



AGAPE Grapevine



Dear Church Family,

As we enter the solemn yet hopeful season of Lent, it is a time not just for reflection, but for expansion—expanding our minds, hearts, and spirits in preparation for the profound mystery and joy of Easter. This Lent, let us embrace the journey of deepening our understanding and appreciation for the sacrifice at the heart of Easter, and how this sacred time can transform our lives and perspectives.

The ultimate sacrifice Jesus made on the cross is central to our Lenten journey and the celebration of Easter. This act of unconditional love and surrender for the redemption of humanity is a profound example of self-giving and service to others. During Lent, we are called to reflect on the sacrifices we are invited to make in our own lives. How can we embody the spirit of sacrifice in our daily actions? Perhaps it's through giving of our time, talents, and resources more generously, or by letting go of attitudes and behaviors that separate us from God and one another.

Lent is also a time to look beyond ourselves and consider our place in the wider community and world. It challenges us to see Christ in others, especially the marginalized and suffering, and to respond with compassion and action. This season, let us seek ways to expand our understanding of justice, peace, and love in action. Engaging with community outreach programs, supporting missions, or advocating for social justice issues are ways we can live out our Lenten call to service.

As we journey through these forty days, let us keep our hearts and minds open to the transformative power of God's love and sacrifice. Easter's promise of resurrection and new life is not just about the event we celebrate but is a call to live out the resurrection in our own lives. It invites us to rise above our limitations, to renew our faith, and to embrace the hope and joy that come from knowing Christ.

In this sacred season, may we be inspired to expand our minds, to understand more deeply the power of sacrifice, and to live in the light of Easter's promise. Together, let us prepare our hearts and spirits to welcome the risen Christ and the renewal he offers to each of us and to the world.

Grace and Peace, Rev. Zac Wheeler



One in four people age 65 or older fall each year



The good news is that falls are preventable: Stepping On can help!

A FREE 7-week workshop can help you prevent falls

Every Tuesday, March 5th - April 16th, 2024
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Bethesda United Methodist Church
The Memorial Room

Stepping On has been researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%

Interested? Contact:

Nancy Hedlesky
410-742-0505 ext. 131
nhedlesky@macinc.org

This class is not only for Bethesda members. You do not have to commit to the entire 7 weeks! You are welcome to come at noon and bring your lunch. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Class starts at 12:30 pm.

- Simple and fun balance and strength training
- The role vision plays in keeping your balance
- How medications contribute to falls
- Ways to keep from falling in your community
- What to look for in safe footwear
- How to eliminate fall hazards in your home

It's not too late to register

LIVE Worship Services—Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Save the Dates: Soup Luncheons

Thursday, March 21, 2024 (Peas & Dumplings)
 Thursday, April 18, 2024 (Peas & Dumplings)
 11 am — 12:15 pm

Take-Out/Pick-Up

Delivery Available for orders of \$100 or more

Menu:

- Vegetable Beef Soup
- Peas & Dumplings (**March & April**)
- Chicken Salad
- Baked Ham on Roll
- Baking Powder Biscuits
- Iced Fudge Brownies
- Homemade Custard Bread Pudding

Fax orders to 410-742-8856

Call 410-742-8855 to place orders by phone

Email orders: bethesdasalisbury@gmail.com

We could really use your help!

Call 410-742-8855 to find out how to volunteer



Santa's Angels

Check out the Auction Now! March Madness for Santa's Angels! March 1st thru 10th

on our Facebook page fb.me/sanatasangelssalisbury

and you will see this picture

\$\$--TEXAS ROADHOUSE GIFT CARDS FOR SALE!\$\$

We are continuing to sell Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards (Denominations of \$25 or \$50). Additionally, we will offer you a free appetizer with each \$50 purchase while supplies last. This would be a fabulous gift for a loved one on their birthday or anniversary! You may place an order by calling Lora Adkins 410-726-2977 or email her at kadkins30@comcast.net or call Lois Moorhead at 410-430-3086.

Save the Date for

Santa's Angels Inaugural Golf Tournament

on May 17, 2024!

Come join us for a day of fun and fellowship!

- If you have a business please consider contacting us for a large (\$400) or small (\$150) sign on your Favorite hole!
- You have plenty of time to get a team of four together to play that day. (\$400).

Also, if you would like to make a monetary donation, we would appreciate any and all donations as this will help us to offset the expenses for our prizes, gifts for players, and other incidentals to make the day perfect for all participants.

GiveSendGo website:

www.givesendgo.com/SantasAngels2024

Keith and Lora Adkins

Senior Singles - 1:00 pm Thursday, March 14th, 2024

Carpool from Church at 12:30 pm or meet at Caesar's 12302 Somerset Ave. Princess Anne, MD



RSVP Sandy Mills, 410-422-7305, or Dr. Dan 443-735-3292

New people are always welcome!

SALISBURY URBAN MINISTRIES

We are requesting donations for:

KIDS CAFÉ

Mandarin Orange Snack Cups

LAZARUS FOOD PANTRY:

Dessert mixes Gravy mixes

MEN'S WELCOME CENTER:

Saltine Crackers
Vienna sausages

Donations can be dropped off at

Salisbury Urban Ministries Office

326 Barclay St

Or call 410-749-1563



Inaugural Santa's Angels Charity Golf Tournament



Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place Teams

Date: May 17, 2024 at 1pm

Location: Nutter's Crossing Golf Course

4-person Scramble Format

Santa's Angels is a local charity that has helped provide Christmas for families in need on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland & Delaware for over 30 years!!! We are 100% volunteer and rely solely on donations and fund-raising to support our efforts. Play some golf and help us, help the kids have a memorable Christmas!!

You DO NOT want to miss this tournament: Mulligans, Move Up on a Hole, Hole-in-One Contests, Longest Drive (Men & Women), Closest to the Pin, 50/50, Silent Auction, Chinese Auction, Putting Contest, and Food!!

Levels	What You Get for Money	Cost
Tier 1 (Eagle)	Team (4 ppl) + Large Sign on a Tee Box + Clubhouse Sign + Donor Ad	\$1,000
Tier 2 (Birdie)	Team (4 ppl) + Small Sign on a Tee Box + Donor Ad	\$500
Tier 3 (Par)	Large Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$400
Tier 4 (Bogey)	Small Sign with Your Business or Organization Placed on a Tee Box	\$150
Tier 5	Team Only (4 ppl)	\$400

Player #1 _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Player #2 _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Player #3 _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Player #4 _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Business or Organization Name _____

Tier Selected _____ Total Cost _____

Payment Methods Accepted: Cash, Check (Payable to Santa's Angels), or use the Give Send Go App. Registration includes: Golf, Food After Your Round, Cart Usage, and a Goodie Bag.

There are many ways to participate!!! Sponsor a Hole, Enter a Team, or Donate Money Directly to Offset Our Costs!!

Message from the United Women of Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Spring is my favorite time of year when the winter weather subsides, and the flowers begin to bloom. Because of this, spring is often associated with rebirth. Easter, the day to celebrate Jesus's resurrection, even happens during the spring season. Bible verses about spring can be found throughout Scripture, from Genesis to the Book of John. One of my favorite verses is "*For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*" —Song of Solomon 2:11-12. I look forward to planting flowers and being outside with nature.

This Spring will be a busy time for The United Women of Faith. First, we are hosting a ladies tea in the Memorial Room on Saturday, April 27th. We want to invite all women of our church to come and enjoy this opportunity of great fellowship, great food and great entertainment (Orville Nichols will be singing). More information will be sent out next month. May 12th is Mother's Day and at Bethesda it will also be Women's Sunday. Rev. Darlene Dixon will be our guest preacher and our ladies will be busy with all parts of both services. So mark your calendars for these exciting dates.

Pat Oberholtzer, President , 410-251-0935

Easter is coming! Please invite a friend or friends! We look forward to seeing you! The hospitality table is very popular! Thanks for your support and God bless.
Phil



God and Family

This newsletter article is a little tricky because we are in the midst of the Lenten season where we are more contemplative and musically reserved, but the month ends with the celebration that actually defines our spiritual lives. Easter is a joyous celebration of Christ's victory where our music explodes with energy and enthusiastic praise. Perhaps one might say that the month of March (this year) comes in like a lamb and goes out like a triumphant lion. Musical offerings for the month will be presented by the Handbell Choir, the Chancel Choir, soloists, and some instrumentalists. I purchased a seasonal set of choral anthems that will be sung on separate Sundays instead of in one particular service. These movements from a cantata will musically guide us through the Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We will have a special guest on Palm Sunday, I am very excited for that anthem.

When I interact with teachers, choir members, and other friends, I always talk about the importance of taking care of themselves and putting their families first. Often that advice comes after a conversation where the person apologizes to me for needing to miss a rehearsal, services, meeting, or other event. I am not sure I always follow my own advice, so I would take this opportunity to talk about my family.

Zander is in his last semester on campus at Mansfield University and will be student-teaching in the fall at an elementary school and high school near Bloomsburg, PA. As this is his last semester on campus, he will be presenting his senior cello recital this month. A recital is essentially a capstone project that is the culmination of several years of lessons with his respected and talented cello teacher. He will be performing some movements from cello concertos as well as portions of suites written for his instrument. The recital is on March 23 at Mansfield University, and I will be missing our Palm Sunday service to spend the weekend with Zander and the rest of my family.

This past weekend Ava performed with the Maryland All-State Mixed Choir in Baltimore. This was her third time being accepted into the All-State Choir. The concert was outstanding, and Trish and I are incredibly proud of the musician and scholar that she has become. I am excited to learn what is next in her college and career search process.

I did want to highlight Zander's recital and Ava's All-State experience, but I don't want to overlook the notable accomplishments of Lexie and Nikko. Lexie is an incredible teacher at Wicomico Middle School and is deeply respected by the students and her colleagues. Nikko is doing a fantastic job in Middle School, and I am very proud of his commitment to always agreeing to acolyte when he is asked and available. I also want to brag that Trish took on a new challenge of teaching French I at Mardela Middle and High School along with her regular assignments of Algebra and Geometry. Perhaps you can greet her in French at church.

Please remember that God and family come first. See you in church, Jeff



Agape 4

THANK YOU

Hello Bethesda Family –

Thank you to all that contributed personal hygiene items for the Wicomico Middle School Students. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, and many students will be the beneficiary of your kindness.

God's Blessings to All. Lois Lake Moorhead

Everyone,

As you know, this past Sunday was our **CARE FOR THE CAUSE** fundraiser at Trinity Life Center. God truly blessed this event with 144 people in attendance and performances by our area churches and our children from the Kids Café. We also had several volunteers from our churches that assisted in different capacities as well. We want to thank everyone that participated in making this day a success.

This was a tremendous turnout for us. This event would not have happened if it was not for our wonderful Executive Director, Debbie Donaway. God has truly blessed Salisbury Urban Ministries with her service to our community. As always, she did a wonderful job putting this together for another year.

THANK YOU DEBBIE!!!! We are continuing to accept monetary donations for this event.. so our overall total continues to rise!!!!

Hope your day is wonderfully blessed and safe!!!!

Susan Massey, Office Manager

Salisbury Urban Ministries

Phone: 410-749-1563; Fax: 410-749-9956

Website: sbyurbanministries.org



Dear Bethesda Friends,

Thank you much for the lunches you have brought to my home. They were very delicious and very much appreciated.

Sincerely, Frances White



Bethesda:

I got the care package, Thank you so much! I definitely feel loved.

Alyssa Boltz

Dear Bethesda Family:

Thank you so much for the heartwarming college care package you have sent me! I wanted to extend my gratitude for keeping me in your hearts, minds, and prayers. It fills me with joy that I am being thought of and supported from so far away. Thank you all again, and see you soon!

Zander Bear



A Shout Out to Kathy Blackburn from Sandy Mills.

Kathy gifted me Scott's electric recliner and Shawn and Nathan Taylor moved it in and set it up for me. This recliner has made a big difference in my comfort! Thanks to Kathy, Shawn and Nathan.

A special Thank You to Sonia Crandell,

Thank you Sonia for bringing me the soup lunch goodies. I enjoyed seeing you and the delicious food!
Sandy Mills



World Day of Prayer March 1, 2024



SHOWING GOD'S LOVE
THROUGH AN EXTENDED HAND TO ALL

GRACE EXTENDED

In preparation for Easter, many Christians celebrate Lent by focusing on physical and spiritual

disciplines. Forgoing luxuries, fasting, daily devotionals, and prayers devoted to repentance are a few of the practices. The list is lengthy and varies among different religious secs.

Many believers identify things to "give up". Through self-deprivation and self-denial, they put God at the Center of their lives.

Other believe in "taking on" something. This practice is called ALMSGIVING. Almsgiving involves giving time, talent, service, and monetary donations to support people in need.

Grace Extended invites you to "take on" participating/contributing to this ministry as part of your Lenten celebration or as a year-round volunteer. Opportunities include visitation, sending cards and making lap blankets/shawls. Monetary contributions can be made through the church office.

Heavenly God, "May these weeks leading up to the tragedy of Good Friday and the glory of Resurrection Sunday remind us of who you are, how you loved us, and who you have created us to be as your followers." Amen

Kathy Blackburn, 410-251-7714

CROCHETERS
March 27 @ 2 pm
Memorial Room
Beginners Welcome



Hi everyone,

This is just a short note to say thank you to all of our Bethesda Kitchen Crew for taking such good care of the January and February luncheons. I wasn't planning to be out for such important events.

Our special soup this month and in April will be peas and dumplings as well as all of our regular items and we are hoping to do chicken noodle in ay.

Thanks again to all of you for all your help every month to make this happen (oh we delivered to 31 of our Bethesda shut ins and provided 40 meals for the Homeless project and still were very profitable), couldn't do it without everyone.

Thanks again Penny



United Women in Faith

Circle Meetings in February

- Circle Eve -** Tuesday, March 5
11:30 am at Dayton's RSVP
Peggy Hastings 410-726-3614
- Circle Martha -** Wednesday, March 6
10:30 am at Todd House
- Circle Mary -** Tuesday, March 12
2:00 pm at Todd House
- Circle Rachael -** **Monday**, March 4
1:30 pm with Alison Soper
- Circle Ruth -** Monday, March 4
10:00 am at Todd House
- Circle Sarah -** Wednesday, March 13
1:00 pm at Todd House

Embracing Renewal

Hello Bethesda Family,

I hope this message finds you well. Recently, I had the pleasure of witnessing some daffodils bravely peeking through a light dusting of snow—a heartening sign of the approaching spring.

As we anticipate the arrival of spring and the celebration of Easter, excitement fills the air. The promise of longer days and sunshine serves as a reminder of the renewal that accompanies Jesus Christ's resurrection—a time for fresh starts and spiritual rejuvenation.

On February 22, 2024, our committee held our monthly meeting. We assessed the first month of the new year's budget, ensuring we are managing our resources responsibly. Moving forward, we're committed to these regular reviews and finding ways to improve our financial efficiency while supporting our church and community. A heartfelt thank you to Penny Bradford for her invaluable contributions and insightful ideas.

Additionally, we went over upcoming maintenance and repair priorities alongside our financial matters. You might spot maintenance vehicles around the church in the next few weeks. We're preparing for warmer weather by fine-tuning the sanctuary's air conditioning and adding a fresh coat of paint to some areas. Special thanks to Dave Roberts for his dedication and attention to detail. Balancing the importance of projects with cost-effectiveness isn't always easy, but Dave does it exceptionally well. We're blessed to have one of the most beautiful churches and grounds in our community!

Our committee is made up of a fantastic group of individuals, each bringing a wealth of knowledge from varied careers, community involvement, and dedicated service to Bethesda. While some of us are new to leadership roles, we greatly value the expertise of those guiding us along the way. The mix of attendance, with some preferring the contemporary service and others the traditional, is a true asset. It allows us to connect with a wider range of our membership.

As Easter approaches, let's pause to appreciate each other as cherished members of our church family. Let's treasure the bond we share through our devotion to Jesus, recognizing how it unites us in love and faith. This Easter, may we embrace the unity of our collective journey, and may its blessings enrich our lives abundantly.

Warmest wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled Easter season, Melanie Smith One Committee Council Chair



Making Valentine's Day Cupcakes

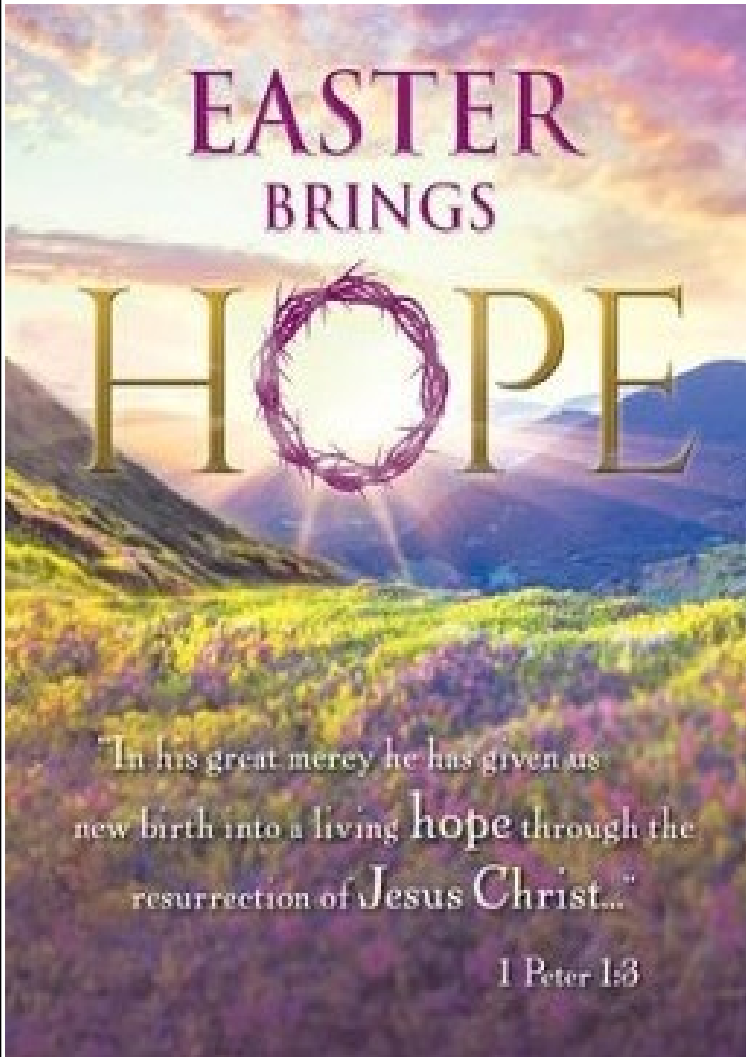
Pictured left to right: Alison Soper, Lois Moorhead, Mary Lynn Deckert, Susan Webster, Sonia Crandell and Sherry Perkins. Not pictured: Sherri Trader Hynes (thank you for submitting this picture Sherri!)



What is Good Friday?

Christians around the World celebrate Good Friday as a religious holiday honoring The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus Christ at Calvary. It takes place during Holy Week, which ends on Easter Sunday and starts with Palm Sunday.

Good Friday, March 29th



EASTER LILIES



Every Easter, Bethesda decorates our sanctuary with beautiful Lilies purchased by members and friends, "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones. If you would like to take part in this longstanding tradition, please fill in the form below and enclose it with your donation in an envelope to "Bethesda Altar Guild". Thank you!

Questions – Pat Oberholtzer at 410-251-0935 or patober@comcast.net

*** PLEASE PRINT NAMES CLEARLY **

Donor _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donation \$ _____ Phone _____

Deadline for requests is March 25, 2024

A Special thanks to everyone who helps with the Soup Lunch every month!
We had a income of \$3130 in February and also delivered meals to our 31 shut-ins and donated to the Hearts and Hands Homeless Shelter

- The Homeless Shelter received.
- 40 brownies
- 6 quarts of chicken salad
- 16 quarts of chili
- 3 dozen biscuits
- 4 pans of bread pudding
- 16 quarts of vegetable beef soup
- Thank you Lois Moorhead and Brenda Allen!

Bethesda United Methodist Church
406 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801



Happy St. Patrick's day

**From: The Office Staff, Music Staff, and
Ministerial Staff of Bethesda United
Methodist Church**

Agape



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Bethesda United Methodist Church

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Web Address: www.umcbethesda.org

Editor: Brenda Sawyer

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM—Contemporary Worship
—Memorial Room

10:30 AM—Traditional Worship
—Sanctuary

[Facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury](https://www.facebook.com/bethesdasalisbury)

March 2024	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 3rd Sunday in Lent Communion 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm Living by Design meets in Todd House	4 10 am Circle Ruth meets in Todd House 1:30 pm Circle Rachel meets at Alison Soper's 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	5 11:30 am Circle Eve meets at Dayton's 12:30 pm Fall Prevention Class in Memorial Room 6:30 pm Secular Serenity meets in Todd House	6 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 10:30 am Circle Marjha meets at Todd House 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	7 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	8 World Day of Prayer	2	
10 4th Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm Living by Design meets in Todd House	11 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	12 12:30 pm Fall Prevention Class in Memorial Room 2 pm Circle Mary meets at Todd House 6:30 pm Secular Serenity meets in Todd House	13 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 1 pm Circle Sarah meets in Todd House 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	14 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 12:30 pm Senior Singles carpool to Caesar's from Church or meet at 1 pm Caesar's Restaurant in Princess Anne 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	15	16	
17 5th Sunday in Lent 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm Living by Design meets in Todd House	18 6 pm UMM meets at Dief at Pecan Square 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	19 12:30 pm Fall Prevention Class in Todd House 6:30 pm Secular Serenity meets in Todd House	20 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	21 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 11 am Soup Lunch 5:30 pm Church Council meets in Fireside Lounge 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	22	23 Faith Filled Women's Conference at Civic Center 4 pm Melanie D. Lions Club Dinner in Memorial Room	
24 Palm Sunday 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 4 pm Youth Group meets at Todd House 7 pm Living by Design meets in Todd House	25 Holy Week Deadline to order Lilies 7 pm Boy Scouts meet in Memorial Room	26 12:30 pm Fall Prevention Class in Memorial Room 6:30 pm Secular Serenity meets in Todd House	27 8:30 am UMM Dayton's 10:30 am Adult Bible Study in Fireside Lounge 2 pm Crochet/Writing Class in Memorial Room 6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7 pm God's Way Bible Study in Fireside Lounge	28 8:30 am Devotions with Rev. Zac 9:30 am Dominos in Memorial Room 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Step-by-Step in Todd House	29 Good Friday	30 Easter Egg Hunt	
31 Easter Sunday 9 am Contemporary Svc 10:30 am Traditional Svc 7 pm Living by Design meets in Todd House							