



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

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September



The CULC Messenger *God's Work,* *Our Actions*

"Stop
and Consider
the
Wondrous
Works of God."

Job 37:14, ESV

Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School - October through May
1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service -
First Saturday of each month at 6:00 p.m.



The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

September 2025

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Status of Accounts as of July 31

Total amount in checking account: \$95,733.28.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2025 Annual Budget of \$227,589.00 is \$18,965.75.

Income for July was \$11,175.83.

Expenses for July were \$17,701.57, resulting in a net loss of \$6,525.74.

Benevolence for July was \$548.49.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025

	Phone	Term Expires
John Towey, President	570-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Kay Berner, Vice President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Morgen Sweitzer, Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678	Feb. 2028
Suzanne Peel	570-590-5023	Feb. 2026
Virgil Smith	570-205-6979	Feb. 2028
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	570-205-3420	Feb. 2027
Mark Varndell	570-205-8002	Feb. 2028

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel

570-516-1787

***Pastor Brian's Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

STAFF

Parish Administrator Debbie Hall 570-875-1591
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 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



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Facebook

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions



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 **Mission Statement**

*We the members of Christ's
United Lutheran Church, Ashland,
desiring to be blessed together with
Word and Sacrament and to
become more perfectly the Body of
Christ in our world, do hereby
commit ourselves to a mission
which includes a creative re-
examination of our worship life; a
quality educational program for all
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.*

Christian symbol



22

BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

Message from Pastor Brian



Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord!

I have always been a big music fan. I think that probably goes without saying, as I've played some songs before sermons during worship, and I play in our praise band, but music has always been a big thing for me. I graduated from Susquehanna 4 credits shy of double majoring in music and religion. One of the things I would love to have done differently would be to take the classes that would have allowed me to be more than a minor in music.

So this fall, during our Learning Series, we are going to try something different. If we believe in the incarnation of God, we believe God is truly present in everything. That means not only is God present in the hymns that we sing in worship, but God is present in all kinds of music!

So this fall, we are going to explore where God is present in a number of popular musicians. Each class, we will take a look at the history of a certain musician, then listen to a song or two (or three) and see how the presence of God played out in their music.

I'm interested in this because I think looking at where God is in our culture is important. What God is saying through all kinds of people is an interesting discussion to have. I would argue that somewhere, somehow, God shows up, sometimes in spite of us.

So for September, we are going to start off with two famous musicians who had their backgrounds in part in the church. On September 14, we will look at the music of Johnny Cash, native of Dyess, Arkansas. Not only will we see how faith played out in his early life, we will see how it played out in positions he took and places he went. For example, you may not be aware, but in 1973 he actually came and played at the All Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

— continued on page 4



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God's Work, Our Actions



Then on September 28, we will look at the music and life of Elvis Presley. This is somewhat of a mixed bag, as we know Elvis died rather young of a drug overdose but also grew up surrounded by Gospel music. His life is one that is like a lot of lives- a mix of good things and broken things. Nevertheless, we will see where that took him and how that played out.

And by the way, I'm pretty sure Elvis is dead, despite what the National Enquirer has been saying for years. He would be 90 years old if he were still with us.

I will also gladly take requests of musicians that you would like us to explore. I am eager to begin seeing where God takes us on this journey!

Peace,

Pastor Brian Beissel



Schedule for September:

Your Pastor invites you to lunch! Here is the schedule for September. Lunch begins at 12 noon.

September 3: Cracker Barrel

There will be no monthly Evening Bible Study for September.



ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:
ARE YOU ATTENDING POST-
SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(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 2025 scholarships of \$500 for full time students/military service and \$100 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 5th. to a committee member: Vivian Brown, Carla Mae Carl, Tammy Dengler, Terry Shilling, or Tina Wolfe.

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, you must be an ACTIVE MEMBER of the congregation and be present on November 30th when scholarships are given out during the worship service.



Pray for Our College Students



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

*Donations to Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry
In memory of Bob Keys by:
Ron & Beth Andrews
Dorothy & Terry Kessler
Donna & Ron Wallace*



Council Highlights

Church Council Highlights From August

- There were no Council Highlights available at the time of newsletter publication. They will be included next month.

Saturday Evening Contemporary Worship Service

Join us at 6 p.m. on the first Saturday of each month as our new Praise Band leads us in an informal worship service with uplifting music. Holy Communion is celebrated by Intinction. **The worship service for September will be held on September 6.**



September Council Contact of the month is Jamie Johnson.

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 Jamie, she can be reached at 570-590-1678.



**Council Member
of the Month**

Hosted by Vickie's Angel Walk Team

In Memory of Wendy Farnsworth 2019

7TH ANNUAL MRS.T'S PIEROGIE SALE AND BASKET RAFFLE

Valley View Park
524 Gap St., Valley View, PA 17983

We, the Vickie's Angel Walk team, **In Memory of Wendy 2019**, invite you to join us in support of Schuylkill County families battling cancer.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

2 - 7 PM Shop and Drop

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

9 AM - 3 PM Basket Raffle



Baskets/Items Gratefully Accepted

Contact team captain Jim Eisenhart, Jr. at
570-527-7748 or jdeisenhartjr@iCloud.com

FEDERAL TAX ID # 20-8755452 Vickie's Angel Foundation is a non-profit organization declared tax exempt under 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A copy of the official registration and financial information of Vickie's Angel Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



The Power of Prayer Warriors

Prayer warriors are spiritual soldiers—men and women who faithfully lift others in prayer, often behind the scenes. Though their work may go unnoticed by the world, it is deeply valued by God. Their intercession can strengthen the weary, comfort the grieving, and open doors for God’s will to be done.

In Scripture, we are urged to "pray one for another" (James 5:16, KJV), reminding us that healing and restoration often come through the prayers of the faithful. A prayer warrior stands in the gap, bringing needs before the Lord with boldness and persistence.

The Apostle Paul recognized the power of prayer, often asking others to pray for him as he shared the gospel. In the same way, prayer warriors today uphold churches, pastors, families, and communities.

Their prayers may be silent, but their impact is mighty. Never underestimate the difference a praying heart can make.



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.

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 Cook Family - Stephanie
- The Shoup Family - Richard & Helen
- The Zweizig Family - Kenneth & Kim



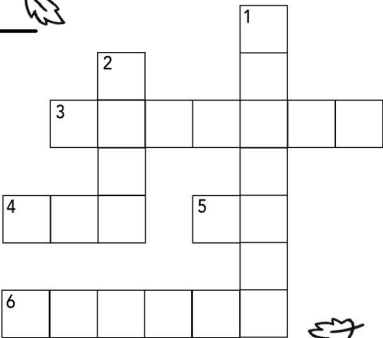
Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle. Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:
GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

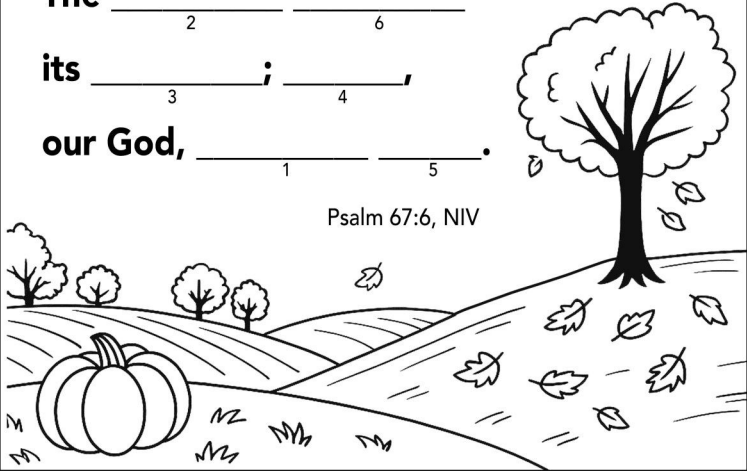
- ACROSS**
- 3. Rhymes with farthest.
 - 4. Rhymes with nod.
 - 5. Rhymes with thus.
 - 6. Rhymes with fields.

- DOWN**
- 1. Rhymes with messes.
 - 2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____
its _____;
our God, _____.

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

MAGNIFIED VBS 2025

Vacation Bible School returned to CULC this year on July 21-23 from 6:00-8:00.

Each evening the children experienced a puppet skit, motion songs, classroom stories, crafts, and snacks to learn of our amazing God:

- 1) Jesus calling the children to come to him because all are important to Him.
- 2) Jesus calmed the storm because God cares about everyone.
- 3) Jesus taught us not to worry because God keeps His promises to be faithful with the big and small events of our lives.

They also heard about the H2OPE project and how their offerings would be used to help build a water reservoir in Haiti. \$75 was collected!

Thank you to the 14 children and their families that attended. Praise God for the 18 CULC members who helped prepare for and carry out the VBS activities. And also to Thrivent Action Team funds to cover some of the expenses. Thank you!!



CULC SENIOR YOUTH GROUP

Senior Youth Group (Grades 7 - 12)

Watch for the next activity
scheduled for the Youth Group
and plan to attend.



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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.**



PRAYER REQUESTS

August 24 – Amara Galen (C. Brennan)

Tara Houser (A. Berger)

Marguerite Felegi (A. Berger)

Families of Tim Morgan (K. Dengler)

Bob Kinlin (D. Price)

August 17 – Families of Odie Snyder

Joan Catizone

August 10 – Jody Davis (T. Shilling)

Dr. Dwight Davis (R. Johnson)

Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt)

Bill Begis (A. Begis)

Family of Bob Keys (brother of Terry Ambrose)

August 3 – Christina Dudley (D. Price)

Zack Metzinger

Carlee Gajkowski (B. Yoder)

Please continue to pray for: Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Allen Johnson, Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Kayla Werner

Remember our Home-bound: Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

And Friends: Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Jim Fetterolf, Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Donna Hughes, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah (Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe), Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny Stock, Elaine Stone, Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, John Towey, Jr., Rose Varndell, Olivia Wagner, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang

The CULC Messenger
God's Work, Our Actions





SEPTEMBER birthdays

2	Faith Rickert	16	Oliver McCormick
3	Joyce Mallams	17	Tina Dengler
	Heather Young	18	Traci Smith
4	Frank Dziczek		Cathy Troutman
5	Vivian Brown		Blake Allison
	Keri Johnson		Ada Jackowiak
6	Donna Lassen	20	Ted Ambrose
7	Pastor Mindy Heppe		Holly Bolich
	Carolynn Long		Renee' Walter
8	David Becker	22	Louise Gregis
	Pastor Michelle Beissel	23	Ava Hernandez
	Kay Berner	24	Annette Houser
	Kenneth Marlow		Joshua Kanezo
	Mark Sharp		David Walter
9	Katie Knorr	25	Nelson Berger, Sr.
	Terry Shilling		Jocelyn Judge
	Hailey Sisko		Anne Pirie
	Tanner Walacavage		Tyler Wolfgang
	Doug Dean	26	Susan Merwine
10	Josie Economy	27	Chelsea Stutzman
	Shawn Romberger	28	John S. Wolfgang
	Bryon Rusinko	30	Beth Becker
11	Ken Dengler		Rick Fritz
	James Houser Jr.		Bernice Wilson
	Abigail Zweizig		
13	Rachelle Demko		
	Alanni Miller		
	Tanner Harhigh		
14	Penny Shadle		



CHICKEN BBQ

CHRIST'S UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH

437 Airport Road, Ashland

(570) 875-1591

Saturday, September 20, 2025

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 7th**. 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 14th so a final inventory can be taken and the remaining items may be purchased. Baked goods may be brought on **Friday, September 19** between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or **Saturday morning after 9:00 a.m.** **Your support is greatly appreciated!**



The next meeting of
Women of the ELCA is on
Wednesday, September 3rd at
6:00 PM.
All women of CULC are
welcome to attend.



KANUGHTY KNOTTERS will resume knot-
ting quilts for Lutheran World Relief on Tuesday
mornings beginning September 16th at 9:00 am.
No sewing experience is required...just to be
able to tie a knot. For more information contact
Donna Wallace.

A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival



Lord of all seasons,
As the leaves change and the days grow
cooler,
help me embrace the rhythm of your creation.
Teach me to let go of what I no longer need
and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees,
and the promise of harvest.
May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,
and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



SEPTEMBER anniversaries

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

2025 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are 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.





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

437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

Monday, September 29, 2025
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

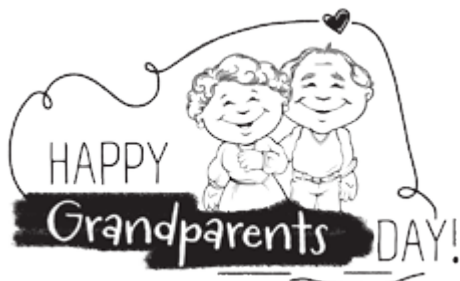
Please contact Debbie Hall or call
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit
www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-Ins are Welcome!

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.

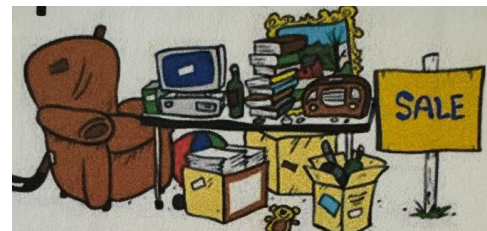


Indoor Yard Sale **Saturday, September 6** **8:00am -2:00pm**

All are welcome to join us in having an indoor yard sale. Rent a table
for \$5 each. You may rent more than one table if you would like.
Please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board to rent a
table. The deadline to sign up is September 3. Tables will be set up in
the social hall and Narthex.

You must set up, be present at your table the day of the sale, clean up,
and take home any items not sold. Set up will be Thursday, September
4 and Friday, September 5 during office hours, or you may set up
Saturday morning.

We will also be using a Thrivent Grant to purchase food items to have
available for sale. We will be selling hot dogs, chips, and drinks.
Proceeds from table rentals and food sales will go towards our goal of
building a well for Hope Ministries. The yard sale will be advertised
on our Facebook page, by posters, and the T-102 community page.
Even if you don't set up a table, come out and support this worthy
cause by buying items from the yard sale and food stand.
Thank you for your support!



SOCIAL MINISTRY



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.

~ 2025 ~

- 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 Vegetables

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is
Thursday
September 11, 2025



Serving Our Community of Faith in September:



Date	Congrega- tional Rep/ Announce- ments	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Crucifer
September 7	John Towey	Barb Stepanchick	Thomas Wolfgang b Allen Johnson c/d John Wolfgang so	Larry Wolfgang AM Angie Berger Ken Dengler	Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner
September 14 Holy Cross Day	Ken Dengler	Sally Tice		John Towey AM Beth Andrews Angie Berger	Sawyer Smith	Volunteer needed
September 21		Jacob Tice			Eli Pennypacker	_____
September 28		Erik Tice			Volunteer needed	_____



September 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5	6
		6:00 Christian Ed Meeting	10:30 Seniors 12:00 Lunch w/Pastor 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council			8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Indoor Yard Sale / Lunch 6:00 – Contemporary Worship Service
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship Hour		6:00 Social Ministry	10:30 Seniors	10:00 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard 		
14 Holy Cross Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:30 Worship W/ Holy Communion & Blessing of 1 st Responders 10:30 Worship & Music 10:45 Learning Series 5:00 LCM/Property	Newsletter Deadline	9:00 Knaughty Knotters	10:30 Seniors			 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:30 Worship 10:45 Confirmation Class		9:00 Knaughty Knotters	8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors			8:00 Highway Clean-Up 
28	29	30				
9:30 Worship 10: 45 Learning Series	 <i>GIVE Blood</i> 1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	9:00 Knaughty Knotters				