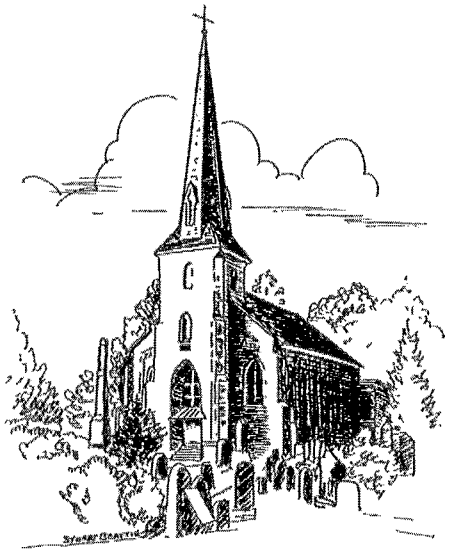
THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
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E-mail Address: info@greenhillpres.org



TO:

October, 2026

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revdel@comcast.net
(302) 652-5065 (Church)
(302) 368-5743 (Cell)

SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams
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(302) 622-8032

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM

✷

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

October 4 – *World Communion Sunday;* Rev. Lovelace preaching; Communion
Tuesday, October 6 – Men's Bible Study; 8:00 AM; Janssen's Café
October 11 – Rev. Lovelace Unavailable; Rick Baun Leading Worship; Congregational Bells
Monday, October 12 – *Columbus Day*
October 18 – Rev. Lovelace Preaching
Tuesday, October 20 – Men's Bible Study; 8:00 AM; Janssen's Café
October 25 – *Reformation Sunday*; Rev. Lovelace Preaching; Bagpiper, Thom Moore; Special Refreshments following Worship; Crafts Sale

From the Session – No Session Meeting in September

1. Due to schedule conflicts, there was not a Session meeting in September, 2026. The next Session meeting will be on Sunday, October 4.
2. Rev. Lovelace will be away from Green Hill on October 11. Elder Rick Baun will lead worship.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

World Communion Sunday on October 4

We will be joining our Presbyterian Church (USA) brothers and sisters who are celebrating **World Communion Sunday** along with other Protestant churches on the first Sunday of October. It promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The focus is on the sacrament of Communion. The observance of World Communion Sunday was begun in 1933 by Hugh Thomson Kerr who ministered at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Our Communion on October 4 will be by intinction with both fresh and pre-packaged elements available, including gluten-free.

Rick Baun Preaching and Congregational Bells on October 11

Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace will be unavailable on Sunday, October 11. Elder Rick Baun will be in the pulpit. We will also be ringing Congregational Bells on Sunday, October 11. We usually ring during the first congregational hymn of the worship service. Come prepared to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord"! (Psalm 100:1a KJV)

Lutheran Community Services Hunger Walk/Run Results

lutheran LCS community services

As of September 22, Lutheran Community Services Wilmington has achieved 119% of its fundraising goal of $60,000 by raising $71,456.00. The Hunger Walk/Run Walktoberfest was held on September 19, 2026, at Concordia Lutheran Church, 3003 Silverside Road, Wilmington, Delaware. All funds raised for the Walk/Run go to LCS' food programs, including its Food is Medicine program, committed to bringing nutritious foods to improve the health of Delaware families. Green Hill supports LCS, particularly its programs on homelessness prevention. Caseworkers work with clients who need help with bills and other items in order to stay in their homes. Green Hill uses this referral service when requests are made of us.

Lutheran Community Services is one of Green Hill's local supported ministries.

Pastor's Ponderings

"Pushing the Envelope"

"Pushing the envelope" is an essential corollary of the **"Use It or Lose It" Principle:** Capabilities of every kind must be exercised in order to develop them. (Or, to preclude – or to delay, as much as possible – their atrophy and loss.) Indeed, hardly a day goes by without media mention of some mental or physical activity which will enhance a person's well-being via their consistent, focused involvement.

For me, participation in the annual Delaware Senior Olympics Games is such a purpose. Of course, it's not that showing up in a weight room – or on a track – once a year provides much benefit in and of itself. Rather, those formal, public events provide both an annual checkup (as Kenny Rogers once said, "I just dropped in to see what condition my condition was in...") and an ongoing motivation for regular exercise throughout the year.

But – even more importantly – we must "push the envelope" in our spiritual lives: Our lives of discipleship – like our minds and bodies – are strengthened by regular exercise. So it is that the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews describes the spiritually "mature" as "those whose *faculties have been trained by practice* to distinguish good from evil" (5:14b (NRSV, emphasis added)).

Thinking along these lines, it would be well for us to consider strengthening our spiritual practices as we "fall into" our new, seasonal routines. For example:

Prayer: Why not drive in silence, using the time to speak – and listen – to God?

Study: Why not pick up the weekly Bible Study from the table at the rear of the Sanctuary? Or, use *These Days* or some resource on a daily basis? (A variety of educational and devotional materials are also readily available on the internet.)

Christian Action: Why not interject a bit of grace into some everyday situation by a smile, a kind word, or a charitable gift? What can we do for someone whose "envelope" is smaller than our own?

Not infrequently, a person who has been involved in some kind of ministry to others remarks that they received a surprising blessing – despite their seemingly insignificant contribution. That should not, however, be a surprise: The One who is Love created us that we might love one another (cf: I John 4:7-12), and love – when given away – does not diminish, but is multiplied.

The One who is Love has given each one of us an "envelope" of physical and mental capabilities, material resources, and spiritual gifts. We must use them or lose them, so, let's push the envelope!

Dave Lovelace

Prayer for Guidance and Understanding (Psalm 119: 33-72)

Psalm 119:33-34 ***"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe them to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart."***

These verses of Psalm 119 are a profound meditation on the value, power, and transforming work of God's Word. This portion of the psalm consists of five sections (or strophes) each containing eight verses. The psalmist presents God's law not merely as a collection of commands but as a source of wisdom, guidance, comfort and spiritual stability. The central theme is the believer's desire to know, obey, and treasure the Word of God even in the midst of suffering and opposition.

It is an earnest prayer of devotion for holy scripture; expressing a desire for guidance, understanding and steadfast obedience. In verses 33-40 the psalmist asks God to *teach the way of His decrees* and give understanding to keep His law. He seeks direction in God's commands, a heart turned toward God's statutes rather than selfish gain, and eyes turned away from worthless things. Verses 36-37; ***"Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways."***

In verses 41-50 the psalmist declares trust in God's word, confidence to answer taunts, and a commitment to obey God's law "for ever and ever" as in verses 41-42 ***"Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise. Then I shall have an answer for those that taunt me, for I trust in your Word."*** He speaks of walking in freedom through seeking God's precepts, speaking them before kings, and meditating on them. Even in suffering, he finds comfort in God's promise, and in the night, he remembers God's name to keep His law.

The psalmist remains faithful to God's law despite mockery from the arrogant in verses 51-72. He recalls God's ancient laws as a source of comfort, sings of God's decrees, and turns his steps toward God's statutes. He promises not to delay in obeying God's commands; verses 54-55 ***"Your statutes have been my songs wherever I make my home. I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law."***

Two verses that reflect the psalmist reverence to scripture relate to the understanding of its vastness and its importance in our daily lives; verse 64 ***"The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love. Teach me your statutes."*** and verse 72 ***"The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces."***

"O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high;
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky.
We praise Thee for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age."

Lyrics by William Walsham How (1867)

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

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Dr. Stephen Grubbs Wins Purdue Engineering Alumni Award

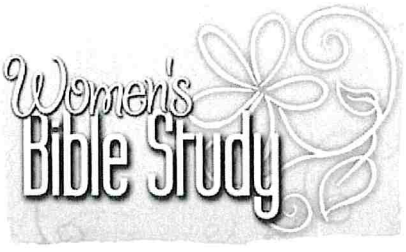


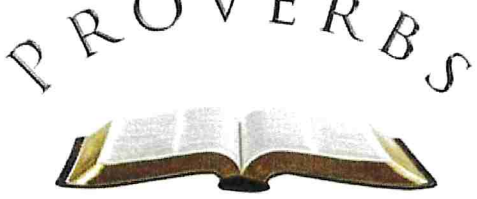
On Friday, September 25, 2026, Green Hill member **Dr. Stephen Grubbs** will travel to Lafayette, Indiana, to receive an Engineering Alumni Award from his undergraduate alma mater, Purdue University. Steve graduated from Purdue in 1975 with a degree in Chemical Engineering and has supported engineering scholarships at the University with his brother, David, for many years. The Alumni Awards honor those alumni whose achievements, leadership, and impact represent the very best of Purdue Engineering. Steve's specific award is the Engineering Innovation Award which recognizes a graduate of Purdue's College of Engineering who has developed a product, idea, or process that has had a significant impact on industry or society. Steve spent his 31-year working life as an M.D. oncologist in Newark, Delaware. After he left his full-time practice in 2015 and prior to his retirement in 2025, he was the Vice President of the Care Delivery Department for ASCO, the American Society of Clinical Oncologists. In that role he provided ASCO members and practices with the resources and education necessary to deliver high-quality cancer care. Steve commented that receiving the Alumni Award from Purdue was quite a surprise and honor! Steve's wife, Ellen, and brother, David, will accompany him for the award ceremony at Purdue.

Green Hill sends its Congratulations to Steve for receiving this great honor!

Women's Bible Study News

The Women's Bible Study kicked off its fall season on September 16 by beginning a study of the Old Testament book of **Proverbs**. The Women's group has been enthusiastic to study Proverbs because it is a book often quoted but rarely studied. Rev. Dr. Dave Lovelace is leading us and creating the study material. We began our study with a lively discussion of the first 7 introductory verses of the book and reflected on points cited in the written commentary. We will be continuing our study of Proverbs 1 on September 23.





We always welcome new participants in our study either in-person on Wednesday, 5:00 PM, at the church Board Room or via Zoom. Please contact Evelyn Williams if you are interested. Now is the perfect time to join as we have just begun our Proverbs journey!

Mission & Prayer Page

October Prayer Emphasis

Our Lord's Promises to the Faithful

14 "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
16 With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."

Psalm 91:14-16

Note: The psalmist wrote as if God Himself spoke to confirm the psalmist's faith. In return for the psalmist's love, the Lord promised to rescue him from danger, protect him from harm, be with him in trouble...honor him. All the kinds of danger mentioned in this song are ineffective against one who rests in the shadow of the Almighty. The author is anonymous. - Rick Baun

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*, on **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM**. This year, A Door of Hope celebrates its 45th anniversary. "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 a woman who feared she was alone and instead found hope. You may register at: adoorofhope.org/gala.

Our friends at **UrbanPromise Wilmington** are having their Annual Banquet, *Rise Up & Shine*, on **Thursday, October 22, 6:00 PM,** 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. Sign up for the banquet at https://www.urbanpromise.org/upwbanquet2026

Coming in January 2027
Care-Ware Underwear Campaign for Sunday Breakfast Mission



During January, 2027, Mission & Prayer committee will be asking for you to contribute packages of new underwear, T-shirts, bras, and shower shoes for the **Care-Ware collection at Sunday Breakfast Mission**. We have learned that underwear is one of the most often requested clothing items at homeless shelters. New, clean underwear provides a measure of dignity for the wearer as well. Please help us with this important campaign in January, 2027, sponsored by the Mission & Prayer Committee.

October 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph Scriven (1819 -1886) wrote these lyrics in 1855. He was born in Seapatrick, Ireland to prosperous parents. He was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin. At the age of 25 he decided to leave his native country and emigrate to Canada, settling in Port Hope, Ontario, a small town on the north shore of Lake Ontario. His reasons for leaving seem to be two-fold; the religious influence of the Plymouth Brethren upon his life estranging him from his family, and the accidental drowning of his fiancée the night before their scheduled wedding.

He became a philanthropist, freely giving of his money. He was considered an eccentric - as the man who "saws wood only for poor widows and sick people who cannot pay." Scriven's poems were published in *Hymns and Other Verses* in 1869.

There are two stories that have circulated regarding the circumstances surrounding the writing of this text by Joseph Scriven. One story tells of the sudden death of his bride-to-be the night before their wedding. Another says the hymn was sent to Scriven's mother in Dublin, Ireland as a source of comfort when she was seriously ill.

The music was composed by Charles Converse (1832-1918) in 1868. He was born in Warren, Massachusetts and studied at Leipzig Conservatory and then at the Law School in Albany, NY. He practiced law from 1875 and composted a number of hymn tunes and larger choral works. He died in Highwood, New Jersey.

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness – Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Lyrics by Joseph Scriven (1855)

[Presbyterian Hymnal (1990) #403]
[Hymns for the Family of God #466]
Ref: Presbyterian Hymnal Companion (1993) by Lindajo McKim

Bruce Fine

Fall Clean Up Work List



Trustees are **not planning a Fall Clean Up Day this October** due to several years of low attendance for scheduled Clean Up Days. This year we invite you to complete one or more tasks on your own from our list of jobs. This list will also be available on the back table in the sanctuary. Please note the date and time you intend to do the job on that Master List. Here are the jobs we'd like to see completed this fall. Numbers in parentheses indicate our suggested number of participants. Please see Evelyn Williams for more information.

1. Sweep leaves and debris from basement steps; remove debris from leaf catcher (1)
2. Walk cemetery; pick up fallen branches, limbs, and outdated memorial decorations … any questions on decorations please ask. (2)
3. Dust all pews … thoroughly … seats, backs, ends, all surfaces (1)
4. Dust high places in sanctuary including window frames and sills. Dan Dugan has pole extension duster. (1)
5. Dust choir areas, and wood wainscoting, etc. on dais. (1)
6. Wash windows in hallways and doors (No stained glass, no first-floor rooms, no windows with Plexiglas storm panes) (2)
7. Clean out refrigerator of old and expired items. (1)
8. Spot clean sanctuary carpet (1)

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, **October 6, and 20, 8:00 AM, at Janssen's Café.** The meetings contain time for fellowship, prayer, and Bible study. In October the men will continue 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!

Reformation Sunday Bagpiper



Thom Moore, **bagpiper**, will return on Reformation Sunday, **October 25**, to play for us during our regular worship service. Reformation Sunday is always the last Sunday in October. Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds their faith on this day which marks the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Green Hill's Irish and Scottish heritage is especially well suited to bagpipe music.

Thom is a professional musician-bagpiper with over 3 decades of experience as a serious solo and pipe band competitor on the Great Highland Bagpipe, with more than 300 trophies and medals -- including 43 "piper of the day" championships -- in competitions sanctioned by the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association (EUSPBA) and the Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario, Canada (PPBSO). Thom is also an accomplished public performer, having played multiple times at all of the major Philadelphia-area music and civic venues. He is extremely well versed in Irish, Scottish, and other Celtic musical selections. His business, The Happy Bagpiper™, includes performances, bagpipe instruction, and instrument sales.

Special Refreshments and Craft Sale on October 25

Please join us after the worship service on Sunday, October 25, for **Reformation Sunday Special Refreshments**. We will be offering sweet and savory treats contributed by various members of the congregation. Expect tea sandwiches, cookies, and other delights. The **Craft Group** will also be displaying their recent creations for sale during Special Refreshments. Please check out the Craft table for new or favorite handmade crafts!



Keri Kondracki Green Hill Visit Planned Soon

World Initiative Network missionary, Keri Kondracki, will visit Green Hill this fall, probably in November, following some planned surgery. At that time, she will update us on her **Women of Worth (WOW) Conferences** that she holds in many parts of the world. She was in Hong Kong ministering to women there during April, 2026.

Each time Keri visits us we offer Green Hill members and friends the opportunity to contribute to the success of her WOW conferences. We know that Keri appreciates Amazon Gift Cards in any amount so that she can buy specifically what she wants to provide to the attendees at specific conferences. If you prefer to purchase specific items for the Keri and her WOW attendees, please use this link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/37XRIL94ON6ZW?ref_=wl_share We will have a collection box in the sanctuary.

We look forward to hearing from Keri this fall. Please mark the date on your calendar as soon as we can firm it up with her and inform you.

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



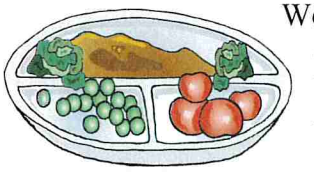
Fall Clothing Drive

During the month of **October,** the Deacons will be hosting our annual fall clothing drive for the **Sunday Breakfast Mission**. Please bring your clean and gently used **fall and winter clothes** and place them in the corner vestibule in Fellowship Hall. There is always a need for winter coats. Donations will be accepted **from now until October 25.** Please contact Ellen Grubbs, (302) 588-8371 for more information.



EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Saturday, September 19. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Gail Heath, Dan Dugan and Kathy Dugan.** Thanks also go to **Dan Dugan and Ellen Grubbs** for browning hamburger meat for the casserole on September 17.



We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers for September as well: **Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, Kathy Dugan and Dan Dugan.**

We will be making up the schedules for 2027 at the end of this year. If you have interest and schedule availability to help with either EDR or Meals on Wheels, please indicate your interest to a Deacon.

Sunday Breakfast Mission Great Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Deacons encourage you to participate in the **Sunday Breakfast Mission's** (SBM's) **Great Thanksgiving Food Drive** which we will start on Sunday, October 11 and run through **November 8**. Lists of the needed food supplies will be available on the back table in the sanctuary. Contributions via check should be made out to Green Hill with SBM Food Drive in the memo line. **YOUR** generosity once again will benefit so many. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Collender at (302) 379 8979.



Ministry of Caring Adopt-A-Child Program



We will be participating in the Adopt-A-Child program again this year. The Ministry of Caring is seeking **cash and check donations** only in 2026. Ministry of Caring then buys Gift Cards for the parents they support to use for their children's presents. This method has been in effect since 2020 and allows resources to be more evenly shared by all families in the program. **Please make your checks payable to Green Hill Church with Adopt-A-Child in the memo line.** Checks are due by **Sunday, November 15.** The Deacon contact for this project is Jen Galvin at (302) 494-8259.

Nuts for Troops

We will be sending a package full of different varieties of nuts to Air National Guard troops who are serving away from home this year during the holidays. Gail Heath is the Deacon in charge. (302) 528-2034.

October 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Evelyn Williams

Deacon of the Month Sandy Fine

Worship Assistants

October 4 - Steve Grubbs
October 11 - John Stevens
October 18 - Rick Baun
October 25 - Sandy Fine

Greeters

October 4 - Evelyn Williams
October 11 - Ellen Grubbs
October 18 - Gail Heath
October 25 - Evelyn Williams

Refreshments Chandler Brown

October 11 - Evelyn Williams
October 25 - Reformation Sunday Special Refreshments

Chancel Flowers

October 4 - JoAnna and Victor Ventresca
October 11 - Amy and Rick Baun
October 18 - Kathy and Dan Dugan
October 25 - Gail Heath

Communion October 4

Steve Grubbs
Sandy Fine

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

October 19 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
October 20 - MOW staff
October 21 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
October 22 - Evelyn Williams
October 23 - Kathy & Dan Dugan

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Monday, October 19

Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
– Evelyn Williams
Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Ellen Grubbs

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 John Cincilla
2 Ranie Good
5 Ginine Maxwell
17 Margaret Marquardt
Landon Fox
23 Lyla Kovalcik
27 Dan Dugan
Sue Makowski
28 JoAnna Ventresca
31 Rick Baun

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jennifer & Robert Galvin
5 Kristin & Rob Poppiti

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	*2* 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	*3*
4 ***World Communion Sunday*** 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Rev. Lovelace Preaching; Communion 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. Budget	*5* 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	*6* 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café	*7* 3:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	*8*	*9* 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	*10*
11 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Rev. Lovelace Unavailable; Rick Baun Leading Worship; Congregational Bells 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	*12* ***Columbus Day*** 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	*13*	*14* 3:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	*15*	*16* 6:30 PM AA Mtg. Dinner Groups	*17*
18 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Rev. Lovelace Preaching 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. with Deacons SPIRE DEADLINE	*19* 8:15 AM EDR Prep 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	*20* 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries	*21* 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 3:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	*22* 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	*23* 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	*24*
25 ***Reformation Sunday*** 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Rev. Lovelace Preaching; Bagpiper 11:30 AM Special Refreshments + Craft Sale 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg.	*26* 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Al-Anon Mtg.	*27*	*28* 3:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	*29*	*30* 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	*31*