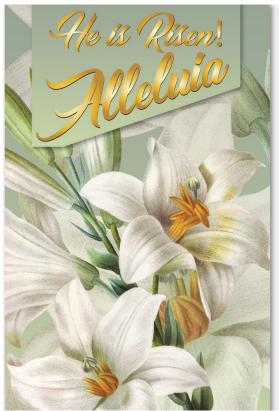


Emmanuel United Methodist Church 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705

301-937-7114 www.eumcbeltsville.com

Rev. Dr. Andrea M. King PastorKing@eumcbeltsville.com





A Prayer for Easter  $\gg$ 

Jesus, our Risen Savior, all glory and praise to You, for You bring light to our darkness, joy to our sorrow and fullness of love to our hearts.

On this Resurrection Day, we ask You to renew our hearts, minds and bodies with the new joy of this Easter Season. Guide us to keep focused on Your Holy Word that is all encompassing and pure.

Allow us to be a reflection of Your peace and enlightenment to this world which so desperately needs Your eternal presence.

> He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

# The Lamplighter

# The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



# **APRIL 2025**

# IN THIS ISSUE

- + From The Pastor's Desk p. 1
- + Beverly Urick Featured In "Howard County Young Lives Matter Quarterly" p. 2
- + Annual Spring Yard Sale p. 3
- + Mekai Nicholas receives scholarship p. 3
- + Guess Who's Coming To Dinner p. 4
- + Churches confront mass federal layoffs p. 5
- + Cooking With Pastor King p. 10
- + Emmanuel Food Distribution passes annual inspection p. 11
- + April Calendar p. 12

Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com



From the Pastor's Desk...



# The Branches

To ensure a separation of powers, the U.S. Federal Government is made up of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. To ensure the government is effective and citizens' rights are protected, each branch has its own powers and responsibilities, including working with the other branches.

The overall structure of governance for The United Methodist Church as a denomination, has its origins in the governance structure, with its General Conference of The United States of America. Just as the USA government was originally established with three branches of government, so was the UMC.

The United States Federal government is divided into the legislative branch, the executive branch, and the judicial branch.

Although not an absolutely direct model, here is a comparison

**Legislative:** The General Conference, which is the legislative body of the UMC, is similar to the U.S. Congress, as it makes decisions and sets policies for the church. Congress is the only branch of the Federal Government that can create laws. The representatives of Congress comprise the House if Representatives and the Senate. Similarly, the representatives (delegates) of General Conference vote to create the laws, which are then published in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (which is analogous to the U.S. Construction).

**Executive:** Whereas the USA has a President who heads the executive branch, the Council of Bishops collectively provide spiritual and administrative leadership to the denomination, with each Bishop (or Episcopal Leader) serving a certain geographical (or Episcopal) area. There is no one "Archbishop" who President over other bishops. The "executive leadership" is collaborative to guide the life of the church.

**Judicial:** Similar to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Judicial Council is the highest court of the church. Just as the judicial branch of U.S. government interprets the laws created by Congress, the Judicial Council holds hearings, consider level matters by interpreting the church's rules and resolving disputes.

Continued on the next page

# Page 2 Engaging the Community!

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## From The Pastor's Desk Continued

While the UMC is a religious structure and the USA is a political structure, the designers of these structures created systems of governance such that there would be a process of checks and balances. No branch is intended to single-handedly run the entire organization. The legislative branch makes the law, The judicial branch interprets the law, and the executive branch enforces the law. Otherwise, Bishops (and others) are subject to be "brought up on charges" for violations of the law, just as a President can be subjected to impeachment.

The three branches of governance in both the UMC and USA are designed for the overall protection and well-being of the UMC church members and US citizens, respectively. The separation of powers was set in place by the originators with the intention to establish and maintain a balance of power.

When denominations fail or when governments fail, to do the things that are just and beneficial for the members and the people, there is a GOD who is able to hear and answer prayer. Psalm 50:15 reminds us:

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."When other branches fail, there is a Branch of Zion!

# Pastor King

# Emmanuel Member Beverly Urick Featured In "Howard County Young Lives Matter Quarterly"

Beverly Urick was highlighted for her volunteer work in Howard County Young Lives Matter Quarterly!

# Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Beverly Urick, one of our earliest volunteers. She crochets blankets for our new mamas.

### Q. Why did you choose to volunteer with YoungLives?

A. I like to make things and donate most all. It gives me a sense of purpose and an outlet for my projects. It makes me feel good and happy that my work is put to good use and appreciated. I also make shawls and laprobes for nursing homes.

### Q. What is one item you hope to accomplish on your bucket list?

A. I don't have a "bucket list". I take one day at a time.

# Q. Do you have a favorite book, movie, or TV show that inspires you?

A. My favorite book, movie, etc. changes with time. Maybe the Harry Potter series. I don't watch much TV except Orioles games.

### Q. What is a fun fact about you that most people don't know?

A. I'm older than I look. Most people wouldn't guess that I'm almost 75.



# Beltsville Community Cats and Emmanuel United Women In Faith Join Together for Annual Indoor Yard Sale



It's that time of year again! Spring has sprung, the sun is shining and The Beltsville Community Cats and Emmanuel United Methodist Church's Women In Faith are hosting their annual spring indoor yard sale. There will be bargains galore! Everyone should be able to find something at a great price. There will also be a hot lunch cooked and sold by the women of Emmanuel. UpStage Artists, Beltsville's Premiere Community Theater troupe will also be there to talk to you about their program. But don't just come for the food, conversations, and bargains, come out to meet the stars of this event, the kittens and cats looking for their forever homes! Beltsville Community Cats will have volunteers there to introduce you to these wonderful and sweet animals! So come on out and join them for this annual event on Saturday, April 19 from 10 am - 2 pm at Emmanuel.

# **Emmanuel Member Mekai Nicholas Receives Scholarship**

The family of Warren Allen celebrated his transition by conducting two rich tributes to his life (January 22 and 26, 2025). The first service was at Borgwardt Funeral Home, where all the Allen Family and extended family honored Warren's memory by sharing poignant stories. One particular story that his grandson shared was of times that the two of them spent special times together enjoying afternoon entertainment and sipping wine, and Warren delighted in letting others know that they were cultivating the art of being "fine gentleman."

A second service was held at Ft. Lincoln Cemetery, with military honors. If fact, the honor guard presented at both services.

Following the services, the Allen family made an extreme gesture of generosity by offering a one-time memorial scholarship in Warren's honor. After some consideration, the family selected Mekai Nicholas to receive the scholarship because of his pursuit of higher education, his commitment to the community food distribution ministry, his work ethic, and his upstanding character. In other words, Mekai Nicholas was a fine gentleman!

On March 17, Warren's widow Patsy, surrounded by family and friends, presented Mekai with a check for \$500 in loving memory of Warren Allen.







# rsidellane Lamplighter

# UpStage Artists Brings Classic Film 'Guess Who's Coming To Dinner' To Life On Stage!

Movies of the 1960s captured a decade of cultural transformation, from rock 'n' roll to shifting social values. In 1967, a seminal film was released that reflected the transition of cultural values that were happening. One film that embodied this transition was Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967), starring Sidney Poitier, Katharine Hepburn, and Spencer Tracy in his final role. The story should be a simple one, daughter brings home man she intends to marry to meet her parents. But this story was much more complicated. When Joanna Drayton, a free-thinking white woman, and black doctor John Prentice become engaged, they travel to San Francisco to meet her parents. Matt Drayton and his wife Christina are wealthy liberals who must confront the latent racism the coming marriage arouses. Also attending the Draytons' dinner are Prentice's parents, who vehemently disapprove of the relationship. The central message of love crosses most boundaries is still as relevant today as it was in 1967, which is why UpStage Artists is bringing this powerful story to the stage.

Director John Cusumano and the cast are working to ensure the play resonates with today's audience just as it did in 1967. The cast is a wonderfully diverse group of performers, featuring both seasoned performers and newcomers to the UpStage Artists stage. They are hard at work making this a performance you won't forget.

Guess Who's Coming To Dinner will have 6 performances: April 25, 26, and May 2 at 7:30 pm and April 27, May 3 and 4 at 2 pm. Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased online at www.upstageartists.com/current-show. You may also walk in and purchase tickets at the ticket counter but you risk being sold out, so it is better to get them early. Don't miss this unforgettable performance—filled with laughter, heartfelt moments, and timeless themes.



## Churches confront mass federal layoffs By Heather Hahn



The Rev. Rachel Cornwell, wearing glasses at center, joins with the Rev. Donna Claycomb Sokol, wearing a clerical collar at left, and other D.C.-area pastors in a time of prayer and protest on Ash Wednesday on Capitol Hill. The gathering was organized by Repairers of the Breach, led by Bishop William J. Barber II, who called on faith leaders to stand together in prayer and moral resistance against injustice. United Methodist churches in the U.S. capital and beyond are doing what they can to help federal workers, contractors and others affected by the cuts and layoffs led by the Trump administration, some of which federal courts have already paused. Photo courtesy of the Rev. Rachel Cornwell, Dumbarton United Methodist Church.

Even as Toria Herd faces an uncertain future in her career working with Head Start, she knows she can count on her congregation at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church to have her back.

"I just have really appreciated the outpouring of support," said Herd, who has a doctorate in developmental psychology and works with the federal early childhood education program in jeopardy under the Trump administration.

"Even my friends and family who don't live in D.C. right now are not really understanding how bad the vibes are in the city. So, I think, having a community that sees you and understands the stress — and also understands how bad things feel right now to everyone in the city — is really meaningful."

Her congregation is among the United Methodist churches across the United States stepping up to support federal workers, contractors and others harmed by the Trump administration's large-scale job cuts and slashing of government services.

For these churches, the past two months have brought expanding disaster as their members face loss of income and, in some cases, online harassment, while ministry partners that could help fill the gaps deal with a loss of federal grants. That has left United Methodist church leaders scrambling to provide comfort and mitigate the damage through prayer, pastoral care, job-search help and budget adjustments that support their financially strained membership. Some United Methodists also have joined in nonviolent protest and lobbied lawmakers on behalf of federal workers.

At the same time, United Methodist leaders also recognize they have an enduring message of God's love to share at this moment.

"We are in a crisis," said the Rev. Erik Alsgaard, pastor of Community United Methodist Church in Crofton, Maryland, near D.C. "A crisis is a chance for the church to be the church. By that I mean, it's a chance to show love and forgiveness and, when possible, grace and mercy. But as 1 Corinthians 13:13 says, 'the greatest of these is love.'"

For many United Methodists, embodying God's love means supporting people hurting right now.

The Rev. Stephanie Vader, senior pastor of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, emphasized that federal workers are patriotic and hardworking people — not the do-nothings of caricature.

"I cannot stress enough how people in my church don't take federal jobs unless they are in love with their country and really want to be in service because, honestly, a lot of them could make a whole lot more money in private industry," she said. "But it is a ministry for them. It is a deep, deep passion, and it is a deep part of their practice of loving God and loving their neighbor."

Some 60 members at the church — which stands four blocks from the U.S. Capitol building — have seen their lives upended by the federal purge. When the cuts began, church leaders worked to pair federal workers and contractors in the congregation with members willing to provide a listening ear and other support.

"We had a strong response on people saying that they had things to give," said Ryan Clements, the church's director of discipleship and service. "So, it was clear that people wanted to help and to care in some way."

Getting church members affected by the cuts to ask for help proved more challenging, Clements acknowledged. "A lot of people we were talking to said, 'I'm hurting, but I'm sure there's someone who's hurting more than me, and I don't want to be a bother."

*Continued on the next page* 

# Federal Layoffs continued from previous page

Still, church leaders pushed ahead with the pairings — recognizing that both the need and the eagerness to help are real.

Herd is glad she now has someone with whom she can talk about her worries. "It's very encouraging to know that these members of CHUM-C, whom I never met before, are thinking about me and praying for me."

For the Rev. Donna Claycomb Sokol, senior pastor of Mount Vernon United Methodist Church in downtown Washington, both prayer and binding up the broken are key. She prays regularly for laid-off and furloughed employees as well as those still employed but living with the anxiety that they could see their life's work disrupted at any moment. She and other church members also have engaged in public protest and changed the church marquee to proclaim, "We Stand with Federal Employees."

"And I pray for our administration to see the deep pain and destruction they are causing," she said. "I also remind our congregation often how much I want to know what they are going through so I can pray even more specifically or show up more tangibly."

The mass layoffs — led mainly by billionaire Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency — already have sparked chaos, anger, fear and legal challenges across the U.S. Meanwhile, little evidence exists that DOGE is achieving its asserted goal of reducing waste, fraud and abuse.

Whole sections of agencies are being eliminated with seemingly little thought, said the Rev. Ginger E. Gaines-Cirelli, senior pastor at Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington. She added that career civil servants often are given only a 15-minute window to clean out their offices before they must leave the property.

Foundry has formed a support group for federal workers and contractors. The church also has been pulling together congregants who might have expertise that is helpful to people affected by the cuts, and created a liturgy that aims to help ground grieving congregants in their faith.

"As a resident of D.C. and pastor of Foundry, it has felt like a vengeful, invading army has moved into our home and is gleefully (waving around a chainsaw) cutting people off from meaningful work, from life-sustaining resources and from medical research that could save lives," she said. "People will starve to death and die of diseases in places around the world and in the United States because of what is taking place right now."

According to The Associated Press, federal judges have fully or partially blocked actions related to DOGE, federal funding and federal workers in nearly 20 cases with more still pending. Federal agencies have the authority to reduce their workforce, but federal law details a process to do so. In many cases, judges are finding that the administration simply ignored the law.

Two judges have ordered the reinstatement of probationary federal employees fired at DOGE's instigation, but so far most agencies are only putting those employees on paid-leave status. Another federal judge ruled March 18 that DOGE likely violated the U.S. constitution in its dismantling of USAID and blocked further cuts to the agency. However, that ruling stops short of reversing USAID's job terminations. In the meantime, the administration is appealing these and other rulings.

Meanwhile, the cuts continue across the federal government, affecting services as diverse as the national parks and nuclear security.

Those cuts are having an impact well beyond D.C. Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Decatur, Georgia, has a number of members who worked at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where nearly 1,300 people — 10% of the workforce — have been forced out. The church also has members weathering cuts at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, as well as at United Methodist-related Emory University, which like other research universities has seen National Institutes of Health grants halted.

Some church members who are research scientists also have been subject to online harassment, said the Rev. Beth LaRocca-Pitts, the church's senior pastor.

The church has set up a support group and hired a professional counselor to work with members experiencing the pain of the federal contraction and targeting scientific research.

"It's a very distressing situation because it does seem to be affecting so many people from so many sectors," LaRocca-Pitts said. "It's very difficult to figure out. I think all we can do is encourage our people to support one another, to listen to each other, and to be compassionate towards each other."

Continued on the next page

# April 2025 Engaging the Community!

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Federal Layoffs continued from previous page

Virginia Conference Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson and other conference leaders joined in a pastoral letter to federal workers dismissed from their jobs that also invites those grieving job loss to receive solace at United Methodist churches. Virginia long has been home to more than 144,000 federal employees.

"We know you are hurting, confused and angry," the conference letter says. "We also know that you are gifted, educated public servants with valuable experience and hearts wired for public service and the common good. We also know that God is not done with you yet."

Floris United Methodist Church, in the D.C. suburb of Herndon, Virginia, has seen many of its church members lose their jobs because they were federal employees, contractors or workers at nonprofits supported by federal grants.

The 3,500-member church has held a worship service to serve as a time of lament, as well as "Holy Conversations" to provide spiritual support to church members. Debbie Cali, the church's director of serve and connections ministries, is also organizing practical support focused on offering free job-search assistance as well as job leads.

"The individual/family impact is just beginning to set in," said the Rev. Gina Anderson-Cloud, the large congregation's lead pastor.

"Some people are pursuing or exploring bankruptcy, while others are frantically looking for jobs in a now-flooded job seeker market. In our ministry settings, we are also seeing increased needs."

Leaders agree The United Methodist Church can help in this time. But neither the denomination nor fellow religious bodies have the capacity to replace all the services provided by the U.S. government, said Ken Ow, who serves on the General Council on Finance and Administration board

Ow, a member of North Bethesda United Methodist Church in Maryland, worked for 37 years in finance for different federal agencies before retiring in 2006. One of his last roles was as budget officer for the Human Genome Project that helped improve medical practice. He said that project alone cost a half a billion dollars, substantially more than The United Methodist Church's entire budget for the next four years.

Herd, the Capitol Hill United Methodist member, expects the losses will have ripple effects far beyond people who work directly with the federal government.

"Even if it hasn't impacted you personally yet, you can't turn away from what's happening," she said. "We need people to stay informed but also resilient. We can't give way to the hopelessness."



The Rev. Stephanie Vader (left), senior pastor of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, joins with parishioners in a protest in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development. USAID, which was established by Congress to distribute U.S. foreign aid, is being dismantled by the Trump administration without congressional action. Vader made the sign that says "USAID Makes America Great." She said a parishioner who worked with the agency is most concerned that the suspension of the agency's funds and work will cost lives on the continent of Africa. Photo courtesy of the Rev. Stephanie Vader, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church.



# Are hosting their annual Spring

# **KITTEN-PALOOZA**

Saturday, April 19, 2025 10-2 pm Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705!



Come out and find some treasures for a bargain! Also, meet some of the adorable cats and kittens available for adoption. And you don't want to miss the mouthwatering lunch offerings from the Emmanuel United Women in Faith! This is a great event and the proceeds go to two wonderful charitable organizations!

# April 2025 Engaging the Community!

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# Page 9 www.eumcbeltsville.com



# Guess Who's Coming To Dinner

By Todd Kreidler Directed By John Cusumano April 25, 26, and May 2 at 7:30 pm April 27, May 3, and 4 at 2:00 pm Tickets are just \$10.00 www.upstageartists.com/tickets

Emmanuel United Methodist Church 11416 Cedar Lane Beltsville, MD 20705

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

# Page 10 Engaging the Community!

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# **Cooking with Pastor King: Sweet Potato Ice Cream**

This Sweet Potato Ice Cream recipe is super indulgent and creamy with its spiced sweet potato notes layered with buttered pecans and rich caramel sauce.

### **Ingredients:**

For the Sweet Potato 8 ounces sweet potato 1 large sized potato 1 tablespoon neutral oil For the Buttered Pecans 4 tablespoons salted butter 2 tablespoons granulated sugar 1 cup chopped pecans For the Ice Cream 8 ounces cream cheese softened 14 ounces sweetened condensed milk 1 tablespoon vanilla extract ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon 2 cups heavy whipping cream cold, whipped to stiff peaks 2/3 cup caramel sauce My favorite is Mrs. Richardson's



### **Instructions:**

For the Sweet Potato

Preheat oven to 400F. Place rack in middle position. Prepare sheet pan by lining with parchment paper. Scrub, rinse, and dry sweet potato. Stick a fork all over the potato multiple times to allow steam to escape. Rub oil on the surface of the potato. Place on the prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes, flipping the potato halfway through. Use a toothpick or skewer to check for doneness; the toothpick should slide easily into the potato with no resistance. If not done, bake for a few more minutes.

Remove potato from the oven and let cool slightly on parchment paper, about 20 minutes (until still warm but able to handle). Carefully remove the skin from potatoes. You should have 2/3 cup of mashed potatoes. (You can gently press on them with a fork or whisk and measure them into a measuring cup.)

While warm, place the potato in the bowl of a stand mixer, fitted with the whisk attachment. Turn the mixer on medium low for about 20 seconds then stop. (Once you start to mix the baked potato, long little stringy pieces will attach to the whisk; you'll want to rinse the whisk to get rid of those. Removing them makes the filling super smooth, so you're not eating the stringy parts.) Repeat these two or three times, each time rinsing the strings from the whisk. For the Buttered Pecans

Add the butter to a skillet over medium heat. Add in sugar and stir together and cook until sugar is dissolved. Stir in pecans and cook for about 5 minutes. (Watch closely so they don't burn.) Remove from heat and allow to cool, about 10 minutes.

### For the Ice Cream

Add cream cheese to the bowl of the stand mixer. Beat on medium speed then slowly add in sweetened condensed milk, cinnamon and vanilla extract and mix until completely smooth.

Turn off mixer and fold the whipped cream into the cream cheese mixture using a spatula.

Line an 8x8 pan with one piece of plastic wrap, with at least four inches of overhang. Then layer in another piece of plastic wrap going the other direction.

Pour in  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the ice cream mixture, then  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the caramel sauce, then  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the butter pecan mixture. Using a butter knife, create a swirl pattern.

Pour in the remaining ice cream, caramel, then pecans, and swirl again. Pull each side of the plastic wrap to cover the top of the ice cream, then cover fully with another piece of plastic wrap. Place in the freezer for 6-8 hours. When ready to serve, remove from the freezer and allow it to defrost for 10 minutes. Scoop and serve!

# April 2025 *Engaging the Community!*

# rstdsilqmeL sdT

4. Monica Hatton

8. Lea Claye



- 9. Deji Bello 11. Lacey Fadely, Dan Webb
- 15. George Urick
- 16. Cale Fuller Jr., Grace Rodeffer
- 18. Ernie Kilbourne
- 19. Ted Ladd
- 25. April Ademiluyi
- 26. Glenna Pavelka



4. Chris & Virginia Butcher

Emmanuel is on Instagram! Follow @eumc\_beltsville

🜀 Instagram



# Join us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/ EUMCBeltsville

# Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give? Online: www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving or scan the

QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church.

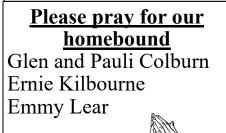


**Through the Mail:** mail your offering to 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

# **Emmanuel Food Distribution Passes It's Annual Inspection**



On Monday, March 17, Emmanuel Food Distribution Coordinator Mekai Nichols met with the Inspector from The Capital Area Food Bank for their annual inspection. They passed with flying colors.



<u>Christian Love and</u> <u>Sympathy</u>

Sympathy to the families of Shelley Lyles March Food Distribution Saturday, April 26, 2025



Join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Use this link if you wish to attend virtually: https://bit.ly/3SVutjU or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting.

**The meeting number is 978 3988 9289. The Password is EUMC** You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592 If you're calling on the telephone the information is Meeting ID: 978 3988 9289 Passcode: 479360





Virtual Bible Study

Join us online for Bible Study on Tuesdays from 7 pm to 8 pm. Come and discuss the Bible and learn from each other and other Emmanuel folks! No preparation needed! You just need to log on! Go to https://bit.ly/3PPrgjE to join us. The Meeting ID is 929 3284 2856 Passcode: bible Any questions, email Rick Bergmann at rick.bergmann@eumcbeltsville.com



Page 12 Engaging the Community!				www.eumcb	April 2025 www.eumcbeltsville.com		
23/30 10:00 am Worship (S) 2:00 pm Guess Who's Coming To Dinner Performance 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)	20 EASTER! <b>10:00 am</b> Worship (S)	13 10:00 am Worship (S) 11:15 am Monthly Potluck 1:00 pm UpStage Art- ists Set building 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)	6 <b>10:00 am</b> Worship (S) <b>6:00 pm</b> Scouts (CSR)	OFFICE HOURS M, W 9:30 am - 2:00 pm	Sun		
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