

FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Lexington, NC

JULY 2020

July 4th 1776 – the day of the final signing of the Declaration of Independence, where America declares itself to be a free autonomous nation, no longer under the rule of the British Empire.

We recall the famous powerful words from the 2nd paragraph:

"WE hold these Truths to be selfevident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness..."

This Independence Day, let us ask the question, "How can we exercise our American freedoms so that we can more fully exercise our faith?"

Because we are Christians, our Highest allegiance is to God who is revealed to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In **Corinthians 8:9**, the Apostle Paul warns the believers, "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak." Meaning, just because we are free to act, doesn't mean we should. As disciples, there are times we must give up our freedom when we see that it hurts others or when it puts an obstacle in the path for others to be free. Relinquishing our freedom for the good of our neighbor is not losing it, on the contrary – it is one way of using it.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in America even with its flawed history and broken places. May we strive to exercise our freedoms to show love to our neighbor, care for the poor, feed the hungry, set free the oppressed, bring peace among the people, and bless all the children of this land.

I hope you will watch Robert Wilson's Patriotic Hymns and History Online Concert that will air on our YouTube and FB pages beginning July 1st at 7pm. May America's music propel us to act so that all our brothers and sisters may have the right to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness...

Serving with you in freedom and faith, --Elizabeth

Create and Connect:

We will continue to hear the sacred stories about the ancestors of our faith.

July 5	
Genesis 24:	Isaac and Rebekah
July 12	
Genesis 25:	Jacob and Esau
July 19	
Genesis 28:	Jacob's Ladder
July 26	
Genesis 29:	Leah and Rachel

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Thank you Members and Online Friends!

During the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic you have been faithful stewards of God's gifts and the church thanks you for your continued support. Although we have been unable to formally gather as a congregation for worship services, you have continued to mail, dropoff or give online for the ministries of First Reformed United Church of Christ.

First Reformed UCC was able to obtain a Payroll Protection Program Loan. While this gift helped for the month of May, we hope you will remember the church during the summer season as we continue to serve our church family and community.

WELCOMING STATEMENT

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wondrous and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people. We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means we welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never before attended one, you are welcome here.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

MAY MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

~IN MEMORY OF~

JOEL BYRD

John & Vicky Gray Jerry & Merle Hodges John Potts & Janette Neal Eulene Shepherd Katherine Skipper Mr. & Mrs. Steve Smith

VIRGINIA HILL

(Cathy Waitman's Mother) FRUCC Choir John & Vicky Gray Frank Leonard Cliff & Paula Lopp Buddy & Rita Lohr Tony & Lee Ann Peele John Potts & Janette Neal Lisa Nelson Bill & Carolyn Robbins Eulene Shepherd Elizabeth Sink Billy & Stacy Sosebee West

STEVE MYERS (Jan Smith's Husband)

Bill & Carolyn Robbins Steve & Cathy Waitman

~IN HONOR OF~

JOHN GRAY'S BIRTHDAY

James & Alice Gray

AURELIA SMITH & SYLVIA WALSER

Anonymous Donor

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES AND THOSE ACHIEVING MILESTONES IN EDUCATION



PRE-SCHOOL

Lucas Bustamante-Cruz {Starting Kindergarten at Northwest Elementary School}

> Kyndell Lovell {Moving from Preschool to Kindergarten at Churchland Elementary School}

<u>Kindergarten</u>

Caroline White {Moving from Kindergarten to First Grade at Friedberg Elementary School}

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rylee Grzech {Moving from Tabernacle Elementary School to Uwharrie Ridge 6-12}

Jacob Hartle {Moving from Northwest Elementary School to North Davidson Middle School}

Emory Smith

{Moving from Elementary to Middle School at Westchester County Day School}

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Jianna Miller {Moving from Central Davidson Middle School to Davidson Early College}

Sam West {Moving from Lexington Middle School to Lexington Senior High School}

HIGH SCHOOL

Annabell Callicutt {Graduating from Lexington Senior High School} Attending East Carolina University in the fall

COLLEGE

Peyton Barr {Harvard University Graduate School - Master of Arts in Regional Studies} Begins work for his Doctorate in the fall

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONLINE WORSHIP CONTINUES THROUGH JULY

We will continue to worship online on both <u>YOUTUBE HERE</u> and our <u>FACEBOOK PAGE HERE</u> through the month of July. Past worship services can be found on each of these pages, and may be accessed at any time! Virtual meetings such as Consistory, Book Studies, Bible Studies, Youth and Children's Ministry Team meetings, Youth and Children activities and Fellowship and Prayer Concerns will also continue to be held via ZOOM. Scheduled activities for the month are shown in the calendar at the back of the newsletter and will also be included in the weekly emails. Links for the Zoom Chats will be included or emailed to group members.

REGULAR GIVING

Please continue to give during this time we continue to worship together, but separately. You may drop offering off at the church office, mail your offering to the church office at 104 East Center Street, Lexington, NC 27272, or give online through our church website. Visit https:// frucc.org/and click on the link at the top of the page titled "<u>ON-LINE GIVING</u>."

SUPPORTING JEFF HUTCHENS

There are a couple opportunities to support Jeff Hutchens in his fight again cancer. For fundraisers, you may contact Kalyssa Hutchens (khutchens2001@yahoo.com) or Tammy Rhodes (rhodes2215@yahoo.com). You may also make donations directly to the church. Please make checks payable to the church and write "Jeff Hutchens" on the memo line. If you are giving cash, write this on the front of your envelope. We will continue the church fundraiser through the end of July.

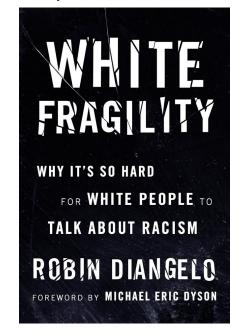
BOARD OF EVANGELISM FUNDRAISER

The Board of Evangelism is selling "**BE THE CHURCH**" **Window Clings.** These are similar to bumper stickers, but they cling on glass instead and can easily be moved from place to place. Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. The cost is \$5 each. If you are interested in purchasing, please contact the church office. We appreciate Ron and Heidi Hutcheson's help at Davidson Speed Printing.

NEW TUESDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY

A new Tuesday night book study via ZOOM, will begin on July 7th at 7:00 p.m. The book, White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, written by Dr. Robin DiAngelo, allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to "bad people." It considers the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, seen through such emotions as anger, fear, and guilt and by behaviors such as argumentation and silence. Dr. DiAngelo examines how white fragility develops, how it protects racial inequality, and what we can do to engage more constructively...a very timely and important topic for serious conversation through the lens of faith.

Edgar Miller will be one of the facilitators for these discussions along with Stacy Sosebee-West, Bonita Hooper, Smithie Parrish and Joe Browder. Order your copy wherever books are sold. Please ask Rev. June (jgrubb3@triad.rr.com) or Stacy (sosebeewest@hotmail.com) if you need assistance.



BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION Rev. Susan Morris

YOUTH NEWS

Starting July 1st the youth group will split into two different group meetings.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

will meet on the first and third Wednesdays each month at 6:00PM via zoom.

Middle School Youth Group (Grades 6-8) will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays each month at 6:00PM via zoom

The youth will continue to study faith, justice, and peace.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

The children began "Kid's Adventure Time" in June. We have had fun learning about the Fruits of the Spirits. In July, we will continue to learn about the different "fruits". We focus on Joy, Peace, Kindness, and Gentleness. We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30PM via zoom. More adventures await us in July!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Each Sunday during July, we will continue our Adult Bible Study on the **Book of Genesis.** This study will be via zoom at 9:45AM. All are welcome to join us.

WHY FIRST REFORMED? Rev. Jay Whitley

Back in February, I was having lunch at a local restaurant with a friend of mine. During our time together, I mentioned to him that Cathy and I had decided to place our church memberships at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington. He expressed his joy for us because he knew we had been looking for a church home for some time. Then he asked the inevitable question, "Why?"

Feeling sure that he would ask that specific question, the following was my answer. Cathy and I visited First Reformed UCC on several occasions. We tried to keep our hearts and minds open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Everything felt good. We were warmly welcomed at each visit. Since I am retired UCC clergy, I already felt community with friends of many years. Cathy had worked in downtown Lexington for twenty years and had developed relationships with others in the church while being employed as a legal assistant with Biesecker, Tripp, Sink & Fritts. It just made sense that we "go to church" with those with whom we were comfortable.

Still there are other reasons. For us to "join a church" there had to be more than relationships. We needed intent, substance, and purpose. We found that First Reformed UCC created for us substantive reasons to be a part of this church. They were:

1) An historic relationship with The Reformed Church and The United Church of Christ. Tradition is important to us.

- 2) It had to be Open and Affirming. Our opinion is that any community of faith can only be the Church if it is affirming the talents and abilities of all God's people while opening its doors to all who wish to be a part.
- 3) An orientation to mission and ministry beyond the local church. We desired to be a part of a church that had a global concept as well as a community perspective.
- 4) It had to be a church that was committed to prayerful, financial, and corporate support of the professional staff.
- 5) We needed a faith community of people who had a desire and determination to grow the church.

Cathy and I believe that after much prayer and discernment we have found a church family with which we can grow and be a part of a ministry that is making a difference to "Be The Church." Please do not think that we feel that First Reformed is a "perfect church." We are not deluded. We do feel, however, that our church is on the right path. By doing so, we believe First Reformed to be the Light upon the hill which cannot be hidden.

Maybe not a perfect church, but, maybe perfect for us! Thank you for allowing us to be a part!

FIRST REFORMED UCC GARDEN GOING STRONG

By Edgar Miller

The First Reformed UCC Community Garden enters its 10th growing season with great anticipation for our best year yet. Unfortunately, we got off to a slow start due to an irrigation system problem that flooded our bed of recently planted potatoes back in April, resulting in the loss of nearly 80 percent of our potato crop. As they say, "...that's farming," or in our case gardening. After a few repairs, we bounced back quickly and planted areen beans in that bed, which we should begin harvesting in early July. In addition to green beans, Open Hands of Davidson County workers have planted onions, peppers, tomatoes, squash and sweet potatoes. We've also had a bumper crop of blueberries this year, already harvesting nearly four gallons for Pastor's Pantry clients with more to come if the birds don't get them first. In addition to the generous support from the Lexington Garden Club and individual church

members, we received an anonymous \$500 donation to the garden in June in honor of Sylvia Walser and Aurelia Smith. Thank you, whoever you are.

While it has been disappointing that we haven't been able to have the kids in the garden to help with harvesting and will likely not be able to sponsor the Great Tomato Sandwich Giveaway this summer, we will be hosting beginning garden workshops in the garden in July in conjunction with the Davidson County local Food Network and Cooperative Extension, demonstrating again how the garden is a resource for our broader community.

As always, if you are looking to get out of the house to get some fresh air and your hands dirty, please contact Edgar Miller at <u>edgarmmiller@gmail.com</u> to find out how you can volunteer in the garden.





JUNE'S CONSISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Financial Report:

Harriette Murphy reported: Average weekly offering in May - \$4,789. Available General Funds - \$13,129 Music Fund Balance - \$7,570

The Financial Secretary reported all bills are current.

Old Business:

Fundraising opportunities for Jeff Hutchens continue through the end of July 2020.

New Business:

Johns River Valley Camp "Ramp Up for Camp": Since Johns River is not accepting campers this summer because of the Coronavirus, they have a fundraising campaign available to send boxes to potential campers with projects and coupons for next year's camp. Consistory approved a donation of \$1,000 for First Reformed UCC campers to the "Ramp Up for Camp" campaign.

Livestream Equipment: The possibility of upgrading the sanctuary video/sound equipment to livestream the worship service is being researched. Consistory President, Eddie Yates has talked with Calvin Odom, Clifton Murphy, Ellen and Jeremy Peterson about items needing upgraded. More research is needed. UCC Covid-19 Conference Recovery Grant Application: Rev. Horton has applied for and received a \$3,000 grant from the National UCC to assist UCC churches during the pandemic closures. If the grant is received, it will be used toward additional resources we need to return to church. Great thanks to Paula Lopp for completing and submitting the paperwork!

Change in the Proposed Consistory Calendar for 2020: Originally the Consistory Calendar did not have a scheduled July meeting, but it was decided a meeting will be held on July 12th.

Discussion on Returning to the Sanctuary:

The Consistory agreed to continue with caution and continue only online worship through July. This decision was based on information from multiple sources and input from church members.

Update on Conversations on Faith and Race (2CFar): Rev. Horton reported that this group decided to resume meeting weekly via Zoom. A prayer vigil was scheduled for June 28 at 7:00PM

The next regularly scheduled Consistory meeting is **July 12**, **2020**.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!



since we began sharing these mid-March, it's not too late to see them. All services are still available on our <u>Facebook</u> or <u>YouTube</u> pages. Visit either one to find the Sunday you missed.

If you missed any of the worship services

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear First Reformed UCC,

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for all the recent phone calls, cards and memorials since the loss of my husband, Steve Myers. It is a comfort to know I have so much support from my church family, and I appreciate all of it during this time of loss.

> Sincerely, Jan Smith

Dear First Reformed UCC,

Thank you for your continued support of the Salvation Army, especially through the hardships of Covid 19. Your commitment to assist with the needs of others is appreciated.

> Sincerely, John Frank Board Member Salvation Army of Davidson County

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the memorials, cards, notes, texts, and food you have sent to me and my family. Your condolences for my mother's passing have helped me deal with the grief of losing her. I feel the love and power of your prayers even though we cannot be together at this time. I hope we can be back in church together soon! Thanks again!

> Love, Cathy Waitman

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for returning DVDs to church that you have viewed. We have some on supply currently for recording. We appreciate your help and hope that you will continue to return DVDs as you view them.

> Sincerely, DVD Ministry

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

OUR MEMBERS:

Jeff Hutchens (receiving chemo), Deanna Michael, Aurelia Smith, Kelly Greathouse, Susan Miller, Bill Walser

AT HOME AND IN CARE FACILITIES:

Peggy Bates, Janelle Bunn, Marzell Crotts, Ruth Essick, Margot Everhart, Pattie Everhart, Vogen Everhart, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, Marguerite Leonard, Bob Shaak, Lib Sink, Katherine Skipper, Carolyn Spivey, Adena Wall

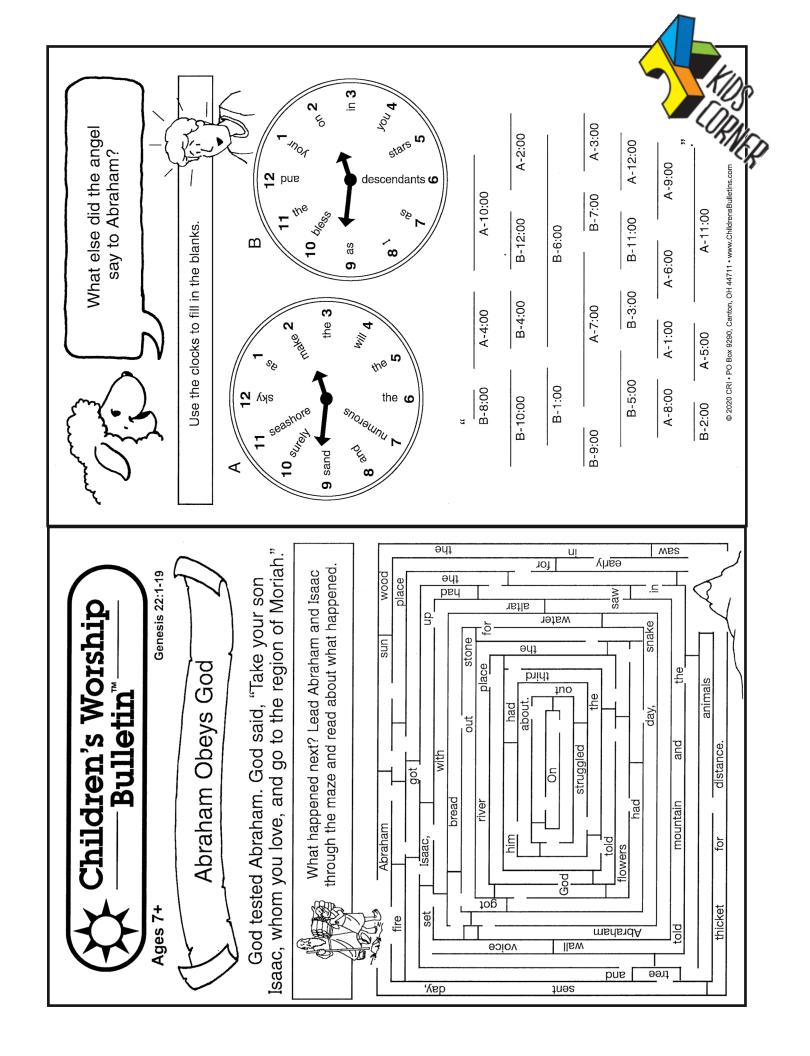
Piedmont Crossing:

OUR FRIENDS: Ronnie Hartzo

Ronnie Hartzog (Glenyce Fulton's brother), Grayson Beck (Grandson of Clifton & Harriette Murphy), Angie Bouchard (Lee and Ellen Bouchard's youngest daughter)

*Indicates newly added. Names will remain on the list for 4 weeks. To add a name to the prayer list please fill out a prayer request card located on the backs of the pews or call the church office (336-248-2617).

Mary Berrier, Doris Flynt



JULY 2020 We will continue to worship online on both our <u>YOUTUBE CHANNEL</u> HERE and FACEBOOK PAGE HERE through the month of July. Adult Bible Study HERE... https://us02web.zoom.usj/87135993948pwd=TWo2UXVwcIhyZXJncWFvNEh6djkvdz09 (Meeting ID: 871 3599 3948 Password: 418121) "White Fragility" book study via Zoom Chat HERE... https://zoom.us/i/97395879041?pwd=UWM0QUdNVittL3UyVkxDMlhuNE5GQT09 SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT 2 3 4 1 6:00 High School 4th of 6:30 Kids' Youth Group via July Holiday Adventure Time ZOOM via ZOOM CHURCH 7:00 Patriotic **OFFICE IS** Hymns & History CLOSED with Robert Wilson via Facebook & YouTube 7 5 11 6 8 9 10 6:00 Middle 12:00 2CFAR 9:45 Adult Bible Study School Youth Group meeting via Zoom on Genesis via Zoom via ZOOM 7:00 Children's 11:00 Worship online

12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom		Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00 Book Study on White Fragility via Zoom				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom		12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom	6:00 High School Youth Group via	6:30 Kids' Adventure Time		
11:00 Worship online One Great Hour of Sharing Offering		7:00 Youth Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom	ZOOM	via ZOOM		
12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom TBD Consistory Meeting via zoom		7:00 Book Study on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom		12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom	6:00 Middle School Youth Group via ZOOM		August articles for	
11:00 Worship online		7:00 Book Study			newsletter	
12:00 Fellowship & Prayers via Zoom		on <i>White Fragility</i> via Zoom			due	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:45 Adult Bible Study on Genesis via Zoom		12:00 2CFAR meeting via Zoom				
11:00 Worship online		7:00 Book Study				
12:00 Fellowship &		on White Fragility				

First Reformed United Church of Christ



All Are Welcome Here!

Where People Discover...

The Love of God The Power to Love Others The Ability to Love Ourselves

104 East Center Street Lexington, NC 2729 (336) 248-2617 email: church@frucc.org website: www.frucc.org

11:00 SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE VIA FACEBOOK LIVE and YOU TUBE

Temporary Church Office Hours: Monday - Wednesday - Friday



Join Us on Facebook:

facebook.com/firstreformeducc

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton E-mail: elizabeth@frucc.org Cell: 336-972-8895

Associate Pastor of Congregational Care Rev. June Grubb 336-248-5668

Associate Pastor of Faith Formation Rev. Susan Morris E-mail: susan@frucc.org Cell: 276-525-2810

Administrative Assistant Carolyn Robbins E-mail: carolyn@frucc.org

Financial Administrator Paula Lopp paula@frucc.org

Choir Director Ellen Peterson

Organist Robert Wilson

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Keri Hartle 2 Raeann Allred
 - Ron Link Brad Robertson
- 3 Marguerite Leonard
- 5 Paula Lopp
- 7 Cheryl Walser Carolyn Yocum
- 9 Jacob Hartle Mary Jo Jessup
- 11 Jonathan Odom
- 12 Elizabeth Sink
- 13 Lynn McCarn Calvin Odom Tracy Potts Lindsay Sink
- 14 Travis White
- 15 Bill Walser
- 16 Craig Coe Johnny McCarn
- 18 Cathy Browder
- 20 Jasmin Cruz
- 21 Jeremy Peterson Michell Winters
- 23 Annabell Callicutt
- 24 Mary Lloyd Callicutt
- 25 Melody Evans
- 27 Betty Link
- 28 Jeff Hutchens
- 30 Sam West
- 31 Margot Everhart

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

8 Frank & Beth Callicutt 12 Rich & Lena Johnson 27 Mark & Nicole Smith 30 Eddie & Belinda Yates



LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST

(Activities shown are subject to change.)

2	 Bible Study via Zoom Worship Service Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom
	, ,
4	 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Book Study: White Fragility 6:00 Middle School Youth Group via Zoom
5	 6:00 High School Youth Group via Zoom
6	• 6:30 Kids Adventure Time via Zoom
9	 Bible Study via Zoom Worship Service Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom Consistory Meeting via Zoom
11	 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Youth Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Book Study: White Fragility
12	 6:00 Middle School Youth Group via Zoom
16	Bible Study via Zoom
	Worship Service
	Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom
18	 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Children's Ministry Team Meeting via Zoom 7:00PM Book Study: White Fragility
19	• 6:30 Kids Adventure Time via Zoom
23	• Bible Study via Zoom
	Worship Service
	 Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom
25	• 12:00PM 2CFAR meeting via Zoom
26	 6:00 Middle School Youth Group via Zoom
30	• Bible Study via Zoom
	Worship Service
	Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom