

# *The First Forecast*

of  
*First United Methodist Church*  
200 East Third Street, Lewistown, PA 717-248-4618

Volume 26 No. 10

*'Reaching Out Where They Are'*

December 2018

## **Building New Places for New Things**

The parsonage family wants to thank First UMC (FUMC), Homespun, and Lester & Gayle Lepley for the great addition of a shed. You might think, “Gee, it doesn’t seem to take much to make the parsonage family



happy these days.” Well, we really appreciate the ability to remove flammable materials out of the garage / basement. The shed is spacious enough to hold all the flammables, lawnmower, snow blower, etc with room for many more things. We are blessed. Without this ‘new space’ we would still be living in a home that contains dangerous oil, gasoline, and other elements. A ‘new space’ was necessary for the danger to be addressed.

Along those same lines of thought, let’s talk church! Have you ever wondered what it would take to get people off the streets and into our places of worship? Church leaders in struggling churches wonder this very thought every day. How does one go about reaching a subset of the population that doesn’t seem interested in spiritual things? First, we must acknowledge those who seem indifferent to spiritual things are not as indifferent as we believe.

They are also not being communicated to in a language they can understand. It is as if we in the church are speaking in a language only we understand. What shall we do then?



Building new places for flammables in a parsonage sounds like a good place to start. The men's group and many Trustees of the church have been discussing an overhaul of certain areas of our church in order to make them more inviting and open for people who are not here yet....

A focus on youth and young children's ministries is taking shape and we are in a sense building new places for new people to worship, learn about Jesus, and have fun doing it. Your financial support of Homespun and other ministries within FUMC is vital for nurturing those who are already here and for reaching those who aren't here yet.

We Love You,

Randy, Tracie, and Joe

PS: The shed also holds two 10' kayaks!

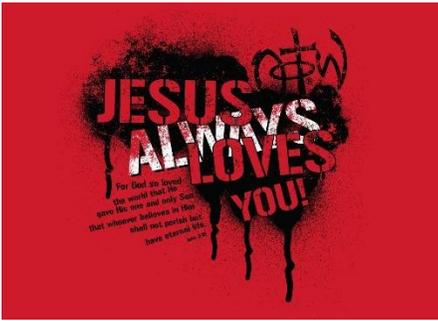




The Advent season is one of wonder. It is a season of promise. The longer nights and the gray clouds seem to provide the perfect background for the lights and the tinsel. The decorations are everywhere we turn. For some this is a time of hopeful anticipation. But for many, Christmas is a harsh reminder of life that once was. So rather than hopeful anticipation, many experience a cloud of despair.

In times like this it is often helpful to carve out a time of quiet reflection, to shed tears, seek support, be reminded that you are not alone, and to give yourself permission to mourn. Whether this is the first Christmas without someone you love, or if you seem to be hurting from loss for as long as you remember, you are invited to come to light candles of remembrance, and partake in Communion at the The Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4 PM in the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church, 200 East Third St., in Lewistown. A time of fellowship with Light Refreshments will follow the service.





## 2 Timothy 1:3

**I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.**

### **Dear Fellow Believers in Christ,**

I want to first say how thankful I am to be able to serve here with you as we share in the gospel with the students that God has entrusted us with, making and nurturing believers in Jesus Christ. I covet as many opportunities to partner with you in that mission.

Secondly, I want to let you know that if you or your students ever want to talk that I would really welcome that opportunity.



My hope for our students is to watch them graduate out of our Youth program as Christ following disciples who are ready to face the world through the eyes of Jesus and knowing that Jesus holds their future!

2018 will be remembered as a year of growth and bonding for Our Youth! We have had so many fun and spiritual formational events. During youth group, we learned about the book of John, the meaning of grace, brokenness, stress, baptism, and participated in prayer stations. We look forward to more awesomeness in 2019! Keep reading to see what we have planned ahead...

### **Help us keep growing !!!**

I have seen some significant growth in the youth group over the past year. We have grown numerically but I have also seen students grow in their faith in big ways! What has caused this growth?

**Prayer.** I have been asking God to help us grow (spiritually and numerically) since day one of my working here. Others have joined me in this prayer continuously. God is definitely at work!

**Parent Involvement.** This past year I have seen more parents wanting to be involved in their teen's faith development. They demonstrate this in a variety of ways but mostly through bringing their teen/s to youth group. Parents also play a key role in modeling the importance of faith development by serving the church and their communities. Teens typically model this behavior by being involved when they see their parents make faith and service a priority.



**Participation in Events.** Participating in events is critical for what we are trying to accomplish. I want students to feel a sense of belonging when they are with their church family. I want them to feel at home when they walk into the youth room. Participating in events allows them to gain a sense of belonging and to be known. The events are a time for teens to connect with one another and with leaders. When teens feel a sense of belonging in Christian community they are more likely to seek connection with Jesus. So please do everything you can to encourage your teen/s to come to events. We have financial assistance available so please never let money be a reason they cannot participate.

**Like Us on Facebook**

**Don't forget to hit the like button on our Facebook page so you can stay updated and even check out photos of what we are up to**

**@First United Methodist Youth Group**

## **Sign Up to Bring Snacks**

We are asking people to bring snacks to donate to the Youth Group

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

Christmas Caroling December 5th&12th Christmas Caroling for Youth  
Mystery Meal December 16 12:00 p.m. - The youth would like to thank our congregation for all of the support they show so they are cooking lunch for you!

## **How To Encourage Spiritual Habits in Kids**

Spiritual habits are such an important part of faith development. John Wesley called them “means of grace” because in these practices we place ourselves in the way of God’s grace and our lives become transformed. As parents and church leaders, we desire for ourselves and for our youth to develop and cultivate spiritual practices in our lives. One mom shares her story about the need for spiritual practices and the hopes of her kids growing into them. She offers three ways to encourage them in our children and youth: model it, teaching how to do them, and having spiritual conversations often.

## **Be a good role model**

Have you ever seen the video with the [child trying to buckle herself](#) in the car seat? Rose is probably somewhere between 2 and 3 years old and she’s trying to buckle her car seat despite her heavy winter jacket being in the way. Her dad asks to help and she says no thank you. Then he says, “What do you want me to do?” And she says, “You worry about yourself.” Every time I see it I can’t help but chuckle. It’s so adorably cute. But it also reminds me that we are VERY much busted when it comes to the things we say as parents. Little Rose was simply responding that day in a way that she had already heard her parents respond. (Ahem... how many times have we told a child to worry about themselves?) I’m glad kids are so cute and I really enjoy laughing when my kids mimic something I know they got from me. But it’s more than just something to make us smile. These fun times should remind us that our kids are literally watching every single move we make.

So, what about the big stuff? Are we modeling spiritual habits that will help our kids grow in faith? Or are they watching us check the watch during the sermon or make a grocery list in the bulletin? Do they see us pray, or listen to us run to a friend when we have a problem?



**CHRISTIANS  
AIN'T PERFECT  
BUT JESUS IS!**

Recently, Jesus taught me a new name of His. Baal Perazim means "The Master of the breakthrough" or "The God who bursts through!" How cool is that! It comes from 2 Samuel 5:17-20. When David is faced with the Philistine army, he seeks God and, in obedience, is led to go down to the stronghold. He was to face His enemy boldly in the name of his victorious God. An important point in this story is that Goliath was taunting the sovereign Lord of the universe. He was challenging God's people to stand up to him and demonstrate that their God was more powerful than he was. Until David came into the Israelite camp, there was no one who was willing to step out in faith and face the giant. However, David's faith was so strong that he was willing to believe that the Lord would go with him and enable him to defeat Goliath (1 Samuel 17:36-37). David's faith was born out of his experience of God's grace and mercy in his life up to that point. The Lord had delivered him out of dangerous situations in the past, proving His power and trustworthiness, and David relied on Him to deliver him from the Philistine.

From the story of David and Goliath, we can learn that the God we serve is capable of defeating any of the giants in our lives—fear, depression, financial issues, doubts of faith—if we know Him and His nature well enough to step out in faith. When we do not know what the future holds,

we have to trust Him. But we can't trust someone we don't know, so knowing God through His Word will build our faith in Him. As Christians who have trusted Christ as the only way to heaven (John 14:6), our battle with the giants in our lives will result in victory if we cling by faith to God and His power. The illustration of David and Goliath is only one of many examples of the supernatural power of our Lord. He cares deeply for His children and wants only our best. Sometimes that involves trials and battles, but these are ultimately for our good and His glory. James tells us to consider it pure joy when we encounter trials because they test our faith and develop patience and perseverance (James 1:2-4). When we are tested by these trials, we can, in the power of the Lord, stand up against any giant, trusting our Savior to win the victory.



**OUR YOUTH PROGRAM WILL BE ADOPTING A CHILD FROM OUR CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE SANCTUARY AND WILL ALSO BE ADOPTING A FAMILY FROM OUR COMMUNITY**

### **Transformed Disciples**

Our Contemporary Worship Service that meets in the basement during our 10:30 Service continues to grow! More of our Youth are joining us on Sunday Mornings! In fact the need to provide transportation for some of our teens has arisen on Sundays and Wednesdays Jim Ream has volunteered to drive the Church Van with one of our Youth Leaders to provide transportation!!

Discussions have included .. Finding God in Our Brokenness, God's Unending and Unconditional Love, What is Grace and Mercy, and Currently we are discussing.. Reconciling A loving God and Eternal Damnation. Quite a few of our Transformed Disciples are considering joining the Church! We invite all of the members of FUMC to join us on any given Sunday Morning for our contemporary Worship Service!



A HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO TOM HECKMAN FOR BUILDING AND DONATING A CARPET BALL TABLE TO OUR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM! THANK YOU GYKE McCARDLE FOR FINDING AN AMAZING DEAL ON SOME GAME

TABLES FOR OUR YOUTH PROGRAM! THANK YOU CRYSTAL FERENCZ FOR DONATING A PING PONG TABLE! We Will be sponsoring a Game Room Night once a month for the Teens in our Community starting in January 2019!!

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Orange : Fun Curriculum**

**Ages: pre School through 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Come and Join in on The FUN Sunday mornings at 9:10 a.m.**

**We appreciate our Sunday School Teachers:**

**Aleta Harpster: Pre-School**

**Rylie Ream and Cheryl Ream: K-5**

**Heidi Bracken 6th-9th**

**Tracie Hughes 10th -12th**





## December 2

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Karen

## December 9

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Barb Baker

10:30 Liturgist: Lester Lepley

## December 16

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Barb Baker

10:30 Liturgist: Lester Lepley

## December 23

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Karen

## December 24

**Christmas Eve Candlelight**

**Services @ 7 & 11 PM**

## December 30

8:00/10:30 AM Worship

9:10 Sunday School

8:00 Liturgist: Karen

10:30 Liturgist: Lester Lepley

## December S.S. Teachers

**Nursery – TBS**

**Pre-School – K Aleta Harpster**

**Grades 1-2 Bonnie Zannino**

**Grades 3-5 Tina Stoner**

**Grades 6-9 Tracie Hughes**

**Grades 10-12 TBS**



## Greeters

8:00 **Jim & Sandy Havice**

10:30 **TBS**

*Outside Greeters*

**TBS**



Nursery Attendants

December -  
Zanna Matthews



Junior Church  
Bonnie/Julie



Kangaroo Kids  
Zanna Matthews



*"Let the  
little children  
come to me...."*

MATTHEW 19:14

Children's Message

- Dec 2 Bruce Buffington
- Dec 9 Pastor Randy
- Dec 16 PR or PK
- Dec 23 PR or PK
- Dec 30 Pastor Randy

Acolytes -

- Dec 2  
Joselyn/Saddie
- Dec 9  
Josh/Chase
- Dec 16  
Alissa/Joselyn
- Dec 23  
Chase/Maddie
- Dec 30  
Saddie/Alissa



**Acolytes**





**In accordance with privacy policy @ Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital you need to inform Rev. Karen McCachren (248-1011 or 437-6023) or the church office if you are hospitalized and desire a visit.**

**Prayer Chain Line:**

Call 248-8459 or 242-1655

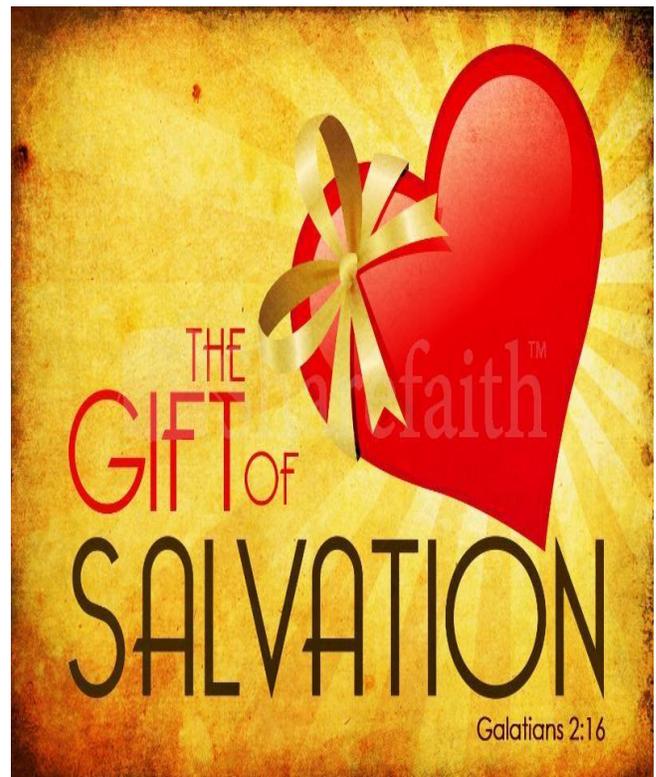
Open to anyone with a prayer request or anyone willing to pray for requests.

Purpose The prayer chain provides confidential intercessory prayer.

To request prayer or to become a praying member call:

Dave or Karen McCachren at 248-8459,  
([kmccachren@comcast.net](mailto:kmccachren@comcast.net)) or  
Laura or Bruce Buffington @ 242-1655,  
([lkbuff122@gmail.com](mailto:lkbuff122@gmail.com))

*Our prayers for health and wholeness are shared with: Judy Pennepacker, Kathryn Breon, Lisa Benner, Ray Malone, Emily Ryan, Ken Barnes, and the family of Scott Wagner.*



# FUMC Finance and Attendance

## Regular Offerings

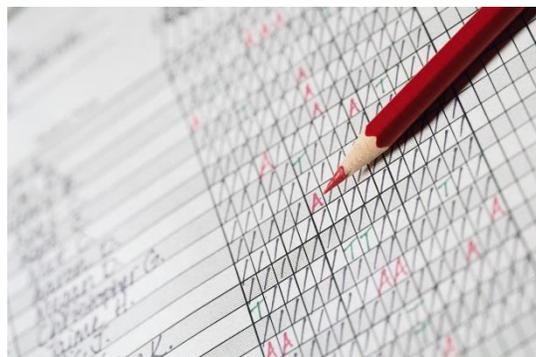
Nov 4	\$6,577
Nov 11	\$6,008
Nov 18	\$5,412
Nov 25	\$4,142



Unpaid Bills - **\$0.00**

## Attendance

Nov 4	156
Nov 11	160
Nov 18	147
Nov 25	150



*The 2019 Boxed Offering Envelopes are at the Welcome Center. Please pick yours up soon. If you can't pick them up and would like them mailed please contact the church office @ 717-248-4618.*





***Christmas Eve Schedule Reminder  
Candlelight Services Christmas  
Eve at 7 PM and 11 PM. Join us  
for these special services as we  
celebrate Christ's birth.***

***Christmas Card Project***



*Remember our homebound members at this special time of the year. Lists of names are available @ the Welcome Center.*

*Individualized gift bags will be available Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Homebound visitations Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, @ 3 PM. Don't forget to join us to deliver Christmas cards. We'll gather in the church basement to form groups. After your*

*visits return to the church for pizza, chips, hot & cold beverages, and cookies. Contact Laura Buffington with questions, 717-242-1655.*



*Koinonia Women's Fellowship will enjoy a Christmas Pot-luck Dinner/Party @ Mary Jo Everhart's home Tuesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, @ 6 PM. Bring a dish to share. If you have a Secret Sister, please bring a gift (approximately \$15 value) and card revealing who you are. If you don't have a Secret Sister, you may bring a gift (\$5*

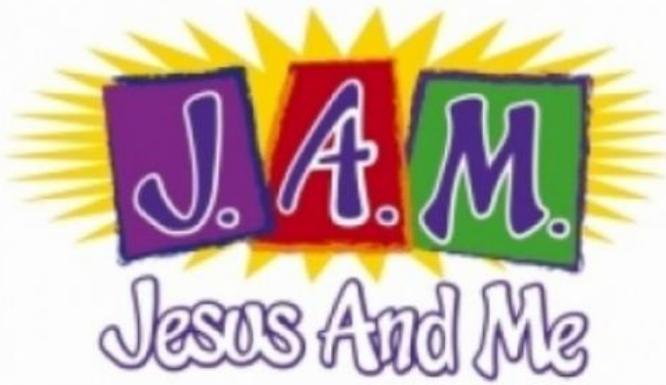
*value) for the gift exchange game.*

*(Secret Sisters may participate in both gift exchanges if desired)*

*Devotions/Blessing – Lisa Heckman All women are invited to join us!  
Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Church-wide Christmas caroling and card delivery to shut-ins*



*The pecans are here! Halves \$12/bag, Chocolate Covered \$10/bag. Contact Sam Caldwell or the church office to order.*



Tuesday: 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Children's Youth Fellowship -  
Meals provided

JAM is for children ages 3  
through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and includes  
many activities and fun learning

lessons that will help them grow in their faith and develop a  
relationship with Jesus Christ.

(Youth leaders: Bonnie Zannino, 717-994-2126,  
Julie Hannon, 717-348-2696)

Junior Disciples - Cameron, Dawson, Tyson, Madison, Talek

Parent/Guardian Helpers: Stacey, Tandy, Kalia

We welcome all children of this age group to FUM's "Jesus and  
Me" Fellowship Come join in the fun!

\*\* in order for our group to be in compliance with Safe  
Sanctuaries we would appreciate it if 1 parent could stay and  
assist us with the meetings on Tuesdays. In order to join our  
JAM group you will need clearances. You can apply for  
volunteer clearances on the internet free of charge.

<http://susumc.org/index.php/about-us/safe-sanctuaries>



## **JAM Schedule**

**Saturday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Party**

**We will meet at the  
Downtown OIP @ 4 PM.**

**We will have a gift  
exchange (\$2 gifts are**

**fine). Then off to look at Christmas decorations. We will  
call when we are finished for pick up @ the church.**



**Children's  
Program**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> - Christmas craft and  
practice for Christmas program on  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>**



**Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - 3 PM church basement**

**Visiting our shut-ins, JAM will be going  
caroling and deliver cards to our local nursing  
homes. Pizza afterwards from Koinonia.**

**Tuesday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> - Church basement for  
Christmas program rehearsal and dinner**

**JAM will not meet then again until after the holidays**

**(January 8<sup>th</sup>)**



## December

3. Krystan Hassinger
7. Helen Searer
8. Dot Berryman
9. June Taylor
9. Anne Becker
9. Jane Wagner
9. Denise Baumgardner
10. Judy Pennepacker
11. Betty Beckwith
15. Paige Havice
15. Marci Kitting
16. Al Hughes
18. Edd Burdge
18. R.B. Powell
20. Su Salvatore
20. Ken Baxter
28. Kody Hassinger
29. Bev Miller
30. Jarrett Kratzer
31. Dan Pierce



## The Altar Flowers

### December 2

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God.

### December 9

The altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Richard Beightol by Jane.

### December 16

The flowers are presented to the glory of God.

### December 23

**Poinsettias adorn the sanctuary today.**

### December 30

The flowers are presented to the glory of God.

*Please use the enclosed poinsettia order form to order flowers for Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>.*

*The 2019 Altar Flower Order is available @ the Welcome Center. Call if you would like one mailed.*





The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please make your check payable to the First United Methodist Church. The cost of poinsettias is \$7 per plant this year. Please copy the information section of this order form or pick up a copy @ the Welcome Center and mail or drop off at the church:

First United Methodist Church  
200 E. Third St.  
Lewistown, PA 17044.

A check must accompany the order form; please write **poinsettia** or **World Hunger** on the check memo line. Thanks!

-----  
In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person ordering \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants \_\_\_\_\_

Will you pick up the poinsettias? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

The Christmas poinsettias are appreciated as they add to our worship experience.

We would appreciate as many as possible left through the Christmas services.

Deadline for picking up poinsettias is Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

In lieu of ordering a poinsettia, I wish to contribute to the World Hunger Fund.

\_\_\_\_\_ yes (Check only if you want to contribute to World Hunger)

-----

## ***First U.M. Church Staff***

### ***Ministry Staff:***

Pastor: **Rev. Randy Hughes**

Pastor E-Mail: [rhughes@susumc.org](mailto:rhughes@susumc.org)

Deacon of Caring Ministries: **Rev. Karen McCachren**

Deacon of Caring Ministries E-Mail: [kmccachren@comcast.net](mailto:kmccachren@comcast.net)

Education Director/Youth Leader: **Heidi Bracken**

Education Director E-Mail: [heidi.bracken@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.bracken@gmail.com) 724-516-5527

Outreach Coordinator: **Jen Lynch** [responder1824@msn.com](mailto:responder1824@msn.com)



### ***Music Staff:***

**Choirs Director: Katie Becker**

**Organists: Dr. Fred Benner, Lauri Dulis, Richard Hamler**

### ***Support Staff:***

**Custodians: Joe Lingle, Cassie Shank**

**Office Manager: Rob Hagenberger**

Church Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday 7:00 AM - Noon**

**Phone: 717-248-4618 Fax: 717-242-4757**

**Email: [fumc200@outlook.com](mailto:fumc200@outlook.com)**

**Website: <http://fumclewistown.org>**

**Facebook: *First United Methodist Church of Lewistown***



**FUMC Worship Services Sunday morning @ 8 AM and 10:30 AM.**

**Sunday School @ 9:10 AM, Nursery Provided, Safe Sanctuaries**

**Compliant**

***The Newsletter Deadline  
is always the 15<sup>th</sup>  
of each month!***



# December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7-1 <b>Kiwanis Pancake Festival and SPRC Cookie Sale</b>
2 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S. 1 PM Gift Wrapping	3 7 PM Ray of Hope	4 6 PM <b>Koinonia Christmas Potluck/Party @ Everharts'</b>	5 10:30/7 Bible Study 5-7 <b>Youth</b>	6 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	7	8 4 PM <b>JAM @ OIP for Christmas Party</b>
9 8:00/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S.	10 7 PM Ray of Hope	11 4:30-6:30 <b>JAM FUMC Property Appraisals</b>	12 10:30/7 Bible Study 5-7 <b>Youth</b>	13 <b>Christmas Project Dist.</b> 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	14	15
16 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S. 3 PM <b>Homebound Visitation/Supper JAM</b>	17 7 PM Ray of Hope	18 4:30-6:30 <b>JAM</b> 7 PM <b>Trustees</b>	19 10:30/7 Bible Study 5-7 <b>Youth</b>	20 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	21	22
23 8/10:30 <b>Worship</b> 4 PM <b>Blue Christmas</b> 7 PM Cluster @ Kish 	24 7/11 PM <b>Candlelight Services</b> 	25 <b>Merry Christmas! Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Office Closed</b> Noon-5 PM <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b>	27 6:30 Bells 7:30 Choir 8 AA	28	29
30 8/10:30 Worship 9:10 S.S.	31					