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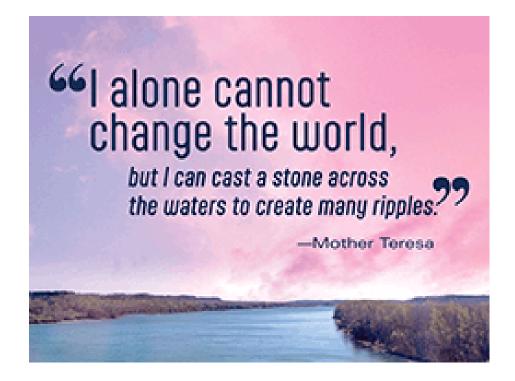
Christ's United Lutheran Church 437 Airport Road Ashland, PA 17921 www.christsunited.org

Mailed 8/30/23





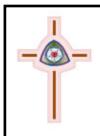
The CULC Messenger God's Work, Our Actions



Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School - September through May 1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.







Christ's United Lutheran Church One God. One People. One Purpose. 437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921 www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

September 2023

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Status of Accounts as of July 31

Total amount in checking account: \$128,861.29.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2023 Annual Budget of \$195,263.89 is \$16,271.99.

Income for June/July was \$27,691.97.

Expenses for June/July were \$23,402.27.

resulting in a net income of \$4,289.70.

Benevolence for June/July was \$2,391.22.



CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
President		
Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085	Feb. 2024
Vice President		
Morgen Sweitzer	570-682-8240	Feb. 2026
Secretary		
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Ken Dengler	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Debra Price	570-205-6241	Feb. 2024
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Robert Sweinhart	570-682-3697	Feb. 2026
Jacob Tice	570-875-2681	Feb. 2024

Youth Representative - Vacant

DESIGNATED PASTOR

Rev. Melinda Heppe 570-205-7450

STAFF

Parish Administrator	Debbie Hall	570-875-1591
office@christsunite	d.org	570-789-9722
Office Hours: Tuesday, T	hursday & Friday 8:	00 am- 4:00 pm

Director of Music	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
Indoor Custodian	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
Outdoor Custodian	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720





Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Evangelism/Outreach

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

Multimedia Ministry

Safety and Security Team

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees

Endowment Fund

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

Personnel

Property

Christ's United Lutheran Church

We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, Word and Sacrament and to Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative reexamination of our worship life; a ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will under gird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.

Mission Statement

desiring to be blessed together with become more perfectly the Body of quality educational program for all

Message from Designated Pastor Mindy...



Back to school!

And lo these many years later, I still get anxiety dreams about missing the bus.

I've come to realize, though, that they're not really anxiety dreams, though—they're friendly reminders from me to me that I'm a lifelong learner.

So how's your lifelong journey going?

Every new thing you learn is an opportunity to use the gifts God gave you to God's glory and for the good of God's creation. And Bible study is, at its center, worship.

I have a plethora of learning resources for all ages, interests, and learning styles (podcasts, anyone?) Call or email me, and we can get you started on a new adventure.

And, where 2 or 3 are gathered together— I'd be happy to do a Bible study. Wherever, whenever! Since I don't know how long I'll be with you, I'm thinking of something that has stand alone sessions. How about the shortest books of the Bible? Let me know.

But however you do it, keep on learning.

Christian symbol



Pearl

The pearl is a symbol of the surpassing value of the kingdom of God, based on Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:45-46 (ESV): "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

September Council Contact of the month is Robert Carl.

The Council Contact of the Month is the "on call" member of council, the person to contact if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building. If you need to contact Robert, he can be reached at 570-590-7281.



of the Month

Member's Message from Erik Tice...

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do you pray?

I guess we all do pray. But do we know how, or when, or where, or why to pray?



Some people will pray at length! Unfortunately, sometimes I ramble on and on while praying. Then I think, God's up there telling me "Just get on with it and Get to the point!" Jesus said in Mark, chapter 12 to watch out for the teachers of the law, they devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. He also said, "And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need BEFORE you ask him" (Matthew 6:7-8). We don't have to have a lengthy prayer to talk to God. On the other hand, is saying "Lord, help me" too short of a prayer? No. David in Psalm 6, verse 9 says "The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer." Be assured that no matter the length of your prayer, God hears you.

Many of us pray when we are in church, but you don't just have to pray in church! You can pray anywhere. I often pray while driving in the car, mowing grass, cleaning the house. It's time alone between you and God. Jonah chapter 2 begins, "From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God." For the next nine verses Jonah prayed. Verse 10, "and the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land!" I don't think any of us will ever be praying inside of a large fish, but if you ever are in a situation to do so, PRAY! God answers, no matter when you pray!

Jesus said, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen" (Matthew 6:5-6). Some people pray in the morning after getting up. They find a quiet spot to sit and drink a cup of coffee or tea and pray. Some people pray at night before they go to bed.



American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

437 Airport Road (Gordon) Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, October 2, 2023 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Please contact Debbie Hall or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit www.redcrossblood.org to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-Ins are Welcome!

All kids who had First Communion and their families are welcome.

September – Date TBD Corn Maze
October - Trunk-Or-Treat
November - Christmas CardsDate TBD- snacks and cookies
December- Joy through the Grove
- Date TBD- Eat at OIP in
Elysburg or somewhere else

Ask to help with congregation dinners and road clean up

CULC YOUTH GROUP Activities







"God's work. Our hands." God's work. Sunday is Sunday, September 10, 2023. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to

serve and love our neighbor.

JOIN US LIVE ON

Our congregation engages in service work right here in our community. We host Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry each month. Plus, we deliver our LCM sponsored dinners to our home-bound members. We also hold several Lutheran World Relief projects throughout the year including quilt knotting, and health and school kits

As the Fall activities approach – Don't skip church!

Join us every Sunday on Facebook Live! If you are taking the kids to practice or another activity on a

Sunday, please remember to join us for worship. We go live at 9:30 am. If you can't watch and worship then, the video is always available on Christ's United's Facebook page to go back later and watch it another time.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25



Saturday, September 23rd

The fall highway clean up of 2023. Meet at the church at 8am. Gloves, an orange vest, and trash bags are provided. Rain date will be September 30. All help will be greatly appreciated.

That's usually when I do. When I was little and would be visiting my grandparents, my grandmother used to sit on the edge of the bed at night and we would say prayers. Sally and I taught Jacob how to pray in the same manner. Did someone teach you? Have you been influential in teaching someone else how to pray? No matter where you pray, God is listening!

People pray for many reasons. We pray for comfort at the loss of a loved one. We pray for safety in our travels. We pray for good health, or test results at the doctor's office. We pray for our families and friends. We pray for peace, for justice. From James, chapter 5, "Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray.", "Is any one of you sick? The prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well." And, "pray for each other so that you may be healed." We pray for many reasons. Why all this talk about prayer?

Christ's United now has a Prayer Garden. Jacob's Eagle Scout project is complete. You are invited to come and PRAY! There is a pathway to meander through the garden and take in the sights of beautiful flowers blooming. There are benches to sit and relax, to meditate and pray. There is a calming fountain for your senses. Bring a Bible along to read, or just come and PRAY. God is here. God is listening. Just talk with Him. "PRAY continually!" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Yours together in Prayer,

Erik Tice

PRAYER CHAIN

Each day members of Christ's United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need.



A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the church office. In the event the office is closed, Gail Marquardt (570-554-1075 or 570-933-1737) should be called to begin the prayer chain. Please call the church office for more information or to become a Prayer Chain Participant.



Church Council Highlights From August

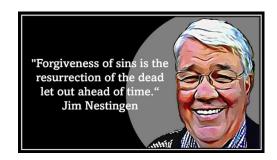
- A special Council Meeting was held regarding the Outside Custodian Position. Drew Kissinger's inability to comply with the guidelines of the position led to termination of his employment with us. Dennis Wolfe has agreed to serve as the new Outdoor Custodian.
- Pastor Mindy Heppe is interested in starting a Bible Study.
- On August 19th there will be a clean-up of the Pavilion for the congregational picnic on August 27th.
- Chicken BBQ is planned for September 16th.
- Jim Chappell is working on a new projector for the PowerPoint for worship as the one we currently had cannot be repaired.
- New office computers have been installed and set up.
- Approval has come in from USPS to move the mailbox under the portico.
- Several new rope cinctures will be purchased for the Acolytes, Crucifers and Worship Leaders.



Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey. *This month we pray for:*

The Pennypacker Family - Allen Jr.
The Weikel Family - Harvey, Melanie, Shelby & Bryce
The Archer Family - Lisa





2023 Sponsorships



The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

Altar Flowers \$35.00*
Worship Bulletins \$15.00
Special service bulletins \$10.00
Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
Children's Bulletins \$10.00
Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.

For Altar Flowers:

Please sign up by the bulletin board for week(s) you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers and call "Flowers From the Heart" 570-339-2519 to place order. **Cost is \$35.00.**

Please place order and make payment directly to the florist.

All other sponsorships, please make payable to CULC and give to Debbie in the Church Office.

Listen to the loving voice

Figurative thieves are all around: Illness steals time and energy. Inflation robs many of financial stability. The bandit of social media chips away at our productivity, self-esteem, quality time with loved ones. Prejudice and oppression prey on certain groups of people. Doubtless, you can think of other thieves and bandits.

But above their noise, listen for another sound: A warm voice whose loving tone calls us by name. A voice that puts us at ease because it's familiar as a favorite blanket, a path we can walk in the dark, a song we know by heart. That voice rising above any force that would steal and kill and destroy is, according to John 10, the loving voice of God made known in Jesus, caring for us as a good shepherd does his sheep. And lest you get confused, thinking God is angry and judgmental, think again. *That* is the sound of thieves and bandits; don't listen to them, don't follow them, don't give them your heart!

"I came," says Jesus the Shepherd-Gate-Messiah-Savior, "that [you] may have life and have it abundantly" (v. 10, NRSV).

The following donations were given to Christ's United's Memorial Fund since the last issue of the Newsletter:

In Memory of Jackie Babb by:

Beth & Ron Andrews Sherry Schultz & L. Lucas

Donations to CULC Memorial Garden In memory of Jackie Babb by:

Donna & Ron Wallace

In Memory of Loved Ones by:

Pearl & Carl Lute



Prayer Garden Available Sponsorship Items

As you may have read previously in this newsletter, the Prayer Garden is now finished! As Jacob Tice's Eagle Scout project has come to an end with the installation, it is now here for you to use. Please come out and pray. Find some rest and solitude in spending time in God's creation. Even if you can't make it during the day, the prayer garden has lights! So, come by in the evening and enjoy the garden.

As part of the project, we asked members and anyone who wishes to, to sponsor some of the items. All the statues, planters and benches have been sponsored. Thank you! However, we are still in need of sponsors for many of the plants. If you are interested, the following are available:

Wintergreen Boxwood \$30.74 Pumpkin Hypericum \$36.04 (two available) Iceburg Alley Sageleaf Willow \$41.34 Windflower Anemone \$22.23 Garden Ghost Artemisia \$14.59 Bright Blue Flax \$4.87

Just call the church office if you would like to sponsor one or more of these items in Memory or Honor of someone. Please make checks payable to Christ's United. Thank you so much for your support with this project! It will be a lasting testimony of our dedication to prayer. Remember, PRAY always!

We Offer our Prayers to...

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be **kept on for one month and then taken off.** If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.

Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.

August 27 - Kathleen Kilker (G. Marquardt)

Family of Danny Hartung (E. Tice)

August 20 - Bob Keys (T. Ambrose)

Lisa Metzinger (D. Zaharick)

David Zaharick (D. Zaharick)

Ricky Bender (K. Dengler)

Ed Alexander (D. Price)

Families of Don Green

Ginny Rumbel

August 13 – Gail Lorady

Dan Bressler (V. Brown)

David Zaharick (D. Zaharick)

Denise Tuckerlingo (S. Tice)

Edward Prosick Jr. (S. Tice)

Families of Barbara Pennypacker

Jenna Sallade

Todd Eichert

August 6 - Bill Petrusky (E. Tice)

Carl Lute

Family of Dawn Hetherington

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, James Houser Sr., Barbara Liem, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan

Remember our Home-bound: Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Richard Shoup, Anna Neumeister, Dot Zangari, Linda Zerby And Friends: Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Mark Bennyhoff, Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis, George Dornsife, Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn, Bob Griffiths, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Ron James, Kay Keefer, Tracy Maurer, Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny, Wayne "Webby" Weinreich, Karyssa Wenrich





2	Faith Rickert
3	Joyce Mallams
	Heather Young
4	Frank Dziczek
5	Vivian Brown
	Keri Johnson
6	Donna Lassen
7	Carolynn Long
8	David Becker
	Kay Berner
	Kenneth Marlow
	Mark Sharp
9	Katie Knorr
	Terry Shilling
	Hailey Sisko
	Cheryl Varndell
	Tanner Walacavage
	Doug Dean
10	Josie Economy

Shawn Romberger

Bryon Rusinko

Ken Dengler

James Houser

Alanni Miller Tanner Harhigh

Abagail Zweizig Rachelle Demko



Frank Mattis
Ava Hernandez
Annette Houser
Joshua Kanezo
David Walter

Nelson Berger, Sr.
 Jocelyn Judge
 Anne Pirie
 Tyler Wolfgang
 Susan Merwine

27 Chelsea Stutzman28 John S. Wolfgang

30 Beth Becker Rick Fritz Bernice Wilson



09/10/05 Kenneth & Ann Welker 09/12/15 Andrew & Kelsey Blyler 09/16/72 Terry & Dorothy Kessler 09/21/13 Steven & Rachelle Demko 09/22/90 Terry & Cheryl Neumeister 09/24/16 Nicholas & Kayla Troutman 09/25/76 Robert & Carla Mae Carl 09/26/92 Brian & Faith Rickert 09/26/97 Russell & Carrie Hummel 09/27/08 Robert & Rose Pennypacker



CHICKEN BBQ

CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

437 Airport Road, Ashland (570) 875-1591

Saturday, September 16, 2023 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

COST \$12.00 (checks payable to LCM)

~Eat in or Take Out~

MENU

1/2 Barbecued Chicken, Baked Potato, Corn Dinner Roll & Butter, Dessert, Beverage

Limited tickets will be sold at the door. Buy your tickets from LCM members, or call the Church Office.

Donations needed:

Your donations to complete the menu for the Annual Chicken Barbecue will be greatly appreciated. Please complete and return this sheet no later than **September 4**th. The sheet may be placed in the Chicken Barbecue Donation Box in the narthex or returned to the Church Office.

One #10 can whole kernel corn
Cakes
12 pack soda (any brand/flavor)
24 Pack Bottled Water
20 lb. bag of charcoal
Cash

Donations may be placed on the center island kitchen counter. **Please attach your name to your donation so we can account for it.** All donations except the baked goods must be in the church no later than September 10 so a final inventory can be taken and the remaining items may be purchased. Baked goods may be brought on **Friday, September 15** between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or **Saturday morning after 9:00 a.m. Your support is greatly appreciated!**



11

13



The next WELCA meeting will be the on September 6 at 6:00 pm. All women are invited to join us.

KNAUGHTY KNOTTERS will resume knotting quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday mornings (beginning September 12th) at 9:00 am. No sewing experience is required, just be able to tie a knot. For more information contact Donna Wallace.



LUNCH BUNCH will meet on Thursday, SEPTEMBER 28th at 1:00 at Masser's Restaurant, Paxinos. There is a Lunch Buffet which includes country dishes, vegetables, salads, and more for \$14.99 or order off the

regular menu. Please sign up on church bulletin board to arrange transportation and seating at restaurant. Any questions contact Donna Wallace.



Thursday, September 7 6:30 p.m.

Come out and join the choir as we begin rehearsing for another season of leading worship and providing special music.





ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONPROGRAMS (college, university,

trade school, nursing/medical school, business school, ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE, OR ARE STARTING A JOB?

The Endowment Fund Committee is accepting requests for the 2023 scholarships for full time students/military service and for employed graduates.

ADULT MEMBERS WHO HAVE ENROLLED IN POST SECONDARY PROGRAMS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP.

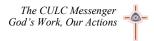
Active members of the congregation are eligible to receive a scholarship by submitting a letter of request by OCTOBER 1st. to a committee member: Terry Ambrose, Carrie Hummel, Becky Spencer, Morgen Sweitzer, or Jo-Ann Young.

The letter should include: Your name and address, name of the school attending, or military branch, or employer, your status (freshman, senior, etc), field of study/certification or degree, and projected time of graduation.

PLEASE BE ADVISED...anyone requesting a scholarship from Endowment must be an active member. Persons who were never confirmed need to apply to become a member by Affirmation of Baptism. Please call the church office to make arrangements.



Pray for Our College Students



ATTENTION:

7th & 8th Graders or any student 12 years or older who hasn't been confirmed yet.



Come and join the 2023—2024 Confirmation Class.

Build your Faith on what you have learned in Sunday School plus so much more. God has an exciting plan for all of us.

Classes will begin in September 2023. Please contact the church office and let us know you will be attending.

First Holy Communion Instruction

A First Holy Communion instruction class is being planned for Christ's United. The class is for children in the first grade or older. The first two instruction sessions we will learn about Holy Communion and what it means for us. Then during a third session, we will enjoy baking the bread for the next scheduled Holy Communion service. For more information or to have your child included in this year's class, please call the church office.

Give Electronically

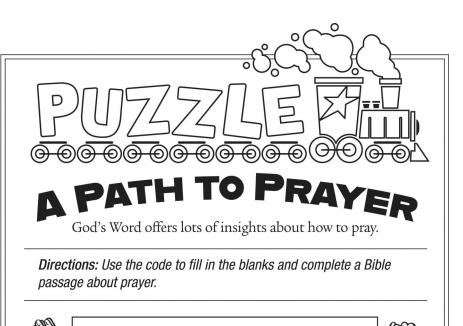
Checking/Savings Credit/Debit Card Christ's United accepts electronic donations

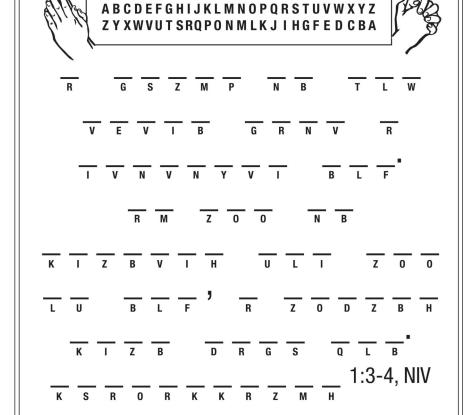
Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to www.christsunited.org or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



Ommunion







Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV





Fellowship Hour will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month September through May. See schedule below for your committee's turn to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

~ 2023 ~

September—Choir/
Worship & Music / LCM
October—Church Council
November - Social Ministry
December - Evangelism/
Endowment/Stewardship





We will be collecting the following items for September:

Canned Fruit & Soup

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday

September 14, 2023



Serving Our Community of Faith in September:

Date	Supply Pastor/ Worship Leader	Congrega- tional Rep/ Announce- ments	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
September 3	Rev Mindy Heppe	Deb Price	Mark Varndell	Robert Carl b John Towey b Allen Johnson c/d Terry Neumeister so Becky Spencer g	John Towey AM Angie Berger Deb Price	Ava Hubler	Cole Johnson
September 10	Erik Tice	Dennis Wolfe	Barb Anczarski			Kayla Werner	
September 17	Rev. Ben Scott		Beth			Jacob Tice	
September 24			Kay Berner			Remington Stehr	









	<u> </u>					TOTAL ORDER OF THE PARTY OF THE
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship w / Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour	4 Labor Day	5	6 10:30 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	7 6:30 Choir Practice	8	9
10 Grandparents Day 9:30 Worship w/Memorial Garden Dedication	11 Patriot Day 7:00 Church Council	12	13 10:30 Seniors	14 10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard distribution 6:30 Choir Practice	15	3:00 – 6:00 P.M. Chicken BBQ
17 9:30 Worship	18	19	20 10:30 Seniors	21 First day of autumn 6:30 Choir Practice	22	23 Start of Fall (Autumnal Equinox) 8:00 Highway Clean-up ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
9:30 Worship 5:00 LCM 6:00 Property Committee	25	26	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	1:00 Lunch Bunch 6:30 Choir Practice	29	30