

THE TRINITY TIMES

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY, 2018

From the pastor

One of my favorite poems is “Sailing to Byzantium” by William Butler Yeats. The poem begins with the line, “*That is no country for old men.*” The rest of the poem contrasts the vibrant, vigorous lifestyle of youth “*caught in that sensual music*” who neglect the “*monuments of unageing intellect,*” concluding that “*an aged man is but a paltry thing/a tattered coat upon a stick...*”

These days the Presbyterian Church could be described as “no country for old men” because almost every article on church growth or every workshop on revitalization focuses on how important it is to draw the younger generation, the millennials, into the church. The Presbyterian Church, like most mainline denominations, is aging but the solution offered most is to load up the sanctuaries with children and young people...or else become “a tattered coat upon a stick” and close.

But what if we took a different tact. What if we decided that the church is precisely the place for old men and women, because they have a faith that has endured for decades through wars and bad economies and poor church attendance? They are a source of wisdom and guidance to young people starting new families or careers.

What if we decided that the church is a good place for old men and women, because they have great stories to tell and have led interesting and inspiring lives? Old men and women who have survived the death of a child or a spouse, who had a successful life despite never graduating from high school, who knew poverty and learned from it, who in all times and seasons, trusted that God their Maker was with them, and would be with them always. What a consolation that life story would be to a young person who, having been fired from a job, or thinks her life is over, or who has discovered all his secular support systems have given way under the weight of his problem?

What if we celebrated age instead of avoiding it?

What if, instead of wanting to trade in our old men and women for younger models, we connected our old men and women to younger men and woman, enriching the lives of both old and young? What if the church became that “country” for both old and young, for the up-and coming and the retired, for

those who are in debt and those who have disposable income?

The life-giving message of the gospel is for both young and old, and both young and old can exchange words of hope within the Christian community. The old person can appreciate the stamina and energy of the young; the young person can appreciate the creativity and resourcefulness of the old. By exchanging words of hope and grace across generational lines, a church—even an old congregation—can be refreshed and renewed. An old dog may indeed be taught new tricks!

I refuse to believe that the Presbyterian Church is “no country for old men,” but a community of faith that values all members, old and young. And everyone has a story to tell, regardless of age, and we are drawn to God’s love through our human stories—our life stories which are built upon the story of God who came to live among us in Jesus Christ. Our church may become a country not just for old men and women, but for men and women of all ages, longing to be told the “old, old story of Jesus and his love.”



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
Simon Thomas Jacobs, Music Director
Linda Rogers, Office Manager
Charlie Bundy, Facilities Manager

SESSION MEMBERS

Vira Baker (2020)	Matthew Rutherford (2019)
Allen Brown (2018)	Robert Rutherford (2018)
Bill Dougherty (2020),	Hank Schomber (2019)
Phil Elbert (2019)	Cindy Turner (2018)
Hank Howerton (2020)	



TRINITY SUMMER SINGERS

We are delighted and blessed to have such a wonderful choir, and they deserve a summer break! This summer, in their absence, the "Trinity Summer Singers" will return, beginning May 20. On Sunday morning, anyone interested in singing a hymn as the offertory selection on Sunday morning as the offertory is invited to gather with Simon Thomas Jacobs at 10:45 a.m. in the chapel before worship to go over the hymn, and then to sing that hymn in worship. If you can read music and sing a part (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) please do so! But if you can't read music and you just like to sing familiar hymns, this is your opportunity to share your vocal gift with the congregation and sing! Open to all ages, and if standing is a problem for you, we can work that out!

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE AND LECTIONARY READINGS

- May 6 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Celebration of the Lord's Supper**
Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
- Mat 13 Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
- May 20 Day of Pentecost**
Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- May 27 Trinity Sunday**
Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS!

If you would like to submit a favorite hymn to be sung as the offertory this summer, please do so either by calling or emailing the church office, or by writing your selection on a piece of paper and putting it in the offering plate. If you have a favorite hymn that is NOT in the *Glory to God* hymnal, write it down anyway and we'll see if we can find it!



EVIE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

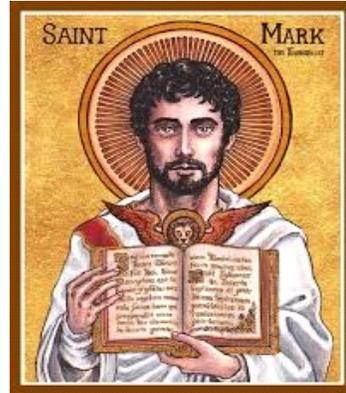


photos by Matt Rutherford



ADULT EDUCATION IN MAY

The Adult Sunday School class will continue its study of the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is the oldest gospel, believed to have been written between 66 and 70 CE, as well as being the shortest gospel. Biblical scholars view Mark as the gospel which encouraged other gospels to be written, noting that both Matthew and Luke borrow sayings and stories from Mark. The class meets in the parlor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Sally Hughes

STATED MEETING OF THE SESSION February 1, 2018

The Stated Meeting for January was postponed until February 1 because of inclement weather.

Facilities Manager Charlie Bundy discovered a considerable overcharge for a replacement of a blower motor in January and was able to have the labor cost of that job cut in half resulting in a savings of \$450.

The session extended its thanks and appreciation to Mr. Bundy for his ongoing conscientious work at Trinity and Linden Waldorf.

During a discussion of the 2017 final budget report, it was noted that the projected \$90,000 deficit had been held to an actual \$30,000. This was through both holding down expenses and extraordinary giving on the part of members and friends.

Linda Rutherford was appointed Treasurer for 2018. The Community Ministries Committee reported an appeal to have member Claude Spencer's parole hearing reviewed had been filed.

The Facilities Committee reported on the Blower Motors being replaced for HVAC units in the Education Building and Manse.

The Session agreed to hold a retreat on Saturday, March 3.

The Session waived the \$500 Columbarium Fee and agreed to pay for the ID plate engraving for Rev. David Phillipy who was a longtime attendee and supporter of Trinity.

The Annual Statistics Report was received and approved for submission to Presbytery.

A request for the use of the church property for a regular exercise and conditioning class was received. The class would be held outdoors on the front lawn. There was interest in this possibility, but it was felt more information was needed about schedules and timing to avoid conflicts with LWS use of the area.

PDA RESPONSE INFORMATION

Prayers are needed for all the people that have gone through the devastation of the Northwest fires, hurricanes Irma, Maria and Harvey, the earthquakes in Mexico and the South Sudan. Please keep them all in your prayers. If you would like to donate to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, see below for some of the destination numbers that are being used to direct your donations to that specific cause. For more information regarding these responses and mailing and online addresses, click on the following link: <http://pda.pcusa.org/>

PDA response to Northwest fires – Donations to DR000165

PDA response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria – Donations to DR000194

PDA response to Hurricane Harvey – Donations to DR000169

PDA response to Earthquakes in Mexico – Donations to DR000014

PDA response to South Sudan – Donations to DR000042

PENTECOST OFFERING ON MAY 20

One of the four denominational offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA, the Pentecost Offering will be received on Pentecost Sunday, May 20.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

- **The Young Adult Volunteer Program
- **Ministries for Youth
- **Children At Risk

Trinity's 40% will be donated to NaCoMe to support camps programs for families and children. NaCoMe is supported by the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

The Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program is an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people, ages 19-30, in 22 sites around the world and in the United States. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in intentional community with peers and mentors. YAVs serve during the academic year, August to July.

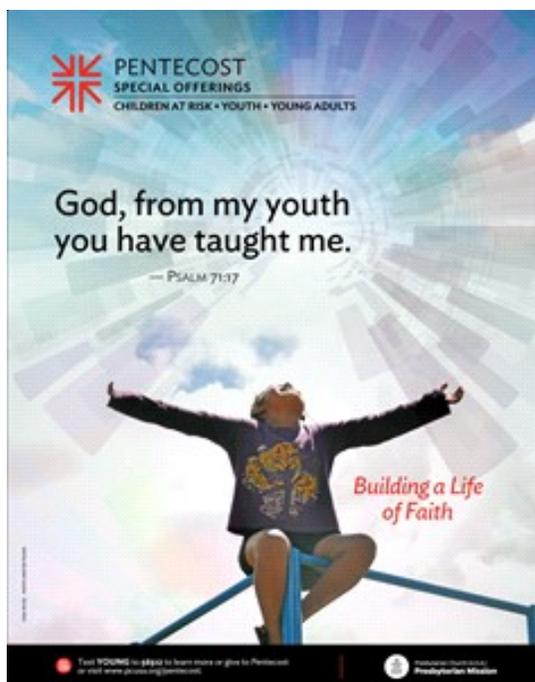
The Pentecost Offering also supports materials for Youth Ministries and other resources for establishing and carrying out youth programs. Some of the materials currently available for Youth Programs are *Quicksheets* (ideas for youth ministries); "Let My People Go", a bible study which invites a group of young people to examine the theological issues and conversations surrounding ecological justice, fairness and discipleship.; and the Presbyterian Youth Book Club.

The 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched a churchwide initiative calling on Presbyterians to work with partners in the U.S. and worldwide to improve the quality of education for 1 million children by 2020. This initiative builds on our strong Reformed heritage and Presbyterian history of both educational mission and advocacy and support for access to public education. On the national level, this initiative will center around 2 major foci:

1. Strengthening early childhood education
2. Reducing the dropout rate of adolescents

Join us as we identify and share best practices and resources for local educational mission; support public education policy at the national, state, and local levels; train and equip new leaders for child advocacy; and connect with others in our common call to walk alongside our children as they live into their identities as children of God.

During their 2015–2018 triennium, Presbyterian Women's justice and peace work will focus on developing and strengthening children's literacy. Because many peace and justice issues—poverty, discrimination, abuse, violence, exploitation, marginalization, imprisonment, unequal access to opportunity—are related to lack of education, PW has created a number of resources to assist PW groups and individuals in reading with children, tutoring, strengthening community initiatives for literacy and advocating for schools and children.



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.

JOINT FUNERAL SERVICE FOR FORMER TRINITY MUSICIAN

Joint Memorial Service for Peggy and Russ Pellett
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Saturday, May 5
10 a.m. Visitation; 11:30 a.m. Memorial Service

The church office received a note from Helen Pellett sharing that Peggy Pellett, former member of Trinity's music ministry, and Russ Pellett died in April. In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial contribution to the Westminster Presbyterian music ministry, the Women's Musicale, or Alzheimer's research.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Erica - 2
Linda - 4
Steve - 10
Molly - 14

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

*****Presbyterian Women** meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Trinity parlor. Our next meeting is May 1. We will study Lesson 9 "In Community with All the Saints", in our study book, "*Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*". Please bring a sandwich or salad for lunch and a time of fellowship after the meeting.

This will complete this year's study book and Presbyterian Women will go on hiatus until September. We will begin the new study book *God's Promise: I Am with You*, Introduction and Lesson One on September 4. Study books will be available in August. Let Judy Schomber know if you want one.

***You are invited to join the **Changing Gears** group for lunch and fellowship at Westminster Presbyterian on Wednesday, at 11 a.m.. Ashley Linville, Director of Development at Curry-Ingram Academy, will speak. Did you know that Curry-Ingram Academy was founded as Westminster School of Nashville in 1968 and was housed in Westminster Presbyterian Church for 34 years? Reservations for lunch are required by noon on the Friday before, and there is a \$10 charge for lunch. Call Trisha Biggs at the Westminster church office (292-5526) for reservations or if you'd like more information.

*****Wandering Presbyterians** will be pursuing another great adventure in May! Watch for more details in the Friday congregational e-mail and the Sunday bulletin.

If you'd like to join this outing for adults, sign up in the East Hall, call the church office at 615-297-6513, or e-mail office@trinitypresnashville.org.

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.

SMISHING SCAM AWARENESS

Scammers are now targeting people through text messaging. It’s called “smishing”. Like in all scams, these criminals prey on your sense of urgency. However, with “smishing” scammers also hope to catch you with your guard down. Most people have a tendency to trust their text messages.

This particular scam can come across your phone in various ways. Here are some examples of "smishing" text messages you might receive:

Financial Institutions: Dear Bank Customer, Due to a possible breach of some of our account holders, we need you to verify your PIN immediately.

Personal Accounts: Did you request a password reset at youremail@google.com? If not, please reply STOP. Or Dear Customer, Your Apple ID is set to expire, please follow this link to prevent loss of service.

Seasonal Opportunities: IRS Notice: Tax Return Overdue! Click here to prevent penalties.

Sweepstakes: Dear Walmart Shopper, you just won a \$100 gift card. Click on www.fakewebsite.com to claim your prize. Type STOP to cancel.

Personal Message: Spring is finally here! Do you want to go out? Jane gave me your number, check out my profile here at ([fakelink](#)).

These are all scams. If you receive a text message like these examples, do not text or call the number. By texting STOP, you are verifying that your phone number is valid. Just delete the text message. If you are concerned, call the company directly.

Sources: Brentwood Police Dept. (Facebook Page), fortune.com and USAToday.com

**Council on Aging of Middle Tennessee • 95 White
Bridge Rd., #114 Nashville, TN 37205 • 615-353-
4235 • info@coamidtn.org**

HERITAGE SUNDAY FOR PRESBYTERIANS

Every year Presbyterians celebrate Heritage Sunday, a day to reflect upon and learn more about the long and rich history of the Presbyterian church in America. Heritage Sunday always falls on the Sunday closest to May 21, the opening date of the first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in 1789.

creator of the program and a Presbyterian Minister, special materials have been designated for this year’s celebration.

This year’s Presbyterian Heritage Sunday falls on May 20, which is also Pentecost Sunday. Please pray for Presbyterians everywhere and for the Prebyterian Church on this special day.

This year is the 50th anniversary of *Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood*. To honor the late Fred Rogers,

WANDERING PRESBYTERIANS VISIT ATHENA; EAT FRENCH



photos by Hank Schomber and Staff



Wandering Presbyterians took a trip to Centennial Park on April 26 to see the displays of the Tennessee Exposition of 1897, the exhibits in the first floor galleries, and of course, the magnificent statue of Athena. Afterwards they had lunch at Chateau West, where Linda received a pre-May 4 birthday surprise dessert with song.





FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL

Dear companions in mission,

This Holy Week I learned a phrase in Spanish that I had never heard before. My husband, Javier, described one of our neighbors, a woman whose daughter had just gotten married, as “crying like Mary Magdalene”. In this mother’s tears, the pain of having her daughter leave home mixed with the tears of joy for her daughter’s wedding. John’s gospel shows Mary Magdalene standing alone besides the empty tomb crying in her grief and pain. When the resurrected Jesus speaks to her, her tears of pain turn to tears of joy. This Holy Week, may we weep with those who weep in this world full of pain as we prepare to receive with joy the news that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

On March 5th, I left Costa Rica for Arusha, Tanzania, where I served as an interpreter for the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. Over a thousand people from many different Christian traditions came together for six days to reflect on the theme “Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship.” Among the many moving talks and Bible studies, the testimony of Iqantius Mor Aphrem II, Patriarch of the Syrian Orthodox Church, on the ministry of that church in the midst of the war in Syria kept us mindful of the ongoing suffering in the Middle East. Choirs from the surrounding area, as well as a theater group from a local university, led us in lively worship full of African rhythms and colors. It was wonderful to spend time with friends and colleagues from around the world, some of whom I had not seen for many years. I also made many several contacts for our work here at the Latin American Biblical University (UBL). I am very grateful to Presbyterian World Mission for allowing me to serve the global church in this way by seconding me to the World Council of Churches for the conference.

Meanwhile, back in Costa Rica, our current academic term marches on. The eleven students who are exploring the first fifteen centuries of Christianity with me here on campus in San Jose are doing fantastic work as they present the course contents to each other in our weekly sessions. The five students doing the course on-line are struggling a bit more to keep up with class assignments in the midst of their daily lives and active ministries. The eight women engaged in the on-line certificate “Invisible Never Again: Toward a Feminist Vision of the History of Christianity” are excited about finding new ways to explore and understand the presence and involvement of women in different moments of

the church’s history. I invite your prayers for me and my students as the current term ends on April 28th.

On April 26th, Javier and I will be flying to Lima, Peru to participate in a regional gathering of Presbyterian Church (USA) mission co-workers. We are looking forward to this time of reflection with colleagues serving throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. When the meeting ends on May 4th, Javier and I are going to take some vacation time and explore Cuzco and Cajamarca. On May 11th, we will travel to Huancayo to work with the Saint Paul Andean Seminary, an institution that works closely with the UBL and sends us many students. On May 13, which is also Mother’s Day in Peru, I will be preaching at the Methodist Church in Tambo, a church pastored by one our students, Luz Piedad Castillo. The next day Javier will start his journey back to Costa Rica while I travel to La Merced, a city in the Amazon basin, an area of Peru I have never had a chance to visit. There I will teach part of a course on the history of Christianity beginning with the sixteenth century, as Christianity in the West diversified both theologically and geographically. I will return to Costa Rica on May 20th.

On the health front, I am glad to report that Javier’s diabetes is well under control with diet and oral medication. He is feeling great. Recently, a vascular surgeon confirmed my self-diagnosis of lipedema, a disorder of the adipose or fatty tissue primarily in my legs. I am learning, mostly on-line, how to manage this chronic condition and exploring changes I may need to make to my already healthy diet to keep the disease from progressing. I don’t intend to let lipedema slow me down.

Currently I am working on plans to be in the United States for June and July this year. I will be serving as a Missionary Advisory Delegate for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to be held in St. Louis from June 15th to 23rd. I will be scheduling visits to churches before and after General Assembly, so please contact me if you would like me to visit your congregation. There is much I have to share about our work here at the UBL.

In the midst of grading papers and making plans for the near future, this Holy Week has brought a new opportunity to us at the UBL. Radio Monumental, one of the oldest radio stations in Latin America, decided to supplement their traditional Holy Week

FROM OUR MISSION WORKER, KARLA KOLL (continued from page 10)

programming this year with recorded conversations about different aspects of the Jesus movement and the early history of Christianity. Four faculty members of the UBL were invited to share for an hour each on a particular topic. How strange to hear my own voice coming out of the radio discussing the beginning of the church in different places! This is yet another way in which the UBL is extending its reach and sharing our theological vision. (The conversation will be available later on Youtube. Let me know if you would like the link.)

Closing thoughts

On Sunday, April 1, Costa Ricans will be going to the polls to choose their new president in the runoff election between the two candidates who led the returns in the first round of elections in February. Fabricio Alvarado, an evangelical who pledges to defend the so-called “natural family” and end corruption, is running against Carlos Alvarado of the Citizen Action Party. Opinion polls show the candidates in a technical tie with a significant percentage of the population still undecided. This election campaign has revealed deep divisions in Costa Rica over a vision for the future of the country and over the role of religion in public life. Should one religious group be able to impose their vision of morality on the entire population or should religion serve to promote respect and dialogue among different points of view and different experiences? Please keep Costa Rica your prayers this Easter Sunday.

In the hope of resurrection joy,

Karla

Karla's Webpage @Presbyterian World Mission

My mailing address is:

Rev. Dr. Karla Ann Koll
Latin America Biblical University
Apartado 901-1000
San Jose, Costa Rica

(Some of you may remember that for more than 10 years the Trinity congregation supported John McCall, a mission worker in Taiwan. When John returned stateside in Spring 2010, the Community Ministries Committee, at the request of then minister Heidi Hudnut-Beumler, selected Karla Koll as the replacement for John. Karla visited Trinity in the summer of 2015. She is a professor of history, mission, and religions for the Latin American Biblical University [UBL] in Costa Rica)

LEARN ABOUT TRINITY SUNDAY

The celebration of Trinity Sunday began among Western Christians in the 10th century and developed slowly until it was formally established on the Sunday after Pentecost by Pope John XXII (1316-1334).



An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 149-150) Unlike other festivals in the church's liturgical calendar, Trinity Sunday centers on a doctrine of the church, rather than an event. It celebrates the unfathomable mystery of God's being as Holy Trinity. It is a day of adoration and praise of the one, eternal, incomprehensible God



Trinity Sunday, in a sense, synthesizes all we have celebrated over the past months which have centered on God's mighty acts: Christmas-Epiphany celebrating God's taking flesh and dwelling among us in Jesus Christ; Easter celebrating Christ's death and resurrection for us; Pentecost celebrating God the Holy Spirit becoming our Sanctifier, Guide, and Teacher. It is, therefore, a fitting transition to that part of the year when Sunday by Sunday the work of God among us is unfolded in a more general way.



The triune God is the basis of all we are and do as Christians. In the name of this triune God we are baptized. As the baptized ones we bear the name of the triune God in our being. We are of the family of the triune God. We affirm this parentage when, in reciting the creeds, we say what we believe. Our discipleship is rooted in the mighty acts of this triune God who is active in redeeming the world. The triune God is the basis of all our prayers—we pray to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. The Trinity holds central place in our faith.



In celebrating Trinity Sunday, remember that every Lord's Day is consecrated to the triune God. On the first day of the week, God began creation. On the first day of the week, God raised Jesus from the grave. On the first day of the week, the Holy Spirit descended on the newly born church. Every Sunday is special. Every Sunday is a day of the Holy Trinity.

Source: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/christianyear/trinity-sunday/>



May 2018

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	11 am – Presbyterian Women	2	3 9 am – Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Tullahoma	4	5
6 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship/Communion After Worship: Fellowship Time	7 8 pm – AA Meeting	8	9 7 pm – Choir Rehearsal	10 8 pm – AA Meeting	11	12
13 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	14 8 pm – AA Meeting	15	16 Wandering Presbyterians Out to Lunch!	17 8 pm – AA Meeting	18	19
20 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time Newsletter Articles Due	21 8 pm – AA Meeting	22	23	24 7:00 pm – Session 8 pm – AA Meeting	25	26
27 9:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship After Worship: Fellowship Time	28 8 pm – AA Meeting MEMORIAL DAY	29	30	31 6 pm – LWS Graduation 8 pm – AA Meeting		
Note: Church office is closed on Mondays						