

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

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**Monthly Messenger**



**MAY 2010**



**JUNE NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,  
MAY 18, 2010**

**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 Hidingier  
Linda Scaife, Carol Wolfe

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:30 AM**

**WORSHIP: 11:00 AM,**

**CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312**

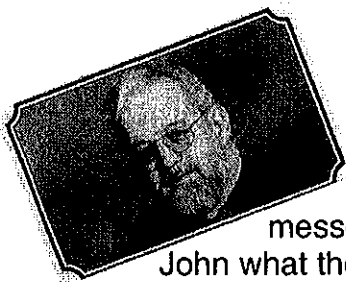
**PARSONAGE: 724-543-4808**

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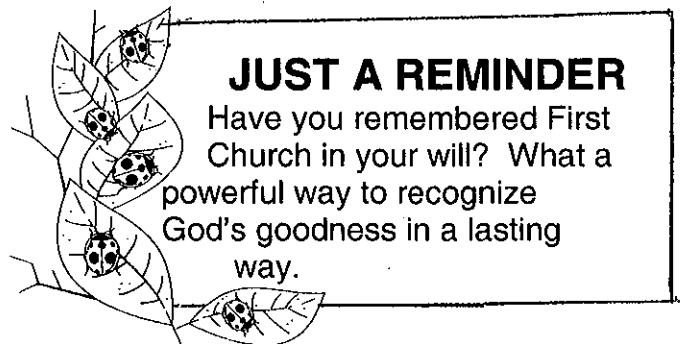
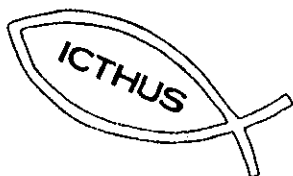
## HEAVEN TAKEN BY STORM

One of the more difficult verses in the Bible to understand is Matthew 11:12. While in prison, John the Baptist heard of what Jesus was doing and he sent messengers to ask Jesus if he was the messiah. Jesus tells them to go and report to John what they saw and heard, "the blind receive sight and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." As the messengers prepare to return to John Jesus takes the opportunity to praise John and his work but then adds, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by storm." In Luke 16:16 Jesus said, "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John, since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and every one is forcing his way into it." Well what in the world does all this mean?

In 1810 a Puritan by the name of Thomas Watson published a book entitled Heaven Taken by Storm. In this little book he shares a unique understanding of this verse in a way that encourages and challenges the Christian life. I would like to share a little from that book for the next few months. The word 'violence' tends to disturb us in this passage, and this may not be the best time to discuss such a use of language since we live in a day when any time you disagree with someone you can be accused of inciting violence. [Just today I heard of a reporter for the New York Times who went to one of the Tea Party events and then wrote an article on its open racism, even calling it a "minstrel show" but when challenged he admitted that he never talked to anyone at the event and could not name one thing that was done or said that was racist.]

But violence is a negative word for us. Just what is Jesus saying here? Watson suggests a couple of things about the violence in this passage. First, what this violence is not. It is not an ignorant violence. We are not "to be violent for that which we do not understand." He suggests that the zeal we are to have for the faith is to be based on the light of knowledge. Second, AND MOST IMPORTANT, "it excludes a bloody violence" and by this he means two things. First, that we do no physical violence to ourselves. There is no spiritual benefit to the notion of harming our physical bodies as some have taught. Second, that we do no physical violence to others. In our day we use the word violence pretty much only for physical violence to others and that is why this verse bothers us. If this is not the meaning of violence here then just what are we talking about? First, Watson says, it is a violence for the truth. "Truth is either the blessed Word of God which is called the Word of truth, or those doctrines which are deduced from the Word,...as the doctrine of the Trinity, the doctrine of creation, the doctrine of free grace, justification by the blood of Christ, regeneration, resurrection of the dead, and the life of glory." But what does it mean to be "violent" for this truth. "These truths we must be violent for, which is either by being advocates for them or martyrs." We will defend these truths with passion and any real violence done will only be our own martyrdom. So, Watson sees Jesus using the word 'violent' here much more like we use the word 'passion.' (In my dictionary they are listed as synonyms.) So, we are passionate for the truth and he adds we are passionate [violent] for our own salvation. We will see in the coming months that in 2010 no less than 1810 it is time for God's people to be passionate once again for the things of God.

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



# WORSHIP FOR MAY 2010

**May 2, 2010**

11:00 AM, Communion

**Sermon: A White Lie?**

**Genesis 12:10-20**



**May 9, 2010**

11:00 AM, Mother's Day

Proverbs 15:12-18, II Peter 2:4-9

**Sermon: Choices Matter**

**Genesis 13:1-13**



**May 16, 2010**

11:00 AM, Ashland Choir

Exodus 32:9-14, Romans 4:1-8

**Sermon: One Star Was Lit for You**

**Genesis 15**



**May 23, 2010**

11:00 AM, Confirmation, Pentecost

Exodus 29:38-43, Hebrews 11:17-19

**Sermon: The Lord Will Provide**

**Genesis 22:1-19**



**May 30, 2010**

11:00 AM, Memorial Day, Trinity Sunday

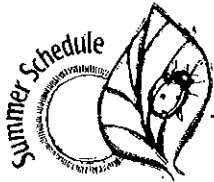
Hosea 12:1-6, Hebrews 12:14-17

**Sermon: At What Price?**

**Genesis 25:19-34**



Our confirmation and new member's service will be on Pentecost Sunday May 23. Plan to be with us for this special Sunday.



The worship team has planned a special summer schedule similar to last year. Starting June 6 and going through Labor Day worship will be at 10:00. The first Sunday of June, July, August and September will be outside with an informal old time camp meeting feel and some special music. So plan your schedule now and be part of this more relaxed season of worship together.



## ACOLYTE

2 Hayley Hoffman  
9 Sierra Aires  
16 Hannah Hoffman  
23 Dominic Hoffman  
30 Noelle Lemons

## READERS

2 Communion  
9 Rachel Ricketts  
16 Susie Reefer  
23 Mert Hellein  
30 Janet McKelvey



## NURSERY

2 Carolyn Gallaher  
9 Kelly Hoffman  
16 Linda Powell  
23 Kathy Coleman  
30 Crystal Flanders

## SOUND SYSTEM

2 Glenn Krozely  
9 John Yankasky  
16 Jalissa Muir  
23 Katie Fox  
30 Greg Lemons



## USHERS

2 Wesley/Roy Williamson  
9 Wesley/Roy Williamson  
16 Albright/Dan Wolfe  
23 Albright/Dan Wolfe  
30 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski

## COUNTERS

2 Ternent  
9 Stubbs  
16 Flanders  
23 Scaife  
30 Krozely



We sadly note the passing of our organist, **Nick Snow**, early Saturday morning of natural causes following surgery.

Nick has been our organist since 1964. He played for our church services, weddings, funerals and special activities. He held his own recitals in other communities and taught piano and organ lessons. He had a great sense of humor and could easily make you smile or laugh.

Our services were special because of Nick's mastery of the organ. Well beyond the traditional organ, Nick brought a wide range of music from trumpets to harpsichord, always at just the right moment. His gift to each service was always a highpoint of our worship experience.

Nick will be missed by all at First Church, his students and everyone who knew him. A Memorial Service will be held at First Church within the next few weeks. Condolences may be sent to his sister, Patricia Anne Miro, 17410 Stonebelt Dr., Houston TX 77073.

# FINANCE UPDATE

There is some good news to report this month. For the month of March, we exceeded our stewardship budget needs by \$2793, with total month stewardship totaling \$18,975. This helped to increase the balance in the general fund (as of March 31) from -\$5810 to -\$4190, and our year-to-date shortfall was \$4097, or 8%. We are not out of the woods yet, but we are headed in the right direction. As of this writing, the figures for April also look encouraging. Because of these factors, the Finance Committee decided to postpone any changes to the budget, opting to wait and see if the increased stewardship is a trend that will continue.

We would like to thank everyone who has given faithfully to our ministries and encourage all to consider all the ways that first church is able to provide outreach as a result of our stewardship. Let's all do what we can to help ensure that these can continue and grow.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE



*You Can't Outgive God.*

## GOOD SAMARITAN WINDOW UPDATE

A big thank you to all who donated on the promotional Sunday of the Good Samaritan Window, a great service. Thank you to Sue Hankey and the children's church choir for their song about the Good Samaritan and for sending us home with Hershey's hugs and kisses. Also, thank you to the choir and Nick for leading us in the singing of the Jericho Road song. We now have a total of over \$25,000 with \$3000.00 coming in on Good Samaritan Sunday. If you were not able to attend but wish to donate, an envelope is enclosed in this newsletter. As in the past we again say thank you. Now thank we all our God  
Window Committee

*Be a "Good Samaritan" everyday! Share a hug; share a kiss; share a smile; love your neighbor; help someone in need.*

## Church is Not a Spectator Sport!

As a church we have a mission. It is summed up in the five areas below. How are you helping each area to improve in our church? This is our mission - how are you participating in it? 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]



## CANS FOR VBS 2010

In the past month (through April 15<sup>th</sup>) we received 2452 cans for our 2010 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2009 is 22,341 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.

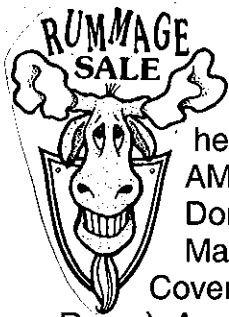
**HELP!** We are 4707 cans behind April 15<sup>th</sup> of last year. Thank you, The Can Man

## LENTEN DINNERS

Despite the heavy snow in late February, we had a very successful six Lenten Fish Dinners. A total of over 1550 meals were served, from which we made \$5518.84 after all expenses were paid.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, \$3000 was given to the church Finance Committee and the rest will be used for start-up expenses for the Folk Festival (July 29<sup>th</sup>-August 1<sup>st</sup>).

Many, many thanks to all who helped at the dinners, the---bakers of the 254 pies, and those who donated other food items.



The rummage sale (formerly known as the flea market) will be held on Saturday, June 5th from 8:00 AM -1:00 PM in the Covenant Center. Donations will be accepted May 2nd-May 30th in the Gleaner's Room in the Covenant Center (room closest to Ladies Room). As usual, **WE WILL NOT ACCEPT CLOTHING DONATIONS** Thank You!

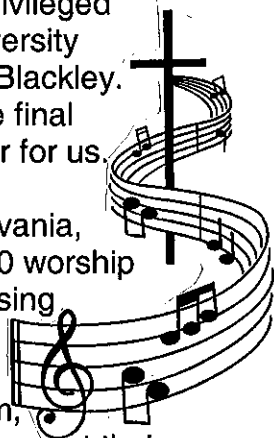


### THE LOST DOGS IN CONCERT

Very few of you will be familiar with the name 'The Lost Dogs' but if you are a person who likes what is called 'Americana' music – which is a blend of folk, country, rock, gospel, and just good story songs then you have some idea of what this group does: though you never quite know what to expect with The Lost Dogs. If you like three part harmony and if you like to watch excellent musicians then this could be an interesting concert for you. (I have seen few better guitar players than Mike Roe.) A few of us are already planning on going to the concert at Charter Oak United Methodist Church in Greensburg Wed. evening May 19th at 7:00. Cost is \$10 (\$5 for students). See Pastor Ricketts and we will work out some rides.

### ASHLAND CHOIR CONCERT

On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> we are privileged to be hosting the Ashland University Choir directed by Dr. Rowland Blackley. The choir will be performing the final concert of their spring 2010 tour for us. They will be returning from performances in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. During the 11:00 worship service the fifty voice choir will sing several selections for us. At 12:00 we will enjoy a congregational dinner with them, and then at 2:00 the choir will present their complete concert. Mark your calendar and plan to be part of this special event!



### ANGEL

Up in Heaven, a child was ready to be born. The child asked God "I know you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how can I survive there? I am so small and helpless".

God replied, "I have chosen a special angel for you there. She will always love you and take care of you."

"Here in Heaven, Lord, I don't do anything but sing and smile. What will I do on earth? I won't know how to sing the songs down there."

"Your Angel will sing for you," God replied, "and she'll teach you how to sing too." "And you'll learn how to laugh as well as smile. Your angel and I will take care of that."

"But how will I understand what people say to me? I don't know a single word of the language they speak."

"Your angel will say the sweetest things you will ever hear, and she will teach you, word by word, how to speak the language."

"And when I want to talk to you?"

"Your Angel will gently place your little hands together and teach you how. That's the simplest language of all. It's called prayer."

"Who will protect me there, God?"

"Your angel is soft and gentle, but if something threatens you, there is no stronger force on earth than the power she'll use to defend you."

"I'll be sad, not getting to see you anymore."



"I will always be next to you, even though you can't see me. And your Angel will teach you the way to come back to me if you stray."

Then it was time to go. Excited voices could be heard from the earth, anticipating the child's arrival. In a hurry the babe asked softly, "Oh God! if I must go, please tell me my Angel's name."

And God replied, "You will call your Angel Mommy."

Anonymous


*Happy Mother's Day*

 **THANK YOU'S** 

Dear First Church,

We would like to thank you all for the many cards, thoughts of us and especially the prayers for Leroy. It has been such a comfort during this time.


Also, much appreciation to Pastor Ricketts for his visits to our home & hospital. May god Bless,

 Leroy & Patricia Snow

To All Our Friends,


Jack and I want to thank all of you for your friendship and support through all the years of living in the Kittanning area. Thank you for letting us be part of God's family with you.

We will miss all of you and will think of you with fond memories.

 Jack & Diane Heim

Dear Fellow Church Friends,

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers while I was in the hospital, for surer! I greatly enjoyed the cards and visits while I was homebound. The kind and heartfelt words are deeply appreciated! It's nice to know that my family and I are in your thoughts throughout the year, especially during the holidays. As I continue to heal, I pray that everything is well at church.

 May God Bless You, Donna Hidingier

**GRADUATES---**

All graduating seniors please contact the church office to let us know you are graduating and if you will be with us Sunday, June 6th for graduation Sunday breakfast and service. Breakfast this year for graduates and their families will be at Theresa's Royal Allegheny at 8:30 AM.



**ATTENTION ALL**

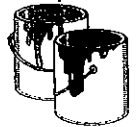


**ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS**

The First Church-sponsored covenant Center Art Show (our 17<sup>th</sup>) will be July 29<sup>th</sup> thru August 1<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with the Fort Armstrong Folk Festival.

Application blanks may be picked up at the church office or by calling the church 724-548-4312 to have one put in the mail to you.

Now is the time to get busy with brushes or cameras.



**DID YOU EVER WANT TO PAINT A SHIP?**

Preparing for VBS takes a lot of time, this year we are trying something new, a VBS work day. Have you ever thought about doing the scenery, helping with crafts, etc. but thought it was way too much work? Well, it is a lot of work for **ONE** person so here is your chance to do a little part of scenery, crafts or other odds and ends and have some fun and fellowship at the same time. We have scheduled a work day for Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 9:00 AM. If you can paint (pretty much in the lines), color, trace, outline, cut, etc. then we have a job for you. All you have to do is show up in the Covenant Center (with old clothes on) all supplies will be provided for each project. You don't have to sign up ahead of time, but if you know you will be there let Sue or Audrey know. So come help paint a ship and a whole lot more. Thank You.



**GOLF OUTINGS**

Our regular Tuesday evening golf outings will start May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will tee off at Cabin Greens at 5:30. This is not a league so everyone is invited to come when you can and every ability level is welcome. Some walk and some ride come and have some fun or at least some laughs watching the rest of us. Once we meet we can discuss if we want to take an occasional trip to another course or stay at Cabin Greens.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Beverly A. Paulin
- 7 Cody Weibel
- 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
- 20 Darlene Hebb
- 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
- 27 Justin Schrecengost



## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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



## MARCH WEDDING

Congratulations to Tony & Robyn Green. Tony and Robyn were married on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at First Church. Tony is the son of Audrey and Bernie Green.



*We extend our Christian compassion and concern to George (Ruth) Stubbs on the death of his sister, Helen McGinty. Helen passed away on Thursday, April 1, 2010.*

# GIRLS!

Congratulations to Karen & Josh Ricketts on the birth of a daughter, Kylie Ruth Ricketts on Sunday, March 21, 2010. Kylie was 8 lbs 12 oz and 21 inches long at birth. She is the sister of Aryn. Grandparents are Allyn & Rachel Ricketts.

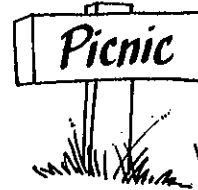
Congratulations to Suzanne & Scott Hogamier on the birth of a daughter, Lilah Grace Hogamier on Tuesday, March 30, 2010. Lilah was 7 lbs 3 oz and 19 inches long at birth. She is the sister of Leah.

## MAY SIFT LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Rev. Jackie Bish, retired Methodist preacher

PICNIC TIME-BRING A COVERED DISH (with food)



Sandwiches and beverages will be provided Reservations due by Monday, May 17th.

## PATTON Scholarships

It is that time of year again. Applications for the Margaret M. Patton Scholarships are now available in the church office. As always this is dependant on what we receive from the foundation but we need to get the process started. If you are continuing your education beyond high school then feel free to apply. Applications are due by May. 16 so do not hesitate.



## WEBSITE UPDATE

We are making an effort to update the website to keep it more current. Check it out and let us know if there are any corrections, additions or other suggestions you might have to improve the site. Email the office at [fumchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fumchurch@windstream.net).

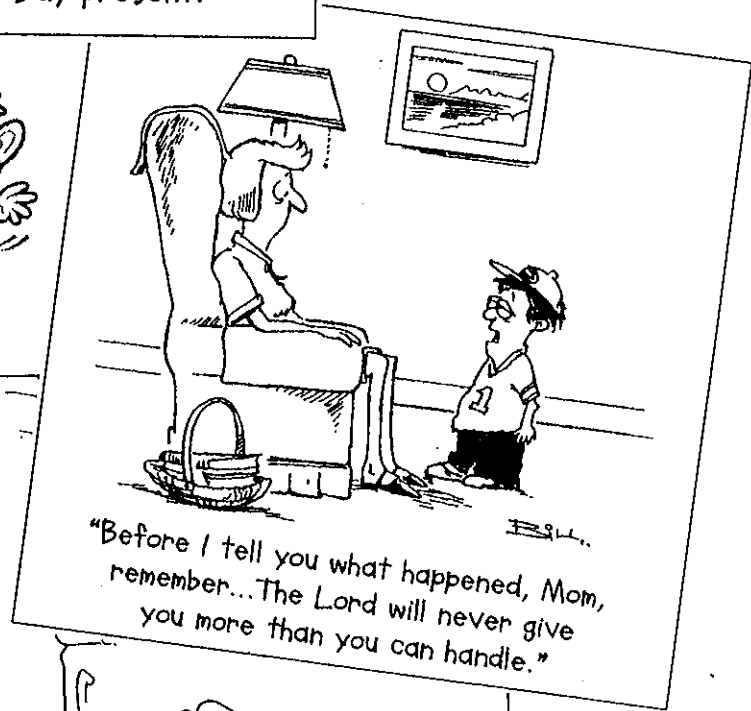
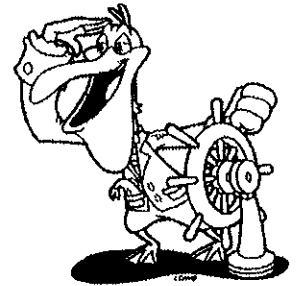
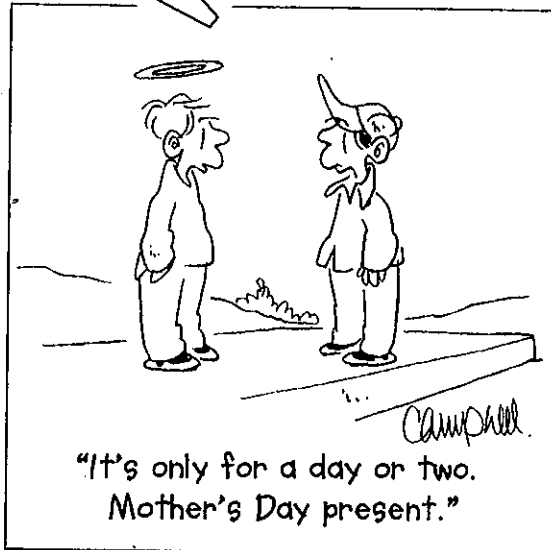
# Go on a Treasure Hunt

You can see God's treasures out-of-doors or from your window.


Mark a ✓ by the things you SEE!

- a bird's nest
- a butterfly 
- a flower blooming
- leaves on a tree
- a baby animal 
- green grass
- a bug 
- a smiling face
- a pond
- a blue sky
- white clouds
- children at play

# Just for KIDS OF ALL AGES



2010 VBS  
 JULY 12-16  
 9:00-12:00  
 NOON

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Communion 2:00 PM Dianna Crawford-CC	3 8:30 AM CC Clean Team 6:00 PM Rainbow Road Open House 6:30 PM Trustees	4 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	5 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	6 8:00 AM OVR-CC	7	1 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
9  9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	10 6:30 PM Finance 7:30 PM Church Council	11 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship 6:00 PM AM Vets-CC	12 6:00 PM Worship Team 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	13	14	15 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
16 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 12:00 PM Church Luncheon 2:00 PM Camp #43 SUVCM-CC 2:00 PM Ashland Choir	17 7:00 PM Christian Education	18 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 PM Golf Outing 6:00 PM Women Fellowship NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	20 12:00 PM SIFT-CC	21	22 9:00 AM VBS Work Day-CC 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
23 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship	24 END OF RAINBOW NEWSLETTER	25 8:30 AM 3R's 5:30 pm Golf Outing 10:00 AM Wayne Cleary-cc 6:00 PM Women Fellowship	26 10:00 AM Weight Watchers 5:00 PM Weight Watchers	27	28 5:00 PM Rehearsal Welton/Myers	29 2:30 PM Wedding Welton/Myers 6:00 PM We Surrender-CC
30 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 PM Worship	31 