

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY, 2019

From the pastor

Mary's day began just like every other one of her days: tending to the usual list of daily chores. On any given day, there was water to be drawn from the well, clothes to be hammered clean, lamps to be trimmed with oil, food gathered and cooked, Sabbath preparations. The house wasn't very big but because so many people lived there, everything had to be kept pretty organized. Besides her parents, Mary had two sisters and a two year old brother. She wasn't the oldest—she was second from the oldest, but at age fourteen, she was already taller than Rebekah, the oldest who was seventeen. Hannah was ten and then there was little David. David's arrival had increased the need to keep everything in the house tidy as he now spent his days stretching as far as his little arms and legs would allow, and knocking off everything in sight.

Today Mary's mother, sisters and brother were at the marketplace buying food, and her father was at his shop. He was a cloth dyer, a business whose clients came mostly from the upper class, since dyed cloth was expensive. It was a good living but required long hours due to the time it took to create dyes from flowers and plants, and the time it took to dry the fabrics. Mary would have liked to have gone to the market, too, but her mother insisted that she finish grinding the grain into flour while David was out of the way or there would be no grain to grind and much to clean up! David liked to grab fistfuls of the wheat grain and throw it around the house. That kid could get away with murder, Mary thought.

So that day, Mary was grinding away in the little room next to the largest, main room of the house and couldn't hear much except the steady "krick, krick, krick" of the stone pushing against the grain. She would pause only to pour out what she had crushed into basket, and add more grain to be pummeled by the stone. Mary paused long enough to look at her hands, which were red and calloused. They were red because of today's chore but they would always be calloused and rough. She sighed. Women who had soft hands were the women who had servants, or those Roman women who lived in the procurator Pilate's house. Not that she'd ever touched their hands, but she imagined they had soft hands, scented with lavender or some exotic oil from Ethiopia or Thebes.

In the midst of her thoughts, Mary thought she heard a knock at the door. She stood up, wiped her hands on the cloth tied around her waist, and went to the door. There was no one there. Mary stepped out and looked to her right and left, but the street was quiet. Eli's wife was seated outside of her house, weaving palm branches into a basket. She waved at Mary, Mary waved back and stepped back into her house. But as she turned around, she bumped into a man standing there in the middle of the room. "Oh!" Mary's eyes widened and a shiver of fear went down her spine. "Where did you. . .how did you get in here. . .sir?" she bowed respectfully although her heart was pounding. She could feel the man staring at her with great intensity. She straightened up and took a step back from him. He certainly didn't look like he was from around here, his robe was made of. . .well, what was it made of? Her father would know. Some kind of white fabric that glimmered, like light was sewn into it. His skin was flawless. He reached out and took her hand which she didn't pull back. She noted, however that there were no callouses on it. Very unusual for a man, unless this was a wealthy man, maybe a nobleman who was looking for her father.

"Hail, O Favored One," he said to Mary in a voice which was deep and light and like music, all at the same time. As he moved closer toward her, Mary took care to let nothing come between her and the open door. Fourteen-year-old girls had little enough experience with grown men other than their fathers, but Mary knew enough not to let her only exit get blocked. The man withdrew his hand from Mary's and turned to look around the room. There were large jars in the corners, and straw mats neatly folded up to one side. He reached out and touched the stone wall of the house, as if he had never seen or felt one before.

After hearing his greeting, Mary's curiosity got the better of her. "How. . .how did you get in here?" She knew that women weren't supposed to speak to men—even strange men!-- but how DID he get in here? She thought she had heard a knock, but surely would have seen him come into her house. It wasn't a very big house and there was only one door.

The man didn't answer, but continued to walk around the room, with some urgency, his robe

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Trinity Presbyterian Church

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The Trinity Times is published monthly. We welcome news items and other contributions from members and friends of Trinity. Bring your articles to the church or e-mail them to the editor, Judy Schomber (schomberstat@aol.com), by the 20th of the month for the following month's newsletter.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Sally Hughes, Pastor

William E. Berger, Minister of Music

Linda Rogers, Office Manager

Charlie Bundy, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

Vira Baker (2020) Hank Howerton (2020)

Vera Billington (2021) Paul Parker (2021)

Bill Dougherty (2020), Matt Rutherford (2019)

Phil Elbert (2019) Hank Schomber (2019)

Aad Zeeuw (2021)

JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

January 6 Epiphany of the Lord/Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-11

January 13 Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17;
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:3-11

January 27 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke: 4:14-21



MOZART IN NASHVILLE PRESENTS

MOZART'S 263RD BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Friday, January 18 at noon, St George's Episcopal
Church

Saturday, January 19 at 3 p.m, W.O. Smith School
*Suggested Donation of \$10 benefits The Little Pantry
That Could*

Mozart in Nashville is thrilled to present a unique program to celebrate Mozart's 263rd Birthday, "Mozart in Transcription; Mozart not in transcription".

The concert opens with founder Roger Wiesmeyer, joined by pianist Francoise Pierredon, performing the 40th Symphony in G minor. Wiesmeyer explains, "Playing the symphonic repertoire in piano four-hand transcription was a favorite pastime in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Before the dawn of WWI, it was really the only way amateurs could enjoy symphonic literature as concerts were rare and expensive. I can't imagine a more intimate way to experience this music."

The second half of the concert features an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin—

yes THAT Benjamin Franklin! The Glass Armonica became all the rage in Europe in the 1780s and 90s.

This rare instrument builds on the idea of playing wine glasses, but instead of rubbing the glasses arranged on a table, the crystal bowls themselves are on a moving spindle, allowing the the player to simply touch the bowls with their fingers.

"To the best of my knowledge, this instrument is having its Nashville debut with these concerts," Wiesmeyer explains. "We are privileged to have Dennis James, the world's foremost virtuoso of the glass armonica join us in the performance of two pieces that Mozart wrote for this unique instrument."



From the pastor (continued from page 1)

reflected little bits of light with every step and turn. Again, Mary wondered what material his robe was made of and how much it must have cost to make it. Oh, to have clothing not woven out of flax, that would be soft and not scratchy.

Bringing her mind back to attention, she wondered why he had just called her “favored one.” The favored one was her oldest sister Rebekah, who was prettier, more talented and would be betrothed soon. Many men in the village, old and young, were interested in Rebekah—it was just a matter of her parents’ accumulating enough for a satisfactory dowry. That’s why her father worked long hours and why her mother did extra weaving and sewing. Mary was pretty sure that her parents’ plan was to marry Rebekah off to a man who would have enough family income that he would be able to take care of their family as well. Choosing a husband was a calculated decision, sometimes made at birth when a desirable mate was carefully guided by the parents during childhood. Mary knew that her parents were less concerned with who her husband might be—in fact, she was already betrothed to Joseph, an older man in the village, a carpenter. Once Rebekah, the oldest, was married, it would be Mary’s turn. She knew that Joseph would not require much dowry from her parents. So hearing this man’s greeting, “Hail, O Favored One,” caused Mary to think that this was a case of mistaken identity.

But before she could clarify her identify for this stranger, he looked directly into her face again and said her name. “Mary,” he said, “Do not be afraid. You have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the Most High God. . . .”

The man continued speaking but Mary heard only her name, followed by “conceive and bear a son.” Conceive and bear a son? What? Who was this guy, where did he come from, and why was he saying this stuff to her? Then as he talked, Mary took in his appearance, considered the manner in which he had arrived in her house. Could he be? . . . was this man an angel? A messenger from God? So many thoughts flew through Mary’s mind in the minutes—what seemed like hours—that this man stood talking to her. If this man is an angel, why is he talking to me? Why isn’t he talking to my sister Rebekah? And who would believe me if I tell them an angel has visited me? What if I tore off a piece of his robe for proof and show my father that it’s not ordinary cloth? Or make this man wait until my mother comes back from the market or my father comes home? Conceive and bear a son? How is that even possible—I barely know Joseph, and no wedding plans have .

been set until Rebekah is married. Plus, I don’t even have much experience talking with a man let alone . . . well, you know. So Mary blurted out exactly what was on her mind, “How can this be since I am a virgin?” The man stopped giving what was sounding like a long speech and had a peculiar expression on the man’s face. It was as difficult to read as the fabric of his robe was to identify. He then answered her as confidently as if he were giving directions to the local well, something Mary had done many times for strangers.

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.”

The news of her cousin Elizabeth’s pregnancy brought Mary joy. She hoped that it was true.. Even though Elizabeth was older, she knew Elizabeth had been sad for many years. When she was about Mary’s age, Elizabeth’s family had managed to marry her off to a fine man but many years—ten or eleven—had gone by without Elizabeth becoming pregnant. Most of the family concluded—and gossiped about—the fact that Elizabeth was barren. Every year that passed without conception brought disgrace on Elizabeth’s family. What good news to hear that she was going to have a child! But distracted by that good news, Mary had not really listened to the rest of this man’s words.

“Wait. What? What did you say, before you told me about Elizabeth’s pregnancy? Something about a Spirit?” Mary leaned her head a little closer, to be sure she heard this man clearly. In even, melodious tones, the man repeated his message, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.” This time, he added a phrase and spoke slowly, “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Understanding his words, Mary felt a little wobbly. Leaning against the wall beside the door, she slid down onto the floor. Surprisingly—to her, anyway—the shimmery robed, perfectly complected man crouched down in front of her. He stared at her, not in an unkind way, but expectantly. If anyone had walked into the house at that moment, they would have seen a teenage girl, sitting on the floor opposite a grown man. Like she was child, and he was telling her story. Like she was a servant and

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ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY

The Adult Sunday school class will resume meeting in January with Sally leading it.

The class is a Bible Study class which focuses on different books of the Bible, and themes from the Bible approached from different and interesting perspectives. The class is designed for folks who know little about the Bible and those who know the Bible reasonably well. The only text for the class is the Bible, and for those who forget to bring one, there are plenty of Bibles available in the parlor. Led by Sally, the format is questions, answers, and discussion. Join us each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor for stimulating Bible study!

NEW ELDERS TO BE INSTALLED ON JANUARY 13

The elders elected by the congregation in November of 2018 will be installed during the worship service on January 13. These incoming elders -- Vera Billington, Paul Parker, and Aad Zeeuw -- form the class of 2021. Following their installation, they will immediately begin serving at the Session meeting on January 29, 2019.

Congratulations to our new elders!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 27

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 27 preceding the Soup and Chili Potluck. The annual meeting is a denominational requirement to allow churches to inform their congregations about programming, personnel, financial, and demographic issues; committee work; mission and outreach; old and new initiatives, and any other issues or business of the church which need to be announced or updated.



The Big Stitch 41

Saturday
January 12, 2019
8:30 am - 2pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church
3201 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville, TN 37215

Bring a sack lunch, or lunch may be purchased.
Drinks are provided.

Door Prizes - FREE Instruction* - FREE Seminars - FREE Patterns
- Boutique with patterns, yarn, needles & hooks -

NEW CLASSES! Big Stitch University

*Instruction is FREE, however BSU classes are by reservation only.

For more details visit KnitAndCrochetTN.org
for questions email deb@knitandcrochettn.org
or call (615) 410-0620

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION November 27, 2018

The Stated meeting of the Session was held November 27, 2018. Treasurer Linda Rutherford was present.

2019 Budget was presented and discussed. The Treasurer pointed out the deficit of expenses over Total Income was greater than last year, but this is attributable in part to the fact that this is the first year since the reorganization that there has not been a "Revitalization Pledge." There is an increase of four pledge units and Pledges are up. A few more pledges are still possible. Staff salaries include a 1.5% increase and there are increases for the Sunday nursery staff. It was noted the Savings area of the budget can adequately handle the deficit. The Session passed the budget.

Howell Farm's 2018 final payment has still not been received and the Treasurer was preparing to send an invoice. The Session agreed that if Howell asks to return next season (2019) Trinity would require a full payment up front.

Elder Robert Rutherford reported he had spoken to a senior official in the Fire Marshall's Office who told him she found no requirement for adding the exit signs requested earlier by inspector Linda Brown of the Fire Marshall Staff.

The Pastor noted there will be an organizing meeting for the Healthy Churches' study this Thursday, November 29.

After considerable discussion about the Oversight Committee's request for a revised/updated plan for

Trinity, it was agreed Elder Hank Schomber would chair the effort to revise the plan, with the session providing input. It was also agreed the revision should receive input from the Healthy Church Study about to begin.

The Pastor reported Trinity had reached its goal and delivered 800 "snacks" to Riverbend Prison for its Christmas Gift Bag program for prisoners.

The Session Called a Meeting of the Congregation to present the budget and request the congregation's approval of the Pastor's Call.

The Session called for the Annual Congregational Meeting and Installation of new officers on January 13, 2019.

The Session agreed to continue Trinity's tradition of staff Christmas gifts.

There will be a neighborhood Carol Sing at Trinity on December 23rd at 3:00 p.m.

The annual Chili luncheon will be January 27 after church.

There will be a Session Retreat on Saturday, January 19.

On December 2. The session met and received Daniel Brawner as a new member.

The Pastor's Call was approved at a congregational meeting on December 16.

From the pastor (continued from page 3)

he was giving her instructions. Like she had received a message and he was waiting for an answer.

Mary took a deep breath and wondered if all of this could really be happening to her. Impulsively, she reached out and rubbed the fabric of the man's robe between her fingertips. It felt soft, smooth, wonderful, unlike any fabric she had ever felt or known. The man smiled. He extended his hands, and helped her to her feet. She felt stronger from his touch, but this time, she thought she felt a callous or two and a bit of roughness on his hands.

Her family would be home from the marketplace soon. Mary didn't know what she would say to them, or if she would say anything at all. She stared into the eyes of the man who held her hands, waiting. She knew what he was waiting for.

"Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." She swallowed hard but managed a brave smile. The man gave her hands a tiny squeeze and Mary closed her eyes. When she opened them again, he was gone.

Mary went to the doorway and looked to her right and to her left, but saw no one. She saw Eli's wife, still weaving. She turned and looked around the house, but it was empty. She was alone. Shaking her head at what had just happened—or had anything happened?—she went back to the task of grinding grain. But as Mary picked up the stone, she noticed that something was different: her once calloused, red, hands were now as smooth and soft as an angel's.

OFFICE HOURS FOR SALLY HUGHES

Sally has office hours Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and also by appointment if someone needs to come by earlier or later.

GOD'S TIME...OBSERVATION FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE...

A few years ago, a church in another state closed, and Trinity was the recipient of some choir robes. The choir and music directors decided not to pursue wearing robes, so the robes have been stored...until Friday, December 28. Sally made a connection with someone who wanted choir robes for a church in Camaroon, and the person was visiting Nashville for Christmas. The robes were picked up, and as folks travel from the U.S. to Camaroon in the coming months, gradually they will be transported to their new home church! Don't you love how God has a way of taking care of details...in God's time?!"



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sara Anne Berger 3
Jonathan Oppenheimer 5
Thoma Parker 5
Peter O'Brien 22
Ruth Sims 22
Anna Reside 26

Our apologies if we have missed your birthday or if it is incorrect. If we have missed or muffed your special day please call the church office at 297-6513 and let us know.

SPECIAL GROUP ACTIVITY MEETINGS

*****Wandering Presbyterians** will not have a January outing but will resume its travels in February.

*****Presbyterian Women** meet the first Tuesday of the month at 11 a.m. in the Trinity parlor; however, due to the New Year's Day holiday, the January meeting will be Tuesday, January 8 We will study lesson 5 , "God With Us When We're Powerless" from our study book, *God's Promise: I Am with You*. Please bring a sandwich or salad for lunch The next regular meeting of PW will be Tuesday, February 5.

***You are invited to join the **Changing Gears** group for lunch and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Lunch is at 11 a.m.followed by the program. Call Trisha Biggs at the Westminster church office (292-5526) for reservations or if you'd like more information.

SAVE YOUR PENNIES!

Keep saving your pennies and coins! Trinity is joining Ms. Cheap's Penny Drive to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank. From November 1st - January 31st, you can make a big difference with the change in your pocket. With every \$1 donated to Second Harvest, 4 meals will be provided to our neighbors in need. Hunger is a reality for nearly 400,000 Middle Tennesseans! In the East Hall, there are cans available for collecting pennies. Take one home, fill it up, and return it to the church office. (Since 2009, this Drive has raised more than \$477,000, providing almost two million meals to hungry Middle Tennesseans!)



THE ONLINE CALENDAR

For a complete list of activities, visit www.trinitypresnashville.org and click on “church calendar”. The calendar is updated regularly as activities are added, deleted, or changed. If your committee or group schedules a meeting using the church’s facilities, please contact Linda (297-6513 or office@trinitypresnashville.org) so your meeting can be placed on the calendar, or if there is a facilities conflict, it can be resolved before scheduling.

TRINITY TRACKINGS

If you have any news or announcements to share with the congregation, please pass them along to Sally via e-mail or word-of-mouth or drop a note in the offering plate on Sunday so they may be shared in the next Trinity Trackings column. Any and all tidbits of news are welcome!



Phil Elbert and Jackie Brawner got engaged!

Dan McGeachy's brother, Martin and Cindy McGeachy, daughters Rebekah and Rachel McGeachy worshipped at Trinity on December 29th. Dan's entire family--which included his sister Liz, brother-in-law Tim and niece and nephew, Graham and Walker--celebrated Christmas together at Dan's home.

Bailey Nunn, Ethan Hobson, and Grant Hobson were home from college and came to Trinity's candlelight service.

Vera Billington enjoyed spending Christmas with her daughter, Chrissy Billington, her two grandchildren, and Mickey Arnold.

The Betty family came to Trinity's candlelight service--and on December 29th, Kim Betty and Cleo were in worship!

Jimbo Cook and his sisters, Connie and Mary Ann, were at the candlelight service.

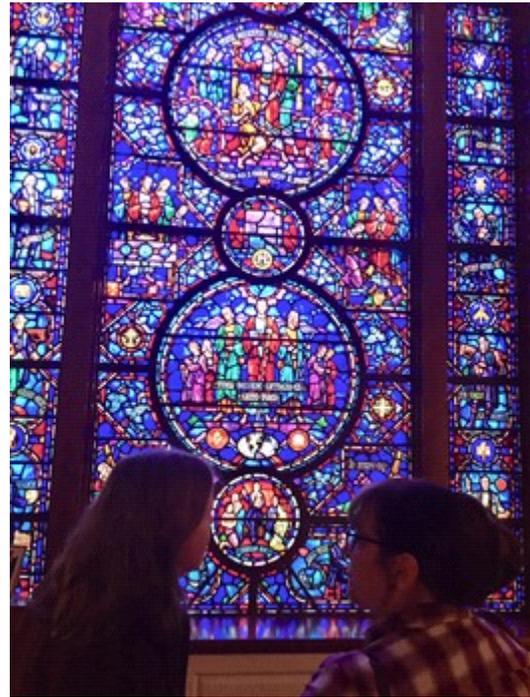
Lighting the Advent wreath this year were: Lucas and Marceline Bates, the Rutherford family, the Schomber and Castrinos families, and Cindy Turner and her granddaughters.

SOUP AND CHILI POTLUCK ON JANUARY 27

Join us for Trinity's annual soup and chili covered dish luncheon following worship on January 27. The congregation is invited to bring favorite soup and/or chili recipes and the Fellowship Committee will provide desserts, bread and crackers, condiments, and drinks. The annual potluck is the antidote to the chilly weather of winter and the chance to sample delicious soup and chili dishes. Bring your favorites! Your dish may be kept warm in the warming cabinet or, if in a crockpot, we have plug-ins.



WANDERING PRESBYTERIAN SEE UPPER ROOM EXHIBIT OF CRÊCHES



Staff Photos





DECORATING THE SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS



photos by Hank Schomber



CHRISTMAS BREADS



HELP GROW OUR CHURCH!

In August, 2016, the Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee approved a three-year plan for encouraging the future of Trinity Presbyterian Church. One of the goals in that plan is that by the end of 2020, the membership roll at Trinity would be 120 members. Presently, our membership roll is at 53 members. In order for us to meet the goal of 120 members, all of us need to be engaged in inviting folks to come and join Trinity! Please prayerfully consider folks who might be looking for a church home and invite them to worship! And if you have been worshipping at Trinity and would like to become a member, please let Sally or one of the elders know. We receive members by transfer of letter, reaffirmation of faith, or profession of faith.



TRINITY SPONSORS BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ROOM IN THE INN



photos by staff

Ninety-three persons, mostly clients of Room in the Inn, participated in the Blue Christmas service at the facility on Drexel Street. Sally conducted the service and Will provided the piano music.



For the reception following the service, Trinity supplied decorations, table coverings, plates, cups, utensils, and non-sweet and some sweet foods. The dining service at RITI prepared sweets, hot chocolate, and a blue punch.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING



The community was invited to assemble at Trinity on the afternoon of December 23 for singing Christmas carols and some popular secular tunes of the season. Will Berger played as the group sang almost all of the carols in the hymnbook and Linda Rogers led the singing of "Twelve Days of Christmas", the last tune. Everyone enjoyed hot chocolate following the caroling.

photos by Hank Schomber

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2018



Christmas Eve 2018. The Rutherfords (including Lillie) lit the Christ candle. The choir sang two beautiful anthems, one by Robert Rutherford. Using letters of the alphabet distributed to the congregation, as each letter was called out, the holder of that letter read some part of the Christmas story. Sally read Evie another Christmas story. Paul Berger sang *Some Children See Him* sweetly and tenderly. The candles were lit as we sang *Silent Night* in the darkness. Christmas came upon us as we extinguished our candles and returned home.



photos
by Hank
Schomber



January 2019

A calendar that includes all building use, including Linden Waldorf School (LWS), can be found on the church website: www.trinitypresnashville.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 10 am - 1 pm New Elder Training
6 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship/Communion After Worship: Fellowship Time	7 8 pm - AA Meeting	8 11 am - Presbyterian Women	9	10 8 pm - AA Meeting	11	12 8:30 am - 2 pm Knit & Crochet TN
13 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Installation of Elders After Worship: Fellowship Time	14 8 pm - AA Meeting	15	16	17 8 pm - AA Meeting	18	19 9 am - 3 pm Session Retreat
20 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time Newsletter Articles Due	21 8 pm - AA Meeting	22	23	24 8 pm - AA Meeting	25	26 LWS Experience Waldorf Day
27 9:30 am Sunday School 10:15 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship: Chili Postluck	28 8 pm - AA Meeting	29 7 pm - Session Meeting	30	31 8 pm - AA Meeting		

Note: Church office is closed on Mondays