



Ministry @ DHUMC

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

September, 2022

www.dhum.org

To Begin, Silence

Pastor's Message

Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psalm 37:7, King James Bible

Is there anywhere quiet anymore? Quiet is not so easily found today when we are distracted by anxious news bulletins, the ring of cell phones, or the ping of text messages coming in. We are rent by urgent advertising and pummeled with worldly matters . . . rarely can we hear music above noise, let alone the sound of silence.

Silence has been generally revered as the authentic medium of prayer - but you'd never guess this beholding some of our more spectacular religious practitioners. Even so, the ability to listen to God in quiet remains a common biblical theme.

As the Psalmist says, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him".

'What do you say to God when you pray?' Mother Theresa of Calcutta was once asked. 'I don't say anything,' she replied, 'I just listen.' 'And when you listen, what does God say?' The questioner then probed. 'He doesn't say anything,' she replied, 'He just listens.'

No doubt silence is alien in a culture of pithy slogans, elevator pitches, and social media memes, but silence offers a way to ponder and listen for the divine - the unsayable and inexplicable - the musings of the mind that defy being parceled into words.

I lived in Swarthmore long enough to experience the Quaker tradition of silently waiting for the Lord. In a cave on a ledge, Elijah discovered God was not to be found in the fire, nor the whirlwind, and neither in the earthquake, but in a still small voice. In our constant din of a world it requires will to listen for such a voice. And yet, there are those who prefer silence believing in the God who speaks, albeit quietly.

Thomas Merton offered that the only words required of a priest were those of the Mass since some things are so mysterious that one must be silent to understand them. Power does not compel silence, I believe would be Merton's point, but the inadequacy of any attempt at communication suggests silence is better than our verbal efforts. As the famous 20th century philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein said, 'Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must remain silent.'

Our world is far from quiet and when gifts come the purveyors are wont to present them to us with fanfare. Thus is the world we have made. And yet, as the old hymn lyric reminds us about blessings come from the transcendent, "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

In the midst of our hubbub, my God grant you silence.

Russell J. Atkinson

Ministry@DHUMC

A monthly newsletter for the membership of DHUMC.

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Coffee and Conversation



This fall we will renew our coffee, tea and conversation time after church service on Sundays. This is not only an opportunity for refreshment- it is a good time to say hello to visitors and find out a little about them, as well as greeting people you know. Feel free to take your cup outside as well. This all happens at the back of our Sanctuary, where there is ample room to sit or stand and talk. Please do stop by and say hello to someone you would like to get to know better, even if you don't like coffee!

Heavy Psalm/Light Exercise Men's Fellowship Hour Returns

Join us on **September 6th** and every **Tuesday** at 11am to

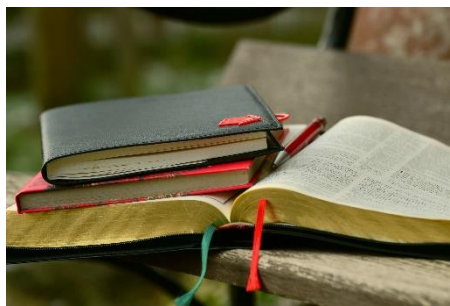
11:50am where we will gather in the Gym to hear a psalm and reflect on it briefly, and then engage in light exercise – walking the neighborhood if



the weather is fine, or some activities like stretching in the gym, shooting basketball (no recording devices allowed). Some of you may know of other activities that fit in the realm of light aerobics.

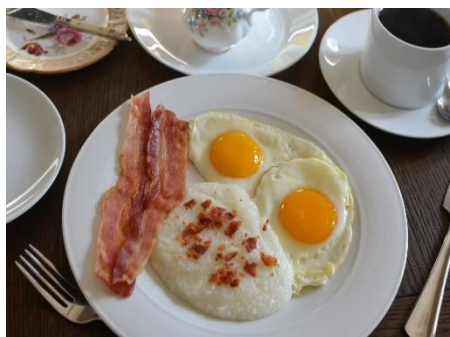
Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study Returns

The Bible Study/Faith Formation Class will begin again on **September 6th** at 9:30am. We will meet on Zoom. The email invitation will go out a few minutes before the meeting at 9:30 am. Please contact Pastor Atkinson (610-675-7187 or pastor@dhum.org) if you would like to be included on the Zoom invitation.



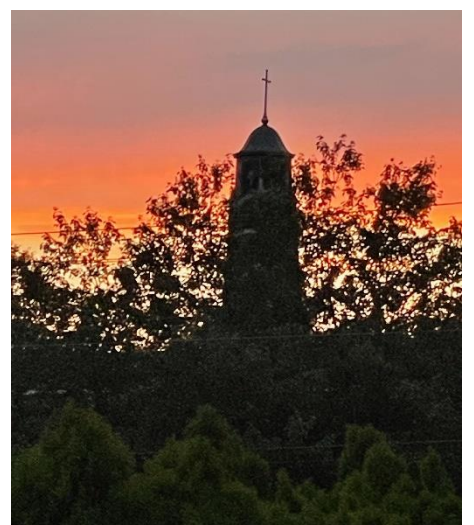
Bacon, Toast, and the Heavenly Host Returns

If you've got an appetite for the Word of God and a good breakfast, come on out to the Perkins Restaurant, 706 N. Lansdowne Avenue in Drexel Hill (just a short hop from the high school) the first Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is **October 6th**. Hope to see you there!



Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council of Drexel Hill UMC will hold its next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, **September 12th** at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will take place on Zoom, so shortly before 7:00, please look for Pastor Atkinson's invitation to sign on. If you aren't a member of the Administrative Council but would like to sit in on the meeting, please contact either Rebecca Harbison at rrharbison@verizon.net or the church office at office@dhum.org





Russell Atkinson, Pastor

September Worship Services

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 4, 2022

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Luke 14:25-33

“Where There is No Finish
Line”

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 11, 2022

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

“The Joy of Finding”

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

“If”

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6:15

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

“What’s Wrong with Dives?”

September 5th



Lay Reader Schedule for September

- 4 David O’Connell
- 11 Carol Martsof
- 18 Keith Chase
- 25 Jane Leggieri



September Worship Notes



AS we leave summer and enter into the program year, please remember our return to 10 AM worship beginning on September 11th. Other aspects of worship remain the same, including our continuing trek through the Gospel According to Luke. September gives us one lesson from chapter 14, two from chapter 15, and one from chapter 16 to close out the month.

On **September 4**, the Lord's Supper will be celebrated and this day will also be our last pre-service hymn-sing for the summer. The message of the Lord to Jeremiah at the potter's house sets out the alternatives for Israel; obedience and salvation or disobedience and judgment. In the cluster of Jesus' sayings collected by Luke in Gospel for the day, the cost of discipleship and the need to calculate that cost thoughtfully are addressed.

September 11, will be Rally Day and we will return to 10 AM worship – with a special fellowship time planned following the service. Our first lesson for the day brings sobering words of judgment from Jeremiah, with its vivid depiction of the devastation, chaos, and gloom that result from invading armies. In our second reading, from 1 Timothy, the first of a cycle of semicontinuous readings from First and Second Timothy over the next six weeks, we hear Paul reminiscing about the mistakes of his past and his experience of divine mercy. The Lucan parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin—both emphasizing the rejoicing that occurs when sinners repent—serves as the day's Gospel.

September 18, we hear the mournful cries of Jeremiah as he grieves over the people of Israel. Universal concern sets the framework for the summons to prayer found in I Timothy, which urges us to pray for everyone, especially political leaders. The shrewd businessman whom the tradition has labeled the "dishonest steward" is the focal character in the Gospel reading, a story reflecting Luke's distinctive interest in the responsible use of possessions.

September 25, during the service we will rededicate the Black Chapel to be prayer space. Jeremiah's purchase of a field at Anathoth becomes a symbol of hope for Israel. The lesson concludes with God's assurance that "houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land." After a few weeks in the same epistle, the final reading from 1 Timothy, urges us to set our hopes on God rather than the evanescent uncertainty of riches. Contrasting images of wealthy self-indulgence and abject need are played out in the day's Gospel, the Lucan story of the rich man (which tradition names Dives) and Lazarus, which has resonances with several of the other lessons for the day.

Thank you Notes



Thank You notes came in this summer to DHUM from the following congregational members:

From Russell J. Atkinson:

Dear Congregation,

Many thanks for all your kindness around the time of my mother's death and funeral. It has been a difficult few years and your understanding has helped me as I assisted my parents through the most challenging of times.

I knew my mother truly was a powerful influence on my life, but not surprisingly, the occasion of her death has magnified my appreciation of that truth. It appears that I have acquired a number of her attributes and, of course, accepted many of her cherished values. To be able to be in near daily contact with my parents during this time was an immeasurable gift.

I was especially grateful so many of you could attend the funeral service. It was a strange and difficult time to be preaching and your faces in the pews were a reassuring and familiar comfort. Also, I was overwhelmed by your generosity in making a contribution, in Irene Atkinson's name, to the homeless ministries in Upper Darby. I have no doubt she is rejoicing, but on another shore and in a greater light.

It is a blessing to be your pastor. God's peace.

From Connie McLaughlin:

Dear Drexel Hill United Methodist Church: Thank you for all the cards you send. They mean a lot. We so much appreciate the continuing contact. Love, Connie.

965 Tennis Avenue
Ambler, PA 19002
trevajohn@comcast.net
215-643-5609

From Elaine Craig:

To All My Friends at Church: Thank you for the lovely altar flowers. They look very nice on my table. Also, I would like to thank you for the cards and get well wishes. Love and Hugs, Elaine.

From the Toenniessen Family:

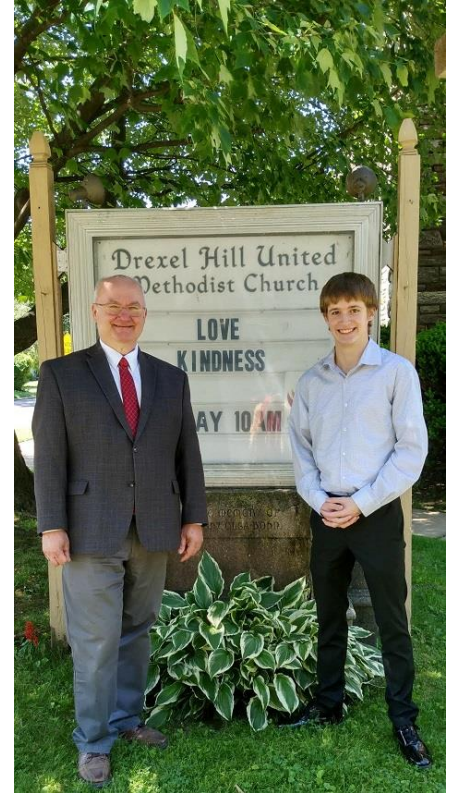
To the Bible Group, thank you for your card and kind expression of sympathy.

News Around Our Community

Congratulations Mike!

Mike Regan was honored at our Pentecost service, June 5, 2022, for graduating Marple Newtown High School. Mike has served as an acolyte for many years and has been part of bell choir offerings. Over the years he has assisted with any number of outreach projects including Thanksgiving and Easter Baskets of food and cheer for those in need. Mike was Confirmed on Pentecost, June 9, 2019.

Mike will begin undergraduate education at West Chester University where he intends to qualify as a teacher and instruct in history. He left for West Chester in August. The congregation gave, as a graduation present, David McCullough's *John Adams*, a gift that suits Mike's interest in the history of Colonial America. His mother, Stacy Regan and grandmother, Elaine Craig were in attendance.



Crafters & Fellowship Meetup



The time to pick up the knitting needles, crochet hooks, sewing needles, and other handiwork tools is fast approaching. This year the craft group will meet on the third Thursday of the month **September 15th** at 1:00 pm in the Bohn Parlor. Please come for friendly conversation and light refreshments. And if you have a friend who would like to join us, please feel free to invite them.

Did You Know?

A Blast from The Past



Drexel Hill United Methodist Church was involved in many ministries in 1971. Under the heading of “Witnessing to the World Community” in the annual church report were familiar ministries such as giving to the Eastern Pennsylvania UMC Benevolence and Church School collections for the United Nations Children’s Fund. Other witnesses were sending food and crafts to missionaries in India, sending coloring books to Henderson Settlement (a UMC ministry in Central Appalachia; the Senior High Youth spent a week there subsequently), a Youth Fellowship walk-a-thon to raise money for Vietnamese children being injured during the war, and youth participation in a peace convocation at the United Nations in New York.

Information found in *A History of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church*, pp. 98-99

Quizzo Trivia for Rally Day

You’ll want to brush up on your general knowledge (and just a little on your understanding of DHUMC ministries) so you can be on the winning Quizzo team when we celebrate Rally Day! Following our 10 AM worship service, Sunday, **September 11, 2022**, we’ll gather on the Church patio for fellowship, to make a special DHUMC ministry-made Trail Mix, and celebrate our congregation's ministries and fellowship. Pretzels, chocolate chips, nuts, raisins, and bunches of fun!



What about the Children?



As we presently do not have a Sunday School class for children at DHUMC, you may wonder what do we have to offer when someone with a child attends our church service. Currently there is a collection of books, secular and spiritual, and activity packs with crayons, stickers and Bible - related activity booklets, developed by the Membership Committee.

The materials change periodically to reflect the season of worship, i.e., Lent, Christmas. They are appropriate for preschool and grade school aged children. The ushers know where the books and packets are located (to the right of the double doors entering the Sanctuary) and will tell parents or hand them the packets. They can keep the materials and books. When we begin to have families with children attending regularly, we will need to look at providing a Sunday school class.

Nursery School News



The nursery school staff is excited to be returning to school on **Tuesday, September 13th**. We have 11 children registered in our four day, 4 year old class and 9 children in our three day, 3 year old class. We are hoping for 12 in each class to meet our budget.

Mrs. Adrienne Burwell and Mrs. Vera Gana are returning as our three-day teachers and Mrs. Jennifer Ryan will continue as our four-day teacher. We are still looking for a teacher's aide for Mrs. Ryan's class.

This year we have extended our school year by a month. Our last day of school will be June 9th instead of ending in May.

Please share with family and friends that we have openings in our nursery school and are looking for a part time teacher's aide. We look forward to a great year!

Floor Replacement

This summer our DHUMC Nursery School requested that the floor of one classroom be replaced due to loose and lifting tiles. The Trustees were contacted and agreed to fund the removal of the old floor and installation of a new and certainly better floor. Jen Ryan handled all the coordination and removal of furnishings to open up the space. She kept Alex Mullin informed as each step of the installation process was completed. Here is a statement from Jen:



“The Nursery School appreciates that the DHUMC funded a much-needed durable beautiful new floor in our 4-day classroom. The children are going to love it. Much, much thanks!”



Teacher's Aide Needed!

DHUM Nursery School is also looking for a competent teacher's aide to work with Mrs. Ryan, Tuesday through Friday from 8:45 am until 12 noon. Responsibilities include: teacher support, great communication skills, helping students to adjust, learn and socialize, providing support and assistance to individual students, making sure the classroom is safe and tidy and compassion for young children. Requirements include: experience with

young children, child abuse clearances, PA State Police and FBI fingerprinting clearances. If interested, email dhumns@verizon.net or call 610-259-1444.

Upper Darby Food Bank



The Food Bank has been closed for 3 weeks in August but is now reopened. We are getting many new families and pre-covid families coming back because of the high food prices and food stamps don't go as far. We just learned that the Broomall Food Bank closed and we don't know where those people will go but their volunteers are going to shop for us and pick up food donations for us at the Edgemont Giant and Panera

which will be a big help. No one in our area, Upper Darby Township, Milbourne, Havertown and parts of Lansdowne should go hungry. Please spread the word that we're here at 7766 Wayne Avenue, Bethel Baptist Church, from 10 am to 12 noon, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Get Involved!

Worship is a blessing. Our Drexel Hill United Methodist Church is so much more! Are you looking for a way to serve through our congregation? Here is a list you might consider:

Activity:

Delivering altar flowers
Helping with communion Ushering
Singing in the choir
Community Outreach
Hand out lunch on the Parkway
Helping in the Sunday school
Addressing Gun Violence
Maintenance of the building Gardening
Media/digital/newsletter
Prepare after-church refreshments

Contact:

Sally Mullin
Charles Webb
Dan Matarazzo
Helen Campbell
Russell Atkinson
Helen Campbell
Dave O'Connell
Alex Mullin
Diane Volpe
Jane Todd

sallyannemullin@gmail.com
chuckster242@comcast.net
dmatarazzo90@gmail.com
giveemhelen@aol.com
pastor@dhum.org
giveemhelen@aol.com
docnea@verizon.net
acmullinv@gmail.com
office@dhum.org
janedt@verizon.net

Please contact Pastor Atkinson at 610.259.2104 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your area of interest.



Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence



Get more deeply involved. We have an on-line opportunity to join in learning how we can become advocates for gun violence reduction. A Workshop lead by Bryan Miller of Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence is taking place on **September 27th**. There is no fee to participate.

Bryan Miller is no stranger to our Drexel Hill congregation. He preached from our pulpit the first time we sponsored the tee-shirt display to Delaware County's gun victims. Come and ask questions, be part of the community, learn more about the issues, and find your voice to act.

Currently, there is an unfortunate absence of faith communities involved in the movement to end gun violence. The purpose of the workshop is to encourage us to take leading roles. It will educate us, in brief overview, about the problem of gun violence as it affects neighborhoods, towns, and cities. The workshop will discuss means to energize and mobilize people and institutions of faith to take leadership roles in pursuit of changes in culture and law about guns. We will learn about programs and activities intended to appeal specifically to people and institutions of faith.

Bryan Miller is Executive Director of Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (Heeding), the PA state-wide, faith-based, and grassroots movement. He left a career in international business after his brother was killed in a 1994 massacre by a lone gunman wielding a concealed assault pistol. Bryan successfully led Ceasefire NJ, for fifteen years, which was marked by major changes in gun culture and law and the achievement of one of the lowest State per capita rates of gun death in the country. He co-founded Heeding in 2009, whose faithful public pressure forced federal authorities to shutter Colosimo's; Philadelphia's most notorious gun shop. Heeding uses various activities to mobilize people of all faiths to pursue ending gun violence.

Workshop – Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

Tuesday, **Sept. 27**, 6 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Registration Link – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/401249306477>

Even though we are hoping that DHUMC people will sign on for the 27th, we realize that may not be possible for everyone. Other dates are available and you are encouraged to sign on to one of them should you be unable to join us on the 27th.

Workshop – Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

· Session 1 - Thursday, **Sept. 8**, 6:30 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Registration Link – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400817785787>

· Session 2 - Saturday, **Sept. 17**, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Registration Link – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/400948687317>

· Session 3 - Monday, **Sept. 19**, 9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Registration Link – <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/401238092937>

DHUMC Response to Gun Violence

In response to the nation's gun violence crisis, a small group of DHUMC congregants began meeting after service early this summer. The group is addressing what our response to this gripping problem should be. This article summarizes some of the actions going forward and encourages everyone's involvement.

Prayer is the first priority and efforts are underway to return the prayer chapel to its intended use. This provides a real and symbolic reminder of the need to pray about gun violence and our response. God is faithful and will lead us in this and all areas as we depend in Him. The prayer chapel will be dedicated on Sunday **September 25th** with further improvements made to it between now and then.



There is also the ongoing need to better connect with the community. A community music night is planned for Friday **September 30th** from 6 to 7:30 in the parking lot. This is intended to be a simple opportunity to build relationships with the community. We hope you can attend. Other areas of attention include:

- Developing a church response statement to gun violence
- Engaging with public officials to express our views and concerns
- Outreach to the schools

Please pray and join in terms of our working at a grass roots level to help and heal our community and those that are isolated and hurting. We also look to partner with other organizations in addressing the problem. There is room for everyone to play a part. Please consider how you may help.

Outreach Committee News

This summer our church reached out to our neighborhood and to the world! Along with Mary Magdalene Church, we collected and donated medical and other supplies to the people of Ukraine and had a joint dedication service. In June, we took bags of water purification pills, compression bandages and other bandages, over the counter medications, underwear and socks, backpacks, etc. to St. Vladimir Orthodox Cathedral in Northeast Philadelphia. The church forwarded our donations to where they were needed in Ukraine.



Dedication Ceremony of Supplies for Ukraine in the McBurney Chapel

In August, we distributed our collected school supplies to children in the Upper Darby School District at a backpack give away sponsored by our two local representatives- Representative Zabel and Curry. It was fun seeing the kids and parents' excitement receiving free crayons, markers, notebooks, glue, pencils, pens etc. as they prepare for a new school year. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to these worthy causes. Thanks go out to John Campbell, Helen Campbell, Jane Todd and her grandchildren, Shea and Peyton Todd-Burke for volunteering to help that day.



Distributing School Supplies in Upper Darby

Outreach Events Upcoming This Year

The Outreach Committee looks forward to a new church year and more opportunities to help our neighbors. We plan to continue our past projects and maybe start a new one. Here is what we are planning:

- *October - Coat and blanket drive for the homeless at the Life Center
- *November - Food drive (gift cards) for families in the Upper Darby School District
- *December - Adopt a Child gift drive for families in the Upper Darby School District.
- *February - Valentine Gift Bags to remember the shut-ins of our church.
- *Summer – School supplies collection.

We are open to any other opportunities to reach out to people in our community and the world. We would love your ideas. We thank you for your generosity. Here's to a successful church year!

Gardening Volunteers Needed

Thanks go out to several church members who have spent time weeding and watering our vegetable garden and flower beds. In addition to the veggies growing in the area outside the church office, we also have a new "meadow" of colorful flowers lining the Burmont Road side of the parking lot. The birds, bees, and butterflies have all been enjoying what our grounds have to offer. Hopefully you will take a moment to enjoy sitting in the shade of the crepe myrtle on the patio or check out what's been growing in the vegetable garden over the summer. Please plan to join us on Monday, **September 12th and October 10th** at 9:00 a.m. for an hour or two as we continue to enjoy gardening together.



September 11, 2022

Happy Birthdays in September!



Fall has finally arrived and here are a few birthdays to celebrate in the month of September! Please consider getting in touch with the following church members by regular mail or email to help them celebrate their special days. Let us know if your birthday is missing from our list by calling the church office or emailing Janedt@verizon.net.

9/3 - Barbara O'Connell
509 Lawrence Dr.
Springfield, PA 19064
texmomoc@verizon.net

9/23 - David Bjorkgren
247 Abbey Terr. 2st Floor
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
dbjorkgren50@gmail.com

9/18 - Sandy Dell'Arciprete
132 S. Lansdowne Ave.
Lansdowne, PA 19050
sda132@aol.com

9/27 - Jim Hatten
224 James Dr.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
jimhatteniii@aol.com

9/19 - Helen Campbell
410 Alexander Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
giveemhelen@aol.com

9/30 - Fran Conway
Fair Acres
Bldg. 8, Rm 501C
340 N. Middletown Road
Lima, PA 19037



**Fall Arrives
September 22nd!**

Drexel Hill United Methodist Church Calendar

September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13 th Sunday after Pentecost	Labor Day	*Bible Study *Men's Fellowship				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
14 th Sunday after Pentecost Quizzo Trivia	*7pm Admin Council Meeting *9am Gardening	*Bible Study *Men's Fellow *School Starts		1pm Crafters & Fellowship Meeting		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
15 th Sunday after Pentecost		*Bible Study *Men's Fellowship	International Peace Day			
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
16 th Sunday after Pentecost *Chapel Dedication		*Bible Study *Men's Fellow *Gun Violence Workshop			6pm Community Music Night	

