



The Presbyter

November 2016

The First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit

How do we say thanks?

Thanksgiving and the Christian Life

It was John Calvin, the patron saint of Presbyterians, who declared that “gratitude is the central virtue of the Christian life.” In no way was he downplaying faith, hope, and love. But he was affirming that our faith, hope, and love are always based in our gratitude for God’s work in Jesus Christ.

November is our gratitude month at First Presbyterian Church. Through the month, we will express our thanks to God for the good work that is done among our community of faith. We will reflect together on the legacies of our lives that are still in progress, hear stories of the generous sacrifices of those who make life possible for others, and celebrate the bounty of God’s generosity. It will be a rich and vital month, and we will be looking for you on Sunday mornings for worship.

And we will share what we have with those around us. On November 20, we make two significant offerings: our annual special offering to support the Norton Fund for local friends who find themselves in need, and an offering of song in an afternoon choral concert with our friends from Our Lady of Snows. Please make every effort to take part.



Daylight
savings time
ends on
November 6

*Turn your clocks
back one hour and
enjoy the extra hour*

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Notes from the Session Meeting, October 11, 2016:

1. The church is in need of a baby changing table. If anyone has one, please contact Frank Garnecki, Chair of Building & Grounds.
2. Session members talked about our Stewardship campaign and members are asked to bring their pledge card to church on Sunday, October 30th.
3. The November Session Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, November 15th at 7 p.m.

Prayer & Share Group

Our group meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in room 209.

You are invited to participate. Please consider stopping by.



in the shadow of your wings.

PSALM 17:8

**The Presbyterian deadline for
The December issue is
November 18, 2016**

The Presbyter is a monthly newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church, 300 School Street, Clarks Summit, PA 18411.

All visitors are welcome to worship with us.

Worship services are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Child care is available. Communion is observed the first Sunday of every month.

If you do not attend a church in this area, we invite you to any and all of the events, programs, and worship services described in this newsletter. Please call the church office to arrange child care. Our sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Church Office	(570) 586-6306
Fax	(570) 587-3784
Web Page	www.fpccs.org
Pastor	William G. Carter
Administrative Assistant	Nancy Owens
Coordinator of Children & Youth	Jana Schillinger
Treasurer	Wayne Griffiths
Editor	Lindsey Hardy
Clerk of Session	Beverly Bright
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Director of Bells	Richard Cochrane
Director of Chapel Choir	Kay Ten Eyck
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Sexton	John Conklin

Calling All Keys:

We're looking for church keys that aren't being used anymore.

Are you the chairperson of a session committee, deacons, or other ongoing program?

If you answered **no** to this question, would you please return the church key in your possession.

Somewhere along the way, keys did not get passed from one chairperson to another, and now many of our chairpersons don't have a key to gain admittance to the building to conduct meetings.

Thank you for your help!



**FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FROM YOUR FINANCE COMMITTEE
FOR THE MONTH ENDING September 30, 2016**

REVENUE

Budget	\$ 265,050
Actual Received	<u>241,305</u>
Difference	\$ (23,745)
	=====

EXPENSES

Budget	\$ 264,304
Actual Expenses	<u>248,025</u>
Difference	\$ (16,279)
	=====

BUDGET VARIANCE \$ (7,466)

PLEDGE INCOME

Budget	\$ 240,000
Received	<u>218,270</u>
Difference	\$ (21,730)

Per Capita 2016 total Received to date - \$4,038
The 2016 Church Per Capita due to the Presbytery of Lackawanna, General Assembly, and The Synod = \$16,500.

Dear Friends,

In our September newsletter, I wrote about one of the three all-congregational goals that our Session has set for the next few years. The first goal, "Loving Our Neighbors," was exemplified in our Worship Through Service weekend at the end of September.



Here is our second goal:

- **Well-Being** -- To develop ministries and programs that enhance the spiritual, physical, relational, environmental "fitness" of our congregation and community.

So what is this about? Calisthenics before the sermon? Perhaps this might help, but I suggest something much larger is afoot. "Well-Being" is a comprehensive term. It is much larger than physical health, although it certainly includes that. It is much wider than an absence of conflict, although most of us desire that, too. "Well-Being" is a contemporary expression of the Hebrew word for "salvation." As scholar Wayne Ward writes, "Salvation has always involved the total needs of human beings and is not restricted to a concern about their eternal destiny... (it is) a transformation of life, here and now, and a fulfillment of that life in eternal fellowship with God."

Jesus came to preach and heal. He proclaimed the Good News of God's rule over all of life, and showed that rule by healing the bodies, minds, and hearts of human beings. There was no need too small, nor any need too enormous that he could not address it. Similarly he commissioned his followers to preach and heal.

What would a comprehensive "program" of salvation look like in the Church on the Hill? A lot of things, I suppose. Here is a suggestive list:

- Healthy congregational meals (with recipes!)
- Hikes in the woods with Christian friends
- Blood pressure screenings during coffee hour
- Sermons that address the deepest human needs
- Workshops on how to address and resolve conflict
- Opportunities to build friendships in our midst
- Bicycle rides when the weather is favorable
- Tips for reducing our environmental footprint
- Occasions for group prayer, meditation, reflection, and restorative silence
- Classes on enhancing relationship skills
- Training sessions to build emotional resiliency (ability to "bounce back") and resist illness
- Liturgies of healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation

All of this is included in God's rule over our lives, and none of it is insignificant. And if you would like to help us put together a plan, please get in touch with me! Our lives are too precious in God's sight for us to carry unnecessary burdens or preventable dis-ease.

With you in the journey,

Rev. Bill Carter

MISSION AND JUSTICE

Peace & Global Witness Offering

We are thankful to announce that our congregation contributed \$906 for the Peace and Global Witness offering. 25% of that amount will be given to the Catherine McAuley Center in Scranton to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. 25% will link congregations in ministries of peace and reconciliation throughout presbyteries and synods, and 50 % will be used to advocate for Christ's peace through education in cultures of violence. Thank you for your generosity.

Worship Through Service

Thank you to all who enthusiastically participated in Worship Through Service Day. Your love, joy, and faith was spread throughout our community, and the community celebrated. We have received beautiful notes from those we served, expressing their gratitude and appreciation. We met our goal, lived our faith, touched hearts, and spread peace. Well done.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our Women's Bible Studies are learning about "Who is Jesus?" through different lenses.

Our first lesson saw Jesus through the lens of Mark as our Suffering Savior. Our second lesson saw Jesus through the lens of Matthew as our long-awaited Jewish Messiah that had come. This month we will look at Jesus through the lens of Luke as the prophet of God, rejected by his own, who turns the world upside down with his teachings.

All women are invited to join us at the church at 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. on November 15. Looking forward to seeing you there.



Order Your Poinsettias Now
Price is \$8 per plant.
Deadline: November 23



Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of Flowers _____ @ \$8.00 each

Total Amount Enclosed _____

I will pick up my flowers _____

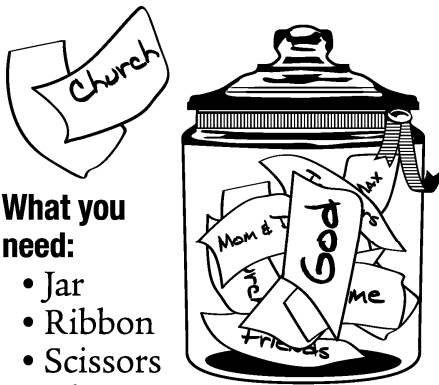
Please give to a shut-in _____

Dedication: In honor of/In memory of _____

Please drop off at church office or in collection plate.

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen

What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.



Blessings from the Lord

Throughout the Bible, God blesses his chosen people. How can we receive these gifts?

Directions: In the word search, find all the words in the box. Then write the words in the correct order on the blanks below to complete the verse.

come you these LORD if blessings you the accompany
Deuteronomy All on your obey will God you and

I	J	T	Z	Z	L	M	X	N	W	C	I	Z	Y	H
X	V	U	B	M	O	O	O	V	I	O	L	T	R	T
N	L	V	L	I	R	A	D	S	L	M	R	H	A	T
B	F	C	E	Z	D	T	X	O	L	E	D	E	L	D
O	S	K	S	L	O	D	A	B	V	G	W	S	L	E
H	G	Y	S	L	R	A	W	E	Y	J	E	E	U	U
I	O	R	I	W	F	I	C	Y	O	U	R	L	R	T
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G	K	D	G	Y	D	M	A	O	O	T	U	F	M	R
C	T	I	S	Z	O	M	T	E	Q	M	P	N	T	O
C	X	C	I	D	U	U	O	L	R	D	P	T	C	N
F	S	X	F	R	T	L	P	M	F	B	L	A	A	O
Y	Y	Y	O	U	H	T	U	A	P	A	I	U	N	M
E	O	K	N	U	E	A	Z	U	F	E	F	B	D	Y
T	Q	U	Y	N	I	N	O	O	V	E	O	T	Z	I

“ All _____ .”

_____ 28:2, NIV

Answer: “All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God.” Deuteronomy 28:2, NIV

Christian Education



It's for life!

THE W.A.Y.The Wednesday Aadults and Youth Christian Education

"I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE"

Supper, 5:00 * Classes for all ages, 6:15

IMPORTANT DATES**Wednesday, November 23** - No WAY Classes. Have a great Thanksgiving!**Sunday, December 4** - Advent Special for all ages, 11:15 Potluck with program to follow.

Spark (Newborn - 3 year old) enjoy Bible stories, songs and games in the nursery. In November they will be learning about how God called Samuel, David is chosen, Solomon builds the temple, and Angels visit Mary.

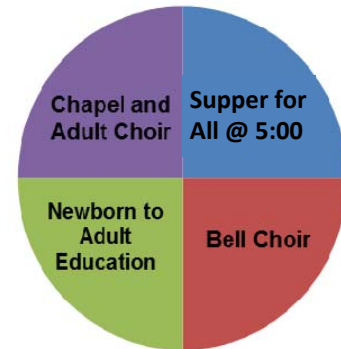
Power Xpress (4 year old - Grade 5) Are divided into two age groups and experience Bible stories through interactive rotation classes. November's units will be David the Boy, Daniel, and Journey to Bethlehem.

We Believe (Grades 6-8) This fall, students will explore a unit called *Knowing God*, answering questions about who God is and who we are as Christians. In November, we will answer: What is the Gospel, According to John? How can God be Known? Does God Love Everyone - even the Devil? and, Does God Ever Get Angry?

PresbyYouth (Grades 9-12 and college-age adults) are encouraged to either join an adult class or participate in the middle school class.

Adults: There will be two classes offered each week. In November, Rev. Carter will teaching the popular "Simply Christian" class in room 206, taking up the topics of "Worship and Prayer," "Scripture," and "Church and New Creation." Dr. Phil Muntzel will lead a three week class in November on the Belhar Confession our newest Presbyterian confession of faith. In this document, the church speaks to racism as a form of human sinfulness, and calls for the social righteousness of God's kingdom.

When the season of Advent commences at the end of November, we will have two adult classes. Rev. Bill will offer a class on resisting the exhaustion and consumerism of the holidays. It's called, "Sabbath as Resistance," and is based on the writings of scholar Walter Brueggemann. Another class will use Christmas carols as the primary text for a course on "Rejoice! Reflections on Seasonal Hymns."

Welcome to Wednesdays**Wednesday Supper Reservations**

Light Supper is served before The Way classes from 5:00-6:10 for those with **reservations**.
Suggested donation: \$3 per person.

Please return reservation slips no later than **Monday**. Slips can be placed in the **basket near the phone in the kitchen** or in the **offering plate**. You may also **call the church office** to make reservations.

Reservations slips can be found in the church office, in the kitchen, or in pews.



Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do...and we need YOU to make it happen.

How? You can enrich your own faith and help our church grow in Christ by:

- ◆ ◆ Attending the W.A.Y. for dinner, classes, and choirs...we want to see you here!
- ◆ ◆ Bringing a friend...new faces are always welcome.
- ◆ ◆ Volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can help our children and adults learn and grow. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.
- ◆ ◆ Helping to set up for, cook, and serve our weekly meal...our church family loves to eat.
- ◆ ◆ Joining the CE committee...our group meets the first Thursday of each month to plan the W.A.Y., youth group, special events, and more — we're always looking to hear from new voices.

Youth Fellowship

All youth grades 4-12 are invited to join
us

Friday, November 4, 5-7PM

for **Pizza and Games**

and

Sunday, November 13, 12:30-2:30PM

for **Indoor Mini-Golf**

Bring a friend!

New faces always welcome.

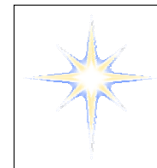
Advent Program

**Discover the promise that the season of
Advent holds!**

Join us on Sunday, December 4th, after
worship.

11:15 Potluck lunch — please bring a main
or side dish to pass.

Program and activity for all ages to follow.



We want your children to join us for a new adventure!

Adventures in the Bible, a Sunday morning gathering for children ages 2-7 and their parent(s) or grandparent(s), has begun, and we are eager to welcome more children to the group. Each week, we will meet from 9:00 - 9:45 in room 111 to

- explore a Bible story,
- bring the story to life with an activity or craft, and
- sing songs of praise.

Feel free to email either Tabbi Miller-Scandle (tabbi.miller-scandle@scranton.edu) or Karis Naeher (klnaeher@outlook.com) with any questions.

Join us to prepare for the next part of the journey . . . worship!

**Adventures in
the Bible**





We meet a week early in November because of Thanksgiving. We will gather at Marie Cochran's home at 7:00 on November 17th to discuss:

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin. In this sweet, uplifting homage to bookstores, Zevin perfectly captures the joy of connecting people and books. A. J. Fikry, the cantankerous owner of Island Books, is despondent after losing his beloved wife and witnessing the ever-declining number of sales at his small, quirky bookstore. In short order, he loses all patience with the new Knightly Press sales rep, his prized rare edition of Tamerlane is stolen, and someone leaves a baby at his store. That baby immediately steals A. J.'s heart and unleashes a dramatic transformation. Suddenly, the picture-book section is overflowing with new titles, and the bookstore becomes home to a burgeoning number of book clubs. With business on the uptick and love in his heart, A. J. finds himself becoming an essential new part of his longtime community, going so far as to woo the aforementioned sales rep (who loves drinking Queequeg cocktails at the Pequod Restaurant). Filled with interesting characters, a deep knowledge of bookselling, wonderful critiques of classic titles, and very funny depictions of book clubs and author events, this will prove irresistible to book lovers everywhere.



The Stephen Ministry logo tells a story—the story of a care receiver's journey from brokenness toward wholeness through the cross of Jesus. It is a journey made possible by "Christ caring for people through people," which is the Stephen Ministry motto.



The Christian Education and Growth Committee will again be working with The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency by providing Pajamas again to several HeadStart centers for the Holidays. More information will be forthcoming in the weekly bulletins.

St. Francis Clothing Center is in need of all types of clean, gently used warm clothing for men and women. Specific needs include jeans, sweatshirts, long sleeve shirts, warm coats, new socks and underwear. Please leave your donations in the box located in fellowship hall. Clothing will be delivered weekly.



New books for the Library

The following books are a gift from Marjorie M. Ash sister of Janet Stansbury:

By: Charles Swindoll

- *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit*
- *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*
- *The Mystery of God's Will "What does He want for me?"*
- *Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*
- *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny*
- *The Grace Awakening*

The
Arts
at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 20, 2016

4:00 pm

All-church recital with First Presbyterian Church (FPC) musical ensembles and special guests from Our Lady of the Snows Church (OLS)

On Sunday, November 20 at 4 pm, you are invited to hear all of our church music ensembles perform along with vocal and instrumental soloists and small ensembles. This event will also feature a guest appearance by **Monsignor Joseph Quinn** and members of the adult choir from Our Lady of the Snows Church in Clarks Summit. Monsignor Quinn will make music with **Bill Carter**, while the adult choirs from both churches will perform together and on their own. The program is under the direction of **Frank Jones**, Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church. Other participants in the concert include the Bell Choir, directed by **Richard Cochrane**, and the Children's Choir, led by **Kay Ten Eyck**, who is church organist and accompanist for the choirs.

This event is open to the public, free of charge, but a free-will offering will be taken to help defray our costs. The Arts at First Presbyterian concert series receives support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts Program (administered by the Pocono Arts Council), a Lackawanna County Arts & Cultural Grant, and numerous individual donors. For more information about the concert, call the church office at 570-586-6306 or visit www.fpccs.org.

Look forward to seeing you there!



Please consider supporting the Arts Series at First Presbyterian Church. Donations may be made payable to:

First Presbyterian Church
300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

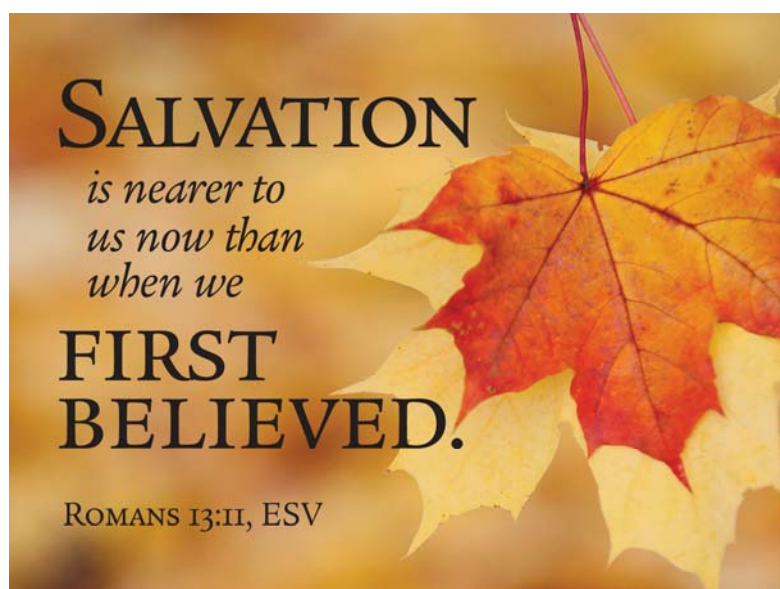


Donors will be recognized in the concert programs.

Joys and Sorrows



Sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Lois Jones who passed away October 7, 2016.



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the cards, notes, thoughts and prayers during this difficult time for our family. It is all very much appreciated.

Steve, Lindsey and Kristen Hardy

THANK YOU to everyone who helped support last month's State Hospital Luncheon. Our next luncheon is scheduled for April 4, 2017. See you then!

Presbyterian Women



Lectionary Readings

November 6

Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 13

Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 20 – Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

November 27 – First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

November Ushers

Marsha Parrish, Ryan Flynn

November Welcomers:

Nov. 6 Alice and Dick Broxton
 Nov. 13 Alice and Dick Broxton
 Nov. 20 Alice and Dick Broxton
 Nov. 27 Sandra and Steuart Bailey

November Communion Team:

Dave Naeher, Captain
 John Conklin
 Meg Hatch
 Bill Davis
 Lee Wirth



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 School Street
Clarks Summit, PA 18411-1536

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Clarks Summit PA

DATED MATERIAL

Return Service Requested



Calling all teachers!

The Wednesday Adulthood and Youth Christian Education Program (the WAY), offers classes for all ages every week. Christian Education is an important part of who we are and what we do — and you can be a part of it! Help us all to grow in Christ by volunteering to teach...at any grade level for any amount of time, you can lead our children and adults in learning and growth. Please prayerfully consider helping with this important ministry.

Contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037 for more information.



Helpers Needed!

The W.A.Y. is looking for people to help with our meals. You are welcome to help once in a while, once a month, or whenever you are able!

You can help by:

Cooking or helping to cook a main dish, providing a salad, providing a dessert, helping with setup, or helping with cleanup.

If so, contact Nancy Dennen at (570) 407-1037.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>NOVEMBER</p>		<p>7 am—AA 1 10 am—PW Board 7 pm—Big Book 7 pm—OA</p>	<p>7 am—AA 2 11am-Prayer/Share 5 pm—WAY supper 5:30—Chapel Ch 6:15—CE classes 7:15—Adult Ch 8:30—Bell Ch</p>	<p>7 am—AA 3 8:30am-Men's Brkfst 3 pm-rehearsal (sanc.) 7—Building/Grounds 7—Christian Ed</p>	<p>7 am—AA 4 3 pm—rehearsal (sanctuary) 5 pm — Youth Gp.</p>	<p>7 am—AA 5</p>
<p>6 7 am—AA 9 am-Adv in Bible 10 am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 3 pm-OA Daylight Savings Time Ends</p>	<p>7 7 am—AA 7 pm-Mission & Justice</p>	<p>8 7 am—AA 10 am—MBK Quilts 4 pm—Art Class 4 pm—Big Book 7 pm—OA</p>	<p>9 7 am—AA 11am-Prayer/Share 1 pm—LP COM 5 pm-WAY supper 5:30-Chapel Ch 6:15-CE classes 7:15-Adult Ch 8:30-Bell Ch</p>	<p>10 7 am—AA 4:30 pm—Staff</p>	<p>11 7 am—AA</p>	<p>12 7 am—AA 9 am- Adopt-A-Highway</p>
<p>13 7 am—AA 9 am-Adv.in Bible 10 am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 12:30-Youth Gp</p>	<p>14 7 am—AA 7 pm-Worship, Music, Art</p>	<p>15 7 am—AA 10, 1:30, 7—Circles 4 pm—Art Class 7 pm—Session 7 pm—Big Book 7 pm—OA</p>	<p>16 11am-Prayer/Share 5 pm-WAY supper 5:30-Chapel Ch 6:15 CE classes 7:15-Adult Ch 8:30-Bell Ch</p>	<p>17 7 am—AA 8:30am-Men's Brkfst 6:30pm-Fellowship 7:00 pm—Book Gp</p>	<p>18 7 am—AA Presbyter Deadline</p>	<p>19 7 am—AA</p>
<p>20 7 am—AA 9am-Adv.in Bible 10 am-Worship 11 am-Alternative Gift Mkt 11:15 Confirmation 3 pm—OA 4 pm—Arts Series: Church Recital</p>	<p>21 7 am—AA</p>	<p>22 7 am—AA 4 pm—Art Class 7 pm—Big Book 7 pm—OA</p>	<p>23 7 am—AA 11am-Prayer/Share 7:15 pm-Adult Ch 8:30—Bell Ch.</p>	<p>24 7 am—AA Thanksgiving -----Church Office is closed. -----</p>	<p>25 7 am—AA</p>	<p>26 7 am—AA</p>
<p>27 7 am—AA 9am-Adv. in Bible 10 am-Worship 11:15-Confirmation 3 pm-OA</p>	<p>28 7 am—AA</p>	<p>29 7 am—AA 4 pm—Art Class 7 pm—Deacons 7 pm—Big Book</p>	<p>30 7 am—AA 9 am—Presbyter 11 am-Prayer/Share 5 pm-WAY supper 5:30-Chapel Ch 6:15—CE Classes 7:15—Adult Ch. 8:30—Bell Ch.</p>			