

## Children's Day & Family Picnic May 17

On Sunday, May 17, we will celebrate Children's Day during worship service starting at 9:30 a.m. The children will hear an inspirational message from Dave Fish during church.

We will also honor our high school and college graduates. If you know of someone who is graduating this year, please give the name to Elaine Luoma.

Be sure to join us after worship service for our annual Family Picnic on the church grounds. All church members and their families are invited! The Sunday School will

provide the main course and sign-ups will be taken for additional dishes/ drinks. Please see Elaine Luoma or Mary Ann Jones if you can bring a side dish.



Recreational activities are planned for the children during our picnic. Don't miss out on

this fun time for the kids!

*Elaine Luoma*

## Wear Red for Pentecost May 24!

Don't forget to wear red to church on Sunday, May 24 for our celebration of Pentecost.

Pentecost is the only Sunday that we use red on our altar paraments to represent the power and fire of the Spirit. Pentecost signifies the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early followers of Jesus Christ and also



recognizes the day that the church was established.

Pentecost always occurs seven weeks after Easter Sunday, 50 days after Easter. In other words, it falls on the eighth Sunday counting Easter Day as the first.

The English word "Pentecost" is a translation of the Greek word pentekostos, which means "fifty." Pentecost is an opportunity for us to honor the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and celebrate the birth of the church.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer Page .....	Pg 2
Pastor's Note .....	Pg 3
Outreach .....	Pg 4
VBS Volunteers NEEDED ...	Pg 4
Lent .....	Pg 5
Current Events .....	Pg 7
Children's Ministry.....	Pg 8
Calendar.....	Pg 10
Sponsors .....	Pg 11

# Prayer REQUESTS

## ALL Prayers:

For our country  
 For peace and those affected by war  
 For all those in the world who are hungry  
 For everyone who is ill  
 Sharon R undergoing treatment  
 Logan S praise no more surgeries  
 Cameron H still in CHOP & family  
 Bernice N health & life changes  
 Chris M major life changes  
 Julie G cancer treatment  
 Family & friends of Jim V  
 Family & friends of Ann W  
 Doris S age 98 hospice  
 Chris T fell staples in head  
 Norm & Rich Quilts of Valor  
 Linda major cancer surgery  
 Len D very sick  
 Dottie D health issues  
 Young man surgery for testicular cancer  
 Bud M brain surgery for infection  
 Renee cancer & husband John Parkinson's  
 Laurie K difficult time  
 Shirley Z  
 Mike M knee replacement recovery  
 Deena D MS another fall  
 Rumiana V breast cancer  
 Barbara J procedure for a-fib  
 Carla quarterly lung scan  
 Truman A broken hip  
 Kristin H painful feet from chemo  
 Colleen ER visit now home  
 Mary Ann J ongoing eye problems  
 Family & friends of Kathie S  
 Family & friends of Kristy P  
 Linda P lost daughter  
 Chris B serious health issues  
 Nancy H home burglarized  
 Barbara lymphoma  
 10-month old with leukemia  
 Kelly W surgery on both eyes

Baby with leukemia  
 Cori healing double mastectomy  
 Steve M recovery from back procedure  
 Family & friends of Jacki T  
 Michael C healing from sepsis  
 Carol & Bruce M health issues  
 William W death of mother  
 Gloria praise a miracle  
 Marty tests  
 Manuel T army reservist to Africa  
 Paul high BP  
 Tommy surgery  
 Brooke Z knee surgeries  
 Danielle F healing from surgery  
 Jeannette age 29 & baby  
 Shiloh died unexpectedly  
 Lynne H doing ok after fall  
 School children anxious  
 Tyler S waiting for GI app't  
 All servicemen & women  
 Aaron K doctor appt  
 Joey A brain tumor surgery  
 Mandee breast biopsies  
 Family & friends of Pastor Rich Leaver  
 Praise Gina & new baby  
 Benjamin age 7 chemo for leukemia  
 Mark cancer spread & Nancy  
 Uncle Bud in ICU serious health issues  
 Buddy in hosp health concerns  
 Family & friends of Lynn Z

**Every week:** All those in need, unspoken requests, all service men/women, our nation and leaders.

### Serving in the Military:

Caitlyn Um, Erynn Plasket, Dan Solano, Chris Yard, Rachel Rachuba, Donna Rachuba, Ed Schwebel, Brandon Howell, Shaina Serrano, Lance Vreeland, PJ Jordan, Destiny Brooke, Manuel Tineo

### Shut-Ins & Nursing Home Residents:

Sandy D., Bernice N., Rosie P., Gloria L., Mary B., Sue T., Chris M.

## May Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1- Danielle & Frank Ferrara
- 2- Gary Rutter
- 2- Tyler Sierocinski
- 3- Blaine Zirbser
- 6- Erin & Emil Vatsev
- 6- Jackson White
- 7- Ann Hamel
- 9- David Delaney
- 11- Billy Blair
- 12- Connor Huesser
- 15- Carol May
- 16- Jennifer Blair Sattler
- 18- Majorie Rowand
- 20- Rita Thomas
- 20- Vicki Cusack
- 21- Christopher Bailey
- 22- Sandi & Mike DiLeo
- 24- Jim Doerrmann
- 24- Ed Donisi
- 24- Denise Hosier
- 25- Mike DiLeo
- 26- Landyn Blair
- 26- Cody Huesser
- 27- Mary Budd
- 28- TJ Stevens
- 30- Izabella Reichert



## June Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2- Jennie Troxell
- 3- Heather Gibson
- 3- Jean & Rudy Soderlund
- 6- Carol Withers
- 7- Jason Houghton
- 7- Garry Purnell
- 7- Kristina Rutter
- 8- Collin Dechen
- 9- Steven Spellman
- 10- Stephen Miller
- 12- Kali Dugan
- 13- Judy Brown
- 13- Kim Dechen
- 15- Claudia Ruggeri
- 16- Dave & Denise Hosier
- 16- Barbara Jones
- 16- Sue Todd
- 17- Amy White
- 18- Kathy Reitz
- 18- Jean Speakman
- 19- Joe Jones Sr.
- 20- Sharon Eichel
- 20- Madison White
- 21- Len Hurff
- 24- Jordan Weems
- 25- Kelly Haase
- 25- Diane Wonsetler
- 25- Cathy & Len Hurff



## St Paul's will be hosting Red Cross Blood Drives on:

- **Friday, May 29th, 12pm - 5pm**
- **Friday, June 26th, 12pm - 5pm**

Our nation's blood supply is fragile - there is a significant need for blood donors! All blood types are in high demand. Please consider donating at this or any local drive.

**Please contact the Red Cross at 800-RED-CROSS or at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to schedule your appointment today!**

### THE LAMPLIGHTER

Bimonthly Newsletter of  
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
 PO Box 125, West Deptford, NJ 08086  
 Pastor: Rev. Dave Delaney  
 Phone (856) 845-6638  
 E-mail [pastor@stpaulsthorofare.com](mailto:pastor@stpaulsthorofare.com)  
 Sunday Morning Worship ..... 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School ..... 10:45 a.m.

### Staff

Editor: Trista C Jones  
 Assistant Editor: Denise Hosier  
 Regular Contributors:  
 Pastor Dave, Carla Branyan,  
 Mary Ann Jones, Elaine Luoma,  
 Patty Fish, Carol Strock  
 Production: Trista C Jones

The *Lamplighter* is published bimonthly, in Jan., March, May, July, Sept. & Nov. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. For more info contact Trista C Jones or email [admin@stpaulsthorofare.com](mailto:admin@stpaulsthorofare.com).

# Be a Church Farmer... Start Planting Seeds

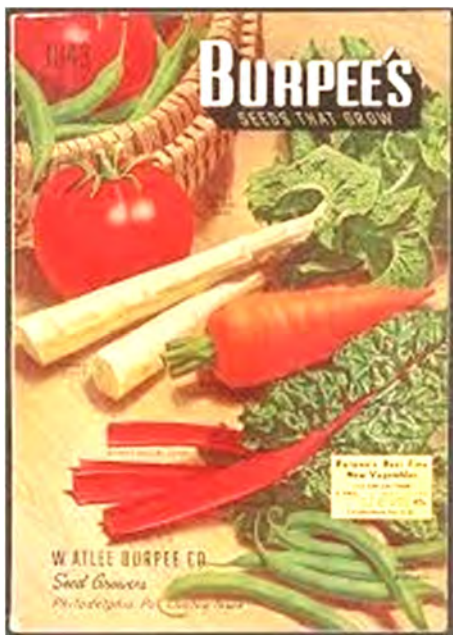
Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

I come from a family of farmers. Rugged individuals who raised crops and cared for a variety of animals that provided their immediate families with food and also provided food to customers from throughout the community. People would come for miles to buy fresh produce from their farms, the dairy truck would come to pick up gallons of fresh milk, and my aunt even had an "egg route" through the suburbs of Buffalo that she continued until she was in her late 80s.

They knew how to plant seeds in the ground to produce delicious food. They also knew that if they didn't plant any seeds ... if they didn't fertilize the soil and if the rain didn't fall ... there would not be any produce for their families nor for the public whose purchases sustained their cost of living plus the cost of having a farm.

A church like St. Paul's is very much like a farm because a church cannot grow unless seeds are planted, fertilized, and cared for. A church cannot sustain itself unless its members plant seeds out in the community, seeds whose purpose is to create growth for the church. Once someone discovers the church, those church "farmers" (members) have to fertilize the soil to ensure these new seedlings become strong members of the church.

The best church farmers are those individuals of faith who talk to



friends and neighbors about the church that they love. Seeds can be easily planted over breakfasts, lunches and dinners or just hanging outside talking about the weather. At work church farmers can plant seeds over coffee or when heading out to the parking lot after work. Church farmers who enjoy sports can talk about their church while watching football, baseball, or hockey games with their fellow sports enthusiasts. If you belong to a senior citizens club, a civic organization, or any other place where you talk with other humans ... you can plant seeds.

Friends, St. Paul's needs our church farmers to start planting seeds again! On Easter we only had one service and there were empty pews even though only a few years ago we had two services both of which were pretty full. And only one Christmas Eve service this year.

I want to encourage all of you to start planting St. Paul's church seeds. Here are a couple suggestions that can create growth:

- 1) If you are on any social media use your personal social media to simply SHARE St. Paul's FACEBOOK posts, INSTAGRAM posts, or links to our webpage. This is a very effective way to introduce your friends and family to our church. You can even invite them to watch our Sunday and Wednesday services online.
- 2) Make a list of friends and family members who used to go to church but no longer have a church family. Choose someone from the list and invite them to church with you and then out to breakfast to talk about church.
- 3) If you have friends or family with children, invite/encourage the children to come to Vacation Bible School. Offer to be the transportation.

We all want St. Paul's to remain a strong and vital church for years to come. But it is incumbent on all of us to plant the seeds so that others can discover this special place where we joyfully worship God and Christ!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dave*

**SOUP SUNDAY**

**Next Soup Sundays:**  
**May 3**  
**June 7**



**Watch for an order form to be posted on the website to order online. Or see/call Mary Ann Jones.**

## Outreach

### Summer Is Coming!

#### Upcoming Mission Projects & Offerings

- **May**
  - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (May 3) will benefit United Methodist Communities, formerly United Methodist Homes.
  - ◇ On the third Sunday (May 17) the offering is for Neighborhood Center Summer Camp.

United Methodist Communities has been providing care to seniors for over 100 years. Their values are compassion, respect, stewardship and service. They believe in maximizing each resident's independence.

- **June**
  - ◇ Our first Sunday offering (June 7) is Peace with Justice Sunday.
  - ◇ Our third Sunday (June 21) we will be supporting our Homeless Project.

The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit—of peace.

Don't forget to support these special offerings each 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

*Cheri Clement*

Community  
**OUTREACH**



## WANTED: VBS Volunteers

Vacation Bible School will celebrate "Twists & Turns: Following Jesus Changes the Game" with our kids during the week of July 26-30. We will play games and learn that Jesus changes the game in our lives.

Pastor Dave thinks we can bring over 100 kids to Jesus, and we will certainly give it our best shot!

With that number of anticipated children in attendance, that means we need volunteers to prepare for the kids, teach the kids, sing with the kids, do crafts with the kids, and be role models for Christ with the kids.

We are looking for your commitment to join our team of volunteers as soon as possible. Please consider sharing your time and skills.

Please reach out to either Elaine Luoma or Jen Sattler and let them know if you are willing to give of your time for the kids.

Email [stpaulsumcsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsumcsundayschool@gmail.com) or call Elaine or Jen.

Thank you for your willingness to join our team.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Luoma*



**WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS:** We have so many helpers during worship! Here are some of them, including PD's brother Mark, who led us in a Psalter responsive reading. We've been trying to get pictures of some greeters and ushers as well as those that read and sing, but we miss some helpers. We keep trying!

# Dreaming of 150

There is a mystery here at St. Paul's United Methodist Church that won't be answered until Sunday, July 26th.

You will hear me talking about 150 over and over again during the next couple of months because I dream of that number.

I am referring to the number of children who will be attending VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this summer for five consecutive nights of music, crafts, recreation and God-discovery moments. Five nights when kids, pre-K to eighth grade, will find a summer bonus of fun and memories at our church. The numbers depend on each of



us! There are lots of kids in our communities who are busily playing online games but are never being brought to churches on Sunday mornings. For far too many children, Vacation Bible School is their only experience of hearing about Jesus Christ or discovering Bible stories.

We have an amazing track record, and over the last ten years we have averaged over 70 children each year. I would love to have more this summer, so who are you going to ask?

And are you willing to volunteer? I still remember how Barbara Hoffman always said yes to helping at Vacation

Bible School, even as age and health realities limited her. She knew the value of these five days.

So start asking ... start inviting ... and give Elaine or Mary Ann a call to say that you want to help serve God by being a VBS volunteer. It's only five nights, but the work that is done over those days lasts a lifetime for each of those kids!!!

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave*



**YOUR OFFERINGS** are collected each week by our children. And who wouldn't want to dig deep to fill the plate for such an adorable usher? Thanks to Evelyn Rutter for collecting our offerings, and to her grandparents the Rutters and the Paganos, for bringing her to church!



**EASTER EGG HUNT** was a blast for the kids. Thanks to Sunday School Superintendent Elaine Luoma and her family, each child was able to collect at least 25 eggs filled with delicious treats.

# Party Like It's 50 Days after Easter!

**"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."**

One of my favorite days of worship during the calendar year is coming up during the month of May. PENTECOST!

Our church showcases such incredible energy of joyful worship on Pentecost!! We come to church wearing red shirts, our red Pentecost caps, and some even wear red shoes!! So on Sunday May 24th I will be looking forward to seeing a church filled with red clothed friends, energetically ready to shout HE IS RISEN INDEED while worshipping with huge smiles on every face!

We will be remembering and celebrating the birth of the Christian Church that occurred when Peter, the apostles, and thousands of people gathered



empowering us to live out our faith with meaning, purpose, and conviction."

As I began thinking about Pentecost, I thought about those who wear Pentecost

caps in Philadelphia, I found a photo from the 1800s that clearly showed that a transformation had not occurred yet, but by the early 1900s men were wearing Pentecost caps across the river in Philadelphia. The picture above is of Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander wearing his Pentecost cap and shirt!

together in Jerusalem for an annual holiday that celebrated the harvest, "The Feast of Weeks." The first Easter was over, Jesus had ascended into heaven to be with God. Suddenly there was a rush of wind from heaven, and the Holy Spirit filled the room resulting in people of faith having the ability to understand each other, leading to an understanding of God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

caps in Philadelphia, I found a photo from the 1800s that clearly showed that a transformation had not occurred yet, but by the early 1900s men were wearing Pentecost caps across the river in Philadelphia. The picture above is of Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Grover Cleveland Alexander wearing his Pentecost cap and shirt!

A leading 21st century theologian describes Pentecost as "a foundational moment in the Christian church; an invitation to open our hearts to the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit,

This year's Lenten theme was focused on getting closer to God by reading the Gospels. Easter was a celebration of God's love through Jesus Christ. Eastertide has been a reminder that we should never forget God's hope that we remain connected through faith, knowing that God is ready to forgive our sins while offering us a home in heaven one day.



**GLOUCESTER COUNTY FLUTE ENSEMBLE** entertained with a fun "Cirque de Flutes," a medley of circus and carnival music. We partner with the flute ensemble and provide a place for them to present their concerts.

Pentecost is our celebration of the Christian Church's birthday! Make sure that you have Red Pentecost caps to wear and find the red clothes in your wardrobe! We are going to party like it's 50 days after Easter ... because it will be! We will be ready to again open our hearts, our minds, and our very souls to God so that our lives will be dedicated to shining Christ's light in everything we do!

Blessings,

*Pastor Dave*



**QUILTS OF VALOR** were presented to Rich Favretto and Norm Brayan to thank them for their military service. They both served during the Vietnam war, Rich in the Navy and Norm in the Army. One of the quilts was made by our own Bev Betz! The Mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



We have had some fantastic music from our choir, and again welcomed flautist Jackie Pastore, who accompanied us on Palm Sunday. Many thanks to Music Director Bela Debrecei, who provides knowledgeable leadership for our choir and congregation! We also had a fun piece, "Ride, Jesus, Ride," from our acapella quintet: Bela, Denise, Molly, Debbie, and Carla.



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** was delicious, as always! Thanks very much to Mary Ann Jones and the CRT—Community Relations Team— for planning, preparing, serving, and cleaning up. As usual we had a full house and plenty of pancakes!

# Children's Ministry



OUR CHILDREN are always active in church, and they greatly enjoy Dave Fish's children's messages. One of the most special days is Palm Sunday, when they march around the church waving their palms as we sing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna." It always starts Holy Week off right having so many kids in church.

# Red Bird Team Hoagie Sale



Our Red Bird Mission Team is sponsoring a Hoagie Sale to support the Red Bird Mission Trip. Beginning on May 17, purchase your Heritage's Dairy Hoagie Certificates from Jim

Clement, Mary Ann Jones, or any Red Bird Team member.

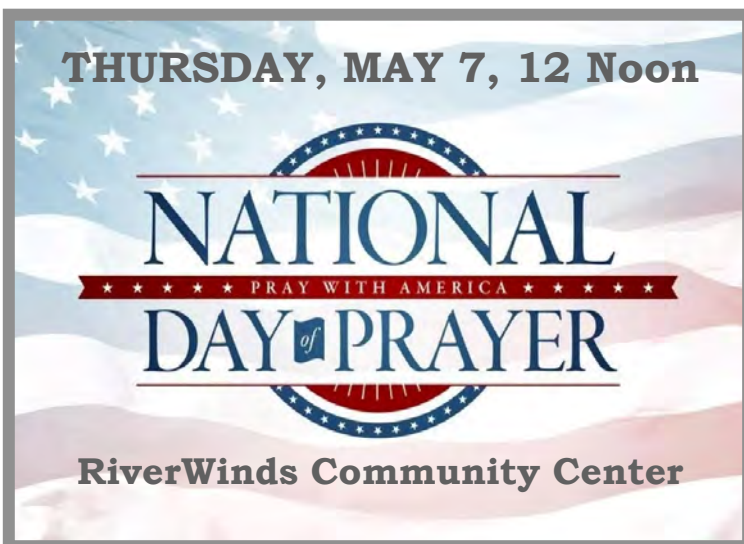
The certificates will be good for two months, so you can go to any Heritage's store whenever you want and get the regular hoagie of your choice.

In addition, your metal and your cans ... and your neighbors' metal and your neighbors' cans ... can help us raise money for the Red Bird Mission Trip. Donate your soda cans and heavy metal items to the church.

Call Jim Clement or the church office for details.

The Red Bird Mission Trip will take place Sunday July 5 through Saturday July 11. We will be working for God to help some of the poorest people in America! Anyone can go, and it's not too late to sign up! If you are interested call Jim Clement or see him in church.

Thanks!  
*Jim Clement*



## National Day of Prayer

Along with our nation, we will pause to pray on Thursday, May 7, as part of a National Day of Prayer that President Lincoln started and Congress instituted into an annual event.

Here in Gloucester County, we will be gathering for an ecumenical prayer service at RiverWinds Community Center at 12 noon. We come together as a community, as neighbors who know the value of reaching out to the Creator through prayer.

This is not a political moment nor one for any specific theology. It is all about declaring a relationship with God that is alive through prayer. Invite your friends. It should not be a long service.



**THE LAST SUPPER** was celebrated on Holy Thursday. Many thanks to our men, led by Don Strock and Gary Rutter, for acting this out each year. We also welcomed the other Churches of the local area to participate with us.

# St. Paul's Calendar May-June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am - 3:00pm Chicken BBQ Dinner 4th Sun of Easter	27	28	29 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	30 7:00pm Choir Practice	May 1	2 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
3 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 11:00am Soup Sunday Special Offering: United Methodist Communities 5th Sun of Easter	4 5:30pm Girl Scout (2) Mtg.	5 Cinco de Mayo 10:00am Deptford Designers	6 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	7 12:00pm National Day of Prayer Service, RiverWinds 7:00pm Choir Practice	8	9 8:00pm AA meeting
10 Mother's Day 9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School 6th Sun of Easter Family Promise Week	11	12 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	13 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	14 Ascension 7:00pm Choir Practice	15	16 8:00pm AA meeting
17 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 10:45am Children's Day & Family Picnic Mission offering: Neighborhood Center Camp	18 6:00pm Guiding Lights Dinner at Pliston's	19 10:00am Deptford Designers	20 7:00am Holy Communion 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	21 7:00pm Choir Practice	22	23 8:00pm AA meeting
24 Pentecost 9:30am Worship WEAR RED!	25 Memorial Day	26	27 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	28	29 11:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	30 8:00pm AA meeting
31 Trinity Sunday 9:30am Worship	June 1 6:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting 7:00pm Leadership Team	2 10:00am Deptford Designers	3 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	4	5	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting
7 9:30am Worship 11:00am Soup Sunday Peace with Justice Offering 2nd Sun after Pent	8 6:30pm Girl Scouts Meeting	9 9:00am Food Pantry setup HH	10 7:00am Holy Communion 8:30am St. Paul's Food Pantry 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	11	12	13 8:00pm AA meeting
14 Flag Day 9:30am Worship 3rd Sun after Pent	15	16 10:00am Deptford Designers	17 7:00am Holy Communion 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	18	19 Juneteenth	20 8:00pm AA meeting
21 Father's Day 9:30am Worship 10:30am Megan's Pretzel Sunday 4th Sun after Pent Mission offering: Homeless Support	22	23	24 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	25 1:00pm Hurff Renewal of Vows	26 11:30am Red Cross Blood Drive	27 8:00pm AA meeting
28 9:30am Worship 5th Sun after Pent	29	30	1 7:00am Holy Communion 7:00pm NA Mtg 7:30pm Evening Bible Study Zoom	2	3	4 Independence Day 8:00am Men's Breakfast Pistons 8:00pm AA meeting