



## December 2022 Newsletter

Join Sunday Worship on Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfZ FOjObXH bR8E-UG gTA

# Welcoming Statement

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

Advent 2022: From Generation to Generation

The scriptures, stories and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down throughout the generations. Memories and emotions often swell up as we go through the rituals this holiday holds. The sights and smells of the season cause us to remember and to have hope.

Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in – to remember how God has shown up in the past, and to continue the work of God in the world.

Our Advent worship series From Generation to Generation, comes from a line in the Magnificat, Mary's song of protest and praise:

"Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him **from generation to generation**. (Luke 1: 48b-50)

The Advent promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation. This Advent, we ask the question, "what will we bring forth from the ancestors of our faith? What will our generation pass down to the next?

I hope you will make plans to join in the opportunities find your place in the Sacred story.

In love and faith, Elizabeth

## Welcome Bruce

We are so excited to officially welcome Bruce Tippette to First Reformed UCC! He has done a phenomenal job filling in on the piano and organ during October and November. We are happy that beginning in December, he will be our settled organist/pianist. Bruce is incredibly gifted. He is a composer, performer, and educator. Bruce holds a Master of Music from UNC School of the Arts and a Bachelor of Music from Appalachian State University. His published compositions for chorus, concert band, orchestra, handbells, and ensembles have been performed internationally. Bruce has composed original compositions for choreographers, film, and has co-composed



music for a children's musical. he was chosen in 2012, 2013 and 2014 to compose five new works as part of an experimental collaboration with Cirque du Soleil and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He lives in Winston Salem with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son and daughter.

# **Stewardship 2023**



## We're getting there! Nearly halfway to meeting our 2023 budget!

Thank you to all that have sent in or dropped off your 2023 pledge cards. Your projected contributions for this upcoming year will help us in planning for church projects, church gatherings, our benevolences, our music ministry and childrens programs, community outreach, operating expenses, and much more. Through you, God's love is truly at work!

If you haven't sent in your pledge card for 2023, theres no time like the present!

Help us to plan for the future year with your pledge. You are an important part of this church and we thank you for all the many ways you give and serve.

> Thank you, The FRUCC Stewardship Team

> 41 Families – Pledges \$151,800



# **ADVENT CALENDAR**

HOPF



What have you received from generations past? What will you pass onto the next generation?

#### November 27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30 WorshipFrom Generation to Generation: There is Room for Every Story<br/>(Matthew 1: 1-17, Isaiah 2: 1-5)

Advent Devotionals written by First Reformed family will be available.

4:30pm Make Advent Wreaths, Gingerbread Houses, Food and Fellowship for All Ages!

### December 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT PEACE

10:30 Worship From Generation to Generation: God Meets Us In Our Fear (Luke 1: 26-38, Isaiah 11: 1-10) Holy Communion Bring an ornament that tells a story about your family.

#### December 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT JOY

10:30 Worship From Generation to Generation: We Can Choose a Better Way Matthew 1: 18-25, Isaiah 35: 1-10

3pm Center Street Saxophone Quartet, Sanctuary

## December 15 Thursday Christmas Caroling 5:30pm

Meet at 5:30 to carpool. We'll travel and sing to some of our First Reformed family. Sweets and treats afterwards.

### December 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT LOVE

10:30 Worship From Generation to Generation: *We See God in Each Other* (Luke 1: 39-58) Children, Youth, Choir and Congregation celebrate the Nativity

**6pm LONGEST NIGHT service** A quiet, reflective time of worship for those feeling loss, sadness, or grief.

### December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

Noon Saturday Lunch Ministry Christmas Meal Make an extra of your favorite dishes to donate to our Lunch Ministry

8pmCandlelight Worship<br/>(Luke 2: 1-20)From Generation to Generation: We Tell the Story<br/>Our service for all ages with candlelight and carols.

### December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 From Generation to Generation: God dwells with us (John 1: 1-14) COME AS YOU ARE! Come casually and comfortably to gather for sweets, have a hot drink, and worship together.

### January 1, 2023 NEW YEAR's DAY

10:30am Combined Worship and brunch w Second UCC in our Fellowship Hall

## The Angel Tree





## Place an Angel on our Angel Tree

Place an angel on our Angel Tree in the education building breezeway in memory or honor of someone. By placing an angel on the tree, your donations go to our church benevolences. Acknowledgements are sent from the church office and names for the "Angels", along with names of those who donated, will be listed in the January 2023 Newsletter.

To place an Angel on the tree:

- Come by the church office, fill out an angel tree form and make your donation... OR ...
- Get an Angel Tree form and donation envelop on Sundays given out by the volunteer stationed at the table in back of the sanctuary. Fill out your form, place the form and donation in the envelop provided and place in the offering plate or drop off to the church office.

Angel Tree donations need to be made by Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Christmas is upon us! Are you thinking about what to buy for family and friends? Why not give to a local charity in their honor?

You can donate to any of the church benevolences and send a card to the persons to whom you would like to honor with your gift. To do this...

- Come by the church office, fill out the alternativce gift form, make your donation, and get the number of cards you need... OR...
- Get the form and donation envelop on Sundays given out by the volunteer stationed at the table in back of the sanctuary. Fill out your form, place the form and donation in the envelop provided and give to the volunteer. They will give you the number of cards you want for those you are honoring.

This is such a meaningful way to honor someone on your gift list, benefit those in need and help our church meet its benevolences for the year.





## Cards for our Members at Home and in Care Facilites

What better way to brighten a persons holiday than with a beautiful Christmas card! This Christmas we again remember our members who are in care facilities or at home. This is such a simple way to share Christmas wishes to each member on this list.

Write each persons name on the front of the their envelop (no address required), and place in the decorative bags on the back pew of the sanctuary between December 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The bags of cards will be distributed to these members along with fruit baskets.

#### **Card List**

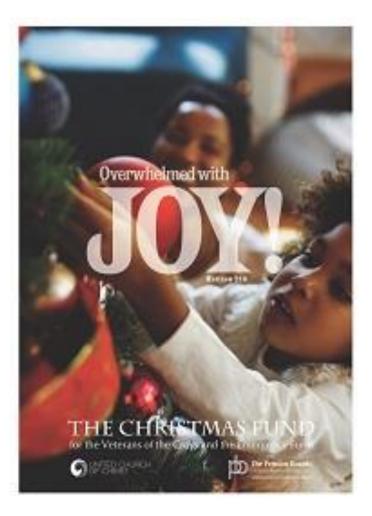
Lib Hinkle J.W. Bates Ruth Essick Myrtle Latimer Carolyn Spivey Janette Neal Sherry Bonner Merle Hodges

Jimbo Hinkle Peggy Bates Gerri Hill Deanna Michael, John Potts Vogen Everhart Patti Everhart Marguerite Leonard

## The Christmas Fund Veterans fo the Cross

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premius, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!



## **Canned Corn Donation Drive**

The First Reformed church family once again out did them selves with all the contributions of canned corn we donated to the Pastors Pantry. Our goal was to supply them with 450 cans to help fill their Holiday Meal Boxes this year and we met that goal.

Thank you to everyone that brought corn donations. The Holiday Meal Boxes are a vital need in the community and we are grateful and happy to help the Pastors Pantry fill this need each year.

## Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Several FRUCC members volunteered to be bell ringers this year.

### A BIG THANK YOU goes out to:

Clifton Murphy, Steve Smith, John and Vicky Gray, Steve and Charm Ketner, James and Alice Gray, Dave and Glenyce Fulton, John Smith, and Eddie Yates

Submitted by Betty Barr

# Adult Worship, Study, & Fellowship Opportunities

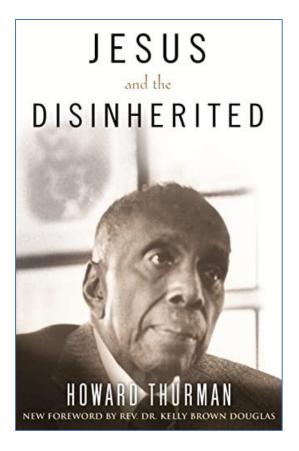
## First Reformed United Church of Christ Book Club "Jesus and the Disinherited" By Howard Thurman

Meeting IDL 846 9163 5471 Passcode: Faith

#### FRUCC BOOK STUDY MEETING AGAIN AFTER 2 WEEK BREAK

"Jesus and the Disinherited" by Howard Thurman, renown African-American theologian.

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 MEETS Tuesday evenings by ZOOM

# Sunday Bible Study

# Sunday Morning Bible Study Advent Series

Isaiah is our anchor text for this Avent Season. But Psalms gives us the mood, theme, or even soul.... "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'". The opening line of Psalm 122 captures something of the Advent Spirit this year. From "I was glad" to "go to the house of the Lord." We are singing a song of ascent this Advent Season.



#### First Sunday in Advent, November 27 "Up to Restoration" Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 24:36-44 Facilitator: June Grubb

Second Sunday in Advent, December 4 "Stand As A Signal" Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Matthew 3:2-12 Facilitator: Cathy Whitley

Third Sunday in Advent, December 11 "The Lord's Highway" Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; Matthew 11:2-II Facilitator: Smithie Parrish

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18 "Give You A Sign" Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Facilitator: June Grubb

# **FRUCC Men's Brotherhood**

All men of the church are invited!

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood meet the first Tuesday, of each month, at Yarborough's. They enjoy a wonderful meal, review their last meeting, have a devotion and enjoy good fellowship.

> Upcoming meeting will be Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM at





# Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited!

The Women's Fellowship meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday**, **December 14<sup>th</sup>** for a Christmas get together at Yarbrough's Restaurant. Time will be 11:30 am.

Starting in January of 2023, they will return to meeting the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

# Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Activities



## Decking the Halls at FRUCC

On Tuesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>, a talented group of FRUCC members gathered to decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Christmas. Thank you's go out to; June Grubb, Camille Morgan, Mike Price, Paula & Cliff Lopp, Eddie Yates, Clifton & Harreitte Murphy, Lisa Nelson, Cathy Waitman, Keri Hartle & Jacob.

## Sunday, November 27th Advent Wreath making and Gingerbread Houses









# **FRUCC Ministries**

## Saturday Lunch Ministry At FRUCC

"Serving those less fortunate that are Food Challenged of our Community"

Ask anyone that has volunteered for the Saturday Lunch Ministry at FRUCC and they'll likely tell you that they feel they are blessed more by the experience than those they meet and serve. That's because volunteering at this event is far more than slinging hash or getting your halo shined. Most folks realize that the moment they step out of their comfort zones... mingling with those that may not have had a bath for a few days, or who's cloths are ragged and shoes have holes. The reality of their situations sets in when they know the person across from them, whose styrofoam plate they just loading up with spaghetti, doesn't have a home to escape to that night, or the family they served may only have this nutritious meal for the entire weekend.

The Saturday Lunch Ministry serves 75 to 125 individuals every Saturday from 12:00PM to 1PM. We are always in need of servers and cooks. This only takes a few hours of your time on a Saturday. If you have a few hours one or two Saturdays a month to volunteer, contact John Maze at:

#### mazejmaze1@aol.com

This ministry is a blessing to the community and that blessing spreads to all those that get involved. Come serve with us, and you'll begin to experience and appreciate all that God is doing through and for our guests, our volunteers, our church, and our community.



## Saturday Lunch Ministry Serving Meals this Christmas Eve

This year the Saturday Lunch Ministry will be serving lunch on Christmas Eve. As we did last year, this ministry is inviting the congregation to prepare and contribute a special dish or dessert as part of the menu. Your dish might only feed 8 or maybe 20, but a cumulative number of dishes will make for a unique and tasty Christmas Eve meal!

Mashed potatoes, deviled eggs, cookies, pies or cakes, casseroles, and vegetable dishes are a few suggestions of great dishes. If anyone is interested in dropping a dish off, please put it in a disposable tray or container. Contact John Maze with any questions you may have or if you would like to volunteer for this event.

We hope this will be a lot of fun for our congregation to "share the love" with some of your favorite dishes. We look forward to a memorable time for our congregation and our community friends in need.





## **FRUCC Clothing Ministry**

The Clothing Ministry is very busy these days and shows no sign of slowing down! In addition to the normal hours of operation for the Clothes Ministry, they are now open on Monday nights from 5-6pm before the Open Hands meal in the fellowship hall at FRUCC. This is a growing ministry in our community, serving those in need of clothing, shoes, work outfits, and in many cases families that cannot afford to buy their children new cloths.

When the weather turns cold the need for coats, warm socks, thermal underclothing, toboggans and gloves increase. Coats are the mosts needed items, men's, women's and childrens. If you need to clean out your closets of older gently used winter clothes, bring them in every Thursday from 4pm – 6pm to the basement in the education building. A volunteer will gladly take your donation.

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.



# **Charles England Elem. School**

Thank you to those who have been donating to the Charles England Elem. Backpack Program. Each backpack provides 2 breakfast items, 2 lunch items, and 2 dinner items for approximately 50 students. Without this program these students may possibly not have anything to eat.

Each month we are collecting certain food items for Charles England. Please refer to the list below when making your donations. You have no idea how much this is appreciated.

Nov 15-Dec 15 Ramon Noodles/Vienna Sausage

Dec 15-Jan 15 Mac & Cheese /Pop Tarts

Jan 15-Feb 15 - individually wrapped cookie packets/and snack crackers

Feb 15-Mar 15 bottled water/juice drinks (Capri-sun/Hugs/etc.)

Thank-you so much for all the donations!

Peace in Christ, Ben Hale and Jay Whitley

# News, Upcoming Events & Updates

## Jianna Miller earns Gold Award

Jianna Miller has earned her Girl Scout Gold Award, the hightest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. The Gold Award is given to Girl Scouts who create sustainable change on a community or world issue. They must address the root cause of a problem, plan and implement innovative solutions to drive change and lead a team of people to success. They must dedicate at least 80 hours to planning and carrying out their project which must benefit the community and have a long lasting impact

Jiann partnered with Lexington PFLAG, FRUCC, and St. Stephen UMC to organize a Pride March in uptown Lexington and put together a presentation about the LGBTQIA history which she presented to her Youth Group and Girl Scout Troop



Scout Gold Award. PROVIDED BY GIRL SCOUTS

#### CONGRATULATIONS JIANNA!



## New Year's Day Combined Worship with Second Reformed UCC in our Fellowship Hall

Join us Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in our Fellowship Hall as we gather with congregation members from Second Reformed UCC for Sunday Brunch Church – Agape Feast. We will share a brunch meal and worship. Please watch in the weekly emails for more details up-coming.



**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 <u>NAMIDavidsoncounty1@gmail.com</u>

NAMI Family Support Group Meeting Each Month The 1st and 3rd Mondays The 2nd & 4th Tuesdays



**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



## **Consistory Highlights**

### Avg. weekly offering in October: \$4034.00

(Avg. wkly offering needed to meet annual budget: \$6,240)

Oct. Avg. Attendance: 55

### \*Music Committee Recommendation:

Glenyce Fulton presented the Music Committee's recommendation to hire Bruce Tippett as full-time organist/pianist.

\*Stewardship/Table Talks – All experienced a positive opportunity to be more engaged and to acquire valuable information for future planning.

### \*Status of Janitorial and Lawn Care Services

 For janitorial services, Jessica Evans agreed to trial cleaning for December. If satisfactory she will sign a contract for 2023.
Lawn care, Alex Whittington, Advanced Property Solutions, available at \$500/month.
Has excellent references. His services are comparable to prior service. \*Digital and Sound System Update – Contract has been signed, first half of cost has been paid to Joe Watkins and has started installing wiring this week.

### \*Results of Parent Meeting on Sun. Nov.6<sup>th</sup> -

Zoom parents meeting to get input from children's ministry not well attended. Survey was sent out to parents to identify needs and expectations. A caroling activity is being planned for December. Will proceed with plans to hire a new Director of Children's Ministry. Faith Formation Board members will serve as the Search Committee to begin advertising for candidates

\*Open Hands – Nov.14<sup>th</sup> – Announcing beginning of: doors open at 5pm and meal is served at 6pm

\*Angel Tree/Alternative Gifts: Angel Tree and Alternative Gifts donations are an important part of the budget that supports church benevolences. We can begin working with Jackie to get information out. Need volunteers before and after church to promote; possibly start commitment Sunday. <u>Motion to approve</u>: Betty Barr Seconded: Clifton Murphy All Approved

\*Request: New Year's Day joint service & brunch with Second Reformed UCC (at First Reformed) <u>Motion to approve</u>: Smithie Parrish Seconded: Alane Holste All Approved

Next Consistory Meeting: Dec. 11, 2022





## PRAYER CONCERNS

DeeJay Huffman, Sylvia Walser, Mary Jo Jessup

**AT HOME:** Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Peggy Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Deanna Michael, Carolyn Spivey, John Potts & Janette Neal, Adena Wall

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

**OUR FRIENDS:** Sarah Lovell Biggers (Jerry & Patti Lovell's daughter), Ray White, (Stepfather to Travis White), Rena Y. Curia (sister to Cheryl Walser), Charles Hines (Friend of Alane Holste), Carter Dorley (request from community), Diane Womack (Nina Smiths mother), John Ray Ward (Patti Lovell's, Brother in Law)



## **December Anniversaries**

Dec. 12th Susan Morris & Charly Clark

> Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Doug & Barbara Sink

Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> Lee & Mary Jo Jessup



## **December Birthdays**

- 12/1 Ann Johnson Crandell Buddy Lohr Jerry Smith
- 12/2 Beberly Sandifer
- 12/3 Keri Lovell
- 12/7 Ruth Essick
- 12/12 Donna Coe
- 12/14 Marge Doty, Merle Hodges
- 12/15 Janelle Bunn
- 12/16 Clayton Leonard
- 12/17 Christina Grzech
- 12/19 Maxx clark
- 12/23 Parker Horton
- 12/24 Bryson Gentry, Isa Bella Gentry, Tim Potts, Jay Whitley
- 12/27 Renee Shite
- 12/28 Walter Hoffman, Susan Miller
- 12/30 Keith Johnson, Belina Yates
- 12/31 Camill Ball, Myrtle Latimer



## ~ Memorials ~

In Memory of Jeff Hutchens Sylvia Walser Jerry & Aurelia Smith Eddie & Belinda Yates

In Memory of Nolan Leonard Jerry & Aurelia Smith

In Memory of Mary Hunter Johnson Jerry & Aurelia Smith

In Memory of Jack Poetzinger John & Vicky Gray

In Memory of Gregory Evans Jerry & Aurelia Smith

> ~ Honorariums ~ James Gray

Thank You Sunday Morning Volunteers Acolyte &Bible Steward: Alane & Eugenia Holste Ushers: Eddie Yates, Doris Sink, John Smith, Ann Hoffman Sound Tech: John Gray Media Tech: Jianna and Kivi Miller



### Church Office Hours Monday - Friday

9:00am 1-1:30pm 1:30 – 5pm Walkin's Welcome Lunch 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

Minister of Congregational CareRev. June Grubb336-248-5668

Music Director Ellen Peterson ellen@frucc.org

Church Administrator Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.ort

December 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	2	3 Saturday Lunch 5:00pm Lexington Choral Society at First United UMC of Lexington
<b>4</b> Second Sunday in Advent Communion 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>5</b> 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI via Zoom	<b>6</b> 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 6PM Men's Brotherhood at Yarboroughs 7pm Book Study Via Zoom	<b>7</b> 7:15pm Choir	<b>8</b> 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	9	<b>10</b> Jack Poetzinger Funeral – Graveside at 11am with Reception following at FRUCC Fellowship Hall
<b>11</b> Third Sunday in Advent 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship Consistory Meeting Following Service 3:00pm Center Street Sax Quartet Concert at FRUCC	<b>12</b> 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	<b>13</b> 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study Via Zoom 7pm NAMI via Zoom	<b>14</b> 11:30am Women's Fellowship Christmas at Yarboroughs 7:15pm Choir	<b>15</b> 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday 5:30pm Chirstmas Caroling 6:30pm PFLAG	<b>16</b> 10am-1pm Fellowship Hall Christmas Party	<b>17</b> Saturday Lunch
<b>18</b> Fourth Sunday in Advent 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship 6pm Longest Night Service	<b>19</b> 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI via Zoom	20 Fellwoship Hall Toy Give-away SWIRL 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study via Zoom	<b>21</b> 7:15pm Choir	<b>22</b> 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	<b>23</b> 5pm – 10pm Fellwoship Hall Christmas Party	24 Saturday Lunch Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 8PM
<b>25</b> Christmas Day 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	<b>26</b> 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	<b>27</b> 12pm 2CFAR Parlor 7pm Book Study via Zoom 7pm NAMI via Zoom	<b>28</b> 7:15pm Choir	<b>29</b> 4-6pm Clothing Ministry workday	30	31 Saturday Lunch