

(continued from page 1)

Now, one could say an element of exclusiveness has entered. But has it? The definition of inclusive included this, “including all of the normal services, comprehending the stated limit or extremes”. Yes, Yes, Yes... God told us to love everyone. Love your neighbor, love your enemy just as you would want to be loved. That is how we, as Christians, are to relate to the world. We are to love them but “do not conform to the pattern of this world” (Romans 12:2), make them disciples of Jesus the Christ.

Our Special General Conference seemed to focused on one aspect of life, sexual orientation, but let us not forget the true “comprehending the stated limit or extremes” of inclusion as stated in Matthew 10:37-39, “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” Bottom line, it is not about earthly relationships, but our heavenly one. Within the marriage relationship, it is God’s creation, Man and Woman becoming one with their creator.

There was one more word I defined and that was Heaven. Is Heaven inclusive or exclusive? On face value Heaven is exclusive. The earthly description we have of Heaven tells us it has walls and a pearly gate (i.e. a gated community). Plus, God tells us not all will enter. That said, for me, Heaven is inclusive, as so much it is available to all humanity. To be exclusive would be having some kind of limitation or extreme that cannot be overcome. But there is nothing God demands of us that cannot be overcome. I am not talking about our works, but our actions. I am talking about acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior demonstrated through a changed life. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20 (NLT), “My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

So, having an Open Heart is to love others as much as we love ourselves and being able to tell people that kind of love can only be manifested through a relationship with Jesus the Christ. My first love is God and to love anyone more jeopardizes my relationship with God.

To have an Open Mind, is to know we are no better than anyone. That we are open to tap into the unlimited power of the Holy Spirit that dwells in us. To acknowledge and accept our calling to make Disciples for Jesus the Christ, that “I (Jesus) am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matt. 10:16)

And to have Open Doors, means that the doors of the church, the door to our heart, the door into our mind is open not only for people to come in but for you and me to go out.

One final thought on all of this; We are the clay. We can surrender ourselves to the world to be molded or we can surrender ourselves to God to be molded. The world wants to mold us and God. We are to walk in Jesus’ footsteps. The world wants Jesus to walk in theirs. The world will say, “we do it in the name of Love”. As Christians we do it in the Jesus the Christ, who is Love.

And All God’s people said Amen.

Impact

March 2021

Community United Methodist Church ~ Ogden, Iowa

“...and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”

Galatians 2:20

Wandering Thoughts of a Wayward Follower of Christ – Pastor Buck

Is our United Methodist mantra “Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors” still valid considering the decisions made way back in February 2019 Special General Conference? To start addressing that question, here are some definitions of words that will help frame this discussion.

- 1- Inclusive – Oxford dictionary defines inclusive as “including, comprising (of), including all of the normal services, comprehending the stated limit or extremes.”
- 2- Exclusion- Oxford dictionary defines exclusion as 1[uncountable] exclusion (of somebody/ something) (from something) the act of preventing somebody/something from entering a place or taking part in something.
- 3- From our Social Principles - The Social Community; “we affirm all persons as equally valuable in God's sight. - The United Methodist Church believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. We cannot just be observers. So, we care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other "mind maker-uppers" that exist in our society.” (Excerpt from The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2004.)
- 4- When people talk about “Church”, these ideas emerge. Church is the people. Church is a community. Church is a gathering of likeminded believers. Church is an intuitional faith-based organization. As such it has rules, guidelines, and a purpose in how it functions. If we talk about Churches that are centered on Jesus the Christ, no matter their name, the overarching purpose is the same and that is salvation through Christ leading to eternal life in that place we call Heaven. But the implementation of that purpose (what we call theology), along with guidelines, and rules (what we call polity) can be vastly different.
- 5- Heaven – Oxford dictionary defines Heaven as - A place regarded in various religions as the abode of God and the angels, and of the good after death, often traditionally depicted as being above the sky.

So, with this groundwork, let us look at: Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors. When I look at these three statements, I see them first as attributes of Jesus. Secondly, they point at me and how I am to live my life, and thirdly, they are attributes of the denominational church I “use” to help me in my faith journey. These statements collectively are inclusive as they define the approach to the disciple making process going back to the statement above about Social Community; “...all persons as equally valuable in God's sight.” However, even though all people are included in becoming disciples of Jesus the Christ, there are two more steps as part of that process, “baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I (Jesus) have commanded you.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

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Sunday Morning

8:30 am Prayer Gathering
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Worship

Staff and Contact Information

Pastor—Rev. James “Buck” Buckhahn
buck.buckhahn@iaumc.net
Cell— 712-303-8812
Ministry Coordinator and
Financial Secretary—Kelli Larson
cumceducation@netins.net
Office Assistant—Alayna Longhorn
515-275-4015
cumc@netins.net
Organist and Accompanist—
Cathy Aldrich
Vocal Choir Director—David Larsen
Praise Band Coordinator—
Carol Christensen
Pianist—Christine Oien
Custodians—Russ & Melisa Stevens
Treasurer—Jan Froning
cumctreasurer@netins.net

Church Address—Website

Community United Methodist Church
337 SW 2nd St
P.O. Box 759
Ogden, Iowa 50212-0759
CUMC website: www.cumcogden.org
www.facebook.com/cumcogdeniowa

Sermons Online

View sermons under “Sunday Services”
tab online at the church’s homepage.

Church Calendar

The church calendar is located on the
website under the “Calendar” menu.

Office Hours

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Mon - Fri.

CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is our latest Financial Report as of 1/31/2021:
General Fund Balance = \$16,975.61 (Not including PPP loan)
Apportionments due for 2020 = \$25,275.00
Apportionments Paid YTD = \$230.00
Av. Weekly Giving of \$3,381.35 is up \$385.06/week
From average weekly giving prior year.

On-Line Giving (This is a great time to try online giving)

You can give using Credit/Debit cards or from your check-
ing/savings accounts. Simply follow these easy steps to get
started: Visit our website at <https://www.cumcogden.org/>
Go to the [Stewardship Page](#) & follow the instructions.

On-line Giving using your Smart Phone

With GivePlus+ Mobile App from Vanco Payment Solutions,
you can use your smartphone to give anytime, anywhere!
Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone.
Make one-time or recurring donations. Log in or donate as
a guest. Securely and conveniently manage donations using
Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN, or password. To give, search
your phone’s app store for “GivePlus+” by Vanco Payment
Solutions and install. Follow the instructions to
select our church and start giving.



TEXT Giving

Simply text a dollar amount (i.e. “10” for \$10.00)
to **855-908-1102**. First time users will get a reply
text with a link. Click on the link and complete the
transaction form. The dollar amount you texted will be the
amount processed. Future giving will automatically process
using the information you entered initially. You will get a
confirmation TEXT which will have other instructions for
refunding or making your gift a recurring gift. Go to our
website to view a video on how to text to give.

Electronic Giving Option

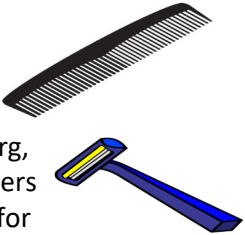
To simplify your financial giving to CUMC, consider using
electronic giving through your own bank’s website (online
bill paying) or authorizing CUMC’s account at Vision Bank to
draw funds from your account. You can set up an amount
for as often as you like or make single donations.
Information is available at church.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

InGathering

We will again be collecting items for InGathering Kits each month. Last year our church was able to
provide 20 Personal Dignity Kits and 20 Student Kits.
There will be a bin in the Courtyard to place your donations.
For the month of March we will be collecting Combs (no rattails or picks) and
Razors (with a guard).
The information for what is needed for each kit can be found at midwestmission.org,
if you would like to put together a kit on your own. We are also hoping some sewers
out there will pitch in to help make bags for the school kits. Thank you in advance for
your support of this great cause!!



FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for all your support this time of year. We have had many people needing food and we are
glad we can help them. Continue to hold us up in prayer as we help the people who are in need.
Again, thank you for all you do.
Food Pantry is a drive through event held at CUMC under the canopy
on the East side of the church. Food Pantry distribution is held on the
second Tuesday of the month from 5-7:00 pm. Our local Food Pantry
services the towns of Ogden, Beaver, Boxholm, Pilot Mound, & Frasier.
If you know someone that is food insecure please pass on this information.



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS

Thank you for your generous giving for CWS Blankets.
We were able to collect during January \$275.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Our calling team has been busy making calls to some of our church family.
We can always use more callers! It is a blessing to reach out in this time of
working through a pandemic but also the cold and snow. If you are interest-
ed in becoming a Community Connections Caller, please contact
Evelyn Lewiston at 515-230-0100 or lewiston@netins.net.

COOKBOOKS NOW ONLY \$5.00.

Be ready for any gift giving occasion this spring and have a
Heavenly Helpings ~ Second Servings Cookbook on hand.
Put one in a basket with a table cloth and cooking utensils for a quick
and easy shower or housewarming gift
or just send one to a friend you haven’t seen a while with a personal
note.



EAGLE LAKE—June 14—18, 2021

Now that CUMC has decided to hold Eagle Lake Camp On Location we need to invite campers “If you have it, they will come” We have over 40 campers signed up now with a goal of over 100 campers. Please help spread the word!!

EAGLE LAKE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Community United Methodist Church will provide camp registration help to our members, constituents, or individuals without a church home. Please contact the office for details.

“Eagle Lake did not have any cases of COVID at On Location in 2020. We are confident that with the protocols from last summer and continual increase of precaution we will have another successful summer.” ~EL “If Eagle Lake needs to cancel camp for any reason, we will offer a full refund. If the parent has to cancel their registration due to COVID-19 (positive test, symptoms in a camper, etc.), we will offer a full refund.” ~EL

CUMC WEBSITE ~ www.cumcogden.org

Our website has most of the activities and information about what is going on at church. It is updated at least weekly. One important feature is on the calendar tab. That calendar is directly linked to the main church calendar and is updated in real time. Also on the calendar you can access zoom links for church Zoom events. Just click on the event and scroll down until you find the Zoom link.

E.L.M. STREET PRESCHOOL

Fall registration has begun. Classes for 3 & 4 year old meet M,T,TH, F morning beginning September 7th, 2021. Classes for older 4 year olds & 5 year olds meet M,T,TH,F afternoons beginning September 7, 2021 State funding allows 4 year olds free tuition. A \$30.00 non-refundable registration fee reserves a place for you child at the preschool. Call or email Isha Casey at isha.elmstreet@gmail.com or 515-275-3249 for more information.



REFER A FRIEND!

Who are you taking to camp this summer?

To:

From:



DAY CAMP ON LOCATION

at: Community UMC

June 14-18, 2021



9am-4pm



AGES 7-12



\$200*
*scholarships available

It's Camp Time!
Register Now at:
eaglelakecamps.com/cumc



Refer a new friend to camp, and you both get \$20 off!
Claim this offer at: eaglelakecamps.com/referral-program

CAMPERSHIP FUND

If you would like to contribute to the CUMC Campership Fund just drop your check off at CUMC either in the offering plate or at the office. You can also mail your check to- CUMC 337 SW 2nd Street Ogden, Iowa 50212

Please note “campership” in the check memo

Family and Friends in Our Prayers

Please pray for our area soldiers: Jason Anderson, Logan Sturtz, Lane Kooiker, and Ashton Kooiker. Also please pray for our CUMC friends including Eunice Sterner; Gerald Anderson; Bruce Ankenbauer; Sharon Crouse; Bonnie Meis; Bonnie Tolsdorf; Jim McConnell; Pat Doran; Tom Snow and especially our friends and family that are shut-ins or in care centers.

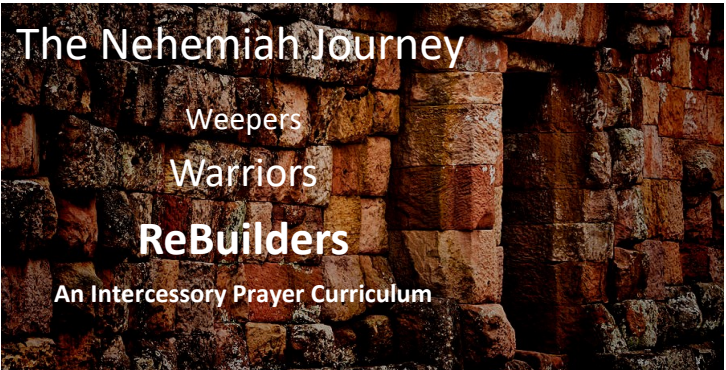
Members and Friends in Care / Assisted Living Centers

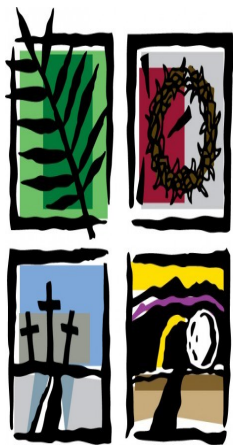
Ogden Manor: Norma Jean Herridge; Eastern Star: Shirley Brock; Green Hills: Dixie Jensen Suites of Ankeny: Vivian Christensen; Westhaven: Irene Delp, Millie Henriksen



Lyle McConnell
August 10, 1945 ~ January 28, 2021
Chuck Ralph (Pastor Buck Relative)
~February 18, 2021

Dear Congregation, Your Leadership Board, in preparation for events that might unfold later this year at the UMC General Conference related to church separation, has undertaken a journey, presented by the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), toward revitalization and refocus. Our journey is called “The Nehemiah Journey” and has two main parts. One part of this journey is intercessory prayer time by each member of the Board and the other is an accountability group that I, your pastor will be joining. That said, the leadership of each individual church has been tasked to take the material and adapt it to their local setting. In this context, revitalization is about creating a space where God’s voice can be heard. We must be reminded that God is both the Source and Sustainer of life. He is also a reviving God, who awakens us. It is His nature to bless and show mercy and compassion. He delights in the repentance of His wayward children. He bestows His Spirit, strengthens weak knees and hands to arise and build the broken walls. Our journey is broken down into 10 to 12 week sessions. During this exploratory period, the leadership board will evaluate whether this journey is taking us down the path that best supports the values, mission, and vision of the Ogden Community United Methodist Church. This journey is not solely focused on the issues surrounding our denomination and is not a commitment to following the WCA path. It should also be noted that the intent of the leadership board is not to judge or make decisions related to controversial church separation topics or differences in personal theology for the individuals in this congregation. However, this journey is about learning to open our heart, minds, and souls to hear the voice of God and bring light to his plan for our church. Your prayers would be greatly appreciated. God’s blessing to us all. ~ Pastor Buck





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	March 28th @ 10:00 am
Maundy Thursday	April 1st @ 6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 2nd @ 6:30 pm
Easter Sunrise Service	April 4th @ 7:00 am
Easter Breakfast	TBD
Easter Service	April 4th @ 10:00

SEEKERS

Seekers will be finishing "Prophets and Kings" during the last two weeks of March and then watch for a new study to begin in April.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the church library and is led by Pastor Buck. They are completing *Fire On The Mountain* and starting *With All Your Heart*, a continuation of the stories from Exodus that highlight the Israelite's struggles in the Promise land to follow God's commands. There will be an option to attend via Zoom.

Please contact the office cumc@netins.net or contact 515-275-4015 for the Zoom information.



Sunday Morning Adult Study

WEDNESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

A growing group of local men are meeting on Wednesday mornings to study 52 men of the Bible. You are welcome to rise up early and join them every Wednesday morning here at church starting at 5:30 am. You are also welcome to attend via Zoom. The Zoom link is on the calendar on the website. In March the men will be studying Nebuchadnezzar, Hosea, Job, & Isaiah.



MEN'S GROUP

Youth

Ministry

Kelli Larsen

Considering the weather and the fact that it is after Christmas, attendance at Sunday School was pretty steady this last month. We had about 5 students every week. Youth Group has continued to be impressive as well as we have about 15-20 students each week.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our children's program even through these crazy times. Everyone has so much to think about that I really appreciate you thinking about us.

It is time to start thinking about our annual Eagle Lake camp. Of course our biggest need is to have campers, so if you know someone with kids or have kids yourself please sign them up. The church is happy to help with any financial needs. We also need host homes and volunteers. You can contact Kelli and/or Alayna if you have any questions. Hosting these college age kids is a really rewarding experience. They are willing to give up summer break to make a difference in a young kid's life. Also, it is amazing the experiences you have when you volunteer. You get a chance to interact with kids and families who are having a fun filled week.

Just a note that last year when the Eagle Lake camps traveled they had no cases of COVID-19 and even followed up with the places they had been. So, please consider hosting and helping with this event.

~ Kelli

Bulldog

Builders

Sr. Youth

Ministry

Tom & Judy
Cleveland

The Bulldog Builders group will leave on Saturday, March 13th for Timber Creek Camp in Pulaski, MS. We'll arrive at the camp around midnight. Sunday we will spend most of the day relaxing and getting ready for a week of work around the camp. Projects are yet to be determined but always include cleaning cabins, cleaning the barn (storage for everything!) washing windows, building or repairing fences, and general cleanup to get the camp ready for campers. Each day starts with huddle groups for Bible Study and ends with worship at 8:00 p.m. Once we arrive at the camp, we are there for the week. All our meals are provided so there is no need to leave the grounds. We'll head home on Friday, March 19th and arrive sometime around midnight.

We want to say thank you to everyone that participated in our t-shirt fundraiser. Your generosity has allowed us to keep the cost for students the same as in the past and allowed us enough funds to make the trip. We'll rent one van, haul our baggage and supplies in a trailer pulled by Cleveland's truck with the addition of one additional vehicle. Chaperones include: Tom and Judy, Mike Tonsfeldt, Pastor Buck, Jared Tonsfeldt and possibly one or two more. We have approximately 15 students planning on participating in the trip. Thank you again for your support! We couldn't do ministry without you!

~ Tom and Judy

**Bulldog Builders meets every Wednesday at 8:30 pm at CUMC. All High School youth are welcome!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Mar 1 Meredith Kruse	Mar 15 Seth Burrill	Mar 24 Mindy Buck
Mar 2 John Bolton	Anthony Burrill	Mar 26 Bill Johnson
Kinley Hare **	Becky Erickson	Meghan Johnson
John Hunter	Mar 16 Cy Hornberg	Mar 27 Brennan Carson
Mar 3 J.C. Fuller	Jenna Sheirbon	Jubilee Cunigan
Mar 4 Carol Christensen	Alex Wilson	Vera Lyons
Cindy Smith	Mar 17 Angie Cunigan	Mar 28 Aaron Rubenking
Mar 5 Dan Kallem	Anna Erickson	Mar 31 Mary Ann Christensen
Mar 6 Kelli Larson **	Jessica Ericson	Preston Church
Mar 8 Caid Rinker	Aubrey Leonard	** denotes significant birthdays
Mar 9 Denny Morgan	Brandon Moe	that end in "0".
Mar 10 Ted Garwood	Mar 18 Kelly Merritt	
Mar 11 Maggie Fuller	Kylie Nichols	
Mar 12 Deanna Moe	Mar 19 Lori Kimsey	
Mark Platt	Mar 20 Skyler Rinker	
Mar 14 Macy Jens	Mar 21 Dixie Jensen	
Morgan Sterner	Mar 22 Griffin Diggs	
Anna Wilson	Jen Liebsch	



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ted & Deanna Garwood	March 8
Skyler & Carly Rinker	March 10
Denny & Linda Morgan	March 11

Fellowship

We are looking for volunteers that are comfortable serving fellowship. If you are willing to assist in this endeavor, would you please contact the office at 515-275-4015 or at cumc@netins.net. Or sign up in the courtyard.



Our heartfelt thank-you for the cards, memorials, and kind words of sympathy sent to comfort us at Dad's/Grandpa's passing. We are grateful to you for your thoughts and prayers. Lynn and Dick Cassie, Jeremy, Joslyn, and William Emily, Austyn, Kian, and Maisie

“ Knitted Together”

for God’s Good Work
United Methodist Women



"Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted."

Mathew 15:28

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a cold, snowy few weeks we have had! I am so glad I have a warm home to be in. I have enjoyed watching the snow fall and seeing the beauty of the snow on the yard and trees. The sun on the snow make it sparkle, it makes me smile . Even in hard times we can see and enjoy the beauty God has given us, no matter what time of the year it is. We know He is always with us and has a plan for our lives.

Women in scripture and UMW history have been persistent in prayer in speaking up and to find ways to develop connections in prayer and actions for missions as UMW members. We can do this local by remembering to pray for all those who must be outside cleaning snow and keeping us safe and to write a note or calling a neighbor and/or a friend to check on them and give them encouragement. Spring is on the way!

A Mission Recognition pin and certificate were presented to Norma Crossman for her faithful service to Community United Methodist Church and was presented at her home by Cathy Aldrich & Mary Ann Christensen.






April 18th is the United Methodist Women Ham Ball Dinner. It will be a drive through with a free will donation. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Your friend in Christ,
Sandy Friesen

UMW Schedule for March

March 3—1:30 pm	UMW Unit Meeting	(Glory Circle serves)
March 5 -	World Day of Prayer	
March 15—7:00	Glory Circle	
March 17—1:30 pm	Faith Circle	
March 18—7:00 pm	Monica Circle	

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>All services will be Livestreamed online at www.cumcogden.org under the "Sunday Services/Live Stream" menu tab and can also be viewed anytime.</i>	1)	2)	3) 5:30 am Men's Bible Study 1:30 pm UMW Unit Mtg 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Study on Prayer 6:00 pm Youth Group (5-8th) 8:30 pm Bulldog Builders	4) 10:00 am Seekers <i>Study on Prayer</i>	5) <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	6)
7) 8:30 am Prayer Gathering 9:00 am Sunday School (<i>all ages</i>) 10:00 am Worship w/ Communion 11:00 am Fellowship	8)	9) 5-7:00pm Food Pantry <i>Food Pantry with social distancing. Please drive up to the CUMC East entrance</i>	10) 5:30 am Men's Bible Study 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Study on Prayer 6:00 pm Youth Group (5-8th) 8:30 pm Bulldog Builders	11) 10:00 am Seekers <i>Study on Prayer</i> 6:00 pm T.T.T.	12)	13) Bulldog Builder's & Pastor Buck leave for Mission Trip 
14) 8:30 am Prayer Gathering 9:00 am Sunday School (<i>all ages</i>) 10:00 am Worship w/ Evelyn Lewiston 11:00 am Fellowship	15) 7:00 pm Glory Circle	16)	17) St Patrick's Day 5:30 am Men's Bible Study 1:30 pm Faith Circle 	18) 10:00 am Seekers 7:00 pm Monica Circle	19)	20) Bulldog Builder's & Pastor Buck return from Mission Trip 
21) 8:30 am Prayer Gathering 9:00 am Sunday School (<i>all ages</i>) 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	22)	23)	24) 5:30 am Men's Bible Study 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Youth Group (5-8th) 7:00 pm Leadership Board 8:30 pm Bulldog Builders	25) 10:00 am Seekers	 YOUNG SERVANTS	
28) **Palm Sunday** 8:30 am Prayer Gathering 9:00 am Sunday School (<i>all ages</i>) 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 	29)	30)	31 5:30 am Men's Bible Study 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Youth Group (5-8th) 8:30 pm Bulldog Builders			