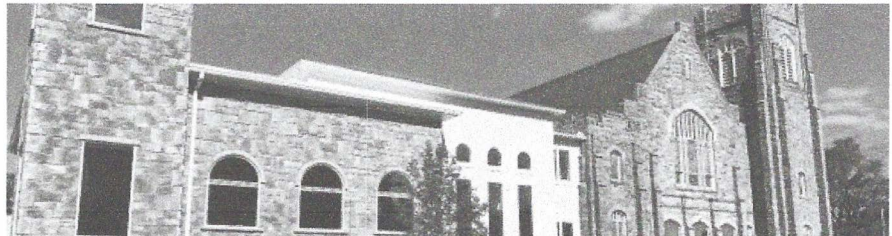




FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK
Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



The Heart of Jesus

A man I know has lived at Lake Tahoe for years. He and his wife never had children, but their lives were enriched by numerous activities, friendships, and a mutual commitment to providing emergency medical services to those in need. They were a team.

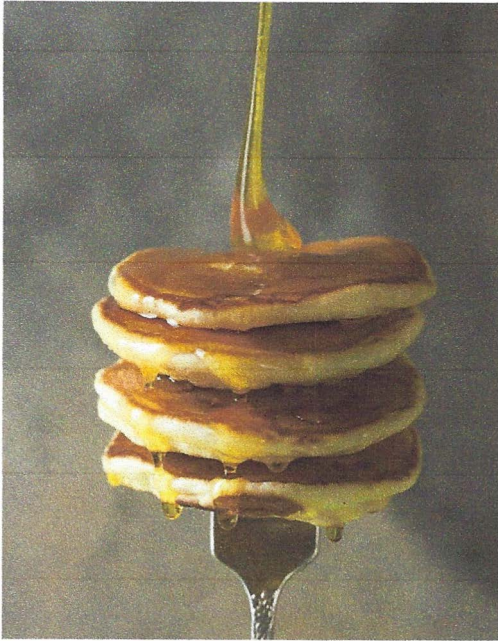
All that changed nearly a decade ago when the team was shattered. His wife contracted cancer and within months was taken from him. It was a devastating loss. In fact, I never knew the extent of it until I received a text message from him a few days ago. He wrote, "When Cindy died, I told anyone who would listen that my Jesus ship had sailed." I never knew that. I never knew that he blamed Jesus for his loss. I never knew that his commitment to Jesus was inexorably linked to the welfare of his wife and partner. But it was.

John Calvin, the 16th Century French Protestant Reformer, once said, "The human heart is a perpetual factory of idols," because he knew that our problem is not external, but internal. Our problem is with our heart and its insatiable desire of having its "felt needs" met. For my friend, Jesus was in port as long as his Cindy was alive. For you and me, often Jesus is only in port provided He is meeting the full range of our conscious needs.

Psychologists define "felt needs" as those experienced consciously, that often relate to a sense of deprivation or discrepancy with an affective ideal. The Bible is full of examples of men and women chasing felt needs. Eve is at the tree of the knowledge of good and evil feeling inadequate and deficient. A few pages later, her son, Cain, is willing to eliminate his brother for the same reason. There's King David who has a ravenous desire for physical beauty. There's the Samaritan woman with a desire for water and an avoidance of shame. The truth is, wherever there are people, there are needs consciously experienced that drive us to meet them at all costs. And no one knows this better than Jesus.

Someone has said, "Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, gives us an opportunity to come to terms with our human condition, our heart's desires, so that we may not spend the rest of our lives running blind." From the earliest days of the church, men and women have determined to spend Lent examining their hearts and seeing the difference between felt needs and real ones, and the fact that only Jesus can meet their real ones.

That's what we will attempt to do together this Lenten season in two intentional ways. First, we are offering to every one of you a recently written 40-day Lenten Devotional. In it there are 40 daily readings that correspond to Jesus' self-disclosure in the gospel of John. It's here, in the gospel of John, that Jesus proves that only He can meet our real needs. Second, we will preach on all seven of Jesus' self-disclosures from March 9th to April 20th. By coordinating the readings and the preaching, we will seek to open our minds and hearts a little wider to the truth of God's Word. For unlike our lives, Jesus' life was possessed not by His felt needs, but by our real ones. And what we will find is that His ship never sails without us.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

March 4 | 4-7 PM

FREE WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday which kicks off the season of Lent. The name "Shrove" comes from an old English word *shriven*, meaning absolved of sins, reflecting the time of confession and repentance during Lent. A tradition which began in the early Middle Ages, people would seek confession and gather for communal feasts before the fasting season of Lent. Church leaders encouraged believers to eat perishable foods so they wouldn't go to waste, leading to modern pancake dinners. Shrove Tuesday remains an important time, through community gathering and confession, of transition and preparation, calling Christians to enjoy the gifts of life while making room for the fast and repentance of Lent.

From Our Choir

Looking for something fun and fulfilling to do in these dark, cold days of winter? I challenge you to come sing with our Chancel Choir for the Lenten/Easter season. A short seven Sundays from the beginning of Lent, Sunday, March 9, through Easter Sunday, April 20. We would love for you to join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:15. It is an enjoyable evening for anyone who likes to sing.

Please prayerfully consider joining us for the Easter Season.

Judy Baker



Evangelism, Fellowship, & Communion at Redstone

On Tuesday, February 18th, the Evangelism Committee welcomed our Redstone residents, their families and friends to an evening of fellowship. They enjoyed participating in singing, followed by a Bible reading and a short message. Twenty-two people were then served communion. The evening concluded with a raffle of several items. A special thank you to Judy Baker, Don Jackel, Bill Presseau, Sam Strohm and Fred Westcoat for their assistance and generosity in helping make this evening a very special one for all those who attended.



GRIEF SHARE®



No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process. A GriefShare group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way. At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process.

Next Session Begins

March 3
6:30 - 8:30 PM

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; and how to recognize what's normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless. GriefShare group participants have repeatedly shared that they feel comforted and encouraged by being in a place where people truly understand what they're going through. And they feel a sense of relief when they're given guidance and tips on how to deal with the daily challenges. Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

We will meet March 3 through June 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. If you have any questions or want to register, please contact us at 724-863-5910.

Youth Lounge Construction to Begin

"The Dwelling Place"
Coming Soon

We are beginning to tackle another project! The area that was the temporary office for our church secretary and book keeper, in addition to storage while the new building was under construction, is to become an area for youth once again! This time it will be transformed into a "hangout" area, which is very exciting for our older kids and teens!

Soon, the accordion doors will be removed and a new wall and double doors will take their place. The plaster will be repaired on the wall below the glass block windows and the whole room will get a fresh coat of paint. This does mean that the little hand prints will be no more, so if you would like to snap a pic for old time's sake, please do that soon.

If you would like to contribute to making this a reality for our older kids, there is link for an Amazon wish list on our website under "Youth Fellowship" that you can choose items from. We will also be using the money earned from the upcoming craft show to go toward this fun endeavor.

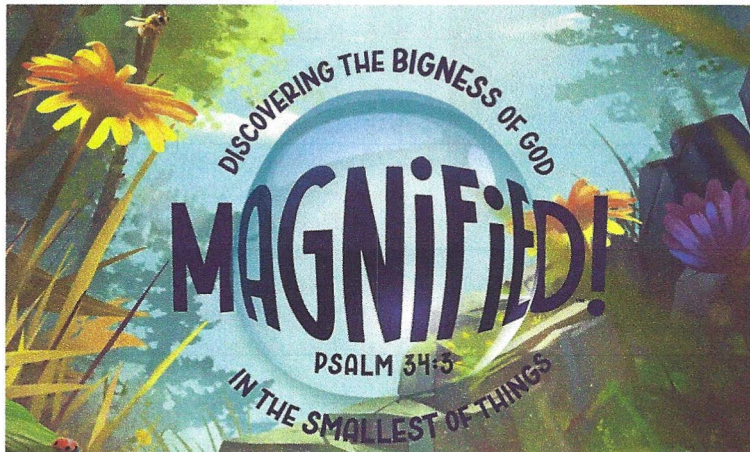


In an effort to be good stewards of the funds that we are gifted, in the next few months we are going to be moving away from the paper version of our newsletters. If you would like to continue to receive paper, please let the office know. Otherwise, we will continue to email and have the digital version available on our website and on Facebook.

Youth and Family Events

Because we know calendars fill quickly these days, please keep the following dates in mind when making your plans over the next few months. Make time for fun and fellowship with your church family!

2025 VBS *Save the Date* **July 21 - 25**



- 3/4/25 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- 3/23/25 - PSC Skating at Southpointe Ice Rink
- 3/28/25 - Fellowship Movie Night - "Secondhand Lions"
- 3/30/25 - Youth Fellowship Movie Night
- 4/5/25 - Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/16/25 - Youth Hike at Chiopyle
- 4/30/25 - Youth Bowling
- 5/4/25 - Graduation Breakfast & Confirmation Class Reception
- 6/16-20/25 - PSC Day Camp Norwin

1st Church Merch!



First Presby Irwin has NEW GEAR! We have partnered with Spring.com to bring you screen print tee shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, full zip hoodies, and a couple of hats! Children's clothing options as well! These items can be ordered online at firstpresbyirwin.creator-spring.com/



There are still the original 8 embroidered pieces to choose from: short sleeve polo, 1/4-zip long-sleeve sport-wick shirt, 1/4-zip (&full zip) fleece sweater, microfleece vest, soft shell vest, hoodie, full-zip hoodie, and an apron. Each one comes embroidered with the new First Presby Irwin logo shown above. Items are on display in the main hallway or you can head over to our website and see!

Our next order for embroidery items will be placed at the end of May. If you would like any of these items, fill out the form below and drop it off with either Heather Duckett or Ginny Pellis along with your payment. You can also email your order to heather@firstpresbyirwin.org.

Exciting things are happening here!

New Year, New Merch!

www.firstpresbyirwin.org/1st-church-merch/

March Event Highlights



LEGO Building Event

Registration Closes Thursday 3/13/25

FREE Community Event
 Saturday 3/15/25
 Grades K-12: 1:00-2:00pm
 We Provide the LEGO!

First Presby Irwin
 Downstairs Social Hall
 617 Main Street
 Irwin, PA 15642

<https://forms.gle/qwCvJpPQKpERdmZA>




Follow Us on Facebook: First Presby Irwin - Brick Squad

The Brick Squad

FREE Community Lego Build
Saturday, March 15
1:00 - 2:00PM

In The Downstairs Social Hall
 Join us for a fun afternoon of building as we use our imaginations to create masterpieces! We provide the Legos!

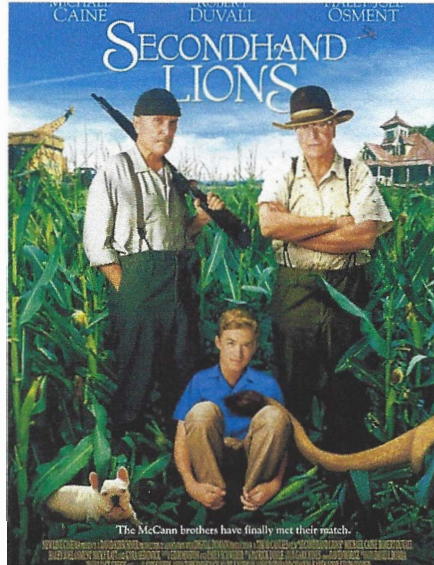


Potluck Dinner

Sunday, March 23
11:30 AM

Bring a dish that serves at least 8.

Sign up sheets are at the Information desk in the Brenzia Room and in the hall way that leads to the sanctuary

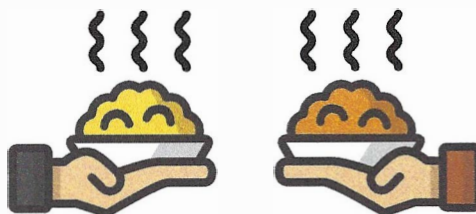


Family Movie Night

Friday, March 28
6:30PM
"Second Hand Lions"

Secondhand Lions is a wonderful coming-of-age story about a shy and sad 14-year-old boy whose stunted spirit soars during a summer stay with his two eccentric uncles. It stars Haley Joel Osment, Michael Caine, and Robert Duvall, set in Texas during the 1960s.

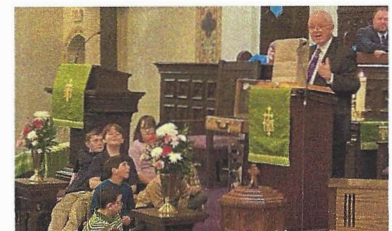
This family film has plenty to teach us about choosing what is truest about ourselves, dealing with the originals in our lives, learning from animals, listening to stories as good medicine, finding a code for living, keeping the green growing edge, and mentoring. The film runs 109 minutes and is rated PG.



March Events

- 3/2 - Cheapest Lunch
- 3/3 - GriefShare begins
Worship & Sacrament;
Evangelism
- 3/4 - Shrove Pancake Dinner
- 3/9 - Communion;
Munchkin Coffee Hour
- 3/10 - M Team
- 3/11 - Fellowship
- 3/12 - Christian Ed; Finance
- 3/13 - D Team
- 3/15 - The Brick Squad - Lego Build
- 3/16 - Baptism; Family Sunday;
Cookie Hour;
Congregational Meeting
- 3/18 - Circle 1
- 3/22 - Blessing Board Pick Up Day
- 3/23 - New Members;
Deacons Meeting;
Potluck Dinner
- 3/25 - Circle 3
- 3/27 - Session Meeting
- 3/28 - Family Movie Night

A Few Photos from Last Month!



Prayer Requests

Fred Aggers, Barb & Jay, Jan and Russ Batchelor, John and Joy Benedek, Jack Brosnahan Sr., Cindy, Bill Christ, Holly Culley, Danny&Family, Ruth Dornin, Ron Durika & Family, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Betsy Frye, Hope Gaebel, Corrine Geiger, Gerry, Megen Harmon, Jeff & Sue Harrison, Richard Himler, Gina Ilich, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Carla Jaenicke, Art Khalouf, Julie Klembara, Larry & Sharon Kramer, JoAnn Martz, JoAnn McKnight, Bill N., Jennifer Nagoda, Samuel Novicki, Ginny P., Bryce Matthew Patrick, Bernie & Pat Plues, Ruth Porter, Colleen Rady, Dana & Rico Seeno, John Smith, Sherry Smith, Taylor, Tom & Carol, Bob Vaughn, Dane Wakeman, Stella Waltemire, Bill Wiegand, Anne Marie Woodle and Jeff Youell

Our Service Personnel

Staff Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Vaughn Estepp, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sgt. Noah Rady, Dominic Duke, Jeff Cmar and Connor Ramage

Church Outreach Programs

Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Food Pantry. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.

Praise and Thank You

Marge Anke, Jon Burkett, Christian (infant), Grace P., Bob Magill, B.D.

Love and Sympathy

To Diane Stoll, her family and friends in the loss of her mother Marilyn Stoll who passed away Feb. 12, 2025

If the person you placed on the prayer list has been moved to Praise and Thank You or removed from the prayer list in error, please contact either Taska Smola at tsmola@verizon.net or Ginny Pellis at Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org with updated information. Thank you.

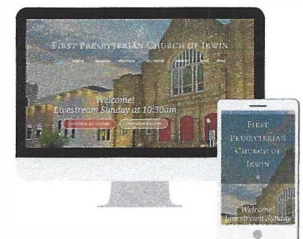
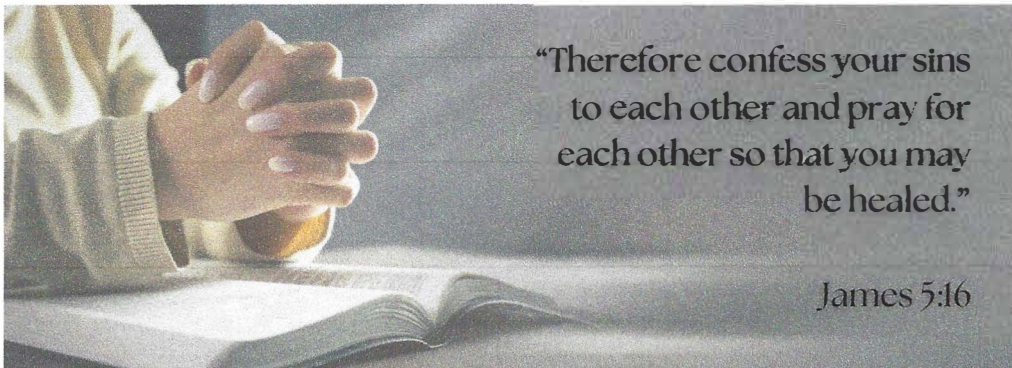


From the Blessing Board:

We deeply appreciate your support of our mission to provide free furniture, household items, and home medical equipment to families seeking to create a safe, comfortable, and welcoming home. Your contributions in 2024 made a meaningful difference in the lives of the families we serve — thank you for your kindness and generosity. With your help, we were able to serve 1,657 families in need in our community—up from 1,415 in 2023. Those families represent 3,656 people including 1,543 children 18 and under. In 2025 our goal is to serve more families, more efficiently, while remaining committed to our mission. Your continuing financial support will help us make that happen.

To the ladies that helped with putting the February newsletter together: Janet Bentz, Ella Filson, Susan Harmon, Bettie Harvey, Diane Johnston, Sandy Kutz, Charlene Lauderbaugh, Bev Sowash, Diane Waddell.

The Carpenter's Apprentice would like to thank Rev. Rehberg, Lori Bertani and Heather Duckett for planning and organizing the January Thaw event. With great help from many members and committees of the Church, it was a very successful fundraising event. The funds raised will go a long way in helping us to provide necessary home repairs to those less fortunate in the Irwin Community. Thanks to everyone who participated in the January Thaw, the residents we serve will be able to live in a safer and more habitable environment.



Visit our website for the most up-to-date calendar information!

Thank you for reading!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>23</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Childrens Worship, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:00pm HME Distribution 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>1</p> <p>8:30am Leadership Retreat</p>
<p>2</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Childrens Worship, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch Christian Education 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:00pm Worship & Sacrament 6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Shrove Pancake Dinner 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00am HME Distribution</p>
<p>9</p> <p>1st Sunday in Lent 8:15am Worship Service, Communion, Coffee Hour 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Communion, Children's Worship, Child Care, Coffee Hour 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00pm Mission 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm M Team Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship Committee 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:30pm Christian Education 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm D TEAM Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>15</p> <p>The Brick Squad - Lego Build</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Baptism Congregational Meeting 8:15am Worship Service, Cookie Hour 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Kids Sermon, Youth Choir, Child Care, Cookie Hour 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Pick Up For The Blessing Board</p>
<p>23</p> <p>New Members 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Children's Worship, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting 11:30am Potluck Dinner 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:00pm HME Distribution 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:30pm Session 7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord 6:30pm Movie Night "Secondhand Lions"</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Children's Worship, Child Care 6:30pm Youth Fellowship Movie Night</p>	<p>31</p> <p>1:00pm Worship & Sacrament 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm M Team Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Easter Egg Hunt</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Children's Worship, Child Care 6:30pm Youth Fellowship Movie Night</p>	<p>31</p> <p>1:00pm Worship & Sacrament 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm M Team Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30am Easter Egg Hunt</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Children's Worship, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch hosted by the Knit-wit(nesses) 6:30pm Youth Fellowship (7th - 12th grades)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>8</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship Committee 6:30pm Working Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm D TEAM Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Christian Education</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:00am Craft Show, Brenzia Room 9:00am HME Distribution</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service, Bell Choir, Coffee Hour 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Bell Choir, Child Care, Coffee Hour 1:00pm Youth Hike @ Ohiopyle</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>15</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club (K-5th) 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00pm The Brick Squad - Lego Build</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter Sunday 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care, Cookie Hour 10:30am Worship Service, Kids Sermon, Bell Choir, Youth Choir, Child Care, Cookie Hour</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:00pm HME Distribution 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30pm Session 7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pick Up For The Blessing Board</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting 6:30pm Youth Fellowship Shopping for the Food Pantry</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>29</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm TOPS 6:00pm Youth Club Bowling & Pizza 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry Open 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>3</p>