Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Luthgran Church 222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504 610-845-2583 christluthehurch@windstrgam.ngt www.christniantic.com

January 2025

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A message from the Pastor...

Happy New Year, 2025! Are you making any resolutions this year? If you are, how likely is it that you follow through for the whole year? How long did your resolutions last in the past? If you are like me and most people those resolutions don't last very long.

We are told that the New Year offers a fresh start, a clean slate. It is supposed to be a time to examine ourselves and think about those areas where we could make some improvement. Resolutions related to health are the most popular, diet, exercise, and stopping bad habits. Sometimes we promise to be nicer to others, particularly our loved ones. Sometimes it is about trying something new, expanding our horizons, like learning a foreign language, taking a woodworking class, or joining a book club. Always, though, the New Year's resolution is about becoming a better version of ourselves, a healthier, smarter, kinder version of who we are.

There is nothing wrong with pursuing self-improvement, however as followers of Jesus we do have to be careful. Jesus does not call his disciples with a command to "improve yourself." Jesus calls us to "follow him." Sometimes this can look like "self-improvement" from the outside if we are trying to break a bad habit or struggling against some frequent sin. The issue is "self-improvement" is always a promise we make to ourselves.

Life with Jesus is not a quest to become a better version of ourselves but journey of discipleship leading to a more Christ-like existence. We follow Jesus because we are responding to his sacrifice, mercy, and grace. Because he has called us and saved us, we seek to follow him. When we do this, we do it with Jesus, trusting in his promise, presence, and power in our lives. With a new year's resolution, we are on our own, accountable only to ourselves. In faith, we are never alone.

As disciples of Jesus, we follow his example and pattern of life, therefore our resolutions will focus on self-emptying not self-improvement, bettering others before bettering ourselves, and self-sacrifice instead of self-centeredness. Instead of vowing to go on a diet, we can calculate the money spent on junk food and snacks and use it to feed the hungry. Instead of focusing relentlessly on fitness, we can volunteer at the hospital and minister to the sick. Instead of resolving to be nicer to others, we pray that we may have the mind of Christ and see each person as Christ sees them.

Only Jesus can bring about the lasting changes for which we long. There is nothing wrong with resolving to eat better or exercise more, but too often those promises we make to ourselves become empty words. It's the promise God makes to us, the promise of new life through the self-giving obedience of Jesus that really counts.

In Christ, Pr. Matt

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Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral of Phyllis Hartenstine on Saturday, December 14.

Notification in Case of Illness



Christ Niantic Lutheran hopes that all members will notify the church office if they become aware of any member who is ill or who may have other pastoral needs.

Please do not assume that "someone else" has already called. We do not mind receiving multiple notifications. Thank you!

Church Office Hours

The Church <u>Office Hours</u> are Monday through Friday, 9 – 2 p.m. All nonemergency, non-pastoral calls can be called into the church office during or after office hours. Pr. Matt Finney will have office hours on Fridays. If you'd like to meet/speak with Pr. Matt, or it's a pastoral emergency, please call Pr. Matt at 484-587-6506. Thank you. Pr. Matt's church e-mail is: clcpastor@windstream.net.

ATTENTION!!! 2024 Annual Report Committee and Staff Reports were DUE by Monday, January 6th. If you have not submitted your article, please do so as soon as possible. Please e-mail your reports to: christluthchurch@windstream.net. Thank you!

Snow, Blizzards and Ice!

<u>Just a reminder</u> –

During inclement weather, we will always try to have worship for those who can make it. When we cancel worship due to impassable roads, we will change the answering machine message, send that message thru on the prayer chain, or in severe conditions it will be shown on Channel 69 TV. Even if we manage to have worship or some other program, never risk life and limb to attend! It is not uncommon for two inches of snow to fall in Niantic and 8 inches in the hills above Bally and Hereford. It is okay to stay home and enjoy your family in such situations, BUT when you are able - practice the discipline of worship! Leaders - please let the office know of cancellations and postponements so we can notify others.

Newsletter Deadline –

Information for the February issue of the Niantic News is **due by** <u>**Tuesday**</u>, <u>**January**</u> 14th. There are several ways for you to submit your articles.



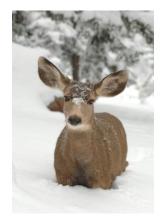
- ✓ E-mail it to me at: christluthchurch@windstream.net;
 - Submit it on a flash drive, which can be borrowed from the church office and returned;
 - Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday. Your cooperation in meeting this deadline is greatly appreciated. This allows the office ample time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Worship.

January Birthdays!!

- 2 Duane Riegner
- 5 David Delp, Donna Stifnell
- 9 Shirley Deery
- 11 Jenna Eisenhart
- 17 Joshua Nase, Sandy Plumley (1941)
- 19 Robert Aston (1943), Ella Hoffman
- 21 Jamie Johns
- 24 Thomas Farmer (1933)
- 27 Leonard Bendinsky, Barbara Steward, Julia Weller
- 30 Michael Knaub





Sportsman's Dinner

Saturday, January 11, 2025 Social Hall

Doors open at **5:15 p.m.** *Admire animal mounts *Sample dishes made with wild game

Dinner at 6 p.m.

*Entrees made with beef and wild game *Bring a side dish to share!

> **Speaker** at **7 p.m.** *Dessert and coffee will be served

Limited seating available, so please sign-up in the narthex by Sunday, January 5 to reserve your seat!

2025 Council Installation

Sunday, January 19

2025 Officers:

President: Steve Novotny Vice President: Dave Fioriglio Secretary: Dawn Sandoval Treasurer: Sue Hoffman** Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** and Financial Secretary: Kathy Watts** (**non-Council members)

We welcome returning members: Bob Heydt, Keith Folk, and Marvin Steward who are remaining on Council in 2025 for a second term!



MEMBERSHIP AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

VISITORS are always welcome to the Table!

MEMBERS (two types): Voting & Non-voting

The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at Christ Lutheran, or any ELCA congregation:

- You request a transfer
- You ask to be removed
 - You depart this life

VOTING members must make a record of having:

- Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
 - Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name or envelope number is included

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Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:

June Herb: (610) 754-7841 or e-mail: JuneRose56@aol.com

JUNEROSE56@dol.com

NOTE: Names on the prayer list remain on for one month, unless someone notifies June or the office to remain on longer.

Health & Healing:

Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy Dave – friend of Keith Folk



Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin Pat Gabel – Bob's wife

Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt Betty Hoffman

Rachel Hoffman – Aaron's wife/Denise & Philip's daughterin-law

Wilson Hoffman

Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister Joe McChessney – Pat Moser's daughter's father-in-law

Charlie Orner

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC Zayden Reyes - Son of Denise Witman's niece (12/11) Douglas Robinson – father of Donna Menear Ethan Schoenly - 10 yr. old cousin of Lindsey Mason Todd (Scrufty) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman Kent Snyder – uncle of Pat Moser's son-in-law (12/3) Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter Joe and Dottie Werner – sister and brother-in-law of Nancy Folk

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Gary Yoder – cousin of LaVerne Moser (12/1) Ricky Hartman – friend of Keith Folk (12/7) Roy Hoffman (12/11)

Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the Military*:

Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Dustin/Lisa Lowery – Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy's nephew/wife; Quinn Mason - Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson; Ryan Watts – nephew of Kathy Watts; William Zearfoss – Deb Matthew's nephew; Matthew and Joseph Schwenk - nephews of Amy Eichinger; Nathan Powell – son of a friend of Amy Fluke

*If you know someone that is deployed or serving, please contact June or the church office to put them back on the list. Thank you.

Homebound Members of Christ Lutheran Church: *For current addresses of our Homebound, please contact the church office.

Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood); Charlie Orner

Quilt Tying

will be held on **Tuesday, January 14** beginning at **9:30 a.m.** in the social hall. Then we will join the ...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The January Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday**, **January 14** at **12 noon** at **Frederick Living** in a private dining room. Please check in at the main lobby in the Magnolia Building before proceeding to dining room.

The cost of lunch is \$13.95/person. **Reservations** are **due** by **January 10** by contacting June Herb at (610) 754-7841. We will meet at the church at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Frederick Living for a 12 noon lunch or you can meet us at Frederick Living at 12 noon.



Book Club Forming

Do you enjoy reading or listening to books? We are starting at Book Club at Christ Lutheran Church. Our first book will be "**The Shack" by Wm. Paul Young**. You might be able to borrow it from your local library, purchase it online or in a bookstore. We invite all readers to join us on **Wednesday, January 22** at **7:00 p.m.** in

the Welcome Center to share your thoughts about this book. Also come with suggestions for future

reads.

If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Fox.

Highlights from the August 27, 2024 Meeting:

- 1. Bob Borneman mentioned that the painting was completed. The bill was over budget by \$365. However, there was some damage to the walkway - the weight of the machine caused the bricks to concave. After talking to Butch, an estimate (\$1400) to repair the bricks was sent over to the painter. The remainder of the bill was paid after deducting the \$1400. The claim has been made through his insurance company and Butch will be the contact person with the insurance company to coordinate the repair of the walkway.
- 2. Pastor Finney and Bob talked about removing the front pew and half of the next one. Dave Fioriglio makes a motion to split pews as described by Bob, Roxanne seconded it. Motion passed.
- 3. Windstream/Kinetic Lease: transfer lease income to the endowment fund. Gerry Flicker makes a motion and is seconded by Dave Fioriglio. Motion passed.
- 4. Windstream wants to change the lease agreement: new term will be for five years with (3) 5-year options, which could extend the lease for 20 years with 3% annual escalation in monthly rent. Dave Fioriglio made a motion to accept the proposal and seconded by Roxanne Fox. Motion passed.
- 5. The Constitution will be available by October 1st for approval after Roxanne Fox and Dave Fioriglio review it.
- 6. Vitality Survey the planning committee will look into have the congregation takes a survey
- 7. Christian education can we do VBS here? It was decided to reignite Christian ed and then discuss VBS at a later date

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Property committee issues: Back stairs need to be marked for ADA acceptance

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The audio/AV system for the church: discussed needing a camera, a computer, wireless microphone system. It will need to be hardwired. The company has done a lot of business with other churches. There is no quote yet, more details to follow.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Sandoval Council Secretary

Highlights from the September 24, 2024 Meeting:

- 1. Damages to the walkway that were done by the painting company have been repaired. The church should pay the full amount and not withhold anything because we were made whole. We owe the balance based on his contract.
- 2. Technology committee: Dave Fioriglio talked about the idea of a system to enhance the audio and visual capabilities. The quote is a little higher than \$17,200 (does not include PC - an i5 and a TB). This includes a camera (won't be mounted on the balcony), mixing board, software, installation, and training. We will put it on the agenda for the next congregational meeting in November. The new system is digital and can operate on an iPad. It would be ideal to have three to four people trained on the new system as well as having the steps documented to ensure other members can be trained.
- 3. Date for the November congregational meeting is November 10th. It is usually the 2nd Sunday in November.
- 4. Salary and housing for Pastor Matt: He has been with us for four years and his last pay change was in 2021. A 3% increase on our share, health insurance will go up but not significantly. A motion was made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Gerry Flicker to hold off on approving this until all the numbers are known by the next council meeting on October 22nd. Motion passed.
- 5. Constitution ready for approval at November Congregational meeting
- 6. Publicity form: Dave Fioriglio makes a motion to put a statement in the bulletin that we are taking visual images of everyone as they come and go. We will approve the specific statement at the next council meeting in October. Unless you sign a form, you are consenting to have your pictures taken and posted.
- 7. Windstream: Council has decided to leave it as is regarding the terms of the lease.
- 8. Terms on Church Council: Bob Heydt, Keith Folk, and Sue Hoffman are finishing at the end of 2024. Sue Hoffman is not eligible to serve again and Bob Heydt will serve again as long as another member becomes President.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Sandoval Council Secretary Niantic News

Highlights from the October 22, 2024 Meeting:

- 1. Upper Montgomery Conference gathering on Tuesday, October 29th at 7pm at St. James Lutheran in Limerick: Bob Heydt is willing to go but would like another volunteer as well
- Budget review and approval: Last year at this time there was an approximate surplus of \$8,000 as compared to this year where we are behind about \$9,000. Usually there is a turn around between Thanksgiving and Christmas where donations increase. A motion was made to approve the budget by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Dave Fioriglio. Motion passed.
- 3. Church Council Nominations: Keith Folk, Bob Heydt and Marvin Steward are willing to serve another term. That leaves one position currently open.
- 4. Constitution and By-laws: Roxanne Fox, Dave Fioriglio, and Bob Heydt compared the constitution and model constitution; adopted the changes and created a draft document for approval at the next congregational meeting. A motion was made by Dave Fioriglio and seconded by Gerry Flicker to present the Constitution and By-Laws to the congregation for approval. Motion passed.
- 5. Technology committee Dave Fioriglio met with Diane, Denise and the Pastor to discuss the proposal. The PC and additional microphones would be purchased (one of the wireless mics will be taken over to the social hall). This shall not exceed \$20,000 (18,175.97) and includes tech support. Dave will ask about a warranty and financing would come from the memorial fund. A motion was made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Gerry Flicker to present this information for approval at the next congregational meeting.
- 6. Windstream Lease: Amendment stipulating that, upon their decision to vacate, the premises will be returned to their original condition. Permission was granted to discuss the specifics through a phone conversation.

STAFF REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Property Committee Report: still working on the list for the handicapped accessibility: the other half of the front pew has been removed; new lighting was installed in the parking lot on 10/11/24; looking at the gap between the elevator and the floor; reviewing how to mount the extra rail on the back stairs
- Pastor's Report
- Financial Secretary's Report
- Finance Report
- Mercy Ministries
- Endowment Committee: Gerry Flicker's term will be expiring and a new male member is needed
- FUN Committee The chicken dinner fundraiser for the Moser family was a success, the check will be presented on 11/10, the committee will help with the Barn Blessing on 11/16

A motion made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Pat Moser to accept the committee reports pending audit. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Social media permission form: statement for CLC communications granting permission if not explicitly denied; will review at a later date

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Sandoval Council Secretary

Highlights from the November 26, 2024 Meeting:

1) Date for December Council Meeting (4th Tuesday is Christmas Eve):

Pastor Matt is unavailable for a meeting on Tuesday 12/17. Council will meet on Monday 12/16 at 6:30pm. Snacks are welcome. Nomination of Officers for 2025 will take place at this meeting.

- 2) Identify additional name / nomination for term completed by Sue Hoffman: Bob thanked Sue Hoffman for her 6 years of service on Council and her work as Treasurer. As of now, there is no one to replace Sue on Council. Any person that would accept a nomination would be approved at the February Congregational meeting. Sue may continue on as church treasurer, as a non-council member.
- Finalize action on AV / Technology Upgrades: Audiobahn in Pottstown does mostly churches and many older churches. After some discussion, a motion was made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Pat Moser to move ahead without another bid. Motion passed.
- 4) <u>Copier Service Contract Ending:</u> This is the stand-alone copier not the table top copier. Canon will no longer be producing spare parts for this model after June of 2025 so, our service contract will not be renewed.

We own the copier (purchased in 2017) and it has printed about 340,000 copies. There have been no service calls in the last year but there has been an occasional network issue in the past that has needed to be corrected.

Possible options were discussed.

- a) Use the printer without a service contract, some parts will still be in stock after June.
- b) Would a third party be willing to maintain obsolete equipment?
- c) Would leasing with usage charges be an option?
- d) Purchase a new printer.
- e) Switch to another vendor due to last minute notification.
- Dave F. will research possibilities.

5) Ad in Berks Mont news in their Christmas Worship Calendar:

Discussion:

Smallest ad costs \$250.00.

Have previous ads brought anyone new to our church? Not that anyone can recall. Purchase an ad on Facebook, St. Paul's does this for \$50.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) <u>Windstream Lease modification resolved.</u> Removal of the building was not included in the lease if/when Windstream would not renew the contract. This has been corrected.
- 2) Upper Montgomery Conference gathering on Tuesday October 29th. Pastor Matt has been elected as Dean of the Conference for a 3-year term. Bob Heydt had attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Roxanne Fox would like to start a Book Club. This will not necessarily be a "Christian book" club.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Flicker

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic Income and Expense Statement Consolidated - November 2024

Current Period

Year to Date YTD Prior Year

12/13/2024 10:52 AM

INCOME CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS INVESTMENT INCOME OTHER INCOME	\$7,993.61 537.50 126.68 0.00	\$110,479.40 6,874.52 1,773.25 0.00	\$119,452.13 5,967.00 1,503.02 0.60	
TOTAL INCOME	8,657.79	119,127.17	126,922.75	
EXPENSES SALARIES PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$5,618.03	\$50,828.23	\$49,763.10	
OTHER STAFF	4,718.64	38,165.32	37,834.15	
Subtotal Salaries	10,336.67	88,993.55	87,597.25	
WORSHIP MUSIC ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE WORSHIP SUPPLIES	50.00 300.00 140.00	1,371.39 600.00 2,746.39	1,787.53 300.00 1,904.49	
Subtotal Worship	490.00	4,717.78	3,992.02	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM MATERIALS SUPPLIES	0.00	34.76 0.00	127.50 232.63	
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	34.76	360.13	
OTHER MINISTRIES SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	0.00	204.00	274.00	
ADVERTISING EXPENSE STEWARDSHIP INTERNET EXPENSES	0.00 0.00 294.17	265.00 400.02 3,076.62	0.00 400.98 2,671.30	
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	294.17	3,741.64	3,072.28	
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	105.99 0.00	1,813.93 632.88	1,836.72 1,363.29	
Subtotal Church Administration	105.99	2,446.81	3,200.01	
BUILDING OPERATIONS HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS CLEANING SUPPLIES REAL ESTATE TAX BUILDING MAINTENANCE	322.43 460.30 0.00 425.00	10,699.34 4,184.03 139.56 20,877.92	13,238.45 4,078.70 134.37 3,008.71	
Subtotal Building Operations	1,207.73	35,900.85	20,460.23	
INSURANCE FUND EXPENSES	0.00	7,682.00 7,849.36	5,724.00 3,385.71	
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,434.56	151,570.75	128,065.63	
TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$3,776.77)	(\$32,443.58)	(\$1,142.88)	pulmitte

Respectfully submitted, Susan Hoffman

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<u>Church Office Hours:</u> Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. <u>Worship:</u> 9:00 a.m. ~ The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month and on all festivals.					
Church StaffPastor:Rev. Matthew Finney ~ clcpastor@windstream.net Minister of Music:Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net					
Administrative Assistant:	Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ <u>christluthchurch@windstream.net</u>				
2025 Congregational Council					
President:					
Secretary:		Treasurer:	•		
Assistant Treasurer:		Financial Treasurer:			
Gerry Flicker 🗹	Keith Folk 🗹	Roxanne Fox			
Bob Heydt 🗹		sak Pat Moser			
, Marvin Stewarc		+ (5/24-4/25)			
(**non-council member / +youth member / ☑ second term)					

	Worship Assistants for January 2025				
	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Greeters/ Ushers
Sunday, January 5 9:00 AM	Tenley Willman	Diane Houck	*	Terry Flicker	The Willman Family
Sunday, January 12 9:00 AM	*	Bob Heydt	Heather Moser	Denise Hoffman	Lisa and Bob Heydt
Sunday, January 19 9:00 AM	*	Diane Houck		Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
Sunday, January 26 9:00 AM	Tenley Willman or Giovanni Sandoval	YOUTH		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery

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Altar Guild: Jamie Johns

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Counting Team: Team D: Jim Barr (capt.), Norm Hoffman, Sue Hoffman, Gerry Flicker, Marvin Steward

+ = Help is needed. Please call the church office if you are able to help.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
VC = Welcome Center January 2025						
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office CLOSED	2	3 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	4
 5 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) *Deadline to sign-up for Sportsman's Dinner on 1/11 12 Baptism of Our Lord 	6 Epiphany 2024 Annual Report Committee/ Staff Reports Deadline 6:30 Property (W/C) 13	7 14 February Niantic	8 7:00 Senior Choir	9 16	10 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours **Deadline to sign-up for Ladies Lunch 17	11 5:15 p.m. Sportsman's Dinner 18
8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)		News Articles are DUE 9:30 AM Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 AM meet in church to carpool to the Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Frederick Living	7:00 Senior Choir		10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	
19 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Installation of Council 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	20 Office Closed Martin Luther King Day	21 2:00 Cemetery Board (room H) 7:00 Endowment (room H)	22 7:00 Book Club (W/C) 7:00 Senior Choir	23	24 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	25
26YOUTH SUNDAY8:30Coffee & Conversation (W/C)9:00Worship led by Youth10:00Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	27	28 7:00 Council (parlor)	29 7:00 Senior Choir	30	31 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	