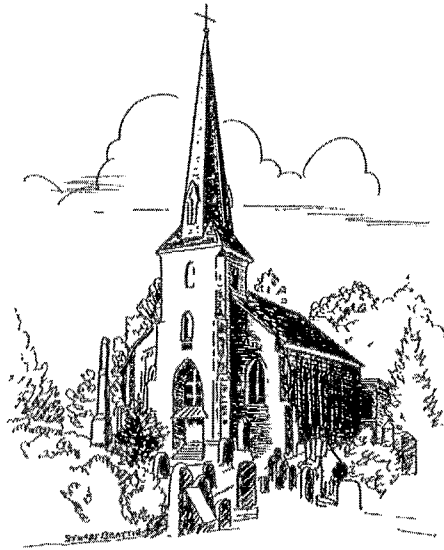


THE SPIRE

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:

April, 2026

Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065

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(302) 368-5743 (Cell)

SPIRE Editor: Evelyn Williams
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, April 2 – *Maundy Thursday*

Friday, April 3 – *Good Friday*; Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Reflection, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM;
7:00 PM, Worship Service; Rev. Dr. David Lovelace Preaching; Communion; Tenebrae; Special Offering

April 5 – *Easter Sunday*; Rev. Dr. David Lovelace Preaching; OGHS

Tuesday, April 7 – 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café

April 12 – Rev. Dr. David Lovelace Preaching; Communion

April 19 - Rev. Dr. David Lovelace Preaching

Tuesday, April 21 – 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café

April 26 – Rev. Dr. David Lovelace Preaching; Congregational Bells

From the Session – March 15, 2026

1. Session will meet with the Presbytery Liaison in May.
2. The Church website is in the process of being updated. New(er) photographs are appreciated.
3. Mike Tate is taking over the church Facebook page to bring it current.
4. Session approved the Deacons' recommendations of Ministry of Caring to receive our Ash Wednesday offering and Mary Campbell Center for the Good Friday Special Offering.

Chandler Brown
Clerk of Session

Special Offerings Results in February and March

On February 18, the 21 attendees at our evening Ash Wednesday worship service donated **\$193.00 to Ministry of Caring**. This service included the application of ashes. It was the first time in recent memory that Green Hill has had an Ash Wednesday evening worship service.

On March 8, generous attendees in-person and on Zoom donated **\$695.00 to Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge (DATC)** of Seaford and Georgetown, Delaware. Pastor Bob Carey and a team from DATC worshipped with us on Sunday, March 8. Pastor Bob preached the sermon, two DATC residents gave their testimonies, and their music minister led us in a relevant hymn. The DATC visitors also joined us after the worship service for fellowship.

New Mission Information on Bulletin Boards and in Windowsill in Fellowship Hall

Please check out our Mission bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall. Each mission we support sends timely information which we post for you to read. Of special interest now are new photographs of Keri Kondracki's February, 2026, Women of Worth mission trip to Hong Kong and the March newsletter from Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge which has a story about Kevin R., one of two DATC residents who gave their testimony at Green Hill on March 8.

Artificial Flowers Option

The option to use one of our several artificial flower arrangements when you sign up to provide the chancel flowers has proven to be a popular alternative to fresh flowers. The fee for this option is **\$25.00 each time you use it, paid to Green Hill with Flower Fund in the memo line of your check**. Paying this fee entitles you to make a dedication which is published in the Sunday Bulletin. Your dedication may be "in honor of" or "in memory of" anyone you choose, just like the dedication when you purchase fresh flowers.

One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday

We will be collecting the **One Great Hour of Sharing** Special Offering on **Easter Sunday**, April 5. Funds collected support three Presbyterian Church (USA) mission programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. You may use the special envelopes or write OGHS in the memo line of your check to Green Hill.



“Easter Greetings: Important Recall Notice”

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units – code named “Adam and Eve” – resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units.

This defect has been technically termed “Subsequential Internal Non-Morality”, or more commonly known as S.I.N., as it is primarily expressed. Some other symptoms include:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Loss of direction | 6. Depression or confusion in the mental component |
| 2. Foul vocal emissions | 7. Fearfulness |
| 3. Amnesia of origin | 8. Idolatry |
| 4. Lack of peace and joy | 9. Rebellion |
| 5. Selfish or violent behavior | |

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this SIN defect.

The Repair Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee required. The number to call for repair in all areas is: P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden of Sin through the REPENTENCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, Jesus, into the heart component. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace it with:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Love | 4. Patience | 7. Faithfulness |
| 2. Joy | 5. Kindness | 8. Gentleness |
| 3. Peace | 6. Goodness | 9. Self-control |

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Believers’ Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

WARNING: Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded.

DANGER: The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention.

GOD

P.S. Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact Me any time by “kneemail”.

Pastor Dave

Sometimes a Light Surprises (Psalm 57)

Psalm 57:11. *“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.”*

Psalm 57 is a cry to God for help, made by one who knows God will answer. David writes this psalm while hiding in a cave – pressed, pursued, and uncertain. Yet the striking thing is not his fear, but his confidence in God’s grace. He begins, *“Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge”* then quickly moves to *“I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed”*.

Many churches recite this psalm on Easter morning. The psalm teaches us something essential: faith does not deny danger – it chooses where to dwell in the midst of it. David acknowledges the reality around him: enemies, traps, and treats. But he lifts his eyes higher than his circumstances. He says in verse 3 *“God sends forth his love and his faithfulness.”* In other words, what surrounds me does not define me – my relationship with God defines me.

Verses 5 and 11 are called a *“Te Deum”* and are to be sung by the congregation; *“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.”* This acclamation shifts the focus from one’s trouble to the worship of God.

Then in verse 7 David starts praising God *“My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.”* Praise, here, is not a reaction – it’s a decision. It’s an act of trust that God is already at work. So, what does that mean for us? When life feels like a cave – tight, dark, and uncertain – we are invited to take refuge, not in escape, but in God’s presence. We are invited to steady our hearts even before our circumstances settle. And we are called to praise not because everything is good, but because God is faithful.

I find that verses 7 and 8; *“My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.”* remind me of a hymn written by William Cowper in 1779.

*“Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings;
It is the Lord who rises with healing in His wings;
Beneath the spreading heavens His praise shall tune my voice;
For while in Him confiding, I cannot but rejoice”*

In conclusion, Psalm 57 serves as a profound reminder of God’s mercy and protection. It encourages believers to turn to God in times of trouble, to trust in His plans, and to worship Him regardless of circumstances. The psalm not only reflects David’s personal struggles but also offers timeless lessons for faith and resilience in the face of adversity. By focusing on these themes, this psalm inspires and uplifts us, with a message of hope and divine refuge.

Ref: *Psalms: Interpretation* by James L. Mays published by John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised International Version (NIV)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge at Green Hill Sunday Worship



Photo by Bruce Fine

[L to R: Development Coordinator Lindsey Short, Home of Hope Education Coordinator Jennifer Macinta, CEO Pastor Bob Carey, Green Hill’s Rick Baun, Public Relations Brett Cooper, Senior Student Kevin Rios, Worship Director Pastor James Caldwell]

On Sunday, March 8, 2026, Green Hill hosted representatives from Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge during the regular worship service. Pastor Bob Carey preached the sermon entitled, *“Image Bearing: The Efficacy of Advocacy”*, with scripture readings from Genesis, Matthew, and Philemon. In addition, we heard heartfelt testimonies from two DATC residents, Lindsey and Kevin. Worship Director, Pastor James Caldwell, led us from the piano in a rousing hymn to close DATC’s portion of our worship service. All the Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge attendees joined us for fellowship after the service which allowed time for good discussions. We appreciate DATC worshipping with us and allowing us to hear “first hand” from one of our local supported ministries. Green Hill Mission & Prayer Committee sponsored this visit.

Prayer Emphasis for April

The Peace of God

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7 NIV

Tom and Kira Stevens Sing Duet

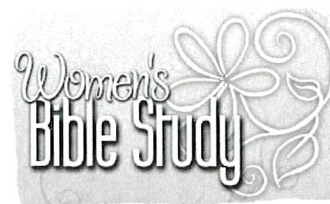


Photo by Jennifer Galvin

On Sunday, March 22, Kira Stevens and her dad, Tom Stevens, sang a duet in English of the lovely Welsh tune, “*Calon Lan*” (“*A Clean Heart*”). Kira has recently joined Green Hill’s chancel choir. Tom has been a choir member for many years.

Women’s Bible Study News

Women’s Bible Study is working its way through the New Testament Book of Galatians. In many ways, it is a very challenging book. We are benefiting from the insights Pastor Dave Lovelace is sharing in his notes for each chapter. We are currently studying Galatians Chapter 5. The emphasis in what we have recently been reading is on Freedom provided by Christ, not under the law. Paul cautions readers against returning to the bondage of the law. We have also been reminded of the fruits of the Spirit as differentiated from the works of the flesh.



All of our sessions are hybrid. All meetings are held in the church Board Room on Wednesdays at 5:00 PM and all meetings are broadcast via Zoom. New members are always welcome **in-person or via Zoom**.

Men’s Bi-Weekly 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, **April 7 and April 21, 8:00 AM, at Janssen’s Café**. If you are interested in Men’s Bible Study, please contact Rick Baun for more information. The meetings contain time for fellowship (including breakfast!), prayer, and Bible study of the Old Testament book of **Exodus**. Please plan to check out the group and see

if it is for you!

Trustees Trumpet Spring Clean-Up Day March 21 Recap



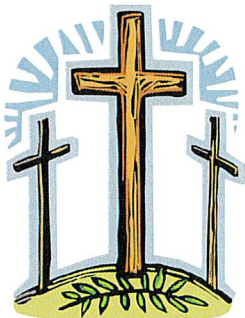
On Saturday, March 21, Trustees hosted the spring church Clean-Up Day. We had only three participants: Trustees Dan Dugan, Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams. Despite the very small group, we were able to make inroads on our 2026 spring task list. We have removed debris and Christmas memorials from the cemetery, removed driveway snow markers, washed windows, shined the brass door panels on the red front doors, and removed broken plastic debris from the outer parking lot. We have several important spring tasks left to do. **If you are able to contribute some of your time during the coming weeks, please see Evelyn Williams for an assignment.**

Good Friday Service



On **Friday, April 3, at 7:00 PM** we will have a **Good Friday service**, remembering both the Lord's Last Supper and also the Seven Last Words from the Cross that Jesus uttered on Good Friday. This service is very reflective, as we focus on Jesus' fulfillment of the Passover and his laying down his life for us. We celebrate the Lord's Supper, as this was the night on which he instituted that sacrament for us to remember his sacrifice. The service will continue with the "service of shadows, known as Tenebrae, in which seven readers from the congregation read the words of Christ from the cross. Candles are extinguished on the communion table after each reading, followed by a congregational hymn or choir anthem. The service will conclude with the congregation singing "Were You There?" in the darkness, recalling the darkness that hung over the land in the three last hours of Jesus' crucifixion. This worship service will be very much like the Maundy Thursday service we have done in the past. It will be a very moving service and one we hope you will make an important part of your focus during Holy Week. The Special Offering this year will go to *Mary Campbell Center*. The Rev. Dr. David Lovelace will lead the worship service.

Special Good Friday Time for Prayer and Reflection



Again, this year we will be opening the Green Hill sanctuary on **Good Friday, April 3, from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM** for your use for quiet prayer time and reflection. Bibles are available in the pews and season-specific hard copy reading materials will be available for you in the sanctuary. You may stay any length of time that you wish during our "open" three-hour period. We hope that you will take advantage of this time to reflect on Jesus' death on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

April 2026 Hymn-of-the-Month
Be Still My Soul

The lyrics to "Be Still My Soul" were written in 1752 by Katherine von Schlegel and translated to English in 1855 by Jane Laurie Bothwick. The formation of "Be Still, My Soul" as it appears in our hymnal covers three countries – Germany, Scotland, and Finland – and well over 100 years.

Little is known about the author of this hymn even the date of her death is unknown. As her name suggests, she may have come from an aristocratic family and that she was connected with a small court at Köthen, north of Halle, in Germany.

This text appears at the time of German pietism, similar in spirit in many regards to the Wesleyan revival in England of the same era. Philipp Jacob Spener (1635-1705) led the German pietistic movement. Though not a hymn writer himself, he inspired a revival in German hymnody characterized by faithfulness to Scripture, personal experience, and deep emotional expression. Katharina von Schlegel is thought to be the leading female hymn writer of this period.

The hymn comes to us via a translation by Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897), a member of the Free Church of Scotland. Borthwick was second only to Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878) in bringing the riches of German hymn heritage to the English language. Her translation included five of the original six stanzas, appearing in *Hymns from the Land of Luther*, second series (1855).

The tune FINLANDIA complements this stirring poem wonderfully. The melody comes from a symphonic tone poem by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) by the name of Finlandia, Op. 26. Sibelius wrote it as a patriotic offering in 1899 with a revision in 1900. This composition was performed as the final of seven pieces as the music to accompany a series of tableaux, each reflecting portions of Finnish history. Out of agitated and tumultuous opening music, symbolizing the struggles of the Finnish people, emerges the serenity of the hymn-like melody we know as FINLANDIA, symbolizing hope and resolution.

The Peace Celebrations of 1899 provided the political backdrop for the composition as well as a subtle protest by the composer against the rising censorship from Russia felt in the nearby Scandinavian countries. The censorship was so intense that the composition could not be programmed openly under its formal title *Finlandia*, as the Russian Empire would deem that too patriotic. In order to please the Russian censors, other titles were devised such as "Happy Feelings at the Awakening of Finnish Spring."

Finally, David Evans (1874-1948), a Welsh Oxford-trained organist-choirmaster and music professor, matched the Borthwick's translation with Sibelius' tune for the *Revised Church Hymnary* (London, 1927). This pairing was brought to the United States when it was used in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. for *The Hymnal* (1933).

Lyrics: by Katherine von Schlegel (1752)
[Hymns for the family of God #77]
Ref: 101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth Osbeck

Bruce Fine

Keri Kondracki Mission Trip to Hong Kong – February 2026

Editor's Note: Photo captions are Keri's own comments.



Thank you for your faithful prayers and partnership in our Lord's work around the world.



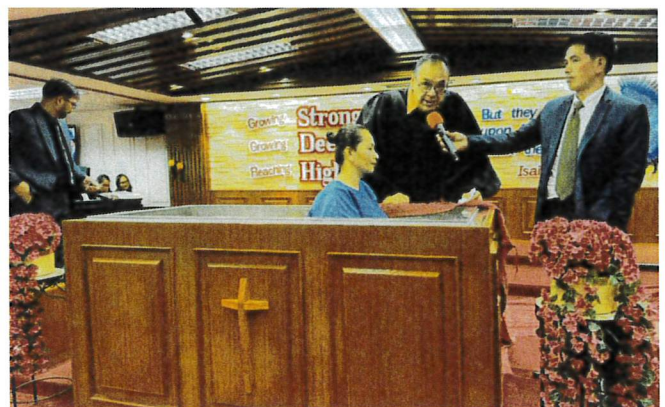
The ladies loved the teddy bear washcloths and make up bags that your church provided.



We hosted two beautiful luncheons and multiple snacks and desserts for 350 women on Feb 17 and 18. We also hosted a fancy dinner for the church staff.



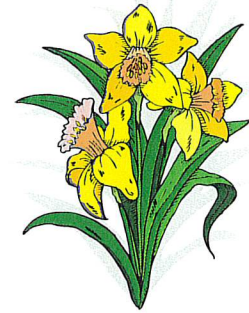
*Revival happened during our time in Hong Kong!
Hearts were surrendered!*



*We saw 20 ladies who gave their hearts to Christ,
3 who followed in baptism, and many others
who surrendered to the Lord's work across the globe.*

Signs of Serving

From the Green Hill Deacons



Spring Clothing Drive Begins April 19th



The Deacons are sponsoring their **annual spring clothing drive**. Please contribute clean clothing and coats for all ages. Donations will be given to the **Sunday Breakfast Mission's Urban Vintage** in Wilmington. Please

bring your **spring and summer clothes** and place them in the corner vestibule in Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted **from April 19 to May 24**. Please contact Gail Heath with any questions at 302-528-2034.

Thank You for Your Generous Support of the SBM Hope Totes

"Thank you" to all who donated personal care products and toiletries to Sunday Breakfast Mission. SBM will distribute these items to homeless and needy



local residents on Easter Sunday, April 5. We appreciate all the work of Jennifer Galvin who organized this project. We will provide you with the actual count of Hope Totes we donated in the May SPIRE.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to **Ellen Grubbs, Gail Heath, Dan Dugan and Kathy Dugan** who participated in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Thursday, March 19.

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels Delivery** volunteers in March: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Maya Hirs and family, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, 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 Jen Galvin at 302-494-2859.

Good Friday Offering

The Good Friday special offering will go to the **Mary Campbell Center** this year. Mary Campbell Center serves children and adults with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Deacons will **honor the ladies** of the church with a special recognition during our worship service on **Mother's Day, May 10**.

We continue to collect **nonperishable food items** to support the food pantry at **Sunday Breakfast Mission and breakfast items for Ministry of Caring (Emmanuel Dining Room)**. Drop off your items anytime in the basket located at the back of the sanctuary.

April 2026 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Mark Collender

Deacon of the Month Laurie Collender

Worship Assistants

April 3 - Sandy Fine
April 5 - Kathy Dugan
April 12 - Stephen Grubbs
April 19 - JoAnna Ventresca
April 26 - John Stevens

Greeters

April 3 - Evelyn Williams
April 5 - Kathy Dugan
April 12 - Evelyn Williams
April 19 - Gail Heath
April 26 - Amy Baun

Refreshments Evelyn Williams

Chancel Flowers

April 3 - Jane Driver Memorial
April 5 - OPEN
April 12 - Barbara & John Williams
April 19 - Denise Snyder
April 26 - Sandy & Bruce Fine

Communion Servers

April 3 - Sandy Fine + Laurie Collender
April 5 - Kathy Dugan + Rick Baun

Kids Sunday School Teachers + Child Care

Kids Activity Bags Available in the File Room

Meals On Wheels

April 6 - Evelyn Williams
April 7 - Maya Hirs and family
April 8 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
April 9 - Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams
April 10 - Kathy Dugan and John Hartman

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Saturday, April 18

Cooks – Gail Heath
– Evelyn Williams

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Evelyn Williams

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

12 Bill Lamb
25 Kira Stevens
28 Casey Fox
Rob Good
29 Conrad Foulk
Jennifer Galvin

APRIL ANNIVERSARY

15 Megan Mahle and Jason Cincilla

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>2 Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>3 Good Friday</i> 12:00 PM-3:00 PM Sanctuary Open 6:30 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Worship; Communion; Tenebrae; Special Offering	<i>4</i>
<i>5 Easter Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; OGHs 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	<i>6</i> 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>7</i> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>9</i> 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries	<i>10</i> 10:20 AM MOW Deliveries 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Communion 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	<i>13</i> 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>14</i> 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	<i>15</i> 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 8:15 AM EDR Prep
<i>19</i> 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Session Mtg. SPIRE DEADLINE	<i>20</i> 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>21</i> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study at Janssen's Café 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>23</i> 6:30 PM Craft Mtg.	<i>24</i> 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship; Congregational Bells 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg.	<i>27</i> 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>28</i> 11:00 AM Handbells Rehearsal	<i>29</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>30</i>		