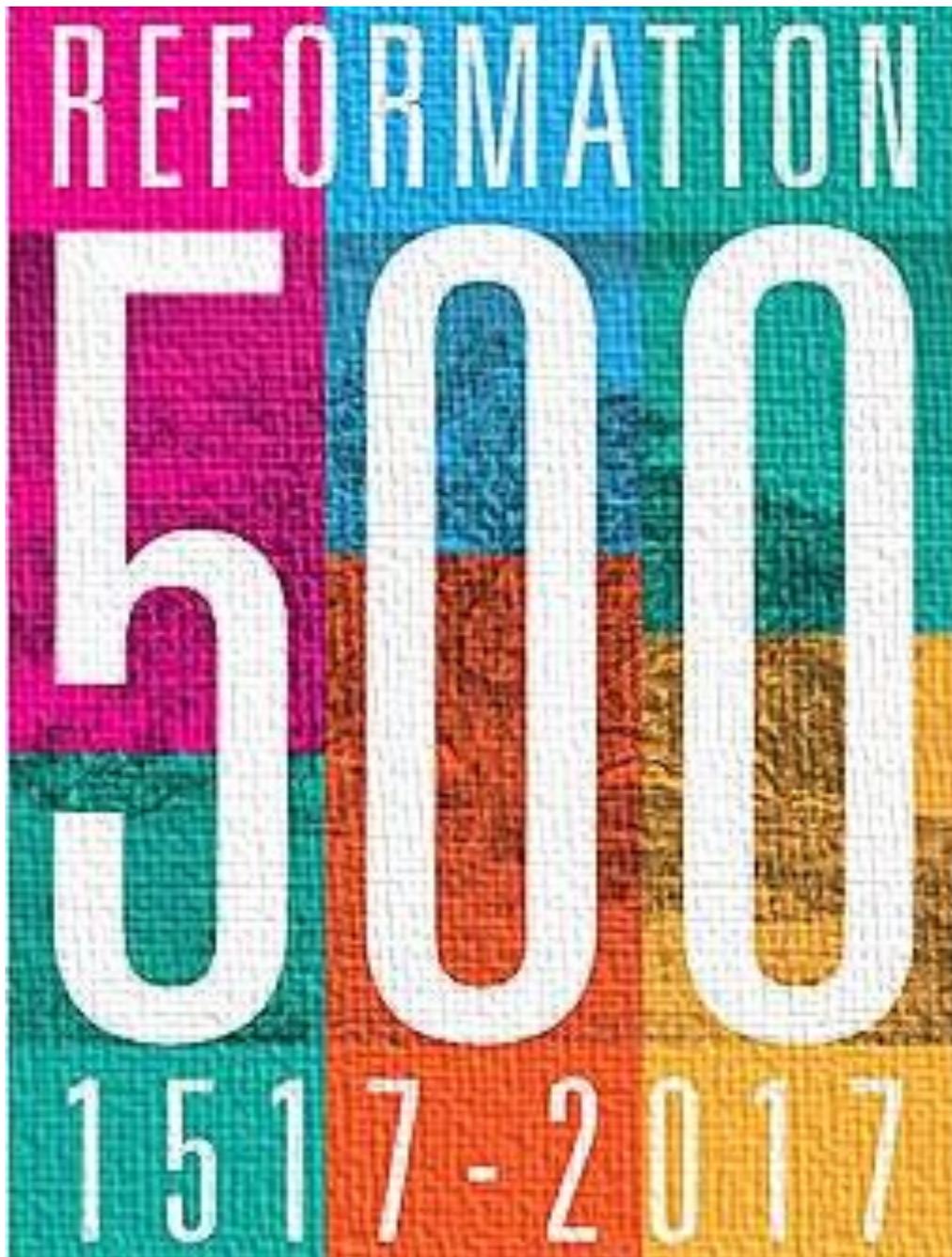


FULLER LIFE

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

OCTOBER 2017



**Fuller Life is the newsletter of the
Fuller Avenue Christian
Reformed Church**

**1239 Fuller Avenue, SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

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Connie Scheurwater, member in
focus articles
Freda Ruffli, collating &
circulation**

*On the cover: October 31,
2017, marks the 500th
Anniversary of the
Reformation.*

September Council Report

By Bill Kooy, Clerk

Dan Kooy read Psalm 100 and noted the faithfulness and longevity of the Fuller congregation. He opened the meeting with prayer.

From the Administration Committee the motion recommending that we proceed with the necessary steps in the process with a goal to hire William Jones for the position of Director of Worship and Pastoral Care was supported, discussed, and approved. William was unanimously recommended by the Hiring Worship and Care Director Team as the one individual that best fulfills the requirements we had listed for this position. He has completed the Birkman assessment through Calvin

and will plan the service for September 24. We will hold a meet and greet opportunity following that service. William is from Oshawa, Ontario, and we anticipate the Visa application to take 3 to 6 months.

A second motion from the Administration Committee recommending that we extend an internship opportunity to Kent Sanders was supported, discussed, and approved. We are offering Kent an 8 hour per week internship at Fuller CRC in line with the Calvin Seminary guidelines.

The minutes from the Administration Committee also noted the report regarding the lay-led Sunday Evening Gatherings. The meeting that was held on August 7 to discuss alternative events for the time slot of the evening Worship Service was well attended and a smaller group was formed to put together a plan. We will begin on September 17 and meet every other week. There will be a dinner and time of discussion with the topic being displayed on the monitor screen in the Fellowship room. The discussion topic for the first week will be question and answer 1 of the Heidelberg Catechism and there will be a time for prayer requests, praises, and petitions.

The Financial Report and Offering Report for July was received and reviewed. We

continue to see signs that we are going in the right direction with an increase in our year-to-date offering receipts (2016 YTD at \$231,199 and 2017 YTD at \$271,505) and receipts ahead of disbursements.

The Faith Formation report noted that the programs for Tuesday nights are set. Dan Miller will be leading a Bible Study session for adults, Derek Ellens will be leading the Middle School group, Matt Mulder will be leading Boys Club, and Sue Hollemans will be leading Bakers.

Pastor Nate has been working on the sermon series with a theme of Built to Last which will help us strengthen us in our mission to help people take their next step into a life-changing relationship with Jesus. We are encouraged to pray that through it we more deeply discover God's love for us and how he equips us to grow stronger in our missional call. He was also able to attend the Global Leadership Summit with Willow Creek along with 12 other Fuller members. Pastor Morris lead the August 13 service and has had a busy month with 2 funerals and many visits to members who are shut in, experiencing loss, or have been ill or hospitalized.

Barbara Bjelland has been working on the plans for fall programming with Nursery, Children in Worship, and

Tuesday Night Family Night along with our interns, Matt Mulder and Derek Ellens. Matt and Derek were also busy with the last few weeks of Tuesday Family Nights. Derek has transitioned back into his job at Fuller CRC after his summer position as a coach in the Dig program at Calvin Seminary. Matt lead the August 27 service and met with the team to discuss and develop the plans for the Sunday Evening Gatherings.

Care Group Elder and Deacon Teams met together to discuss their Care Groups.

The next meeting is October 11.

(Editor's Note: The Birkman assessment is a psychological workplace assessment. Roger Birkman, an American organizational psychologist developed The Birkman Method in the late 1940s. The aim of the personality test is to reveal the right career path for individuals, help people to understand themselves better and give indicators on how to improve relationships, manage stress and determine inspiration. It is a 298-question personality and leadership style assessment and combines motivational, behavioral and interest evaluations into a single assessment.)

StreetFest 2017

By Matt Mulder

(Editor's Note: "StreetFest is a one-time service-learning opportunity that occurs during our first-year student orientation program called Quest. During StreetFest, we partner with over 60 community organizations to join them in their work in the city of Grand Rapids. The theme this year is Love Justly: Commit to Place. During StreetFest, participants will interact with community members and organizations in Grand Rapids who are deeply committed to their place. Students are invited to take the opportunity to listen and to learn from these organizations, and begin to imagine ways to commit to their place at Calvin in Grand Rapids, and beyond. We hope that students will take action and serve in ways that will promote justice; we hope that students will learn to Love Justly." From the CRC website/Calvin College)

On Friday, September 1, a bus dropped off a group of Calvin College students for this year's StreetFest. This was my first year participating with a group for StreetFest. We began the afternoon by eating lunch together in the church basement while Gordy gave an overview of the makeup of our neighborhood and talked about the concerns of the various people that live near our church. We then went on a walk around the neighborhood

along Hall, Kalamazoo, Fisk, Giddings, and back. A few of the students from the Project Neighborhood house joined us for the walk so that they could get to know the geographical neighborhood as well. Along the way, there were discussions about income inequality, housing discrimination, both past and present, racism, safety, and what the church's role in reconciling these things should be. There were conversations generated between people old and young, between people who knew each other and people who had just met that day.

After the walk around the neighborhood, we split up to go to our three different worksites around the neighborhood, largely to do yardwork for neighbors. I went with Ken Bratt and a group of about 8 Calvin students to a neighbor's house nearby where we spent a couple hours clearing her backyard of garbage and yard waste, as well as cleaning her front porch and getting rid of some of the weeds from her driveway. Along the way, we learned more about her story, how she had come up to the Midwest in the 60s from the South, and what life was like for her and her adult wheelchair-bound daughter.

Overall, I believe the Calvin students enjoyed themselves and learned more about the city in which they now reside.

It was wonderful to see these new college students, people from Fuller, and people from our neighborhood interacting and getting to know each other. I hope that the relationships started through this will continue not only in the classroom but also the church and in life.



Global Outreach Week Events

By Paul Van Beek & Jim Speyer

This year's Global Outreach Week is scheduled for October 1 through October 8, and our theme is "Every Tribe, Every Nation". You may think that GO Week is all about decorating the sanctuary with flags, but it is so much more. In addition to the two morning worship services, the week's events will include an Adult Education session on the first Sunday and an evening prayer service focused on our missionaries, followed by the Congregational Meal on the second Sunday.

Pastor Nate launches GO Week as he leads in the ministry of liturgy and preaching during the morning worship service. Following the coffee-fellowship time, you're

invited to an Adult Education opportunity in the sanctuary, where Daryl and Carol Van Dyken will share about their work with Trans World Radio. This has been an exciting year for them which included frequent trips to the island of Bonaire in support of the power upgrade project for TWR's radio transmitter located there. We're looking forward to a great presentation.

On October 8, Eric Schering, who serves with Pacific Island Ministries in Papua New Guinea, will bring the message for our morning service. And then at 5:00 pm we will gather in the fellowship room for an informal prayer service led by Ray and Ann Kapteyn. The goal of the evening gathering is to increase our knowledge of our supported missionaries so that we can offer more meaningful prayers for them and their work. Prayer is one of our most powerful tools, and we encourage you to join us so that together we can encourage and strengthen our missionaries. Following the prayer service, you're invited to stay for a light meal and an opportunity visit with the Kapteyns. The GO Committee will provide food and drinks. We ask that you sign up at the ministry center so we can plan appropriately.

Last, but not least, GO Week is an opportunity for all of us to renew our financial

commitments to our missionaries through our Faith Promise pledges. Pledge cards will be distributed via your mail folders and will also be available in the pew racks. We encourage you to prayerfully consider this equally vital part of our mission partnerships.

Your active participation in these GO Week gatherings will encourage the missionaries that Fuller sponsors. And you will learn about the many ways our missionaries spread the Gospel to all corners of the globe and also be challenged as to how you, too, can respond to the Great Commission. Please come and prepare to be blessed while being a blessing.

Faith-Promise – An Invitation to Adventure

By Jim Speyer

Next Sunday marks the beginning of GO Week during which we celebrate Fuller's partnerships with the several Missionaries/Teachers/Engineers/Translators/Agriculturalists/Volunteer Recruiters to whom we've promised financial support. Faith-Promise giving and the declaration of our respective personal support pledges has been a part of this annual mission focus cycle at Fuller for decades—familiar to some of us, but maybe something

new to others. For your Global Outreach Committee, these pledges which we will be asking you to make are a vital part of the committee's financial planning exercise. Essentially, this information allows us to communicate to each of Fuller's partners our contribution to their respective personal budgets; which in turn is essential to their planning and ministry commitments.

Our congregation has been consistently faithful in its Faith-Promise giving. As the committee tasked with allocating and disbursing these gifts promised in faith and given as God provides, we encourage all of you to prayerfully consider His call to be financial partners. The people we support through our giving are involved in some amazing work. Allowing ourselves to move beyond the money to a point where we engage and even visualize the specifics of our partnership adds a sense of expectation and excitement to our promising. It brings to mind a scene from the movie, "Mary Poppins" where Jane and Michael are told:

If you invest your tuppence wisely - - -safe and sound
Soon that tuppence, - - will compound - - - you'll be part of:
Railways through Africa
Dams across the Nile
Fleets of ocean greyhounds

Majestic, self-amortizing
canals
Plantations of ripening tea
All from tuppence,
prudently fruitfully, frugally
(and you could add:
faithfully) invested

For our "tuppence" promised in faith, those lyrics might be reworded in terms like:

Radio transmitters in
Bonaire
Conservation Agriculture in
Tanzania
New churches in Seattle
Christian Schools in Nigeria
Government leader classes
in Papua New Guinea
Indigenous language Bibles
in Central African Republic
Teacher training in the
Democratic Republic of the
Congo

So as you contemplate your Faith Promise pledge for 2018, think of it as your passport to a host of adventures.

Go and G.O.

By Jay Van Bruggen

"Go into all the world..." and
Global Outreach.

Go is a command word.
Without a following word it is probably meaningless. When Jesus gave his final instruction, he told his disciples to "go into all the world, preaching and teaching." The Bible tells us that the Apostle Paul went as

far as Rome. Much of his travel was probably on foot, but ships, and draft animals may have helped more than we know.

Today at Fuller Avenue Church we are beginning our annual reminder of this task given to us. We may respond in different ways. Some of us have passports and can travel easily; some are far more comfortable staying close to where they have spent most of their lives. Jesus knew that the widow who gave only a penny was a greater giver than some who made a public spectacle of their much larger public gifts.

As we begin our G.O. Week we are reminded that there are many places on earth that do not know about Jesus and the joy of Christianity. Today, unlike for Paul, no place on earth is more than twenty-four hours from Grand Rapids.

At the Gathering Place

Is a collection of colored pencil renderings by our member, John Knight. Come to the Gathering Place to see how John explores the art medium of colored pencil. Can you recognize those that were turned into sanctuary banners? Our thanks to John for helping to enrich our worship experience.

Welcoming Maria Riley

By Connie Scheurwater

Maria Riley was welcomed into the fellowship of Fuller Avenue Church at the morning worship service on July 9, 2017. She has become an active member, and we thank God for leading her step by step to make the decision to affiliate with our church.

Maria was born in San Antonio, Texas. She was raised in the Catholic Church and attended Catholic schools. In 1954 her family moved to Saginaw, Michigan, including her sister Adelita Silva who has been a member of Fuller Avenue Church for some time. In 1975 the family moved to Grand Rapids. Maria married in 1985 and raised a family of three daughters and one son. During those years she also held a number of jobs, working as a cook at Chico's Bar and Grill on Michigan Avenue, doing laundry for hospitals through a temp service, and working part time on weekends in a nursing home as an aide. For 25 years she worked at Brillcast Industry in Wyoming, Michigan.

In her job at Brillcast, Maria received additional education. She had not previously completed high school. In order to keep her job she needed to become certified through the company's Standard Process Control program. One of her most challenging subjects was

algebra, but she did pass the course and received her certification! At Brillcast she held various jobs, the last one before retirement being half time Inspection and half time office help. Foot problems, back problems, and carpal tunnel syndrome contributed to her decision to retire.

Maria lived in Zeeland for a number of years, and moved to Grand Rapids three years ago after her husband passed away. She now lives on Highland SE just two houses from her sister Adelita. Before coming to Fuller Avenue Church, she was active at Heartside Ministry with George Heartwell in downtown Grand Rapids.

Maria's four children Josephina, Frances Ann, Jacqueline, and Mario all have families of their own, and Maria has a number of grandchildren. One of her granddaughters, Alisandra, occasionally attends worship services with her.

Maria enjoys traveling and has been to Florida, Texas, Canada, New York, and Chicago. Her hobbies are reading, crocheting, embroidery, and crafts, which she usually makes to give away. At Fuller Avenue she participates in Women's Bible Study, Zumba class, and Tuesday Family Nights in summer. We thank God for Maria's presence in our church, and pray for mutual

blessings as we fellowship together.

Welcome Kent and Crystal Sanders

By Kent Sanders

I'm Kent Sanders, originally born and raised in Rancho Cucamonga, California and have a younger brother. My wife, Crystal, was raised in Lawton, Michigan and has four other siblings. We met at Calvin College orientation as transfer students and have been married a little less than two years. Crystal is currently finishing up her undergrad at Calvin College and I am beginning my M.Div at Calvin Seminary. After graduation Crystal hopes to begin her post-BA teaching certificate and after seminary I hope to become a Chaplain though I will go where called. When not busy with school and work we love to hang out with our cat, cook good food, and go bowling.

No Longer on the Same Page

By John Knight

Challenged by a grandson who no longer goes to church and seriously questions if God really exists, I dug into the just released book, *Why I Left / Why I Stayed*, by Tony and Bart Campolo (HarperOne, 2017).

I remember Tony Campolo as a speaker at Young Calvinist conventions and knew his son, Bart, who was once an effective youth minister in Minneapolis. His father recalls how young adults with spiritual struggles still praise Bart for the loving Christian counsel he gave them. But one recent Thanksgiving Day, Bart told his parents he no longer believed in this God-thing, quickly adding that he and his family still loved them unconditionally.

What followed were many conversations, even a trip abroad by father and a son who now serves as a Humanist Chaplain at USC. They decided to write this book with Peggy, Bart's mother, writing the introduction. Both father and son each convincingly state their case, with 81-year old Tony Campolo adding one of the finest apologetics for the Christian faith and its Kingdom vision.

In his earlier book, *Letters to a Young Evangelical*, the elder Campolo warned that "technology may someday reproduce mystical spiritual experiences by stimulating certain parts of the brain. Such questions may seem strange now (in 2003) but your generation . . . needs to be prepared, ethically and theologically, to answer them." At the time, Tony may already have sensed Bart and his wife, Marty, struggled with

faith issues before they jumped ship.

It wouldn't take long for Tony and his wife to be accused by some fellow evangelicals that 'If you hadn't focused so much on the social aspects of the gospel, maybe Bart would not have left the church.' Dah!

There is something cozy about only hanging out with fellow believers. At a winter retreat with Francis Schaeffer in 1970, my Mennonite roommate and I felt we had experienced a foretaste of heaven until a snow storm cancelled all return flights the following day out of Wilkes-Barre, PA. Forced to venture out, we soon discovered that at the same retreat facility, Buckminster Fuller and his band of university students, mostly from Berkeley, had been putting the final touches on plans for the first Earth Day. Some of us joined them in a scavenger hunt of nearby barns and sheds for found objects to create a spontaneous installation that literally included a kitchen sink. Not only did we cross over with 'that other group,' but even took in an impromptu dialog between Schaeffer and Fuller.

Both Bucky's transcendentalist roots, views on earth's origins and futuristic vision (he predicted satellite communication long before the internet) still shape our society while Schaeffer's message has faded. When he

came down with a terminal illness, his son Frankie, a gifted filmmaker and popular speaker, had to put up with much adulation at assemblies such as the Southern Baptist Convention. In his book, *Crazy for God (2007)*, he remembers people grabbing his hand, blurring "I just want to say that I touched a Schaeffer!"

As his dad gradually moved within the inner echelon of evangelical America, Frankie realized how top leaders were idolized in an almost cultish way and how his own father's views had fallen victim to a new politicized dogma. Frankie missed growing up at l'Abri, an international retreat center for searching young Christians where his mother, Edith, played an equally important role. He loved the free-wheeling atmosphere.

Frankie, now Frank, also turned his back on American evangelicalism. But unlike Bart Campolo who embraced Humanism, Frank and his family joined the Eastern Orthodox Church where he and his family felt the presence of God in an almost mystical worship setting.

Brad, Frank, and young men like my grandson, have reason to question the excesses they see in evangelical America. If there is one thing that my twenty years in denominational youth ministry, especially during the

turbulent sixties and seventies, has taught me is that we better treasure their questions. We are often too afraid to face them ourselves.

I highly recommend *Why I Left//Why I Stayed*. In the meantime, our grandson and I will discuss life's heavy stuff for all it is worth in the months, and Lord willing, years ahead.

from left to right is: Quinn, Mark, Elijah, Kyle, Sophia, Clara, and Joy



Quinn Bugner is a senior at Calvin College studying nursing. She grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and loves spending time outside!

Kyle Gontjes is a senior at Calvin College studying Biology with special interests in public health and microbiology. For leisure, Kyle enjoys playing competitive sports, exploring the great outdoors, listening to music and playing board games.

Elijah is a senior at Calvin College from Washington DC. He is studying electrical engineering. He enjoys playing soccer, biking, and traveling. Eli is looking forward to exploring West Michigan more this year.

My name is Hyeryeong Choi (Joy) and I am a Korean from Davao, Philippines (My parents are missionaries in the Philippines.) I am a sophomore majoring in biology at Calvin College.

Fuller Project Neighborhood House

Mark VanderWeide is the house mentor with Clara. He grew up in Sparta, MI, graduated from Calvin College in 2012 with a degree in nursing. He works at Spectrum Health in the Surgical ICU. He likes running, biking, and being active outside.

Clara VanderWeide is a house mentor with Mark. She is a nurse practitioner at Clinica Santa Maria. She grew up in Petoskey, MI, then moved to Grand Rapids where she studied nursing and Spanish at Calvin College. She enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors, cooking, and eating.

Sophia Bryson is a junior studying Environmental Science and Biology. She is originally from Dexter, Michigan, and enjoys biking, baking, and gardening.

The deadline for the November *Fuller Life* is Sunday, October 22, 2017



1 Morris Greidanus

2 Zander Elzinga

Deb Gabites

4 Polly Slotsema

5 Barb Engbers

Tony Schering (M)

6 Penny Schering (M)

7 Marcus Feyen

8 Alex DeJong McCarron

9 Jana Postma

David & Kimmi Vu Lagerwey
(2004)

10 Andrea Brown

David Lagerwey

11 Dawn Cornell

Don Van Stee

12 Jack Stegink

Eric Straatsma

14 Allison (Hollemans) Postma

15 AJ Heyboer

Pauline Hoolsema

Jeanette Vander Meer

Jerry & Jan Van Veen (1977)

16 Hannah Segaar-King

18 Dennis & Karen Vander Meer
(1974)

22 Essence Shields

24 Edna Venlet

25 Matt Postma

Dan Rietberg

26 Bruce Engbers

28 Dave De Windt

31 John Vanden Berg

Sparkle Pictures

Choose something to paint that represents fall like pumpkins, leaves, trees, flowers and etc.

Draw your picture. Paint it. While the paint is still wet, lightly sprinkle with salt over the sections you want to stand out. When the paint dries, the salt will sparkle.

Mixing a little glue in the paint will ensure that the salt will stick better.

Supplies

- Sheet of construction paper
- Pencil
- Paint
- Salt
- Water for cleanup
- glue



October 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|---|--|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| 1 GO Week 10 am: Faith Promise & SECOM Offering 11:30 am: Van Dyken Report 5 pm: Evening Gathering | 2 | 3 6:30 PM – Mid Week Ministry | 4 | 5 7 pm: Council | 6 | 7 |
| 8 GO Week 5 pm: Mission Prayer Service with Ray & Ann Kapteyn | 9 | 10 6:30 PM – Mid Week Ministry | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 9 am: Project Neighborhood Workshop pm: Seniors Dinner |
| 15 5 pm: Evening Gathering | 16 | 17 6:30 PM – Mid Week Ministry | 18 7 pm: AP Game Night hosted by Group 2 | 19 | 20 | 21 7 pm: Pinochle |
| 22 | 23 | 24 6:30 PM – Mid Week Ministry | 25 7 pm: Admin Committee | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 5 pm: Evening Gathering | 30 | 31 6:30 PM – Mid Week Ministry – Trunk or Treat | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

FROM

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TO