

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 550  
3216 West Main Street  
Claremont, NC 28610  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Our Mission  
To Proclaim the Gospel  
To Make Disciples  
To Embody Christ's Love

ST. MARKS NEWSLETTER  
March 22, 2023



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER  
AT ST. MARK'S

Sundays—Worship  
10:00 Services in Sanctuary  
9:00am Sunday Morning Learning  
10:00 Drive-Up in Front  
Parking Lot Service

Anytime—online  
[www.smarklc.org](http://www.smarklc.org)  
[YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)  
[Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/stmarksclaremont) - Links

Media  
Christ in our Home devotional  
*Please call the church office.*

**A NOTE ON OUR WORSHIP  
TOGETHER IN THE NAVE**

**MASKS ARE OPTIONAL**  
**WE ASK THAT YOU OBSERVE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING FOR THE SAKE OF  
YOURSELF AND YOUR NEIGHBOR.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Worship times and places are subject  
to change for the sake of safety due  
to COVID-19

**You may view our services live on St.  
Mark's Lutheran Church's YouTube  
page.** Become a subscriber by going  
to the page and clicking on the  
subscribe button. The service will  
remain there after each service for  
later viewing.

<http://www.youtube.com/@st.marks.lutheranchurchclar6483>

Sunday, April 2 Palm Sunday  
Coffee and Conversation for the Adult - We will be studying Mary  
Magdalene. 9:00am in the Family Life Center  
Sunday Morning Learning for the Children - Will be in a classroom in  
the Parish Hall Building at 9:00am  
Worship with Holy Communion at 10:00am - The disciple, Peter, will be  
the focus of the sermon.

Thursday, April 6  
Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm  
The disciple, John, will be the focus of the sermon.

Friday, April 7  
Good Friday Worship at 6:30pm  
We will hear from the Penitent Thief who was crucified along side of  
Jesus on this day.

Sunday, April 9 Easter  
SonRise Service with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary 7:00am  
Easter Breakfast in the Family Life Center 8:30am  
Children's lesson and activities including Egg Hunt 9:00am  
No Coffee and Conversation for Adults  
Traditional Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary at  
10:00am  
We will hear about Mary Magdalene at both the SonRise Service and  
the Traditional Service

Join us and invite your family and friends for this most Holy Week of the  
Christian Year.

Church Staff

**Pastor Heather Langan: Senior Pastor**  
[hlangan519@yahoo.com](mailto:hlangan519@yahoo.com) (704-724-5991)  
**Emily Schuttenberg: Choir Director/Organist**  
**Wendy Hefner: Family Ministries Director**  
[wendy@smarklc.org](mailto:wendy@smarklc.org) (828-270-6008)  
**Praise Team Leader/Keyboardist** (828)-459-2161  
**Maria Wright: Preschool Director**  
[mw9268@gmail.com](mailto:mw9268@gmail.com) (828-234-5943)  
**Randyl Abernathy: Preschool Director**  
[mimab@charter.net](mailto:mimab@charter.net) (828-781-1702)  
**Deanna Butcher: Finance Secretary**  
[deanna@smarklc.org](mailto:deanna@smarklc.org) (828-459-2161)  
**Debbie Smith: Administrative Assistant**  
[secretary@smarklc.org](mailto:secretary@smarklc.org) (828-459-2161)  
**Larry Smyre Interim: Church Custodian** (828-459-2161)

Congregation Council

<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Terry Hefner	Kyle Sigmon	Jean Cloninger
Denise Arndt	Hilka Cox	Blake Sigmon
Marlene Epps	Kendra Hendren	Jonathan Ray
Carol Schaefer	Aaron Carpenter	Nicky Setzer




*The year denotes rotation off Council.*

Congregation Council meets on April 17 at 6:30pm  
The next newsletter mailing will be April 12, 2023

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00am—2pm; Friday, 9:00-12:00pm

Follow Us Online

 [StMarksLutheran...Claremont, NC](https://www.facebook.com/StMarksLutheranChurchClaremont)  [www.smarklc.org](http://www.smarklc.org)  
 [YouTube St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Claremont, NC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)



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3-22-2023



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



To the Disciples of St. Mark's and friends: Thank you so much for the beautiful installation service and dinner reception on March 5. I had hoped to write individual thank you notes but have just not been able to do so. Thank you to the St. Mark's preschool board, teachers, and families for the flower basket arrangement. Thank you for the Call Committee for your planning and participation. Thank you to the Congregation Council for your participation in the service and dinner. Thank you to Sandra Tallant and those who sang in the choir on this day. The music was beautiful. Thank you to the Tech Team for their work leading the service and also streaming it on YouTube. I had friends from across the country who watched and participated along with us. They were very grateful for this ministry. Thank you for Pastor CeCee Mills and Pastor Christy Lohr Sapp for their participation and the other pastors, deacons, and vicars who were here in support. Thank you also for the Lutheran Pectoral Cross that was given to me to remember this day. I am grateful for the love and support I have been given by this faith family. Thank you.

Pastor Heather Langan

THOSE PERSON AND FAMILIES WHO ARE GRIEVING, NAMED AND UNNAMED.

Family of Kaye Shaffer  
Family of Andy Dison

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WITH ACUTE HEALTH CHALLENGES

Harley Brown	Celia Hollar	Sandy Sherrill	Please pray for COVID victims.
Gary Carpenter	Tammie Hoyle	Brenda Sigmon	
Eva Cloninger	Meredith Huret	Tim Sigmon	
Jerry Craig	Exie Little	Bishop Tim Smith	Please pray for all front line Covid caregivers.
Jackie Devlin	JD Little	Dee Stewart	
Keegan Dixon	Rudy Little	Richard Tallant	
Alanna Dotson	Gaye Morrison	Chuck Watson	Please pray for all those isolated, and those in Assisted Living Homes.
Mike Evans	Glenn Morrison		

We still have available Sunday's for Altar Flowers.

Please let the office know if you would like to sponsor the altar flowers in honor, in memory or for someone's birthday. Altar flowers are \$54.00. See available Sun-days below.

April 23rd. May 14th & 21st. June 18th. July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th. Aug. 13th & 20th. Sept. 17th. Nov. 5th, 12th & 19th. Dec. 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st.

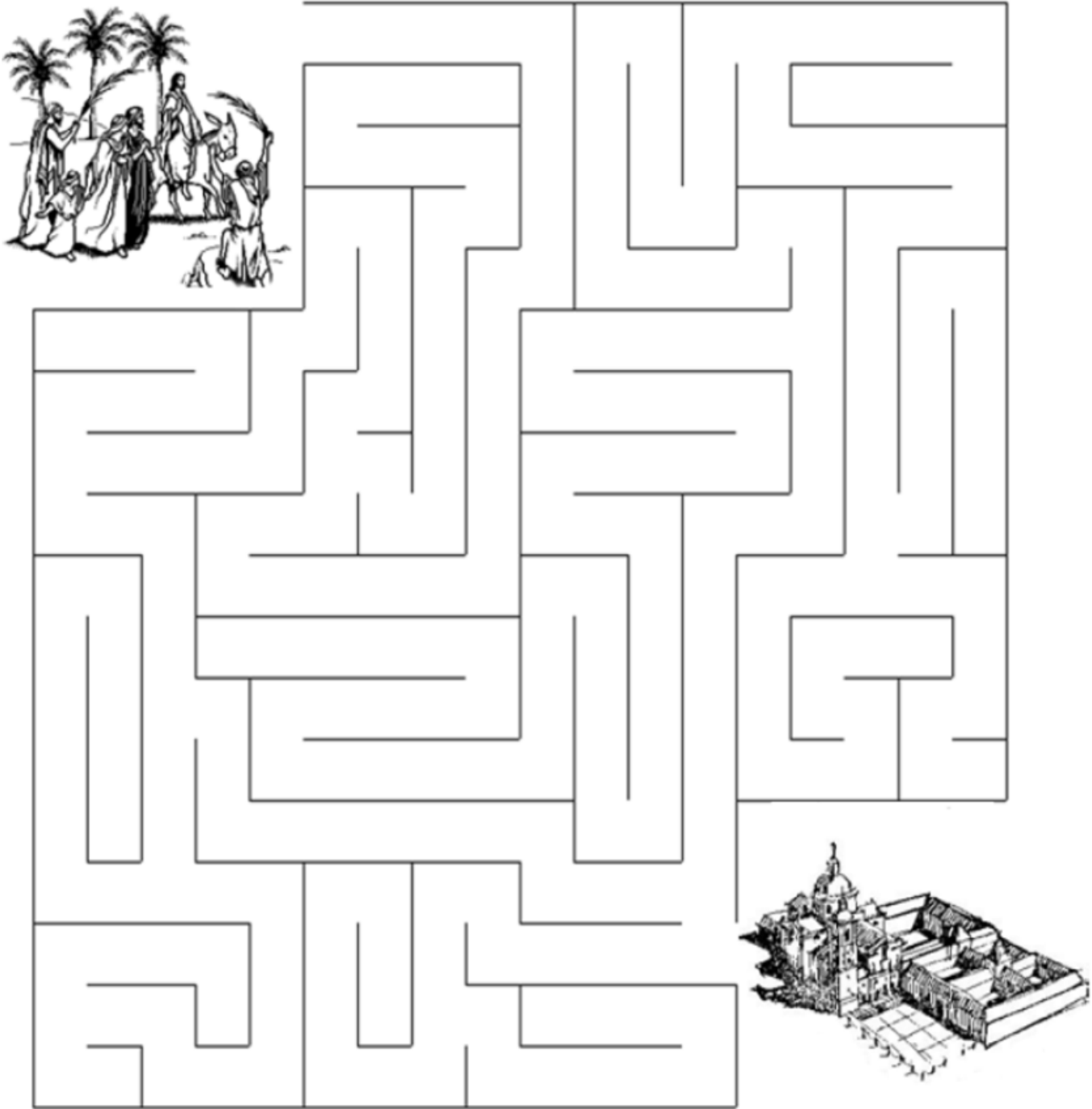


2 "The greatest lesson for enduring happiness is to serve others." - Justin Jepsen

MAZE PUZZLE

Matthew 21:1-11

Follow Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem.



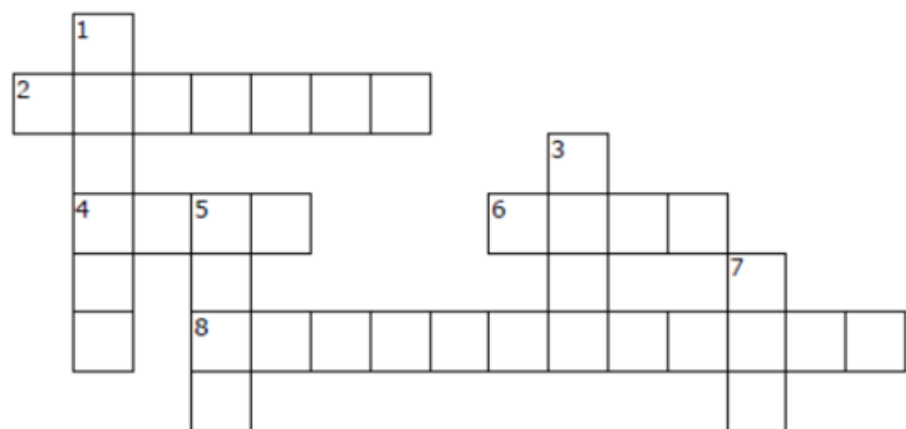


# Children’s Ministry Page

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### The Raising of Lazarus

John 11:1-45



#### ACROSS

- 2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
- 4. A place where someone is buried
- 6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
- 8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

#### DOWN

- 1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
- 3. To be alive or have life
- 5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
- 7. To stop living

TOMB	MARTHA	DIE	MARY
LIVE	RESURRECTION	LAZARUS	SICK



# Discernment Team Update

Our call to communal discipleship

LORD, COULD WE PLEASE JUST  
HAVE A BURNING BUSH?




Why do we have a Discernment Team? A condition of Pastor Heather’s call was that St. Mark’s would undergo a consultative process to help us intentionally listen to God’s calling, respond to the needs of our neighbors, and map out the journey Jesus has set before us as a church. St. Mark’s contracted with ChurchWerkes, and Cathy Cowling is our consultant. Team members are: Pastor Heather, Matthew Watkins, Kendra Hendren, Nicky Setzer, Tamarah Hefner, Dale Sherrill, Melanie Sigmon, and Terry Hefner. Having had 6 hours of instruction and another 2-½ hour follow-up, the team is moving forward!

What is this? Discernment is not just decision making and planning. *“Discernment is a quality of attentiveness to God that, over time, develops into the ability to sense God’s heart and purpose so that we may align ourselves to whatever God is doing.”* There are two major questions that require us to listen to God and each other: 1) Who is God calling St. Mark’s to be? and 2) How is St. Mark’s going to respond to that call?

We can not do this without you, our members, friends, and community. In the near future, we are going to pursue another themed worship series on Discernment. We will be spending time during this series praying, talking, and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. Be prepared to have the Holy Spirit work through us all as we listen intently for God’s guidance and map out our response to His love.

The Easter season is a time of rebirth, shedding the old self to walk in the light of Jesus’ resurrection, fully forgiven. Brand spanking new. Through this series. Let us all renew our commitment to Christ: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody Christ’s love.

*For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ~Colossians 1.9-10*



Woman of the Year

Calling All Members !!!! If you have someone you would like to nominate for “Woman of the Year” please send in your written letter to the office or give to Elaine Simmons no later than Monday , April 17 . We have so many special ladies who are deserving of this award so think about who inspires you and who you would like to honor and show special recognition !!!!!

Woman of the Year!

Easter Sunday Morning  
The children are invited to

**Hunt for Jesus**

The lesson will explore **symbols of Easter** that remind us of the **Sacrifice Jesus** made on the cross. There will also be a fun time of searching for eggs and finding lots of candy. Invite a friend and join the fun at 9 AM!



**Claremont  
Easter Egg Hunt  
Saturday, April 1st  
10 – 12:00**

St Mark’s will be sponsoring the craft table this year and we need members to join us to share God with Others.





**Parent’s Night Out  
Friday, May 19  
6—9:00 PM**

**Dinner will be served  
Games, Movies and More!**


Children 5— 12 yrs  
\$5 suggested donation per child  
Info coming soon to register.

**Vacation  
Bible School  
July 28—29  
More Info Soon!**

April 23-29 is National Library Week. Our noisy bucket offering for this month will go to Claremont Friends of The Library in honor of Glenn Morrison . He has been instrumental in bringing famous authors to the library, held fundraisers and events sharing his enthusiasm and support for literacy for over 20 years . Friends of the Library provide community outreach and promote the library every chance they get . If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Claremont branch friends of the library to volunteer and work with other advocates for the library and all it has to offer please see Glenn or call 466-6817 . Thank you Glenn for all your hard work and dedication. Please consider donating on Sunday, April 2 to help with books, toys and educational materials.



**WORSHIP**



**ASSISTANTS**  
4

Worship Leaders needed for April, please let the office know if you can assist for one of the following services.

4/2 @ 10:00am

4/6 @ 6:30pm Maundy Thursday,

4/9 Easter @ 7:00am & 10:00am

4/16, 4/23 & 4/30

**April Altar Guild**

Hilka Cox, Carol Schaefer  
& Linda Hewitt



**April Tabulators**

Dotty Isenhour  
Chris Cloninger



April

- 4/1 City of Claremont Easter Egg Hunt Claremont Park 10:00am-12:00pm
- 4/2 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 4/2 **Palm Sunday 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/Noisy Offering (Claremont Library)**
- 4/3 Women’s Bible Study 11:00am
- 4/6 Grief Share 10:00am-12:00pm
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30pm
- 4/7 Good Friday Service 6:30pm
- 4/9 Sunrise Easter Vigil Service 7:00am**
- 4/9 Congregation Breakfast with Children’s Activity and Egg Hunt 8:30am
- 4/9 Easter Sunday 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 4/10 Offices closed
- 4/11 Property Team 6:30pm
- 4/12 Blood Drive 2:00pm-6:00pm
- 4/12 Newsletter Mailed
- 4/13 Grief Share 10:00am-12:00pm
- 4/13 Congregation Care 2:00pm
- 4/16 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 4/16 2nd Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary/ECCCM Food Collection**
- 4/17 Outreach Team 10:00am
- 4/17 Executive Team 6:00pm
- 4/17 Congregation Council 6:30pm
- 4/20 Grief Share 10:00am-12:00pm
- 4/23 Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation 9:00am
- 4/23 3rd Sunday of Easter 10:00am Worship Service in Sanctuary**
- 4/26 Newsletter Mailed
- 4/27 Grief Share 10:00am-12:00pm
- 4/29 Women’s Day Luncheon 11:00am-1:00pm

ANYTIME

www.smarklc.org  
YouTube.com





4/19 Rudy & Exie Little  
4/21 Timothy & Deborah Sherrill  
4/23 Linda & Benny Lytton



4/6 Ginger Carpenter  
4/8 Emma Blossom, Mia Claire Morgan  
4/10 Hilka Cox, Jessica Sigmon  
4/14 Melissa Fields, Christy Sigmon, Jack Whitener  
4/16 Ryan Sigmon, Marlene Stewart  
4/20 Celia Hollar, Evelyn Setzer  
4/21 Amy Fox, Morgan Loza

4/22 Bailey Carpenter  
4/23 Kody Nash  
4/24 Libby Brown  
4/26 Kermit Nash  
4/28 Joni Harrington  
4/30 Kyle Sigmon, Brandi Stephenson

St. Marks Women, April 29: 11 o'clock

St. Mark's women, mark your calendars for Saturday, April 29 at 11 o'clock . We will be celebrating Ladies' Day in honor of Mother's Day . Our guest speaker is Mrs. Susan Harris, certified Lay Preacher and a member of the First Cohort of Synodically Authorized Ministers in the NC Synod. She is currently serving as the Secretary of the NC Women of the ELCA. You do not want to miss out on the message she will deliver. Light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the office no later than Thursday, April 20 . Our theme this year is "His Eye Is on the Sparrow."



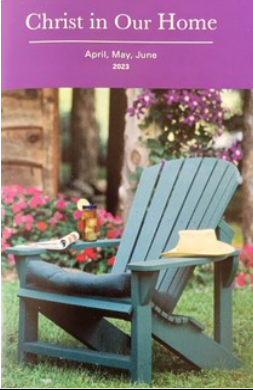
Melanie Sigmon our 2022 Woman of the Year recipient will be providing us with music . Our colors will be coral, gold, cream, and white. Ladies let's pack the Family Life Center to celebrate each other .

Women of the Vine enjoyed a paint party at Hip Hop HooWray, Thursday evening, March 16th.



March noisy bucket offering fund total for March was \$264.00. It was given to Pregnancy Care Center . Thank you to all those who donated.

The new Christ in Our Home Devotional is available for pick up at the church.  
Please call the office if you need one mailed to you.



Easter Lilies! Reserve by April 3

Lilies are available for purchase to decorate our sanctuary for Easter. The cost is \$10. You may purchase lilies to the Glory of God in memory or in honor of someone special.

*Please write checks to St. Mark's with Easter lilies on the memo line.*




Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_  
In Honor \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





APRIL 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> <b>Monday—Thursday</b> <b>9:00am-2:00pm</b> <b>Friday, 9:00am—12:00pm</b>						<b>1</b> <b>Claremont Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am—12:00pm</b> 
<b>2</b> <b>9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee &amp; Conversation</b> <b>10:00am Palm Sunday Worship Service/Noisy Offering (Claremont Library)</b>	<b>3</b> <b>11:00am Women’s Bible Study</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>10:00am Grief Share</b> <b>6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:30pm Good Friday Service</b>  <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>7:00am Sonrise Service</b> <b>8:30am Breakfast, Children’s Activity, and Egg Hunt</b> <b>10:00am Easter Sunday Worship Service</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Offices Closed</b>	<b>11</b> <b>6:30pm Property Team</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Blood Drive 2-6:00pm</b>  <b>Newsletter Mailed</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10:00am Grief Share</b> <b>2:00pm Congregation Care</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation</b> <b>10:00am 2nd Sunday of Easter Worship Service</b> <b>ECCCM Food Collection</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10:00am Outreach Team</b> <b>6:00pm Executive Team</b> <b>6:30pm Congregation Council</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10:00am Grief Share</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 
<b>23</b> <b>9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation</b> <b>10:00am 3rd Sunday of Easter Worship Service</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Newsletter Mailed</b>	<b>27</b> <b>10:00am Grief Share</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b> <b>Women’s Day Luncheon 11:00am-1:00pm</b>
<b>30</b> <b>9:00am Sunday Morning Learning/Coffee and Conversation</b> <b>10:00am 4th Sunday of Easter Worship Service</b>	<b>31</b>					