



March 2023 Newletter

Join Sunday Worship on Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/channel/U CHfZFOjObXH_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

The season of Lent has begun! How wonderful to spend Ash Wednesday with our neighbors and friends from First UMC, St. Stephen UMC, and Second UCC! The Ash Wednesday offering for YMCA child/after-school care scholarships was 465.00! This will help many families in our community seeking to find a safe, enriching place for their children.

Our Lenten theme is "Finding Our Way." Our prior Worship Series acknowledged that much around and within us has Unraveled. Now it's time to pick up the pieces and discover where God is leading. Lent is the season when we slow down, change our way of thinking, quieten our souls and listen to what God wants to say to us. We look inward, and simultaneously outward at the world we live in. Lent is for soul searching... both ours and the soul of this congregation.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that soul searching is not merely for ourselves, but is always connected to serving others.

"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

- Isaiah 58:6-7 NRSV

We will find our way together and with God's guidance.

We began Lenten worship last Sunday, February 26th, with Guest Speaker Beth Callicutt, Principal of Charles England Elementary School

FINDING OUR WAY

March 5. When We Stumble Matthew 4: 1-11 Holy Communion March 12. When We're Exhausted John 4: 5-42

March 19. When We Can't See John 9: 1-41

March 26 When We're Grieving John 11: 1-45

April 2. Palm and Passion Sunday When We're Confused

After worship service, please walk with us to the Uptown Square for the Community Palm Sunday service outside on the Old Courthouse Steps.

Marguerite Leonard Celebration of Life Service – This Saturday 11AM

All Church Study During Lent



Saturday, March 4th at 11 am Service at First Reformed UCC Reception following in Fellowship Ha

Reception following in Fellowship Hall (Private Inurnment later in the day)



Service Organist: Dr. Stepher



Dr. Stephen Schaffer will be the organist for this service and is playing a special 20-minute prelude. All are invited.

Dr. Schaeffer was a part of this congregation while his father served as Pastor in the 1960's. Dr. Shaeffer has performed over 145 organ recitals in the US, England and Europe. In 2020, he retired to North Carolina where he grew up, after teaching as a music professor at Presbyterian College and Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral Church of the Advent (Episcopal) in Birmingham, Alabama. He continues to engage as a free-lance musician.

Thank You From Jonathan Kipley

I would like to thank the Church and the Church Trustees for awarding me the Hinkle ,Sink ,Swing Scholarship. I really appreciate my Church Family for helping me to achieve my goal of becoming a Pilot. Thank you for all your support and kindness as I go through this journey.

Jonathan

Tuesday nights at 7pm via Zoom

It Takes a Church to Raise a Parent: Helping the Church Community Empower Families.

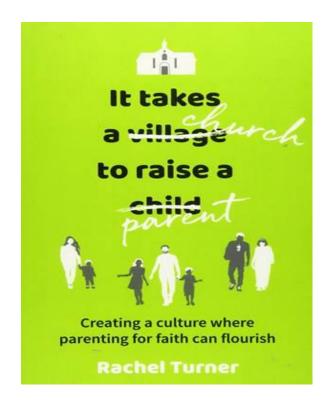
Come join in the conversation. Starts tonight Feb. 28th.

Zoom link:

 $\frac{https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84691635471pwd=WnJHblBaK1pZamR}{Rc29GMjFKU3ZOZz09}$

The six sessions include:

- The role of parents and what that means for church leaders
- Helping parents hope giving them vision and truth
- Skills parents need and equipping parents through the church community
- Walking alongside parents individually
- Church culture and creating space, community, and encouragement
- Equipping, empowering, and enabling parents in their roles as primary faith developers, especially those on the fringes of our faith community.



Looking Back at Special Gathering with Others

Betty Barr

The New Year came in with a wonderful joining of First Reformed UCC and Second UCC churches gathering for brunch and a great sermon.

Then, in February we again came together for an amazing jazz sermon at Second UCC and a fabulous lunch. On Ash Wednesday First, Second, St Stephens and First Methodist came together for an Ash Wednesday service. WOW!!!

All this togetherness. It's been so much fun getting to know new people, getting to see people we have not seen in a long time. It's truly great to worship and socialize with everyone. Let's keep it going to continue spreading love and happiness throughout our community.



Our New Sound and Streaming System

Kivi Miller

If you haven't had a chance to watch our Sunday services on YouTube yet, please check it out the next time you can't make it on Sunday morning! You can also watch the recordings any time of day. On a typical Sunday, about 10 households are watching the service live with us on Sunday morning, and each weekly recording is viewed about 60 times.

Our YouTube channel is https://youtube.com/firstreformeducclexington and you can also find the most recent recordings on the website homepage at https://frucc.org

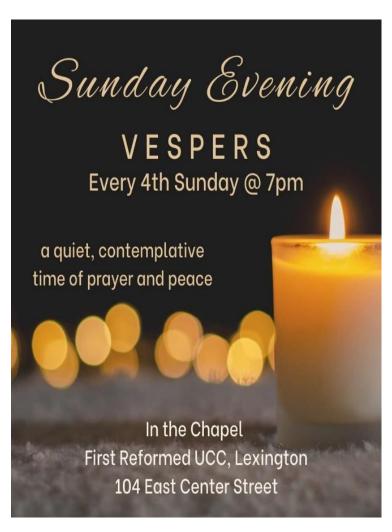
In March 2021, as services returned to the Sanctuary, we began live-streaming Sunday mornings using two small cameras, an iPad, and two iPods as microphones. Thanks to the commitment and talents of Jeremy Peterson, who had to troubleshoot constantly, and Ellen Peterson, who had to do a lot of weekend work on YouTube, we made that system work for almost two years. We knew, however, that we would eventually need a more stable and more professional long-term solution.

After many months in 2022 of reviewing our needs, vetting proposals, getting the budget approved, working with our vendor to get the new system installed, and yes, more troubleshooting and tweaking, we are now happy with the quality of the livestreams that we are producing each Sunday! We think you will

be amazed at the high-definition video quality compared to the old system.

This new streaming system is also now fully integrated with the Sanctuary sound system -- it's all one system. That means that Elizabeth no longer needs to wear two microphones, and we just need one set of volunteers to run the whole system instead of one set in the balcony and one down in the pews. This also means, however, that when we change something about the sound in the Sanctuary, it affects the live stream sound and vice versa. So please be patient with us as we continue to balance the needs of those in the Sanctuary with the needs of those at home watching online.

If you have any questions or comments about the technology in the Sanctuary (mics, speakers, etc.), please contact Dave Fulton. If you would like to volunteer to be on one of the Sound & Streaming Teams, please contact Kivi Miller. We would love to have you join us! We will provide all the training and support you need -- no previous technology experience needed! Our goal is to have enough volunteers that each person only has to work in the balcony about once a month.



Chapell During the Day of Prayer

After 2 sessions of our Sunday Evening Vespers Service, the question was raised if folks could come into the chapel during the day to pray.

The answer is YES!

Please feel free to sit in the chapel during the week for prayer or meditation. Jackie is here until 5pm!







February's Valentines Social

Our Valentines Day Social was a huge success! We had a beautiful and delicious buffet which included chocolate covered strawberries! We played games, laughed a lot and engaged in wonderful conversations. We're so glad that so many of you were able to make it!



Many thanks to:
Belinda & Eddie Yates,
Mike Price, and Bob Saylor
for the delicious treats
that were such a hit!



Adult Worship, Study, & Fellowship Opportunities

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sundays at 9:30 am – Church Parlor

Learning to Live Inside Out: Lent is a bi-directional season or at least it should be. That isn't how we usually experience the season, however. Too often, we see the Lenten Journey simply as a journey inward. While this is a great start or an important component to a powerful Lenten experience, it can't be the whole story. Examining your soul is more than just looking inward, it is also considering the state of your soul as it walks about in the world. This isn't new. Historically, the church has talked about the spiritual disciplines in two directions. Like the great commandment, these two sides of the same coin cannot ultimately be separated. That is why this series is about doing both—looking inward and moving outward. We are learning to live inside out as we explore the experiences of: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, the Samaritan woman at the well, Samuel, the healing of the blind man, Ezekiel and Lazarus.

Come join us! Coffee and tea and sometimes snacks are shared as we enjoy lively discussions of the text!

March 5 "Go From Your Country" Genesis:12:1-4, Psalm 121, John 3:16

Facilitator: D. J. Huffman

March 12 "Give Me Water" Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, John 4:5-42

Facilitator: Cathy Whitley

March 19 "In The Presence" I Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23, John 9:1-41 Facilitator: Eugenia Holste

March 26 "Who Could Stand" Exekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, John 11:1-45

Facilitator: D. J. Huffman



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, March 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Yarborough's Restaurant.



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

Women's Fellowship

All women of the church are invited!

Meeting Minutes 2-22/2023

Patti P. Lovell, Secretary

*14 members present, including new member, Joyce Phillips.

After lunch orders were placed, Glenyce Fulton called the meeting to order and called on Camille Morgan to share her program, entitled "A Positive Friend". This reminded us that we should always have our hearts and eyes open for opportunities because we never know when/where they may show up. A quote from Norman Vincent Peale encourages us "to find a need and fill it."



We have so many ministries here at First Reformed. Patti Lovell challenged those present to experience one of them personally over the next two months.

+Find a way you can volunteer at Charles England Elementary School. Bring items for the Food Backpack program to church. +Come downstairs on Mondays (4:30-5:30 pm) or Thursdays (3:30-5:30 pm) to help with the Clothes Ministry. You might hang some clothes, or you might be the ear for someone who needs to talk. + Show up on Saturdays around noon to help cook/plate/deliver meals to those who come hungry. Homemade desserts are always appreciated. + Sunday mornings, folks are needed to share time with our Young Disciples. This is especially important since we currently offer no Sunday School or Children /Youth activities. + Those of you with a green thumb might want to work in the Community Garden.

Our World Famous Soup sale was another success, and we thank you for your support.

We'll be feeding the Shelter on March 13th. We appreciate Cheryl Walser for helping us.

We received updates on members who've had procedures or are recuperating and signed cards to be sent to them.

Women's Fellowship has purchased new tablecloths for the round and rectangular tables in the Fellowship Hall. These won't have to go to a laundry, we can wash/dry them ourselves.

There was discussion, but no firm decision, on possibly having a baked potato and salad lunch after church in the spring.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 29th, 11:30 at Yarborough's. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

Patti Lovell, Secretary

Children, Youth, and Intergenerational Activities



Young Disciples Unraveled

Smithie Parrish

In keeping with our theme Unraveled, the young disciples worked with strips of cloth to create the beautiful woven pieces that were featured on the altar during service on Feb 12th. They were also featured during the Ash Wednesday service as background for the torn fabric.

While we had fun ripping fabric and then weaving the pieces together we talked about relationships and being an important part of the church family. Special thanks to those who helped with this project.

FRUCC Nursery on Sunday Mornings:

We're recruiting nursery volunteers! Please consider taking a Sunday or two to spend with our little ones. We need 1 volunteer each Sunday. Click here to Sign-up for a Sunday



Community and Ministries

Update from Garden Dave

Our good friend Dave Luck is progressing well. He is now working at the Veterans Restoration Quarters, receiving a steady paycheck! He is also in the process of getting hearing aids.

We're all sending good vibe to Dave and knowing that this move has been a well deserved life change for him.

We are grateful for Dave, for the ABCCM/Veterans Restoration Quarters, and to God for placing Dave in just the right spot!



To send cards of encouragement or blessing:

Dave Luck

C/O Veterans Restoration Quarters 1329 Tunnel Rd. Asheville, NC 28805

Davidson Medical Ministries

During February, our Education Building hosted Davidson Medical Ministries while they repaired water damaghe in their facility. They used four of our rooms to meet with patients or conduct meetings. This has come to a close, so we no longer will see medical equipment or exam tables in this church.

We are blessed to have a building that can be a place of refuge for those experiencing hardships.



Making a Difference Charles England Elementary School Partnership

Jay Whitley

I was always proud of my Mom! But I was never prouder of her than when she retired. She was not the type to sit at home and vegetate. She had too much yet to give. She wanted to give back to her community some of that which it had given to her for many years.

My Mom certainly was not one to rest on the laurels of days gone by. She liked, in her own quiet and unassuming way, to continue to make a difference. And she did! After her retirement from First Citizens Bank and Trust Company, she took her place as Women's Guild Leader at her church. She was a leader of the Women's Sorority of our local Veterans of Foreign Wars that established the Veteran's Memorial Park in our hometown.

Finally, the thing that kept her motivated to be the benevolent soul that she was, were the children in need at The Four Oaks Elementary School. There were many Hispanic students at the school whose parents were immigrants to our area helping work on our family farms. These children needed "Reading Buddies" to help them learn English. My Mom became one of those "Reading Buddies". She would spend several hours a week helping the children and she always came home, said my Stepdad, with a smile on her face and a happy attitude. She had made a difference!

When we retire, we all look forward to some "me time." Certainly, we all deserve this. However, if we are honest with ourselves, we must conclude that the magic word of retirement is simply a term that denotes a "change of priorities"! Surely, no one really likes doing nothing!

Friends, if you want to "make a difference" in the lives of others, as well as your own, get in touch with our church office and tell Ms. Jackie that you want to become involved with our Charles England Elementary School Partnership.

You will make a difference! And you will be glad you did!

First Reformed and Tyro UMC Connection

Jerry & Patti Lovell

If you happen to drive by First Reformed UCC on Thursday afternoons you may have noticed either a church van or school bus with Tyro United Methodist Church written on the side of it. The two churches have been working together to offer more opportunities to serve people in the area for several months.

On each Thursday night at 6:00 pm, Tyro UMC provides a meal, a program, and a take home package; like what Open Hands does here on Monday nights. They provide transportation to and from Tyro, making scheduled stops along the way, including tent cities. This offers folks from other parts of Davidson County to experience our Clothing Ministry. The bus arrives about 4:00 pm so our friends can shop for about an hour before leaving for Tyro UMC. Word of mouth and the Good Lord brought these churches together.

On Thursday nights at 4:00 pm generally five volunteers come to help in any way they can. They help unload donations, sort, and put items on hangers. Because they are more familiar with many of the situations, they are able to better help some of our friends than we might be able. Some of these folks show up on Monday nights, bringing a friend in need or simply coming to just help. Word of mouth and the Good Lord puts these Ministries on folks' hearts.

Churches are asking to come visit and to tour the Clothing Ministry and to see the Ministry at work on Mondays and Thursdays. Most recently, a minister from an African-American church in the county made a visit and returned with members of her congregation to help fill some of their needs. Word of mouth and the Good Lord led her to First.

Our collaboration with Tyro Methodist is not just a bus stop; it is an extension of the Clothing Ministry. We're growing and expanding due to word of mouth and the Good Lord. Thanks be to God!



Volunteer

Urgent Need for

Sunday Morning Ushers: Please sign-up

to be an Usher a few Sundays throughout the year. Volunteering as an Usher is an important part of the Sunday Service and is a ministry of the church. The ministry of an usher is pure joy and a privilege in service to the church and congregation.

Click here to Sign-up as an Usher

Saturday Lunch Ministry: Please

volunteer to help our Saturday Lunch Ministry! To date we are serving 80-100 less fortunate individuals and families by supplying a free nutritional meal. We are always in need of cooks, packagers, & servers.

Click here to Sign-up to Volunteer







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

FRUCC Clothing Ministry: Change of

hours - Monday: 4:30-5:30pm & Thursday: 3:30-5:30pm

As we have become better known in the community we are receiving a larger quantity of clothing. Please consider volunteering to help during the week, (Thursdays and Mondays) Please call Jerry Lovell to volunteer.

Meals on Wheels Food

Delivery: Meals on Wheels is in need of a few delivery persons to drop off meals for seniors that are home bound. Please contact Alisa Johnson to volunteer: 336-250-6589

Charles England Elementary

School: To ensure that students living in financial hardship have food during weekends, FRUCC has joined in the Weekend Backpack program. (See Items listed below)

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



Cathy Browder 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

March Birthdays



1st Ann Kirkman

2nd Vicky Gray

3rd Corinne Gray

4th Emma West

5th Cheryl Clark, Tony Peele

6th Rylee Grzech

12th Adam McKerlie

16th Alane Holste, Ron Sink

20th Ted Smith

23rd Mike Perry, Joyce Phillips, Kiaya Plummer, Josh Sink, Billy West

20th Jonathan Kepley

20th Elizabeth Horton

31st Kivi Miller

March Anniversaries



5th Tom & Joyce Phillips

11th Ron & Heidi Hutcheson

17th Keith & Alisa Johnson

27th Mark & Karla Loper Clifford & Paula Lopp

Steve & Cathy Waitman



Prayer Concerns



Eulene Shepherd, Deanna Michael, Brian McKerlie

<u>AT HOME</u>: Peggy Bates, Lib & Jimbo Hinkle, J.W. Bates, Ruth Essick, Gerri Hill, Myrtle Latimer, Carolyn Spivey, Merle Hodges

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

OUR FRIENDS: Jodi Yocum (daughter-in-law of Carolyn Yocum, Jamie Collins (friend of Alisa Johnson), George Champion (Robin Champion's father)

Memorials

In Memory of Marguerite Leonard

J.W. Bates

John & Vicky Gray

Ellen Briggs

Steve & Cathy Waitman

Lisa Nelson

Carolyn Spivey

FRUCC Choir

Huber & Catherine Olive Jr.

Tony & Lee Ann Peele

John & Kathy Rollins

Aurelia & Jerry Smith

Steve & Charlotte Smith

Hoyle & Mary Wagner

Patti Everhart

Frank Leonard

Cliff & Paula Lopp

Tom & Joyce Phillips

Ron & Pam Sink

Bill & Carolyn Robbins

Martha Moore

In Memory of Adena Wall

J.W. Bates

John & Vicky Gray

Steve & Cathy Waitman

Carolyn Spivey

John & Kathy Rollins

Aurelia & Jerry Smith

Steve & Charlotte Smith

Michael & Deborah Brown

John & Susie Smith

Frank Leonard

Tom & Joyce Phillips

Martha Moore

In Memory of Alice Hoffman

John & Vicky Gray

Steve & Cathy Waitman

FRUCC Choir

Cliff & Paula Lopp

Frank Leonard

Tom & Joyce Phillips



*Honorarium*Mike and Bonita Hooper

Attendance and Offering

Avg. Weekly Offering in February: \$3,888.00 (FRUCC's average weekly offerings needed to meet the congregationally approved 2023 annual budget is: \$6,240.)

February Average Woship Service Attendance: 54

Consistory Highlights

Board of Community Outreach -John Maze/Betty Barr

Jerry Lovell – Clothes Ministry. Need more church volunteers. Has gained volunteers from outside of the church. New and Used clothes need to be sorted.

Board of Evangelism – Dave Fulton

Still working on directory.

Board of Property - John Maze

Boilers still need some repairs and members will rotate month building checks for needs.

Board of Business Management

Continued concern over declining offers.

Pastors Report - Rev. Elizabeth Horton

- 1. Enhance intergenerational ministry, digital ministry, and stewardship of building
- 2. Celebration of scholarships: 2 at Catawba from FRUCC money: Trustees, Hinkle-Sink-Swing scholarship: Johnathan Kepley and Ava Miller
- 3.3 joining FRUCC Sunday 2-12-23. DJ Huffman, Kevin Cook, Chris Thorarinson
- 4. Need for upgraded computer in office
- **5.** April 30th Jazz concert with Mike Price. Donation will be taken up with hope of \$500 given. Any short fall of that will be funded by evangelism or Thomason Fund.

New Business – (1) Amendent Consistory Board changes and congregational meeting, (2) White Flag site discussion - Not Approved

Approvals:

- Joining of new member
- Jazz Concert April 30th
- Consistory to match monies in contingency fund same as Trustees'

Next Consistory Meeting: March 9th, 2023

Time: 6:45 pm

FRUCC 2023 Leadership

President: Clifton Murphy Vice President: John Maze Secretary: Rita Lohr

Treasurer: Walter Hoffman

Trustees

2023 Cliff Lopp 2024 Jerry Smith

2025 Mark Smith 2026 Walter Hoffman

2027 Raeann Allred

Elders: 2021-22-23 John Gray & Lisa Nelson

2022-23-24 Betty Barr & Clifton Murphy

2023-24-25 Jerry Lovell

Deacons: 2021-22-23 Jeremy Lovell & Smithie Parrish

2022-23-24 John Maze & Dave Fulton

2023-24-25 Jay Whitley

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00am Walkin's Welcome

1-1:30pm Lunch

1:**30 – 5**pm 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, Church Administrator

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton

elizabeth@frucc.org 336-972-8895

Minister of Congregational Care 336-248-5668

Rev. June Grubb

Music Director

ellen@frucc.org Ellen Peterson

Pianist/Oranist

Bruce Trippette bruce@frucc.org

Church Administrator

Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.org

March 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Join Us on Facebook: facebook.com/firstreformeducc		1 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	3:30-5:30pm Clothing Ministry workday	3	Memorial Service Marguertie Leonard 11am FRUCC
5 9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	6 4:30-5:30 pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI Via Zoom	7 6PM Men's Brotherhood At Yarborughs Lenten Book Study 7PN Via ZOOM	8 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	9 3:30-5:30pm Clothing Ministry workday 6:45 PM Consistory Meeting	10	11 Saturday Lunch Ministry TOT
9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	4:30-5:30 pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	14 12pm 2CFAR Via Zoon	6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	3:30-5:30pm Clothing Ministry workday 6:30pm PFLAG	17	18 Saturday Lunch Ministry
9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship	20 5pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal 7pm NAMI Via Zoom	21	6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	3:30-5:30pm Clothing Ministry workday	24	25 Saturday Lunch Ministry
9:30am Ault Bible Study 10:30am Worship 7pm Ves;pers in the Chapel	27 4:30-5:30 pm Clothing Ministry open 5pm Open Hands Meal	28 12pm 2CFAR Via Zoon	Women's Fellowship 11:30am 6:30pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir	30 3:30-5:30pm Clothing Ministry workday	31	