

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT
17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ Summit, NJ 07901

THE DIALOGUE

October 2014



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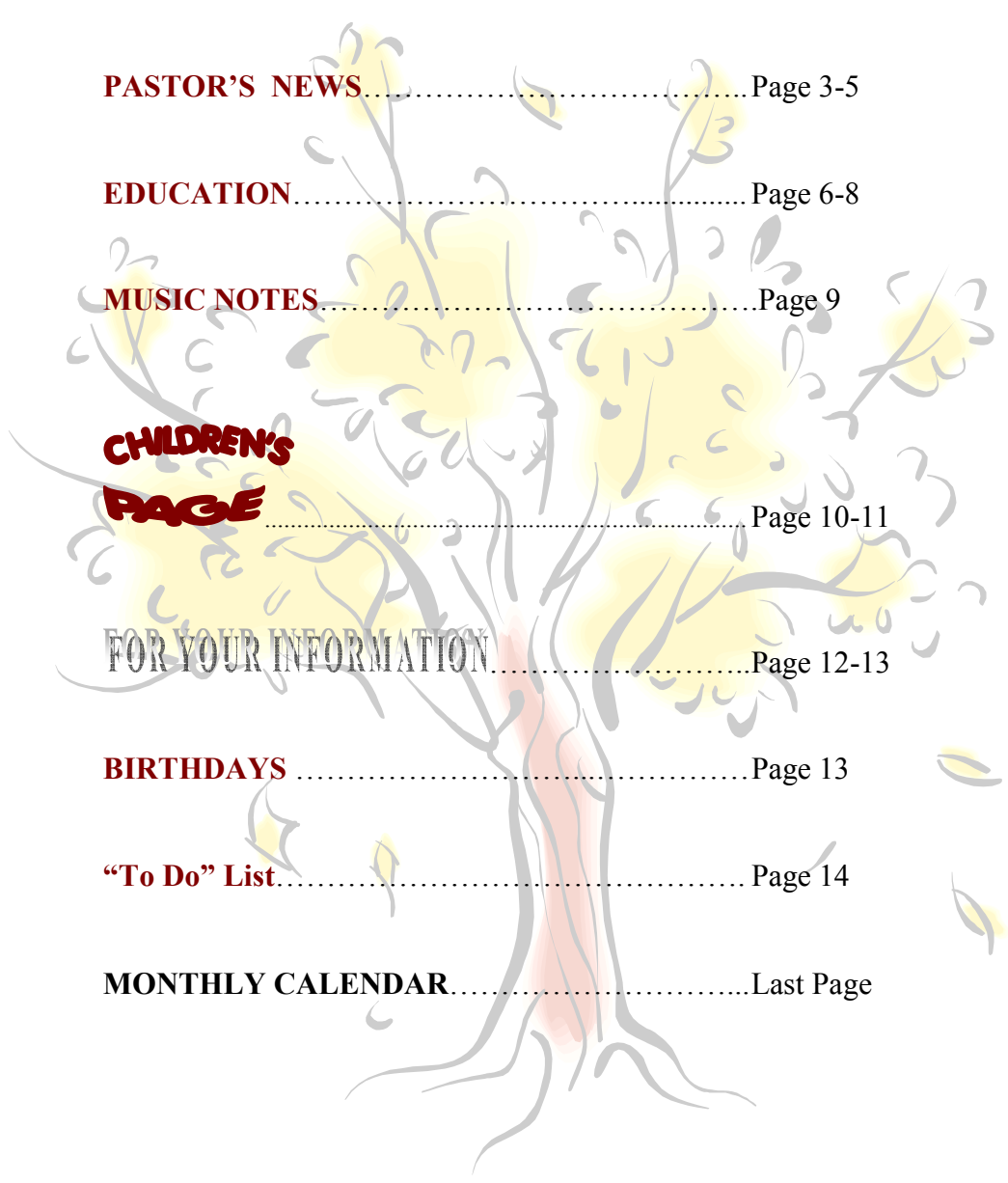
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FROM THE PASTOR

As October unfolds, it is clear that another year in the life of the church is well underway.

The laughter of preschoolers fills the halls each weekday morning, the stage is overflowing with Rummage Sale donations, Sunday morning announcements are lengthy and diverse... Yet another church season has begun!

Along with these things, life in most households has picked up its pace: as calendars fill with sports schedules, dance classes, tutoring, and the like. Yet another school year has begun!

As you move into this “new year,” I invite you to do so thoughtfully, reviewing what the past months have held, and paying attention to what new insights are part of your life. The following reflection, by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, was written for the traditional “January - 1st kind-of-new-year,” but I think it holds value for us any every season in which life ‘reboots.’

“Think of all you've done, and give thanks for your endeavors. Give thanks for all the people you met, the folks who did things for you, the souls you touched, the companions you had on the way. Give thanks for all you've seen, and marvel at how the things that you've experienced, and the ways you chose to receive them, have become a part of who you are. Give thanks for the challenges, the terrible days, the long hauls, for they, too, are part of the journey that has brought you to this day, and part of who you are.

And of course remember all your mistakes, and even more important, what you learned from them. And know that as you leave behind the old year, all those mistakes are forgiven. The little goofs and the profound betrayals, the odd slips and the unbreakable habits, all are forgiven. They are as past as that old year, gone. All that remains is wisdom, what you learned from them.

You have changed and grown. That's the good news as you stand at the threshold of a new year: we can change. In the new year we can become new people. Of course we resist change, but the truth is that it's really not change that we dislike so much as loss. It's our resistance to change that's hard. Change, and the loss of the familiar, puts us in a vulnerable, powerless position, a place where we're not in control, and we don't “know” enough. That's what we don't like.

And that— that place of powerlessness, dependence and not knowing— is the gospel place, the place where our only hope, and our only power, is God. It's the place Jesus invites us to be...

As you [begin this new season], be mindful that you are about to become someone new. This re-creation will involve loss, and you will be tempted to resist it. But God will be with you every single day. Be ready to accept the changes that will come, to rely on God's merciful presence, and to be re-created in this new time...”

Another year of our life together is underway; may God be with us in all that awaits.

Shawn Callender Hogan, Pastor



On **October 5, 2014** we will celebrate **World Communion Sunday**.

This is special day on which we embrace and embody our unity with Christians throughout the world.

Just imagine: persons we know or do not know all across the globe are gathering on this wonderful day to share communion! It is a visible sign of our oneness in a Lord who came to pour love upon us all.



Some congregations share Communion as we traditionally do: with pieces of bread and a common cup; others use breads indigenous to their own land and culture: pita or wafer, rice cake or matzo. All are declaring their worship of the Lord who is the Bread of Life.



Since the time of the Great Depression this Sunday has been honored, celebrating a church that is universally inclusive of all Christians. World Communion Sunday declares: **“Jesus invites us all to his table.”**

On October 5th we will have a *special offering envelope* available for those who wish to join our denominational efforts to provide scholarships for U.S. racial- and ethnic-minority students and international students, on both undergraduate and graduate levels.



All photos are © Creative Commons License. (In order: Silyouth, Scott Schram, Lutheran World Federation, P.C. Izodi, U.S. Army, Avondale Pattillo UMC, Lacrimarum-Valle)

As we give our gifts to the church, here is an article for reflection:

Tithing: Law of God or Gift of God?

by David S. Bell

In postmodern culture, financial giving is usually not the first monetary decision people make; rather, it is one of the last decisions. We might rationalize these priorities by considering our primary financial decisions to be those of basic needs, similar to [Maslow's famous hierarchy of needs](#). We make choices about housing, food, relationships, transportation, employment, and recreation -- to name a few -- before we make choices about monetary gifts. Our lifestyle and all of its financial requirements take precedence over our obligation to share financial resources. However, Maslow began with primitive needs. For many of us, these primitive needs for things such as food and shelter have been replaced with a super-sized, extravagant version. Thus, we minimize any substantial possibility to give. Further, when we do share, we often do so with a sense of obligation, guilt, or shame.

The decision of defining how much is enough for our lifestyle is a difficult one. Few of us living in developed countries live with anything primitive, yet millions of people each day live without even the most basic resources. As Christians, we are called constantly to balance between our desired wants and our perceived needs.

In contrast to the postmodern model of giving, God offers us a different perspective on giving. It is not one of last resort and compounded with guilt, but one filled with abundance, freedom, and joy. It is the ancient model of tithing. Tithing can help us take a step toward achieving a God-honoring balance with our financial resources. One of the best tithing stories is that of Jacob (Genesis 28:10-22.)

The ways in which we choose to earn, give, save, and spend money are really spiritual decisions. When our first decision is one of giving, we place a greater level of trust in God. We begin by saying, "Thank you God! All that we have received is a blessing from you." We acknowledge that we worship God and not money! Giving frees us from the bondage that money can have over our lives. Tithing encourages us to focus on God as the source of our strength, rather than our own achievements or financial assets. Tithing leads to spiritual growth.

Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, taught that one who earned and saved money, but failed to give money was not living as a Christian. Tithing introduces spiritual discipline to our financial choices. The bipolar contrast between the pull and push of the hyperconsumer culture versus the biblical principle of tithing is so clear. Tithing dissuades us from absorption into the competitive posture of hyperconsumer-driven communities. Tithing challenges the common assumptions of economics and debt. It offers possibilities of economic justice, moderate consumption, and self-control.

Finally, tithing provides the financial assets for congregations to launch and expand a wide continuum of ministries. Together, we are able to accomplish far more than most of us can achieve individually. We might consider giving money through the church, rather than to the church. When people give to the church, they are giving to sustain the institution. However, when people give through the church, they are empowering ministry. The spiritual discipline of tithing is one of giving through the church. Tithing congregations are beacons of spiritual vitality and health. They are communities grounded in spiritual relationships, beginning with a relationship to God as the primary source of strength, hope, and life.

OCTOBER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School
9:30am- 10:15am



Age	Teacher	Helper
Children PreK-3rd	Shanotte Smith	Dan Smith
Tweens 4 th - 7 th	Alison Johnson	Volunteers Welcome
Teens 8 th - 12 th	Sherri Shumate	Volunteers Welcome

“Know that God made us- we belong to God.”
Psalm 100:3

Children PreK-3rd will explore the beginning of God’s People: Abraham & Sarah (Genesis 12:1-9), Isaac (Genesis 15:1-6, 18:1-15, 21:1-7), Jacob & Esau (Genesis 25:-19-34), and Jacob’s Ladder (Genesis 27-28) through *Grow, Proclaim, & Serve!*

Tweens will explore: Using our Talents (Genesis 41:33-57, God’s Justice (Exodus 5:1-6:13), Calling (Deuteronomy 31:14-23), and Trusting God (1Samuel 7:1-8:22) using *Grow, Proclaim, & Serve!*

Teens are examining “Dark Nights of the Soul,” discussing evil and suffering in our world, through Habakkuk 2, 3 and Job 19, 24, 42 in *BL4Y, Bible Lessons for Youth*.



Nursery Care

Nursery Care is available from 9:15AM until 11:30AM
on Sundays for children 6 weeks to 2 years!

Wow, It's Wednesday!

4:15-6:00pm

- 4:15 Snack Set- up, Making, Clean-up
- 4:45 Wesley Choir & Homework
- 5:05 Devotions together in Chapel
- 5:20 Singing Believers Choir & Godly Playtime
- 6:00 Adjourn- Pick up your Children

WOW is an intergenerational Christian Education & music experience. All are welcome. For the next several weeks, we are making a Jesse Tree exploring some characters from Jesus' family tree beginning in Genesis. We are making snacks together related to the themes. Please let us know if you have food allergies and/ or are interested in bringing ingredients!

Something new we are doing that you can continue at home: Faith Five: Each person shares a high (positive) & a low (negative) event from their day, read a scripture and talk about connections to your sharing, pray, bless one another.

We will meet Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29.

Mark your Calendar:

Education Committee Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 12th 11:45am

Join us as we talk about Sunday School,
WOW, & Youth Events for this year.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. For the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”



“What does it look like in the 21st Century to be a church that belongs to such as these kids? What does it look like to be a church that makes children the priority of the Kingdom? That raises them to be “Churched Christians?” What does it mean that all of us are the Body of Christ together?”

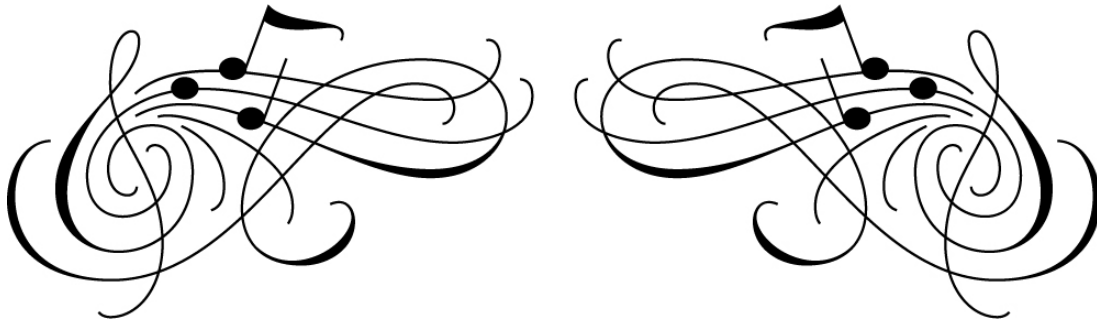
Read more:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/searchingfortomsawyer/2014/08/sunday-schooling-our-kids-out-of-church/#ixzz3A4wqpgCN>

Family Faith Challenge: *Think about these questions together. How do you live your faith as a family? What are your experiences of worshipping together in church? Share your thoughts with us.*

Children are welcome to remain with their families during worship. Another option: families can send their children (preK - 3rd grade) and a parent volunteer to meet our staff care provider after the children’s message. Together, the staff care provider and the parent volunteer will offer activities in the Green Room as worship continues.

Questions or ideas? Contact Sherri Shumate, Director of Christian Education:
sherri.shumate@gmail.com



MUSIC NOTES

Joanne Teubner Prussak, Music Director

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement, give you a spirit of unity as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” – Romans 15:5

Endurance and encouragement -- isn't that something we all need to strive for? Let us encourage each other to share our gifts and glorify our Lord and our fellow worshipers.

Our fall season begins! After prayerful thought, please come and share your gifts in the music ministry of our church.

Wesley Choir

Singing is so much fun! We learn songs about Jesus and how to follow his teachings in our lives. Our first rehearsal for this fall season will be on **October 8th at 4:45pm** in the Chapel. Come and join children ages 3 years through 2nd grade in the Wesley Choir.

Singing Believers

Come and sing the joyful songs to God. Let us grow together in our faith through music. Rehearsals are at **5:20pm** on Wednesdays in the Chapel for youth grades 3 through high school. Our first rehearsal this season will be on **Wednesday, October 8th**.

Believer Quartet

This quartet is an out-growth of the Singing Believer Choir. These young people rehearse on Saturdays at **12:45pm**. The first rehearsal of the season will be on **Saturday, October 11th**.

Contemporary Ensemble

Our Contemporary Ensemble of singers, guitarists, drums, recorders, bass and piano are studying music from the contemporary hymnals “The Faith We Sing” and “Worship and Song”. Rehearsal begins on Sunday, **October 5th at 11:45am** in the Sanctuary. Come and share your musical gifts and enrich your faith.

Bell Choir

Making a joyful sound is the mission of our Bell Choir. This is a good time to come and try ringing hand bells and hand chimes with your friends at church. Our first rehearsal of the season will be **Sunday, October 5th at 9:00am** in the Sanctuary.

Chancel Choir

Won't you come and join us as we sing joyful songs to our Lord? It's a joy to work together and lift your voices in praise. Our regular rehearsals continue on **Sunday mornings at 9:30am** in the Chapel.

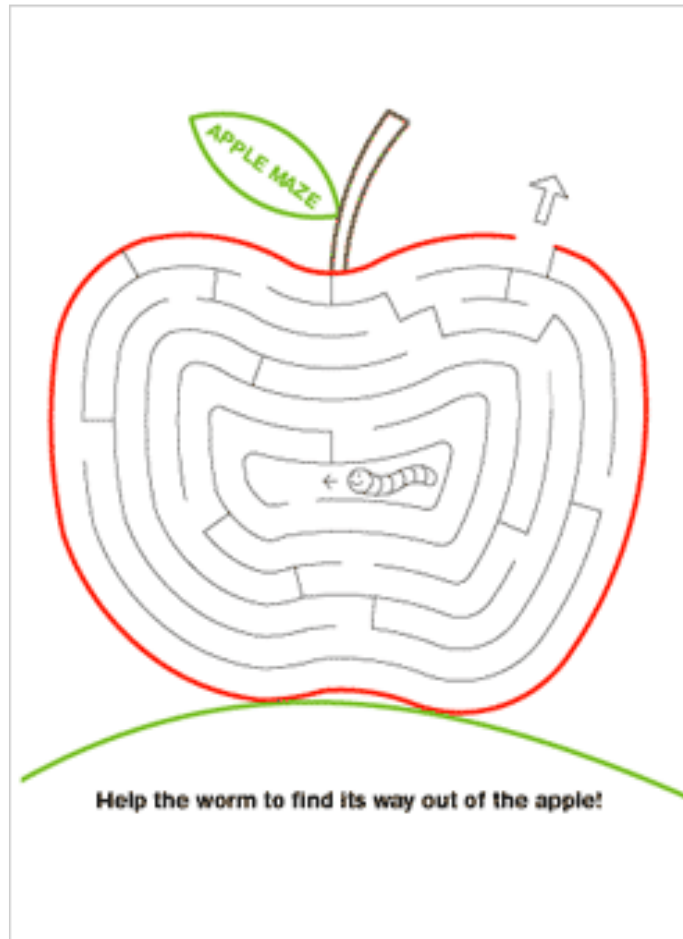
Come! There is power and importance in sharing your faith through music.

CHILDREN'S



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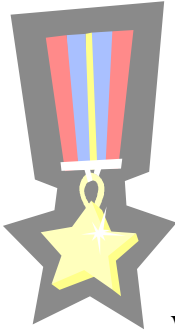
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

SPECIAL THANKS:



The Worship Committee would like to thank **Muriel DeBow** for her many, many years of helping to tidy the church after the weekly service. Muriel would come in during the week, walk amongst the pews and make sure extra papers were removed, working pens/pencils available, etc. If you see Muriel, please tell her “thank you” for her many years of service! Thank you Muriel.... Enjoy your retirement!

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RUMMAGE SALE SET-UP:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12,
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO BE SET-
UP IN THE SOCIAL HALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18,
CLOTHES TO BE SET-UP IN THE
GREEN ROOM AND LIBRARY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 (AFTER
WORSHIP), BOUTIQUE TO BE SET-
UP IN THE NURSERY.

*SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE
IN THE SOCIAL HALL.*

*PLEASE SEE TONI HALL
OR WENDI BARRY
FOR MORE INFORMATION.*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Greeters Needed

Can you smile? Offer a handshake and a bulletin? Then there is a wonderful opportunity awaiting you. If you are interested in serving as a Greeter *please contact Pastor Shawn*. This is a wonderful way to serve the church and welcome those who attend our service; visitors as well as long time members. There is a rotating schedule and the commitment allows for lots of flexibility. You can also offer to be an alternate ~ this helps with the flexibility! Thank you.

Help Wanted

The Worship Committee is looking for someone who would like to help tidy the church after our weekly service. The great thing about this job is that it can be done at your leisure. We have a resident expert who can answer any questions! If you are interested, *please contact Pastor Shawn for more details*. She will also put you in touch with our expert (Muriel).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

CAUSE



Like all "**first Sundays of the month**" we collect nonperishable food items for CAUSE, the United Methodist food pantry in Jersey City. Drop off your items on your way into worship; feel free to leave them on the sanctuary pew near the entrance.

FACEBOOK



Do you follow our Church's Facebook page? There you can find reminders of church activities, links to national and global articles of interest, and educational materials. Additionally, each weekend Pastor Hogan posts an article that invites you to participate in discussions about current events, theological issues, and community life. [Join us in our Facebook conversation today!](#)

ACOLYTE TRAINING



Any youth 5th grade and older is welcome to come to the Acolyte training on **Sunday, September 28** in the Sanctuary immediately following the service. This is also a great time for all acolytes to come and get a refresher course! If you have any questions, *please see Mr. Reyes*. Hope to see you there!

BIRTHDAYS & *Anniversaries* in October:

1	Eric Goldman	18	Adam Daniel
2	<i>Jim & Marge Robertson</i>	20	<i>Jesse & Myrene Reyes</i>
3	<i>John & Susan Hogg</i>	23	Doug Davis
4	Janet Daniel		Carole Reed
6	Chloe Tassé		Dominik Tassé
11	<i>Hillary Kruger & Ken Lordy</i>	25	Will Johnson
12	Adrian Phillips	27	Shela Waldron
14	Nena-Renee Smith	30	Jack Schaefer
13	Emma Aird	31	Denise Florindi
15	Conor Barry Kyle Dorbu		

October

"To Do" List

MEETINGS:

Property Committee Meeting - 10/2

Education Committee Meeting - 10/12

MINISTRY:

World Communion Day - 10/5

Bible Study - 10/5

WOW It's Wednesday resumes - 10/8

CAUSE - drop off donations every first Sunday

Prayer Warriors - every Wednesday

Knitting Ministry - Thursdays & Fridays

MUSIC:

Bell Choir - begins 10/5

Contemporary Ensemble - begins 10/5

Wesley Choir - begins 10/8

Singing Believers - begins 10/8

Believer Quarter - begins 10/11

AND MORE:

Confirmation Class - 10/19

Rummage Sale - 10/24 & 10/25

OCTOBER 2014

Summit United Methodist Church ▪ 17 Kent Place Boulevard ▪ 908-277-1700

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30am – Sunday School (all grades) 10:30am – Worship 11:30am – Coffee Hour			1 Prayer Warriors 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	2 Knitting Ministry 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>) Property Committee Meeting - 6pm (<i>Conference Room</i>)	3 Knitting Ministry 7pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	4
5 World Communion Day (<i>special offering envelope available</i>) Bell Choir - 9:00am Chancel Choir - 9:30am Contemporary Ensemble - 11:45am Bible Study - 4pm (<i>Fellowship Room</i>)	6	7	8 Prayer Warriors 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>) Wow, It's Wednesday resumes	9 Knitting Ministry 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	10 Knitting Ministry 7pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	11 Believer Quartet 12:45pm
12 Bell Choir - 9:00am Chancel Choir - 9:30am Contemporary Ensemble - 11:45am Education Committee Meeting - 11:45am (<i>Conference Room</i>)	13	14	15 Prayer Warriors 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>) Wow, It's Wednesday	16 Knitting Ministry 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	17 Knitting Ministry 7pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	18 Believer Quartet 12:45pm
19 Bell Choir - 9:00am Chancel Choir - 9:30am Contemporary Ensemble - 11:45am Confirmation Class 5-6pm (<i>Chapel</i>)	29	21	22 Prayer Warriors 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>) Wow, It's Wednesday	23 Knitting Ministry 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	24 Rummage Pre-Sale 6-8pm Knitting Ministry 7pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	25 Rummage Sale 9am-2pm Believer Quartet 12:45pm
26 Contemporary Ensemble – 9:30am	27	28	29 Prayer Warriors 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>) Wow, It's Wednesday	30 Knitting Ministry 1pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	31 Knitting Ministry 7pm (<i>Fellowship Rm</i>)	