

The little church with a BIG heart



THE RADIANT

Geneva Presbyterian Church
 11931 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD
 20854
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 Rev. Patrick McElwaine, Pastor

Dear friends,

It's that time of year for a change in seasons from summer to fall! With this change also comes three "changes in season" for our life and ministry at Geneva Presbyterian Church:

First, please be sure to join us for an entire Homecoming Weekend of fun and celebrations on September 9-10. Not only will this mark the beginning of a new "program year" for our church, it will be an opportunity to celebrate Geneva's 60th anniversary! We'll have a concert on Saturday plus worship and a picnic on Sunday.

Second, with the change in season also comes an exciting new sermon series: **we will preach through the Gospel of Mark together in the coming year!** You read that right: beginning on Homecoming Sunday we'll work our way through every nook and cranny of Mark's gospel together, week by week and finishing just before next Homecoming Sunday. It won't quite be truly "verse by verse," because that would take about a year and a half – but we will cover the majority of the Gospel while also taking a few pauses for holidays like Christmas and Easter. If you've never gone this deep with a Gospel before, I promise it will be a transformative experience for you personally and us as a church family. In the last issue of The Radiant I commended the Gospel of Mark as a summer reading option – if you didn't do that then, now

would be a great time as you prepare for the beginning of this exciting journey!

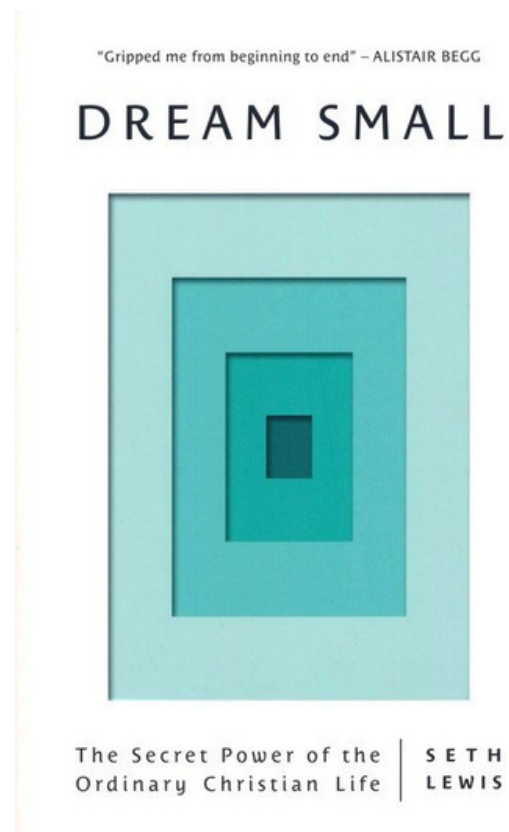
Third, Wednesday Bible Study will return on September 13 with the same Zoom link but a different time: 6:00-7:00 p.m. This new time will help with everyone's evening and bedtime routines, not least of all for our family's young kiddos! Bible Study is a great way to keep your week focused and your heart nourished – whether you're "a regular" or you've never joined, this is the perfect time to jump in as we begin a new study series that will lead us through Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

As we greet the rhythms of fall, I hope we will see you soon for these and many other opportunities for life, service, and worship with Geneva Presbyterian!

Pastor Patrick

“Dream Small: The Secret Power of the Ordinary Christian Life” by Seth Lewis

Here is a counter-cultural and life-giving book: what if even the small, everyday, rather normal parts of your life are filled with deep meaning and importance of the highest order? What if God is looking upon your life and smiling at all the things the world at large would mostly overlook? This quick and engaging read will help you think about “living in the world but not of it” in new and inspiring ways.



Weekly Virtual Bible Study

Wednesdays
6-7 pm
Zoom:
Meeting ID: 273 879 363
Password: 978348

Join us as we make our way through the book of Phillipians!

An illustration of two hands holding an open book. The hands are rendered in a simple, stylized manner with orange skin. The book is open, showing two pages with vertical lines representing text. The background is a light beige color.

Hi Everyone!

What a fun summer we've had! We had a great time at our Neurodiverse Playdates and Caregiver Coffees, as well as in Sunday School. As I'm writing this, we're a day into Vacation Bible School! This year the theme is "Compassion: What Every Living Thing Needs". We're excited for a great week with this awesome group of kids.

We're looking forward to September and the rest of the fall as well! On September 9, we'll have a free homecoming concert from 3:30-5:00 p.m.. Make sure to join us and bring your friends for a fun afternoon! Then after church on September 10, we'll be having a picnic to celebrate the beginning of the program year. In October, you can look forward to the return of Food for the Soul, and the start of a monthly sensory-friendly worship service.

It's been about a year since I joined the team at Geneva, and it's been such a wonderful experience working here! Thank you for your support as we work to make Geneva a space where all people know they are a beloved member of God's family.

Peace,

Cali Bronkema

Cali Bronkema
Director of Next Generation Ministries



My dear Geneva family,

I'm feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and ready to start a season that will be filled with powerful music and new and familiar experiences for us! As many of you know, I had anterior hip replacement surgery on May 22 and needed time to recover. I'm so pleased to say that I'm walking around... pain-free! Thank you for all of your prayers.

On September 9, we will be hosting a FREE concert for families to come and enjoy. Be sure to bring the kids, grandkids, friends, and invite the community for an afternoon of fun games, treats, and music performed by our very own Derrick Truby, his wife Kylie, and our dear friend Jessica. They will be singing songs from familiar animated films and film/pop tunes from the 60s to today. I will be playing the keyboard and may even make a vocal appearance! So make sure you spread the word, bring a chair, and enjoy an afternoon delight of communing with loved ones!

The weekend after Homecoming, we will be having another Praise Worship Service! Our choir will be joined by a small band: guitar, bass, and drums. Tell your family and friends to come and hear some awesome praise music on Sunday, September 17!

This fall, you will notice that our handbells will be playing in quartets (groups of 4) during some of the services. We also have two new members, Liz Pinaire and Jane Campbell! Liz joined the choir late last Spring for our concert with the Freedom Area Ringers from Sykesville, MD. Our handbell choir is planning to attend the Northern Virginia Handbell Conference in November again this year. Last year the conductor was Joel Raney, whom I admire greatly and whose piano and choral music you hear quite often in our church services. I can't wait to find out who will be leading the conference this year.

When December arrives, I want you to look forward to a Christmas Concert that our Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs are currently working on. We will also have piano 4-hand duets and a string quartet! It will be a spectacular celebration of the coming of the Lord. Mark your calendars for December 16 at 7:00 p.m. for a night of beautiful music.

I look forward to a wonderful Fall and Winter to finish out this wonderful year!

Peace be with you all,



Ben Shaver
M U S I C

Geneva Day School completed a successful 2022-2023 school year!

Our Summer Program was also a huge success with 9 weeks of various recreational themes which were reflected in activities, story books, snacks, games, and special programs. All campers and counselors enjoyed participating in creek walks, gardening, a variety of sport activities, science, and fun arts & crafts.

In preparation for the new year, all teaching teams are excited to return on August 21. During the first few days, they will be busy arranging classrooms and planning lesson plans in preparation for Parent/Child Visitations. They will also engage in various training on First Aid, AED, CPR, Staff Handbook and Guidelines, Child Abuse and Neglect, and learn about our new Learning Without Tears curriculum.

Kindergarteners' first day of school is August 28 and our preschoolers' first day is on September 5. We are excited to welcome our new and returning students and families to Geneva.

I am pleased to welcome all our former as well as our new hired staff for the new school year. They are all very talented and we give them a big welcome to our Geneva Day School family!

- Nazanin Aygani (3s Art Teacher)
- Sudi Bohadori (2s & 3s Teaching Assistant)
- Lisa Bonato (2s & 3s Teaching Assistant)
- Meenakshi Deb (Kindergarten Teaching Assistant)
- Stephany Galdamez (Half-Day Pre-K Teaching Assistant)
- Jill Kowitz (3s Teaching Assistant)
- Afsoun Noktehdan (Full-Day Pre-K Teaching Assistant)
- Nathalia Ribeiro (ADC Teaching Assistant)
- Jeffrey Umanzor (P.E. Teacher)

Please see below all our school events for the months of September and October and hope that you will join us for our GPA Fall Festival on October 14 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

GDS Upcoming Events:

- September 5 First Day of Preschool - Carpool, Catered Lunch, and Lunch Bunch begin
- September 5-6 Welcome Parent Coffee – 9:15 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.
- September 6 Kindergarten Back-to-School Night - 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.
- September 11 Enrichment Classes Begin
- September 13 Preschool Back-to-School Night – 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
- September 25 Yom Kippur– School Closed
- October 9 Professional Day – School Closed
- October 10-11 Individual & Class Pictures
- October 14 GPA Fall Festival – 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- October 16-17 Occupational Therapy Screenings
- October 19-20 Harvest Days, during school hours
- October 26-27 Speech/Language Screenings
- October 30-31 Halloween Parade & Parties



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daisy Lizama'.

Daisy Lizama
Director

Summer

Hey there Genevans! How's your summer been? We've been staying cool and enjoying our weekly worship services with Pastor Patrick's "Summer Proverbs Preaching Series" which has been very enlightening and enjoyable. Proverbs are what they are, short & sweet, which are in direct contrast to our long, hot, humid days! But both have been fun and uplifting.

We are so glad to have our Music Director Ben Shaver back behind the piano with our cantor, Derrick Truby over the last few weeks. We sure did miss Ben but admirably servicing in his absence we appreciate the musicianship and skills of James Siranovich and Grace Liu. The new piano continues to brighten our Sunday musically and it is such a thrill to see Ben experiment and try something new with the different features at his finger tips!

Fall

As we approach our upcoming Homecoming and 60th Anniversary of Geneva, we want to encourage you attendance and invite you to invite friends, family and loved ones to join us in our celebrations as well as a super-interesting and attention-grabbing sermon series on the Gospel of Mark! Wow! This is a huge undertaking by Pastor Patrick and I for one cannot wait to witness and share in the Word.

Tom Sadler

Tom Sadler
Chair



STEPPING INTO THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Join us for worship as we dedicate a year to the Gospel of Mark! We'll journey through the book together to better understand scripture, Jesus, and how it all relates to our own lives.

'23-'24
SERMON
SERIES

Fall is here and the Geneva Disability Ministry Team is excited for the changing season and the start of a new school year. It is our joy to deepen friendships with those we already know and also to connect with new families. Geneva works hard to be an inclusive congregation for our community and is always open to suggestions as to how we can evolve and grow.

Our neurodiverse play dates at the Geneva playground have been well attended by friends we've known for awhile as well as new faces! Our playground is accessible, provides a safe and fenced area to play, and is home to many smiling GPC families.

The kiddos have had lots of opportunities to grow in their friendships. Everyone looks forward to time each week learning with Ms. Cali during Bridges to Worship on Sunday mornings. It is also a point of pride for our church family that we offer an accessible, safe and inclusive play space for kiddos of all ability levels. Look out for sanctuary changes coming soon - Ms. Cali has all the details and schematics. The expanded layout for children and families in the sanctuary has been much anticipated and we are thrilled to see it coming to fruition.

Starting in October:

On the 1st Saturday of each month, we host our neurodiverse play dates at 11:00 a.m. on the church playground. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces and listening to the excited giggles of kiddos. If you know anyone who may want to attend a future play date, please extend the invitation and put them in touch with Cali Bronkema at nextgen.genevapotomac@gmail.com.

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, Geneva's Disability Ministry hosts 'Caregivers Coffee' hour with childcare provided. These coffee hours are restorative and life-giving for the adults and are thoroughly enjoyed by the kids, who get to spend time together laughing, playing, and having fun

with skilled childcare professionals. Hope you will join us at 9:30 a.m. for coffee, doughnuts, and conversation.

Also on the 2nd Sunday, "Joyful Noise" services will begin as a monthly service from 10 - 10:30a.m.- Ms. Cali has all the details and we look forward to these neurodiverse friendly services becoming a staple on our calendars. Our first "Joyful Noise" service was so wonderful and we are looking forward to it becoming a regular event.- Ms. Cali has all the details and we look forward to these neurodiverse friendly services becoming a staple on our calendars. Our first "Joyful Noise" service was so wonderful and we are looking forward to it becoming a regular event.

On the 3rd Sunday of each month we celebrate all of the birthdays for that particular month. Cupcakes and cake always put a smile on my face - I hope you will join us for that as well.

If you see new faces around and about in church, be sure to welcome them and their families! If you know any children that would like to join in the fun, please invite them on Sunday mornings! The members of the Disability Ministry Team are always thinking of new ideas and ways to expand our impact! If you have thoughts and ideas on projects (big and small) that we can undertake in order to make Geneva Presbyterian the most welcoming and accessible place possible - please contact us. We would love to know your ideas and visions for the future. We welcome you to reach out to Cali Bronkema or Allyson McElwaine any time!



Allyson McElwaine,
Co-Chair of the Disability Ministry Team

August Report from Mission Control

August brings the following wise counsel from the gift card giving enterprise:

Next time, McDonald's gift cards will be purchased at Giant. Giant staff know how to prepare gift cards quickly. At McDonald's, the attitudes are cheerful if rehearsed, but the know-how is not readily available.

Mission has now taken about 20 pounds of individual sized toiletries and more to Interfaith's women's shelter.



Jane Campbell
Chair, Mission



Greetings from your Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has been very busy working on the budget for our upcoming fiscal year, which begins on September 1, 2023. This process includes recommendations to the Session on staff salaries and other important budgetary expenditures. Once the budget is ready, it will be presented to the Session for their review and approval.

Some of the items that we spent money on this fiscal year include painting the walls of the sanctuary, adding a child-safe railing to the front entrance of the church, painting the front railings, and adding handrails at the front door steps. Among other larger projects were replacing the patio at the manse and the continued maintenance of our 4.13 acres of trees on the church grounds.

I am thankful to have such a great team to work with on the Executive Committee; thank you!



Elaine Winch
Chair, Executive Committee



Deacons and Fellowship Activities

- Deacons are the "servants" or "caregivers" of the congregation. People have all kinds of needs - they are recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, or otherwise experiencing a time where they welcome the ministry of care from our congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring.

• Upcoming Fellowship & Deacons Events

- **1st Sunday, September 3 – Coffee Hour after our service**
- **Saturday, September 9 – Family Outdoor Concert with Ben Shaver, Derrick, Kylie, Jessica Bennett & Ryan Burke – 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.** Disney, pop & musical theatre on our outdoor stage on the playground.
- **Sunday, September 10 – Homecoming Potluck – 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.** Join your Geneva family for a welcome back potluck after our Sunday service. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy some delicious food and fellowship. There will be a sign-up link sent in our weekly blast so you can let us know how many people to expect and your favorite dish you will share.
- **3rd Sunday, September 17 – September Birthday Celebration after service.**
- **1st Sunday, October 1 - Coffee Hour after our service**
- **3rd Sunday, October 15 – September Birthday Celebration after service.**
- **Sunday, October 29 – Trunk N Treat & Fall Crafts– 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Join us for our 4th Annual Trunk N Treat and Fall Craft Event held in our parking lot.
 - Decorate the back of your car and trunk with Halloween themed decorations and don't forget the candy for the kids or your own costume. We will gather along the parking lot near the Geneva Day School entrance and open our trunks for the children and those young at heart for Trunk N Treating.
 - You will also be able to create some wonderful fall crafts for your home.

• **FUTURE EVENTS** – The Deacons need your input for future activities that we can organize for our community. Please take a minute to think about what types of events you might like to participate in with your Geneva family and friends. It could be adult only or family-oriented activities, etc. We are open to your ideas and will work on creating these activities in the coming months.

Opportunities for Helping Others

- The Deacons are busy with arranging ushers and greeters. We make sure the Sanctuary is set up and ready for Sunday services. If you are interested in helping on a Sunday, please contact Renee Moloznik, rmoloz@hotmail.com. All hands are welcome.
- Decorated trunks and candy are needed for our Trunk N Treat event on October 29. If you are interested, please contact Allyson McElwaine.
- Volunteers are needed to help set up the crafts booths and also assist with the crafts on October 29. Contact Renee Moloznik at rmoloz@hotmail.com for more information.

Deacons Fund

Deacon Funds are used to support individual or families in financial crisis in terms of monetary donations, purchasing food, helping pay medical or household bills. The funds are also used for the items in the goody bags that have been delivered to our members, blessing bags for our homeless neighbors, gift cards to students during final exams, hosting memorial services, hosting Lenten dinners, sending cards and gift baskets to members needing support, and the supplies needed for our seasonal craft activities. Your gift in any amount will be greatly appreciated to help our church make a brighter future for our members.

Deacon Family Groups

Every Geneva member and friend are included on a Deacon Family Group. Your Family Deacon works with Pastor Patrick to celebrate your joys and support you in times of concern or need.

The Family Deacon Groups have recently changed to include our newest Deacons and are listed below. If you do not see your name and want to be a part of a Deacon Family group, please contact Renee Moloznik at rmoloz@hotmail.com.

Contact any Deacon or Pastor Patrick for further information or to join our team.

The Family Deacon Groups are listed below. If you do not see your name and want to be a part of a Deacon Family group, please contact Renee Moloznik at rmoloz@hotmail.com

Deacon: **Renee Moloznik**
rmoloz@hotmail.com

Members:

Melissa Cutler
PJ & Brent Davis
Juliet & Scott Heimberg
Cindy & Jim Kaufman
Jack & Robin Kough
Jake and Julie Moloznik
Audrey & Al Pike
Bill & Beth Sherman
Tim Sullivan
Elaine & Rolf Winch

Deacon: **Allyson McElwaine**
asmcelwaine@gmail.com

Members:

Patrick McElwaine
Robyn & Jeff Alexander
Judy Bailey
Cali Bronkema
Shirley Chow
Justin Pack
Liz and Andrew Penaire
Ben Shaver
Mike Sydoriak
Pamela Wilson

Deacon: **Sara Sadler**
sadlersaraellen@gmail.com

Members:

Alice & Rollin Franks
Ellie Heginbotham
Margo Hunt
Bobbie & Tom Maxwell
Nancy Morse
Tom Sadler
Nan & Ken Sprinkle
Sara Torrence

Deacons: **Rosie Perthel**
rperthel@hotmail.com
Ludivine Kom Liapoe
ludivinekomliapoe16@gmail.com

Members:

Ruth & Fred Allenspach
Jane Campbell & Pepe Marin
Helene Chimba
Flore, Nadine & Liz Kom Liapoe
Heinz Nagel
Bill & Ema Oen
Carl Perthel

Deacon: **Sheena Galliani**

s.galliani@icloud.com

Members:

Mark & Holly Allen

Andrea Austin

Scott Brown

Linda & Ed Devine

Katie & Jim Harris

Nancy Rawson

Amanda White

Deacon: **Janelle Thibau**

jthibau08@gmail.com

Members:

Ken & Letitia Denaburg

Maureen Ferguson

Emmanuel Mbi

Rosalie Ruff

Terry Shima

Marie Smith

Ginny Wilson

John & Patsy Wright

Deacon: **Kyla Lupo**

kylalupo@gmail.com

Members:

May Lin Cheong

Terry & Debbie Dunne

Sandra Kichefsi

Vince Lupo

Ruth Nunn

Sheri Sankey

Judy & Jim Stiles

Margaret Teng

Contact any Deacon or Pastor Patrick for further information or to join our team.

Renee Moloznik

Rosie Perthel

Ludivine Kom Liapoe

Janelle Thibau

Allyson McElwaine

Sheena Galliani

Kyla Lupo

Sara Sadler

rmoloz@hotmail.com

rperthel@hotmail.com

ludivinekomliapoe16@gmail.com

jthibau08@gmail.com

asmcelwaine@gmail.com

s.galliani@icloud.com

kylalupo@gmail.com

sadlersaraellen@gmail.com



Renee Moloznik

It may not yet be visible, but Geneva is making good progress on the acquisition of a new entrance LED sign. An LED sign is a modern means of communicating our messages using Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Local LED signs include Ivymount School, Potomac Community Center on Falls Road, Westfield Mall entrance and most public schools.

A new sign will be welcoming and informational. LED signs are fully programmable by Geneva Staff to change the messaging as often as they choose. That way, the sign can promote the Day School as well as the Church and our missions. Seven Locks Road gives us traffic exposure of about 10,000 cars a day. Even if just 1% responded to our promotional messaging, we'd have over 100 new visitors or Day School parents. People who've never heard of Geneva or knew that we were here will now learn about us.

Church fundraising for the sign has been strong. The GDS board has agreed to move forward. We're currently finalizing the contracts with the sign company and the electrician. Then we start the permitting process. This can be simple or complex in Montgomery County. We'll see how this goes. After the permit is awarded, we run a new power line under the driveway to the new sign location, remove the old signs and install the new one.

If you haven't sent in your contribution, there's still time. Simply mark your donation to Geneva as a: Special Gift.



Ken Sprinkle
Chair of Communications



I am writing these treasurer's comments just after finishing my treasurer's report to our Session. As I reported, as of July 31 we are 11/12 of the way through our fiscal year, or 91.67%. And, although we still have 1 more month of activity before we finish our fiscal year, there is good news: we are ahead of budget by \$276,017.50.

How did this happen, you ask? Well, it's a combination of 3 things: (1) total church income is at 172.59% of budget - we projected YTD income at \$277,016.68, and actual YTD income is actually \$521,560.19; (2) Geneva Day School gave us a generous donation of \$200,000, included in the above amount; and (3) total expenses are at 86.29% - we projected YTD expenses to be \$537,011.32, and actual YTD expenses are actually only \$505,537.33.

So, we have taken in more income than expected, and we spent less money than expected. Unless something **very** unusual occurs in August, I think we will be in good shape for the year-end. I will report on year-end numbers when we have our annual congregational meeting.

If our fiscal year ends on August 31, how does that affect pledged and unpledged giving? Well, I (and almost all of us) think of our personal budgets on a calendar year basis – January 1 through December 31. That's only natural, as we use the same calendar year when we file our taxes. And of course, charitable donations – including what we give to Geneva – are a tax deduction.

So, I personally decide each year what my donations will be, and I give accordingly, without regard to fiscal or calendar years. Although we will have a Stewardship campaign this fall, that is really a way for our congregation to give some thought to what we will decide to give; it's also a way for the Executive Committee to get a sense of what we might expect to receive for the upcoming year.

In other words, don't worry too much about fiscal vs calendar year giving from a Geneva perspective – we will gratefully accept your contributions, no matter when!

Your Executive Committee is hard at work developing our budget for next year (9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024). That budget will be presented to Session for their approval, and then presented to you at our annual congregational meeting. Until then, please let me know if you have **any** questions and I will be happy to answer and explain.

Thank you,

Rolf Winch

Rolf Winch
Treasurer



2023



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 11:00 a.m. Neurodiverse Playdate
3 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	4	5	6	7	8	9 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Homecoming Concert
10 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. HOMECOMING Picnic	11	12 11:00 a.m. Executive Committee 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Birthday Cupcakes	18 7:00 p.m. Session	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 a.m. Caregiver Coffee Club 10:30 a.m. Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30

2023



2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour	2	3 6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul	4	5	6	7 11:00 a.m. Neurodiverse Playdate
8 9 a.m. Joyful Noise Service 9:30 a.m. Caregiver Coffee Club 10:30 a.m. Worship	9	10 6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Birthday Cupcakes	16	17 6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul 7:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 a.m. Worship	23 11:00 a.m. Executive Committee	24 6:00 p.m. Food for the Soul	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 a.m. Worship 1 p.m. Trunk N Treat	30 7:00 p.m. Session	31				