



First REFORMED

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Lexington, North Carolina



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, expect extravagant welcomes here.

November 2022 Newsletter

Join Sunday Worship on Youtube:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UChfzFOjObXH_bR8E-UG_gTA

Welcoming Statement

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wonderful 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.

A Message from Rev. Elizabeth Horton

On Nov. 20th, we will wrap up our Season of Stewardship, **From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving**. The Table of Christ has been the center point for worship, reminding us of the grace and love received every time we gather at the Table. How shall we respond to the amazing and unbounded love we receive at the Table? One way is through our financial gifts.

Several weeks ago, the congregation voted to approve a budget for 2023 of \$313,532. The budget forecasts what we might spend for outreach, youth and children, staffing, facilities maintenance, supplies, utilities, etc. The main source of funding these expenses comes from the congregation's monetary offerings.

As we prepare for the year ahead, the church, like families everywhere, faces increased costs. To help us plan and prepare for 2023, we ask that you **pledge**, or give an estimate, of how much money you can give to the church for 2023.

Our hope is to engage everyone in our congregation in pledging, including folks who are new or have not made a pledge before.

Not only does a pledge help forecast funding, but it symbolizes your partnership with the church. A pledge is an estimate that tells us your intent to support the mission and ministry of First Reformed UCC. Not only does the church count on you, but you count on the church to manage your offerings for God's purposes of love and grace to be made manifest in the world.

Giving money is **not** a requirement to be part of the church. Some among us struggle financially, while others have more than enough. There are times when we receive support, and other times we give support. We may ebb and flow in between. Yet as a part of authentic community, we give of ourselves and invest in the greater good.

Even if you cannot give as much as you'd like, please know that your pledge for 2023 will make a critical difference.

I encourage you to aim toward a spiritual practice called tithing, which means giving 10% of your income. Pray and allow the Holy Spirit to guide you.

First Reformed's ministries need the support of our whole community to

to nurture and cultivate the seeds that have been planted. For this congregation to grow, all of us must work together.

- **Remember, your pledge is NOT a binding contract; it is an estimate in good faith that can be revised should circumstances change.**
- **If you have never made a pledge before, please give it a try.**
- **If you have pledged to First Reformed in the past, please pray about increasing your pledge for the year ahead.**

You are an important part of this church. Thank you for the many ways you give and serve.

How shall we respond to Christ's invitation?

I pray you will find and claim your place in ministry with First Reformed UCC.

Come! There is a place for you here.

Thanks,
Elizabeth



Homecoming Sunday November 6th

Plan to attend the 10:30 worship service with guest minister, Rev Don Morgan.

Special music by
Ken Davis and Jeremy Lovell.

This will also be a memorial service for members who have died this past year.

Enjoy lunch in the Fellowship Hall, catered by Cheryl Walser - chicken pie, sides, dessert and rolls. Drinks will be provided.

Donations will be appreciated and a donation basket will be provided!



Jeffery Allen Hutchens

July 28, 1966 – October 19, 2022

In the Spring of 2020, our beloved brother in Christ, Jeff Hutchens, was diagnosed with cancer, which led to long hospital stays, chemotherapy, and ultimately a stem-cell transplant. Jeff battled his cancer with courage and faith, continuing to work hard, love others, and serve God through it all. We are deeply saddened and still in disbelief that Jeff passed away Wednesday, October 19th 2022.

During Jeff's treatments, First Reformed assisted in fundraising to help with the many expenses he incurred. This donation fund is still open to help his

daughter Kalyssa with the remaining and additional expenses. If you wish to contribute, please indicate with "Jeff Hutchens donation" on your check.

Arrangements

Saturday, November 5, 2022 – Visitation from 6pm to 8pm

at First Reformed United Church of Christ

Sunday, November 6, 2022 - Celebration of Life Memorial Service at 3:30pm

At First Reformed United Church of Christ

TABLE TALKS

As part of our series From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving, we are scheduling **Table Talks**. These are small group gatherings hosted by church leadership during Stewardship. Table Talk gatherings bring congregation members together in casual settings to have conversations about our thoughts on faith and money, stewardship and the church.

This is a great time to share your ideas and visions moving forward at FRUCC. You are only asked to attend one and they last around 1 1/2 hours. **Sign-up on line or Sunday mornings in the Narthex!**

Thank You from the Stewardship Team

There are still seats to be fill!

Sign up online or Sunday Mornings in the Narthex

October 30th at 12PM (following Worship)

FRUCC Fellowship Hall – Hosts: Eddie & Belinda Yates
(Light lunch)

November 3rd at 4PM

FRUCC Parlor – Host: Smithie Parrish
(Tea & Finger Foods)

November 8th at 6:30PM

Yarborough's Restaurant – Host: Betty Barr
(Supper)

November 13th at 12PM (following Worship)

FRUCC Fellowship Hall – Host: Elizabeth Horton
(Finger Foods & Beverages)

PREPARING FOR ADVENT

FIRST REFORMED UCC ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

This year, let's create a First Reformed UCC Advent Devotional!

All ages invited to join in.

- 1. Select a word from the Advent Word list below.**
- 2. Write a reflection (250 words or less), prayer or poem based on that word.
You can draw or paint too!**
- 4. Send submissions to elizabeth@frucc.org by Sunday, November 6th!**

ADVENT WORDS 2022

Hope	Anticipation	Song
Watching	Miracle	Holy
Waiting	Promise	Gifts
Repent	Question	Child
Darkness	Love	Birth
Peace	Ponder	Fear
Preparation	Star	Mystery
Unknown	Expectant	Joy
Generations	Blessed	Angel
God With Us		Silence

Adult Worship, Study, & Fellowship Opportunities

First Reformed United Church of Christ Book Club “Jesus and the Disinherited” By Howard Thurman

Meeting IDL 846 9163 5471
Passcode: Faith

NEW BOOK STUDY TO BEGIN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

“Jesus and the Disinherited” by Howard Thurman, renown African-American theologian. At the time of his death in 1981, Howard Thurman was Dean Emeritus of Marsh Chapel, Boston University, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Howard Thurman Educational Trust in San Francisco. He also served as Dean of Rankin Chapel and Professor of Theology at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Director of Religious Life at Morehouse College, Atlanta.

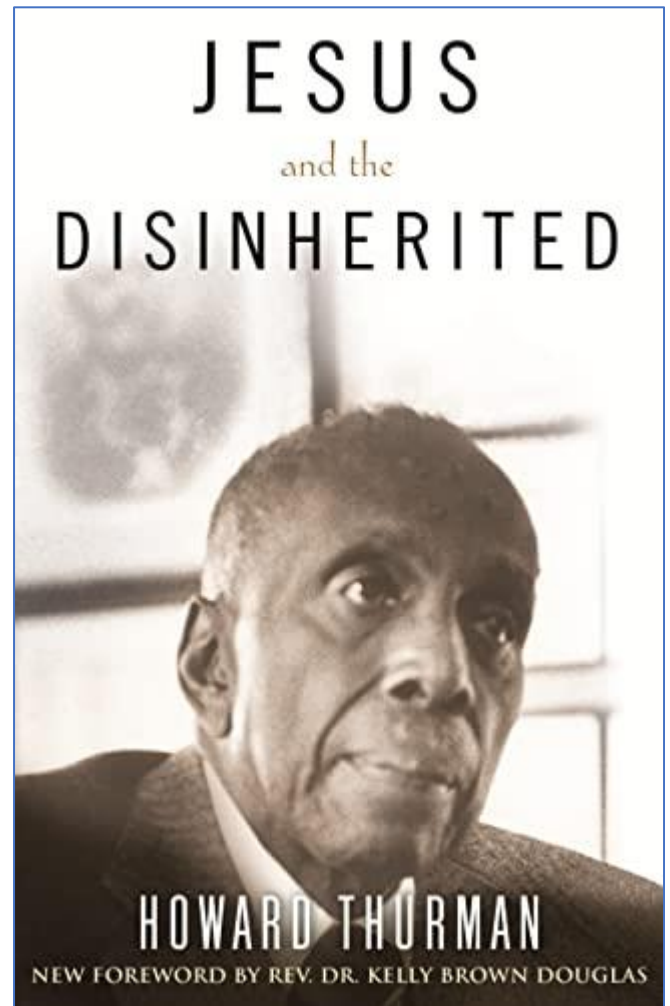
Founder of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, the first interracial, interdenominational church in the United States, he was spiritual mentor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the author of more than twenty books which still speak to our condition today.

One of his most famous poems is “I Will Light Candles This Christmas”

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

From The Mood of Christmas

His book, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, uses the New Testament gospels to describe how a non-violent civil rights movement could be successful. This book influenced a number of civil rights leaders including James Farmer founder of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) and Martin Luther King, Jr., (whose



father studied at Morehouse during Thurman’s tenure) who carried the book with him whenever he marched.

The book study continues on Tuesday evenings by ZOOM. Several copies of the book will be available in the church office.

We invite you to join us at 7:00 p.m. beginning November 1st.

CHECK OUT THE CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD IN THE EDUCATION BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY POSTINGS, THANK YOU’S, LETTERS AND CONSISTORY MINUTES & BUDGET!

Sunday Bible Study

FROM BREAD AND CUP TO FAITH AND GIVING

Our Sunday morning Bible Study will continue in November on a journey into the Spiritual Practice of Generosity Around the Table of Jesus.

We will be following the same scripture text and themes as we experience in worship during this season of Stewardship in the life of the church.

Lectio Divina is a special way to study scripture. It invites us to listen deeply and deliberately as the passage is read aloud. We may hear a particular word or phrase and discover its meaning for us in this certain time and place. This will provide an opportunity to explore the scripture in a new way. We have a very active group of folk who enlivens our class discussions. So, come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

October 30

Breaking of Bread in the Early Church
Acts 2:43-47 Facilitator: June Grubb

November 6

Homecoming/Honoring The Saints
The Cup and Bread:
A Sharing in the Body of Christ
1 Corinthians 10:14-22 Facilitator: TBA

November 14 At the Table of Love
Jude 12:16 Facilitator: Cathy Whitley

November 21 Commitment Sunday
Jesus Knocks at the Door and Comes in to Eat
Revelation 3:14-20 Facilitator: June Grubb

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood

All men of the church are invited!

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood met on Tuesday, October 4th, at Yarborough's. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and caught up on what we could remember since our last meeting. A devotion was given and the group began planning to park cars for the 2022 Barbecue Festival.

Upon researching, I found that the last meeting of Brotherhood was on February 11th 2020 and the group enjoyed oyster stew. This was the last meeting prior to Covid disrupting our "normal" gatherings.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 6:00 PM at Yarborough's and Clifton Murphy will provide the devotions.



Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited!

There was no Women's Fellowship luncheon meeting in October and they will also not meet in November. Their next scheduled meeting will be December 14th for a Christmas get together at Yarborough's Restaurant at 11:30 am. Come January 2023, they will return to the 4th Wednesday of each month schedule.



THANK YOU

A HUGE Thank You & Remembering Jeff Hutchens

Submitted by Eddie Yates

I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who signed up to park cars here at FRUCC for the Lexington Barbecue Festival. The weather was awesome and the day was a great success. It was also a day of logistics, customer service, and teamwork. Looking back, it was truly more fun than work. All proceeds were donated to the general fund of our church. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!**



For me it was also a day of **remembering our friend Jeff Hutchens**, who often helped with the festival parking here at the church. I, like many of you, have fond memories of Jeff, from him balancing on one foot to adjust a Chrismon on the top of the church Chrismon tree, to serving faithfully as an usher, greeting everyone with his familiar smile and "Hey buddy". Jeff bravely fought cancer and still remained "HutchensStrong".

In the days and months ahead, continue to keep those who loved Jeff in your prayers as they navigate life while missing him on their grief journey.

News, Upcoming Events & Updates

Women's Fellowship RADA Cutlery Fundraiser

Women's Fellowship is having a Rada Cutlery Fundraiser Sale, online, for October through December.

Log on to radafundraising.com and type in Lexington NC 27295. Tap Search and choose First Reformed Women's Fellowship to access all items. For questions contact Rita Lohr at rlohr@triad.rr.com or 336-346-7607



PRE-ORDER NOW!
**WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP
FAMOUS
VEGGIE SOUP**

Ladies of First Reformed UCC's Women's Fellowship will be making some of their famous "Brunswick Stew Style" vegetable soup for pick up on November 13.

Soup will be available in both quarts (\$10 each) and pints (\$5 each), but you must **PRE-ORDER NOW!**
ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

ORDER NOW by contacting Paula Lopp at 336-250-3343 or pls15@yahoo.com



Looking at October



With the fall of the year comes the spirit of apples festivals, Halloween and pumpkins, and sitting by a firepit making smores and bundling in warm blankets. The crisp air reminds us that we will soon be hustling and bustling to ready ourselves for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Here at First Reformed, we have started the fall season with a BANG! Our Stewardship Campaign got underway October 2nd with a focus on the missions of the church, our connection to church growth through participation and giving, and attending Table Talks to discuss our thoughts on how we see and want the church to move forward. We will end the Stewardship Season with Commitment Sunday, November 20th and have a celebration meal following worship.



Women's Fellowship hosted the Lexington High School JV Football team to a luncheon on game day, Oct. 20th. Thirty plus students attended. They were a high energy group ready for the big game, which they won that night. Must have been that yummy chicken!

Women's Fellowship also hosted the intergenerational Pumpkin Painting event, Sunday the 23rd. Old and young alike participated and decorated fall pumpkins.

Choir and handbells have begun after a summer hiatus. Our choir director, Ellen Peterson, is working her magic and the joyful voices of the choir are gracing us on Sundays with their beautiful voices. And, we're all looking forward to a handbell performance!



Men Brotherhood is now meeting monthly at Yarboroughs Restaurant. They will meet November 1st at 6pm for supper and fellowship. All men of the church are invited to attend these monthly meetings.

The month will end with First Reformed participating in the Lexington BooBash Saturday, Oct. 29th. We will be stationed in front of the sanctuary giving out candy to trick or treaters.

This month has certainly been the beginning of a busy fall season the has no indication of slowing down. What great times we are having!



The Clothing Ministry has been very buisy due to the colder weather. We are in need of jackets, coats, sweatshirs, socks, blankets,a nd men’s pants isze 34 and smaller.

Beginning Monday night, November 14th, the Open Hands Meal will be served inour fellwoshiphall. Our Clothes Ministry hours will be from 5-6pm.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry come to the basement area of the education building on Thursdays from 4-6pm, or Mondays from 5-6pm. If you have any questions please contact Jerry Lovell.

Submitted by Jerry

Charles England Elementary School

Ben recently received an email from the Guidance Counserlor at Charles England with some potentially, deeply troubling news. Apparentlythe economic situation is our countryhas made its way to the localities, including the schools. There is the possiblility that the Backpacking Program at Charles England will cease unless folks like you lend a helping hand.

At this tiem we are using funds in our Charles England School account to helpmake it through 2022, but beyond this... who knows?

We are all being affected by the economic situation here in the US. Thoe who hur the most are those who have not enough to eat. I speak of the children we support at Charles England.

Please bring non-perishable foods by the church office or send financial contributions. Make sure the memo line of you check reads Charles England School Ministry.

Thank you,
Ben Hale and Jay Whitley

Below is a list of food items we have received that are most needed for this ministry at this time.

Microwavable single serve sizes of -

- cans of Chef Boyardee foods such as ravioli, spaghetti O’s, etc.
- Beenie Weenies
- Ramen Noodles
- Pop Tarts
- Mack & Cheese
- Juice boxes

Community Garden

The community garden is in it’s fall season of growing. Items such as greens of various kinds are coming to maturity. The Community Garden dontates it crops to the Pastor’s Pantry. To learn more about how you can get involved with this ministry contact Edgar Miller.





**Our Sunday Worship Services
are in need of Ushers.**

Each Sunday our attendance in Worship is happily increasing. Where we could get by with a couple of Ushers in the past, we now need three to four each Sunday. This is a wonderful need as it signals the growth in Sunday Worship churchgoers.

Volunteering as an Usher is an important part of the Sunday Service and is a ministry of the church. An Usher greets churchgoers with a smile, shaking hands, and handing out bulletins. Ushers are welcoming and friendly faces to the congregation and to visitors. Ushers are available to answer questions and extend an extra hand to those who need assistance, aid latecomers in finding seating, and inform those in the sanctuary of any urgent matters. Ushers also help with Communion and with special services throughout the year.

The ministry of an usher is pure joy. It's not to be seen as a duty, but a privilege in service to the church and congregation.

Please thoughtfully consider volunteering as an Usher.

If you have any questions about being an Usher, feel free to contact Eddie Yates: (call or text at 336-225-1231 or email bbqman46@gmail.com). He will gladly answer any questions you may have. You can also contact the church office to be added to the volunteer list.

- Dates for November are:
- 11/6 - 4 Ushers needed - Homecoming
- 11/13 - 4 Ushers needed
- 11/20 - 3 Ushers needed
- 11/27 - 4 Ushers needed

Thank you in advance for considering and volunteering!



**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LEXINGTON**

It is already that time of year again!

Each year First Reformed does a spectacular job helping Grace Episcopal serve meals through the front door to people in need. Grace Episcopal is not dining in, so meals are bagged and handed to each person.

We need 3-4 volunteers for each Sunday in November to help serve. We arrive at 12 noon and are finished by 1:30 pm.

Dates are: 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27

Please let John Maze know as soon as possible which Sunday you can volunteer your time!

704-524-6462 - mazemaze1@aol.com -
jackie@frucc.org -

or use the sign-up genius coming soon

Peace in Christ,
John Maze

SATURDAY LUNCH MINISTRY

Thank you to our volunteers that help put the meals together each Saturday! We need cooks and servers! Please contact John at 704-524-6462 to see what is involved with preparing a meal. It is easier than one might think! Interested in donating? We need bags of precooked chicken for sandwiches, ground beef, pork shoulders, and monetary donations that we can use to pick up these items. We can also use HUGS fruit flavored drinks (Walmart carries) and cases of water.

John Maze



PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

PFLAG is a national support, education and advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and genderqueer or non-conforming (LGBTQ) people, their families, friends and allies.

Join meetings on the third Thursday of each month at FRUCC in the fellowship hall - 6:30pm



NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, provides support and education services to those affected by mental illness and the people who love and support them. If you have any questions about NAMI or would like to participate in any activity, reach out to

Cathy at 704-502-9095 or email NAMIDavidsoncounty1@gmail.com

NAMI Family Support Group Meeting Each Month

The 1st and 3rd Mondays

The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

PRAYER CONCERNS

Brian McKerlie, J.W. Bates, Jimbo Hinkle, Bonita Hooper, Steve & Charm Ketner, Thomas Phillips

AT HOME: Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Lib Hinkle, Myrtle Latimer, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey

IN CARE FACILITIES: Vogen Everheart, Sherry Bonner, Marguerite Leonard, Patti Everhart

OUR FRIENDS: Sarah Lovell Biggers (Jerry & Patti Lovell's daughter), Laura Turlington (Cousin of Cliff Lopp), Jack Poetzinger (Susie Smith's Father), Larry Sink (Cousin of Paula Lopp), Earl Parker (Rev. Horton's Father), Rena Y. Curia (sister to Cheryl Walser), Charles Hines (Friend of Alane holste, Ray White (Step-father to Travis White)

Thank You Sunday Morning Volunteers

Liturgist: Marge Doty

Acolyte: Ethan Lovell

Bible Steward:

Kyndell Lovell

Ushers: Eddie Yates, Ted Smith, June Grubb and Jeremy Lovell

Sound Tech: Dave Fulton

Media Tech: Jianna and Kivi Miller

Nursery: Smithie Parrish and Kai Plummer



November Anniversaries

Nov. 16th
Pat & Amy Golden

Nov. 23rd
Stacey & Sarah Potts



November Birthdays

11/1 Seth Klopp
11/2 Samuel Gray
11/5 Linda Sink
11/6 Eli Gregg
11/9 Robert Danze, Harrison Danze
Coreen Freeman, Everly Robertson
11/12 Mike Hooper
11/13 Will Hooper
11/14 Holt Biesecker
11/17 Anne Bevan
11/18 Dottie Walser
11/19 Maria Danze, Gary Hahn
11/20 Emory Smith
11/21 Vance Walser
11/23 Frank Leonard
11/24 John Maze
11/25 Webb Fulton
11/27 James Gray, Ava Miller,
Cathy Waitman
11/30 Irvin Sink



~ Memorials ~

In Memory of Jeff Hutchens
Bill & Carolyn Robbins
Frank Leonard Jr.
Cliff & Paula Lopp

Gregory Evans
Calvin & Susan Odom

~ Honorariums ~
Reaann Allred



Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00am	Walkin's Welcome
1-1:30pm	Lunch
1:30 – 5pm	Please call ahead or make an appointment

Phone: 336-248-2617

104 East Center St., Lexington, NC 27292

Join us for worship Sunday's at 10:30am

*Jackie Mock
Administrator*

CHURCH STAFF

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

Music Director
 Ellen Peterson ellen@frucc.org

Minister of Congregational Care
Rev. June Grubb 336-248-5668

Church Administrator
 Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.ort

November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 6pm Men's Brotherhood Meeting Yarboroughs 7pm Book Study Zoom	2 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	3 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday 4pm Table Talk In Parlor, Hosted by Smithie Parrish	4	5 Saturday Lunch 12pm Jeff Hutchens Visitation 6-8pm
6 Communion 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worhsip	7 NAMI via Zoom	8 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study Zoom Table Talk Yarboroughs 6:30pm Host: Betty Barr	9 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	10 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	11	12 Saturday Lunch 12pm
13 Homecominmg 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worhsip Soup Pick-up Table Take after worship Consistory Meet Jeff Hutchens Memorial 3:30pm	14 Opens Hands Meal begins in Fellowship Hall in the evening	15 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study Zoom NAMI via Zoom	16 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	17 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday :30pmPFLAG	18 SWIRL Event in FH	19 Saturday Lunch 12pm
20 Commitment Sunday 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worhsip Big Board Sunday	21 Opens Hands Meal NAMI via Zoom	22 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study Zoom	23	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26 Saturday Lunch 12pm
27 Advent 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worhsip	28 Opens Hands Meal	29 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study Zoom NAMI via Zoom	30 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir			