



New Hope Notes

The Monthly Newsletter for New Hope Presbyterian Church

12727 Lincoln Way North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Phone: 724-863-7702 FAX: 724-863-7730

MARCH 2025



My discipleship journey started as early as the age of 7. It was a hot summer day; we had just moved to a new neighborhood where I had no friends. I was bored and wandering around the house and my mother was exasperated with me. She told me to get a book and start reading, so I grabbed – of all books – the Bible. It was the King James Version so it was a bit cumbersome reading, and I kept going to my mother to ask her how to pronounce some of the words (more exasperation...). I read the whole Bible – not understanding ANYTHING – but I couldn't stop. I remember clearly her trying to tell me how to pronounce Ephraim and Manasseh. She wasn't certain either.

At that time, I was voracious, trying to understand and gain knowledge of God. I couldn't get enough. That continued until I was 9 when we joined the Presbyterian church in our neighborhood, and you all know the rest... I'm here, called by God as Minister and someone to walk with you on your discipleship journey.

The deep hunger for God should be our number one priority – our only “work” before other work. Otherwise, our discipleship is shallow. On the surface, all looks well but underneath are cracks, and we keep them hidden. The process of growing our faith is raw, messy, and difficult.

This Lent, let us all be looking for that voraciousness in our discipleship by cultivating a deep, personal relationship with Jesus; relying on Jesus to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. There will be many opportunities:

- A 40-day Lenten devotional booklet will be available;
- The Mid-Week Lenten worship services will start on Ash Wednesday and continue on Wednesdays through Holy Week, with lunch and fellowship afterwards;
- Sunday services will include some special ways to “see” Jesus at work in and through us.

But if these things don't help you grow in your love of God, then try a new spiritual discipline. Richard Foster says this about spiritual disciplines in his book “Celebration of Discipline”: Disciplines allow us to place ourselves before God so that He can transform us. The disciplines are a gift from God as a means of receiving God's grace and being transformed into Christ-likeness. There are many disciplines but here are just a few: meditation, prayer, fasting, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

May we all grow – have deep spiritual transformation – as we continue together on this discipleship journey.

In Christ,
Pastor Brenda

SESSION SNIPPETS

The Session met on Thursday, February 13, 2025, to discuss the following:

- Approved purchase of used washer and dryer for church, NAMOW, and community use.
- Approved purchase and installation of tile in the back room (downstairs).
- Approved Penn Trafford Marching Band Boosters to use Fellowship Hall for bingo fundraiser.
- Approved hosting Pine Springs Traveling Day Camp and covering the possible increased cost if a third church does not participate.
- Approved reports of care teams, committees, pastor, clerk, and treasurer.

YOUR NEW HOPE ELDERS

Clerk of Session: John Cherepko

Class of 2025: Jeff Bouldin, Rich Zoltak, Samantha Sacco

Class of 2026: Helen Connors, Shawn Dandoy, Lorelei Hinson

Class of 2027: Brad Gillespie, Patricia Hart, Jeff O'Neill, Sr.

CARE TEAM FOR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Coffee and Conversation

On Sunday, March 2, there will be Coffee and Conversation with Doughnuts in honor of Fat Tuesday, where cooks would use all the fat in their kitchen before the start of Lent. Then, from Ash Wednesday until Easter, it would be a time of fasting and self-sacrifice.

Lenten Lunches

Beginning on March 5, from 11:30 -1:30, please join us for singing, worship, lunch and fellowship at our annual Community Lenten Services. The theme this year is based on sacrifice. Help is needed to prepare the fellowship hall, make lunch, and assist with cleanup. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or let Patricia Hart know. There will also be a sign-up sheet for those who are willing to provide desserts.

Game Night

On March 8, there will be Game Night at New Hope. Please bring a favorite game and a snack to share with the group. Drinks and popcorn will be provided. All ages are welcome for a really fun evening out!

Cheapest Lunch in Town

Immediately following worship on March 16, there will be a Chili Cookoff for our Cheapest Lunch in town. The menu includes Sweet Potato Chili, Spicy Chile, and White Chicken Chili. Volunteers are needed to make at least 3 more batches of chili. Please sign up in the narthex or let Patricia Hart know. The famous "New Hope Cornbread" will also be served, along with chili toppings.



March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service with Communion 11:30am Coffee & Conv. 11:30am BP Screening 2:00pm Memorial Svc. and Luncheon for Larry Kifer <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	3 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6pm Dinner, then... 7pm Class	4 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 4-7pm Pancake & Sausage Supper [FH] 5-7pm Bountiful Blessings	5 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 11:30 Lenten Svc. 12:30 Lenten Lunch <i>ASH WEDNESDAY</i> 7pm Worship/ashes	6 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 10am Finance mtg. 5:45pm GS [FH]	7 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am ROMEOS @ Bob Evans/NH <i>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</i>	8 6-9pm Game Night [FH]
9 9am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins (turn clocks ahead)</i>	10 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6pm Dinner, then... 7pm Class	11 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Mission & Outreach meeting	12 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 11:30 Lenten Svc. 12:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00pm GS [FH] 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	13 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Session	14 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8am-8pm Dine to Donate fundraiser at Panera / NH 8:30am ROMEOS @ Panera / NH	15
16 9am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30am Cheapest Lunch in Town: Chili Cook-off and rock painting <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	17 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 6pm Dinner, then... 7pm Class	18 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 5-7pm Bountiful Blessings	19 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 11:30 Lenten Svc. 12:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	20 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 9am NAMOW Board 5:45pm GS [FH] 5:45pm Cong. Life 7pm Christian Nurt.	21 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 8:30am ROMEOS @ Bob Evans/NH	22
23 9am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	24 7:30am MOW 6pm Dinner, then... 7pm Class	25 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels	26 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 11:30 Lenten Svc. 12:30 Lenten Lunch 6:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir	27 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 5:45pm GS [FH]	28 7:30am-12:30pm Meals on Wheels 9:00am ROMEOS @ Bob Evans/NH	29 9am Lemon Roll baking [FH/K]
30 9am Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i>	31 7:30am MOW 6pm Dinner, then... 7pm Class	Presbytery meeting @ McClellandtown				

We invite anyone to come to worship. If you can't be here in person, you can participate virtually. The worship service is livestreamed on the church Facebook page on Sundays at 10:30am at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Presbyterian-Church/New-Hope-Presbyterian-Church-120459321304492/>

C = Campus (building and grounds)
FH = Fellowship Hall (downstairs)
H = Hospitality Room
K = Kitchen
M = Music Room
S = Sanctuary
L = Library
P = Pavilion
W = Waterfall

STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN MONEY

Remember that all we have belongs to God and we need to be responsible in managing them.

Hints for the month of March from
the Care Team for Financial Stewardship

This is a good time to:

Money

- File your taxes early. Decrease the chance of identity theft. False submittals occur often.
- Buy generic. Many are just as good as the name brands.

Home

- Perform an energy audit to ensure your home is efficient as possible.
- Clean shower heads.
- Organize your junk drawer(s).
- Delve into the freezer, dig deep and rediscover what you've stored in the freezer.
- Clean the shower head. If a shower head is sluggish and no longer sprays evenly, it's probably clogged with mineral deposits. Soak them away with a solution of half-vinegar, half-water. Vinegar is acidic, and with prolonged contact, it can eat into metallic finishes, so don't soak the shower head for longer than 30 minutes. Rinse thoroughly and dry with a soft cloth.

Health

- Remember to schedule a leisure time for yourself, both physical and mental. Relaxation of mind and body is beneficial to your health.
- Cut your meal portions.
- Sip water while you sit.
- Start your day off with breakfast.
- March is national nutrition month: make half of your plate fruits and vegetables, drink more water, and reduce added sugars. A small handful of nuts or seeds can be a satisfying and healthy snack. Look for unsalted or lightly salted nuts such as, almonds, hazelnuts, peanuts, and pecans.

Environment

- Spring is approaching. Take care of your lawnmower maintenance before cutting season.

("Stewardship" continued)

- Start your garden seedlings so that the plants are big and healthy when planted.
- Be mindful of water and electricity usage.
- Taking shorter showers will lower your water and heating bill.
- Installing faucet aerators throughout your home can help conserve heat and water, without compromising water pressure.

"All of us can learn good stewardship
by enacting the following:

Spend Less than You Earn, Give Generously,
Avoid Debt, Plan for Financial Margin,
and Set Long Term Goals."

~Ron Blue

2025	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET
Jan	\$20,501.55	\$20,058.06	\$443.49

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3	Joanne Gumski
12	Richard Cooper
13	Faith Snyder
21	Cheri Collins
22	Zach Van Allen
23	Tom Johnson
24	David Couchenour
26	Michael LeRoy
29	Sharon Priatko
31	Steve Stypula

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

7	Ken & Cheri Collins
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BEREAVEMENT

Larry Kifer passed away on February 3

There will be a memorial service for Larry in the sanctuary at New Hope Church on Sunday, March 2, at 2:00pm. A luncheon will follow downstairs in the fellowship hall.

(continued next column)

Praise the Lord and pass the syrup... the Pancake & Sausage Supper is back!

5-7 pm on Tuesday, March 4
\$8 / person Free / age 6 and under

Meal includes: pancakes, sausage links, strawberries, donut, and beverage

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Pancake Supper

Join us for the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4, 5-7 pm in Fellowship Hall. Dinner includes pancakes, sausage, strawberries, a donut, and a drink for \$8. Proceeds will be donated to New Salem Presbyterian Church (Ohioville, PA - Beaver County). The church was constructed in 1850 and was destroyed by a fire on January 24.

Monthly Mission

We will be collecting new and gently used baby items for Blessed Bundles, a mission at Lutheran Church of our Savior/Irwin. Please place donations on the Giving Tree through March 30. Items needed are:

Diapers (size 4 - 8)

Pull Ups (3T/4T & 4T/5T)

Baby wipes

Clothing (9, 12, 18 months and 2T & 3T)

Lemon Rolls

We will be baking lemon rolls at 9:00am on Saturday, March 29. Ingredient donations will be needed (see list in narthex). If you are able to help bake, we would love for you to come! No experience needed!

Dine-to-Donate

Be on the lookout for upcoming Dine-to-Donate fundraisers at local restaurants. A portion of each check will go toward New Hope's Missions.

Sarris Candies Fundraiser

You can order Sarris candy through April 13. 25% of each order goes toward our mission projects. Shipping is a flat rate of \$7, and orders are delivered within a few days! Go to www.sarriscandiesfundraising.com, and enter Group ID 10-1051.

Craft & Vendor Show

If you are a crafter but prefer not to sell your creations, would you consider making your products to sell at the New Hope Craft table? All you would need to do is make your items by the beginning of November, and we'll do the rest! All proceeds would benefit New Hope's Missions. A sign up sheet for donated craft items will be posted in the narthex at a later date. If you have any questions, check with Samantha or Sue, or any Mission & Outreach committee member.

GLIMMERS OF HOPE (GLOH Girls)

Aspire Women's Event
on Sunday, March 23, 2025
at Unity Community Church
215 Unity Trestle Road
Plum, PA

Tickets \$30/person;
Group rate \$20/person for 10 or more.
Doors open at 4:00pm; show starts at 5:00pm.
Carpool arrangements will be offered.
Please see Donna Van Allen or Pat Hart
to sign up or for more information.

Welcome to the Group

All women of the church are encouraged to become a part of this long-standing, lively group! Everything from meals and outings to book studies and a friendly smile of support can be found at a GLOH Girls gathering. We hope to welcome you soon!

ROMEOs (Retired Older Men Eating Out)



Want to have your morning coffee and swap stories and encouragement with other guys who are grounded in the faith? Meet us at Bob Evans on Route 30 in N. Hunt. on Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. There's no specific agenda, just shooting the breeze over breakfast! Moderated by John Pressler.

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS®

by Mary Jane Smith

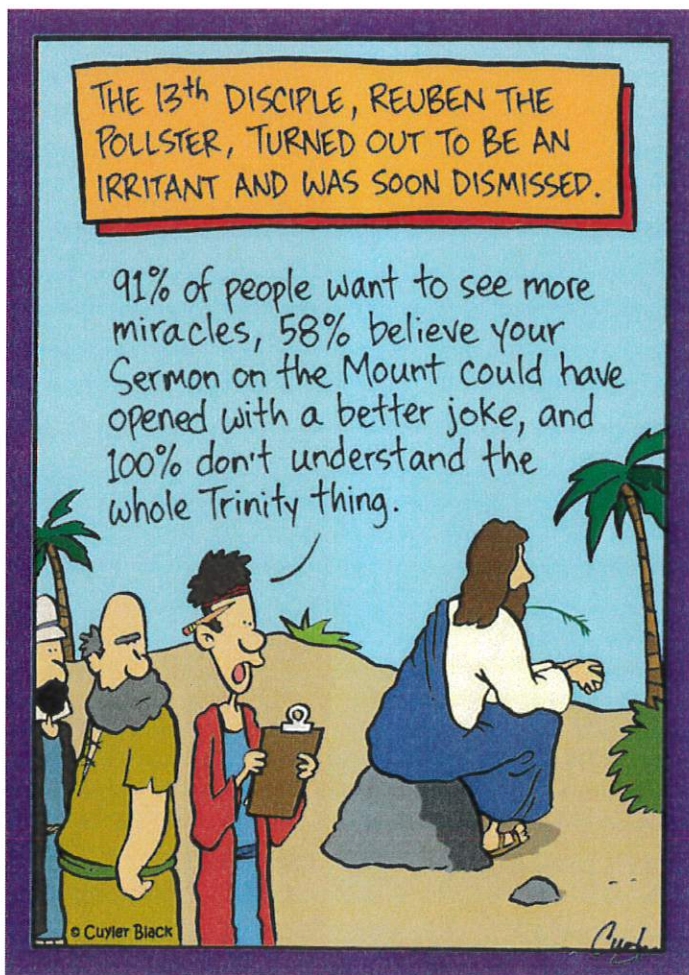
Bountiful Blessings® is a Christian-based community outreach program designed to help families and seniors during times of financial hardship by providing specific non-food items for free. There are no income qualifications, photo ID with current address and completed application required. No appointment necessary. Meets downstairs on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5-7pm.

EASTER PLANTS

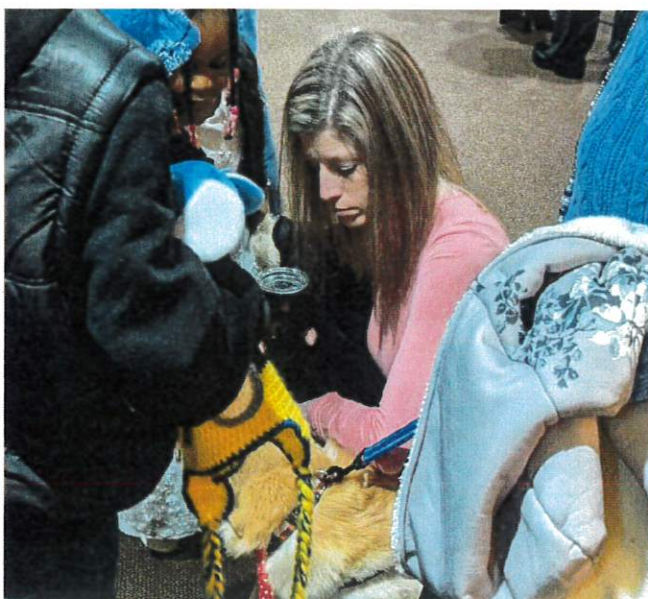
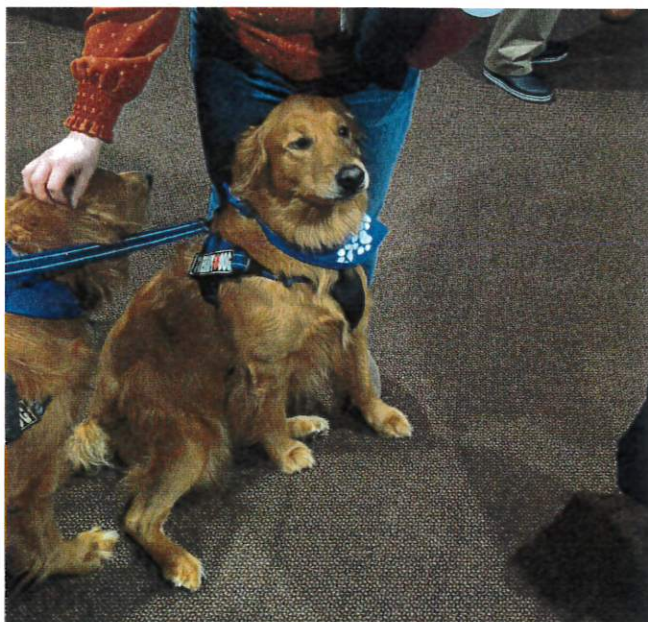
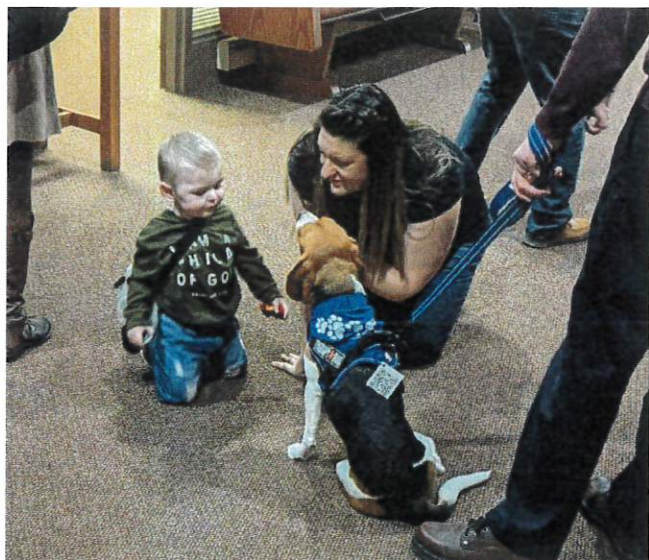
Order forms for live Easter plants will be inserted in the Sunday bulletins right after Ash Wednesday. Varieties available this year are pink hyacinths, lavender mums, yellow tulips, and lilies. Cost is \$8/per plant, and you may pick them up after the worship service on April 20.

DINE TO DONATE

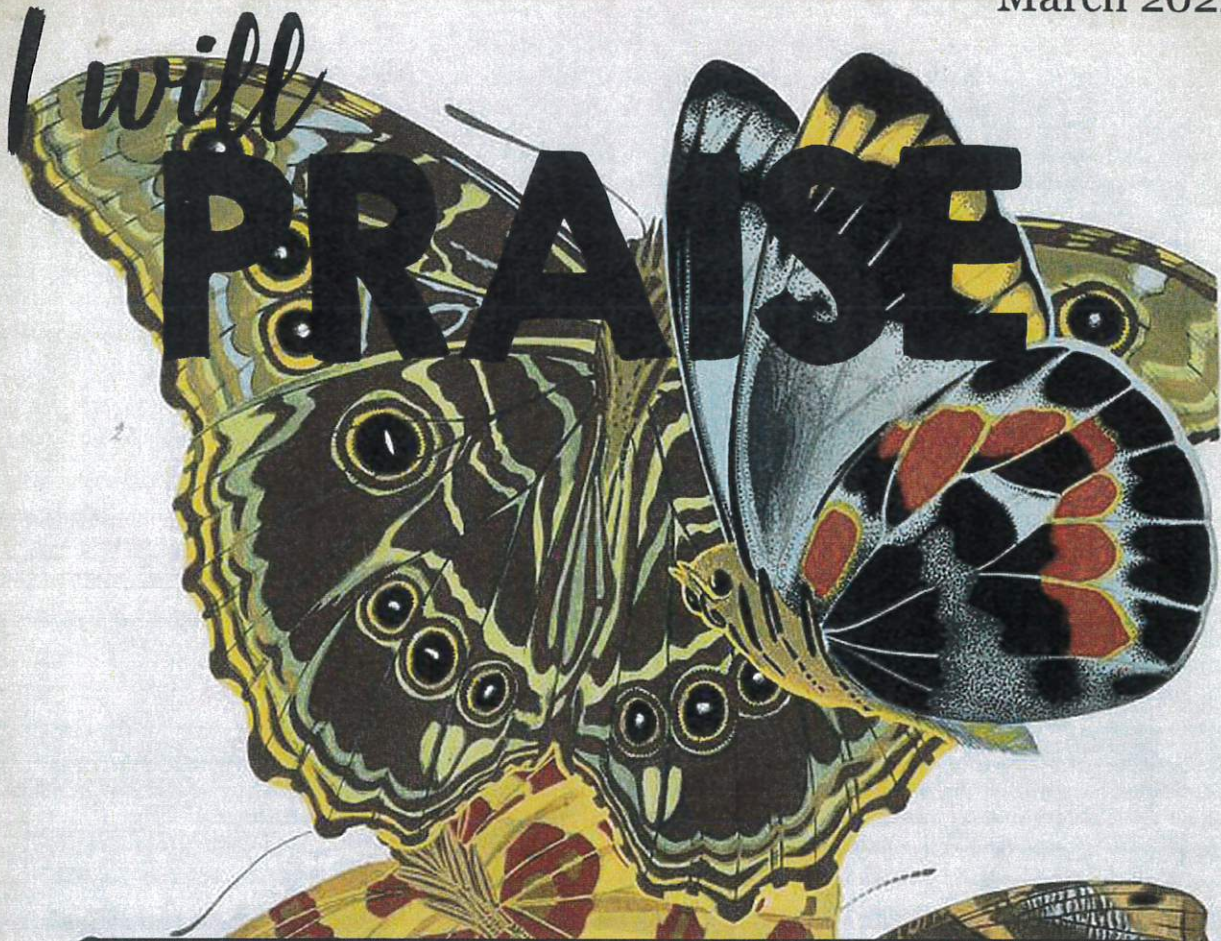
There will be a Dine to Donate Fundraiser at Panera in North Huntingdon from 8:00am - 8:00pm on Friday, March 14. Flyers are necessary, and can be found in your Sunday bulletins. New Hope will receive 20% of the total net sales from this event. You may also order using code FUND4U at panerabread.com, in the Panera app, or at the in-café kiosk.



SPECIAL SUNDAY VISITORS FROM TOP DOG THERAPY (Stella and Goldie's coworkers)



March 2022



- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Day 1 - Psalm 150 | <input type="radio"/> Day 17 - Psalm 138:1-2 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 2 - Isaiah 12:1-2 | <input type="radio"/> Day 18 - Isaiah 25:1 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 3 - Psalm 139:14 | <input type="radio"/> Day 19 - 2 Chronicles 20:21-22 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 4 - Psalm 111:1-3 | <input type="radio"/> Day 20 - Psalm 33:1-3 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 5 - Luke 2:20 | <input type="radio"/> Day 21 - Daniel 4:34-35 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 6 - Deuteronomy 10:20-21 | <input type="radio"/> Day 22 - Psalm 63:1-3 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 7 - Psalm 9:1-2 | <input type="radio"/> Day 23 - Daniel 2:23 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 8 - Psalm 86:12-13 | <input type="radio"/> Day 24 - Psalm 69:34-36 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 9 - Psalm 50:23 | <input type="radio"/> Day 25 - Psalm 48:1-2 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 10 - Luke 18:42-43 | <input type="radio"/> Day 26 - Hebrews 13:15-16 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 11 - Psalm 28:7 | <input type="radio"/> Day 27 - Revelation 19:4-5 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 12 - Psalm 148:11-13 | <input type="radio"/> Day 28 - Luke 19:37-38 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 13 - Acts 3:7-8 | <input type="radio"/> Day 29 - Romans 15:10-12 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 14 - Acts 16:25-26 | <input type="radio"/> Day 30 - Acts 2:46-47 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 15 - Psalm 117:1-2 | <input type="radio"/> Day 31 - Psalm 35:27-28 |
| <input type="radio"/> Day 16 - Psalm 104:33-34 | |