The ENLIGHTENER



Pastor's Message:



For now we see as in a polished metal mirror: dimly, But then we will see face to face.

-1 Corinthians 13:12

Spring has sprung in the Rochester area, or at least the early signs of spring have arrived: crocuses, daffodil tips, robins, red wings and house finches. Despite the diligent work of several men to prevent it, the sparrows are trying to find a way to nest in the picnic pavilion. I expect that we will have more snow, but Spring is definitely on its way. Anyone who has been around me for any length of time knows that I love Spring as much as any person. I love to watch the plants poking their heads up through the thawing, even still frozen earth. For me, the crocus (and probably the butterfly) is my favorite symbol of resurrection and new life in Jesus Christ.

But symbols are not the real thing. They are only meant to represent, to stand in for, something much greater. Our American flag is a potent symbol, but it pales in comparison with the great and beautiful country that it stands for. The cross that we see in church or wear around our necks conveys only weakly the deep suffering and selfless love of Jesus on Good Friday. And crocuses, lilies, butterflies, and other Spring images cannot fully capture the power of the empty tomb and the risen and living Lord, or the life that his resurrection promises for us.

The apostle Paul speaks about this in his "love chapter," the 13th chapter of First Corinthians: "Now we see things [like God's love, Jesus' resurrection, new life in Christ] as though we were looking at them in a polished metal mirror, or the surface of a pond – dimly- but then [when Jesus comes] we will see as clearly as if we were standing face to face." "Now I understand in part; then I will understand completely."

It is difficult to explain how different life in faith can be from life lived in hopelessness. There are no adequate words to describe how beautiful and wonderful eternal life in heaven will be. And so, we use symbols. If our life now is like a flower bulb in the fall – not much to look at, or tell about, - then life with Jesus is like the flower that blooms in the brown Spring ground – beautiful almost beyond description. If our present life is like that of a caterpillar – ugly, slow, hard work to move around and get enough to eat, and full of dangers – then eternal life is as free and beautiful as a butterfly on the wing. But more so...

This Spring, and particularly on Easter, April 4th, enjoy the symbols of the season. Let them remind you of new life, better life, in Jesus Christ - now and forever. And remember that they are only a dim reflection of the reality God has prepared for us.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Matt Stengel

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Let's Get Connected!

Excellent opportunity to share with your friends and family all the GUMC has to offer.

Email: greeceumc@outlook.com

Website: greeceumc@outlook.com

facebook

Facebook: Greece UMC

Twitter @GreeceUMC



Instagram greeceunitedmc

A PRAYER CHAIN REMINDER:

We have an active prayer chain through e-mails. You're invited to be part of that by contacting Gale Huber. If you have a prayer concern of any kind that you want to share, contact Gale at galefischerhuber@gmail.com. We only send out prayer concerns when we receive direct requests for sharing.

NEWSLETTER:

Deadline for all newsletter articles is the <u>15th of</u> each month by 12:00pm.



Please e-mail Katie at the church office email — greeceumc@outlook.com

Thank you.

Church Fundraisers

Thank you to all who have helped in some way to make our fundraising successful. **These fundraisers help support our church and the many ministries we have to offer our community.**



Church Fundraising

GUMC 2021 Fundraisers: Save the Dates!!

Chicken BBQ (Drive-Thru) Thu. May 20, 4:30pm-sellout

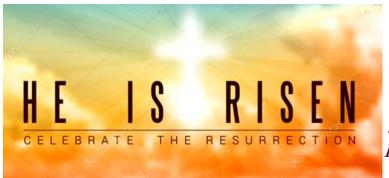
Book Sale		TBD
Chicken BBQ	(Drive-Thru)	Thu. June 17, 4:30pm—sellout
Chicken BBQ	(Drive-Thru)	Thu. July 15, 4:30pm—sellout
Chicken BBQ	(Drive-Thru)	Thu. August 19, 4:30pm-sellout
Chicken BBQ	(Drive-Thru)	Thu. Sept. 16, 4:30pm—sellout
Pulled Pork	(Drive-Thru)	Thu. October 21, 4:30pm-sellout

PROFITS:

Super Bowl Sub Sale \$265.00



Volunteers are always needed and welcomed!



We are continuing Sunday Worship at 10AM!!

Please review the guidelines on the next page before you decide to attend.

Our Sunday messages will continue to be recorded and posted on our Facebook page. Perfect for those who are not comfortable coming in person.

Sunday messages are on Facebook

If you do not have a Facebook account, go to our website, www.greeceumc.org.

On the Welcome page, in the top right hand corner, you will see the Facebook link. Just click that link and you will be taken to the page and you can view all messages and live videos.

Holy Week Services

4/1—Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 pm

4/2—Good Friday Service 7:00 pm

4/4—Easter Sunday: Sunrise Service 7:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am



Worship Scripture — April 2021

What follows are the Lectionary Readings for each Sunday. Each week, the theme of the services will usually emerge from one of the prescribed readings (often the Gospel). We invite you to read through the lessons prior to Sunday. It can be a healthy discipline and enhance the experience of worship.



Easter Sunday

4/4: Acts 10:34-43 Psalms 118:1-2,14-24 1Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18

4/11: Acts 4:32-35 Psalms 133 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31

4/18: Acts 3:12-19 Psalms 4 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

4/25: Acts 4:5-12 Psalms 23 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

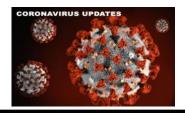
Remember your mask when entering our building!



Continue to keep yourself up to date on cancellations/ postponements due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Information can be found on our website and Facebook.

Many book studies, committee meetings, UMW, Salem, and music practices are suspended until restrictions are lifted. If the leaders are conducting Zoom meetings, they will contact you through e-mail As recommended by NY State and the United Methodist Church, all children's ministries are on hold. This includes nursery, Children's Church, and Sunday School classes.

Discipleship/Coffee hour will not be resuming until further notice.



Greece United Methodist COVID In-person Guidelines

Requirements: Facial Masks, Screening, Temperatures, Social Distancing

Available: Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Cleansing Wipes

Not Available: Sunday School, Children's Church, Nursery, Bulletins, Pew Bibles, Hymnals,

Guest Sign-in Books, Offering plates

Process:

- Limited access into the building Only use of the main entrance located off the parking lot (Kings Common)
- Doors will be opened (weather permitted) 30 mins before the service and kept open.
- Screening table will be at the entrance of the building. You must stop at a screening table before entering the building.
- You will be asked a series of pre-screening questions, your temperature will be taken (100.3 or below accepted), and sign-in attendance (for contact tracing) will be taken before entering the building.
- We will be counting attendees to make sure we do not exceed capacity requirements.
- Name tags will be available on outside table. Congregation will take their name tags with them after the service and will be responsible for the care of them. It is recommended that you wear you name tag when possible. It is difficult to recognize people with their masks on. (Suggestion: Leave in your vehicle so you have it each week.)
- After screening, proceed directly to the sanctuary where an usher will seat you/family in a social distance approved pew.
- Tithing box will be inside sanctuary doors.
- At the end of the service, ushers will release congregation one pew at a time. Please proceed directly to parking lot.
- Non-touch socializing should be before and after the service, **outside** on church grounds. Please maintain social distancing.
- Due to space limitations, we ask that no more than 2 people at a time in our restrooms. It is important that we make every effort to abide with social distancing.

Screening Questions:

- Have you recently developed any of these symptoms <u>without a known cause</u>?
 Cough, fever or chills, congestion or running nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, body aches or fatigue, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, sore throat, severe headaches
- 2. Have you been exposed to COVID-19 and told to guarantine?
- 3. Have you returned from any high-risk domestic/overseas areas in the last 14 days?
- 4. Have you returned from a foreign country in the last 14 days?
- 5. Have you had a positive COVID test in the last 28 days?



GREECE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:



Executive Committee Meeting — 4/5 @ 6:30pm: Zoom

<u>Miriam Circle</u> —4/12 @ 6:30pm via Zoom (Linda Hoffman—Fruit of Spirit program)



General Meeting combined with Ruth Circle — 4/13: TBD



<u>Genesee Valley District</u>—Genesee Valley District is planning a Memorial Service for members who have died since 2019, via Zoom in May, after canceling the communion breakfast for a second year. More details to come.



To participate with our Zoom Bible Study sessions Wednesdays at 10:30am, with Atria & Elderwood, or to get more information, contact Karen



Pearson kgp@rochester.rr.com or 392-3892 or 329-6659(cell), or Gale Huber at

galefischerhuber@gmail.com or 247-3464.

Messiah Lutheran Church invites you to participate in their Emergency Food Cupboard.

In partnership with Food Link, groceries are distributed the second and fourth Tuesdays and Thursdays of each month.

While appointments are recommended, no one is turned away and every family who requests food receives enough for three meals per day for three days per person in the household. The parcels include protein, dairy, cereal, bread, juice, canned produce and fresh produce when available. We also include a package of cookies for each family.

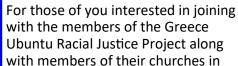
If you would like to donate food, you may drop off your donations at MELC between 10:00 - 12:00 on Tuesdays and 1:00--3:00 on Thursdays. Again, this is the second and fourth Tuesdays and Thursdays of the month.

If you would like to volunteer to pack bags and help with distribution, please leave a message with your name and phone number on the church office phone, 865-1866, and someone will coordinate with you. As we are observing safe Covid protocols at this time, we cannot have drop in volunteers.

Greece Ubuntu Group Book Study:

America's Original Sin

by Jim Wallis





reading the above book, please let me know and I will send you the Zoom information or answer any questions. For more information, please refer to the article in the March newsletter about the book.

The dates are April 13th, 20th and 27th at 7:30pm. Gale Huber (247-3464)

Please join us each month as we help to stock the shelves at the **Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf**.

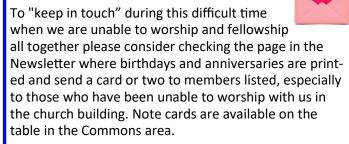
menical Food Shelf.
For April needs please check the sign

in the commons and weekly email.

Please donate regular sizes—most households are 1-4 people. Items that are always needed: chunky-style soup, canned vegetables & fruit, canned pasta, chili, stew and tuna.

Your donations of food help to feed our neighbors in Greece and Charlotte. Thank you

HEART TO HEART and "WE CARE" CARD MINISTRY



Thank you.

Finance Report:

Budgeted Income as of Week #10 - 03/07/21

Budget Total Pledges Non-Pledges

<u>Needed YTD</u> <u>Received</u> <u>Needed YTD</u> <u>Received</u> <u>Needed YTD</u> <u>863,524.08</u> <u>\$30,769.23</u> <u>\$44,096.50</u> <u>\$8,653.85</u> <u>\$10,630.00</u>



Current Income (Usable) vs Expenses as of the end of February (Week#9)

<u>Budget Expenses</u> <u>Total Spent</u> <u>Total Income</u> <u>+/-</u> \$51,782.19 \$45,752.66 \$59,393.08 +\$13,640.42

Current Expense Pledge Campaign

Thank you to all who submitted a 2021 Current Expense Pledge Card.

A total of 52 Pledges have been received totaling \$132,931

This is 11% less than the 62 Pledges totaling \$150,000 received for 2020.

So, if you have not yet submitted yours, please do so.

Your pledge helps the Church plan and manage our budget.

Best regards,

Bill Kostyshak, Financial Secretary

From the FINANCE COMMITTEE:

We are looking forward to the first Chicken BBQ in May. Meanwhile, the Finance Team is watching the numbers carefully as 2021 unfolds. So far, so good!

<u>Your contributions remain vital!</u> You may drop them off at the church, mail them, use our online giving option (see the website greeceumc.org) OR turn them in at our Covid 19 compliant in-person services at 10:00 am Sundays.

Message from Outreach:

Oh, how fresh the wind is blowing!
See! The sky is bright and clear,
Oh, how green the grass is growing!
April! April! Are you here?
—Dora R. Goodale (1866—1953)





Did you know The month of April gets its name from the Latin word aperio, meaning "to open [bud]," because plants really begin to grow this month. April's birthstone is the diamond & the flower is the daisy (or sweet pea). In England there are many cuckoo festivals because during April, the arrival of the cuckoo bird is a signal that spring has arrived. On April 15, 1912, the *Titanic* entered history as one of the most notorious disasters at sea when the unsinkable ship struck an iceberg and sank just four days into its maiden voyage.

Over the past twelve months, some of us may have felt as if we were on another uncertain voyage as we navigated and continue to navigate the far-reaching rough seas of covid-19. During these weeks, Outreach has been able to bring some joy in several ways. We delivered 15 packages of undies to 5 elementary schools and continued our Bible Study program, via Zoom, with Atria & Elderwood Senior Living. Starting this month, Dennis Wake will be joining Gale Huber, Sharon Neary, & Karen Pearson in this wonderful ministry. Anyone who might want to explore the possibility of joining our team can contact Karen Pearson (kgp@rochester.rr.com, 392-3892, 329-6659) or Gale Huber (galefischerhuber@gmail.com, 247-3464).

We are still accepting Mission Pledges from 2020, and we encourage everyone to check out the monthly food requests from GEFS. As things continue to unfold, we will be thinking about and planning our Mission Sunday program!

As always, thank you for your generous donations and support.



Some committee meetings are suspended during COVID restrictions. Leaders may hold Zoom meetings. Check your emails for updates.

4/13: SPRC

4/11: Trustee

4/20: Finance—Zoom

Page Turners Book Club:

April 2021 Selection:

American Apocalypse: A History of Modern Evangelism

By Matthew Sutton

The first comprehensive history of modern American evangelicalism to appear in a generation, *American Apocalypse* shows how a group of radical Protestants, antici-



pating the end of the world, paradoxically transformed it. Matthew Avery Sutton draws on extensive archival research to document the ways an initially obscure network of charismatic preachers and their followers reshaped American religion, at home and abroad, for over a century. Perceiving the United States as besieged by Satanic forces--communism and secularism, family breakdown and government encroachment--Billy Sunday, Charles Fuller, Billy Graham, and others took to the pulpit and airwaves to explain how Biblical endtimes prophecy made sense of a world ravaged by global wars, genocide, and the threat of nuclear extinction. Believing Armageddon was nigh, these preachers used what little time was left to warn of the coming Antichrist, save souls, and prepare the nation for God's final judgment.

Join us <u>Tuesday, April 27th at 6PM</u> by Zoom

May's Selection: "On The Come Up"

by Angie Thomas

Congregational Updates:

Passings:

Helen King 2/20/2021

Jim Hamblin 3/2/2021



New Address:

New Email:

Not available for web edition

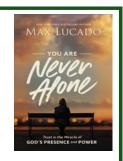
All are welcome to join any or all studies.
Invite your family, friends, and neighbors.



Tuesday Book Group: You are Never Alone

By Max Lucado

You're stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know! He'll meet you wherever, whenever— in lonely waiting



rooms, rehab centers, and convalescent homes. Into all of life's messes and thorny thickets, he'll come to you, without hesitation, to lift you up. Lucado demonstrates by walking you through John's words and Christ's miracles.

We meet Tuesdays @ 10:00 am in the Kerrison Rm.
All are welcomed to attend.

Contact Linda Hoffman for information. (458-2248 or lmhoffman@rochester.rr.com)



New Six Week Study for the Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Starting April 7th – May 12th at 6:30pm 1 & 2 Corinthians

Starting April 7th we will be studying 1 & 2 Corinthians, using the Immersion Bible Studies book by James L. Evans as a guide. You can purchase the book on Christianbook.com, Cokesbury.com, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. The book is not necessary to participate. I will post the weekly Bible readings. If you are interested in participating, please email me at deborahbabbage12@gmail.com for Zoom invitation. All are welcome to participate.



Salem Nutritional Center

Salem is still operating, doing meals for pickup only, and they are operating with a

reduced staff (basically by invitation only).

No "outside" volunteers are being used. We will keep you updated when we resume our schedule. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.



Congregational Share

This page is devoted for the purpose of sharing ideas, recipes, book reviews, notes of encouragement, etc. It's

an opportunity to reach out to all



A Special Note of Thanks from Seneca Street

"Thank you for your support of Seneca Street Church Ministries. We can be in the community feeding the hungry and loving our neighbor because of people like you. We offer hope and love to people and we give thanks for your gift. There is always need."



There is always need."

There is always need."

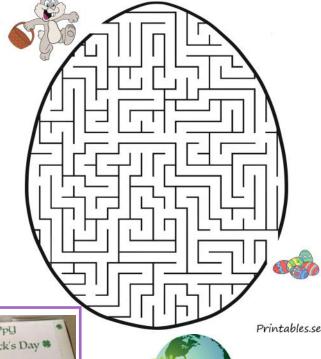
Jackson's shamrock cookies were delivered to Bible Study residents at Atria & Elderwood for St. Patrick's

day. Palm crosses were delivered the following week and Jackson's Easter cookies will be next.

All are welcome to join in this wonderful ministry.







Habitat for Humanity



It's been a while; haven't had much to share as the local Habitat chapter was basically in a state of hibernation, limiting volunteers, putting staff members on temporary leaves, basically, just living with Covid like the rest of us. They did continue to work on homes on a limited basis, even including rehabbing some homes. Our group has only



met from time to time since we couldn't start on our 8th home yet.

Here's an update: our 7th homeowner moved in to our sponsored home in April of last year. Her name is Kiomy Rivera and because of Covid, she had to move her family in by herself. I believe she has two children and her grandmother living with her. She's an exemplary example of Habitat homeowners. She put in over 600 hours while only 350 is required. She continues to do volunteer work for Habitat even though she works full time. Her home was dedicated along with 3 others in the same area on May 1st of last year with only a few people allowed to be there.

Our coalition just held a Zoom meeting last week with a Habitat representative attending. We were able to get some information on being able to go forward. The Habitat chapter is still working on a limited basis so we are on hold until 2022; we will continue to do what we can do to raise funds before the actual build time. Right now, we have 48% of the \$65,000 in the bank. Our affiliation with St. Pauly (the shed in the parking lot) continues to generate about \$200 a month. Each church, like ours, have regular giving through their equivalent of our Missions group, we raised \$533 from pie sale even though it was limited compared to the usual participation.

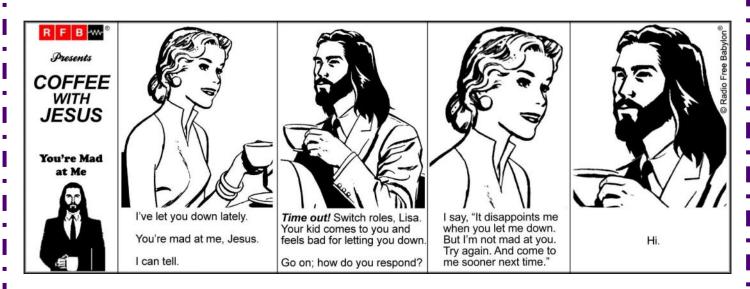
I'll continue to keep you updated as we go forward. The group wants to get back to regular monthly meetings even if it's by Zoom. If you think you'd like to get involved in any way, please contact me at 319-5924, or wmason3403@gmail.com. I can always use someone to represent our church (the founding church) at meetings I'm not able to attend.

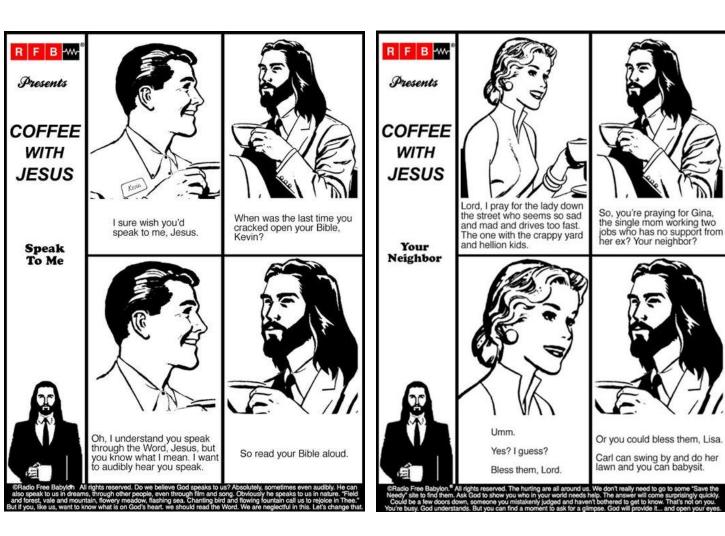
Bill Mason

Thoughts from Lisa Kostyshak:

Imagine if you had the opportunity to sit down and actually have coffee with Jesus. Is this the way those conversations might go?

Thank you to Coffee with Jesus -- http://www.RadioFreeBabylon.com/





Sunday Morning Servants



Liturgists:

Schedule TBA.

Projectionists:

Schedule TBA.

Nursery:

Nursery is on hold.

Children's Church:

Children's Church is on hold.

Greeters:

Greeter Ministry is on hold.

Communion Steward:

Ushers:

Tom Hinterman Barbara Mertz Sue Hogeman Janice Smith

Counters: Sundays/Mondays

4/4 & 4/11: Sandra Konarski, Glenna Johantgen

4/18 & 4/25: Melissa Dunn, Norma Rapini

Trustee of the Month:

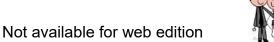
Earle Ridley

April Birthdays



Not available for web edition

April Anniversaries







The Worship Committee is looking for people who want to aid their fellow worshipers each Sunday. See below how you may help enrich our worship time:



- Altar Guild: Contact Kathy Murray at kathykearnsmurray@gmail.com
- <u>Communion Stewards</u>: Contact Kathy Murray at kathykearnsmurray@gmail.com
- <u>Liturgists</u>: Contact Tom Klingenberger at tklingen@rochester.rr.com
- <u>Ushers</u>: Contact Tom Hinterman in person, or Hinterman.Tom7@Gmail.com
- Nursery, Children's Church, Greeters: TBD
- <u>Projectionists:</u> Contact Lisa Kostyshak at lkostyshak@gmail.com
- <u>Choir</u>: Contact Sharon Neary, choir director at sharonIneary@gmail.com
- <u>Praise Band</u>: Contact Ed Klingenberger at edk@rochester.rr.com

April 2021 as of 3/16. Please see Website for any Updates.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	-			1Maundy Thurs-	2Good Friday	3
_				day Day of Last	AA 12:00 PM	Holy Saturday
NO.				Supper	Creative Hands	Easter Eve and
					1:15 PM	Last Day of Lent
				Women's AA	AA 7:30 PM	-
68 85				11:00 AM		
17000			1	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
25				Service 7:00 PM	Service 7:00 PM	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter Sunday	AA 12:00 PM	Tuesday Book	Atria & Elderwood		AA 12:00 PM	Emmaus Gather-
Sunrise Service		Study 10:00 AM	Sr Bible Study - by	11:00 AM		ing 8:30 AM
7:00AM	Silver Squares		Zoom 10:30 AM		Creative Hands	
Worship Service	Square Dancers -		A A 12.00 DNA		1:15 PM	
10:00 AM	<u>"On Hold"</u> 12:30 PM		AA 12:00 PM		A A 7.20 DN4	
Rios de Agua Viva	12.30 i ivi		Book Study/Bible		AA 7:30 PM	
Bi-lingual service	Victory AA		Study 6:30 PM			
3:00 PM	6:00 PM					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<u>Trustees</u>	AA 12:00 PM	Tuesday Book	Atria & Elderwood	Newsletter Dead-	AA 12:00 PM	
10:00 AM		Study 10:00 AM	Sr Bible Study - by	line Today		
	Silver Squares		Zoom 10:30 AM		Creative Hands	
Worship Service	<u>Square Dancers -</u>	Ruth Circle		Women's AA	1:15 PM	
10:00 AM	"On Hold"	12:30 PM	AA 12:00 PM	11:00 AM		
D: 1 A M	12:30 PM		D 1 C 1 /D'11		AA 7:30 PM	
Rios de Agua Viva Bi-lingual service	Victory AA	<u>SPRC</u> 7:00 PM	Book Study/Bible Study 6:30 PM			
3:00 PM	6:00 PM		Study 6.50 Pivi			
	Miriam Circle 6:30 PM					
18	19	20		22	23	24
Worship Service	AA 12:00 PM	Salem Nutrition	Atria & Elderwood		AA 12:00 PM	
10:00 AM		Center 9:00 AM	Sr Bible Study - by Zoom 10:30 AM	11:00 AM		
Rios de Agua Viva	Silver Squares Square Dancers -	Tuesday Book	200111 10:30 AIVI		Creative Hands 1:15 PM	
Bi-lingual service	"On Hold"	Study 10:00 AM	AA 12:00 PM		T.T.J. LIVI	
3:00 PM	12:30 PM	20.007.111			AA 7:30 PM	
		Finance Com-	Book Study/Bible			
	Victory AA	mittee 7:00 PM	Study 6:30 PM			
	6:00 PM					
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Worship Service	MS Society Sup-	Tuesday Book	Atria & Elderwood		AA 12:00 PM	
10:00 AM	port Group	Study 10:00 AM	Sr Bible Study - by	11:00 AM		
	10:30 AM	_	Zoom 10:30 AM		Creative Hands	
Rios de Agua Viva	AA 12.00 FIVISIIVEI	Page Turners	AA 12:00 DA4		1:15 PM	
Bi-lingual service 3:00 PM	Squares Square	6:00 PM	AA 12:00 PM		A A 7.20 DM	
J.30 1 141	Dancers - "On		Book Study/Bible		<u>AA</u> 7:30 PM	
Girl Scout Service	Hold" 12:30 PM		Study 6:30 PM			
Unit 6:00 PM	Victory AA					
1	6:00 PM	ĺ	I	1	I	1