

THE SPIRES



March 2011

Oxford United Methodist Church
14 North Poplar Street
Oxford, Ohio 45056
(513) 523-5115
www.oumc.org
oumc@oumc.org

Oxford United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Services & Sunday school

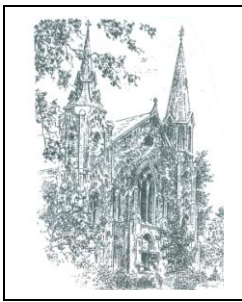
8:30 a.m. Informal Worship in Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Sunday school

Pastor's Contact Information & Office Hours

Don Dixon, cell (513) 312-5237; Wed.-Fri. 9 -12 or by appointment
Karen Montgomery, cell (513) 255-2232; Mon.-Wed. 10-12 or by appointment
Pastors are available beyond scheduled hours by appointment
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 – 12, 1 - 4

OUMC Staff

Don Dixon, Senior Pastor, seniorpastor@oumc.org
Karen Montgomery, Associate Pastor, discipleship@oumc.org
Susan Walker, Office Administrator, oumc@oumc.org
Bob Mucha, Choir Director
Robert & Rachel Pritchard – Youth Directors, youth@oumc.org
Scott Kuehn, Sexton



The SPIRES

Newsletter

From the top, I express to you, the members and constituents of Oxford United Methodist Church, my deep appreciation of the opportunity to work with you in ministry. Dianna and I have enjoyed your friendship and your love for the Church. We experience love and the movement of the spirit. We observe your concern for each other and for the world beyond these doors.

Coming to worship on Sunday morning is a privilege. It's filled with both the desire to give thanks for the week as it has passed and the longing for guidance in the week that is ahead.

As we enter the month of March, looking for the warmth of Spring, we are also entering a significant season in the church year. At Oxford United Methodist Church, may it be a season of drawing closer to the Christ and our faith story.

I was not reared in a denomination that paid any attention to the Church Year. It was as a United Methodist in Seminary that I developed an appreciation for the rhythm of the Church Year. One of the practices I have learned is that of "self denial." It is taking something from my usual routine and withholding it for the forty days of Lent. I have also learned that using that denial in a positive expression of ministry or mission is a necessary part of the practice.

I invited Oxford United Methodist Church to join with me in such an expression in behalf of a key apportionment in the United Methodist Church. Putting something aside daily that we might together lift up to God an offering that supports the World Service apportionment of the Church.

We are often drawn to specific missions and that is healthy and good. But we also need to meet the basic World Service arm is already in place. When a person gives to a mission in response to a hurricane or some other calamity, the money goes almost entirely to the mission. Overhead has already been met.

There will be offering boxes for family, both adults and children, either individually or collectively, as we set aside regularly our special Lenten offering to the Lord. These will be available at the church from the first of March.

Blessings and peace be yours as we meet together in a labor of love and and significance. We walk beneath the shadow of the cross, awaiting the joy of life and resurrection.

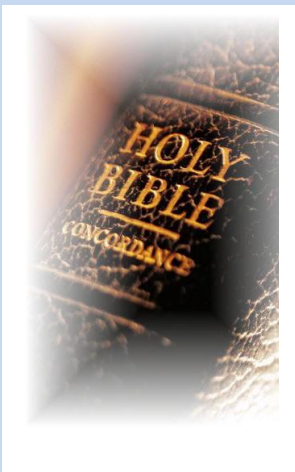
-Don Dixon



Pastor Don's Bible Study Wednesday's @ 7:00 PM Multi-Purpose Rm.

Lectionary Notes for March

March 2 (March 6 service)	March 9 (March 13 service)	March 16 (March 20 service)	March 23 (March 27 service)
Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Psalm 99 Matthew 17:1-9	Genesis 2:15-17 3: 1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Psalm 32 Matthew 4:1-12	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 Psalm 121 John 3:1-17	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 Psalm 95 John 4:5-42





Lay Leader Moment -Howard Krauss

Romans 8:28 "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him".

God is good. Believers have learned this from childhood. Here is an old mealtime prayer children are often taught; "God is great, God is good, let us thank Him for our food. By His hands we all are fed. Give us Lord, our daily bread. Amen."

We sing this chorus: "God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me."

We find the goodness of God as a reoccurring theme in the Scriptures - Psalm 100:5 - "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations."

God has to be good ... it's His very nature to be good. Everything that God does is good! When God created the world, He stopped and said "It is good."

Since this is so then why are we sometimes plagued by misfortune? Why do we have hardships and trials? In face of this how does mankind determine what is good? In the gospel of Mathew (19:16-17) we read about the rich man who came to Jesus and asked, "What good thing must I do to inherit eternal life?" The man thought goodness consisted of things and feelings and circumstances. What God taught him (and us) is that anything that is good comes from God. If it's not from God, it isn't good. If something isn't good, it didn't come from God. It doesn't matter how good it looks, how good it feels, or how good it tastes ... if it doesn't come from God, it isn't good.

Want to learn more about God's goodness toward us? OUMC offers several venues for everyone to explore all that God has for His people. Why not join with others.



*Catherine Swift
Memorial Service*

Catherine Swift's Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 7, at the Oxford United Methodist Church with Karen Montgomery officiating. Family and friends will gather in the sanctuary at 10:00 AM with the service beginning at 10:30. The family invites all who wish to meet with them following the service for a light lunch in Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the Oxford United Methodist Church or to Oxford Senior Citizens.

WORLD
Day OF
PRAYER
Church Women United
World Day of Prayer
Sunday, March 6, 2011
2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall
Everyone's Welcome!

OUMC BOOK GROUP
The Oxford United Methodist Church Book Group is meeting on March 28 at 2:00 p.m. at Toni Saldivar's. The Postmistress by Sarah Black is being discussed. Lane Library has numerous copies of this book, many of which are not now checked out. Looking ahead to April, the group will be meeting at the Booth's on the 25th at 2:00. We will be discussing Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult. The OUMC Book Group is attended by both males and females. If you like to discuss books with others and enjoy being a part of a diversified group, consider making this group a part of your monthly schedule and attend the March meeting whether or not you had a chance to read The Postmistress. All book lovers are welcome. If you have any questions, please call Linda Augspurger, 513-756-0285.

The Lenten Journey Begins

Ash

Wednesday

March 9, 2011

7 p.m.

OUMC Fellowship Hall

- Meditative Candlelit Prayer Service
- Centered in God's love, mercy and compassion for us.
- Song ▫ Rich Silence ▫ Prayers of Confession ▫
- Repentance ▫ Praise ▫ Intercession ▫

- Nursery Childcare Provided

In the dark of night God calls to us;
beckoning us on, seeking us out,
calling us to peace, to quietness,
to wholeness.

The world is dark around us,
filled with coldness,
terror and restlessness.

**It is a darkness of our creation:
Greed, hatred, envy: brokenness.**

Take us and heal us of every evil.

Bring us back into the
comfort and closeness
of your embrace, O God.

**Your cleansing love, O God,
purifies our darkness restoring it to us:**

Warm, comforting, restful, complete.

In the dark of our night we hear God call,
offering love and strength and forgiveness.

**With God the darkness brings
comfort not fear, love not hatred,
righteousness not punishment.**

**Walk in the darkness of your life
as in the light,
for both the dark and the light
belong to God, as do you.**

—Lisa Frenz



OUMC KIDS

LEARNING MINISTRIES

Pre-School—5th Grade

Every Sunday @ 10 a.m.

Education Bldg. Upper Floor

Nursery Childcare—Rm. #302



YOUTH 2011 BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, March 20th—OUMC Fellowship Hall

Pancakes—Sausage—Breakfast Casserole—Fresh Fruit—Coffee—Tea—Milk—Juice

All proceeds to fund the LIVE WIRE YOUTH trip to the UMC Youth Conference in July.

Served at 3 Convenient Times: 8 a.m. · 9:30 a.m. · 11:00 a.m.

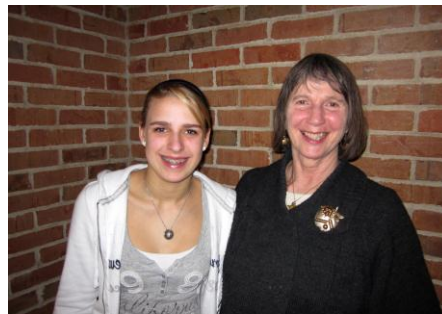


SUPPORT LIVE WIRE YOUTH!!!



Christina Haidet

Kathie Hild, Mentor
Peggy Lewis, Prayer Partner
Jim Haidet & Jill Haidet, Parents



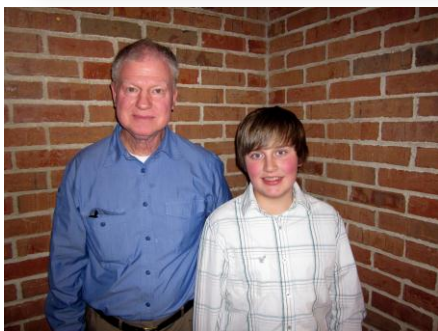
Natalie Haidet

Linda Augspurger, Mentor
Wynetta Martin, Prayer Partner
Jim Haidet & Jill Haidet, Parents



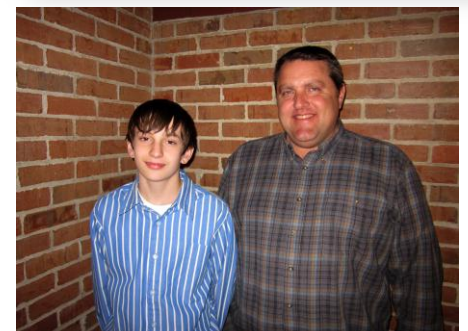
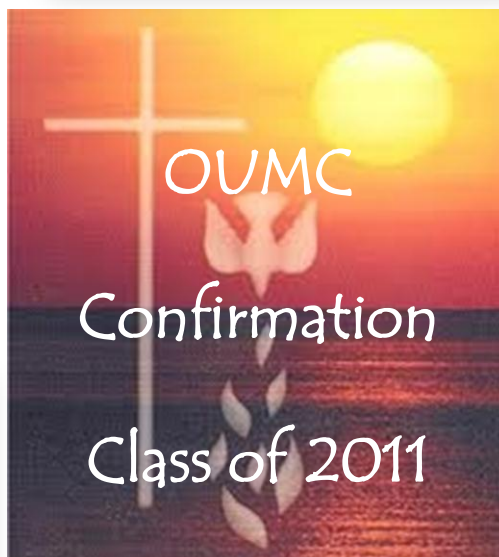
Emma Drake

Rachel Pritchard, Mentor
Dorothy Avery, Prayer Partner
Doug Drake & Audra Drake, Parents



Sam Wespiser

Bill Scott, Mentor
Bob Montgomery, Prayer Partner
David Wespiser & Lisa Wespiser, Parents



Zak Brazen

Doug Drake, Mentor
John Hild, Prayer Partner
Jim Brazen & Annette Brazen, Parents



LIVE WIRE

YOUTH

Every Sunday

Sunday School @ 10 a.m.

Youth Group @ 5:30 p.m.

Location: Spirit Life Café
[OUMC Education Bldg. Rm.103]

YOUTH 2011 BREAKFAST FUND RAISER
Sunday, March 20th—OUMC Fellowship Hall

All proceeds to support our trip to the UMC Youth Conference in July.

Set Up: 7:30 A.M.

Serve: 8 a.m.; 9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

Clean Up: 12:15—1 p.m.

Youth, parents & other adults are needed to help make this event a success!

*******WinterJam 2011—Cincinnati, OH*******
Friday, March 25th

Road Trip to Cincinnati to see the Newsboys, The David Crowder Band, Newsong, Red, Kutless, KJ-52, Sidewalk Prophets, Chris August, and Chris Sligh. Meet at 3:15 at OUMC. The youth group will be covering the cost of the tickets and for a stop on the way at a fast food restaurant. RSVP to Robert or Rachel Pritchard (oumc@oumc.org)

—Let us know if you are bringing a friend.

*******Family Resource Center Work Day*******
Sunday, March 27th

Right after Sunday School—We will be helping the Family Resource Center at their community garden—soil preparation, planting & weeding. Lunch will be included.

March 27th—No Youth Group due to the concert and garden project.

Want to get involved? Have questions? Have an idea?

Contact: Robert and Rachel at youth@oumc.org

Pastor Karen shares journey March 2

... a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, employee, student, and a friend to many; a multi-tasker with new projects always waiting in the wings.

These words were used to describe **Karen Montgomery** when she received a Special Mission Recognition at the Christmas luncheon in December. Now that she has reached the end of her educational journey towards ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church with a Master of Divinity degree, she would like to share her journey with us as well as the ways that she has experienced God's peace in such a busy life.

All interested persons are invited to hear Karen speak on Wednesday, March 2, beginning with a brown bag lunch at 11:30 followed by the program.

New books available for loan

The February *Spires* printed a book review of *Half the Sky*, one of five new books available on the Reading Program shelf in the Bridge ministry center. The book's title comes from a Chinese proverb, "Women hold up half the sky."

The Noticer

The new book in the category of Spiritual Growth is *The Noticer: Sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective*, a story of wisdom from the best selling author of *The Traveler's Gift*, **Andy Andrews**.

Orange Beach, Alabama, is a simple town filled with simple people. But like all humans on the planet, the good folks of Orange Beach have their share of problems—marriages teetering on the brink of divorce, young adults giving up on life, business people on the verge of bankruptcy, and other obstacles that life seems to dish out.

Fortunately, when things look the darkest, a mysterious man named Jones has a miraculous way of showing up. An elderly man with white hair, of indiscriminate age and race, wearing blue jeans, a white T-shirt and leather flip flops carrying a battered old suitcase, Jones is a unique soul.

Communicating what he calls "a little perspective," Jones explains that he has been given a gift of noticing things that others miss. "Your time on this earth is a gift to be used wisely," he says. "Don't squander your words or your thoughts. Consider even the simplest action you take, for your lives matter beyond measure...and they matter forever."

Jones speaks to that part in everyone that is yearning to understand why things happen and what we can do about it.

Like *The Traveler's Gift*, *The Noticer* is a unique narrative blend of fiction, allegory, and inspiration. The gifted author and storyteller helps us see how becoming a "noticer" just might change a person's life.

Church Women United here March 6

Church Women United will hold their **World Day of Prayer** program at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 6. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions all over the world who collectively pray to affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Circles meet March 16

Morning Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. at the home of **Phyllis Cox**, 6070 Stillwell Beckett Road (523-6195). **Ethel Hock** is the assistant hostess. **Roselyn Banda** will continue with Chapter 8 in the study book *For the Love of God: The Epistles of John*.

Afternoon Circle meets at 2:45 in the Assisted Living Country Kitchen at the **Knolls of Oxford**. This circle is for all women who prefer an afternoon meeting. For more information, or to request transportation, contact **Carolyn Wengler** at 523- 3495.

Evening Circle meets at 7:30 at the home of **Alice Miller**, 110 N. Elm St. Please contact Alice at 523-2710 for more information.

United Methodist Women On the Calendar



Mar	2 at 11:30 a.m.	General Meeting Pastor Karen Montgomery
	6 at 2 p.m.	Church Women United World Day of Prayer
	9 at 10 a.m.	Executive Committee
	16	Circles meet
Apr	6 Time TBA	General Meeting Pastor Don Dixon
	13	Executive Committee
	20	Circles meet
	27	Annual FOOD FAIR Luncheon

All women are invited to participate in UMW events.

Donations to UMW may be mailed to Linda Augspurger, UMW Treasurer, 4845 Stillwell Road, Oxford.

2011

MARCH

Birthdays
Anniversaries
Ministry Schedules

Birthdays

- 3/01 Charlotte Krauss
Jim Smith
- 3/05 Rian DelVecchio
- 3/06 Roger Atkin
- 3/07 Jeff Hudepohl
Bill Pulley
- 3/09 Tyler Jennings
Bob Montgomery
- 3/10 Caitlin Colyer
- 3/11 Betty Salhoff
Judy Schlake
Joe Webb
- 3/14 Chris Colyer
Patrick Morrow
- 3/15 Larry Hufford
- 3/17 Quinn Frieden
John Hild
Christian Hogeback
- 3/18 Ernest Wengler
- 3/23 Melva Brown
- 3/24 Ryan Purcell
- 3/25 Sarah Hogeback
- 3/27 Marcia Puckett
- 3/28 David Benn
- 3/31 Rory Adryan
Brian Hock
Fred Shaw

Anniversaries

- 3/03 Roger & Paula Atkin
- 3/13 Greg & Laura Haskins
- 3/17 Hugh & Barb Clawson
- 3/22 Bob & Denise Smith
- 3/27 Terry & Jacqueline Hunt
Jack & Marcia Puckett

Ministry Schedules

Greeters

- 3/06
8:30 Paula & Don Byrnett,
Teddi Robeson
- 10:00 Kathy Richardson, Jo Will
- 3/13
8:30 Ernie & Carolyn Wengler
Jim & Melva Brown
- 10:00 Doug & Audra Drake & family
- 3/20
8:30 Gene & Jan Krebs, Barb Broida,
Suzanne Reif
- 10:00 Jim & Amy Clawson & family
- 3/27
8:30 Cathy Greene, Pam Termeer,
Charlotte Bruhn
- 10:00 Bill & Dixie Utter

Ushers (10:00 a.m.)

- 3/06 Team Hild
- 3/13 Team Haskins
- 3/20 Team Hock
- 3/27 Team Hesselbrock

Pianists (8:30 a.m.)

- 3/06 Jo Will
- 3/13 Rae Bunten
- 3/20 Donna Sargent
- 3/27 Jane Cole

Lay Readers (10:00 a.m.)

- 3/06 Rusty Richardson
- 3/13 Linda Augspurger
- 3/20 Jerome Conley
- 3/27 Mary Lou Booth

Sound Technicians (10:00 a.m.)

- 3/06 Earl Folker
- 3/13 Chris Allison
- 3/20 Robby Montgomery
- 3/27 Brad Cotterman

Fellowship Time

- 3/06 Barb Broida
- 3/13 Carolyn Wengler
- 3/20 Rachel Pritchard
- 3/27 Karen Womack



New Address

Emmanuel & Rosalynn Banda
642 McGuffey Ave., Apt. 112
Oxford, OH 45056



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for your generous retirement gifts. We're finally back in town, caught up, and have thank you notes ready to go. For those of you who shared in the monetary gift, we will think of you each time we look at the landscaping of our new home. We are so glad that we are able to remain in Oxford.

Blessings,
Fred & Nancy

Neighbors East and West

A trip to Palestine in June is being planned, June 13-26, by Neighbors East and West with Tony Bing as coordinator.

You can find more information at www.neighborseastandwest.org

Recommended reading:
The Lemon Tree by
Sandy Tolan.

**We are Commanded:
"Go into All the World"
We Go with the Rand
Family to Cambodia**

On February 27, we were privileged to have Rev. Liz, Rev. Tom, Will and Alistair Rand lead our worship. They came to us because they are part of a team of Volunteers in Mission going to Cambodia in September. There, they will be teaching new and forming indigenous pastors and lay leaders while gaining new skills and understandings for themselves.

The Rand Family came to us because this is "home church" for Liz. They came to us because they know of our deep commitment to missions. They came to us asking for help as they raise funds for the pastors of Cambodia. Because the teaching will be done in one place, there are expenses of travel, lodging, etc. for the pastors.

We took a special offering on the 27th. For those who were unable to be there that day, we encourage the giving to this mission work by sending a check to the church marked "Cambodia".

None of the funds raised is for the expenses of the Rands or of members of the VIM team. Each one pays his or her own way. The funds are strictly for the use in Cambodia as these 240 Cambodian Christians come together to learn new skills in taking Christ to the people.

Two Wonderful Opportunities to Give

1. During Lent (March 9 through April 23) we will have a time of sacrificial giving. Read Pastor Don's letter in this edition of *The Spires*. All gifts will go to Church World Service. This organization's partners, including United Methodists, do relief work, disaster preparedness, and more worldwide. Their website is www.churchworldservice.org.
2. April 3, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering goes to support UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) so that gifts sent for specific projects such as hurricane, earthquake, fire, and flood relief is used only for the project and not for overhead expenses. More on this in the April issue of *The Spires*.

† † † †

Help Feed the Hungry

1. **Community Dinners** are served at OUMC to all on the First Wednesday of each month. Come, help prepare or clean up, eat, and enjoy time with our friends of the Community. Arrange to serve here by contacting Deb Hurley djhurley5996@aol.com
2. In conjunction with the Community Dinners, we maintain a "Dry Pantry" which offers items which cannot be purchased with food stamps: diapers, toilet paper, toothpaste and brushes, soap, deodorant, shampoo, detergents, etc. Gifts for the "Dry Pantry" should be put in a bin in "The Bridge".
3. **Oxford Community Choice Pantry**, which provides basic foods to those with low incomes, is located on North Locust Street. Many 'hands' are needed: sorters and stockers, shopping assistants, receptionists and more. On the job training provided. Contact Mike Johnson Oxchoicepantry@aol.com
4. **Food for the Community Choice Pantry** is always needed. Gifts of any foods are most gratefully accepted. As you shop for yourself, add a few items for a family in need. Place these in the bins in "The Bridge".
5. **Organize a food drive** (or several!) for OUMC! Contact Alice Laatsch momlotch@brechnet.com for help in serving this way.

OUMC MARCH 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Grace Church 5:30 PM LiveWire Youth	28	1	2 11:30 AM UMW brown bag lunch - Karen Montgomery 5:30 PM Campus House Church 5:30 PM Community Dinner 6:15 PM Bel Cantos Practice 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	3 9:30 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Shawi Ministry 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Resingled	4	5 5:00 PM AA Meeting
6 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Grace Church 5:30 PM LiveWire Youth	7	8	9 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 10:00 AM UMW Executive Committee 5:30 PM Campus House Church 6:15 PM Bel Cantos Practice 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	10 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Resingled	11	12 5:00 PM AA Meeting
13 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Grace Church 5:30 PM LiveWire Youth	14 7:00 PM Missions Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	15	16 9:30 AM Morning Circle 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:45 PM Afternoon Circle 5:30 PM Campus House Church 6:15 PM Bel Cantos Practice 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 PM Evening Circle	17 9:30 AM Bible Study 2:00 PM Shawi Ministry 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Resingled	18	19 5:00 PM AA Meeting
20 8:00 AM Youth Fundraiser Breakfast 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Grace Church 5:30 PM LiveWire Youth	21 7:00 PM Finance Meeting	22	23 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Campus House Church 6:15 PM Bel Cantos Practice 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	24 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Resingled	25	26 5:00 PM AA Meeting
27 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:30 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Grace Church 3:00 PM LiveWire Winter Jam	28	29	30 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Campus House Church 6:15 PM Bel Cantos Practice 7:00 PM AA Meeting 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study	31 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 PM Resingled	1	2 5:00 PM AA Meeting