

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET
KITTANNING PA 16201
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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COME WORSHIP
WITH US,
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS

Monthly Messenger



MAY 2009



**JUNE NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,
MAY 12, 2009**

CHURCH STAFF
PASTOR: Dr. Allyn L. Ricketts, Ph. D
CHURCH SECRETARY: Audrey Green
ORGANIST: Nick Snow
SEXTON: Valerie Kachur
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Barb Gaughan
MESSENGER VOLUNTEERS:
Carolyn Gallaher, Sally Krozely
June Pollard, Donna Hinger
Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM,

CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312
E-MAIL: fumchurch@windstream.net
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RAINBOW ROAD: 724-548-7569



CONSTANTLY UNDERESTIMATED

As we continue to think about aspects of the Christian faith that are underestimated, it is a bit surprising that the most basic of our beliefs is often underestimated. The world often seems to think that we are merely affirming the existence of God like all other theists. Many seem to assume that we believe in some general force behind all things or an ultimate cause of all things, maybe even a spirit being that is really just our way of explaining what we cannot explain otherwise. But the God worshiped by Christians is much more specific and much more dynamic than some general, concept of a first cause. God is more than what we find at the end of an argument though I believe the arguments for God's existence are useful and interesting; and I would think that, since there is only one God, the God they prove to exist is the God of the Bible. Yet this God is seen as too limited by those who would deny his existence.

Many in our culture think of God as only an abstract idea and do not seem to understand that we are claiming that this God actually exists, has being, or more accurately "is" being: all that is comes from God. And we are also claiming that this God's reality is not ultimately debatable. Based on Romans 1 we submit that people know in their hearts that the God of the Bible is real. They may do all they can to suppress that knowledge, but it is real.

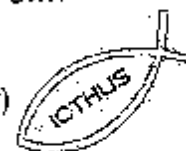
The God of the Bible is bigger than most people even imagine. God is not the impersonal force of eastern mysticism. God is as big as that force, that oneness, in that God is infinite, unbounded, unlimited, but the God of the Bible, beyond all that eastern mysticism can imagine, is personal. God loves, cares, thinks, creates, plans, communicates, knows beauty and acts on behalf of his creatures. This personal aspect of God is what the Greeks

and the Romans as well as modern Mormons were attempting to get to with their finite and numerous gods. But they missed the awesome vastness of one unique unbounded all powerful God who is capable of being the God of all creation. Their gods are and were too small to actually make promises like "All things work together for good" since they are not powerful enough to be sure they can back up such a promise. The God of the Bible faces no power that can hinder his will or thwart his intentions. God speaks and it is so. Now there is a God you can trust.

The world mocks Christians for thinking that God can care about their little prayers. "Why, God has galaxies and stars, wars and famines, nations and planets to consider. He does not have time to hear your prayer for some little sickness or minor problem in your insignificant life. But they underestimate what infinite means. Because God is unbounded in all things, God can know you as if no one else in the world existed and can dedicate the time and energy to your life as one of his children as if that were all he had to do in the universe - just exactly because he is limitless he can care personally.

These are hard ideas to get into our heads and into our lives but they are the claims of the Christian faith. Most of the time when people think they are opposing the God of the Bible they are actually opposing a god of their own making. Our God is much greater.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)
Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)
Allyn



OLDER ADULT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

A part of our service on May 17th will be the recognition of older adults in our fellowship and in the service of the church. Join us for this special time of worship.



WORSHIP FOR MAY 2009

May 3, 2009

11:00 AM

Sermon:



May 10, 2009, Mothers Day

11:00 AM Communion, Choir

Sermon: A Pool Run Dry, Nahum 2

May 17, 2009

11:00 AM. Hymn Sing.

Older Adult Recognition Sunday

Ezekiel 37:21-23, John 15:9-17

Sermon: A War of Judgement, Nahum 3



May 24, 2009

11:00 AM, Choir

Psalm 1, Titus 3:4-11

Sermon: The Goal is Love,

1 Timothy 1:1-11

LOVE

May 31, 2009

11:00 AM, Pentecost



GET A GRIP!!!

Have you ever had one of those days when someone thought they needed to bring you back to reality by saying "get a grip"? We have placed the following description of our mission in the newsletter so often we are wondering how many of us have actually gotten hold of it. This is our mission - how are you participating in it? Grab hold and come along with us as we follow Jesus in the great commission. Are you helping us to...

I--Invite and challenge people to come to faith. [EVANGELISM]

C--Celebrate God's presence through powerful worship.

[WORSHIP]

TH--be Thoroughly equipped for your walk of faith.

[CHRISTIAN EDUCATION]

U--Use the gifts God has given you to serve. [DISCIPLESHIP]

S--Set aside a portion of your personal resources to be returned to God. [STEWARDSHIP]



MAY



ACOLYTES

3 Hayley Hoffman & Frailey Scaife
10 Dominic & Hannah Hoffman
17 Noelle Lemons & Ellen Williamson
24 Tim Hellein & Katie Fox
31 Alyssa Krozely & Theresa Crouse

COUNTERS

3 Ternent
10 Stubbs
17 Flanders
24 Scaife
31 Thomas



NURSERY

3 Suzanne Hogamier
10 Melissa Flanders
17 Sarah Heckert
24 Carol Wolfe
31 Natalie Green



USHERS

3 Aldersgate/Glenn Krozely
10 Aldersgate/Glenn Krozely
17 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
24 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
31 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson



SOUND SYSTEM

3 Glenn Krozely
10 Jalissa Muir
17 Katie Fox
24 Greg Lemons
31 Chris Toy



READERS

3 Communion
10 Mert Hellein
17 Bill Waters
24 Larry McKelvey
31 Janessa Muir



Let everything
that has
breath praise
the LORD.
Psalm 150:3

JUST A REMINDER

Have you remembered First Church in your will? What a powerful way to recognize God's goodness in a lasting way.

Begin Tuesday, May 26th
Monday-Thursday 8:00-12:00



Summer
Office Hours



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The last week of regular Sunday School will be May 31. Normally we supply some materials to the children to work on with their parents over the summer. This year as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our church building, we are going to have a photo scavenger hunt instead. Each participant will receive a small photo album (and disposable camera if needed) and a list of places or things to take pictures of and write about, that will help us celebrate our anniversary. If children are working towards their "perfect" Sunday Attendance pin, they need to participate in this scavenger hunt. Any others interested in getting the directions and photo album, please see Sue Hankey. We'll have these albums available to look at during the Fall anniversary celebrations.



On Monday, May 11th Jarrod will be receiving his kidney transplant at the New Children's Hospital in Lawrenceville (Pittsburgh). We are so blessed and grateful for all of the cards we have received and prayers. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Peace be with you,
The Danka Family
Edward, Tracey, Devon & Jarrod

MEMO

SUMMER WORSHIP

We have a special summer coming up.

First of all, from June 7th through September 6th, our Sunday worship time will be at 10:00 AM.

Second, from May through September, Communion will be on the **SECOND SUNDAY** of the month. In May this is due to the retreat on the first weekend, the rest of the summer it is due to....

Third, as part of our celebration of "Century on the Corner" worship on the first Sunday of the month from June through September will be outside. In the spirit of the old camp meetings of 100 years ago these will be informal, come as you are, services. The worship team hopes you will invite your neighbors and friends to these outdoor services, especially since we are planning some special musical guests.

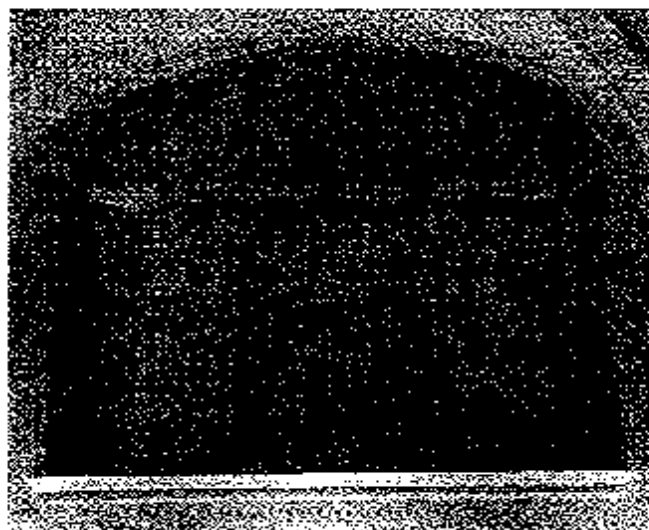
STAINED GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION



The look of the stained glass windows does not seem to change as we look at them from week to week. As their age approaches 100 years, like most things, the windows have gradually changed and deteriorated with age. The aging process weakens or breaks the lead joints causing the glass to shift and crack, eventually the window begins to bow causing more pressure and damage. There have been at least four window experts that have told us that it is time to give the windows a much needed renovation. Each has recommended taking the windows out and rebuilding them.

If it has not already, the window in the Vine Street side of the church will be replaced with plywood for the summer while the Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Company restores the window. This restoration process involves removing the window in sections, packing it in boxes, and transporting it to a workplace where skilled workers will return it to its original condition. A rubbing will be made of each layer of the window so each piece of glass can be cleaned and replaced in the proper spot. Supporting bars will be reconditioned or replaced. All new lead will be placed between the pieces of glass including some new pieces to join broken glass. Painted pieces of glass will be carefully cleaned and repainted as needed. A sealing compound will be rubbed into the joints where the lead meets the glass. The window will once again be cleaned, packed in crates, and returned to Kittanning to be replaced into the window frame. The window will once again be able to tell its story both inside and outside of the church building.

Written by Tim Scaife, a member of the Stained Glass Window Restoration Committee.



WINDOW RESTORATION COMMITTEE

The Good Shepherd window has now been taken out. In its place is plywood painted to match the sanctuary. The windows will be making the trip to Minnesota soon for the historic restoration process. The Good Shepherd window will be back by October for our celebration. Meanwhile we are continuing to accept donations for the Good Samaritan Window.



YOUTH PLANNING EVENING

On Sunday evening May 17th we will have an evening of planning and dreaming about the future of youth ministry. Our Christian Education team, with all of its new at large members, will meet at 6:00 to talk about upcoming events and our Sunday School. Then at 7:00 **everyone**, adults and youth, are invited to come and think specifically about our youth group and future youth ministry-- what to do, when to do it, what ages to invite, leadership, etc., etc.



MAY SIFT LUNCHEON

DATE: Thursday, May 21, 2009

Annual picnic—Details to be announced
Environmental Learning Center, Crooked Creek

RESERVATIONS: Due by noon,
Monday, May 18th

By calling the church office 724-548-4312.

2009 PATTON SCHOLARSHIPS

The applications for the 2009 Margaret M. Patton Foundation Scholarships are available in the church office. We have not heard from the foundation yet, but need to let applicants get the process started since we need to have the application back in and completed by May 17th.

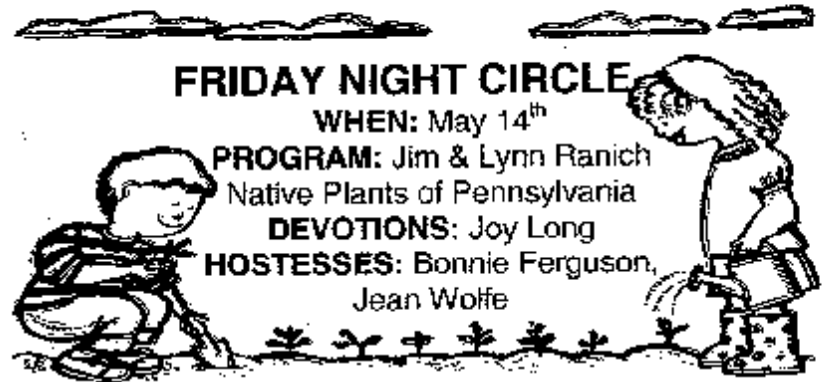


GRADUATING SENIORS

Please let the office know if you are graduating this year so we can plan for our senior Sunday which will be June 7th.

CANS FOR VBS

In the past month (through April 15th) we received 1980 cans for our 2009 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2008 is 27,048 cans. Thank you to those who brought in cans. Please continue to save or start saving aluminum cans for VBS/Habitat. All kinds of aluminum cans—pop, fruit juice, tea, health drinks and beer cans. Drop your cans off at the church ramp anytime. Thank you, The Can Man



FRIDAY NIGHT CIRCLE

WHEN: May 14th

PROGRAM: Jim & Lynn Ranich
Native Plants of Pennsylvania

DEVOTIONS: Joy Long

HOSTESSES: Bonnie Ferguson,
Jean Wolfe

FLEA MARKET

Remember to save items for the annual flea market as you spring clean. It will be held on Saturday, August 29th. Donations will be collected after the Folk Festival (**Please no clothing donations**).



DINNER REPORT

During the six 2009 Lenten Fish Dinners we served 1581 dinners which was second in numbers to the 1632 dinners served in 1995.

This year as a community outreach project we gave free dinners to 47 needy people who were selected by the Armstrong Community Action Agency.

We thank the 40 different people who came and worked 1 or more of the dinners and also the 31 pie bakers who supplied 268 pies.

After the expenses were paid, we cleared nearly \$4800, some of which will be used to purchase supplies and other start up expenses for the Folk Festival. The rest will be given to the Church Finance Committee. Thanks again to everyone who helped, The Activities Committee



THANK YOU'S



Dear Friends,

I hope you know how much I appreciate your cards, thoughts, and especially your prayers while I was in the hospital. A special thanks to Pastor Ricketts for his visit at the hospital. I am starting to feel a little stronger finally. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Judy Hilty



Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.



The Arnold Black Family,
Darr, Carol & Patrick Wolfe

We at the Armstrong County Chapter of the American Red Cross want to thank all the volunteers who participated in the blood drive at the First United Methodist Church. Your kindness and efforts are truly appreciated not only by the Board and Staff of the Armstrong County Chapter but also by your community.

American Red Cross



To Friends from FUMC,

Thank you for the cards & phone calls. Also, the women's fellowship and the Friday Night Circle a special Thank You.

Donna



New
in the
Library

WELCOME OUR NEW LIBRARIAN

The library of First United Methodist Church welcomes the newest librarian! Brenda Buzzinotti has taken over the library position from Natalie Green. We look forward to working with Brenda in the library.

CENTURY CLIP



First Church Plaques

1921- A Bronze Plaque was placed outside the church between the main doors on Jefferson Street bearing the names of our boys in World War I - 58 blue stars...2 of them turned to gold (deceased).

1947- On June 15, a Bronze Plaque was placed at the back of the Sanctuary which says: "In thankfulness to God for the safe return of all men and women (107) of this church serving their country in World War II, we dedicate this tablet".

1991- On Memorial Day, the Bronze Plaque was unsealed with a list of persons serving in the Armed Forces since World War II being added and resealed.

1991- A Plaque was placed at the back of the Sanctuary honoring the persons of this congregation who have served or are serving in God's Ministry: CLIFFORD E. BUELL, WALTER N. FROYE, BRADFORD L. LAUSTER, JARED J. RARDIN, and WILLIAM J. STARR (additions since 1991: JACQUELINE D. BISH, NANCY JOINER REINERT and CHRISTOPHER D. HECKERI).
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5 Beverly Paulin
10 Ellen Williamson
11 George Stubbs
12 Karen Ricketts
15 Sam Luke
16 Tim Buffone
16 Janet McKelvey
16 Harry "Pat" Wolfe
19 Esther Kiss



21 Dave Gallaher
21 Roni Morda
21 Russell Pickett
22 Martha Anne Bowser
22 Gail Blaney
23 Aryn Ricketts
25 Milly Tarr
26 Jack Scaife (80th)
27 Justin Schrecongost



ANNIVERSARIES

8 Norm & Donna King (58 years)
11 Mark & Christine Porter
16 Bill & Laurie Lemons
18 Bob & Brenda Buzzinotti
26 Billy & Julie Heigley



Carle Beers was born March 31, 2009
to Brenda & Wayne Beers.

We extend our Christian compassion and concern to:
~Marcia (Kevin) Williamson and her family on the death
of her mother, Carol Jack who passed away Thursday,
April 9, 2009. Carol was the grandmother of Amanda &
Bethany.

~Patrick (Erin) Bashline and his family on the death of
his grandmother, Patricia Bashline who passed away on
Sunday, April 12, 2009. Patricia was the great
grandmother of Ashlynn Moore.



Just for

KIDS

"A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found → ← ↓ ↑ ↘. There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

myrrh	aloes	cassia	ramt	dill
lentil	apple trees	crocus	harley	cucumbers
balsam trees	melons	leeks	onions	garlic
oak trees	wheat	figs	mustard	grain
pomegranates	olive trees	beans	millet	cane
almonds	cinnamon	pistachio nuts	rose of Sharon	
lily of the valley				

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

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

ANNUAL LADIES SPRING BANQUET

Saturday, May 16th at 5:30 PM
In the Covenant Center

Dinner will include: Salad, Lasagna,
Dinner Roll, Vegetable and Dessert



Adults: \$10.95

Children 5-12 years: \$5.50

Children under 5: Free

Entertainment to include:

Leechburg Taiko Group

&

Leechburg Advanced Choir

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, May 10th

Please reserve the following for me:

Name: _____

Number of Adults

Number of children

5-12 years

Number of children under 5 years.

GENTLEMEN



It's that time of year again and your
assistance has been requested at the

ANNUAL LADIES SPRING BANQUET

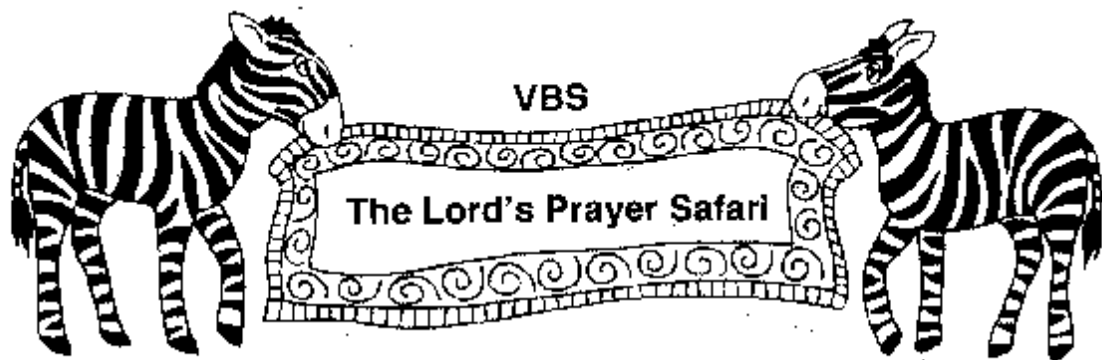
to serve and clean up on Saturday, May
16th. The meal will be served at 5:30 PM
but we'll need you there by 4:15 PM to
help set up tables, chairs, etc..

Please sign up below if you can help. See
Kim Yankasky at church or call her at 724-
763-8328 or the church at 724-548-4312

I/We _____ will
be glad to help with the banquet.

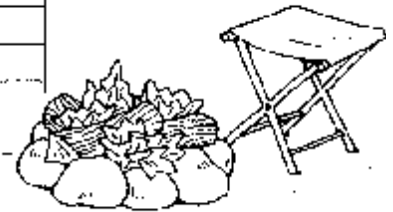
Telephone Number

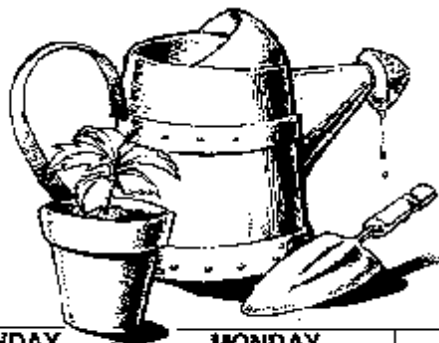
Thank you for all your help in the past.



It's time to mark your calendars and start thinking about the warm days of summer and the fun of Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held the week of July 13-17th from 9 AM to noon. This year we will go on a jungle safari and learn the words and meaning of the Lord's Prayer. While we learn, we'll have some jungle fun, discover some wild animals that live in the jungle, make some jungle animal crafts, play some wild games, have some tasty snacks and learn some fun songs. If you would be willing to help with VBS, please call or email the church office (724-548-4312), return this form, or contact Sue Hankey (724-545-1656). Thank you for your past and future help with this children's program.



GAMES LEADER	MUSIC LEADER
GAMES HELPER (3)	MUSIC HELPER
CRAFT HELPER (3)	SNACK HELPER (3)
PRESCHOOL HELPERS (3)	CREW LEADER (10)
Name	Phone





MAY



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 ALL CHURCH RETREAT	2 ALL CHURCH RETREAT 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
3 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship ALL CHURCH RETREAT	4 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:00 PM Rainbow Road Open House 6:30 PM Trustees	5 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:30 PM Women Fellowship	6 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	7 8:00 AM OVR-CC	8	9 9:00 AM Shower-Sarahne-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
10  9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion	11 7:00 PM End of Rainbow Sanctuary & CC	12 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM AM Vets-CC	13 6:00 PM Worship Team 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	14 1:00 PM 100th Anniversary Team 7:00 PM Friday Night Circle-CC	15	16 5:30 PM Ladies Banquet 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
17 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 6:00 PM Christian Ed. 7:00 PM Youth Planning	18 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM ARC-CC	19 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	20 7:00 PM Choir 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	21 12:00 PM SIFT-CC	22 LAST DAY RAINBOW ROAD	23 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
24 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	25 	26 8:30 AM 3R'S 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	27 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	28	29	30 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
31 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship						

