

Dates and Times At FPCY

- Worship Services:
Sunday Mornings
at 8:30 and 10:45
January 6, 13, 20, 27
- Sermon for Lunch
January 20
- Candlelight Concert
January 26
- Looking ahead...
- Annual Meeting
February 3
- Midnight Run
February 8

The Disciple

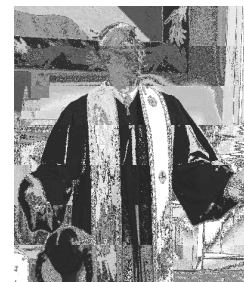
“...by another road...together.”

Despite not going to bed until after 1:00 a.m., I woke up early on Christmas Day excited about our trip to visit my family in Texas. I was looking forward to some time off and time with family this Christmas season. I was also thankful for the experience of worshipping together on Christmas Eve with you. Thankful for our savior's birth. Thankful to all of our musicians who made it possible for Simona to be present with us as she could and with her father as well and for sharing your gifts in wonderful music and song. I was thankful for the candle lighting and the opportunity to hold the light from the Christ candle up into the darkness. What a powerful symbol of our faith and ministry when we let our light shine in the darkness!

Our Advent focus on celebrating a different kind of Christmas and living and giving like Jesus prepares us for the year ahead. Planning and conversation are underway to follow through on the plans we talked about in October. Session has approved the creation of a parish associate position. More steps still need

to be taken before it is finalized, but the Session has taken a first step toward broadening our pastoral leadership and ministry. Work has begun to rejuvenate our youth ministry, with planning for activities to both nurture their faith and offer hands-on ministry opportunities. The goal as we discussed in October is to build a sustainable youth ministry. So, a conversation will begin soon with all who might be interested in working on that part of our ministry. And, these are just two ways we can live and give in new and broader ways to people. Each new year holds many opportunities for our commissions to lead us in growing, reaching out and sharing our faith with many.

As we consider how we might take a different path away from the manger, we continue to expand on the faithful work we are already doing. One immediate sign of that new life is the two adult forum classes that will take place on Sunday morning and another new opportunity for spiritual growth on Sunday evenings. Take a look at the adult forum information in



Pastor Chip Low

this newsletter. Our hope is to offer more ways for people to grow and nurture their own faith, as well as the faith of their families. I hope you will join us!

Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations are the beginning of the Christian new year. They prepare us to head into 2013 by another road. God invites us to track Jesus (remember GPS Jesus?). God wants us to go where Jesus goes and bring good news. I'm looking forward to what that journey will be for us and where we will go. And, I'm so glad that it will be together. Thank you for your faithfulness in sharing God grace, love and light for all to see and know.

May you have a blessed and happy new year!

Chip

Living Our Vision: Thank You for Your Faithful Giving!

Thank you for your generosity in 2012 and thank you to all who have returned commitment cards! We have received commitments from adults and children who have dedicated a total of \$413,759 toward our mission in 2013. If you have not yet turned in your commitment card, it's not too late! You can place it in the offering plate, mail it to

church, or fill one out online at our website: www.fpcyorktown.org. We are grateful for your generosity and willingness to share in Living Our Vision together!

Pam Darreff
for The Stewardship Team

**“Jesus saw
the full
human value
in each
person...”**

Church School “Chalkboard”

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will be blessed with good health and much happiness in 2013!

In January, we will start our focus on the story of Jonah and will delve into the Biblical stories that teach us about “The Healing Miracles” in Jesus’ ministry. Jesus saw the full human value in each person as he forgave sins and healed bodies as well as spirits. The people who were healed by Jesus were typically living in isolation or rejection. Jesus extended an open hand to them and invited them into God’s kingdom. His compassion allowed them to rejoin their community as full participants and be able

to live to their full potential. Jesus healed people as a visible expression of God’s grace and acceptance. He empowers his disciples to go

out into the world and do likewise. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:16-19)

We thank a few people for their assistance with making this Christmas season a wonderfully different one! Kathy Anderson for embracing, re-visualizing, and disseminating the new “Different Kind of Christmas” curriculum without hesitation, so that all of our children can embrace its priceless message of Living and Giving like Jesus. Heidi Haring for coordinating the Alternative Giving Fair as well as coordinating the creation of Emergency Kits, an invaluable mission lesson for our children! Ingrid O’Sullivan and Donna Giglio for guiding the children in

creating delicious cookie gift bags to supplement the Food Pantry bags.

Thank you to Bill Herman for stepping up to be the director of the *Miracle at Midnight* Christmas Eve meditation. Without him, it would never have happened! Thank you also to Beth Gruber for piano accompaniment, Kathryn Frase for musical direction, and Louise Fang for costuming. Additional thanks to Christie Herman, Bill Dixon, Jennifer Dixon, Michele Mosca, Christine Drysdale, Ted Crockett, Jenna Shulman, Jessica Shulman, Sophie Low, Benjamin Low, Karen Mack, Debbie Hager, Liza Placido, Tami Seidel, Lisa Eliason, and Jose Sandoval, for helping out in numerous ways throughout the rehearsals! Of course, to all the children who participated and their parents – thank you for another wonderfully enjoyable Christmas story!

Beth Coccodrilli &
Jocelyn Fontana
Co-Superintendents



**Time for
Study,
Reflection,
and
Fellowship**

Women’s Circle Bible Study Mini-Retreat January 12

All women are invited to attend on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 in the Lounge. This year’s study is called “Dispatches to God’s Household: The General Epistles” by Nancy Benson-Nicol. Rev. Tami Seidel leads this time of study, reflection and fellowship. Books are available, and if you have any questions please contact Mariana Sherman at 737-8294.

The Many Faces of Mary, Mother of Jesus
led by Rev. Tami Seidel

*“The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His name...”*

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.”*

Like Mary, we are called to be God-bearers to the world. Join us for a very special mini-retreat inspired by Mary’s important role in our salvation story.

Saturday, January 12, 9am – Noon
(Child care will be provided)

Adult Forum Opportunities

Epiphany: "By a Different Road"

This wrap-up session of *A Different Kind of Christmas* looks at the story of the Magi as an inspiring example of persistent, life-altering faith. Can we make a commitment, like the Magi, to take a different road in 2013?

Sunday, January 6, 9:30 am

Thursday, January 10, 10 am

Wednesday evening participants:

please join the Sunday or Thursday group for this wrap-up session.

Genesis: A Living Conversation

The stories found in the Book of Genesis spoke to our ancestors more than three thousand years ago--and they speak to us today. What explains their staying power? Join us for a continuation of our "living conversation" inspired by the PBS-Bill Moyers series.

Sundays at 9:30am in the Lounge

January 13, 20, 27, February 3 & 10



New Opportunities on Sunday Mornings AND Evenings!

The Challenge of Christian Parenting!

Study led by Rev. Tami Seidel

Being a parent is daunting today amid the omnipresent influences from popular culture. Join with other parents struggling with the same issues. Rev. Tami Seidel, a mother of three herself, will share from the wisdom of child development experts and facilitate a conversation of mutual support.

Sundays at 9:30am in Room 16
January 13, 20, 27

Embracing a Life of Meaning: Kathleen Norris on Discovering What Matters

Led by Rev. Tami Seidel

Best-selling author Kathleen Norris gives us a way of exploring what matters most if we are truly seeking a meaningful life: faith matters – to what do we give our hearts?; the Bible matters – it is our collective story; community matters; place matters; and we matter – what does it mean to be in God's image?

Sunday evenings at 7pm in the Lounge
Jan. 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10

Child care can be made available. Please call the church office to let us know if you will need child care.

*"Faith matters...
the Bible
matters...
community
matters...
and we matter."*

Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool

Thank you, thank you, thank you for support of our annual bake sale...it was the biggest, most successful one in YPP recorded history! We look forward to bring cultural enrichment activities to our students and church families this spring. Thank you again!



Registration for the 2013-2014 is now open! We have classes for 2's (Mommy and Me), 3's and 4's. Registration forms are available in the preschool and the Church office and must be returned by January 18th. Feel free to stop by for a visit or call Lisa at 420-2598!

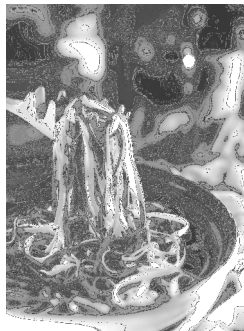
Merry Christmas and Happy 2013!

Lisa Eliasson, YPP Director

They say the most amazing things:

During "The Great Candy Cane Experiment" we observed a candy cane in water as it lost its red stripes and then began to dissolve. There was just the thinnest shape of the candy cane left and an observant 4 year old announced...."that looks like the nativity stick the sheep boy carries!"





Volunteers needed to provide meals for our neighbors in Peekskill

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. If you have never done this before, we'll pair you with someone who has so you can see how it works. New volunteers always welcome. Call Bud Coccodrilli (245-6475) to talk about it. January 26: The Santagata & Humphrey Families. Thank you to the Chessa & Mavian families for the December dinner.

Noontime Meal

The next Noontime Meal will be prepared in the Peekskill Presbyterian Church kitchen on January 8. The meal (trees and leaves, as the clients have named it) will be served the next day, Wed., January 9, at the Peekskill Salvation Army. Want to know more about the Noontime Meal Program? Call Squeegie Mills (845-621-3178) or Ken Sherman (914-737-8294).

Food Pantry **"Item of the Month"**

Baking Mixes

Next Dates:

January 12 & 26

9 to 11 a.m.

We need volunteers to load bags from 8-9 a.m. on the pantry days. Call Deacon Katharine Frase (962-0490) if you can help! We also need plastic bags, grocery size. Bring to Room 2.

The Ministry of our Deacons

The Deacons had a very active year in 2012, marked by a new commitment to "presence" in our ministry. The retreat led by Chip encouraged us all to make the work of the Deacons the work of the Church, with more involvement by members who have not yet been called to this ministry as well by those who have served in previous years. It has been exciting and busy, and in aiming to serve those who are less visible in both the church community and the community at large, we have all grown along the path of our own faith journey.

The **Food Pantry** has been very busy, and we do not think the numbers will be diminishing any time soon. We feel fortunate that we are able to provide to our neighbors in need, and found that people came to FPCY from as far as Ossining when their local pantry was unable to open due to lack of electricity, refrigeration and delivery options.

The last pantry, which combined bags of food and fresh vegetables with the annual Toys for Tots distribution, was the 3rd largest ever! We helped 171 families with 254 bags of groceries; we distributed over 1400 toys to 497 children from 127 families. In 2012, we distributed 4500 bags of food. This is truly an amazing ministry, and the monetary and physical help from those of you who are not currently Deacons continues to be a crucial part of the process. We thank each and every one of you!

Visits to the Homebound is a ministry that has taken on a life of its own. Church members who live in various Senior Living facilities are regularly visited, and even transported to see friends living in other centers. Sometimes they receive flowers that have been donated to the church for Sunday services; sometimes they

receive cookies or a slice of homemade sweet bread; sometimes just the presence of a visitor who cares and listens and brings news of the church is the most welcome gift. Chip has been active with the Deacons to ensure that communion is brought to our homebound at regular intervals, and that is also much appreciated.

We will welcome new Deacons and say "thank you" (never goodbye) to those rotating off active service at our January meeting on January 13. A light lunch will be served, and new Deacons will receive descriptions of the various ministries as we make commitments for the next year.

May you find the comfort and joy of God's presence as you begin the New Year, and walk with that presence in the months to come.

*Angelyn Forbes-Freeze
for the Deacons*

Loaves & Fishes and Transportation

Loaves & Fishes and Transportation are part of the ministries of the Deacons. They provide support and caring for members and friends of our congregation. Please consider volunteering for these "hands on" ministries. You may be called upon only once or twice a year. Please indicate what you are able to do below, even if you have volunteered in the past. Please place it in the collection plate on Sunday or return to the Church Office. You can also e-mail office@fpcyorktown.org. Thank you.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Loaves and Fishes

_____ Cook & deliver a meal (Entrée, salad, dessert)

_____ Deliver a meal, if needed

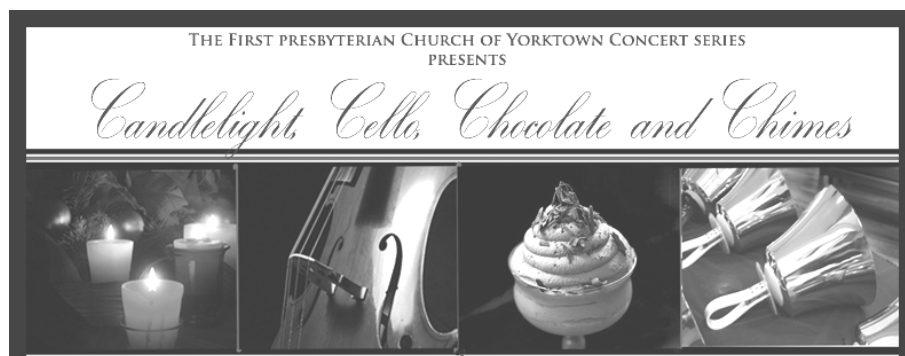
_____ Make and deliver a dessert

Provide Transportation

To and from Worship on _____ Sunday at 8:30 am _____ Sunday at 10:45 am

_____ To other church functions

_____ During the week for miscellaneous needs



Imagine a candlelight evening, romantic cello music, teasing your auditory senses with beautiful music, ringing bells...followed by chocolate desserts. Could anything be sweeter, more sensual, more relaxing? Enjoy an evening of musical and culinary delights on Saturday evening, January 26th at 7 pm. The next concert in our 2012-2013 concert series features international cellist Serafim Smigelsky, Simona Frenkel, and the Bell Choir with chimes presenting this very special evening concert in the

candle lit sanctuary. The musical feast will be followed by delicious dishes of delectable desserts in Fellowship Hall. (Hint...hint...a wonderful pre-Valentine's Day "date.")

THEN.....*Dust Off Your Dancing Shoes!* The toe-tapping, jive music of the Big Band sound returns to Fellowship Hall on Sunday evening, February 10 for an evening of dancing (or listening and watching!). This very popular event "sold out" the last two years, and re-

turns just in time to celebrate Carnavale before Lent. Reservations can be made following worship in the Gathering Space from January 14th until seats are gone, - or by calling the office. Tickets are \$20 per person. So invite your favorite dance partner and polish off your dancing shoes! Refreshments will be available.

Candlelight Concert

January 26

7pm



Swing Dance Concert

February 10

7pm

The Sunday Afternoon Concert Series is supported by the generosity of its Patrons. To be a Patron of this musical outreach, a gift of \$50 or more may be given to the Church with a note that it is for the Concert Series.

Midnight Run on February 8

It takes MANY, MANY hands to make for a successful Midnight Run!!!! On Friday, February 8th we will be traveling down to Manhattan with a van filled with bagged suppers, hot soup and coffee, warm men's (mostly) clothing and welcoming hearts and hands. This time, we have been assigned the largest of the vans and will have plenty of room for carrying warm clothing. We will need used men's jackets, hooded

sweat shirts and sweat pants, heavy sweaters and dark colored blankets and sleeping bags, gloves and hats. As we get into January, we will be asking folks to donate sets of new long underwear, warm socks and new men's underwear and new toothbrushes. Please plan to hold on to the used clothing and blanket items until we get closer to the Run because we have only limited storage at the

church. Please leave items in the basket in the hall-way. As we get closer to the Run, you will see sign up sheets in the Gathering Space and will hear announcements about other items that will be needed. If you would like to volunteer in some way, please email Kelly Humphrey (humphrey.kelly@gmail.com) or Jean Post-Winget (jeanpostwinget@live.com).



MidnightRun.org

Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless.



Please remember
in your prayers:

Marie Anderson
Peg Bertsch
Patty Blair
Deanna Collins
Carol Cornish
Lisa Crockett
Bill Cunnington
Allan Damon
Betty Dexter
Natalie Dineen
Evelyn & Lynn Fischer
Brian Froehlich
Melissa Gilbert
Mary Jane Glanville
Phillip Gresh
Lisa Gunther
Mary Hamblen
Ken Hardy
Craig Hibben
Eleanor Hibben
Marie Hodgkinson
Nellie Keller
Caryl Kerber
Bonnie Konnerth
Jim Kutter
Tom Labonte
Ruth Linehan
Jim Lunday
Florence Malcolmson
Janet Mazzaroppi
Dave Monk
Janet Nelson
Kyle Nelson
Sue Palicz
Dixie Robinson
Ruth Selman
Kim Sherman
Delia Siemers
Cameron Spence
Kathy Swenson
Cal Weber
Teddy Wilson
Kathryn Winget

The Gifts of Our Knitting Ministries

Prayer Shawl Ministry

supports the following:

- 1) We share shawls with our congregation members and friends.
- 2) We knit for the Linus group that gives blankets to children up to 17 years.
- 3) As needed when we see people in the Hudson Valley Hospital who could use a shawl.
- 4) The new Cancer Center at Hudson Valley Hospital uses shawls for patients when they are receiving treatment and gives them

to them when they go home.

- 5) Baptism blankets for the youngest members of our congregation.

If you crochet or knit and would like to join us, OR if you have any yarn or know of a source for yarn, we would be happy to get those donations. If you care to give us some funds for us to buy yarn, that would be appreciated. For information, call Marianna Sherman at 737-8294.

(In general, we meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month.)

Knit Together

Thank you to Genevieve Palmer and her daughter, Marlene DeVaul, for their generous donation of a huge amount of yarn. We are busy turning it into items for 2013 giving.

In December we distributed 212 knitted items to these groups: Bethel Nursing Home, Deacon's Mitten Tree, Dominican Sisters Nursing Service, Sky View Nursing Home, and Springvale Assisted Living. We are working on scarves for the February

Midnight Run and busy planning new projects for 2013.

Our meetings are held on 2nd & 4th Mondays from 10:00am to 11:30am in Lounge 15. All who knit and crochet are welcome. Join us in the joy of creating and giving to others in the community. For information: Norean Radke (962-4370) or Lois Ostling (962-2809). We meet next on January 14 and 28 and February 11 and 25.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2013, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall:

- to receive the Annual Reports, including the report of the Auditors;
- to review the Pastor's Terms of Call;
- to elect five Members-at-Large to the Nominating Committee;
- and to conduct any other business which may properly come before the Meeting.

New in the Church Library

The data is clear: religious affiliation is plummeting across the Christian denominations. And yet interest in "spirituality" is on the rise. Diana Butler Bass offers a fresh interpretation of the "spiritual but not religious" trend in *Christianity after Religion; the End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening* (270.8 B). After analyzing the decline in traditional values, especially in the last decade, she discusses the many and varied efforts to reshape Christianity for the

future. Finally, she moves from possibility to practice by arguing that we are in the midst of a new spiritual awakening, an interreligious progression toward individual and cultural transformation that offers hope to both individuals and churches.

Carol Jensen
Church Librarian

Ministries around the church....

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour starts on a Sunday morning at 8:30 am and runs through until approximately 12:30pm. Volunteers always welcome! Something new for 2013: Please bring something sweet or savory to share on the first Sunday of each month to enhance our fellowship time after the Lord's Supper! We'll still provide coffee...but we hope that this might give everyone a few more minutes of fellowship time after church. Kids welcome! Food and fellowship for all!

*Pat Prauda and Ellen de Jong
for Congregational Life Commission*

Ushers

Ushers are needed for January, February and March. If you are able to serve as an usher for the 8:30 service, please call Terri Froehlich at 528-0811. If you are able to serve at the 10:45 service, please call Pat Prauda at 737-4674.

To see a list of what ushers do, please visit our website and click on Resources, Policies & Procedures, and then "Usher Commandments". Thank you for being part of this important ministry!



Upkeep and Maintenance: Operations Commission

New Year Greetings from the Operations Commission!
Progress Report:

Jose has been making excellent progress in sanding, spackling and painting the Nursery. Thanks, Jose, for another great improvement job!

We have found spaces in the closet near the nursery, the attic and the cabinets in the office to store our new concert risers, platforms, skirts & hardware. Everything has been placed in the original cartons to keep things clean and well protected.

Our renovation of the "kitchen/nook" in the Library/Lounge has been completed. All of the very old white cabinets, sink and stove top have been removed. A partial wall has also been removed so that we can use the entire space between closets for a new set of oak-faced cabinets. The new cabinets are in place, as well as a soffit above the cabinets. The new cabinets are stained and poly-coated. This project gives the Library/Lounge a fresh appearance and makes the space much more functional.

A very big Thank You to Ed de Jong, Don Blaney, Skip Mahncke, David Cruikshank and Bill Friscia for helping me with the final "grounds-winterization" work party. During this project, we cut back all of the grasses, spread mulch and took all of the debris to Yorktown Recycling. With these several volunteers, we were able to complete

all planned work by mid-morning. The grounds look good and when snow eventually arrives, the grasses will not be smashed down which makes for a very difficult clean-up chore.

Work has continued on our 2012 financial projections and 2013 budget. Both will be presented to the Session at its regular meeting in January and then will be approved at the Session Retreat later in January. We are assuming a nearly \$35,000 rollover of funds from 2012 into 2013. With this rollover, we will have a 2013 budget that is nearly balanced at approximately minus \$5,000. We remain hopeful that our Stewardship Campaign will provide the funds now anticipated so that we can enter the year with a sound budget.

Please let us know if you have suggestions or know of things that require correction. Our facilities are in very good shape and it is our focus to keep them that way. Thanks to all for helping to accomplish this goal.

*Dick Seymour, Chair of Operations
& Facilities Coordinator*

**Operations
gives the
Library a
fresh look.**

History Corner

Dick Hunter is our church historian. He keeps track of things that happen and stores documents that are meaningful to the church. Dick maintains a History Bulletin Board which is located in the connecting hallway, right on the corner near the fellowship hall. Check the board for new pieces of historical tid-bits that he displays. If you have any questions, he welcomes a conversation about them!

Senior Lunch Bunch

The Senior Lunch Bunch will be meeting on Wednesday, January 16th at noon for a pot luck lunch in the fellowship hall. February 20th will also be a pot luck at noon.

**Stop by the
Amnesty International
table in the fellowship
hall on the 2nd Sunday
of each month to sign
letters of support
for those whose
human rights
are being violated.**

The Disciple

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

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate U.S. Postage
PAID
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Permit No. 20

January 2013

www.FPCYorktown.org

914-245-2186

office@fpcyorktown.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30

Pastor: Rev. Chip Low



office@fpcyorktown.org

@fpcyorktown

Facebook.com/fpcyorktown

January 2013

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|--|------------------------------|--|---|----|---------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 2pm - Eagle Ceremony, Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall |
| 6 Worship Service 8:30 & 10:45 Confirmation: 3pm - Rock Climbing | 7 | 8 Noontime Meal Prepared: 2pm Session: 7:30 | 9 Prayer Shawl @9:30am Women's Circle @ 10:30 | 10 | 11 | 12 Food Pantry Mini-Retreat: 9-12 |
| 13 Worship Service 8:30 & 10:45 Confirmation: 4:30 | 14 Knit Togethers 10am | 15 Meetings: Mission Church School Operations Worship | 16 Senior Lunch Bunch at Noon | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Worship Service 8:30 & 10:45 Sermon for Lunch Confirmation: 4pm | 21 <i>office closed</i> | 22 Meetings: Education YPP Board | 23 Prayer Shawl @ 10:30 | 24 | 25 Session Retreat | 26 Food Pantry Candlelight Concert at 7pm |
| 27 Worship Service 8:30 & 10:45 Confirmation: 4:30 | 28 Knit Togethers 10am | 29 Meetings: Communications | 30 | 31 | | |