plan for the United Methodist way forward. This plan affirms the present policies in The Book of Discipline which does not allow same gender weddings and the ordination of gays and lesbians. This plan was preferred over the One Church Plan which would have left these issues up to individual conferences, congregations and clergy.

Personally, I experienced the church more contentious and divided at this General Conference, than any of the previous seven General Conference I have attended.

This General Conference:

- Passed the Traditional Plan. If 28 people of the more than 800 voting delegates had voted differently, the Traditional Plan would have been defeated.
- Defeated the One Church Plan. If 26 people had voted differently, it would have passed.
- Supported the Traditional Plan even though the Judicial Council ruled on two different occasions that core aspects of the plan, about 60% of it, was unconstitutional.
- Called for an investigation into an accusation that some delegates were being given money and other goods to influence their vote.
- Had a tie vote, 409 to 409 on a piece of legislation and approved another by two votes.
- Was divided culturally with an estimated 65% of US delegates approving the One Church Plan and 85% of the delegates outside the US approving the Traditional Plan.

GNJ is clearly a model for our church for how to honor difference and in the midst of difference to respect one another. GNJ is a One Church Plan conference that recognizes that we are in ministry with LGBTQ people in different ways. I came away from this General Conference appreciating even more the rich diversity and different expressions of GNJ. Thank you for your continued example of Christ-like love and grace in the midst of difference. You make me proud to be your bishop.

The legislation that was passed, was again sent to the Judicial Council, the “supreme court” of The United Methodist Church where it is anticipated that much of the Traditional Plan will be ruled unconstitutional for a third time. We most likely will not receive final rulings from the Judicial Council for several months. United Methodists will continue under our present policies concerning homosexuality.

I want to take this opportunity to speak to our gay and lesbian sisters and brothers and to the family members of gays and lesbians. You are welcomed and accepted by me and most of the people of GNJ. While our denomination wrestles, we welcome you with the arms of grace found through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are of sacred worth to God and me and I pledge to create space for you to worship, serve and engage through The United Methodist Church of GNJ.

I call upon all of our clergy and congregations to dedicate themselves to a season of prayer and to be the welcoming congregation that I have experienced you to be.

We are a One Church Conference where churches hold different beliefs and understandings and engage in different ministries with gays and lesbians. I will lead so that each of our congregations and clergy will have different expressions and ministries and yet serve one God, one Lord Jesus Christ and one mission – to transform the world as we make disciples and grow vital congregations.

I will be a bishop of the whole church and all of our people.

On March 16, 2019 we will meet in an annual conference special session to learn more about the actions of General Conference, how we will move together in mission and what we can do to work together and move forward.

These are challenging days for the church. We are blessed to have creative, resourceful and whole leaders who will guide us through this time.

Thank you for your service and participation in The United Methodist Church. We need you.

Keep the faith! John

February 27, 2019 | By Bishop John Schol, bishopjohnschol@gnjumc.org



The Caregiver Support Group

Invites everyone to our Sunday, March 10th "class"
In the Fellowship House from 9:50-10:45AM



Brought to you by
Investors Bank & the
Caregiver Support
Group, First United
Methodist Church,
60 State St., Glassboro



Our guest speaker will talk about financial issues for the person you care about.

Examples:

- Talking finances: the "How-to"
- What are the "red flags" indicating it is time to step in and help with the "bills"
- Power of attorney
- Adding your name to accounts
- Pros/Cons of mortgages, investments, etc.
- Recordkeeping
- Avoiding scams
- Your questions.....

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GLOUCESTER COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND GC POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION GLOUCESTER COUNTY HOUSES OF WORSHIP SECURITY PROGRAM

DATE: MARCH 19, 2019

TIME: 5:30PM-8:00PM

LOCATION: Rowan University
Chamberlain Student Center Ballroom
201 Mullica Hill Road,
Glassboro, NJ 08028

TARGET AUDIENCE: Religious
Leaders, Security Coordinators,
and Members of all Faiths
and Denominations

AGENDA: Opening Remarks,
Active Shooter Response Training,
10 minute break, Security Strategies,
DHS Resources, Grant Opportunities.

REGISTRATION:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PSHTTN>



Join us as We Live the Words, **Duty to God, To Serve God**, with our
Annual

****10 Commandments Hike****

Come Visit the Houses of Worship of Pitman, NJ

Date and Time: Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: Meet/Park at Pitman United Methodist Church, 758 N. Broadway, Pitman, NJ

Dress: For Cub/Boy Scouts, Class A Uniform; For Girl Scouts, Sashes/Vests;

For all others, Casual/comfortable dress is recommended.

Cost: \$5.00 which includes a Patch and Program Costs

The Hike is open to all Scouts (Cub, Boy, Girl, etc.), Leaders, Adults, Church Youth Groups, and Friends. **Please remember to pack your own Lunch, don't forget to bring plenty to drink, and wear comfortable hiking/walking shoes.**

What is a Ten Commandments Hike? It's a unique and exciting way to embrace the concept of Religious tolerance, learn local history, participate in community service, and have fun. It allows all participants to visit (hike) different Houses of Worship, each with a representative of the Faith explaining one of the Ten Commandments. This year we will be visiting the Houses of Worship in Pitman, N.J. It is the perfect opportunity to complement your Pack or Troop's commitment, "To Serve God" & "Duty to God". **Take part in a community service project by bringing canned goods to donate to the Pitman Pantry at the First Baptist Church.**

To Register and/or for more information, contact:

Joe Brennan (856) 428 2645, jpbrenfsa@verizon.net

Ken McGill (215) 900-7392 ken.mcgill.geo@gmail.com

Tentative Schedule

8:30-9:00 AM: Registration/Parking - Pitman United Methodist Church, 758 N. Broadway, Pitman, NJ 08071

9:00-9:30 AM: Jewish Faith Presentation, "You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me."

9:30-9:50 AM: Pitman United Methodist Church, "You Shall Not Make Unto You Any Graven Images."

10:05-10:25 AM: Pitman Church of the Nazarene, "You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain"

10:35-10:55 AM: First Baptist Church, "You Shall Remember the Sabbath and Keep It Holy."

11:10-11:30 AM: Mary Mother of Mercy Catholic Parish, "Honor Your Mother and Father."

11:40-12:25 PM: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, **LUNCH**, "You Shall Not Murder."

12:35-12:55 PM: St. James Lutheran Church "You Shall Not Commit Adultery."

1:10-1:30 PM: First Presbyterian Church "You Shall Not Steal."

1:50-2:10 PM: The Rock Church, "You Shall Not Bear False Witness."

2:40-3:00 PM: Pitman United Methodist Church Parking Lot: Distribution of Patches, Reflection on the Hike/Day.

3:10-3:30 PM: Pitman Road Church of Christ, "You Shall Not Covet Anything that Belongs to Your Neighbor."

Pitman Addresses (all 08071 zip codes): Pitman Church of the Nazarene: 227 N Broadway; First Baptist: 30 N. Broadway; Mary Mother of Mercy Catholic Parish: 161 Pitman Ave.; Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd: 315 Highland Terrace; St. James Lutheran: 400 Columbia Ave.; First Presbyterian: 10 Wildwood Ave.; The Rock Church: 205 Esplanade Avenue; Pitman Road Church of Christ: 500 Pitman Road, Sewell, New Jersey 08080.



New opportunities to get involved:

- Do you have a passion for worship? Our Worship Committee is looking for a few creative people to join our team of planners and doers in developing worship experiences for our congregation and the community. Sign up with Sarah Mickle or Pastor John.
- Our brand new Mission and Outreach Team is looking for compassionate and driven people to create service opportunities in and beyond our community. If you want to help our congregations share the love of Jesus in hands-on ways, contact Pastor John or the church office.



A Special THANK YOU was given to Jeri Hendrie at the 11 am Service on February 24, 2019 as Communications Chairperson of Church Council. Her over 25 years of dedicated service is truly appreciated. Jeri is continuing to lead the Church Bell Choir. Please contact her if you would like to join!

GNJ Annual Conference is pleased to announce the 2019 scholarship opportunities! A full listing of available scholarships can be found at the Welcome Center in the narthex. Scholarship applications will be accepted digitally through the [GNJ webpage](#) beginning Friday, February 1, 2019 through Sunday, March 31, 2019.

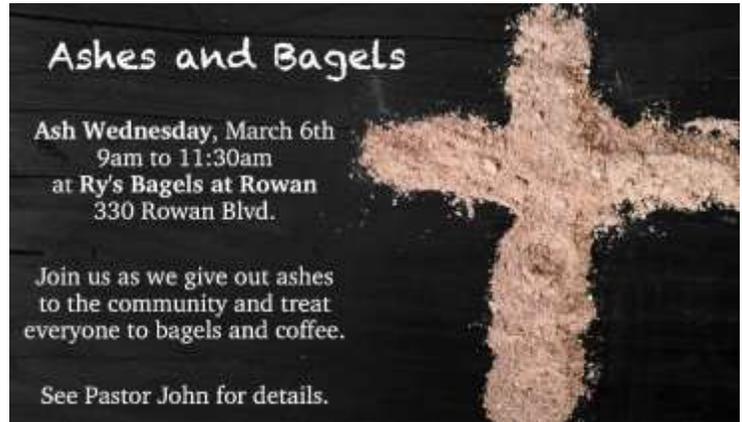


Please stop by **the Card Ministry Table** in the narthex to sign this week's cards. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15). A word of encouragement goes a long way to comfort those who are sick or grieving, celebrate a joyous occasion, and share God's love. A greeting card allows you to show that you care even when you are not present physically.

HOAGIE TICKETS The UMW is offering Heritage's Hoagie tickets outside the Memorial Room after each service every Sunday. Tickets are \$6.50 each, which includes hoagie and beverage of choice. To buy tickets, contact Joan Aveni or Audeen Conklin.



If you missed church on Sunday or want to hear the sermon again, you can watch it on the church website at glassboromethodist.org or YouTube (search for First United Methodist Church Glassboro).



Altar flowers are available for March 10 and March 17. The cost is \$25. Please contact Julie Balkenhol at 228-0989 if you would like one of these dates.

THE Delaware Bay DISTRICT UMW 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF OUR LEGACY
March 9, 2019, 11AM-2:00PM @ Clayton UMC (Lunch Provided)
Contact Joan Aveni (856-589-3196 for a reservation.)

Make sure to stop by GROUNDED, our Coffee House.

Grab a quick cup and have some great conversations.



GIFT CARDS The Finance Team has gift cards available in the narthex for Shoprite, Acme, Bed Bath & Beyond, the Blooming Group (Outback, Carrabba's, and Bonefish Grill), Staples, and the Darden Group (Olive Garden and Longhorn) on the first Sunday of each month. Checks payable to the Church are preferred, but cash is acceptable.





VBS 2019: TO MARS AND BEYOND

Join us and learn about our journey to “Mars and Beyond.” There are so many ways to help make it an enormous success. Please see Brian Mickle, Denise Norton or Jodi Chowning if you can help!



Special Thanks to Alan Norton Jr.

who served as the Worship and Media Arts leader. We thank Alan for taking our Contemporary Worship to a new level. Thank you for all your dedication and service to our church and serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

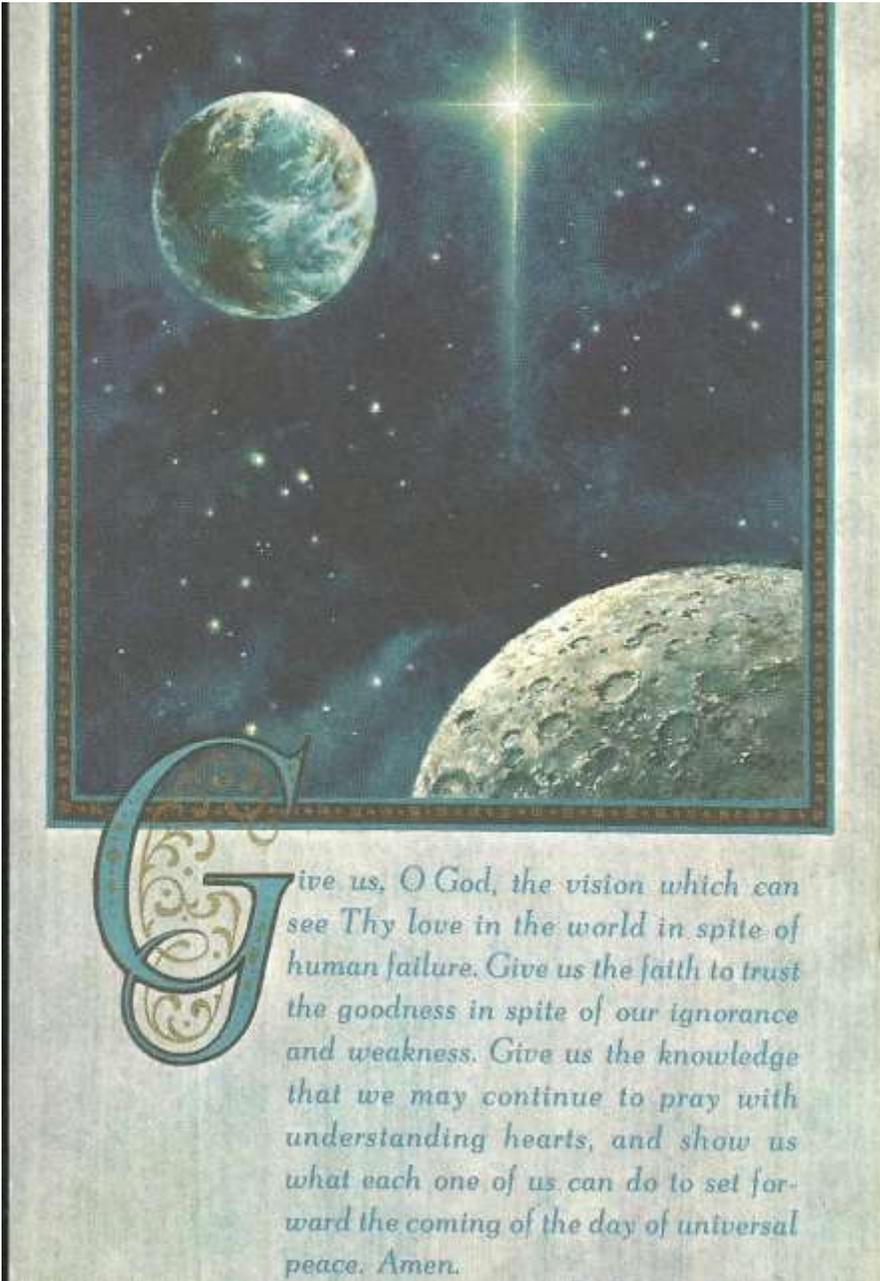
Lenten Meals, Bible Study and Small Group

Our Lenten Series begins on Wednesday, March 13 at 6:15PM with a meal followed by Bible Study at 7:00PM.

We will study Adam Hamilton's book titled "Creed- What Christians Believe and Why." Adam Hamilton believes that some powerful answers are contained in the Apostles' Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In this book, Hamilton considers important questions of life, reality, and truth. He explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe it and why it matters.

We will also have a small Group featuring "The Daniel Plan- Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus & Friends, 40 Days to a Healthier Life. The Daniel Plan teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your current lifestyle and helps you understand the kind of foods God created to keep you fit and strong. The book is categorized around five key concepts for optimal health that promote success: faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. These concepts encourage you to deepen your relationship with God and offer inspiration as you make positive choices each and every day.

Please sign up in the weather if you



Submitted by June Armstrong

DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1-2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.

Sincere Desire

Given a heart of relationship strengthened in obedience to His calling. To earnestly seek who He is, what He teaches and what He wants for our lives. The gifts He has for us of the spirit.

Friendship of Friendships Yes! It is possible to share in even this with Him. It takes searching, commitment, and obedience, also a sincere desire to really know Him. Such vast gifts has He, willing to impart to us that we will be ready and fit for His kingdom where on His throne He will rule and sit.

Penned by the late Ann Palmer

OUR Faith FAMILY



Faith journey

A family was heading on vacation: two little ones were nestled in car seats; the van was packed. As Dad locked the house and Mom secured the garage, an adult neighbor the kids knew walked up and spoke through an open window. “Where are you going?” The kids shrugged. “Well, what road are you taking?” the friend asked with a knowing smile. Of course, they had no idea. “Do you know where you’ll eat today, or where you’ll spend the night?” Blank stares. Then the friend asked, “Who are you traveling with?” The children broke into grins and shouted, “Mommy and Daddy!”

On the journey of faith, we don’t know precisely where we’re headed or how all our needs will be met. But we know who we’re traveling with: our loving God who is fully aware of the twists and turns ahead; the loving Parent who promises to care for us wherever we go.



ASH WEDNESDAY

To God you shall return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually — that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can’t untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don’t have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin’s power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends — one symbolizing our baptism and the other, our funeral — meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but we also come from God and will return to God. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we’re always safe in God’s love.

Special dates

- Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
- First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019
- First day of spring, March 20, 2019
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019



Our Staff

Pastor: Rev. John Inverso, Parsonage Phone 856-243-5488, pastor@glassboromethodist.org

Director of Education: Brian Mickle, bmickle@glassboromethodist.org

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melodie@glassboromethodist.org

Director of Music and Worship Arts: Sarah Mickle, smickle@glassboromethodist.org

Director of Visitation and Hospitality: Charlie Adams, cadams@glassboromethodist.org

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Regular Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Mon-Thurs; 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Fri

Website: www.glassboromethodist.org **Follow us on Twitter:** @1stUMCGlassboro

Like us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/glassboroumc](https://www.facebook.com/glassboroumc)

Find us on YouTube: search for First United Methodist Church Glassboro



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) Day 2 (waters) Day 3 (land and plants) Day 4 (heavenly bodies) _____
 Day 5 (birds and water animals) Day 6 (land animals and people) Day 7 (God rested) _____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



During Lent, Lord, help us grow in faith, hope and love — “and the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV).

First UMC March Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>24</p> <p>8am - Elevate 9:50am - Sunday School 11am - Traditional Worship 5pm - Confirmation Class 5pm - Kingdom Kids 6pm - Youth</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30pm - Recharge 9pm - NA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30pm - Refresh 7pm - Ash Wednesday 8pm - AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>4:15pm - Children's Choir 8:30pm - Education Team 7:15pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>5</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8am - Confirmation class</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8am - Elevate 9:50am - Care Givers 9:50am - Sunday School 11am - Traditional Worship 5pm - Confirmation Class 6:30pm - Youth 7pm - Jesus and Jaws</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm - Planning Team 8pm - NA 5:30pm - MAMI Training 7pm - Men of Armor</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:15pm - Lenten Meal 7pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:15pm - Lenten Meal 7pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:15pm - Children's Choir 7:15pm - Chancel Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9am - Elevate 9:50am - Sunday School 11am - Traditional Worship 12:15pm - Agelass Angela 4pm - Youth 5pm - Confirmation Class 7pm - Jesus and Jaws</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30pm - MAMI Training 7pm - VBS Leads Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:15pm - Lenten Meal 6:30pm - Refresh 7pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:15pm - Lenten Meal 6:30pm - Refresh 7pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:15pm - Children's Choir 7:15pm - Chancel Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9am - Elevate 9:50am - Sunday School 11am - Traditional Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10am - History Team 8pm - NA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm - Men of Armor</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:15pm - Lenten Meal 7pm - Bible Study 8pm - AA</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:15pm - Children's Choir 7:15pm - Chancel Choir 8:30pm - Bell Choir</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8pm - Rock-a-Teen- Youth</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Rock-a-Teen- Youth 8am - Elevate 9:50am - Sunday School 11am - Bell Choir Plays 11am - Traditional Worship 12:30pm - Kingdom Kids- 5pm - Confirmation Class</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>