

BETHANY
United Methodist Church
116 Summerhill Avenue
Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603

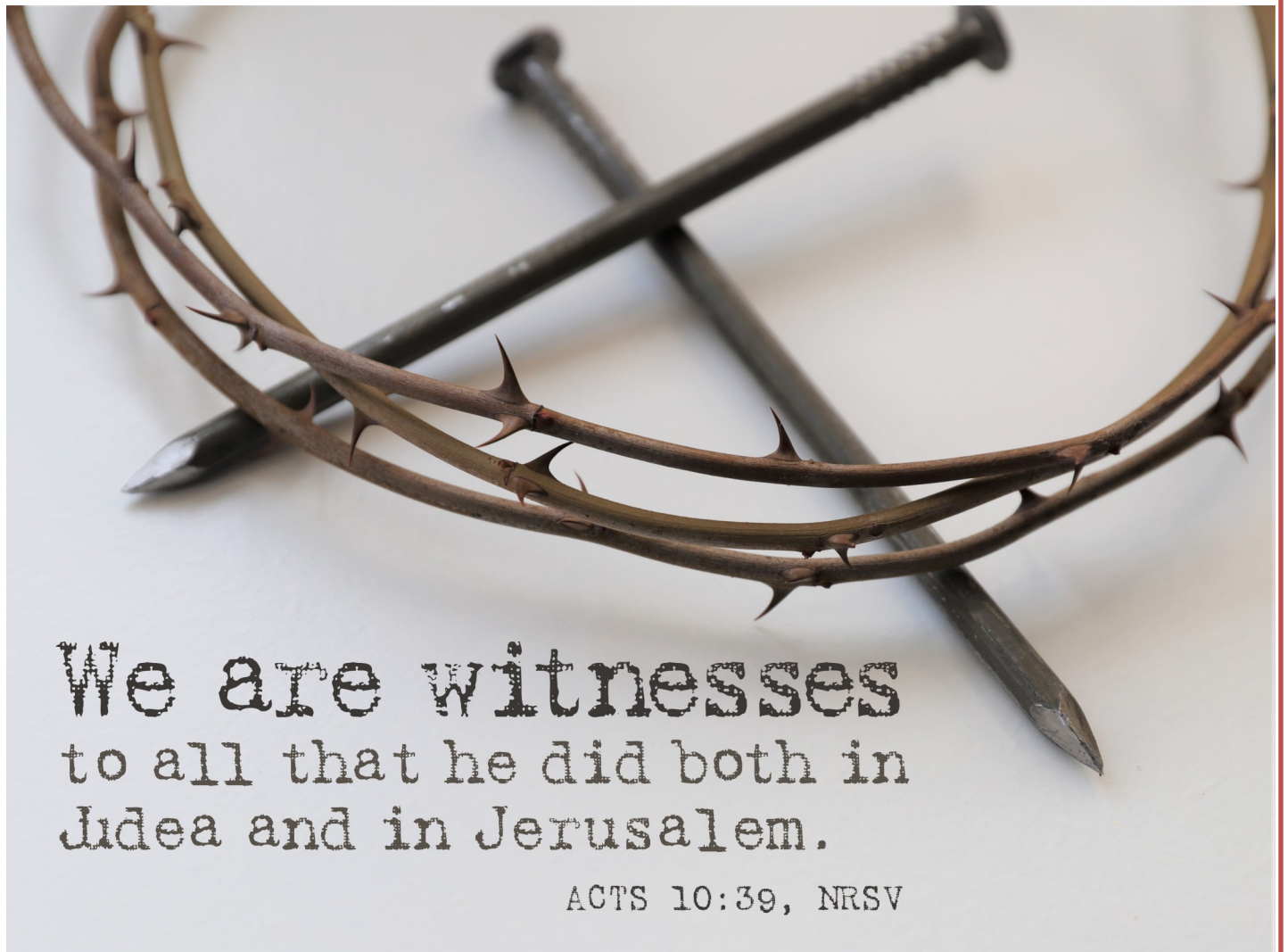
BETHANY BEACON

Mission Statement: We are a Beacon for God—
Helping people to see, to accept and to grow in the light of Jesus Christ

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ISSUE—FOUR



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PayPal available for gifts and tithes on our website.

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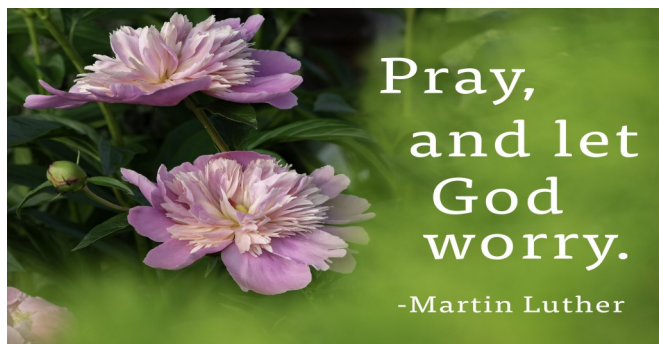
The power of (God's) light

Do most people truly feel happier in spring? Is the light brighter, the sky bluer? Meteorologists say yes. The shorter, blue wavelengths of sunlight scatter more efficiently than long, red ones; as the sun rises higher in spring, the light passes through less atmosphere, making the sky appear bluer. Outdoor levels of light have proven as effective as Prozac to combat depression — and May is the sunniest month!

The Bible frequently uses light as a metaphor for God: “The Lord is my light and my salvation” (Psalm 27:1); “Let us walk in the light of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:5); “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (John 1:9). Darkness isn’t bad; seeds sprout in dark soil, life begins in the dark womb, and darkness protected the Hebrews fleeing Pharaoh and the holy family fleeing Herod.

But light is one apt image for God because most of us know the joy, health and energy light brings. Both in spring and through faith in the God who enlightens all, may we “live as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8).

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Short Term Prayer Concerns

Jonathan Phillips, Viola Freed, Renee Ptashinski, Todd Heller, Marie Grace, Dan Quinn, Sandy Lutz, Tammy Seybert, David Shultz, Deb Springman, Elizabeth Stout, Chuck Cook, Joann Gearhart, Dan, Brandon, Megan, Brenda, Edna McClintock, Doug Stroup

Please note: If you would like someone to be moved to the long-term list, please contact the church office.

Long-Term Prayer Concerns

Wendy McClintock, Isabel Bower, Jennie Bedford, Shirley Hornberger, Kim Varner, Marlene Eckrote, Olive Boone, Jim & Carol Zeart, Kim Kishbaugh, Warren Wolfe, Edna Mae Belles, Kent Williams, Joan Laubach, Rosemary Martz, Joe Phillips, Sr., Pastor Dennis McCracken, Karen Hunsinger, Bill Mausteller, Betty Morgan, Samantha Scoblink, Nick Pritchky, Joyce Noroski, Billy Robbins, Mike Mattern, Esther Bower, Ben Mike, Eric Black, Mary Carver, Gloria Varner, Charlotte Laytar, Carmella Picarello, Dick and Bethann Savage, Linda Eyer, Al Roberts, Judy Harvey, Tod Locher, Kelly Eyer

Sympathy for the Families of:

Olive Boone, Hazel (Bunni) Meske, Patricia Bacher, Chris Seiler

Life immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul.”

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5/01 Hope Hardiman, Thomas Leiby,
Destiny Samsel
- 5/02 Hagen Carroll, Doris Seward
- 5/03 Jennifer Valentin, Terri Welch
- 5/04 Bradley Collins
- 5/05 Joan Kishbaugh, Gwyn Noroski,
Mackenzie Sult
- 5/09 Alysa Lewis, Sandra Whitmire
- 5/10 John Fulton IV
- 5/11 Cristie Bacher, Dorothea Peters
- 5/12 Ava Covino, Jennifer Shaffer
- 5/14 Kylie Lewis, David Shultz
- 5/16 Barbara Fenstermacher
- 5/18 Jennifer Powlus
- 5/20 Daniel Harmon, Joseph Phillips,
Arrianna Schuckers
- 5/23 Abbey Remley, Alyssa Welch
- 5/24 Kellie Wojciechowski
- 5/25 Mark Grasley
- 5/26 Esther Bower, Joan Harmon,
Barton Hough Jr., Al Kleckner
- 5/28 Julie Hartenbach
- 5/29 Jeffrey Benko, Ashley Wojciechowski
- 5/30 Bradley Kishbaugh

May 29th



Bethany United Methodist Church Peacemakers Prayer Support Ministry

Matthew 5:9

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.**

General Prayer for Departments:

Borough of Berwick Police Department

Briar Creek Township Police Department

Salem Township Police Department

Nescopeck Borough Police Department

Columbia County Sheriff's Office

South Centre Township Police Department

PA State Police Shickshinny Station

Specific Daily Prayer for Officers: May 2023

1. Deputy William Waltman
2. Officer Riley Robinette
3. Clinton Libby, Patrolman
4. Lee Pitonyak, Patrolman
5. Deputy Anthony Kopitsky
6. Officer Randy Gaugler
7. Dallas Herbert, Patrolman
8. Deputy William Miner
9. Eli MidDaugh, Patrolman
10. Justin Funk, Patrolman
11. Officer Jeremy Mulders
12. Deputy Jessica Surkin
13. Officer Jessica Shoup
14. Officer Philip Schlegel
15. Deputy Dale Stokes
16. Officer Henry Roote
17. Sgt. Tyler Miller-Stephens County, TX
18. Chief Kenneth Strish
19. Thomas D. Frace, Chief of Police
20. Chief Richard Haraschak III
21. Assistant Chief Troy Maneval
22. Chief William Richendrfer
23. Jarrod Noss, Criminal Investigator
24. Officer Christopher Kelchner
25. Sheriff Timothy Chamberlain
26. Chief Michael McNeal
27. Chief Deputy Earl "Skip" Mordan
28. Sgt. Marc Fedder
29. Sarah Klingaman
30. Shawn Young, Patrolman
31. Deputy Scott Mayernick

Missions & Evangelism

Extra Mile Giving for May is for CCVIM

Our Extra Mile Giving for May will be going towards Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine. The mission of the Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic is to improve the health of the medically underserved population in our community by offering free healthcare to the uninsured. Envelopes are available at the Information Desk, the Angel Card table and the reception table.

Clothing Giveaway

We will be having a Clothing Giveaway on May 13 from 9am-1pm in the Big Room. Volunteers would be appreciated for the setup on Friday May 12 starting at 5:30pm and on Saturday. Please see Ashley Wojciechowski with any questions.

The Church Yard Sale will be June 3rd from 8-12 pm in the Big Room.

You may bring your donations to the church beginning May 15

Proceeds will benefit our pantry box and PB&J ministries



List of the items needed for the Little Pantry locations

We are hoping the church as a whole might be willing to help with donations of the things we need. This has been an ongoing project. Here are some things we need:

Individually wrapped granola bars, breakfast bars, cereal bars and similar. Ramen noodles, soups, instant lunch soups, nuts, tuna pouches, individual packs of crackers, fruit cups, Hygiene products, Individually wrapped toilet paper, Hand sanitizer, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Towels and washcloths, Soap, Drawstring garbage bags - large or kitchen size, Large or XL ziplock bags, Tote bags--the reusable kind from grocery stores and similar. These can be used or new.

Peanut Butter and Jelly is also needed for our Peanut Butter and Jelly carepack distributions that are available on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Gift cards are also appreciated to support this mission as well. Our community has a need and this is a way to help reach people in need.

Dear Bethany Church Family,
Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter lily. Thanks to Dick Good for delivering it to me.
In Christian love
Barb Lentzner



May 14

UPCOMING EVENTS

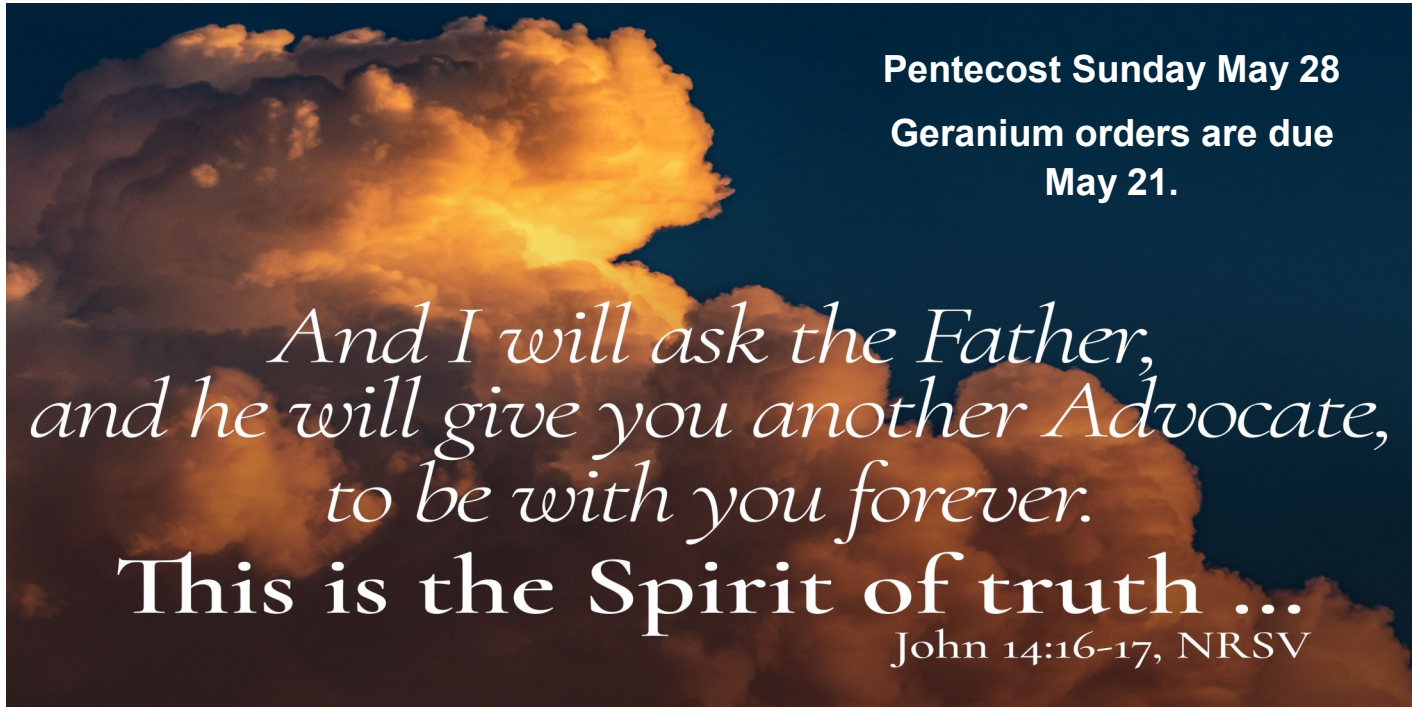


Please contact the American Red Cross to schedule an appointment to give the gift of life on May 2. Thank you!! Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Berwick to schedule an appointment.

Pieces of Prayer
 Pieces of Prayer will meet Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:30pm in the Stained Glass Room.



Ladies Night will be May 20 in the Big Room for a Ladies Tea.



Pentecost Sunday May 28
Geranium orders are due May 21.

*And I will ask the Father,
 and he will give you another Advocate,
 to be with you forever.*

This is the Spirit of truth ...
 John 14:16-17, NRSV

Bethany Blessings Sunday will be celebrated on June 4 during the 9:00 am worship service.

Graduate Sunday will also be celebrated on June 4 during both worship services. Please come and celebrate our graduates accomplishments.

We will have a Combined Worship Service on June 11 at 11:00 am and a covered dish meal after worship in Honor and Thanks for Pastor Steve and Christine's ministry at Bethany. We want to wish them well in their new ministry appointment. We want to show our thanks to them for everything they have done for our Bethany Church Family.

Please sign the list at the Information Desk so we know you will be coming. The meat will be provided but ask you to bring your favorite covered dish or dessert to share.



Bible Study

The Bridge is holding a Bible Study on Busyness on May 11, May 25, June 1, and June 8. The times will be: 10:30 am at Wesley UMC in Nescopeck and 7:00 pm at First UMC. Everyone is invited.

Resilience in the storms

"In this world you will have trouble," Jesus says in John 16:33 (NIV). Christians, in other words, should expect sufferings and setbacks that challenge their spiritual resilience. Tim Kight, in a blog post titled "The Resilient Christian," offers these reminders for times of adversity: Trust God. Pray fervently, deeply and boldly. Dig into God's Word. And praise God regardless of your circumstances. "When you are in the storm, trust God and don't flinch," Kight advises.

With that game plan and attitude, we can pray with the prophet Habakkuk: "Though the fig tree does not bud ... and the fields produce no food ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior" (3:17-18, NIV).



Thank you to all the ladies who participated in the April 22 Ladies Craft Night in the Fellowship Hall. The group had a lot of fun and enjoyed the wonderful fellowship.

Please join our next Ladies' Night on May 20th in the Big Room.



Prepare to be empowered

Contrary to common perception, Jesus' disciples weren't frightened and hiding during the 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost. Instead, they were actively preparing for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They "all joined together constantly in prayer" (Acts 1:14, NIV) and took steps to replace Judas.

After that inward focus, the disciples were ready to boldly burst forth on Pentecost, empowered and "enabled" (Acts 2:4) by the Spirit. They proclaimed Christ's death and resurrection, leading 3,000 people to faith that day, now known as the church's birthday.

"A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community," writes Suzanne de Dietrich in *Free Men*. "These Christians could not keep silent. Their joyful liberty had broken down all the walls behind which people would like to keep them; no prison could silence them."

Come as you are

As a young pastor, Stan Purdum de-husked black walnuts one Saturday, not realizing his hands would be badly stained. They looked filthy, he recalls, and the marks would not wash off; they'd have to wear off. Then Purdum realized he'd be serving Holy Communion the next day.

Before distributing the elements, the pastor apologized to congregants, explaining that his hands were washed but just stained. Years later, Purdum reflected: "Now that I have a fuller grasp of theology under my belt, I think a better thing for me to say would have been, 'Nobody comes to Communion with clean hands.'"

We're all unworthy to receive Jesus' body and blood, but that's exactly why he offers it. Thanks be to God for redeeming and forgiving us — wiping away the stain of our sins!

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

?? ?
? ?

Bible Quiz

According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)

Breath of the Spirit

The breathing I did yesterday will not keep me alive today. I must continue to breathe afresh every moment, or my life will cease. In like manner, yesterday's grace and spiritual strength must be renewed, and the Holy Spirit must continue to breathe on my soul from moment to moment in order that I may continue to enjoy him and to work the works he has assigned me.

—Augustus Toplady

PUZZLE



Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. HEAV | 6. OGETHE |
| 2. ABLE | 7. ES |
| 3. AY OF PENTECOS | 8. ONGUE |
| 4. ONGUE | 9. A |
| 5. PIRI | 10. IND |



“When the _____³ came, they were all _____⁶ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____¹⁰ came from _____¹ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____⁹ what seemed to be _____⁴ of fire that separated and came to _____⁷ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____⁵ and began to speak in other _____⁸ as the Spirit _____² them.”

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

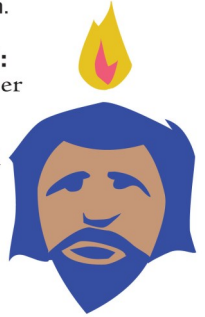
Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.

Honor your mother



Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they “symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying.”



May 20, 2023— Thank you to our military for keeping us safe and free. May God Bless you all.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	2 8 am TOPS (SGR) 12 pm Blood Drive (BR) 6:30 pm Pieces of Prayer (SGR)	3 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	4  11:30-1:30 (Jackson Mansion) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	5	6
7 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	8 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	9 8 am TOPS (SGR)	10 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	11 10:30 am The Bridge Bible Study (Wesley Nesco) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 7pm The Bridge Bible Study (1st UMC)	12 5:30 pm Setup for the Clothing Giveaway (BR)	13 9:00 am Clothing Giveaway (BR)
14 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) 	15 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	16 6am Election Day (BR) 8 am TOPS (SGR)	17 5:30 pm Special Annual Conference 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	18 Ascension of the Lord Pastor at Annual Conference- 6:30 pm Church Council (SGR) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout)	19 Pastor at Annual Conference	20 Armed Forces Day Pastor at Annual Conference  6:30 pm (BR)
21 Ascension Sunday 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR) 6pm The Bridge Mtg (Wesley)	22 6:30 pm Grief Support (RM2)	23 8 am TOPS (SGR)	24 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)	25 10:30 am The Bridge Bible Study (Wesley Nesco) 6:30 pm Scouts(Scout) 7pm The Bridge Bible Study (1st UMC)	26	27
28 Day of Pentecost 9:00 am Traditional Worship 10am Adult Sunday School 11am Contemporary Srv(BR)	29 Office & Bethany Blessings Closed 	30 8 am TOPS (SGR)	31 6:15 pm Praise Team (BR)			