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**The Lamplighter**

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

## A Prayer For May:

**May** you be happy.

**May** you stay healthy.

**May** you feel safe.

**May** you find comfort.

**May** you sense peace.

**May** you give love.

**May** you possess courage.

**May** you have faith.

**May** you spread joy.

**May** you be kind.



# The Lamplighter

## The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!

·HELLO·  
*May*

**MAY 2025**

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### Let Us Pray

In March 2025, our Maryland neighbor Kilmar Abrego Garcia—a 29-year-old from El Salvador—was deported from the United States in accordance with the new administration's immigration policy.

Mr. Garcia's deportation was challenged in court, and judges all the way up to the United States Supreme Court ruled that he was erroneously deported and that the U.S. government should "facilitate" his return home to Maryland.

While the White House has accused Mr. Abrego Garcia of being a member of the Salvadoran gang MS-13, Mr. Garcia denies any gang affiliation; moreover, he has not been convicted of any crime.

Meanwhile, the people of God are praying for justice for the Garcia family and for all those who find themselves in circumstances of erroneous deportation. Shortly after the congregation of Emmanuel UMC lifted up such prayers for our community, news began to circulate that Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen was planning a trip to El Salvador on behalf of the Garcia family.

Many began to wonder aloud about Mr. Garcia's well-being, questioning whether he was being treated punitively—or even if he was still alive—based on refusals coming from both the U.S. and Salvadoran governments.

Fortunately, Senator Van Hollen was able to personally visit Mr. Garcia and report back to his family, fellow Marylanders, and concerned citizens across the nation about his current status. Why is this important?

This visit offered encouragement to Mr. Abrego Garcia that he had not been overlooked or forgotten. It bolstered the emotional well-being of his family and supporters and demonstrated to the community of believers that prayers and petitions are both heard and answered by God.

James 5:16 reminds us that "the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much," meaning that the prayer of a righteous person—prayed with sincerity, passion, and persistence—is powerful and effective before God.

Also, recall that the war against Ukraine was launched on Ash Wednesday 2022, as the people of God entered into a time of worldwide fasting and prayer. While Russian forces expected to quickly subdue the small country, the prayers of the faithful continue to sustain the war-torn nation.

Therefore, no matter how difficult or impossible the situation may seem, keep praying—because God hears and answers our prayers!

Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at [lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com](mailto:lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com)

## Update from the Trustees

Here's a quick roundup of recent improvements, reminders, and maintenance projects around the building. Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our shared spaces safe, functional, and welcoming.



### The Roof

On Monday, March 31, during a rainy evening, Rick noticed the sound of dripping water in the office wing. A small leak had developed in the ceiling, allowing rain to enter the hallway. The issue was traced to a damaged section of the roof, which has since been repaired. Everything is now dry and in working order—no more indoor showers!

### Kitchen Sink Reminder

A friendly reminder: the kitchen sinks are not equipped with garbage disposals. After last month's potluck, the sinks became severely clogged with items like straws, food, and utensils. The blockage was so extensive that a plumber had to replace sections of the piping. Please be mindful of what goes down the drain to help avoid future issues. While the plumber was on site, we also had a small leak in one of the men's restroom toilets repaired. Both fixes are now complete.

### Hole in ceiling of office wing Playground Refresh

To improve the play area for the children of Evangel Christian Academy, we recently replanted the grass on the playground. The area had become quite bare, but thanks to the refresh, it's looking great and is once again a safe and pleasant place for kids to enjoy.

### Parking Lot Fence Project

A big thank-you to Kevin Kresge and Scout Troop 1033 for their work on repairing the fence in the back parking lot and clearing out debris in that area. This project was part of Kevin's Eagle Scout requirements, and we're grateful for the effort, planning, and time that went into making it happen.

### Air Conditioning Changeover

As the weather continues to warm, we'll be switching from heat to air conditioning soon. A specific date hasn't been set yet due to the unpredictable temperatures, but Cale and CJ Fuller will handle the transition when time allows. Many thanks to them for their continued volunteer work behind the scenes.

If you have any questions or notice something that needs attention, feel free to reach out. Thanks again for helping us keep the building in great shape!





## Beltsville Community Cats and Emmanuel United Women Held A Successful Spring Yard-Sale!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the United Women in Faith and Beltsville Community Cats Spring Yard-Sale! There were so many items for sale and much of it went before the end of the day!

The weather was great, the food was delicious, and everyone had a fantastic time!

## Community Comes Together to Save April Food Distribution



On April 18, Emmanuel's Food Distribution learned that its monthly order from the Capital Area Food Bank would not be delivered. Without this essential shipment, there would be no food to give to those in need at the upcoming distribution scheduled for the following weekend. It appeared the April distribution might have to be canceled, with hopes pinned on a better outcome in May.

However, rather than giving up, the leaders of Emmanuel's Food Distribution—Yolanda Watson and Mekai Nicholas—quickly began discussing solutions with Rick Bergmann and John Cusumano of UpStage Artists. Together, they came up with a plan to save the event.

UpStage Artists donated \$200 to help purchase food and also put out a call to the public for additional donations. They opened the church's food closet every evening during rehearsals and performances, inviting the community to drop off nonperishable items between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m.

The response was overwhelming. Throughout the week, generous donations poured in from individuals and organizations alike, including Pastor King, Debbie McNitt, the Women's Community Club of Beltsville, Beltsville resident Jillian Schweitzer, Greenbelt resident Polly O'Rourke, and countless others.

Thanks to these contributions, Emmanuel's Food Distribution was able to move forward as planned. On April 26, no one was turned away.

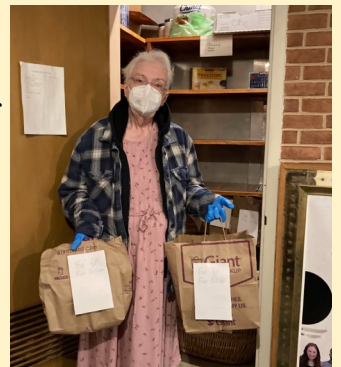
This effort stands as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when a community comes together with compassion and purpose.

## Thank You's!



Thank you from Ernie Kilbourne and Family. Thank you all for joining us last week to celebrate Ernie's birthday! She was thrilled to see each of you and kept commenting about how there were people there from all areas of her life. If you took photos, you can send them to the office and we will pass them along to her daughter Suzie. They are hoping to make a photo book and get it printed for Ernie, so she can look back on the party and remember everyone who shared her special day with her. Thank you!!

There was a major apartment fire in Laurel on April 17. The community leaders are working on getting donations for those affected. Frances Notley was able to donate 10 bags of groceries to those affected. We thank Frances for her kindness and generosity!



Thank you to Darren Mock for swinging by for a visit. Darren Mock was in town from Texas visiting his mother Margie and stopped by service on April 26 to say hi!

# Thank you!

## ‘Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner’ by UpStage Artists revisits race in 1967

*A rich, white, '60s liberal is challenged when his daughter brings her new love for a surprise visit.*

By Andy Arnold (originally published on DCTheaterarts.org)



Samara Braverman as Joey Drayton and Joseph Battley II as Dr. John Prentice in 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.' Photo by Manny Mendez

You didn't vote for Donald Trump. You don't care who people love, what a person's race is, or how they worship. You are as open-minded as a person can be. You are a modern-day Matt Drayton, a progressive-thinking character in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* now playing at Emmanuel United Methodist Church in Beltsville, Maryland. Well, maybe you are not a rich newspaper publisher in San Francisco like Drayton, but hopefully, you will find some similarity in political views

Matt, like many progressives, probably favors public transportation until the construction crews rip his familiar routes to shreds for what seems like an eternity to make "improvements." Never mind pollution from the standing traffic, losses to businesses on the affected roads, or frustration of people living in the way of progress, these not-in-my-backyard conservatives must be ignored for the sake of progress.

In Drayton's case, the issue is not transportation in the 21st century; it is race in 1967 America.

Drayton (Bill Bodie) is an established rich, white, '60s liberal; he is pro-New Deal, pro-Civil Rights, anti-Jim Crow, and anti-Vietnam War. As a newspaper publisher Drayton has risen to the top of San Francisco society promoting his views. All of that is challenged when his daughter brings her new love in for a surprise visit.

The man Joanna Drayton (Samara Braverman) has fallen for is perfect on paper: a highly acclaimed, world-renowned research doctor. Dr. John Prentice (Joseph Battley II), however, is Black, surprise. Her parents never saw that coming and neither did the Negro maid.

Todd Kreidler's 2012 stage adaptation of William Rose's screenplay works as a drama with humorous lines tossed in. Director John Cusumano adds entrances as character introductions to scenes to create more cohesion in the play.

Cusumano has filled the set with old furniture, a black rotary phone, three doors providing imagination for a larger home, and an opening for a terrace the troupe paints as a cactus garden for the audience to see. Rick Bergmann's lighting adds a sense of more room than the set provides for the home.

Dr. Prentice wants Drayton's approval to marry his lily-white daughter, who has no idea of what she, they, or their future children are getting into. Is the publisher simply a concerned father as he claims, or a first-class bigot and hypocrite as other characters point out?

The drama crashes against Drayton and his thinking. A couple of scenes hold the mirror against double standards. One features Monsignor Mike Ryan (Neil Swanson-Chrisman), who is a good friend of the seemingly irreligious publisher.

"It's amazing to see a broken-down phony old liberal come face to face with his principles," Ryan says, as the newspaper man attempts to justify his reaction. "I've always known that behind that fighting liberal façade, there must be some sort of reactionary bigot trying to get out."

That is not what Drayton wants to hear, but it serves as a slow-working salve for the man's reasoning. Later, the publisher is a sportswriter in his early days ringside at Yankee Stadium on June 22, 1938. He is covering the rematch between German Max Schmeling and Black American Joe Louis.

*Continued on the next page*



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Pat Bullock as Mary Prentice and Joseph Battley II as Dr. John Prentice; Nancy Somers as Christina Drayton and Neil Swanson-Chrisman as Monsignor Ryan; Bill Bodie as Matt Drayton and Elizabeth Wiggins as Tillie Binks; Bill Bodie as Matt Drayton and Edward V. Crews as John Prentice Sr., in 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.' Photos by Manny Mendez photography.

*Guess Who's Coming To Dinner continued from previous page*

With World War II quickly approaching, Louis' manhandling Schmeling in less than one round is a victory for America, one everyone was proud of, Drayton remembers. Or was it? Jim Crow still ruled in the South. Integration continued to separate men in the military. Culture divided America in 1938, 1967, and many say today.

The doctor remembers the Louis knockout a little differently. Extended family members were gathered at his grandmother's house in Mississippi to listen to the Montgomery Ward's radio set up in the yard. After the white man was counted out, Prentice's older male cousins danced around the yard, throwing punches at each other. The doctor, who was probably about five at the time, wandered toward the adults. His father, John Prentice Sr. (Edward V. Crews), put the boy on his shoulder calling him Lil' Brown. Louis was known as the Brown Bomber.

The acting in UpStage Artists production is a mix of veterans at their best, starting with Bodie. Sometimes rational, often irrational, when Matt Drayton asks his wife Christina, "When you imagined looking through Joey's [Joanna's] wedding pictures, did it ever, remotely-ever, occur to you that the man standing beside her would be like him?" Bodie's delivery gives one the impression he's questioning the audience.

Bodie keeps that journalist interrogatory that helps Drayton survive this crisis in his life throughout the performance.

Nancy Somers plays the multiple faces of Christina Drayton very well. Introduced as a chic gallery owner, her personal values are attacked by her daughter's surprise. Somers' character is more willing to adapt to a mother's supporting role than what people will think. But Christina works through it on stage.

Battley's doctor is a character without blemish. Historians argue that it was necessary for the film to fly in 1967, but more modern critics take issue. I sometimes wear a historian's hat, but when I review, I attempt to call the work as I see it. For the most part, Battley's Dr. Prentice was cool, calm, and understated. There were times when the good doctor's emotion was stirred, showing he was a self-made man. One key is a monologue aimed at his father about their generations and differences. You, Dr. Prentice says, "think of yourself as a colored man. I think of myself as a man."

Braverman made her UpStage debut in the difficult role of Joanna Drayton. Ms. Drayton, aka Joey, met the doctor while spending 10 days in Hawaii. However, her father was upset about Joey not calling on Sunday "because she always calls on Sunday." Assuming the recent collage grad was vacationing, and not working on an internship in a hospital or university where the doctor was working, how did they meet? If that is a flaw, it is on the plot, or a dim reviewer, not the players.

Braverman sells her love for Prentice as the real deal, but it has only been 10 days. The character is determined. Is she a liberal fighting the bigotry and racism she sees in her father and future father-in-law, or is it affection? Joanna thinks it is love, and at 23 she can't see why everyone else doesn't recognize it.

Crews' character thinks much like Matt Drayton minus the political haze. Prentice Sr., sees prejudice as real. He wants neither his son nor potential grandchildren to face the dangers interracial marriage will bring them. Mary Prentice (Pat Bullock) wholeheartedly agrees. She explains how heartbroken the doctor was after losing his wife and son in an auto accident years earlier. Mrs. Prentice never wants to see him suffer like that again.

That sense of suffering and humility unites the mothers. The Draytons lost a son. Although they are from different sides of the track, death doesn't recognize ZIP codes.

Swanson-Chrisman brings his reliable acting to the Ryan role. When not playing devil's advocate to Matt Drayton's liberal sensibilities, the Monsignor provides a touch of comic relief. Rev. Dr. Elizabeth L.E. Wiggins provides most of the humor as the maid Tillie Banks.

Hailing from Georgia, this Black woman is like a second mother to Joanna and a family protector. She has no problem letting the doctor know she thinks he's a conman attempting to rob the Draytons and she will not let him do it.

Lisa Troshinsky plays another difficult but important role as Hillary St. George, Christina's assistant at the gallery. St. George saves the day, cancelling a business lunch with a major client after the daughter's "surprise" shortly before the luncheon. Mrs. Prentice is shocked and drinking heavily. Besides, what would the client think seeing the doctor in the home?

St. George is sacked after offering some unwarranted bigoted advice, but St. George's counsel helped open Christina's eyes.

I liked the play. It's adapter Todd Kreidler's big hit. But don't go expecting to see the movie. Beltsville is not Hollywood. UpStage Artists charge only \$10 a ticket because their mission is to make live performances affordable. The audience gets more than it pays for with *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.



## Cooking with Pastor King: Key Lime Cake

### Ingredients

#### For the Cake

1 1/2 cups butter room temperature  
2 tbsp vegetable shortening or vegetable oil  
8 oz Philadelphia cream cheese room temperature  
(another cream cheese can be used, but the this brand seems to have the best flavor)  
2 3/4 cups granulated sugar  
6 large eggs room temperature  
3 cups of sifted all purpose flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
4 tsp key lime zest  
2 1/2 tbsp key lime juice  
1 tsp vanilla extract

### Instructions:

#### For the Cake

Start by preheating your oven to 325°F then liberally spray a 12-cup bundt pan with non-stick baking spray. In your mixer bowl, add butter, oil or shortening, and cream cheese and beat for 2 minutes on high speed. Slowly add in sugar beat on high speed for an additional seven minutes until very pale yellow and fluffy. Next, add eggs, one at a time, combining well after each addition and scraping down the sides as needed. Turn your mixer down to its lowest speed, and slowly add flour into batter in two increments then add salt, zest and juice. Be careful not to over beat. Lastly, add in vanilla extract, scrape down sides and mix until well combined and turn off mixer. Pour cake batter into prepared bundt pan, and bake for 1 hour and 15 -25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean. Cool in pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes, then invert cake on serving plate for at least an hour or until the cake is cool to the touch.

#### For the Glaze:

Mix cream cheese, powdered sugar, milk, vanilla extract and key lime juice until smooth then pour over top of cooled cake and serve. Note: this icing must be refrigerated so keep that in mind.





## UpStage Artists Announces Auditions For It's Fourth Children and Family Show!

UpStage Artists is SUPER excited to announce auditions for our summer children's show, The Adventures of a Comic Book Artist: The Musical! We are looking for 17 children ages 10-15 to bring this funny and action packed story to life!

Auditions are May 17 at 10 am and May 18 at 1 pm at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.

Rehearsals begin June 2 and occur on Monday, Thursday, and Friday evenings from 7 pm to 9 pm. There are also 2 mandatory Saturday rehearsals on June 7 and 14th from 10 am to 1 pm. The week prior to opening (Sunday July 20-Thursday July 24) are also mandatory rehearsals.

Show dates are July 25, 26, and 27, August 1, 2, and 3. There may be 2 performances on August 2, we are currently working on this.

Auditioners should be at the audition space no later than 10 minutes before the auditions begin. There will be a brief parent meeting with the director before the auditions start.

Children will be asked to read a monologue and sing a song. Both things will be provided for the child at auditions. They will also be asked to do a simple dance that will be taught to them as well. If you have any questions, email the director, John Cusumano, at john.cusumano@upstageartists.com today. You can fill out the audition form at [www.upstageartists.com/auditions](http://www.upstageartists.com/auditions)



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Beltsville 20705  
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# BELTSVILLE DAY

Sponsored by Beltsville Lions Club Foundation  
**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025**  
**12 NOON - 4 PM**  
**FREE ADMISSION\*\***  
**FOR ALL AGES**  
**MUSIC, GAMES, FACE PAINTING, VENDORS,**  
**FOOD, & MORE**

Free parking & shuttle from Frances Fuchs & Beltsville Academy  
**\*\*Vendors will have food and other items for sale.**

Prince George's County Public Schools is not sponsoring, endorsing, or recommending the activities announced in this flyer/material.

Connect with us!  @pgparks  @pgparks  @pgparksandrec  @pgparksandrecreation

- ▶ The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities. Register a minimum of two weeks prior to the program start date to request and receive a disability modification.
- ▶ Customers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, call Maryland Relay 7-1-1.
- ▶ Language interpretation is available at all facility front desks. Please ask for assistance.

- 1. Joelle Onukwubiri
- 5. Pam Midkiff
- 6. Joel Tyler
- 8. Emmy Lear
- 12. Megan McNitt
- 13. Nancy Thrush, Jason Kresge
- 14. Diane Embrey
- 17. Scarlet Robertson
- 19. Kevin Kresge
- 20. JoAnne Blakley
- 30. Darwin Aguilera



HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

- 4. Lynne & Robert Miller
- 6. Karen & James Mackey

Emmanuel is on Instagram!  
Follow @eumc\_beltsville



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

### Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give?

**Online:** [www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving](http://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.

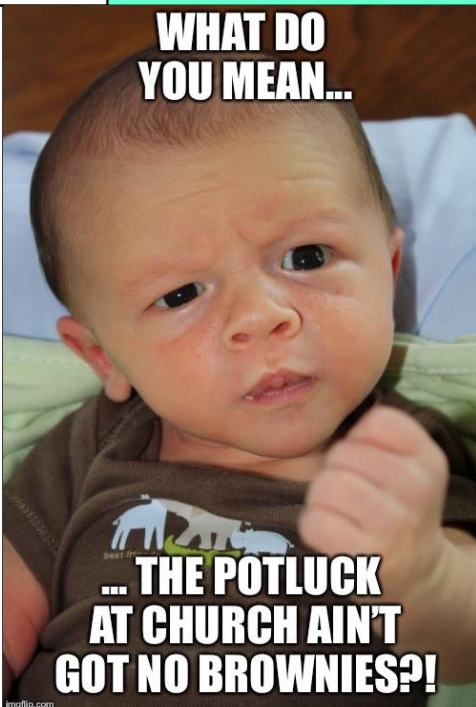
### Please pray for our homebound

- Glen and Pauli Colburn
- Ernie Kilbourne
- Emmy Lear

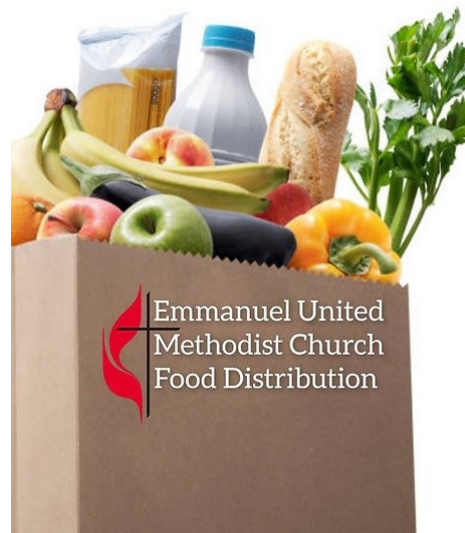


### Christian Love and Sympathy to the families of

- Margie Wise
- Grace Hoover
- Grant Midkiff



### May Food Distribution Saturday, May 24, 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

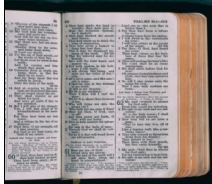
If you're calling on the telephone the information is

**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](mailto:rick.bergmann@eumcbeltsville.com)  
**BIBLE STUDY WILL TAKE A SUMMER HIATUS FROM JUNE UNTIL SEPTEMBER**



**ONLINE  
BIBLE  
STUDY**

## May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>OFFICE HOURS</b> M, W 9:30 am - 2:00 pm Calendar Room Key: (FH) - Fellowship Hall (Sanctuary Building) (CSR) - Chester Stewart Room (Education Building) (Zoom) - Virtual (S) - Sanctuary</p>						
<p>4 10:00 am Worship (S) 2:00 pm Guess Who's Coming To Dinner Performance 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>5 Office Open</p>	<p>6 Office Closed 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>7 Office Open</p>	<p>8 Office Closed 7:00 pm UpStage Artists Board Meeting</p>	<p>9 Office Closed</p>	<p>10 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>11 10:00 am Worship (S) 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p> 	<p>12 Office Open</p>	<p>13 Office Closed 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>14 Office Open</p>	<p>15 Office Closed</p>	<p>16 Office Closed</p>	<p>17 10:00 am UpStage Artists Auditions (FH) 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>18 10:00 am Worship (S) Noon Beltsville Day 1:00 pm UpStage Artists Auditions (FH)</p>	<p>19 Office Open</p>	<p>20 Office Closed 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>21 Office Open</p>	<p>22 Office Closed</p>	<p>23 Office Closed</p>	<p>24 8:00 am Free Food Distribution 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>
<p>25 10:00 am Worship (S) 11:15 am Monthly Potluck 6:00 pm Scouts (CSR)</p>	<p>26 Office Open 7:00 pm Depression Bi Polar Support (V)</p> 	<p>27 Office Closed 7:00 pm Bible Study (V)</p>	<p>28 Office Open</p>	<p>29 Office Closed</p>	<p>30 Office Closed</p>	<p>31 5:00 pm Narcotics Anonymous (CSR)</p>