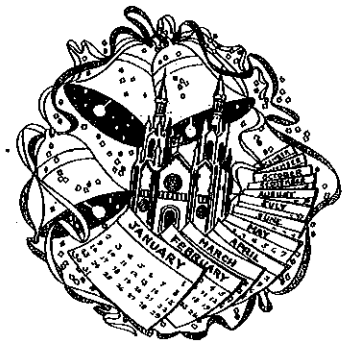


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
301 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET  
KITTANNING PA 16201  
CHURCH OFFICE: 724-548-4312  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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KITTANNING PA 16201  
PERMIT NO 14



## Monthly Messenger



**JANUARY 2011**

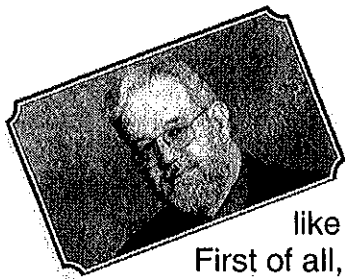
**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE, TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 18, 2011**



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

**WORSHIP:** 11:00 AM  
**CHURCH OFFICE:** 724-548-4312  
**E-MAIL:** [fumchurch@windstream.net](mailto:fumchurch@windstream.net)  
**FAX:** 724-548-5157

**PARSONAGE:** 724-543-4808  
**WEB SITE:** [www.firstchurchkittanning.com](http://www.firstchurchkittanning.com)  
**RAINBOW ROAD:** 724-548-7569



## FUNERAL PRIORITIES

In the coming months I thought I might respond to a few questions that people have asked me, and maybe ask a few of my own. This month and next I would like to take a look once again at funerals and weddings.

First of all, in regards to funerals, I hope that you have picked up one of the fliers located around the church which explain the ministries our church offers. Not only do we offer dinners following the funeral service but we also look for other ways we can serve, such as watching your home during the service or helping with rides to and from the airport.

Recent questions about funerals have come because there seems to be a change happening in the way people view funerals. First, cremation is becoming more popular (is that the right word?). Many ask if cremation is Biblical. Well there is very little said in the Bible that even relates to cremation. People certainly knew of it but it was not practiced anywhere by believers either in the Old or New Testament times. There is mention in II Kings 23 of burning human bones on the altar and it is seen as a desecration, but nowhere in the Old or New Testaments does it forbid cremation and nowhere does it command burial. Burial was, however the only way of disposing of a body discussed in the Bible. So, is cremation wrong or a sin? No. But it is important to ask why pagan cultures have most frequently burned and Christian cultures have always buried. When we decide to cremate why are we doing it? What does it say about our view of the value of the human body as God created it? If we have asked these kinds of important questions and not just made up our minds on a whim, fleeting emotions or for economic reasons alone, then we are free to follow our conscience and bury or cremate.

HOWEVER, please consider when you cremate, or bury for that matter, the importance of giving those left behind a chance to say goodbye. I know it is not a surprise, but the funeral is not for the deceased so please do not be selfish and make decisions about your own funeral that will make grieving even harder for your family and friends. You will not be there! Every secular and Christian source I have ever read talks about the great importance of the viewing of the body for helping people move through their grief. It is not easy, but it is very helpful in the long run. The mind can remain in denial much longer without the visual confirmation of death and the opportunity to acknowledge grief and to say goodbye. I would suggest it is quite unfair to not give that opportunity to family and friends if it is at all possible. If you have questions about these kinds of issues please talk with me or another pastor about it before the time comes that a decision has to be made.

Another concern that has been discussed recently among pastors is the increasing number of Sunday funerals. Some denominations think this is an inappropriate thing to do on the Sabbath. Others just feel it is a very difficult thing to do on a Sunday and still give the kind of support and energy it takes to help a family. Most pastors I have talked to would suggest that, if at all possible, avoid a funeral on a Sunday: the pastor will be better equipped to help, you will probably incur less cost, and a more relaxed schedule will take some of the pressure off and let you focus on your own needs.

A Christian funeral is a clear opportunity to remember the good news of resurrection and to display that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Let faith and Scripture be the guide in this time of grief rather than cultural, economic or purely emotional considerations. As I often say at funerals, resurrection, not death, will have the last word.

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone be the Glory)

Maranatha (Come Quickly Lord)

Allyn



**JUST A REMINDER**

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



# WORSHIP FOR JANUARY



**January 2, 2011**  
 11:00 AM, Communion  
 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rededication  
**Sermon: Clothed With Christ**  
**Galatians 3:27**



**January 9, 2011**  
 11:00 AM  
 Numbers 12:1-8, II Corinthians 4:1-6  
**Sermon: God Is Still Speaking to You**  
**Hebrews 1:1-3**



**January 16, 2011**  
 11:00 AM, Leadership Commissioning  
 Psalm 45:1-7, Ephesians 1:15-23  
**Sermon: Talk About Awesome**  
**Hebrews 1:4-14**



**January 23, 2011**  
 11:00 AM  
 Proverbs 3:1-8, Ephesians 1:1-6  
**Sermon: How Shall We Escape?**  
**Hebrews 2:1-4**

**January 30, 2011**  
 11:00 AM  
 Isaiah 8:13-18, Acts 3:11-15  
**Sermon: Not Your mainline Religion**  
**Hebrews 2:5-18**

# COME CELEBRATE ON JANUARY 2ND



In 2009 we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cornerstone of our church building. The first Sunday in January 2011 will be the anniversary of the dedication service of the building and mark 100 years since the first service was held in this building. Join us as we celebrate the day with special memories and worship that will include Pastor Ricketts preaching from the same passage used 100 years ago. Watch for more details.



## ATTENTION ALL ELECTED OFFICERS

Remember our Leadership Luncheon will be Saturday, January 15th from 9:00-2:30 and Theresa's royal Allegheny. Sponsored by our Natural Church Development Team this free event is to honor your service and give some help in being a leader in our church. Please call the church office by January 10th to reserve your spot. Also plan to be in worship January 16th as we commission our leaders for the year.

## JANUARY

### ACOLYTE

- 2 Ellen Williamson
- 9 Hayley Hoffman
- 16 Hannah Hoffman
- 23 Dominic Hoffman
- 30 Cierra Hoffman



### READERS

- 2 Communion
- 9 Mary Jo Lipski
- 16 Karen Scaife
- 23 Keith Williamson
- 30 Bill Waters



### NURSERY

- 2 Crystal Flanders
- 9 Chris Porter
- 16 Suzanne Hogamier
- 23 Janine Muir
- 30 Melissa Flanders



### COUNTERS

- 2
- 9
- 16
- 23
- 30



### SOUND SYSTEM

- 2 Katie fox
- 9 Michael Toy
- 16 Jalissa Muir
- 23 Greg Lemons
- 30 Tom Thomas



### USHERS

- 2 Asbury/Mary Jo Lipski
- 9 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson
- 16 Epworth/Bobbi Williamson
- 23 Oxford/Susie Reefer
- 30 Oxford/Susie Reefer



### WELCOME CENTER

- 2 Mary Jo Lipski
- 9 Carol Thomas
- 16 Beverly Pauline
- 23 Joe & Sarah Heckert
- 30 Jean Wolfe



## Our Mission and Vision...

ICTHUS-the fish –an early Christian symbol. It reminds us of our mission at First Church. 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]**

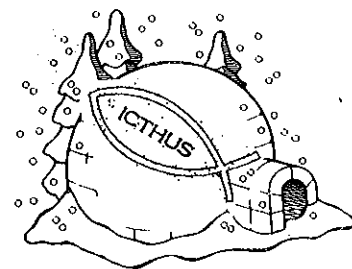
C--Celebrate God's presence through powerful worship. **[WORSHIP]**

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]**



## WINDOW COMMITTEE REPORT

I was planning to make a full report after the holidays concerning the status of the restoration of the Good Samaritan Window but it has been brought to my attention that there are questions as to how the funding is proceeding. As of this date we are hovering around forty thousand dollars. Now the question is how much more do we need to fund this window, to answer this I need to back track a little bit. The Good Shepherd window cost about forty five thousand, a representative from Willet Hauser has informed me that price will jump to seventy or eighty thousand, they are saying that they under bid it and it was more

work than what they figured, mainly because the windows are double or triple paned. We had two other bids at the time, one for fifty four thousand, the other for eighty four thousand. We will seek other bids when we reach the fifty thousand mark as the bids are only good for thirty to ninety days. We feel that there are other companies out there that do quality work for a reasonable amount and we will pursue them when the timing is right, hopefully by next Oct. We are receiving on average about one thousand dollars a month which we are very happy with. I will make a financial report in the newsletter every month to keep you updated

Now thank we all our God

Joe.Bowser (chairman)



## NEW MEMBERS AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Are you ready for a new experience? We are going to offer our Confirmation Class and a New Member's Class at the same time and in conjunction with each other. Both classes will meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour starting January 30th and running through April 17th (Palm Sunday) when new members will be received.

Confirmation will meet in the Youth room with Matt Scaife teaching. Pastor Ricketts will also be getting the Confirmation class out of school one day to visit the Conference Center and we will be meeting with the adult class for a couple of special sessions together.

Now, just where the New Member's class will meet will depend on how many sign up. Pastor Ricketts will teach the adult class and we will combine with the Confirmation class for a few special sessions.

In both of these sessions we will discuss basic Christian teaching, unique Methodist teachings, church history and Methodist history as well as the history of our local church and how our denomination and church are organized. For the adults we will also spend some time discovering our spiritual gifts.

Please sign up as soon as possible by calling the church office or talking to Pastor Ricketts so we can order the right amount of materials.

❄️ **THANK YOU** ❄️

*First United Methodist Church,*

*Please accept our sincere thank you for all the lovely cards, prayers and thoughtful words at the death of our mother, Berenice L. Williamson. Mother enjoyed attending services at First United Methodist Church. Your thoughts and caring is truly appreciated.*


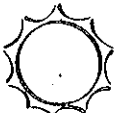
❄️ *The Williamson Family*

 **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL** 

Hard to think about this right before Christmas – but you do have to. This is just a reminder that if you agreed to do a devotional for 2011 you have until February 1st to get it into the church office. We could still use a couple of contributors if you are willing.


 **POPCORN SALE—TOTALS** 

Our popcorn sale to benefit Jeremy & Jessica Andrews in their work with the college students of West Virginia University in Morgantown was a splendid success. We had \$1600 in popcorn sales which gave us a profit of \$740, our profit plus donations allowed us to send Jeremy and Jessica \$900. Women's Fellowship appreciates your support of this mission's project. We hope you enjoyed your popcorn, too.

 **2011 ALTAR FLOWERS** 

We have a few dates open for the altar flowers for next year. If you would like one of these dates, please let Audrey know. Thank you.

January 23 & 30  
March 13  
May 22  
September 18  
October 23 & 30

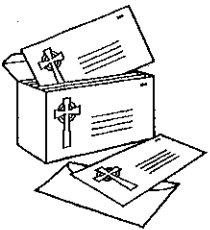




**REDEDICATION**

On Sunday, January 2, 2011, there will be a Special Observance. At 11:00 AM will be a Rededication Service of the first worship held in the sanctuary of this new church building 100 years ago.

Hymns and scriptures from the original service will be used. As written 100 years ago: "Your attendance is respectfully invited."



**2011 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE BY THE FRONT DOORS OF THE CHURCH**



**REMEMBER YOUR FOOD BANK DONATIONS.  
THANK YOU!**

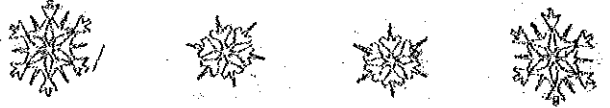


*Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the final worship service held in the McKean Street Church. That church was completed and dedicated on October 3, 1863 on lot No. 28 on the old jail plot for the consideration of \$700.00.*



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Donna King
- 6 Pam Coggon
- 8 Kimberly Yankasky
- 9 Bonnie Starr
- 11 Natalie Green
- 11 Dominick Hoffman
- 11 Joseph Kachur
- 13 Jalissa Muir
- 14 Jackie Bish
- 14 Ashley Yankasky
- 17 Jake Hidinger
- 18 Kathryn Kohl
- 22 Braden Clever
- 22 Quinton Clever
- 24 Christian Porter



## CORPORATION MEETING

When the Trustees meet Monday evening January 3rd at 6:30 PM they will be electing their officers for the coming year. This will also be the official corporation meeting for First United Methodist Church. You are welcome to sit in on this meeting.



## TURKEY DINNER REPORT

At the Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Turkey Dinner 175 meals were served.

A special thank you to:

- \*The cooks who roasted the turkeys and prepared all the other food
- \*All those who setup, served and cleaned up
- \*The pie bakers for those delicious pies
- \*the people who donated the 19 turkeys
- \*All the people who supported the dinner by buying soup or by dining in or taking out meals.

From the October Soup Sale, November Turkey Dinner we were able to give \$2000 to the Church Finance Committee.

For the year, \$17,000 was given to the Finance Committee from the Lenten Fish Dinners, The Folk Festival and the Soup Sale and Turkey dinner.

Many thanks to everyone who helped make these efforts successful this year.

The Activities Committee

## JANUARY SIFT

Thursday, January 20, 2011  
12:00 PM Covenant Center

**PROGRAM:** Hymn Sing & Video,  
Dennis Swanberg—  
8-track guy in an ipod world.

**MENU:** Hot dogs & Sauerkraut

Reservations are due by

**Monday January 17, 2011**

*We extend our Christian compassion and concern to Henrietta Hoffman and her family on the death of Rev. Gilbert E. Hoffman. Rev. Hoffman passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Henrietta; son, Gil (Irene) Hoffman, Barbara (Garry) Kimmel, Ann (Rev. Bragg); six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 14, 2010. Rev. Hoffman served as our preacher from 1981-1985.*

## CANS FOR VBS 2011

In the past month (through December 15<sup>th</sup>) we received 1870 cans for our 2011 Vacation Bible School collection to help Habitat for Humanity. Our total since VBS 2010 is 17,355 cans. Thank you to those who brought in cans. Please continue to save or start saving 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



Dear First Church,

I want to tell you about my 5 year old grandson. I have 6 grandchildren and we took 5 of them to Light up Night in Kittanning. We saw the float that you guys had in the parade. Was very nicely done. No one said anything about it that night. On Thanksgiving day my daughter asked me if baby Jesus was at the parade and I said yes why. They were watching the parade on TV on Thanksgiving morning and when Santa came my 5 year old grandson wanted to know where baby Jesus was. His mother said that he was not in the parade. He said that the parade that Grammie and Pap took him too that he was there and that he should be in every parade. You never know when you are going to reach out to someone even if he is little. Hats off to you and your church for keeping Christ in Christmas. I hope you keep your float in that parade always.



Thanks, Kath

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2011

(Please cut and save)

|  | JAN | FEB | MAR | APRIL | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| CHURCH COUNCIL (7:30 PM)                           | 10  | 14  | 14  | 11    | 9   | 13   | 11   | 8   | 12   | 10  | 14  | 12  |
| STAFF/PARISH RELATIONS<br>(7:00 PM)                |     | 8   |     | 5     |     |      |      | 22  |      |     | 8   |     |
| EVANGELISM/OUTREACH<br>(7:00 PM)                   |     | 21  |     | 18    |     | 20   |      |     | 19   |     | 21  |     |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM<br>(7:00 PM)              | 17  |     | 21  |       | 16  |      |      | 15  |      | 17  |     |     |
| DISCIPLESHIP (7:00 PM)                             |     |     | 28  |       | 23  |      | 18   |     | 26   |     | 28  |     |
| WORSHIP (6:00 PM)                                  |     | 23  |     | 20    |     | 22   |      |     | 21   |     | 16  |     |
| FINANCE COMMITTEE (6:30 PM)                        | 10  | 14  | 14  | 11    | 9   | 13   | 11   | 8   | 12   | 10  | 14  | 12  |
| LAY LEADERSHIP (7:00 PM)<br>(NOMINATING COMMITTEE) |     |     |     |       |     |      | 25   | 29  | 22   |     |     |     |
| ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE<br>(7:00 PM)                   |     | 28  |     |       |     |      |      |     |      | 24  |     |     |
| TRUSTEES (6:30 PM)                                 | 3   | 7   | 7   | 4     | 2   | 6    |      | 1   | 6    | 3   | 7   | 5   |

Other meetings will be called as needed

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From The Staff

*Carol Wolfe*  
*Barb Gaughan*  
*Sally Kozely*  
*June Pollard*  
*Valerie Koch*

*Rachel Ricketts*  
*Brenda Buzzinotti*  
*Donna Aidingu*  
*Luiza Jesse*  
*Kathy Mago*  
*Carolyn Gallaher*  
*Audrey Green*  
*Linda Scott*

### CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

We are looking for a coordinator for Children's Church. Is God calling you to help coordinate the volunteers and leaders for Children's Church? If so please see Pastor Ricketts.



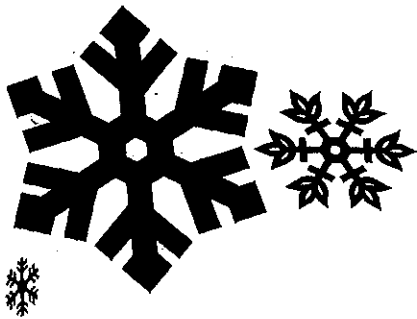


*There is nothing sadder in this  
World than to awake Christmas  
Morning and not be a child.*  
Erma Bombeck

*A Christmas candle is a lovely thing  
It makes no noise at all  
But softly gives itself away*  
Eva Logue



LUKE 2:7-10



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

A special thank you to  
all the children for the  
**Love Came Down At  
Christmas presentation.**



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

And SHE GAVE  
BIRTH to  
her FIRSTBORN  
son and  
WRAPPED  
Him in  
SWADDLING  
CLOTHES, and

LAI D HIM in  
a MANGER,  
BECAUSE  
there WAS NO  
ROOM for  
THEM IN  
THE INN. And  
there were in the

same COUNTRY  
SHEPHERDS  
abiding in the  
FIELD,  
KEEPING  
WATCH over  
their FLOCK  
by NIGHT.  
AND, LO, the  
ANGEL of the  
LORD came upon  
them,  
and the GLORY of  
the Lord SHONE  
ROUND  
ABOUT THEM:  
and THEY WERE  
SORE  
AFRAID.  
And the angel  
SAID UNTO  
them,  
"FEAR NOT: for,  
BEHOLD,  
I BRING you good  
TIDINGS of  
GREAT JOY,  
which shall be to  
ALL PEOPLE."



**WingStreet**

We are having a Fundraiser at  
Pizza Hut / WingStreet in Kittanning  
December 28th, 2010

Please bring this flier and present  
when you pay your bill.

A percentage of your sub-total will go  
to the

First United  
Methodist Church  
Camping Team

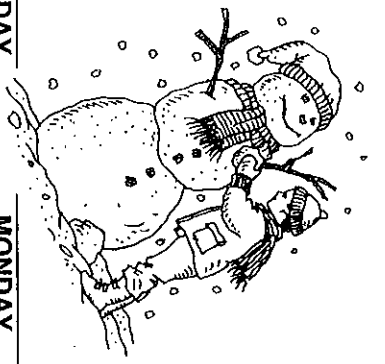


**Dine-in, Carryout or Delivery**

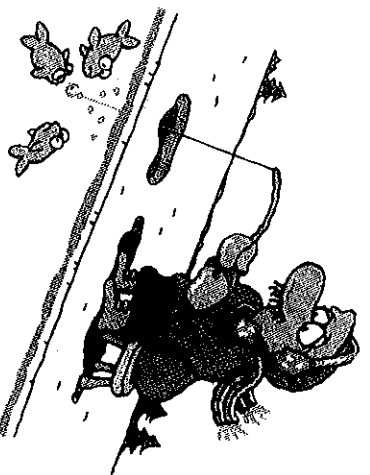
Make sure you call


Kittanning Pizza Hut  
15 Hilltop Plaza

**724-545-7177**



# JANUARY



| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY               | SATURDAY  |
|---|---|--|--|---|----------------------|---|
|   |   |  |  |   |                      | 1<br>6:00 PM We Surrender-CC<br> |
| 2<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Communion                            | 3<br>8:30 AM CC Clean Team<br>6:30 PM Trustees  | 4<br>8:30 AM 3R's<br>6:00 PM Women Fellowship                                | 5<br>7:00 PM Choir<br>10:00 AM Weight Watchers<br>5:00 PM Weight Watchers  | 6<br>8:30 AM OVR-CC<br>6:30 PM Camping Team<br>6:30 PM Crawford Camp-cc | 7                    | 8<br>6:00 PM We Surrender-CC  |
| 9<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>2:00 PM Camp 43 SLV/CW-CC | 10<br>6:30 PM Finance<br>7:30 PM Church Council | 11<br>8:30 AM 3R'S<br>6:00 PM Women Fellowship<br>6:00 PM AM Vets-CC         | 12<br>7:00 PM Choir<br>10:00 AM Weight Watchers<br>5:00 PM Weight Watchers | 13<br>121:00 PM SIFT Luncheon   | 14<br>8:30 AM WIC-CC | 15<br>9:00 AM Leadership Luncheon-Theresa's<br>6:00 PM We Surrender-CC  |
| 16<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship<br>2:00 PM Chapter 519-CC   | 17<br>7:00 PM Christian Education               | 18<br>8:30 AM 3R's<br>6:00 PM Women Fellowship<br><b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> | 19<br>7:00 PM Choir<br>10:00 AM Weight Watchers<br>5:00 PM Weight Watchers | 20  | 21                   | 22  |
| 23<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship                             | 24<br>FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER                       | 25<br>8:30 AM 3R's<br>6:00 PM Women Fellowship                               | 26<br>7:00 PM Choir<br>10:00 AM Weight Watchers<br>5:00 PM Weight Watchers | 27  | 28                   | 29<br>6:00 PM We Surrender-CC   |
| 30<br>9:30 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship                             | 31  |  |  |   |                      |   |

