



Sunday Mornings

Worship Services at
8:30 & 10:45
Church School at 9:30
Adult Ed at 9:30

Upcoming Events

- May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Adult Study
- May 3
HomeFront Project
- May 4
Confirmation Sunday
- May 11
Church School Celebrates
"Parents' Day"
- May 12 @ 7:30pm
Curriculum Kick-Off
- May 31
Spring Clean-Up
Progressive Dinner

The Disciple

*By God's great mercy
God has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. ~1 Peter 1:3*

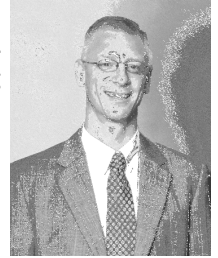
Happy Easter! As we live through this Easter season, youth ministry is on my mind. I'm writing this article the day after our Session received eleven confirmation students into membership by profession of faith and the day before I travel to Princeton Theological Seminary to attend the Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry (April 29 to May 2). I'm celebrating the work our eleven students did over the last year to grow in their faith and then to find the words to express their faith to our elders and on Sunday, May 4 to our church. I'm also anticipating a good conference on youth ministry in today's context that I hope will help us as a church move our new ministry to youth into its next phase.

The focus of the Princeton conference is very appropriate to the work the confirmation class did to profess their faith. This year's theme is on the power of testimony. From the website (ptsem.edu/Forum2014) of the conference, "Young people often struggle to articulate their faith and subsequently don't identify strongly as Christian disciples. However, as young people become fluent in the language of faith through vital relationships, they make meaningful connections that enable them to speak boldly of God's work in their lives and in the world."

I appreciate and enjoy the process that our confirmation class goes through each year to find the words to express what they believe, but I fear that confirmation is sometimes seen as an isolated event and even worse as a culminating experience of church. Confirmation is an important milestone along a lifelong journey of Christian nurture that reflects our church's commitment to honor our baptismal promise. At baptism, we made a covenant, a promise, to nurture all the children (young and old) whom God gives us in the Christian faith so that they can articulate their faith and talk about God in their lives. If we stop our ministry with youth at confirmation, is it any wonder that they don't identify strongly as Christian disciples? If our parents don't learn the faith and share it with them, if our church members don't build vital relationships with them, how will they make meaningful connections to God's work in their lives and in the world? Too often we leave them "to make their own choices," and I'm pretty sure we all know how that ends. Only 2 out of every 10 confirmation students, on average, stays connected to church beyond confirmation.

In a recent edition of the magazine *Presbyterian Outlook*, Rick Harrison, president of Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, Inc., wrote that he believes it is time to "make youth the number one priority in the church. Nearly 80% of all Christians began their journey with Christ in their teen years.

In comparison, only 2% of Christians come to faith after the age of 30. Can you imagine what a church would look like whose mission statement read, 'To raise up young leaders in the church'? And, once we have raised them up, empower them by letting them lead. I'm not talking about one or two token youth serving as elders, but give them a majority on session and see what happens!"



**Rev. Chip Low
Pastor**

I like Harrison's words because they are bold. They make me wonder many things about our ministry. Are we a part of God's mission to share the new life we know in Jesus Christ with all ages, or are we only consumers of religion who make faith about us? Are we, the members of our church, as concerned for the next generations of Christians in our ministry, or have we "retired" and decided to "let the parents do it," so that we can focus more on preserving our own history and memory of the church? If someone were to examine our church closely, would they see a vision "to raise up young leaders in the church," or a church that acquiesces to all the other demands our culture makes on youths' and families' lives? Are we raising up youth who can speak boldly of God's work in their lives and in the world? These are not questions for me as pastor or the Youth Design Team alone. These are questions for our whole church.

The redevelopment of our youth ministry is still in its infancy, and we need your prayers and active support to grow it. Your financial generosity has made it possible to hire a part-time youth coordinator, and we are currently searching for that person. Many thanks to Alice Chin for filling that role on an interim basis. However, a youth ministry coordinator is not the whole answer to growing our youth ministry. Our youth ministry needs the presence, faith, leadership and relationships of our church members in order to grow and raise up young leaders in our church. The Youth Design Team and Program Team welcome your involvement as we begin now to plan for the next year. I would invite you to pray about your role with our youth (as well as with our children—see Tami's article). God has given us everything we need to grow our ministry to include youth. What a wonderful testimony it is when we can share with the next generations the faith that gives us life and hope.

Chip

Youth Happenings



This year, Youth Group has been focused on how to go about *living* as a child of God in the world, in the face of real, and sometimes really hard, challenges. Our activities ask our youth to consider:

- Who-- and whose-- are you?
- What does it mean to be a child of God?
- What makes you a child of God?
- As a child of God, how are you called to act?

fpcyyouth.weebly.org

In April, being in the world as children of God meant seeing how we relate to God's other creations: earth and animals. Our visit to Guiding Eyes for the Blind brought us face to face with some very loving animals & we got to see that *humans* do not do all the caring for things on this earth.

In May, in the face of a decidedly un-peaceful world, we ask how do we use our certainty of God's love for us to choose who will be in our lives, and to choose how we will act in the lives of others? Our theme is *Trigger Peace* and we meet:

Friday, May 2
7:30-9 PM
Trigger Peace
Youth Room

Friday, May 9
7:30-9 PM
Trigger Peace
Youth Room

Sunday, May 18
1-4 PM
Stewardship of the Earth
Youth Room

June

How do we reflect God's goodness, wisdom and love in the world? We work for justice and peace, and that starts with developing an awareness of how other children of God around us are living. This month, we begin to look at and think about what it means to be poor, hungry or homeless in our own community. We meet:

Sunday, June 1
5-7 p.m.
Hunger Banquet
Youth Room

Friday, June 20
5-8 p.m.
Food Stamp Challenge
Youth Room

Saturday, June 28
4-8 p.m.
Jan Peek House
Youth Room

**New
Curriculum
Kick-Off
Event**
~
Monday
~
May 12
~
7:30pm
~
**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

Church School "Chalkboard"

As we wind down the 2013-2014 Church School year, exciting things continue to happen. Next fall, our Church School is going to introduce a new curriculum for preschool through grade 4 called **Spark: Ignite Faith**. We are also going to create a new 5-6th grade class with its own curriculum called **Connect** tailored to preteens. Our Youth class will expand to include all teens 7th grade and up and will also have a new curriculum **Reform**. (Check them all out at www.wearesparkhouse.com.)

We are inviting all current Center Leaders, Shepherds, parents, as well as ANYONE who may be interested in co-teaching, subbing or becoming a shepherd to come and learn more about the new curriculum on Monday, May 12th at 7:30. Childcare will be available so please RSVP to Jen (bizum711@aol.com) or Jocelyn (jfontana40@gmail.com) if you plan on coming and need childcare. Remember you do not need to have a child in the Sunday school to help out. We are looking forward to exciting changes in the future and can't wait to share it with everyone!!

- For the final lesson of the year the children will be exploring who can be a Christian through the ministry of Paul. Paul did not want the people in the church to exclude others from the faith because of ethnicity. At home you can talk about times you or your child has noticed the Church or Christians excluding people due to physical, mental or ethnic characteristics. Also how can we go about making people feel more welcome in our church? The memory verse is "For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were made to drink of one Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:13.

- A reminder that all parents are invited to join us Sunday May 11th as we celebrate both mothers and fathers.

- Children's Sunday is coming up on June 8th. Please come a little earlier each week so we can practice and get our gathering time routine done.

- Don't forget to bring your *One Great Hour of Sharing Fish Banks* to church on May 3! Thanks!

Jocelyn Fontana & Jen Dixon, Superintendents

We're still collecting and recycling your bottles and cans!

Bring them in
to support the
Living Waters project.
We sent \$500 at the
end of 2013, and since
January your recyclables
have totaled \$188.40!
Thank you!

Who Taught You?

Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it.

~Proverbs 22:6

Last month as I was preparing to lead one of the adult studies on the glittering vices, I was reminded yet again of what a big influence my Sunday School teachers had on my faith and life. The two men who taught my junior high Sunday School class were both fathers of younger children; one was a businessman, the other a social worker. At our first class, I remember them saying that they both liked hanging out with teenagers and that the teen years were a really important time for figuring out who we were and what life was all about. They wanted to help us on this journey and to share their time, their support and their faith with us. These two men created a safe space in which my friends and I could think and talk about not just Bible stories and faith, but all those awkward issues and touchy subjects (like relationships, peer pressure, and tough choices). They imparted some life lessons that I still carry with me today.

Then I started to think about some of my other Sunday School teachers and I was surprised to realize what a diverse group they were. There were a few young moms and dads in the group, but most of my faith teachers were older women and men who either didn't have children or whose children were grown and no longer in Sunday School. I'm so grateful to them for continuing to

give of themselves to nurture my faith and the faith of future generations.

When you think about children and youth of our church, which age group comes to mind? The preschoolers? Elementary? Middle school? High school? Which group makes you smile or which one could you see yourself working with?

Our Christian Education program has been blessed by many wonderful teachers, and we're hoping that many will want to continue to serve in this way. We also need some new folks to join us in this important ministry, as center leaders, shepherds and team teachers. We hope you will think about how God is calling you to nurture the faith of our children and youth. All are invited to come to our new curriculum information night on **Monday, May 12 at 7:30 pm** to learn more about how you can get involved. You can also contact our Church School leaders (Suzy Rishel, Jocelyn Fontana, and Jen Dixon) if you are unable to attend but would like to help.

Come, help us keep the promise we make every time we baptize a child or adult – to nurture them in faith and to help them know and follow Jesus. The future of their faith depends on us.

Point your kids in the right direction – when they're old they won't be lost.

~Proverbs 22:6 (The Message)



Rev. Tami Seidel
Parish Associate

Tami

VBS 2014: Imagine & Build with God

Sign Up Now!

July 7-11, 2014 from 9am-12noon

to be held at St. Andrews Lutheran Church

Register and Pay Online!

www.cokesburyvbs.com/yorktown

Adult and Youth Volunteers, please register online, too!

Save the Dates: Youth Volunteer Training, mornings of July 1,2,3 @ St. Andrews



Register Online!



Summer Camp Opportunities at Holmes

Day Camps, Resident Camps, Adventure Camps, Creative Camps and more for children and youth of all ages. Check out holmescamp.org for more info.

Financial assistance is available. Please speak to Chip or Tami about it.



Planned Giving: Our Church Looks Ahead



Just as you have, no doubt, been hearing about the concept of Planned Giving from your colleges or universities, you probably know that our church is also committed to establishing a long-term endowment, supported by those who choose to make a long-term gift, or Planned Giving, to the church. Our Session has approved the setting up of an endowment fund to accrue Planned Gifts over time. There are many ways to bestow a long-term gift to our church: through a will, an insurance policy, a charitable annuity, to name just a few. Over the next few weeks, we will be highlighting the importance of Planned Giving for our church's future, through testimonials, inserts, and new additions to our church's website.

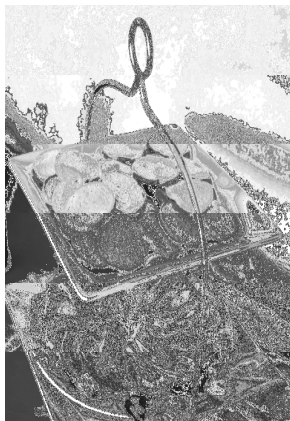
Although the topic of preparing one's own will is never anyone's favorite subject, it is one of life's important tasks, and so this appeal can also serve as a general reminder about how important this planning is. As

you prepare your will, please consider the role that the church has played in your life. Although this type of planning should involve legal counsel completely independent of FPCY, the Planned Giving Committee of the Stewardship Commission is ready to provide general guidance.

The spirit of this effort continues to be: this is a very long-term endeavor, and we approach it with the conviction that all the gifts we enjoy are a trust from God, to be used in service for the benefit of all people, in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.

For any questions about Planned Giving, please contact any member of the Planned Giving Committee: Tim Lupfer, Cathy Talbot, Frank Hodgkinson, Carol Thorne Gaetani, Jack Shaughnessy, and Emily Monk. Thank you.

Progressive Dinner is May 31



Please save the date – May 31, 2014 – and be a part of our annual Progressive Dinner festivities.

For over 30 years, the Progressive Dinner has been a celebration of warm weather and fellowship for our Church friends to relax and chat over appetizers, dinner and dessert.

Right now you can help by signing up! All are welcome, whether you come alone or as a couple. We also need help in planning, hosts to volunteer their home for dinner, and help with dessert.

The evening will begin at 5:30p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Everyone brings a favorite little appetizer to share. At 7p.m. we set out to our host home for dinner. *Remember hosts do not need to do any*

cooking. The guests bring the food with them! The menu has not been set, but if you have any suggestions we invite you to join our planning group. Finally, we all come back together for dessert and coffee. The event finishes at 10 p.m. If you decide to join us, information will be mailed out to you one week before the dinner. The cost is \$8 per person.

If you want to come but need help with childcare, or if you have vegetarian or other dietary concerns, please give Louise a call (962-4515) .

Sign up in the gathering space if you'd like to attend and/or host! We look forward to seeing you at the party!!!

~ Louise Fang
for Congregational Life Commission

The Ministry of Our Deacons

Three times mention is made in the Gospels of how children wanted to come to Jesus and how the Disciples tried to turn them away. Three times the writers recount that Jesus rebuked them and said, "Let the children come to me! Never send them away! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who have hearts as trusting as these little children."

Can you imagine the excitement of the children when they were allowed to come, when Jesus told them how much he loved them as well as all people, individually – personally? They understood that Jesus meant everyone – young and old, rich or poor, strong or weak – and yes, especially those in greatest need, those held in the lowest esteem. How it must have impressed the children that Jesus would go out of his way to bless them and to touch and heal the sick, the lame, the despised, the lost, the hungry and the outcasts.

Children love to hear the stories of the Bible that tell them God loves them and that they are to love each other. There is a wonderful Vacation Bible School song sung by children that I learned over twenty five years ago. It would be their natural response to Jesus' love and command as demonstrated in his own life. It was written by Judith Helms and goes like this:

*"Let me be your hands, dear Jesus,
helping those who come my way.
Let me be your feet, dear Jesus,
running errands every day.
Let me be your voice, dear Jesus,
telling people of your love.
Let me share your work, dear Jesus,
Me on earth and you above.
Let me be your ears, dear Jesus,
hearing those who cry for help.
Let me share in helping others
and not just think of myself."*

As a new Deacon, I have been so deeply touched to see how your Deacons go about daily, quietly and behind the scenes carrying out their mission to serve Jesus and show God's love for all of His children in the world. Today they are calling, texting and e-mailing to communicate and set up meetings to visit the sick, pray with the homebound and to arrange for deliveries of food. I can't help but think that all of them were at one time just like the children in the Gospels who came to Jesus and were blessed. I wonder, did they hear and learn this song too?

Your support is important, as the need in recent months has been great. April 2014 hit an all-time high: 500 bags given out to persons in need at the food pantry. Our visitation team has been meeting and praying with so many recently hospitalized, recovering from or dealing with illness or end of life issues.

How can you be part of Jesus' ongoing ministry? Through your continued financial support, your participation in the food pantry, providing "Loaves and Fishes", providing transportation and your continued prayers. The Deacons are grateful for your gifts and welcome them any time. You can use the designated envelopes in your offering box, write a check or go on-line to make your gift by marking "Deacon Fund" in the memo section. You too can be Jesus' "hands and feet- His voice and His ears."

As Tami preached in her sermon the first Sunday after Easter – we are the Body of Christ in the world – we are the proof, the evidence that Jesus lives! It is our response to God's love and our commitment to obey His command to love one another that is proof positive of the Resurrection and continued loving presence of Jesus in each one of our lives. This, indeed, is the good news of the Gospels!

~ Carol Gaetani for the Deacons



**Food Pantry
"Cereal"**

Canned Vegetables

**Next Dates:
May 10 & 24
9 to 11 am**

*We need volunteers to
load bags from
8-9 am on the
pantry days.*

Mother's Day Cards

The Mission Commission will offer Mother's Day cards to support the PCUSA program *Healthy Women, Healthy Families*. The cards will be available on May 4. The recommended donation is \$10.

Healthy Women, Healthy Families supports a range of programs of Presbyterian partner churches globally that promote health, education and development of women and children. These programs are aimed at alleviating poverty and suffering of women and children, and include: primary and pre-primary education, prenatal and essential obstetric services, trauma healing and psychosocial support, early-childhood health and nutrition programs, health and hygiene education, food security, and fistula repair surgery. This fund enables Global Partners to implement programs that directly impact the lives of the most vulnerable community members.

For more information, please call Marsha Henderson at 914-245-3924.



Knitting Groups



Prayer Shawl Group meets on Wednesday morning, May 7 at 9:30am. Please join us!

In April, 73 blankets were donated to our Linus representative Cindy. All of the women pictured were a part of knitting or crocheting these donated items. So many good stories come back to us when we give these blankets.

Knit Togethers May 12 and June 9 & 23

In April, Keith Walleck donated over 170 skeins of yarn and 20 pairs of knitted mittens in memory of his mother, Janet Nelson. The knitters are very pleased and are busy working on converting the yarn into blankets for nursing homes, baby blankets, and mittens for our mission. Thank you, Keith, for your generous gift and for helping us in our mission to give to the community.

Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10am to 11:30am, in Lounge 15. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809).

Please remember in your prayers:

Kathy Anderson
 Peg Bertsch
 Allan Damon
 Gertrude Dineen
 Natalie Dineen
 Evelyn & Lynn Fischer
 Phillip Gresh
 Mary Hamblen
 Ken Hardy
 Eleanor Hibben
 Ruth Hickey
 Marie Hodgkinson
 Nellie Keller
 Caryl Kerber
 Bonnie Konnerth
 Jim Kutter
 Sarah Linehan
 Jim Lunday
 Florence Malcolmson
 Janet Mazzaroppi
 Dave Monk
 Janet Nelson
 Kyle Nelson
 Sue Palicz
 Genevieve Palmer
 Dixie Robinson
 Ruthann Scheffer
 Ruth Selman
 Dick Seymour
 Kim Sherman
 Delia Siemers
 Dottie Slechta
 Kathy Swenson
 Cal Weber
 Teddy Wilson

New in the Church Library

Biblical scholar Elaine Pagels' recent book *Revelations; Visions, Prophecy & Politics in the Book of Revelation* (226 P) is a profound exploration of the Bible's strangest and most controversial book. She writes that Revelation represents in coded form the fierce arguments between Jewish and gentile Christians near the end of the first century, somewhat like political cartoons. For example, "When John says that 'the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's and its mouth was like a lion's mouth,' he revises Daniels' vision to picture

Rome as the worst empire of all." She explores the ways Revelation has been interpreted over time, and how each new generation has seen its own conflicts, suffering, and hope reflected in powerful images of cosmic war and divine victory. In addition, Pagels discusses other apocalyptic writings from the same period, and how this one nearly missed being included in the Bible. Although scholarly, it is clearly written and a fascinating study of this mysterious book.

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian

Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek House in Peekskill is a shelter for 19 homeless men and women, run by Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill (CHOP). On the 4th Saturday of each month, we provide dinner at the Jan Peek House. It is rewarding to share food and conversation with the residents, and it is an important part of our congregation's ministry to the community. New volunteers always welcome. Call Bud Cocodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it. Thanks to the Shermans and Diane Hawlk for the April dinner. The May dinner will be prepared by Girl Scout Troop 2905 with the leadership of Emily Monk. Call Bud to volunteer for future months.

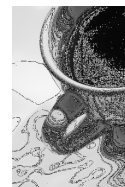
Noontime Meal

FPCY's Noontime Meal preparers will mobilize again on May 13 at Peekskill Presbyterian Church. We invite any of you to consider one or two hours of volunteer work per month on the Tuesday prior to the second Wednesday. This is a rewarding task and many hands make the work light and fun. Call Squeegie Mills (845-621-3178) or Ken Sherman (914-737-8294) for details.

Offering Hospitality

COFFEE HOUR

Please remember when you bake or pick up goodies to bring in items for coffee hour and place them in the freezer. We all enjoy something with our coffee on a Sunday morning, so please help out and drop it off in the kitchen freezer marked "FOR COFFEE HOUR" and it will get put out as needed. Also if you can help to reset and clean up on a Sunday morning for the 10:45am coffee hour, please sign up in the book on the table on a Sunday morning or give Pat Prauda a call at 737-4674 and she will walk you through it. Don't forget our Communion Brunch on the first Sunday of each month. Please bring a dish to share and stay a few minutes longer for fellowship after both services.



Homecoming

Please extend a warm invitation to family and friends who you keep in touch with to our annual Homecoming weekend. The weekend includes the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, May 31st followed with worship on Sunday morning and a lovely brunch afterward.

For those of you who have joined us at past Progressive Dinners, I'm sure you know what a great time of fellowship it is. If you haven't attended a progressive dinner before, it starts off with drinks and hors d'oeuvres at one home, followed by dinner in small groups at an assigned home, and concludes with a gathering for all to enjoy coffee, tea and desserts. On Sunday, June 1, we gather for worship. After the service, a lovely brunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall.

Those planning to join us for Homecoming weekend, please RSVP (office@fpcyorktown.org or 914-245-2186) by May 11. We need the names & addresses (*e-mail addresses, too*) of those coming to the Progressive Dinner so we can send them information on the specifics for that event.

Senior Lunch Bunch

Senior Lunch Bunch is stepping out in May for their lunch. They are going to Little Sorrento's on May 21st at noon. Cost per person is \$24, served family style. Why not mark your calendar, make your reservation by signing up (sheet on bulletin board) and join us! You can also call Pat Prauda at 737-4674. Come and enjoy good food and great fellowship

*Pat and John Prauda
for the Senior Lunch Bunch*

Spring Clean-Up is May 31

Our annual Spring Work Party is coming up May 31. You are invited to join us starting at 8am for both inside and outside clean-up work. There will be jobs for everyone! Please bring gloves, garden tools, wheel barrows, pruners, shovels, rakes, and the like. Deanna Collins will be coordinating volunteers and EVERYONE is invited to participate. If you would like to offer your help with a specific project, please call Deanna at 914-245-3411.

Lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall at 12noon. Please bring a dish to share. Thank You in advance for your help!

p.s. - Rain Date is Saturday, June 7



First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown
2880 Crompond Road
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

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Permit No. 20

The Disciple

May 2014

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

Pastor

Rev. Chip Low

Parish Associate

Rev. Tami Seidel



office@fpcyorktown.org



@fpcyorktown



Facebook.com/fpcyorktown

MAY				1 10am Adult Study 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	2 Youth Group @ 7:30pm	3 HomeFront Project
4 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells	5	6 7:30 Session	7 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle	8 10am Adult Study 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	9 Youth Group @ 7:30pm	10 Food Pantry
11 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells	12 Knit Togethers 10am Curriculum Kick-Off Event @ 7:30pm	13 Noontime Meal Prep - 2:30pm at Peekskill Pres. Church 7:30pm Worship	14	15 10am Adult Study 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	16 7:30pm-Service	17
18 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Adult Ed 12pm Youth Program Team 1pm Youth Group	19 7:30 Education	20 7:30pm Operations Mission Communications	21 10:30am - Stewardship Lunch Bunch @ Little Sorrento's	22 10am Adult Study 6:30pm - Bells 8pm - Choir	23	24 9am Food Pantry 6pm-Jan Peek Dinner
25 Worship Services 8:30am & 10:45am 9:30am- Church School Adult Ed 12pm Youth Bells	26 Office Closed	27	28	29 10am Adult Study	30	31 Spring Clean-Up 5:30pm Progressive Dinner