
~FOR

HEAVEN'S

SAKE~

Volume 16 Issue 9

October 2023

The Pastor's Pen

Dear One and All,

Greetings and blessings! This morning when I walked outside the house to walk my dog, I was a bit surprised by the cool crisp morning air and thought to myself, "Gosh, this morning feels like late September or early October." It then dawned on me that that is exactly where we find ourselves on the calendar. Not really sure where the last month has gone off to, but I do welcome autumn!

The first thing that I love about autumn is the changing of the season. Each season definitely has its own form of beauty, but autumn seems to me to be vibrant. It's a time to really be able to smell the earthiness on the air, and then also to celebrate World Communion Sunday. I've included a brief article about World Communion Sunday here in the newsletter, but it honestly is one of the days of the church calendar that I enjoy most. With Easter, there's the assurance of God's promise, with Christmas the assurance of God having come to us in the form of man, and with the Pentecost we're brought the assurance of God's presence being with us at all times. But then, World Communion Sunday is the date on the calendar that assures us that the Church of Jesus Christ truly is a faith tradition that connects the entire world together. On World Communion Sunday, we come to the communion table with every language, every race, every culture and in every society, and while that can be said, at least to a certain extent, about some of the world's other religions, those are still not as wide reaching and connecting as faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Beside celebrating World Communion Sunday in the fall, we're also a few weeks into a new sermon series based on questions that folks have submitted. As I've said on Sunday mornings, a series like this one allows, and almost forces, folks to participate with the Sunday service, and that can bring with it a sense of ownership of the church. That might sound a bit odd, but when we have a sense of ownership of something, we tend to care at least a bit more, value a bit more, and also be active with it a bit more. With this series, I'm also hoping that folks will finally get answers to questions that, perhaps, have been wondered about for years; and clearly that can't be anything but good. Questions can be submitted to me on a continual basis and everyone is encouraged to.

And finally, I'd just like to give a big thank you to the many folks who have helped me in the process of moving from the Berkshire Valley manse, to the Oak Ridge manse. I don't want to provide some list of names, but you all know who you are. It took us a couple of weeks to get the place actually ready to move into, but that includes the tearing up of carpeting, the painting of the entire inside of the house, deep cleaning of the floors, a massively needed scrub down of the kitchen and bathrooms and the removal of an incredible amount of stuff left behind. At some point in the very near future, we'll have an open house so that folks can come and see the space, and perhaps even meet a dog or two.

I'll end this epistle here, as I'm still moving stuff from one manse to another. Lord, I can't wait to be done with this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Be Good & Do Good,

Pastor Chris

Joys & Concerns



- * Carols physician friend Jan, died
- * Bonnie severe shortage in pantry. Last month served 89 families so there is still a great many in need but donations are way down
- * Wesley Pierce Great Aunt Pat is on hospice
- * Judy Mazur died on 9/9 She was at home on hospice.
- * Pat a customer at Aunt Jenny's had a craniotomy to repair two aneurysms and asked for prayers.
- * Sandy Zimmer is home and feeling better. Her Birthday was last Monday.
- * Sandy Smidt's mother-in-law, Jean had a colonoscopy and they saw a mass. She will have further testing. Silas, her 4 year old grandson broke his arm
- * Kathy's mom Renee is home from the hospital and will celebrate Grandparents Day with family. Kathy will be traveling from Tuesday to Thursday and will have two CAT scans on Friday.
- * Irene is happy her friend Denise is here. Also, her friend's daughter Natasha may have cancer.
- * Kathy Holley's sister Joyce needs some peace..
- * Peter Wosyluk's brother, Robert died. Service at Richards on 9/17, 3-5.
- * Pat Annunziata is back at Chelsea. Her legs are weak so, for now she's using a wheelchair.
- * Cyndy Taylor asks for prayers for those people in towns destroyed by volcano, floods, earthquakes.
- * Betsy is looking for more volunteers to help with the gravestone cleaning.
- * Pam Reed, she needs a second surgery after first one failed.
- * Kit not feeling well after her surgery.
- * Diane Eriksen Passed away on Monday afternoon. Please keep the family in your prayers
- * Annette is asking for prayers First person is Linda Pleines. She accidently got a big gash cut on her leg which required 10 stitches. She is in pain & hurting
- * George McGinness. He is almost 92 yrs. old. He was told way over 30 yrs. ago he did not have long to live because he has bone cancer & skin cancer. His last check up with his doctor caused the doctor to have a hospice person check in on him daily, even tho' he is still taking care of himself.
- * Myrtle is having some medical issues
- * Pam Reed is having hip surgery
- * Cheryl Mooney fell in her mom's driveway and has 2 black eyes.
- * Prayers for people in the house on Banker Road that exploded.
- * Sand Smidt's MIL Helen had a fall and has a blood clot in her lung and leg.
- * The organist brother in Brooklyn needs prayers.
- * Cyndy asked for prayers for natural disasters in the world.....

Joys

- * Joy that Chris is moving into the manse in Oak Ridge.
- * Gladys birthday
- * Bonnie thanks for helping with the pantry.
- * Jan has a joy that her son, Jason will wed Nicole next Saturday. It will be a family celebration.
- * Fran has a joy that the escaped killer who was hiding in Longwood Gardens has finally been caught. Thanks to her son, Gregg's updated maps. Julia, his wife, helped evacuate people from a town as a fire spread.
- * Karen's grandson, Alexi's and his fiancé, Amanda, will fly home to attend a friend's wedding then she will be honored at a bridal shower for her.
- * Pastor Chris is glad that his wife arrived safely in Germany to celebrate a wedding, meeting with her extended family. She is the youngest of 9 children. 28 grandchildren, 38 great grandchildren in family.
- * Chris is looking forward to being installed as our official pastor.
- * Chris has a joy that his wife is safely in the middle east with her family.
- * Joy for the organist today that played her special music.
- * Annette O'Neal is going to Hawaii.
- * Jan's son, Jason and Nicole were married over the weekend.
- * Melissa and Kevin are expecting their first child.



SESSION'S REFLECTIONS

OCTOBER 2023

SUBMITTED BY BETSY ENGELHARDT, CLERK OF SESSION

With our 2-month summer break, September's Session meeting covered many topics. Before our meeting, many joined Pastor Chris at the 9/11 Memorial Service in front of town hall at 7PM where he offered the opening and closing prayers for the township. Our choir member, Cyndy Taylor, was asked to sing at the service. BOTH did us proud!!!

The meeting started with the approval of lots of activity around the church. There is a Harvest Festival planned on Oct 14 at Bubbling Springs where the Deacons & Wm. Assoc. will be fund raising and promoting our church. Be sure to visit their booth from 10AM to 4PM. West Milford Players has a full slate of productions planned throughout the next 3 seasons. Look for their flyers in Fellowship Hall to see what shows are forthcoming. We were excited to host Pastor Chris' installation on Sept 17. It was an honorable and relevant service – he is now OFFICIALLY our installed Pastor! Julia Held's memorial service will take place in our sanctuary at 11AM on Oct 28 with a repast following at Upper Greenwood Lake's Clubhouse. Vacation Bible School 2024 has officially been approved for the dates of July 8 to 12th. The Wednesday Farmer's market has been extended to run through Nov 15. We are working with them on the possibility of hosting an indoor Winter Market in Fellowship Hall, one day each month, through April. We will advise you if this becomes a reality. Girl Scouts has many events scheduled in the next few months – we are happy to be their hosts.

Perhaps you've noticed the Boy Scouts have been hard at work painting the Thrift Shop shed and preparing for concrete to be poured for our dumpsters as part of Russell Fleming's Eagle Scout project. Concrete will also be laid under the outdoor benches, and much needed screening to block leaves and debris will be constructed over the downstairs stairwell to the Food Panty.

With the resignation of our Music Director, Pastor Chris has worked hard to ensure each worship service has a substitute Pianist or Organist. The open position has been widely advertised, and some individuals have shown interest (but no commitment yet) in filling the position on a more permanent basis. Lee Tomboulion was given a fond farewell during worship on August 27. Oak Ridge and WMPC choirs joined forces to sing a powerful song written by Lee as a tribute to him. We wish him the best at his new calling at Levittown Presbyterian Church. Our choir will remain at rest until a more permanent replacement to conduct our choir is found.

Pastor Chris applied and achieved a \$2000 grant to help us upgrade our streaming capabilities for Sunday services. Finance also reported a \$4035 credit issued from PSE&G for faulty calibrations on our electric meter.

I & S has plans for our annual pledge campaign whose theme is A NEW BEGINNING, with Consecration Sunday scheduled for Oct 22. Looking forward to your support and Pledge Cards completed by that date. Come join us for brunch as a "thank you" immediately following service.



LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION MEETING CALLING ALL DEACONS & ELDERS

Please mark your calendars. A joint meeting with our church leadership has been planned for Tuesday, October 10 from 7 to 9 PM. This is an opportunity to join forces, plan for the new year, and set forth important goals and objectives. **This meeting is open to anyone currently an officer OR who hopes to join leadership in the new year.**



CEMETERY COMMITTEE



We have gathered a group of 9 teams – each committed to adopting 15 gravestones in our cemetery to help preserve them for future generations. Gravestone Cleaning Kits have been ordered and the teams will be trained in procedures during a meeting planned for Oct 8 following worship. Any donations towards the cost of the cleaning kits would be gratefully accepted – cost of each being \$100. Hopefully throughout the fall, you will see the cemetery slowly start to be revitalized as the teams begin their work.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023-2024 SEASON BEGINS!



The Christian Education Committee had it's first day and registration for this year's Sunday School opening and program on **Sunday, September 10, 2023**. And everyone enjoyed an "Ice Cream Social" after church! It was early, but nobody seemed to mind having a scoop!!

Our curriculum this year will include stories from the Complete Illustrated Children's Bible, beginning with the Creation. Teachers will relate these stories to the lives of our children today. Children will be reading passages directly from the Bible to become more comfortable with the Books of the Bible. Our goal is to have the children be able to say all the books of the bible in order by the end of our Sunday School year. Children will also be learning the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed as they say it each week at the beginning of class. As always, games and crafts will enhance the lesson each Sunday.

Children will begin by joining their families in church and listening to the children's sermon before departing for their Sunday School rooms for the rest of the program. All families are welcome to bring their children (ages 4 to high school) whether they are members or not. Please pass the word on to your family and friends.

On the 4th Sunday of every month the children will be greeters at the church service and collect the offering. It's nice to have the congregation get to know our younger folks. We are happy to welcome back our teachers, Ms. Dale and Ms. Kathi. As our attendance grows, we are looking for volunteers who will help as substitutes for classes or watch over the nursery if the need be. Please call the office if you are interested.

The Christian Education committee consists of Fran Erhardt, Bonnie Rogers, Dale Hamilton, Roberta Schmidt, and Sandy Smidt along with Karen Willmott as the Deacon's representative.



DEACON DOINGS

October 2023



Although the deacons did not have a formal meeting this month, we were always in touch with those who needed prayers and a note to show that we care. Linda continued to send cards when needed.

A few years ago, deacons drew up list of church members who had become inactive. Those people were sent greeting cards to let them know people were thinking of them. In October, we plan to do the same thing again. We plan to make a follow up phone call. Please let us know of anyone who should be on our list.

Marty

Deacon moderator



WA October 2023

October already! Time for pumpkins, Halloween, ALF and the Harvest Festival.

The Women's Association and Deacons will be selling cotton candy and promoting our church at the Harvest Festival at Bubbling Springs on 10/14 from 10-4. Helpers would be appreciated. Speak with Pat if you can help.

We are also looking forward to our Christmas Bazaar on 11/18. Diane has been busy getting vendors for this event.

We would like to have people bake for the Sweet Shop. This room is always a big hit with everyone who comes to the bazaar. Cookies, cakes, pies and candy are appreciated. Let Bonnie or Pat know if you can help.

Aunt Jenny's Attic is grateful to Russell Fleming's Eagle project which included painting the shed. It looks so nice.

We continue to meet so many nice people in Aunt Jenny's and enjoy our visits with them. You're welcome to stop in for a cup of coffee or tea.

Enjoy all your pumpkin treats.

Blessings, Linda and Pam





From the Pantry

Most importantly, A huge thank you for the contributions you have generously given to the pantry during this time of large demand but few resources. With your help the shelves of food, cleaning items, paper

products, toiletries etc. are filling up and families are experiencing a bit more to help them get through the month.

Please take a glance at the list of suggested items needed, in the bulletin. Remember, these are just suggestions. If you happen on a sale and the item isn't on the list, buy it. There's a family that will be thrilled to have it because maybe it's exactly what they were out of.

No donation is ever too small and that goes for financial contributions too. Coins from a child's hand are just as important as a check or bills because they are all given from a generous and compassionate heart. If you buy 2 cans on sale and give 1 to the pantry, a family will enjoy that can of food and know that someone cares about them.

Lastly, the pantry is collecting school snacks that go in the backpacks or lunch bag of a child from a needy family. These can be snack bags of cookies, crackers, fruit, popcorn, pretzels, juices, etc. If you're in doubt as to what to buy, ask a child and they will have suggestions for sure! Thank you from your church pantry! Please reach out to one of the pantry team if you'd enjoy being involved in this mission. We'd love your help!

***The Scoop on World Communion Sunday

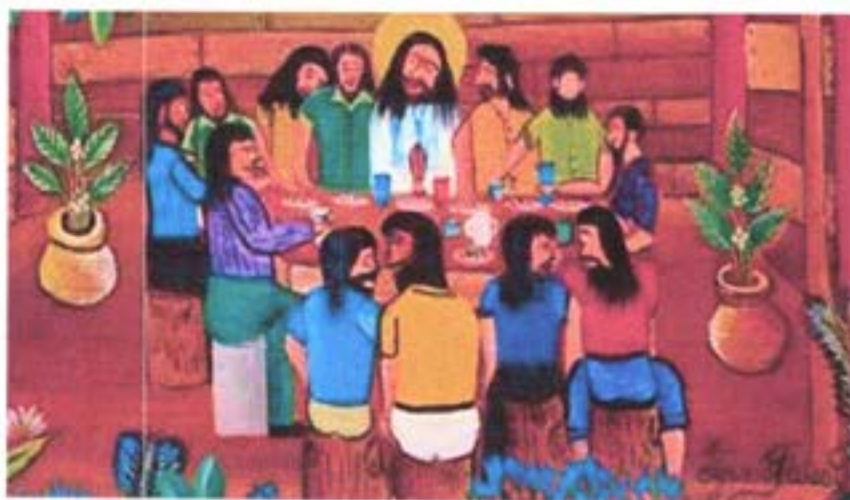
World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of *Presbyterian Outlook*:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr's younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied,

“The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.





West Milford Presbyterian Church

1452 Union Valley Road, West Milford, NJ 07480

PASTOR CHRIS DOYLE - Phone# 856-345-3261

Email: wmpchurch@gmail.com / Website: www.wmpchurch.org

PLEDGE CAMPAIN 2024 A NEW BEGINNING

What a crazy but optimistic year, 2023 did not disappoint. First and foremost, WMPC can finally say that after a very long and painful process we have found a permanent minister, Dr. Rev Christopher Doyle. As a community we have remained steadfast in our beliefs and accepted change with some compromises. We now share a minister with Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church and have moved our services to 9:00am. Some of us questioned if sharing a minister would be the correct fit for our WMPC family, and others questioned the change in our Sunday worship time. Instead of dismissing this new path, we as a community choose to see this time as **A New Beginning**, a time to rebuild and believe that God has chosen this path for us, and we graciously accept.

Our church continues to operate at a deficit. We have been fortunate to receive generous bequests and have had many successful fund-raising programs. The pandemic and the recession have greatly impacted our community and so many more of us are in need. Our savvy and dedicated team of parishioners persevered and succeeded in raising monies to continue with our outreach programs, like the food pantry. Through a generous donation from the Women's Association, we were able to give our little white church some much needed TLC.

Unfortunately, looking at our monthly financial statements, it is clear our current spending covers only the essentials for us to keep our buildings and staff operating at a minimal. Our "Per Capita" obligations to our Presbytery are suffering a shortfall of almost \$1200.00, which is funded by money yet to be paid by our membership. Let's start again and make this a "**A New Beginning**" by helping the WMPC keep its doors open so that we can continue to help our community.

If this church has provided you and / or your family a place of worship, a haven, please consider donating so that our doors can remain open to those in our community. If you no longer actively attend services, but your children found spiritual nourishment through our church school, please consider donating. If you were married in our sanctuary, found comfort during a hardship, were uplifted by our music programs, were helped by our food pantry, enjoyed fellowship with members, please we need your financial support so others may experience the same. If you understand that personal sacrifice is part of God's lessons; we urge you to complete a pledge card for 2024. A one-time contribution, weekly, or monthly pledge will help us preserve our future. If your obligation of a suggested \$48.00 per member due in 2023 for Per Capita has not been paid, we urge you to please consider payment today. Our per Capita obligation for 2024 will remain at suggested \$48.00 for 2024.

Pledge commitments are a vital part of compiling our church budget for the New Year. Our Finance Committee will need to draft a budget for 2024 during the month of November. We dedicate Sunday, October 22nd as Consecration Sunday. We ask, therefore, that pledge cards be returned to the church by that date.

Thank you,

Deb Trusz
Stewardship Committee

PER CAPITA

Per Capita is an annual assessment made by the presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our session is committed to paying the full assessment for all the members on our roll because we treasure our relationship with the wider church, and the congregation benefits when members contribute their share to the whole. Note that this charge is PER MEMBER, therefore, *if you are husband/wife members, your obligation would be two times the yearly Per Capita fee. If you have a teenager who is confirmed at our church, your child immediately becomes a member of our church and will be charged a Per Capita fee at the start of a new year.* Why do we pay this assessment known as per capita? Because we value our Presbyterian heritage and identity. As a congregation we derive many material benefits from our Presbyterian association. At the General Assembly level, these include the oversight of preparation for ministers and the mechanisms for calling new ministers, the maintenance of the wonderful Presbyterian historical collection in Philadelphia, the biennial meeting of the General Assembly, resources ranging from training for ruling elders to assistance with immigration, and so much more. The synod provides the training and discernment for Presbytery and church leaders. The presbytery portion enables support of our congregation's mission through counseling support for churches in many crises. Historically, the fee changes each year. For year 2024, the fee will remain at a suggested \$48 per member. It is important that your payment reference PER CAPITA on your check or giving envelope so it is properly directed to the correct fund. We look forward to your participation in per capita giving for this past year and beyond, an expression of your commitment to ministry both within our congregation and beyond.

ON-LINE DONATIONS

Donating on line is very simple. Visit WMPCHURCH.ORG. You will find a DONATE ON-LINE link on the bottom right corner of our home page. If you'd like to make a one-time donation, the main page will easily accommodate that transaction. This is a great way to demonstrate from afar your appreciation for the work done at our church through a donation to ensure our doors will remain open to our community. If you would like to be a regular contributor, please follow the link to SIGN IN and create your own account.

PLEDGE CARDS

You do not need to be a member of our church to submit a pledge card. You do not need to submit a pledge card in order to provide regular financial support to the church. Pledge cards, however, are a vital tool used by the Finance Committee to set up balanced budgets each year. It helps guide the committee on what funds will be available to cover the church expenses throughout the year. Please consider using your pledge card to communicate what financial commitment you can provide the church in the year ahead.

GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes will be available for distribution upon request at the end of the year. These help organize your weekly giving and alert you to special payments such as Per Capita, Building, and special holiday gifts. To be environmentally conscious and save on cost, we've chosen to circulate unused envelope packets from previous years, therefore the envelope number assignment on each packet is no longer relevant. Please record your name on each envelope to ensure a contribution is properly credited to your account. If you are new to giving and would like an envelope packet, please contact the church office.

A NEW BEGINNING

2024 PLEDGE CARD

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His Church, I make the following pledge for 2024:

*West Milford Presbyterian Church
1452 Union Valley Road,
West Milford, New Jersey, 07480
(973)-728-3081*

ENVELOPE # _____

Check for pledging by credit card or via auto-withdrawal from checking.

I PLEDGE \$ _____ per () week / () month / () year TOWARD GENERAL EXPENSES

I PLEDGE \$ _____ per () week / () month / () year TOWARD BUILDING PRESERVATION

Please print: DATE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Address _____ CELL# _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my written request.

REMOVE AND KEEP THIS STUB

For 2024 I pledge the following amounts:

GENERAL \$ _____ BUILDING \$ _____

per () wk () mo () yr per () wk () mo () yr

Name _____
West Milford Presbyterian Church,
West Milford, NJ 07480

Guidelines for Giving James 1:3

"For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness."

Annual Income	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
Weekly Income	\$962	\$1,442	\$1,923	\$2885	\$3846
Annual Gift @ 1.5%	\$750	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$3,000
Weekly Offering	\$14	\$22	\$29	\$43	\$58
Annual Gift @ 4%	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Weekly Offering	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$115	\$154
Annual Gift @ 7.5%	\$3750	\$5625	\$7,500	\$11,250	\$15,000
Weekly Offering	\$72	\$108	\$144	\$216	\$288
Annual Gift @ 10%	\$5000	\$7,500	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$20,000
Weekly Offering	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$288	\$385

West Milford Presbyterian Church
1452 Union Valley Road,
West Milford, New Jersey 07480
973-728-3081

if you have any questions regarding you
pledge, please contact the Interpretation
and Stewardship Committee
wmpr@gmail.com



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion 10am - Worship @ Oak 12pm - WM Players 6pm - Scouts	2 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	3 9am - Community Food	4 11am - Bible Study @ 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market	5 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	6 10am - Eriksen Memorial 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	7 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
8 9am - Worship 2pm - Girl Scouts Cup 6pm - Scouts	9 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> <i>Indigenous Peoples Day</i> 7:30pm - Session 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	10 9am - Community Food 7pm - Joint Deacons &	11 11am - Bible Study @ 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market	12 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	13 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	14 9am - Community Food 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 12pm - Harvest Festival
15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	16 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	17 9am - Community Food	18 11am - Bible Study @ 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market	19 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints	20 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	21 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic
22 Consecration Sunday 9am - Worship 10am - Consecration 6pm - Scouts	23 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	24 9am - Community Food	25 11am - Bible Study @ 1pm - Aunt Jenny's Attic 3pm - Farmers Market	26 9am - Community Food 9am - Sr. Saints 10pm - Chelsea Service	27 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic	28 9am - Community Food 11am - Aunt Jenny's Attic 11am - Held Memorial
29 9am - Worship 6pm - Scouts	30 7:30pm - Zoom Bible	31 <i>Halloween</i> 9am - Community Food	1	2	3	4

