

THE EPISTLE

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's United Methodist Church

HOW LONG?

The following are some sayings and bits of folk wisdom about the month of March.

- March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.
- March winds and April showers bring May flowers.
- Beware the Ides of March.

Also occurring during the month of March many years ago was a famous speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. It was given in Montgomery, AL on the 25th of March, 1965. In the speech, Dr. King asked how long will it be until the hopes of his people would be realized, "How long will justice be crucified and truth bear it?" he asks.

Then he says, "I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth crushed to earth will rise again."

All through the speech responses from the audience were lifted up: "Speak!" "All right!" "How long?" "Amen!" "Help him Jesus!" "Preach it!" All were spoken out loud to offer affirmation. Dr. King asked over and over, "How long?" and then gave a response.

"How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever."

"How long? Not long, because you shall reap what you sow."

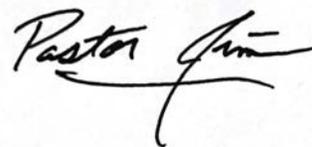
"How long? Not long, because the truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne, yet that scaffold sways to the future, and behind the dim unknown standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own."

"How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

"How long? Not long, because: Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat. O, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant my feet! Our God is marching on. Glory, hallelujah! Glory, hallelujah! Glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on."

St. Luke's, that is the glorious testimony of Scripture. Evil shall not have the last word. His truth is march on!

Faithfully,



Pastor Jim

Lent Opportunities and Holy Week 2026



Tuesday Services

Feb 24 - Mar. 24
Noon



Egg Hunt

March 28
11:00a-12:00p



Palm Sunday

Voices of the Passion
March 29
10:30a Concert



Holy Week Service

April 2
6p Service



Easter Sunrise

April 5
7:30a Service



Easter Sunday

April 5
10:30a Service



LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES AT NOON

**Each Tuesday during Lent
in the Chapel**

Feb. 24- March 24

**Complimentary Soup &
Sandwich Lunch**

**Immediately After the Service
in the Lounge**

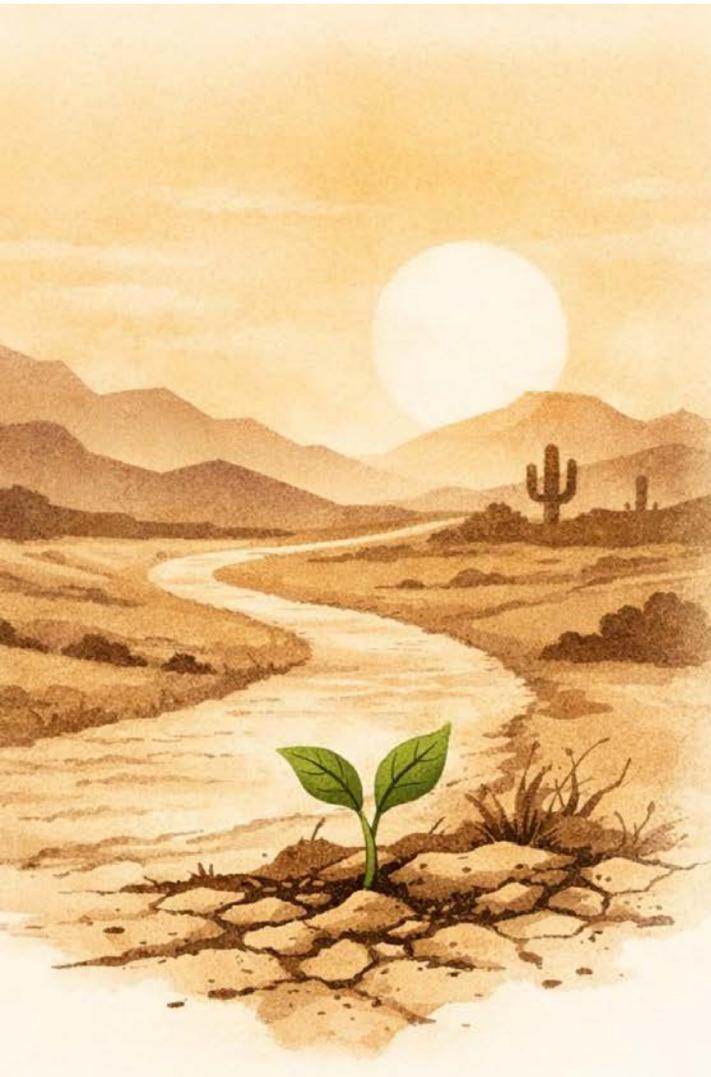
Guest Preachers:

March 3- Rev. Harry Colter

March 10- Rev. Tondala Hayward

March 17- Rev. Dr. David Weatherly

March 24- Rev. Amy Martin



Sunday Morning Lenten Preaching Series:

Growing While We Wait ONGOING

Week 3: Grow in Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Week 4: Grow in Fruitfulness

Luke 13:6-9

Week 5: Grow in Perseverance

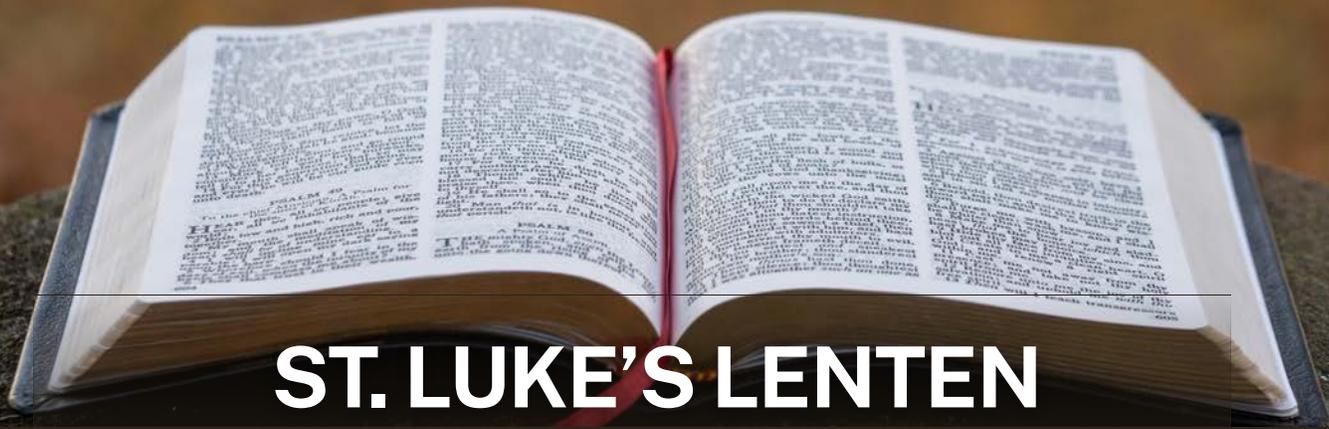
Philippians 3:12-14



The Fun Bunch Activities

- **The Fun Bunch will be going to Calvary Episcopal Lenten Series on March 25th. The guest speaker is Best Selling Author Barbara Brown Taylor. The Lenten Luncheon is at 11am with the speaker at noon. We will be leaving the church at 10a by the church bus. Please sign up at the hospitality hall desk by Sunday March 22nd.**

Questions ? Call Jim or Jeanne Debo 413-3341



ST. LUKE'S LENTEN

BIBLE

Study

Town Village Audubon Park– Town Hall

950 Cherry Rd.

Memphis, TN 38117

6pm–7pm

Please bring your driver's license to check in

For questions: 901-499-2446

Led by Rev. Dennis Neenan

March 4: John 14

March 11: John 15

March 18: John 16

March 25: John 17

Hop on over for our

EASTER

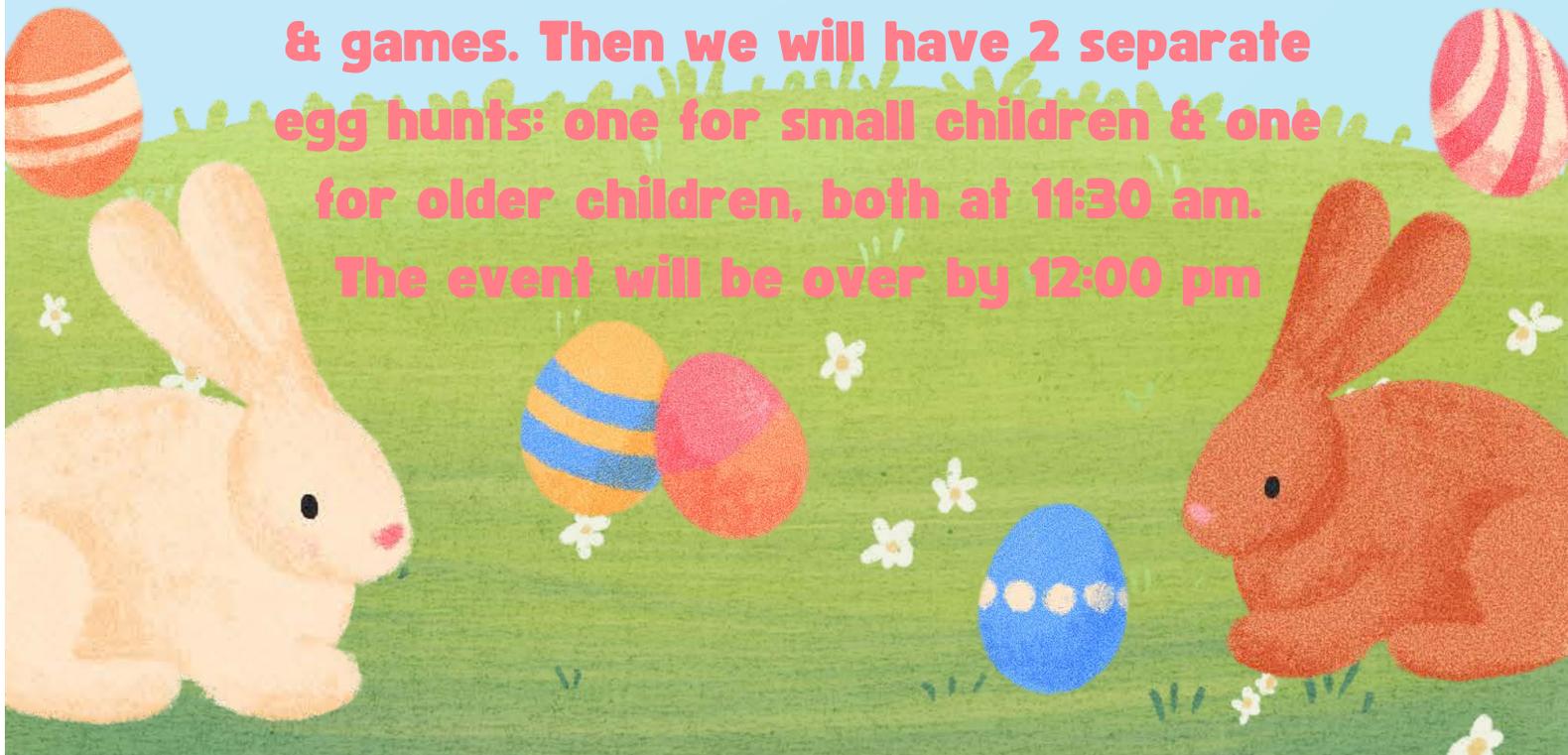
Egg hunt

Join us on

March 28th, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

for some egg-citing fun!

**This event is FREE and open to all!
Doors open at 11:00 am for inside crafts
& games. Then we will have 2 separate
egg hunts: one for small children & one
for older children, both at 11:30 am.
The event will be over by 12:00 pm**



Easter Clothing Drive

**St. Luke's Easter Clothing drive will be
March 1st- March 28th.**

Cute Spring sweaters and dresses, ties and dress shirts are welcome for ages 3-11. A clothing rack will be in the hospitality hall. Monetary donations using the church giving app: select special gift and specify "Sherwood Easter Clothing" in notes. Envelopes with checks or cash marked for "Sherwood Easter Clothing" can placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

The Church Ladies Small Group,
Melinda Kaler, Barbara Simpson,
Jacki Romey
Contact: mtkaler1111@gmail.com



Children's Ministry NEWS

In our Children's Ministries at St. Luke's we have so many fun things planned for the very special Lenten Season! First, we have brought back our combined Sunday School class. Be sure to join us at 9:15 am in the downstairs classroom for your kids to take a deeper look into this important time in the life of Christ, the Lenten Season. Next, we will have the highly anticipated annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 28th from 11:00 am-12:00 pm and we still need volunteers! We will start with some indoor games and crafts from 11:00-11:30 am. We will then have two Easter Egg hunts for different age groups running at the same time at 11:30 am. The event will be over by noon. We will also be taking donations of small individually wrapped candy to stuff the eggs, as well as Little Debbie Snack Cakes for the cake walk. Please leave any donations behind the front desk. We will need volunteers of every variety so if you are interested in helping at all, big or small, please let Mary Page know at marypage.contreras@stlukesumc.org.



The Waffle Shop at Calvary Episcopal Church is right around the corner. It will be open Thursday, February 19 through Friday, March 27 and is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11am-1:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, please let Doey know what days you would like to work. There are several volunteer positions available besides servers! Thanks! Doey- 901-351-7942

FEBRUARY 2026 HONORIUMS AND MEMORIALS:

Memorials:

In Memory of Bette Colter from Mary Lou Cushing, Sarah Jordan, Nichele LeGrand-Murphy, Shirley Robinson, Karen Kinney, Carolyn Galloway, Hal and Betty Padgett, Dr. Welch Agnew, Barbara Simpson, Rorie Read, David and April Carpenter, Miller Delgadillo, David and Virginia Wages, Janie Hendrix, Dot Dickey and Mary Palmer, Jamille Laughlin, Mel and Judy Corning, Rita Richardson, Kaci DeJarnette, Glen Colbert and Roland Bullock

In Memory of Margaret Williams from Mark and Barbara Melton (from the family of Elaine Melton), Katie and Larry Kaler, Janie Hendrix.

In Memory of Robert Hollingsworth from Rita Richardson

Our Church Facilities

St. Luke's UMC Board of Trustees would like to report on several building improvements completed in 2025 as well as a few upcoming projects for 2026. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of all our facilities, and these improvements are funded from a portion of the interest income earned from our Endowment and from the generous donations and bequeathments of our members.

- Often, the many roofs around our campus leak, so roof repairs are constantly being attended to, several of which were repaired in 2025, with more to come in 2026.
- Our many heating and air conditioning systems also need constant attention, but thankfully, the units in the Sanctuary have been repaired in 2025 and/or will be replaced in 2026. The units in the Fellowship Hall and the 1st Floor of the Children's Building will be replaced in 2027, if not sooner.
- A new fence was installed in 2025 along the entire east property line. Take a look the next time you park your car in the lot near the Green Space!
- New Chapel Seating was purchased in 2025, and the Chapel lighting will be improved in 2026. Please attend the Tuesday noon-day services during Lent and enjoy these comfortable new chairs!
- The water-damaged plaster walls in many areas in the Main Building, including the Chapel, the new UMNC offices under the Sanctuary, and several 2nd and 3rd Floor Offices and Classrooms were recently repaired and repainted. "Thank you" to our church staff for their patience during this project!
- New furniture for the south Elevator Lobby in the Main Building is planned for 2026, and it will be a welcomed and "welcoming" update to that area.
- Sanctuary Improvements are on-going, but many were completed in 2025, such as the installation of the beautiful, new doors at our Highland Street entrance, and the repair/re-finishing of the wood wainscot on the south wall. Additional improvements planned for 2026 include cleaning of the ductwork & ceiling grilles, replacing recessed lightbulbs and spotlights, and installing new carpet and hard flooring.

This list is just a sample of the many projects, both large and small, that the Trustees review and approve during the year, and that our wonderful Facilities Manager, Larry Blanks, and his assistant, Leon Clark, implement to keep our church well-maintained. Please give them a big "THANK YOU!" the next time you see them!

Make Sunday Count!

Sunday School Classes Community, Friendship & Sharing Faith with each other

Seekers: Continue with the Book of Luke. The teachers are Michael Wofford, Beth Ryan, Rob Kaler and Warren Morrison.

We continue to build on the lessons we shared with our teacher Bettye Masters. They meet in Room 215.

Newman Class: Continuing the study of Eugene Peterson's book, *A Leap Over a Wall: Earthly Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. Peterson explores the life of King David as shepherd, poet, warrior, and sinner and provides a "comprehensive earthly look at what it means to live for God" - in Room 213.

Growing Disciples: We are reading the Book of John with the Barclay resource in the Library

Christian Homebuilders: We are studying *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton for Lent in Room 108.

Youth: Starting a 6 week Lenten series on the third floor

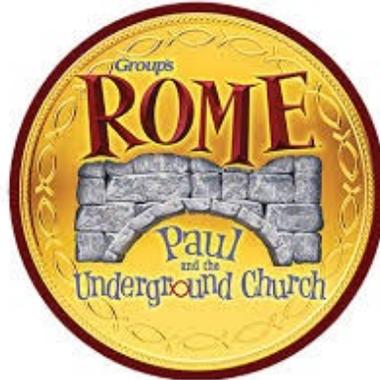
Children classes meet in Children's Building: Children in grades 3-5 meet upstairs. Children JK - 2 meet in the first floor.

Please contact Ruth Morrison if you have any questions :
ruthmorrison28@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.....

ROME VBS IS COMING TO ST. LUKE'S!

Make plans now to time travel back to Ancient Rome to meet Paul and learn about the Underground Church on June 1-4 from 5:30 to 7:30. At Rome Vacation Bible School, rising Pre-K4 through rising 5th Graders will have a colossal time loving Jesus, learning, singing, dancing, playing, crafting, eating, and being with friends. Registration opens Monday, April 6th. Please start passing the word to your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors that we are planning another great trip to the Ancient World to learn about Jesus and his followers. There will be an organizational meeting for adult volunteers on Sunday, March 22, immediately following worship. Adult and Youth Volunteers are still needed and if you would like to help, text or call Lynne McAlexander at 901-550-3091.



Day School

NEWS



Spring is just around the corner! Time begins to fly as we approach the end of the school year!

New Infant Room:

The additional infant room that opened in January feels like it's been here forever! Ms. Maddi, Ms. Amber and Ms. Madysan are doing a great job of caring for our newest babies and their families.

Pastry Party/Basket Raffle:

Our annual fundraiser will be Wednesday, April 1, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Church members are more than welcome to purchase tickets and join the fun raffle. Each class donates a wonderful basket and families also get donations from local businesses. It is a fun morning!

End of Year Activities:

We will enjoy a fun Field Day and picnic on Wednesday, May 13. Our End of Year program will be Wednesday, May 20, 9:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Our sweet JK class will graduate on that day. Our last day of school will be Thursday, May 21.

We can't believe another year is almost over!

March 2026

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- US Holidays
- St. Luke's UMC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM Breaking Bread Together Again 11:45AM Chosen Film Study 11:45AM Meeting 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Lenten Weekly Service/Lunch 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Club Scouts 7:00PM Coin Club Meeting 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:30PM Stamp Club 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM Art Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga
<p>8</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 11:30AM SPRC Meeting 11:45AM Chosen Film Study 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 11:00AM Betty Carter Memorial Service 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Lenten Weekly Service/Lunch 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 6:00PM United Women of Faith 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Club Scouts 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 10:30AM Exercise Class 11:00AM Worship Committee 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Food Pantry 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM Art Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 4:00PM Pinewood Derby Setup 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga 4:00PM Scouts District Pinewood Derby
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45AM Chosen Film Study 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 5:00PM Gladi Helpers 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Lenten Weekly Service/Lunch 1:00PM Pickleball 6:00PM Trustee Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Club Scouts 7:00PM Coin Club 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM Art Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 5:30PM Communication Committee 	<p>20</p> <p>Eid al-Fitr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga 6:00PM Room In The Inn
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Sweet Sunday 10:30AM Worship Service 11:45AM Chosen Film Study ... Room In The Inn 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00PM Lenten Weekly Service/Lunch 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 6:00PM Finance Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Club Scouts 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:00AM Fun Bunch to Calvary 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Food Pantry 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM Art Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga 11:00AM Easter Egg Hunt
<p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00AM Community Breakfast 9:00AM Sunday School 10:30AM Palm Sunday Worship Service 3:00PM Handbell Practice 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:15AM Yoga Class 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 6:30PM Boy Scouts Troop 40 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00PM Pickleball 2:15PM Soccer Shots 5:30PM Challenger's Board Meeting 6:00PM Yoga 6:30PM Club Scouts 	<p>1</p> <p>April Fools' Day</p> <p>Passover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:00AM Day School Basket Raffle 9:00AM Chair Aerobics 10:30AM Exercise Class 12:00PM Practice Pickleball 2:30PM Wings Gymnastics 6:00PM Stamp Club 6:30PM Choir Practice 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00AM AI-Anon 1:00PM Art Gathering 1:00PM Pickleball 6:00PM Holy Week Service 	<p>3</p> <p>Good Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30AM Men's Basketball League 8:00AM Good Friday - No School 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30AM Yoga