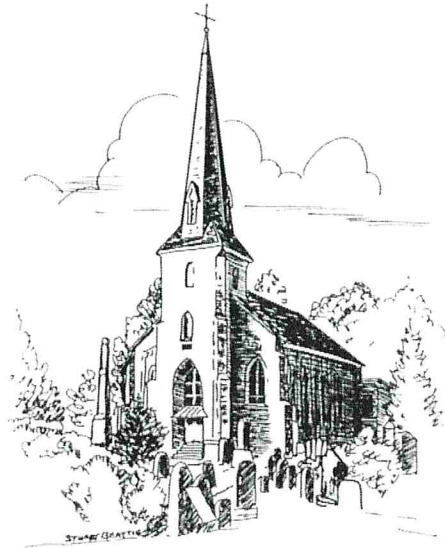


THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

Website at www.greenhillpres.org

E-mail Address: info@greenhillpres.org



TO:

September, 2026

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM
(Resumes September 16)

*

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

September 6 – Rev. Dr. Lovelace Preaching; Communion

Monday, September 7 – *Labor Day*

Tuesday, September 8 – Men's Bible Study, Janssen's Café, 8:00 AM

September 13 – *Rally Day*; Rev. Dr. Lovelace Preaching; De Blokfluiters Recorder Ensemble during Worship

Saturday, September 19 – NC Presbytery Meeting (hybrid), 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM,
Manokin Presbyterian Church, Princess Anne, MD

September 20 – Rev. Lovelace Unavailable; Rick Baun Leading Worship

Tuesday, September 22 – Men's Bible Study, Janssen's Café, 8:00 AM

September 27 – Rev. Dr. Lovelace Preaching; Favorite Hymns

From the Session – August 16, 2026

1. Due to scheduling conflicts, the September Session meeting will be held October 4th.
2. The Church website now has a calendar which Diane can easily update. It is under “Events,” but plans are in the works to create a “Calendar” tab.
3. Rev. Lovelace will be out of the pulpit on September 20th.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Rally Day is September 13

Traditionally, we invite everyone at Green Hill to commit to renewed vigor and attendance at worship on the first Sunday after Labor Day each year. This year, our **Rally Day will be on September 13**. We will have guest musicians, De Blokfluiters recorder ensemble, on September 13. It will be a joyous time and one designed to help us all reconnect with Green Hill Church. Please plan to attend Rally Day worship on September 13. A picnic lunch may be involved...stay tuned!

No Fall Church Clean Up Day in October

Traditionally, Green Hill Church Trustees have hosted a Fall Clean Up Day on the Second Saturday of October. Sadly, attendance at both Spring and Fall Clean Up Days has dropped substantially in recent years. Trustees have decided to forego the formal Fall Clean Up Day due to expected low attendance. ***In its place, a list of fall clean up jobs, both inside the church and around the grounds will be available.*** Please select and sign up for one or more jobs to complete during your own available personal time. The work still needs to be done and Trustees appreciate your help!

Generous Donations to Mother African Union Church Rebuilding

On May 17, 2026 a devastating fire destroyed the **Mother African Union Church** building on North Franklin Street in Wilmington. Mother African Union Church has a long and important history in Wilmington. Peter Spencer and William Anderson, former slaves, co-founded the church in 1813. It was the first American church in which African American members could govern themselves. Their annual festival, the August Quarterly, began in 1814 and is still held in Wilmington today. The pipes for our rebuilt Green Hill organ came from this church building. During June, July and August, Green Hill collected contributions from members and friends to send to Mother African for their rebuilding fund. We are pleased to report that we **collected and sent \$1110.00** along with our prayers for the congregation as they rebuild their church building.

“Just Enough”

In these days of volatility – economically, politically, and even socially – this story by Bob Perks seems especially poignant:

Recently I overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together at the airport. The airline had announced her departure and standing near the security gate, they hugged and he said, “I love you. I wish you enough.”

She in turn said, “Dad, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Dad.”

They kissed and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. Standing there. I could see he wanted – and needed – to cry. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, “Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?”

“Yes, I have,” I replied. “Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?”

“I am old and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead, and the reality is, the next trip back will be for my funeral,” he said.

“When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, ‘I wish you enough.’ May I ask what that means?”

He began to smile. “That’s a wish that has been handed down for many generations within my family. My parents used to say it to everyone.”

He paused for a moment, looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more. “When we said, ‘I wish you enough,’ we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them,” he continued, and then – turning toward me – he shared the following:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough ‘Hellos’ to get you through the final ‘Good-byes’.

Then he walked away. ~

I think too often we expect our lives to be perfect, taking for granted all of the “inconveniences” that come our way. We all need to remember the bad things are as important as the blessings in life because they help to develop character. How would we appreciate joys in life without sorrow?

In his letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul puts it this way: “I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:11b-13)

When we are in Christ, we have much more than just enough!

Dave Lovelace

Live in the Light of His Word (Psalm 119 – 1st 3 Strophes)

Psalm 119:18 *“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”*

In the summer issue of The SPIRE, I considered the general impressions of the 119th Psalm. There are, however, specific phrases that invite us to return for a closer inspection, and for this month’s consideration, I would like to consider some of the highlights from the first three strophes (verses 1-24).

Strophe 1: (*The blessed life is a Word-shaped life.*) The psalm begins with a blessing; *verse 1*; ***“Blessed are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.”*** True blessing is not found in our circumstances, but in walking according to God’s Word. God’s commands are not presented as restrictions designed to hold us back, but as a pathway to a blessed enjoyable life.

Strophe 2: (*A blessed life requires the word in our hearts.*) God’s Word will transform our conduct when God’s Word is treasured in our hearts. Do not merely read the Word, but study it, treasure it and store it. The psalmist moves from memorization to meditation to delight; (*verses 15-16*); ***“I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your Word.”***

Strophe 3: (*The Word gives us light in a strange land.*) We need God’s Word because we are pilgrims living in a world that doesn’t naturally show us God’s perspective, *verse 18*; ***“Open my eyes that I may behold the wondrous things out of your Law.”***

It is at this point that the psalmist confesses that he is just a sojourner on earth. This word, sojourner, has a particular significance “A person living in a country to which he does not belong, and excluded, therefore from the rights of a citizen”. It is a word with widespread contemporary significance. Millions of people have fled or been driven from their native lands and homes and have become wandering exiles. The following two citations of *verse 19* are especially poignant; ***“I live as an alien in the land; do not hide your commandments from me.”*** NRSV, and ***“I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!”*** ESV

So, as we make our home on earth, just like the psalmist, we have intimations of a higher world, and in that higher world we will find comfort and consolation. This strophe concludes by expressing that God’s word can be both a source of joy and a guide for help; *verse 24*, ***“Your statutes are my delight, they are my counselors.”*** In simple terms, when we turn to God’s Word, it can bring joy to our hearts as well as wisdom to our decisions.

Ref: The Interpreter’s Bible Vol 4 by James L. Mays published by Abingdon Press (1955)
Biblical Ref: English Standard Version (ESV)
Biblical Ref: New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Congratulations Graduate!



Proud parents and Green Hill members, **Ellen and Stephen Grubbs**, report that their son, **Scott**, graduated from Villanova University on May 20, 2026 with his Executive MBA, completing a rewarding two-year journey of personal and professional growth.

It was also an exciting time for the whole family. During Scott's time in the program, he and his wife, Sarah, welcomed their second child, Hugh Charles. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support of Sarah and their family throughout the two years. Their daughter, Nell, especially enjoyed visiting her dad at Villanova for family events and still misses getting to go to "Dad's school."

Scott is already putting many of the lessons from the program into practice. During his time at Villanova, he was elevated into a role leading a global sales team focused on emerging technologies. The opportunity has allowed him to apply what he learned in the program as he shapes the team, its strategy, and its direction for the future.

Scott is incredibly grateful for the experience, the friendships and relationships he built, and most importantly, the support of his family throughout the journey.

Green Hill Church sends its graduation congratulations to Scott and his family!

De Blokfluiters at Green Hill on September 13

We will be welcoming back to Green Hill the recorder ensemble, De Blokfluiters, on Sunday, September 13. We have enjoyed their music once before; in October, 2018. "De Blokfluiters" is a 9-member group that is an outreach recorder ensemble of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of the University of Delaware. Their current members rehearse twice a month and have been performing together since 2010.

Instruments include: 2 soprano recorders, 3 alto, 3 tenor, and 1 bass. They enjoy bringing their music to nursing homes, retirement centers, community centers, houses of worship, and elementary schools. They have played for holiday events, special historical events, memorial services, and select community and organizational events. Please plan to join us for this special music on September 13.

Annual Nut Sale 2026

Fellowship Committee is happy to announce that we will be holding our **annual Nut Sale during September, 2026**, with delivery of nuts guaranteed by our supplier before Thanksgiving. This will be the second year we have used fundraising company Durham-Ellis Pecans. This company proved to be a high quality, reliable supplier last year. We expect to bring you the nut varieties you have grown accustomed to, with a surprise or two available this year. Fellowship Committee will finalize their plans at their September 6 meeting. Order forms will be available promptly after that.

Summer Clothing Donations to Urban Vintage

During August, Deacon Gail Heath has taken 40 bags of clothing to the Urban Vintage thrift store, which is a ministry of Sunday Breakfast Mission located at 500 W. Second St., Wilmington. Please remember that the Deacons' Fall Clothing Drive begins October 4 and runs through the month of October, 2026.

Green Hill at Blue Rocks Baseball

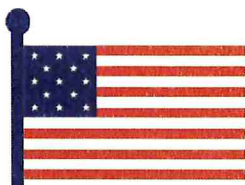
On Friday, August 21, Green Hill members and friends returned to the Blue Rocks stadium in Wilmington for our annual trip to see a baseball game. This time, a rainout on Thursday meant that our tickets were good for both games of a double header, starting at 4:30 PM. Our opponents were the Frederick (MD) Keys. Our seats were fantastic, behind home plate. We won both games! Mr. Celery was able to make some appearances celebrating Blue Rocks' runs. Fireworks after the second game were spectacular. Why don't you consider joining us at the ballpark next year?!



Photo by Chandler Brown



Photo by Chandler Brown


HAPPY LABOR DAY

Men's Bible Study



If you are a male Green Hill member or friend, you are welcome to participate in the bi-weekly **Men's Bible Study**. The men will meet on Tuesdays, **September 8, and 22, 8:00 AM, at Janssen's Café**. The meetings contain time for fellowship (including breakfast!), prayer, and Bible study. The men are continuing their study of the **Old Testament book of Exodus**. If you are interested in Men's Bible Study contact Rick Baun for more information. Please plan to check out the group and see if it is for you!

Women's Bible Study News



The Women's Bible Study will begin its new fall season on **Wednesday, September 16, 5:00 PM**, in the church Board Room and on Zoom. We are anticipating a thought-provoking and stimulating Bible Study on the **Old Testament book of Proverbs**. The study has been created by Rev. Dave Lovelace and will be led by him. There is no study guide, but each week we will hand out a prepared sheet for the following week's session.

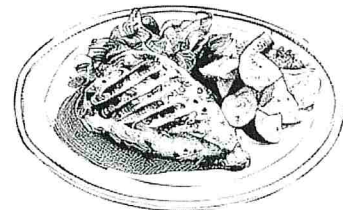
We are looking forward to our study of Proverbs. We know there are many important learnings for us in this well-known, but not often studied, book of the Bible. New members are always welcome either in-person or via Zoom.

Summer months are a time of rest for Women's Bible Study members. But the members usually stay active in the Word. Two members visited the Sight & Sound Theater in Ronks, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Lancaster) to see their production of *Joshua*. They reported that it was amazing! The musical was wonderful (particularly when the walls of Jericho came tumbling down!) and the trained, live animals were spectacular. Sight & Sound has been performing Bible shows on their stage for 50 years to sold-out theaters! Other Bible Study participants read during the summer. One favorite was *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Some women reported learning more about C. S. Lewis by watching the DVD, *C. S. Lewis On Christianity*, by scholars at Hillsdale College.

A Fun Fellowship Activity – Dinner Groups

Would you enjoy meeting fellow Green Hill members for dinner, usually at members' homes? If you would, you should try Dinner Group. Dinner Groups meet on the third Friday of October, January, March, and May. One participant in the Dinner Group hosts for that month and the others bring assigned items to complete the meal.

Fellowship Committee will be preparing the schedule shortly. If you have interest or need more information, please contact Chandler Brown or Evelyn Williams. If you wish to join us, please let us know by Rally Day, September 13. We hope to see you in October!



September 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month
Open My Eyes, That I May See

The text and the music for this hymn, published in 1895, are by Clara H. Scott (1841 – 1897). She was born in Elk Grove, Illinois, and for much of her life taught music in the Ladies' Seminary in Lyons, Iowa. She composed a great deal of instrumental and vocal music, and this hymn is probably her best-known composition. The opening line is a paraphrase of Psalm 119:18.

In 1856, Clara attended the first music Institute held by C. M. Cady in Chicago, Illinois and began teaching shortly afterward. She became recognized for her book of anthems, *The Royal Anthem Book*, which was published in 1882. Along with Anna Bartlett Warner, Phoebe Palmer and Fanny Crosby, Scott was among a wave of women gospel poets in the second half of the nineteenth century. She was the first woman to publish a volume of anthems.

The image of “open my eyes” is common in the Bible. In some cases, it is a sign of Christ’s healing power, as when Jesus gives sight to the blind man at the pool of Siloam in John 9. Learning to use our eyes, ears and heart requires patience and reflection. The gentle 6/8 meter of Scott’s music provides a subtle sense of dancing in tune with the Spirit as we learn to see, hear and speak the truth from our hearts.

Psalm 119:17-20

*“Do good to your servant, and I will live; I will obey your Word.
Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.
I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.
My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.”* (NIV)

Open My Eyes

*Open my eyes that I may see – glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unlock and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to see;
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear – voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the message sounds in my ear, Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, my God, Thy will to hear;
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me declare words of assurance everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare Your loving kindness thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God, Thy will to do;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Lyrics: by Clara H Scott (1895)
[Presbyterian Hymnal (1990) #324]
Hymns for the Family of God #486]
Ref: Presbyterian Hymnal Companion (1993) by Lindajo McKim*

Bruce Fine

Annual Banquets for Local Supported Ministries



A Door of Hope local crisis pregnancy center on Lancaster Pike is having its Annual Gala, entitled *rooted in love...for 45 years*, on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM**. “Together we will celebrate Christ’s abiding hope and invite you to join us as we honor and uphold life.” The banquet is being held at Deerfield, Newark, Delaware. You will hear from one woman whose life was changed when she found hope at A Door of Hope. You may register at: adoorofhope.org/gala.

Our friends at UrbanPromise Wilmington are having their Annual Banquet, *Rise Up and Shine*, on **Thursday, October 22**, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. With over 700 guests, this event features a wonderful dinner and a program highlighting the UrbanPromise journey in the neighborhoods of Wilmington. UrbanPromise operates two schools, the UrbanPromise School for Pre-K through Grade 7, and the UrbanPromise Academy for Grades 8 through 12. It also operates summer and after-school camps for underserved youth throughout Wilmington. Its StreetLeader program is one of the largest year-round employers for city teens in the area. Information to sign up will be available in the October SPIRE.



A Door of Hope and UrbanPromise Wilmington are Green Hill local supported ministries.

September Prayer Emphasis

Be Strong

¹³ I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;

be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.

Psalm 27:13-14 NIV

Keri Kondracki Multiplies Hong Kong WOW Conference Reach



Keri Kondracki, the World Initiative Network missionary we have supported for many years, had a more far-reaching result from her Women of Worth (WOW) conference in Hong Kong in February than she initially knew. Filipino women who attended the conference went home and hosted their own WOW Conferences, using lesson materials and funding provided by WOW Ministries. Keri writes: Lives were changed, leadership teams were trained, encouraged, and strengthened, and our Lord received all the Glory!

We may be able to see Keri for a live update at Green Hill during November. If so, we will offer Green Hill members and friends the opportunity to provide fun items for the women to enjoy who attend Women of Worth Conferences around the globe. Look for more information in the October SPIRE.

Signs of Serving

From the Green Hill Deacons



Back to School Rally

The Deacons send special heartfelt thanks to those who donated school supplies for the Sunday Breakfast Mission's **Back To School Rally!** We contributed **5 big bags and a large box of school supplies, including six backpacks, and \$40.00 cash.**

Volunteers and staff at SBM prepared many backpacks stuffed with school supplies from the community donations. 250 were given away along with Bibles to children who came out for the Rally with their families on Saturday, August 8, 2026. An additional 350 backpacks were given away after the Rally to other needy families. Free dental screenings for K thru 8th Grade and an eye clinic and medical clinic saw many kids. During the rally, a total of 15 children and adults made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The group prayed with them. Denise Snyder was the Deacon in charge of this project.



Looking Forward: Fall Clothing Drive



It is nearing that time of year as we switch from the heat of summer to cooler weather in upcoming months. The Deacons will be collecting **clean clothing and coats** for all ages during the month of **October for the Sunday Breakfast Mission.** Please keep in mind those who are less fortunate and bring in your **fall and winter items.** They may be placed in the corner vestibule in Fellowship Hall. Reminders will be in the Sunday Bulletin. Contact Ellen Grubbs, (302) 429-8698, for more information.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** during the summer months. The Saturday, July 18, team was **Allison Brokaw, Evelyn Williams, Ellen Grubbs, and Kathy Dugan.** We also thank **Ellen Grubbs and Dan Dugan** for browning hamburger meat for the EDR casserole on Wednesday, July 15, and Tuesday, August 18. On Wednesday, August 19, the prep team included: **Allison Brokaw, Ellen Grubbs, Dan Dugan, and Kathy Dugan.**

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers June 29 to July 2: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Evelyn Williams, Jen Galvin, and Gail Heath.** And in late July the team was: **Evelyn Williams, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Kathy Dugan and Dan Dugan.** The team in late August was: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Evelyn Williams, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, and Kathy & Dan Dugan.**

The schedules for EDR and MOW are posted in the entry to the church office. If you are interested in participating in either of these projects, please contact Ellen Grubbs at 429-8698 for EDR and Jen Galvin at 494-8259 for Meals on Wheels.

Our monthly **Tuesday Meals on Wheels** route will become available this fall. Please consider whether this important mission work is right for you. Contact Jen Galvin or Evelyn Williams for more information.

Ongoing Projects



We continue to collect nonperishable food items to support the food pantry at Sunday Breakfast Mission (SBM) and ground coffee, pancake mix, and syrup at EDR. Drop off your items anytime in the basket located at the back of the sanctuary.

September 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Evelyn Williams

Deacon of the Month Ellen Grubbs

Worship Assistants

Sept 6 Allison Brokaw
Sept 13 Kathy Dugan
Sept 20 Stephen Grubbs
Sept 27 John Stevens

Greeters

Sept 6 Gail Heath
Sept 13 Jen Galvin
Sept 20 Evelyn Williams
Sept 27 Evelyn Williams

Refreshments Evelyn Williams

Sept 13 Rally Day

Chancel Flowers

Sept 6 OPEN
Sept 13 Chandler Brown
Sept 20 Stirling Memorial
Sept 27 Ranie and Rob Good

Communion Servers

Sept 6 Allison Brokaw, Sandy Fine

Kids Sunday School Teachers + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

Sept 21 Evelyn Williams
Sept 22 TBD
Sept 23 Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
Sept 24 Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams
Sept 25 Kathy Dugan and John Hartman

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Saturday, September 19

Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
– Gail Heath

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Gail Heath

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Kristin Poppiti
4 Kate Grubbs
Hudson Venet
13 Caroline Beard
15 Gail Heath
20 Evelyn Williams
21 Rev. Dave Lovelace
26 Sebastian Venet
28 Rob Brokaw

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11 Sandy and Bruce Fine
(55 years 2026)
25 Miriam and John Stevens

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			7:00 PM AA Mtg.		6:30 PM AA Mtg.	
6 10:30 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Love- lace Preaching: Communion 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg.	7 Labor Day 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	8 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café	9 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	10	11 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	12
13 Rally Day 10:30 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Love- lace Preaching: De Blokluiters during worship 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg.	14 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	15 10:30 AM Handbells Rehearsal	16 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	17	18 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep 10:00 AM Hybrid NC Presbytery Mtg. @ Manokin PC, Princess Anne, MD
20 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Love- lace Unavailable: Rick Baun Leading Worship 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation SPIRE DEADLINE	21 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	22 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 10:30 AM Handbells Rehearsal	23 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	24 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	25 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	26
27 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship: Rev. Dr. Love- lace Preaching: Favorite Hymns 11:30 AM Lemonade & Conversation	28 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	29 10:30 AM Handbells Rehearsal	30 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.			