



The Wesley Crier

A PUBLICATION OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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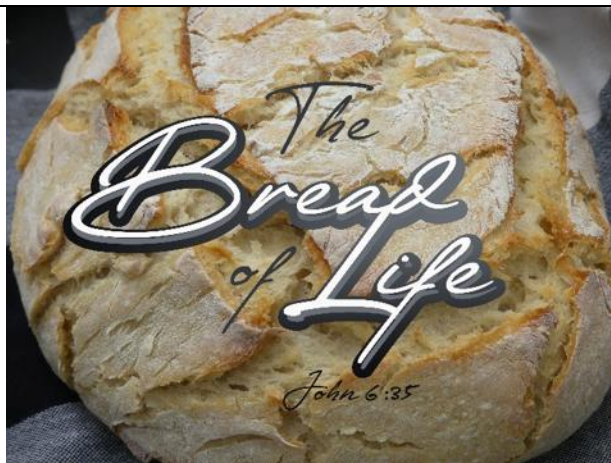
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Notes from the Pastor

By: Rev. Christine Bowden



On the eve of his crucifixion Jesus celebrated the passover meal with his disciples. He observed the traditional Jewish ritual and he added words of his own; “this is my body”, “this is my blood”, “do this in remembrance of me”. We remember this moment as the first communion. It is the root of our continuing celebration of Holy Communion through the centuries. And there are other connections in the gospels which add layers of meaning to this remembering; for example Jesus feeding the hungry, thousands at a time and Jesus saying “I am the bread of life”.

In Jesus’ lifetime, the Passover meal was already rooted many centuries deep in the tradition of the Hebrews, celebrating their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and the promise of a Messiah. Throughout the exodus, God fed the people with manna. The “Bread of the Presence” is a always a part of the furnishings of the tabernacle and the temple. And the roots drive even more deeply into the past, before there was an Israel, before there was a Hebrew people. In Genesis, Abraham shared bread and wine and blessing with Melchizedek, the mysterious “priest of the Most High God”. So today this meal that we share roots us fully in the history of the people of God, and moves us forward into all the promises of the Kingdom.

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On the first Sunday of September we will remember the story of the manna in the desert as we prepare to share our own communion around the table that God has provided for us in our own time. On the first Sunday of October, World Communion Sunday in many denominations, we will remember that we are a community which is gathered out of all of the nations by God's love and grace. On the first Sunday of November, All Saints' Day, we will remember that we are always surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses; all of those who have gone before us.

Now think about your own history, tradition and experience. Then when we gather on October 5th for World Communion Sunday, bring a loaf, or a roll, or a quickbread; something that reminds you of the bread that's shared where you've come from; in your family, your community, or the country of your ancestry or your birth. We'll bring all of these offerings to the shared table. And wear your favorite traditional dress as well, whatever that means to you. When we worship on that Sunday we will be able to look around and see a glimpse of the beauty of the community that is created by the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Christine

Qualified Charitable Distributions – a Tax Friendly way to Give to Wesley

By: Fred Dismore, Church Council Chair



For many of us the time is coming (whether we are ready or not!) when we must withdraw money from our retirement accounts or face a penalty. **The rules can change from year to year, so it is important to consult your Financial Advisor and/or the IRS.** This can prevent costly mistakes. One withdrawal option is to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Wesley United

Methodist Church.

Most retirement plans (simple IRAs and 401(k) plans) grow tax deferred, meaning that your contributions and earnings have taxes deferred until you withdraw your money. And, just as you may not make a withdrawal before you reach a certain age (59 ½) without penalty, you must start withdrawing once you reach a certain age – the government wants their tax money!! This age is currently 73, and timing that year can be very important. You must make a required minimum withdrawal by April 1st of the year after you turn 73. You must also take additional RMDs each year thereafter (so you may have to take an RMD April 1st and another one on December 31st of the same year to cover the years you turn 73 and 74). This could mean a significant increase in your taxable income for that year!

Yes, it's complicated which is why I will repeat – **consult your Financial Advisor!!** There is also a lot of good information on the IRS website (where I am getting most of this

Continued on page 3

information) Start with www.irs.gov and search on RMDs.

One option you can take is to do a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Details are in ***IRS publication 590-B*** and highlighted in **RA FAQs - Distributions (withdrawals)**;

“Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. See Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) for additional information.”

Note that you can make a qualified charitable distribution before you have to take an RMD! Also, this QCD can cover all or part of your RMD. The entire RMD is reported as an IRA distribution, but the QCD portion is not included in the taxable amount, so the entire amount isn’t taxed. This is not the same as a charitable contribution where the contribution is listed separately (usually in itemized deductions). Again, your Financial Advisor can provide details.

Example - Igor (who attends Wesley and is married) has just reached 73 and has \$500,000 in his IRA. His RMD is $500,000/26.5$ or \$18,698 (Pub 590-B has the details). If Igor just takes the RMD he adds \$18,698 to his taxable income that year. However, if Igor makes a qualified charitable distribution to Wesley, that amount comes off his taxable income. So;

- If he takes the full amount his taxable income goes up to \$18,698
- If he puts \$10,000 of it in a QCD then his taxable income goes up $\$18,698 - \$10,000 = \$8,698$.
- If, instead, he withdraws the money and then makes a separate charitable contribution of \$10,000 then his taxable income still goes up \$18,698 but he can take (within limits) a \$10,000 charitable deduction. There are additional rules and limits that apply so see ***IRS Publication 526*** for details.

Hopefully this brief overview on RMDs and the option of qualified charitable distributions has been helpful. And, in conclusion, I would ask all of us looking at taking withdrawals from our retirement accounts to prayerfully consider making a qualified charitable distribution to Wesley, **after consulting with your financial advisor!**



Notes from the Director of Nurturing and Visitation

By: Darlene Wade

Evangelism

The Evangelism team provided back-to-school treats for the South Dover Elementary School staff as they begin the new school year, including a special prayer for a successful year for staff, students, and parents.

We are also excited to attend South Dover Elementary's Open House on September 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We look forward to offering spiritual support, sharing information about our church, and answering questions about faith. We will also host a table game with candy for the children!

Wesley Branches

Our team continues to visit homebound members regularly, offering spiritual support and friendly fellowship.

In early October, we will deliver decorated pumpkins and letters of encouragement to our 26 homebound members. We will meet to decorate the pumpkins on September 28 at 4:00 PM in the library. Please contact Darlene at darlene@wesleyumc-dover.com if you would like to donate a pumpkin, help decorate, or assist with delivery.

Children's Message

Wesley UMC is excited to announce that a Children's Message will be shared during the 9:30 AM service every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month), beginning September 13. We look forward to sharing the good news with our children each week!

Building Security...

By: Jim Thistlewood, Security Team

Just a reminder that the doors to the church are automatically locked 15 minutes after the service starts. Ushers are present until the doors lock.

If you should arrive after that 15-minute window, all that is required is that you go to the elevator portico doors, ring the doorbell, and an usher will be there to welcome you and let you in.



Director of Music Notes

By: Sherry Roscoe, Director of Music



Music rehearsals for the Joyful Noise Handbell Choir and the Wesley UMC Chancel Choir begin on September 3, 2026. The handbell choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 PM. The Chancel Choir rehearsals are from 7:00-8:30 PM on Thursdays.

We are preparing to sing in worship services each Sunday, and we ring in the church service once per month. If you would like to join us, please know you are welcome! We welcome new members.

Also, a big shout out to choir members who volunteered their time and gifts to help the Community Meal Outreach on August 8. They baked, served, and provided food for close to 50 people who were served a free meal that day. We're thankful to be able to give of our time and resources beyond just Sunday mornings in service to our community, and with thanks to our God!!!

And again, we would love to have you join us when we begin rehearsals on September 3rd! Please contact me, Sherry Roscoe, if you'd like to join us.

Women to Women Luncheon

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

Do you have an hour or so to spare once a month for lunch?

Do you like dining at various restaurants?

Would you like to know the women in the church better?

Then this group is just for you!

Women to Women is a group of women that love to gather once a month at 11:30 AM, on the third Thursday, for great fellowship at various restaurants. Save the date for our September gathering, Thursday, September 17 at 11:30 AM at Grotto in Dover. RSVP to Janet Flower at 410-708-3467 or MaryAnn Evans at 302-383-0841 by Wednesday, September 16, 2026.



Family Life

By: Mardi Spangler & Jim Thistlewood, Co-Chairs

Family Life kicked off the summer season with a trip to the Blue Rocks stadium for Faith Night on June 26, 2026. We had wonderful seats and watched a wonderful game. We got to see our hometown heroes play and hear how their faith had helped sustain them. We were treated to a fireworks show afterwards that rivaled any we have seen this summer.



Join us for our next adventure at the Welcome back picnic on the grounds of Wesley Church, next to the Education building on Sunday, September 13, 2026. Family Life will serve hot dogs, hamburgers, and ice cream from Mommom's. We ask that you bring an outside picnic dish and a chair. Join us for fun food and fellowship.

Our next following the picnic will be our Annual Trunk or Treat. It will be on Oct 24, from 6:30 to 8 PM. Bring your little ones to have a safe trick or treat environment in Wesley UMC's parking lot. We will again have prizes for the best decorated cars, so be thinking of a theme!! We are asking the congregation to donate candy for the many cars that will be giving out treats. There will be a basket at the kitchen window for you to leave the candy. We thank you ahead for your generosity.

Men's Bible Study

By: Jim Skeans, Bible Study Leader

The Men's Bible Study will be resuming on September 22, 2026.

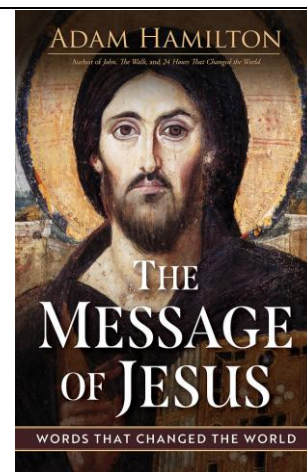
Men's Bible Study — Come join us on the 1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7 AM in the Search Class in the Education Building, and on the 3rd Tuesdays for breakfast at Hollywood Diner at 7 AM.

The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World.?

A fresh encounter with the words of Jesus. More than 3 billion people claim to follow Jesus. But aside from a few verses, how many know what he taught? In fact, much of what people think Jesus taught, he never said.? In this six-week study, pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter, and how they speak to us today.

The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing.

All men are welcome! Come join us! If you have questions, please contact Jim Skeans at (302) 678-0974.



Moving On: Adult Studies at Wesley UMC

By: Pastor Christine

We completed our first session on Wednesday August 26th. We have had about 15 participants during this session, and we are looking forward to their evaluations. Our goal is to get better at reaching out with quality Adult Studies.

Our next session begins **Wednesday October 7th**.

Between now and then the steering team will meet to review evaluations, and we will build a list of course options for the second session. And we are always looking for upgrading the program.

This is an ideal time for **YOU** to join the steering team. What do you want to learn about? What suggestions do you have? Please contact Pastor Christine at pastorchristine@wesleyumc-dover.com

We plan to make the new course selections available on Sunday, September 13th in conjunction with Wesley's Welcome Back Weekend.



Search Class

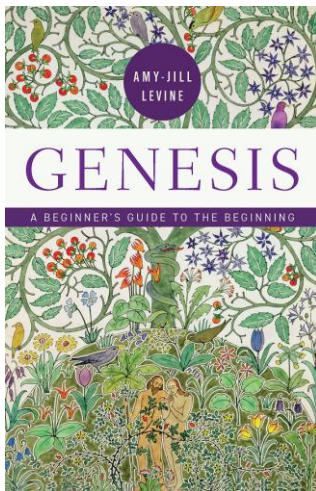
By: Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley

*Do you remember the former things or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not
perceive it? Isaiah 43: 18-19*

Over fifty years ago a small group of faithful believers discussed, prayed, and worked hard toward starting an adult Sunday School class for Wesley Church. They would name it “**Search Class**”, as our Methodist faith teaches us to “search” for a deeper experience of God’s transforming grace through Scripture and active discipleship.



Today nearly twenty faithful Christians still meet in “**Search Class**” on Sunday mornings in the Parlor at 8:35 am, between our two worship services, to read, study, and discuss God’s Word for a better understanding of our faith. Participant handbooks are available to accompany a short DVD. The group, led by different class members, will provide an opportunity to discuss the lesson presented.



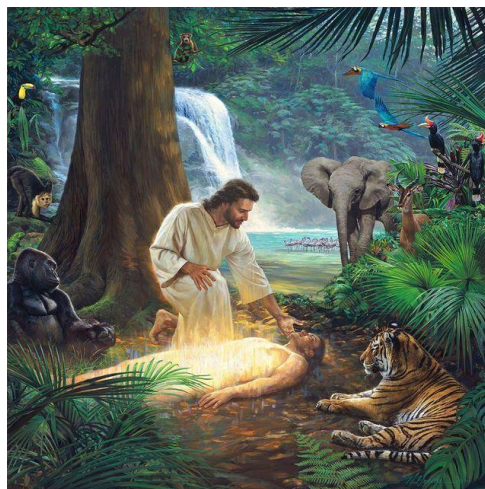
Starting September 13, we will begin a six-week study of *Genesis, A Beginner's Guide to the Beginning*, by Amy-Jill Levine, Professor Emerita of the New Testament at Vanderbilt University. Rabbi Levine presents Genesis as a “living text” as she addresses all facets of the stories and characters including:

The Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah’s Ark, Issac, Jacob, and Joseph.

As the Old Testament scripture, Isaiah 43 v. 19 implores us to “...**do a new thing...**”, won’t you join us in Search Class September 13 at 8:35 AM for a cup of coffee and light refreshments? It may be a transformative...

Joyfully serving,

Eunice Craig & Gigi Windley



Wesley Preschool & Play Care

By: Oveta Fullman, Preschool Director



The Preschool Summer Camp, which ended August 28th, was a successful and fun experience for the children who attended.

Now that September is coming, Oveta Fullman, our director, the teachers and the staff are gearing up for another great year!

We have added Kindergarten to our program.

Please note: **Wesley Preschool and Play Care will be CLOSED Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.**

September 3rd at 6 PM is a “meet the teachers” event.

Fall Preschool, Play Care and Kindergarten are scheduled to begin September 8th.

If parents have any questions about enrollment, please contact the Preschool/Play Care office at: (302) 678-8987.

Welcome Ameselete Banks, Wesley's New Bookkeeper!

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

We are thrilled to officially welcome Ameselete Banks—who goes by **Ame**—as Wesley's new Bookkeeper!

Ame steps into this role following the retirement of our longtime Treasurer, Marian Hudson, in February. We want to extend a huge thank you to Joe Young for graciously filling in and guiding us through this transition period.

Ame brings a wealth of expertise to Wesley. She holds a degree in accounting and currently works as an Accountant for The Peninsula-Delaware Conference. In her free time, she loves diving into a good book and spending quality time at home.



While Ame will perform most of her duties remotely, she will be on-site in the church office every Friday. You can reach her through the church office at extension 112 or directly via email at wesleyumctreasurer@wesleyumc-dover.com.

Please join the staff, SPRC & Finance committees, to give Ame a warm Wesley welcome!

The Amazing Chase: Wesley Church Needs You

By: Donna Wilkinson Josefowski (Evangelism)



This is Wesley's 7th year participating in **The Amazing Chase**, organized by the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce (of which Wesley Church is a member).

This fun event will be held on **Wednesday, September 30th at 5 PM** although the teams don't arrive until 5:30 p.m.

It promises all participants an evening of networking, challenge, and fun as they comb the downtown Dover area in search of clues. These clues lead them to different downtown locations (such as Wesley) where they choose one of two challenges to do.

This year, we are looking for volunteers to serve in several roles:

- **Greeters** by our front door to welcome the Amazing Chase Teams (from organizations from all over Dover)
- **Sanctuary Volunteers** upstairs in our Sanctuary to share the two challenge options to the participating teams and encourage them to have fun.

This is a ***fun and high-energy evening*** (for both the team members and the volunteers at our church).

Please reach out if you would like to participate in any of these ways (greeter or sanctuary volunteer). This is a fun night, and we need you – both to have a great night and to welcome the Dover community into our church.

Reach out to Donna at (302) 222-0694 (call or text) or by email at djosefowski@gmail.com. Thanks for your support!

Food Pantry Donations

By: Michele Dryda, Administrative Assistant

Did you know you don't have to wait until the first Wednesday in the month to bring your food donations to the church? You may bring in your donations to the church Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 3 PM and on Sunday when you come to worship. We have a collection box located in the closet marked Food Pantry Collection under the stairwell located outside of St. Paul's Chapel for donations to be dropped off.

On **Wednesday, September 2nd** from 10 - 11 am, you can drive through the Preschool Portico area to donate food for the pantry without you leaving your car. Please do not open boxes/packages with individually wrapped items and check expiration dates, no outdated food, please. Purchase small bags and boxes of food (such as cereal, pasta and rice) rather than oversized ones because food banks cannot divide them into smaller portions.

Protein Foods: Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, and Nuts		
canned tuna	canned or dried beans	almond butter
canned chicken	baked beans	peanut butter
canned beef stews	canned chili	canned nuts
canned salmon	bean soups	
Grains: Bread, Cereal, Rice, and Pasta		
Plain rice / rice mixes	hot cereal mixes	pancake & muffin mixes
canned pastas	cold cereals	granola bars
noodle mixes	infant cereal	graham crackers
dry noodles / pastas	oatmeal	whole-grain crackers
mac/cheese mix	shredded wheat	flour
pasta mixes	bran cereal	bread
Dairy: Milk, Yogurt, and Cheese		
infant formula	evaporated milk	instant breakfast drinks
nonfat dry milk	shelf-stable (UHT) milk (small boxes)	boxed pudding/pudding cups
Vegetables and Fruits		
canned vegetables	canned tomato products	V-8 juice
vegetable soup	spaghetti sauce	baby-food vegetables
canned fruit	dried fruits	jar applesauce
raisins	baby-food fruit	fruit cups
100% fruit juice bottle	100% fruit juice boxes	applesauce cups
Oil and Condiments		
mayonnaise	spices	vegetable oil bottle/spray
syrup	jelly & jam	salad dressing
honey	tea	mustard
sugar	coffee	ketchup
Paper, Soap & Personal Care Products		
toilet paper	hand soap	shampoo/conditioner
paper towels	dish soap	toothpaste/toothbrushes
tissues	laundry soap	body soap
napkins	cleaning products	deodorant
diapers/wipes	shaving cream/razors	feminine hygiene products

United Women in Faith

By: Mary Ann Evans, President

Our Circles have not meet during the summer months but please feel free to join us in September as we gather for study, fellowship, fun and snacks.

*Barbara Circle meets the 2nd Tuesday (**September 8th**) at 3:00 PM in the parlor*

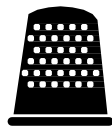
*Mary Martha meets the 2nd Thursday (**September 10th**) at 12:30 PM in the parlor.*



We are once again selling the Boscov's Friends helping Friends shopping passes!! \$5.00 for a shopping pass! We keep the \$5.00 and you shop on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM. and receive 25% off your purchases. (Shop in person or online). Please see Mary Ann or Janet if you are interested in purchasing (or selling) the coupons.

We are collecting items for Women's Blessing Bags!

Bags are hand sewn by Janet and Louise, filled and given to women and children in need!



We prefer travel size, but regular size works too!

*toothbrushes (individually packaged)
shampoo & conditioner
deodorant
anti-bacterial gel or wipes
combs/brushes
lip balm
nail clippers or nail files*

*toothpaste
body wash or soap
hand lotion
tissue packs
washcloths
socks*

Items can be left in the library on the windowsill!!

THANK YOU!!

Clothing Closet

By: MaryAnn Dashiell



Our “Clothing Closet” should probably now be called the Dover Community Thrift Shop, because in addition to shoes and clothing for men, women, children, and infants, our shelves are stocked with:

- **Home Goods:** Linens, dishes, glassware, pots, pans, and small appliances.
- **Decor & Media:** Books, toys, framed pictures, clocks, lamps, and seasonal items.

Items We CANNOT Accept

To ensure safety and manage our limited space, please note that we **do not** accept:

- **Electronics:** TVs and computers.
- **Baby Gear & Furniture:** Cribs, car seats, strollers, highchairs, and baby furniture.
- **Large Items:** Standard furniture.
- **Hygiene:** Open or used toiletry products.

Donation Drop-Off Hours

If you have items to give, you can bring them downstairs during our dedicated drop-off windows:

- **Mondays:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (*Volunteers available to help carry items*)
- **Fridays:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM (*Volunteers available to help carry items*)
- **Saturdays:** 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (*Self-service; no lifting assistance available*)

Where the Proceeds Go

Every single dollar spent at the Clothing Closet goes right back into our community! Proceeds are used to fund critical **feeding and housing ministries around Dover**. Additionally, we continue to provide these items free of charge to neighbors with a documented need on Mondays and Fridays: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us serve and nourish the Dover community.



United Women in Faith

(Non-Profit Organization)



**ONE DAY ONLY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
One Winner at every Bosco's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

Mary Ann Evans 302-383-0841

Janet Flower 410-708-3467

*Exclusions apply. For more details visit boscovs.com/category/friends-helping-friends-event

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer	2 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA	3 6 pm SPRC Mtg. 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	4 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	5 9 am Clothing Closet 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
6 8 am Worship 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	7 Office Closed In Observance of Labor Day 5 pm Pickleball	8 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm NLD Committee 7 pm DCS	9 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA 6:30 pm Session 1 Wrap-up	10 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	11 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	12 9 am Clothing Closet 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
13 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 12:00 pm Church Picnic - Ed Bldg.	14 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	15 7 am Men's Bible Study (Breakfast) 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm DCS Board 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm Trustees 7 pm DCS	16 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA	17 11:30 am Women's Luncheon 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	18 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	19 9 am Clothing Closet 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
20 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	21 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	22 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Finance 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	23 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA	24 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Bell Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	25 6 pm Evening Prayer 6:30 pm ACA Mtg.	26 9 am Clothing Closet 12 pm (Noon) Community Meal
27 8 am Worship 8:35 am Search Class 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship	28 4 pm Branches 6 pm Evening Prayer 6 pm Pickleball	29 7 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Evening Prayer 7 pm DCS	30 5 pm Amazing Chase Event 6 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom 6 pm NA			