

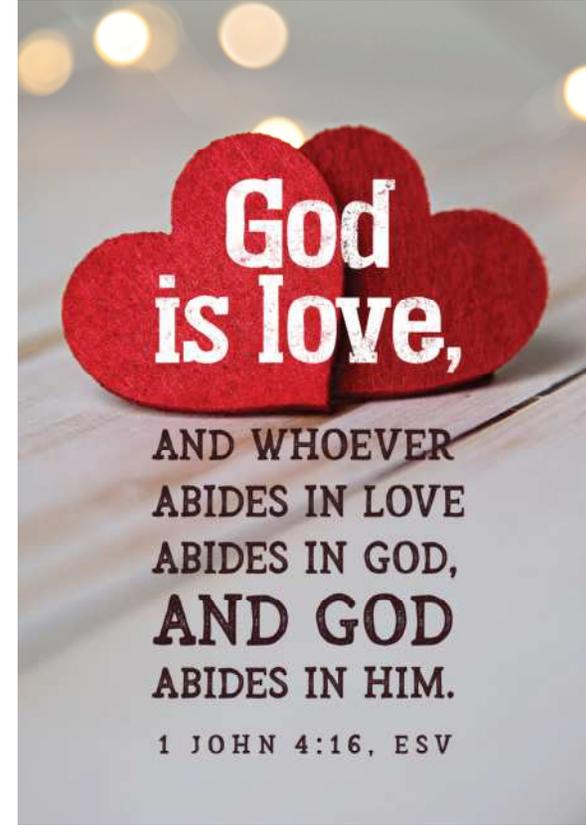
Christ's United Lutheran Church  
 437 Airport Road  
 Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

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# Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



Join us

for Wor-

ship

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45

Life Together at Christ's United





# Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

February 2021

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The February Newsletter is sponsored  
*In Memory of our Uncle Larry Artman;  
 Great Aunts and Uncles,  
 Geraldine & William Dillman Sr.  
 and Arlene and Harold Troup  
 and Aunt Lois Maurer*



## CHURCH COUNCIL JANUARY 2021

|                                    | Phone        | Term Expires |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| John Denchak<br>President          | 570-875-4970 | Feb. 2023    |
| Terry Shilling<br>Vice President   | 570-875-0412 | Feb. 2021    |
| Beth Andrews<br>Secretary          | 570-874-2381 | Feb. 2022    |
| Ted Ambrose                        | 570-449-2193 | Feb. 2022    |
| Angie Berger                       | 570-875-3598 | Feb. 2023    |
| Vivian Brown                       | 717-275-5277 | Feb. 2023    |
| Jim Gruber                         | 570-875-2805 | Feb. 2021    |
| Suzanne Peel                       | 570-875-2218 | Feb. 2021    |
| Barbara Stepanchick                | 570-875-1114 | Feb. 2022    |
| Jacob Tice<br>Youth Representative | 570-875-2681 |              |

### PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak  
 570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

### STAFF

|                             |                                       |              |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Parish Administrator</b> | Deb Hall                              | 570-875-1591 |
|                             | office@christsunited.org              | 570-789-9722 |
|                             | Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00 |              |
| <b>Director of Music</b>    | Jamie Johnson                         | 570-590-1678 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>            | Ann Marie Dillman                     | 570-449-2021 |

### Status of Accounts as of December 31

Balance in Checking Account..... \$51,962.28.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2020 Annual Budget of \$202,094.00 is **\$16,841.17**

December income was \$18,987.57

Expenses for December were \$16,843.81 resulting in a gain of \$2,143.76.

Benevolence Gifts through December.....\$11,375.75  
 (76 % of our Benevolence goal of \$15,000.00 for 2020)



Life Together at Christ's United



## Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education

Evangelism/Outreach

Lutheran Church Men (LCM)

Social Ministry

Stewardship

WELCA

Worship & Music

Multimedia Ministry

Security Team

## Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees

Endowment Fund

Mutual Ministry

Nominating

## **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 undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The increased stress in our lives this past year has led some of us to suffer insomnia more frequently. This is seen as a problem because we are told that eight hours of sleep at night is ideal in order to function properly the next day. But people who study such things have found that sleeping patterns were different before artificial light began pouring in our bedroom windows each night from street lamps and we became dependent on our electronic devices. Back then it was normal to experience an hour or so of wakefulness in the middle of the night. It was called the "watch" and folks used it to get up to pee, share intimacy, pray, and reflect on their dreams. This period each night helped to repair the tangled events and conversations of the day.

I have sometimes checked my cell phone upon waking and found a message from a friend that was sent around 2:00 am. Often the content is creative and meaningful, not muddled as you might expect from someone at that hour. Instead of fighting to get back to sleep, the person had decided to get up and engage in something imaginative. Katherine May, author of the book "Wintering – The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times", can be bossy and overbearing like me. Yet she has found that during this "watch" period of the night, her domineering tendencies are still asleep. With no voices tell-

## **Christian symbol**



### **FOUNTAIN**

A fountain, or well, symbolizes Jesus, our living water. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that everyone who drinks the water he gives will never thirst again. "It will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life,"



— continued on page 4

Life Together at Christ's United



ing her what dreams are possible and which aren't, creativity and new ideas can float to the surface.

While a seminarian, I found especially meaningful the 9:00 pm Compline service each week. In it the Leader chants: "Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping". The Prayers include this petition: "Be present, merciful God and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in you".

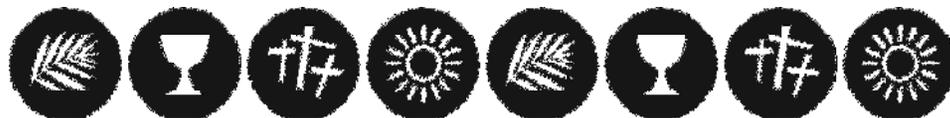
The next time we awaken in the middle of the night, may we consider getting ourself up. Pour a cup of hot tea or chocolate. Skim through a favorite book, looking not for knowledge but rather imagination. Or sit back and reflect on a God-sighting from the day before. Such a "watch" just might help us, amid all the changes and chances of our lives, to find our rest in Christ our Lord.



*Remember....  
That you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* Such are the words of blessing offered on Ash Wednesday, as we remember our humanity and God's immortal love, shown to us in Jesus Christ. It is a time of somberness in recognition of the love so strong that death could not break its grasp on us, as Jesus carries us from death to life. Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship:

12 Noon - A spoken Service with the imposition of ashes  
7:00 P.M. - Holy Communion Worship

12 Noon - A spoken Service with the imposition of ashes  
7:00 P.M. - Holy Communion Worship

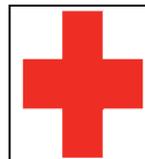




### Pastoral Acts

Pastor Laura performed the following

Funeral:



## AMERICAN RED CROSS Community Blood Drive

**Christ's United Lutheran Church  
Social Hall  
437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021  
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](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.





# SATURDAY & SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6 & 7

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

**“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”**

Since then, more than \$160 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need, through food collection and money raised for hunger-relief charities.

A table is set up in the Narthex with two pots, one for the Kansas City Chiefs and one for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Place money in the container of the team for which you’ll be cheering. And here’s a list of suggested food items to

## Items Needed for the “Souper” Bowl Saturday, February 6 & Sunday, February 7

- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit

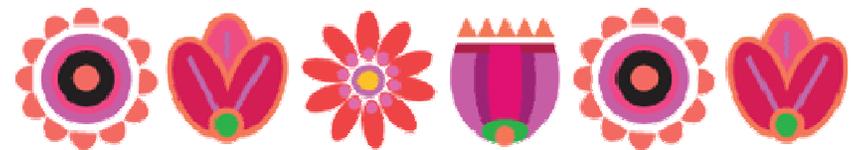


## Church Council Highlights from January

- Benevolence income for the month of December was \$864.00, totaling \$11,375.75 for the year or 76% of our goal of \$15,000.00 which is 3/4 of what we estimated. The mortgage balance is \$15,516.20 which is about half the amount from last January.
- We are holding a Name the Newsletter contest. Entries can be submitted to Pastor on paper or by email as many times as desired.
- Pastor Laura said that we're all set to have a follow-up letter go out next week to the people who haven't completed their Commitment Cards.
- Ann Marie Dillman said she would consider staying on as Treasurer if someone would take charge of the checkbook.

## January Council Contact of the month is John Denchak.

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 John,



Life Together at Christ's United





## Welcome New Members

On Sunday, January 10 we welcomed into membership of Christ's United the following new members:

Joseph Brennan  
Kevin Clark

## New CULC Car Magnets



Our car magnets have arrived. We think we've ordered enough for every car of CULC's members... as well as extras for

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



In Memory of John "Jack" Johnson by:  
Frieda Johnson  
Cathy Troutman & Family  
Frank & Karen Smith  
Allen & Kathy Johnson  
James & Michelle Lavelle

In Memory of Richard Dengler by:  
The Family of Richard Dengler  
Allen & Kathy Johnson

In Memory of Bonnie Lassen by:  
Suzanne Peel  
Nelson & Angie Berger & Boys

## *Donations to CULC Capital Campaign*

In Memory of Ellie Chappell, Ruby Fegley, Dorothy Yoder,  
John  
Johnson, Richard  
Dengler, Paul  
Kieffer  
by Nancy, Lisa,  
Greg & Penny Lindenmuth & Family



## Confirmands' Statements of Faith

As a requirement for Confirmation, each Confirmand writes a personal "Statement of Faith". Several were willing to have theirs printed. This month's (on the following page) is written by Daniel Cunningham.



## *An interlocking community*



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

# Women of the ELCA



The next Women of ELCA Meeting  
will be held on  
**Wednesday, February 3rd**  
at **6:00 pm.**

All women of CULC are invited to attend.

## Indoor Custodian Position



The position of Indoor Custodian is still available. Please contact the Church Office if you are interested or know someone who might be.

Or if you can lend a hand, volunteers are covering church cleaning. We have a schedule of several groups of four or five volunteers to clean each week. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in helping please call Jo-Ann Young at 570-875-2586 or the church office 570-875-1591. Thank you.



Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find our selves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge

your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Daniel Cunningham

For years now I've been going to church. Every Sunday I would go and learn in Sunday school and during church services all about faith and Jesus. I've learned that no matter what, Jesus is there for me to listen and be with me. Providing support to me no matter my troubles or issues and helping me when I need him. I know that if I ever need somebody to listen to me that I can rely on Jesus to be there for me.

I don't know what I would do without Jesus by my side to help me through everything that I must go through in my life. My education about Jesus started in simple children's bibles and the songs that they play during the vacation bible school, I've had Jesus to lead me away from any wrongdoings I might commit and has turned my life into the best one I could have had. My friends and family have also led me on my way as well as any religious teachers I have had.

Who I am today was heavily influenced by the religious teachings of my family. My dad was always trying to teach my brother and I the greatness of our lord Jesus Christ and how we are all children of God. My family has supported me through years of my life and during hard times. I am glad to have them in my life to teach me all I need to know and to give me advice on how to be the best version of myself possible.

Confirmation has only been part of my life for 2 years yet it has taught me so much about Jesus, God, and myself and what it means to be a member of the church. More importantly a member of this church, this community of people that surround me. This group of people is one that has helped me experience many things at church. Being part of this community means that I will be the next one to help the people younger than me in their experiences at church.

I want to thank the people who have led me this far and have taught me all I know, my family who encouraged me to attend church and taught me the basics of faith, and my teachers who have extended that knowledge.

# FEBRUARY



- 1 Ross Sterling  
Kim Walacavage  
Shelby Weikel
- 3 Stephen McGrath
- 4 Dennis Wolfe
- 5 Richard Weikel  
Kenneth Zweizig
- 6 Brian Bolich
- 8 Charlotte Schmidt
- 9 Terry Kessler  
Allison Rusinko  
Kayla Werner
- 10 Rebecca Houser  
Jason Miller  
Mark Varndell
- 11 Vanessa Pirie  
Tanner Wilson  
Leo Young II
- 12 Chantelle Klinger  
Edward Stepulitis
- 13 Rhonda Carl  
Barb Habowski

- 15 Alaina Lindenmuth  
Melissa Sisko
- 16 Daniel Sisko  
Lois Sterling
- 17 Crystal Huber
- 18 Cyrus Clark  
Jacob Tice
- 19 Dean Leshar  
Pearl Lute  
Shaun McNally
- 20 Jim Chappell  
Cheryl Denchak  
Micah Hepler  
Mina Pennypacker  
Bill Price  
Jax Miller
- 21 Kylei Long
- 22 Teresa Ambrose  
Gavin Dwane  
Kolton Fetterolf  
Brielle Smith
- 23 Ricky Williard
- 24 Zalen Williard
- 25 Charlie Klauger
- 26 Geoffrey Dudick



## 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 Lisowski Family - John & Hannah
- The Stepanchick Family - Michael, Barbara & Aaron

## 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. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.

If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.

## 2021 Sponsorships

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



Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Special service bulletins \$10.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00

Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to



## We Offer our Prayers to...

- January 24** – Kevin Clark  
Amy Hudock Wahalec  
Jim & Tara Houser & Family  
James “Slugger” Weikel (Berber Family)  
Bill Price Sr. (D. Price)  
Leo Young (J. Young)  
Mike Yoder  
Jordan Davis (J. Babb)  
Paul Dean (J. Johnson)  
Annette Houser (T. Houser)  
Greg Mirock (M. Wolfgang)  
Ty Daubert (T. Berner)  
Bob Kahler (D. Wallace)  
Jill Marie Diehl (M. Peel)  
George Montgomery
- January 17** – Erin, Kaitlyn & Kayla Werner (K. Berner)  
Jim Gruber (D. Gruber)
- January 10** -- Bryan and Tammy Szuler (T. Wolfe)  
Danny Quick (A. Berger)  
Kastoris Family-fire victims  
*Families of Anna James and Ella Wolfe*
- January 3** – John, Maryann, Thomas & Tyler Wolfgang (S. Tice)  
Angela & Bill Groody (L. Lute)



## FEBRUARY



- |          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| 02/13/93 | Ron & Donna Wallace      |
| 02/14/10 | Nelson & Angie Berger    |
| 02/16/95 | Traci & Donald Smith Jr. |
| 02/21/53 | Cy & Joan Clark          |
| 02/23/85 | David & Denise Hepler    |

### *Give Electronically*

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

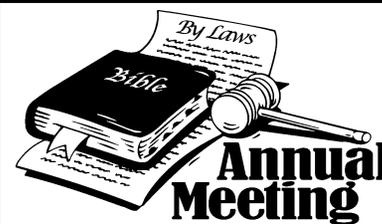
Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



Please continue to pray for: Stewart Anthony, Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Hepler, Carl (Mickey) Lute, Bobby Liem, Gail Lorady, Dianna Monaghan, Irene Morgan, Nellie Schlorff, Richard Shoup, Cheryl Varndell, Jo-Ann Young, Linda Zerby

Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Ruth Berner (R. Berner), Elizabeth Brown & family, Linda Brown (V. Brown), Donald Bulla, Arlene Chillis (J. Pennypacker), Joe Ferraro Jr., Harry Fishburn (G. Marquardt), Bob Griffiths (I. Morgan), Dan Grow, Nancy Harner (R. Berner), Minah Horan, Pastor Bob & Donna Hughes (Grubers), Ron James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Deborah Lynch (G. Marquardt), Keith Morgan (G. Marquardt), Mylah (G. Marquardt), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Albert Stehr, Carol Stehr, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Karyssa Wenrich

*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. Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.*



**Sunday, February 21**  
**10:30 a.m.**

Immediately after worship, on February 21 we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Please plan to attend and support our ministries here at Christ's United.

Life Together at Christ's United





A special thank you to everyone for your prayers, flowers and cards during our recent bereavement. Words can not express our gratitude.

The Jack Johnson Family

\*\*\*\*\*

# Whoopie Pie Fundraiser



Christ's United will be selling Weaver's Whoopie Pies beginning in March. There will be six flavors available: chocolate with white filling, chocolate with peanut butter, chocolate chip with white filling, red velvet with white filling, shoofly with molasses and oatmeal raisin with white filling.

Cost is \$2.00 each and we will make a profit of \$1.00 per pie. Anyone who wishes to help sell can pick up an order sheet in the office. There will be someone in the Narthex on Sunday mornings during the month of March and an order sheet will be on the bulletin board. All orders must be turned in by March 21. Money is due with order. Pies will be ready for pickup on April 17. If you have any

# PUZZLE

## A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

*Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.*

“

J Q U O W    B E O    E E E  
 J E A A    E E '    U N O    J Q U O W  
 B E O    N L U B    E    J E A A  
 N L U B    B E O A    N U E N O W  
 J E A A    E W    F B  
 N U E N O W    U N O  
 B E O A    E E O  
 F B    E E O    ”

RUTH 1:16, NIV

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A |   | E | T |
| B | U | H | D | O |
| G | R | L | Y | I |
|   | N | S | P | M |

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

# Loving embraces

Express your love and friendship with handcrafted bracelets.



### What you need:

- Adult help
- Bowl of boiling water
- Wide wooden craft sticks
- Glass cup
- Markers, paint or decorative tape

### What you do:

1. Pour about 3 cups of boiling water into a bowl. Soak sticks in the water about 30 minutes.
2. Remove sticks and slowly, gently bend them into a curve.
3. To maintain the shape, place curved sticks inside a glass cup overnight to dry completely.
4. Remove and decorate the bracelets, which make fun Valentine's Day gifts.



## SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following items for February:

### Oatmeal & Cereal

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday



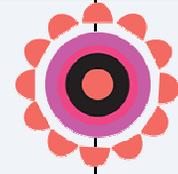
## Serving Our Community of Faith in February:



| Date                               | Congregational Representative | Lector & Post Worship Greeter at the Door | Ushers  | Communion Assistants | Acolytes                      | Crucifer | Post Worship Greeter in Narthex |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| February 7                         | Angie Berger                  | Erik Tice                                 | Ken Dengler<br>Becky Spencer<br>Robert Carl<br>John Towey | Kay Berner-AM        | Amy Johnson                   |          |                                 |
| February 14 Transfiguration Sunday | Jacob Tice                    | Stefan Swanson                            |   | Vivian Brown-AM      | Dylan and Mason Buhay         |          |                                 |
| February 17 Ash Wednesday          | TBD                           | Sally Tice                                |   | John Towey- AM       | Jacob Tice                    |          |                                 |
| February 21                        | TBD                           | John Towey                                |   |                      | Joey and Bianca McAndrew      |          |                                 |
| February 28                        | TBD                           | Mark Vardell                              |   |                      | Blake Olayo and Ava Hernandez |          |                                 |



# February 2021



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                           | Wed  | Thu   | Fri              | Sat  |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
|  <p><b>1</b><br/>7:00 Church Council</p>                                     |   | <p><b>2</b> Groundhog Day</p> | <p><b>3</b><br/>10:00 Seniors<br/>6:00 WELCA</p>   |  <p><b>4</b><br/>1:00 – 4:00 Red Cross<br/>Blood Drive</p> |                  | <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>6</b><br/>5:00 Worship with<br/>Holy Communion<br/><b>Souper Bowl of Caring<br/>Collection</b></p> |
| <p><b>7</b> Scout Sunday<br/><b>Souper Bowl of Caring<br/>Collection</b><br/>9:30 Communion Worship<br/>10:45 Sunday School<br/>&amp; Confirmation Class</p> | <p><b>8</b></p>   | <p><b>9</b></p>               | <p><b>10</b><br/>10:00 Seniors</p>   | <p><b>11</b></p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> | <p><b>13</b><br/>5:00 Worship with<br/>Holy Communion</p>  |
| <p><b>14</b> Valentine's Day<br/>Transfiguration Sunday<br/>9:30 Communion Worship<br/>10:45 Sunday School<br/>&amp; Confirmation Class</p>                  | <p><b>15</b> Presidents Day<br/>Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p><b>16</b></p>              | <p><b>17</b> Ash Wednesday<br/>10:00 Seniors<br/><br/>12:00 Ash Wednesday<br/>Spoken Worship Service<br/>7:00 Ash Wednesday<br/>Worship Service</p> | <p><b>18</b></p>  | <p><b>19</b></p> | <p><b>20</b><br/>5:00 Worship with<br/>Holy Communion</p>  |
| <p><b>21</b><br/>9:30 Worship<br/>10:30 Annual Congregational<br/>Meeting</p>  | <p><b>22</b></p>  | <p><b>23</b></p>              | <p><b>24</b><br/>9:00 Newsletter Assembly<br/>10:00 Seniors<br/>7:00 Mid-Week Lenten<br/>Worship</p>   | <p><b>25</b></p>  | <p><b>26</b></p> | <p><b>27</b><br/>5:00 Worship with<br/>Holy Communion</p>  |
| <p><b>28</b><br/>9:30 Worship<br/>10:45 Sunday School<br/>&amp; Confirmation Class</p>   |   |                               |  |   |                  |  |