

Connecting with God, One Another and the World First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown

November 2017

DATES TO NOTE:

Nov 5
All Saints' Day
Communion
New Members Received

Nov 12
Peace & Justice
Sunday
Alternative Giving Fair

Nov 18 Arts & Crafts Fair

Nov 19
Alternative Giving Fair
4:00pm Community
Thanksgiving Service
@Church of the Good
Shepherd

Nov 26
Christ the King Sunday

The Disciple

Grace & Gratitude

From God's abundance, we have all received grace upon grace. (John 1:16)

Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15)

This past Sunday evening I received a wonderful and completely unexpected gift. It had been a long day at the end of long week of juggling church and family responsibilities on my own while Chip was out of town. I was exhausted – bone tired and drained of energy. When I returned home Sunday evening after the last Reformation study session, all I wanted to do was curl up on the couch with a hot cup of tea.

Imagine my surprise when I walked into the house to be greeted not only by my kids, but by a homemade apple pie, still warm from the oven, courtesy of a church family. You don't get much closer to heaven for me than that! It was a moment, a gesture of grace, pure and simple. I was so overcome with gratitude for the kindness, care and spontaneity of that pie that I almost cried. And I don't know when an apple pie has ever tasted so good!

As odd as it may sound, that pie reminded me of God's grace, often unexpected and undeserved, always overwhelming in its warm hospitality and abundant love and care. As we learned from our Reformation celebration, there is nothing we can do to earn or deserve





Grace & Gratitude

God's grace. It is sheer gift. God simply offers us this gift of grace, of God's infinite love and forgiveness, healing and wholeness, with no strings attached. As scripture tells us, "From God's fullness, we have all received grace upon grace" (John 1:16). To receive God's gift of grace, to savor every bit of it, is heaven indeed!

Gratitude is the natural response to grace. Overwhelmed by God's amazing grace, we respond with our lives, expressing our gratitude to the Source of the gift. That's what the Christian life of faith is all about – our response to God's grace rooted in gratitude. We can never repay God for this precious gift, but we can live our lives in ways that honor the gift and glorify God.

This fall, our stewardship theme is Grace & Gratitude. We hope you will reflect on the gift of God's grace in your life and the many ways you have experienced that grace through the ministry and mission of our church. Then we invite you to prayerfully discern how you will respond in gratitude and share your gifts of time, talent and treasure, so that we may continue to be a community of faith that embodies

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

God's grace and offers it to others in the community and world around us. Join us for worship throughout the month as we reflect on God's grace and our grateful response and dedicate our pledges together on November 19th.

May our grateful response truly reflect God's abundant grace and generosity to us!

See you in church,





Stewardship Commission

We respond to God's extravagant grace with gratitude and seek to be as generous in return as God is to us. Generosity helps us become what God wants us to be and assists us in our life of faithful discipleship.

Grateful for God's gifts to us, all are invited to tithe (10%) or to begin a journey of proportional giving. To tithe and become a proportional giver, decide what percentage of your income you will give (see chart below).

If you are already a proportional giver but have not reached a tithe, please consider raising your giving by 1% of your income. A letter from the Stewardship Commission will be mailed soon along with a pledge card. Pledges may be made with the card or online at myfpcy.org. If giving online, log into your account then click the green "Pledge Now" button (look for the "My Giving Summary" box on your homepage). You'll also be able to set up electronic giving, if you wish.



Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$50,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,000
\$75,000	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000	\$3,750	\$4,500	\$5,250	\$6,000	\$6,750	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
\$150,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$6,000	\$7,500	\$9,000	\$10,500	\$12,000	\$13,500	\$15,000



We will dedicate all the pledges received to date on Sunday, November 19.

Thank you for your prayerful discernment, faithful living and generous stewardship.

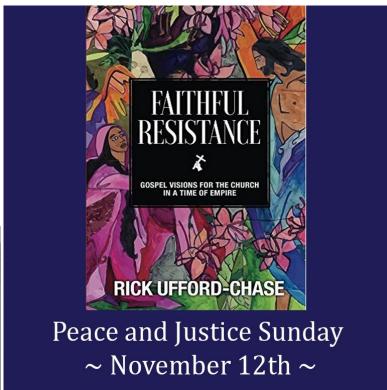
All gifts are an expression of our trust in God's provision for us and our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord over all of our lives. Believing that giving makes following God real, prayerfully consider your pledge for 2018.

Sunday, November 12, is Peace and Justice Sunday.

Our Education, Mission & Worship Commissions have invited Rick Ufford-Chase to join us for this special day.

Rick will be preaching at both services and will join us during the Adult Education hour and Sermon for Lunch at noon.





Rick and his wife Kitty Ufford-Chase are the co-directors of the Stony Point Center. Rick, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), is an executive committee member of the Presbyterian Peace fellowship and is the author of *Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire*.



Operations Commission

Fall is here once again and with it brings the need to prepare for winter.

Fall Work Party Saturday, November 4th 8:30am-12:30pm

We need volunteers for our annual Fall clean-up.

Many hands make light work (and add more fun), so please join us!

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The Reformations and Faithful Resistance

How are those two topics related? They are topics we are exploring in Adult Ed this fall.

Our Sunday morning Reformation study continues until Sunday, November 5.

We are looking at the Reformation as we mark the 500th anniversary of Martin

Luther's nailing his theses on the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral. We meet every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the library/
lounge. Come and bring a friend!

We're using Donald McKim's book The Protestant Reformations http://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680868/the-protestant-reformations-participant-book.aspx. We are supplementing this book with videos from the Khan Academy. Feel free to join us even if you aren't reading the book.

- Sunday, November 12, is Peace and Justice Sunday. Rick Ufford-Chase will be joining us. Rick and his wife Kitty Ufford -Chase are the co-directors of the Stony Point Center. Rick is the author of *Faithful Resistance: Gospel Visions for the Church in a Time of Empire*. He will be preaching at both services and will join us during the adult ed hour and Sermon for Lunch at noon.
- Sunday, November 19 we'll explore the Christian practice of gratitude, just in time for Thanksgiving.
- Our Advent study will be fun (really!). Join us on Sundays beginning December 3 and ending on December 17 for a study on *The Redemption of Scrooge*. We'll be using a book by Matt Rawle, who has subtitled his study "Go from "Bah, Humbug" to a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas."
- The Women's Circle continues to meet on the first Wednesday morning of each month, from 10:30 until noon. The group is led by Tami and is following the Horizons curriculum, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. All women are welcome to attend one or more of these meetings. You don't have to attend every session to get a lot out of the study!
- The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 4 at 7:30am in Fellowship Hall, prior to the Fall cleanup day.
- Our Thursday morning 10 11:30 AM class is watching How Jesus Became God, a series from the Great Courses. The professor is Bart D. Erhman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Join us at any time-you don't have to attend every session.
- ₩ We are running two sessions of Disciple II Bible study classes, one on Tuesday morning and one on Wednesday evening. Please let Tami, Chip or Connie know if you are interested in the first Disciple course, Disciple I.

Please note that there will be no classes on Sunday, November 26, Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve day) or Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve day).

And now you know how the Reformations and Faithful Resistance are connected!

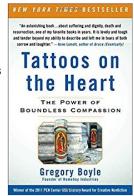
See you in class,

Connie Knapp, for the Adult Ed planning team

New in the Church Library

The gang-infested ghettos of Los Angeles are so far from suburban Westchester County that it's difficult to imagine what it's like. Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle has gathered anecdotes and insights from nearly 30 years of working with gang members in **Tattoos on the Heart: the Power of Boundless Compassion** (261.8 B). Founder and director of the biggest gang-intervention program in the country, Homeboy Industries, he distills his experiences into a series of parables inspired by faith. From giant, tattooed Cesar, shopping at JCPenney fresh out of prison, we learn how to feel worthy of God's love. From ten-year-old Lula we learn the importance of being known and acknowledged. From Pedro we understand the kind of patience necessary to rescue someone from the darkness. Of course, not every encounter was successful; still, I found these stories very moving and humbling.

Carol Jensen, Church Librarian



Adult Education

Knitting Groups



Prayer Shawl Group will meet next on November 1st at 9:30 am and again on the 15th at 10:30am. Anyone who would like to join us in knitting is most welcome. In addition to the regular knitters who come on Wednesdays, we have at least seven off site knitters. Any

questions please call Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294 or Fran Schiel at 914-245-5396.

The Knit Togethers will meet on November 13 & 27 and December 11th. We are busy knitting hats, scarves and mittens for the Deacon's Mitten Tree in December—only ONE month away! As usual we continue working on lap blankets for local nursing homes. All who knit or crochet are welcome to join us. Our meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 10:00am to 11:30am in the Lounge/Rm 15. Contacts: Norean Radke (962-4370 or radke30@msn.com) or Lois Ostling (962-2809.)

Lunch Bunch

Thanksgiving Feast Wednesday November 15th

in the Fellowship Hall at Noon. Our Feast will be catered by Grand Central as always and the price is the same as previous years at \$18 per person. We hope you will plan to celebrate with us and enjoy the planned entertainment. The Christmas Celebration will be discussed with a few surprises, but if you

would like to mark your calendar it will be held on Wednesday December 20th, same place same time.

~Pat and John Prauda

Community Thanksgiving Service Sunday November 19 @ 4:00 pm

at Church of the Good Shepherd 39 Granite Springs Rd, Granite Springs, NY

Join with brothers and sisters of different faith traditions in the Yorktown community to express our gratitude for the blessings of life and the earth that we share and enjoy.

A freewill offering will be taken to support Yorktown Community Help, FPC Yorktown Food Pantry, and St. Mary's Food Pantry.



Noon Time Meal

All are invited to join our team of Noon time meal volunteers who prepare a



monthly meal for the Peekskill Salvation Army right here in our own kitchen. Clean veggies, dice ham, have fun!

We will meet again on **Tuesday October 7th at I I am**, but if you come early or stay a little late, we can put you to work with prepping or clean-up! We have some new faces on our team, so come and enjoy good fellowship while helping others!

For more information, contact Pat at 914-737-4674

Jan Peek Meal

Jan Peek is a Homeless Shelter for approximately 30 clients in Peekskill including veterans. Please won't you consider helping out?

A big thank you to Vinny and Amy Wallace and the Metuner Family for preparing and serving the meal to the Jan Peek clients on October 28th.



We are still in need for a family to partner with Peter and Joanne Marsh on November 25th. If you can help, please get in touch with Pat Prauda.

The 2018 Calendar is on the bulletin board off the Gathering Space, so pick your month and save the date. Providing a fresh, home-cooked meal is a wonderful way to serve those experiencing homelessness in our community

~Pat Prauda, 737-4674 or ppladyofscotland@aol.com

Congregational Life

We all enjoy coffee hour and look forward to our coffee or tea after worship service, while our children are in Sunday School or as a quick pick me up before we dash off to Adult Ed. Coffee hour is also a great time to meet and get to know visitors and new comers to our congregation. "Willing hands make light work!" Please consider signing up to assist with coffee hour. It isn't necessary to sign up for all the tasks on a given Sunday. You can sign up to help with set up, bring purchased or home made goodies or pitch in and help clean up. If we all do a little, then no one person has to do a lot!

Special thank you to Pat Prauda for all she does every week to keep the coffee flowing!

Deborah Bernardini, Co-Chair of Congregational Life

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ANNUAL Alternative Giving Christmas Market: Sundays, November 12 and 19;

Hard to believe it is that time of year again. Christmas will be here before we know it. Our Alternative Giving Christmas Market is coming soon and will offer the opportunity to remind kids and adults alike whose birthday this truly is, Jesus'! We also hope that through this market we remember the needs of others and fair treatment through the purchase of Fair Trade gifts. It's a good way to give a gift to Jesus by caring for others, as well as gifting loved ones with a handmade gift that can also help others.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.""

(Acts 20:35)

We will continue to sell handmade items from various developing countries including India, Indonesia, Philippines, Africa, Central and South America. We will also offer coffee and tea from Dean's Beans. We may even offer Fair trade tea this year, as well. There will be an opportunity to purchase shares of animals or seeds for needy communities through the Presbyterian Gift Catalogue.

So once again, our market can provide a bang for your buck: buy a gift, help the world and give Jesus a great birthday gift to boot.





Hope to see you shopping at our market.

Food Pantry Cards



Need a gift for someone who has everything? Looking for an alternative to the commercial Christmas gift? Need a hostess gift to take to Thanksgiving dinner or a holiday party?

Why not make a donation to our Food Pantry in honor of a friend or family member? Donations can be made in <u>any</u> amount AND they will be doubled via our matching program with the FPCY Food Pantry Trust!

For each donation, you can select a card that you can mail or deliver in-person. Look for the table in the Gathering Space soon!

Deacons' Corner

DID YOU KNOW? The First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown Food Pantry has a matching Grant that is critical to their ability to serve the hungry. This Grant will match, up to \$10,000.00 each year, all of the monetary donations that individuals give! The gifts given and the matching funds cover about 50% of the Food Pantry Operating Budget each year.

DID YOU KNOW? So far in 2017 the Deacons Ministry has only received \$5,000.00 in Individual contributions, putting our 2018 Operating Budget in jeopardy. At this rate we will lose out on \$5,000.00 of the matching funds.

DID YOU KNOW? You have the power to change that! Please make a Food Pantry gift before the end of this year. Don't wait until December 3 lst. Do it NOW. We have very nice cards that you can use to let someone know that for their Birthday, Thanksgiving or Christmas you have given a Gift to our Food Pantry in their honor or in celebration of a special event. (see page 2)

Food Pantry
Item-of-the-Month

Dried Beans Any Color

(I pound bags)

Next Dates: November 11 & 18 9 to 11 am

DID YOU KNOW? We count on your Gifts! We need your Gifts to continue the work that we all as a Congregation have committed to.

DID YOU KNOW? There are Service opportunities at the Food Pantry – Come one! Come all! There are jobs for everyone at any age or physical ability. This is our busiest time of the year. We need help on Fridays for sorting foods and stocking shelves. We need people to pick up bread from two local businesses for distribution on Saturday mornings. You can help distribute the food and manage the inventory on Saturday mornings... There is a job for everyone, and we have lots of fun... come see and participate in Mission in action!



We need you on Fridays from 3- 4:30 PM — November 10, 17, and December 1 & 15 and Saturdays from 8-11:30 AM — November 11, 18 and December 2 & 16.

Please contact Katharine Frase (kfrase98@gmail.com) with questions or to sign up to volunteer...even "drop-ins" are welcome, however, we can make the best use of your time if we know you are coming.

This is a particularly exciting time of year. Along with the Food Pantry, you can help the Deacons with the distribution of Toys for Tots and the "Hat and Mitten" tree which are both coming up in December. Keep your eyes out for more information about Toys for Tots and the Hat and Mitten Tree.

Come and join us. Live out Jesus' command to love one another as He has loved us. As always, we thank you in advance for you donations, support, blessings and prayers. God Bless you.

Carol Thorne Gaetani and Katharine Frase for the Deacons

100% of our Thanksgiving Offering will buy hams to supplement the food we give through our December Food Pantry.

Christmas hams are an "extra" that would not normally be provided.

Please give generously so that we help everyone enjoy the holiday season.

Thanksgiving Offering 2017



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Fall Dates to Save

November

11/12 Youth Group 4:30pm—Middle School 6:00pm—High School

11/19

3:30pm meet at the church to carpool to the Community Thanksgiving Service at Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs

December

12/10 Youth Group 4:30pm—Middle School 6:00pm—High School

12/17 Christmas Caroling All Youth, time TBD

FPCY YOUTH

Thank you to everyone who came to the Lock-In on Columbus weekend! We had a ton of fun.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

And thanks to everyone from the congregation who donated supplies for the hygiene kits we assembled at the Lock-In! Thanks to everyone's donations of washcloths, nail clippers,

soap and other items, we were able to put together 60 kits. These will be distributed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help people who have to evacuate their homes when disasters strike.

In addition to making hygiene kits, we also baked some extra fancy brownies and made a late night brownie delivery to the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps as a way of saying thank you to our neighborhood First Responders who keep our communities safe.

Big thanks to the adults who came to assist at the Lock-In - those who stayed up late and those who got up really early - we couldn't have done it without you!



This month, we will be meeting on November 12. On November 19, all youth and families are invited to attend and take part in the annual Yorktown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, which is happening at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Granite Springs. This service is going to be interactive, intercultural, and a great chance to get to know our neighbors from other faith communities in Yorktown. The service starts at 4 pm - we will meet at FPCY to carpool at 3:30.

Questions? Concerns? Reach out to Steph Hare at 914-826-1227, youth@fpcyorktown.org



Calling all 8th - 12th graders: What are you doing next summer?

How about the Montreat Youth Conference, July 29 - August 4, 2018 in beautiful Montreat, NC?

This conference is a unique gathering of young people from all over the country for a week of study, worship, and recreation. Activities include morning energizers, music, keynote, small group meetings, afternoon recreation activities, and evening worship. This year's conference theme is "Lift Every Voice".

Start checking your family's summer calendar and stay tuned for information coming soon!





June 3-August 4, 2018 montreat.org/youth

Sunday School "Chalkboard"



The Sunday School program is in full swing -- and in full "sing"! "Moses and the Burning Bush" was the unit for most of October, and the children have been quick to learn both the story and the cheerful song accompany-

ing the lesson, which features a big word: POTENTIALITY. Ask your child to teach you the song that starts with "I am a promise!" The eagerness to have a turn passing the offering plate, the earnest sharing of joys and concerns, and the excitement around which rotation (art, Bible skills/games, science, and cooking) each grade is headed to... these are just some of the joys we observe every Sunday morning at Gathering Time with the children.



The Connect (5th/6th grade) class has been having fun since the start of the school year learning about Jesus, from his miraculous birth to his childhood. Jesus' wisdom was even evident at a tender age of 12, which is

right around the age of some of our children in the class. How great and relatable is that?!







The Re:Form 7th and 8th graders are learning about our ancestors from the Old Testament: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Jacob, and Moses so far!

SAVE THE DATE!! On Sunday, November 26, please join us in Fellowship Hall for the annual Christmas Tree decorating! All grades are invited, and feel free to bring a friend.

Peace, Jessica Mayes, Abby & Andy Cross







Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

December 2 @ 1:30 pm—3:30 pm

December 9 @ 1:30 pm—3:30 pm December 16 @ 1:30 pm—3:30 pm

December 23 @ I:30 pm—3:30 pm

December 24

9:00 am (dress rehearsal)

10:45 am Worship Service & Pageant



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Gerard Carelli Jazz Quartet -- A Jazz Holiday Soiree



In December, jazz singer and trombonist Gerard Carelli and his quartet will enliven the Christmas Season with a Jazz Concert on **Saturday, December 9th at 7:30pm**

To learn more about the Carelli Collective, check out Gerard's website: www.carellicollective.com

Did you know that Amazon will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to FPCY if you set the church as your designated charity in the Amazon Smile program?

Just go to smile.amazon.com to set the church as your charity, and from then on, every time you shop at smile.amazon.com the contribution will automatically happen!

There are even browser extensions that will redirect you automatically to smile.amazon.com every time you shop at Amazon.

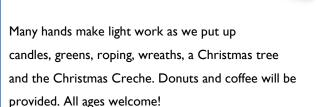
So consider going to smile.amazon.com today to set things up!



Deck the Halls

Saturday, December 2

All are welcome to become part of this holiday tradition as we decorate our sanctuary for Advent and Christmas.



We'll start at 8:30 am.



Something New from the Mission Commission

Come to our own Fellowship Hall to explore the vast range of artisans that the Hudson Valley has to offer (including our own Barbara & Gary Santagata). All of the vendors that you meet will be peer-reviewed and selected from the local area. Perfect for that one of a kind holiday gift — Clothing, jewelry, artwork, home décor, pottery, soaps, and tasty treats!





Time to put the annual Giving Sunday on your calendar: Sunday, December 3.

Choose from one (or all) of the following 4 giving opportunities:

We need new unwrapped toys for young children for **Bedford Prison Children's program** as part of the parenting program there. They especially ask for games, crafts kits, dolls of color, sports equipment, grooming kits for older children, books, make up kits, and gifts cards for music, etc. They cannot accept any guns or violence-promoting toys, nor can they receive stuffed animals or clothing that is green, orange or black.

We also need new unwrapped gifts for our Marine's **Toys For Tots** distribution. Because our distribution is on December 9, we have been told that it is an early distribution date and donations may be limited. Also donated items tend to be for younger children, so we would like to emphasize gifts for older children, even though all would be appreciated.

You can also bring in new hats and mittens for our Hat and Mitten Tree. All sizes are needed.

Also, gifts to the **Christmas Joy Special Offering** of the PCUSA can be made.







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

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



Nov	I 9:30am Prayer Shawl I 0:30am Women's Circle 7:00pm Disciple 2 Bible Study	2 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	3	4 7:30am Men's Breakfast 8:30am Fall Clean-up		
5 8:30am & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed, New Members & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells Congregational Conversation & Potluck with the Ministry Development Team	6	7 Election Day 9:30am Disciple 2 Bible Study 11am Noontime Meal Prep 7:30pm Session	7:00pm Disciple 2 Bible Study	9 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	3:00pm Food Pantry Set-up	9am Food Pantry
12 Peace & Justice Sunday Alternative Giving Fair 8:30am & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:30pm MS Youth Group 6:00pm HS Youth Group	10:00am Knit Togethers	9:30am Disciple 2 Bible Study 7:30pm Worship & Operations	15 9:00am Stewardship 10:30am Prayer Shawl 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Disciple 2 Bible Study	16 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	3:00pm Food Pantry Set-up	9am Food Pantry 9am Arts & Crafts Fair
19 Alternative Giving Fair 8:30am & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed & Confirmation 12:00pm Youth Bells 4:00pm Interfaith Service @ Church of the Good Shepherd	20	9:30am Disciple 2 Bible Study 7:30pm Mission	22	Thanksgiving Office Closed	24	6:00pm Jan Peek Meal
26 Christ the King Sunday 8:30am & 10:45am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Adult Ed & Confirmation New Members Class 12:00pm Youth Bells	10:00am Knit Togethers	28 9:30am Disciple 2 Bible Study 7:30pm Education/ Communications	7:00pm Disciple 2 Bible Study	30 10:00am Adult Bible Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir		