

Congregational Clarion

AMERY CONGREGATIONAL UCC



PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

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GOOD PLANETS ARE HARD TO FIND DON'T BLOW IT



Ok dear ones have you gotten the idea that this month's issue of the Clarion might be dealing (just a bit) with the color green? Well if this was your guess, you're right.

I did some digging for what this color might hold for us in the Bible and there is some interesting information for us to consider.

Symbolic Meanings of Green in the Bible:

Green, a secondary color, is made by mixing Yellow (trials, for one) with Blue (Word of God, living water, etc). So combining yellow and blue gives us green. Most biblical scholars agree that one of the primary meanings behind green in the Bible is immortality.

Isa 15:6 ESV the waters of Nimrim are a desolation; the grass is withered, the vegetation fails, the greenery is no more.

Gen 9:3 ESV Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything.

Psa 23:2 ESV He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

Psa 52:8 ESV But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

There are some "33" green references in the bible. Though it is not a "dominant" biblical image, it is not unheard of.

At this beginning of our Church

season of Lent, we also consider the veneration of St. Patrick, of whom little is known, but of whom much is said. To say the least, we too associate the color green with St. Patrick, and also green is associated with the Irish and their lands.

Are we "green" people, mixing the trials of our lives with the Word of God. Like mixing paint, "magic" happens with the colors are blended and something new emerges. What if we took the trials of our lives and mixed them with God's word of hope, compassion, love and assurance? I do believe we would have persons of an extraordinary nature capable of doing any and all hard jobs that would come their way.

Through our Lenten journey this year let us take stock of the green which will emerge out from under the snows of our fading winter season. Let us take this "green" Godly color as a sign that God is in this (life) with us and that God's greening in our lives will produce a new and abundant crop of lives, of faith and of hope and expectation that we can never outlive.

So if you have "spring fever" look at it as a gift, a longing, a look into the future knowing and seeing what God has instore for us as we move from being frozen in the past to a lush and green future working together with God and all of Creation. Amen.



MARCH

Birthdays

03/01 Claire Ash

03/01 Holly Scott

03/03 Cher Lindberg

03/03 Suzanne Kvam

03/03 Nicholas Silvis

03/03 Sheridan Gallagher

03/03 Breanna Burstad

03/05 Janet Sylvester

03/06 Sandy Welk

03/10 Austin Selvig

03/12 Nyla Anderson

03/13 Kylie Burch

03/13 Andrea Pitchford

03/14 Charlie Russo

03/17 Miki Jo Johnson

03/17 Geraldine Smith

03/18 Beth Mares

03/18 Ruth Shafer

03/20 Mark Kopp

03/20 Danielle Edin

03/21 Jrew Stoeklen

03/22 Caiden Demar

03/22 Lilah Anderson

03/23 John Jackson

03/24 Jada Dunham

03/25 Mike Kohlrusch

03/25 Alexis Rondeau

03/27 Ricky Maukstad

03/28 Jon Springer

03/28/68 Kevin Standaert

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-7107
Kathy Picotte
Dave Waterman

Willow Ridge

400 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-8171
Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue
(715) 268-6640
Marian Peterson
Gussie Fennern

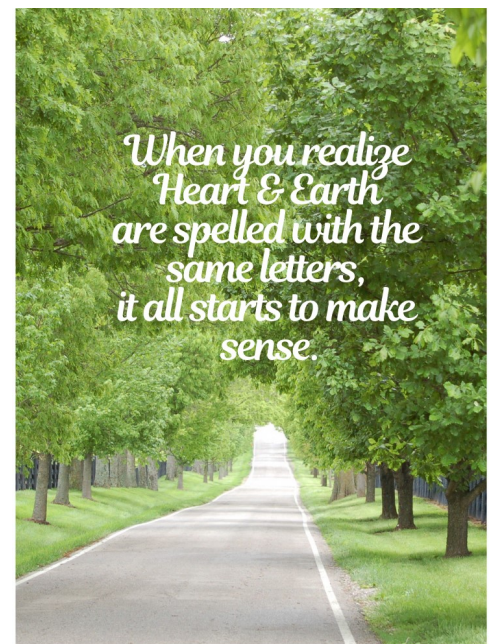
Memory Care

215 Birch St. W
Amery, WI 54001
Jeanne Murphy
Evelyn Monteith Halverson
Ginny Nelson
Sylvia Utter
Bob Holms

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949

Beth Sorensen
Shirley Johnson
Baldwin Care Center
650 Birch St.
Baldwin, WI 54002
Mary Monson Apt. 27



from your YOUTH MINISTER



WEDNESDAYS:

Wednesday, March 4th - 3:30pm
Homework & Hangout, 5:00pm Sonrise
Service Rehearsal, 6:00pm Soup
Supper, 6:30pm Lenten Service.
Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Wednesday, March 12th - 3:30pm
Homework & Hangout, 5:00pm Sonrise
Service Rehearsal, 6:00pm Soup
Supper, 6:30pm Lenten Service.
Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Wednesday March 18th - 3:30pm
Homework & Hangout, 5:00pm Sonrise
Service Rehearsal, 6:00pm Soup
Supper, 6:30pm Lenten Service.
Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

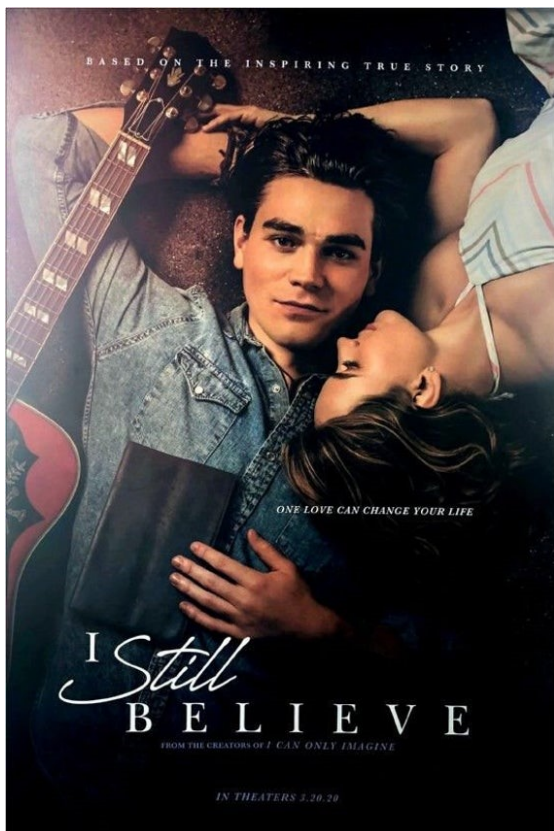
Wednesday March 25 - 3:30pm
Homework & Hangout, 5:00pm Sonrise
Service Rehearsal, 6:00pm Soup
Supper, 6:30pm Lenten Service.
Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Sunday, March 1st: Please join us for our 10am service... then meet us back at Congo church at 4:30pm to caravan to New Richmond for the performance of Silent Messengers—Celebrating a Savior. This is a free-will offering benefiting Grace Place and Serenity Home Shelters.



LEPRECHAUN SELFIE

Sunday, March 8th: Daylight Savings Time...Spring ahead! MT20 meeting at 8:30am for all L4 Confirmation students foing on this years' Mission Trip.



Saturday, March 14th Ruby's Pantry Service & Movie Day - I Still Believe - The true story of Christian music star Jeremy Camp and his journey of love and loss. Following Ruby's Pantry, clean up and lunch on Saturday March 14th we will caravan to the movie theatre to enjoy this heartwarming movie. All youth group participants who help serve at Ruby's Pantry can enjoy the movie for FREE! Please RSVP with Charlotte.

Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com



Confo Girls Day, Saturday, March 21st.

Confirmation Girl's Day! All (ladies only) Confirmation students and mentors are invited to meet at Congo Church at 7:30 am. We will enjoy breakfast together at Not Just A Café in New Richmond followed by painting pottery in Stillwater. Cost is \$20 per person. Please let Charlotte know if you are able to attend.

Confo Guys Day, Sunday, March 22nd

Confirmation Guy's Day! All (guys only) After the 10am service, Confirmation students and mentors are invited to enjoy a fun afternoon together at Pinz for lunch, bowling and lazer tag in Oakdale MN. Cost is \$20 per person. Please let Charlotte know if you are able to attend.

Sunday, March 29th: Please join us for our 10am service. Following worship, please come and enjoy our pot luck luncheon. Sunday School families will then head to Rice Lake for an afternoon of roller skating at Skate City.



EVENTS



BIBLE STUDIES:

Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays, 6:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Bible Study
Open to men and women
Tuesdays, 10:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Women's Bible study
Thursdays, 5:30 pm
In Congo Library



Join us for Soup Suppers at 6pm on
Wednesdays:

Mar. 04, 11, 18, 25
and Apr. 01

Stay for the Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm

FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the
Congo Family Table on
Wednesday, March 18 at
11:30 am
Call Rae 715-268-7390, by
Sunday, March 15th to
make your reservations.

ALL ARE WELCOME

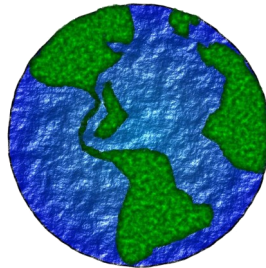
Free Will Donation





Following the Worship Service

"If our nation placed children first in determining our policies, how different would our society be? In such a society, I think it is safe to say that by now we would no longer see industrial facilities pumping toxic chemicals into nearby neighborhoods. We would no longer permit greenhouse gases to be emitted as if there were literally no tomorrow for our children to inherit. We would no longer allow inequalities to persist that severely shape the life prospects and well-being of the majority of children." *Economic Policy Inst.*



Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, April 26th, immediately after the worship service.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson

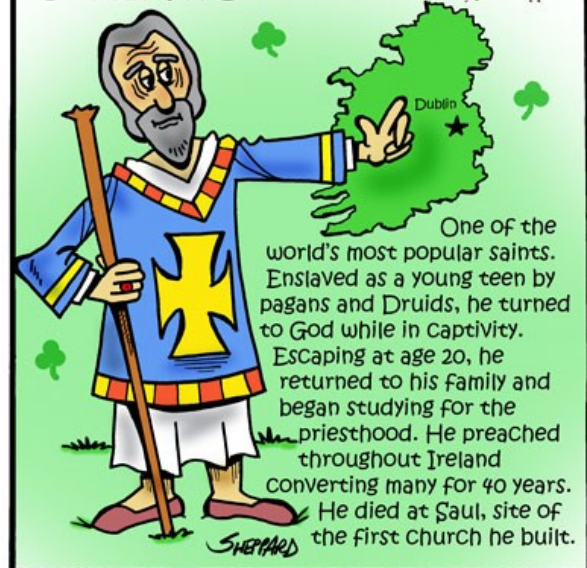


Lucille Lindquist has been suspended for 6 months from partaking at Our Lady of the Swamp Church potlucks for eating directly from the serving dishes.

HAPPY
St. Patrick's
DAY

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard



St. Patrick

Who Was Saint Patrick and Should Christians Celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

FROM Stephen Nichols Mar 15,

When it comes to Saint Patrick, the true story is even more exciting than the legend and the myth. The facts are far better than the fable. This day that belongs to St. Patrick has become about leprechauns, shamrocks, pots of gold, and green—green everywhere. Famously, the City of Chicago dumps forty pounds of its top-secret dye into the river. A green racing stripe courses through the city. But long before there was the St. Patrick of myth, there was the Patrick of history. Who was Patrick? Patrick was born in 385 in Roman Britannia in the modern-day town of Dumbarton, Scotland. Patrick opens his autobiographical St. Patrick's Confession with these opening lines: "My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers. I am looked down upon by many. My father was Calpornius. He was a deacon; his father was Potitus, a priest, who lived at Bannavem Taburniae. His home was near there, and that is where I was taken prisoner. I was about sixteen at the time."

When the pirates landed on the Irish coast, they took Patrick about 200 miles inland where he was a shepherd and farm laborer. Six years passed and Patrick had either a vivid dream or a vision in which he was shown an escape route. Emboldened, Patrick made his break from his captors, traveling back over the 200 miles to the shoreline. As he approached the docks, a British ship stood waiting. The sails unfurled and Patrick was home. But he didn't stay long.

Before he was a prisoner, Patrick's Christian faith meant little to him. That changed during his captivity. His previously ambivalent faith galvanized and served to buoy him through those long, dark days. Now that he was back in his homeland he committed to his faith in earnest. He became a priest and soon felt a tremendous burden for the people that had kidnapped him. So he returned to Ireland with a mission.

Patrick had no less of a goal than seeing pagan Ireland converted.

These efforts did not set well with Loegaire (or Leoghaire), the pagan king of pagan Ireland. Patrick faced danger and even threats on his life. He took to carrying a dagger. Yet, despite these setbacks, Patrick persisted. Eventually the king converted and was baptized by Patrick and much of the people of Ireland followed suit. A later legend would have it that Patrick rid all of Ireland of snakes. Snakes were not native to Ireland at the time. Instead, Patrick rid Ireland of marauding ways and a cultural and civil barbarianism by bringing not only Christianity to Ireland, but by bringing a whole new ethic.

Patrick would come to be known as the "Apostle of Ireland." He planted churches, the first one likely at a place called Saul, in Northern Ireland, a bit inland from the coast and just below Belfast. Patrick planted more churches as he crisscrossed Ireland. The challenge with Patrick is sifting through the legend. Take the shamrock for instance. Some biographers claim definitively that Patrick used the shamrock as an object lesson to teach pagans about the Trinity, that God is one in essence and three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is no evidence, however, for such a claim.

Curiously, like most of his legend, St. Patrick is not even truly a saint. He has never been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. Patrick himself told us he was a sinner, not a saint.

Legend further has it that Patrick died on March 17, 461. He likely died in Saul, where he planted his first church. A significant monument stands atop the hill overlooking the town. Panels depicting scenes from Patrick's life surround the monument's base.

What casts a far greater shadow than his monument, however, is St. Patrick's Day. And that day in the middle of March raises a significant question: Should Christians celebrate St. Patrick's Day? If you do, you might want to consider wearing orange. Orange? Here's why. After 1798 the color of green was closely associated with Roman Catholicism and orange with Protestantism—after William of Orange, the Protestant king. The holiday is certainly not to be used as means for excessive

partying and celebration. But wearing orange and trying to tell people who St. Patrick really was might be a good way to celebrate.

So we remember Patrick best not in the legends and fables and not in the ways his holiday tends to be celebrated. Perhaps we remember him best by reflecting on the "St. Patrick's Breastplate," which has traditionally been attributed to him. The word breastplate is a translation of the Latin word *lorica*, a prayer, especially for protection. These prayers would be written out and at times placed on shields of soldiers and knights as they went out to battle. St. Patrick's *Lorica* points beyond himself and his adventurous life. It points to Christ, the one he proclaimed to the people who had taken him captive:

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.



Council Meeting: Feb.11, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Barry Schaefer, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Richard Wooldridge: Financial Secretary, Charlotte Gillen: Youth Director and Christian Education, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Rae Wooldridge: Congregational Giving, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary

Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer at 6:03 pm.

Sheldon was not present; Virginia Ormsby served as Moderator. Minutes from last month's meeting were discussed and were approved as written.

TREASURER: Virginia presented the Treasurer's Report and said all budgets were in good shape except the heating/gas budget. Since it is still winter, that is not too surprising. This too shall pass, Spring is coming. The Consolidated Fund report was presented and discussed.

CLERK: Sandy reported that there was one funeral this month and two weddings. Sandy stated that the current membership role is at 171.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Richard presented the monthly financial report. Chad made a motion to approve and Char seconded it. The report was approved.

YOUTH: Char presented the Youth Director report for the month of January. She said they started out the new year with an interesting guest speaker: Kim Henningsgard from Polk County Mental Health, who is a trained QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) speaker. Kim talked to the youth about recognizing signs of depression and suicidal thoughts and steps they can take to get help. The month finished with the annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* event; food items were donated to the Amery Food Pantry. They also enjoyed a "tail gate" party.

TRUSTEES: Chad said the Trustees are currently working on volunteer training programs. The lighting updates are continuing and the cameras will be installed soon for added security at the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Char said that a youth Pajama Party is scheduled for Sunday, February 23.

DIACONATE: Not Present, but Pastor Barry said that starting in March, Nyla Anderson and Barry Tulki will be assisting with communion services. (off- site communion to shut-ins, etc.)

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Abby presented to Council the flyer that has been updated detailing gifts to the church. The flyer details current "wish lists" and needs for the church. The flyer also includes a form to use by the giver when wishing to make a special gift to the church. Char made a motion to accept the flyer and Sandy seconded the motion. It was voted on and approved.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Not Present.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Barry presented his monthly report and also discussed his plans for his upcoming retirement. His last Sunday is scheduled for July 5, 2020. He emphasized that although this is somewhat of an awkward and stressful time period during this transition, he wants to reassure the congregation that we will be just fine. He has every confidence in our church to make the right decisions for our future.

CALENDAR REVIEW: The March calendar was reviewed and approved.

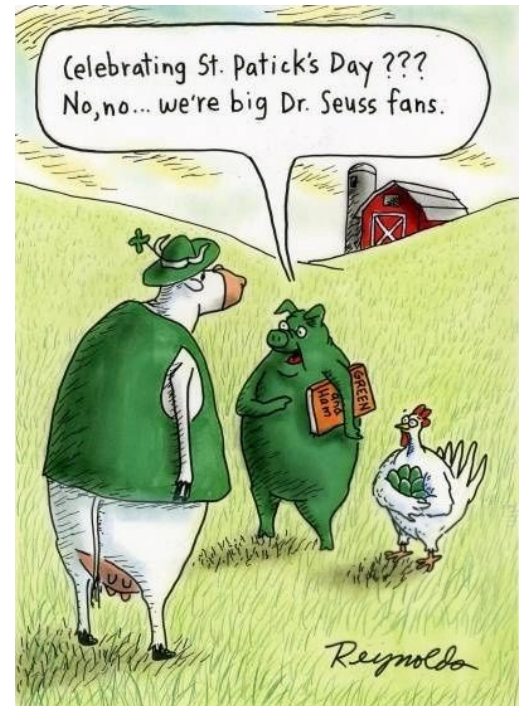
OLD BUSINESS: The upcoming Walleye Dinner was discussed and Abby detailed how the dinner is being advertised. Abby was happy to report that the Polk County Dairy will be donating ice cream for the event.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Barry said that plans need to be underway for Easter including the Easter Lilies purchases, the Lenten Soup Supper schedules and also the Easter breakfast. Char said the Youth will be planning and implementing the Easter Breakfast. Easter this year is April 12.

Our church will be hosting Good Friday services on April 10.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary



Pastor's Report for JANUARY 2020

I AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

1. This month started out with a severe low-light, the funeral of Hailey Russo, a premie baby who only lived 101 days, suffering severe medical struggles
2. Joyce, my wife had a new knee on January 8th. And I was, and still am primary care-giver for her. What a change to my schedule, as I have been working from home for the remainder of January, making due with what time I've had to work with.
3. January brought with it two weddings, one on Jan 17th, and the other on January 18th.
4. January 27 – 31 I was the WPCA radio preacher. Due to my home duties, this time around the messages were taped. (not my favorite option)
5. On Sunday January 26, 2019 | announced my plans to retire with my last Sunday being 5". 2020. The church has gathered together a Pulpit supply committee, which was consecrated on February 9, 2020 during the worship service. This whole process is going to be very "different", planning for my departure and the like. I have every confidence in our church to make plans and to make the right decisions concerning their future. It's going to be a long road from here to July.

II SPECIAL EVENTS:

1. **FUNERALS:** 1. Hailey Russo' 1/3/20
2. **WEDDINGS:** 1. Scott Gould, Kathy Teske 1/17/20;
2. Tommy Dusek, Brittany Benner 1/18/20



MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:30 AM Christian Education Meeting 10:00 AM Communion 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Diaconate Mtg. 11:30 AM L-3 Confo</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service/Sonrise Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 9:30 AM Local Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>6 8:30 AM Distant Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>7 6:00 AM Food Set-Up 7:30 AM Ruby's Parity Registration Begins 8:00 AM Youth Service and Funday 9:00 AM Ruby's Parity Registration Closes and Food Distribution Begins</p>
<p>8 Confo Guys Day Sunday School after Children's Moment 8:30 AM MT20 Meeting 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Trustee Meeting 11:30 AM L-3 Confo</p>	<p>9 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>11 Newsletter Submission Deadline 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service/Sonrise Rehearsal</p>	<p>12 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>14 6:00 AM Food Set-Up 7:30 AM Ruby's Parity Registration Begins 8:00 AM Youth Service and Funday 9:00 AM Ruby's Parity Registration Closes and Food Distribution Begins</p>
<p>15 Confo Guys Day Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Giving Mtg 11:30 AM L-3 Confo</p>	<p>16 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>18 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 11:30 AM Family Table Meal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service/Sonrise Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 8:15 AM Ministerium 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM CIA Board 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>20 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>21 7:30 AM Confo Girls Day</p>
<p>22 Sunday School after Children's Moment 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Missions & Social Concerns Mtg. 11:30 AM L-3 Confo</p>	<p>23 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM Lenten Service/Sonrise Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>27 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Sunday School after Children's Moment 8:30 AM L-4/5 Confo 10:00 AM Worship/Noisy Kettle 11:15 PM Pot Luck</p>	<p>30 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9:00 AM Pastor's Hours 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>1 9:00 AM Pastor Office Hrs. 10:00 AM Office Open 3:30 PM Homework & Hangout 6:00 PM Sonrise Service Rehearsal 6:00 PM Soup Supper 6:45 PM Lenten Service</p>	<p>2 9:30 AM Local Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 7:00 PM Money Management</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Distant Communion 9:30 AM Senior Dining 10:00 AM Office Open</p>	<p>4</p>

