

Chiming In

NEWS AND EVENTS OF
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES
www.churchofthechimes.org—www.Facebook.com/ChurchofChimes

WITH GOD
ALL THINGS ARE
POSSIBLE.
MATTHEW 19:26

Merry Christmas



Love YOUR
neighbor
as yourself.
MATTHEW 22:39

DECEMBER 2021

Merry Christmas!



Save lives. Wear a mask. Get vaccinated.

14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423



A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All.

- Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister
- Rev. Curtis Peek, Associate Minister
- Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager
- Jane G. Poole, Christian Education Director
- Allyne Baker, Preschool Director
- Joi Staves, Wedding & Events Coordinator
- Lindsay Hill, Facility Manager
- Javier De la Torre, Groundskeeper



Find us on
Facebook

Phone: 818-789-7124

Email: office@churchofthechimes.org



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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

FAITHFULLY YOURS

Sometimes the words of others move me again and again, and it is true as Christmas comes close to us. Ann Weems' poem, from her book Kneeling in Bethlehem, always sets me up for the season. Let me share it with you:

In Search of Our Kneeling Places
In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
 an inn where we must ultimately answer
 whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
 we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
 we can no longer look the other way
 conveniently not seeing stars
 not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
 tending our sheep or our kingdoms.
This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
 and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
 let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
 let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
 let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
 And find our kneeling places.
 Ann Weems

In this Christmas season may you find hope, and peace, joy and love. Beth

SERMON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER:

- December 5: And Little Child Shall Lead Them" (Isaiah 11: 1-6)
 ~ *Communion Sunday*
 ~ *Baptism*
- December 12: *Children's Christmas Pageant*
- December 19: "Why me? Why Us?" (Matthew 1: 18-15 Luke 2: 1-7)
- Christmas Eve: Candlelight Services at 7pm and 11pm
- December 26: "What Did You Get For Christmas? (Colossians 3: 12-17)

TRUSTEE NEWS

Curtis Leseman, Chair

The Trustee Board held it's meeting on November 16, 2021, in person once again. The treasurer's report showed a positive cash flow for the month of October, while the year to date numbers are still negative! We have had good income from the filming and parking. The pool is closed for the season, so the "polar bears" will have to wait to next year. There is interest for the future by the film industry which could yield good income in the new year. We have completed the initial phase of our stewardship drive which has been successful. We are most grateful for the pledges received. If you have not yet returned your Estimate of Giving cards we would appreciate it if you return them by the end of the year.

In other news, we will be moving forward with the renovation of Drier Hall kitchen. We have hired an exterminator to save the campus. We are continuing to do maintenance items on campus and will be pursuing bids for patching the parking area.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas Season.

Respectfully submitted, **Curtis Leseman**

COMMUNITY & WORLD SERVICE NEWS

Robert Dunn, Chair

THANK YOU!!

CWS wants to thank the entire congregation for their support and donations for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes. We were able to give 77 children around the world a Christmas Gift this year which they would not have otherwise received.

As you know the boxes were filled with toys, balls, coloring books, crayons, hairbrushes, socks, t-shirts, and so much more including a cross. And most importantly a personal Christmas Card with a message given in love by you!

Thank you for sharing the love in your hearts for these children.

Submitted by **Robert Dunn**

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Ally Baker, Director

We are happy to announce that our Parent and Me Program is back in session. The class is every Thursday from 9:00 -11:00. Serves ages: 15months – 36months. If you would like to schedule a tour or would like more information on the Preschool or Parent & Me Program, please contact the church office or email Ally at preschool@churchofthechimes.org.

School closed: December 13 – January 3 ~ Resumes: January 4

DEACON NEWS

Greg Abbott, Chair

The Deacons met on December 21. The most important item of discussion was the Christmas Families. As I said last month, we were unable to put anything with the LA Children's Bureau, so this year we are partnering with Hope of the Valley. They have provided a list of nine families to help this year. Six of these have been assigned to various boards, the Scouts and the Pre school. The remaining three families are assigned to the congregation.

Visit the Christmas Tree with the wish list ornaments in the Narthex which will be put up in time for the December 5th service. You can grab an ornament any time after that. Gifts will need to be at the church by December 19 as the Deacons will be preparing the gifts for pick up / delivery. You can also make a cash or check contribution toward the purchase of gift cards for all the families. If sending a check please note that it is for the Christmas Families. More details to follow from the Lectern.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

Natalie Karp, Chair

The Women's Association met on Nov. 20th. The fall rummage sale was a huge success! Thank you to all who worked hard to help with the set up, during the sale, and clean up! All the proceeds went into the WA fund and will be used to provide scholarships for women attending LAVC, and to make minor repairs around our COTC campus. Our next rummage sale will be on a Saturday in April, so keep those donations coming!

We are hoping to restart our monthly Bouquet Circle after the holidays—look for details in the next Chiming In!

The next meeting of the Women's Association Board will be on Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 10:00am in Dreier Hall if available. They will not be meeting in December. Submitted by Michele Marot

Join us in the Sanctuary or Streaming Live

Sunday Worship Service* — 10:30am Every Sunday Morning

10@10* — 10 minute devotional at 10am every weekday

Lively and relevant chats with Beth (MW*F) & Curtis (TTH)

*Wednesdays' 10 at 10 offer a mini-Bible study in preparation for Sunday's Sermon.

*VIDEOS of past Sermons and Devotionals are on Facebook and YouTube.

FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Curtis Peek

WON'T HE DO IT?

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, ‘Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!’ And God granted him that which he requested.” ~ 1 Chronicles 4:10

Just like God favored Jabez, He will grant your request to be used by Him. To have an enlarged territory is to increase your influence among people and to be used by God.

As God opens doors we must become more sensitive to His voice and His will. If you want to be used by God, seek to fit in with His timing. Be willing to wait, if necessary. Be careful not to “invent” your own messages, claiming that they came from God.

Today, be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Be ready to do God's will, in His time, and in His way. Don't depend on your flesh or the reactions of other people. Trust in Him to guide you as you wait on Him. **Believe it! Curtis** LET US PRAY: Father, I want to speak Your words and do Your will. Guide me. Open up the doors at the right time and the right way. Help me to be ready. I submit my life to You. In Jesus' name. Amen

Merry Christmas!

MORE FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Christmas Worship at the Church of the Chimes

The Christmas Spirit is alive here! Each Sunday of worship will prepare us for the birth of Christ, the moment when God reaches down with love to all of us. Each Sunday an Advent candle will be lit, the flames kindling the hope, the peace, the love and the joy of the season. We will be singing and hearing the carols of Christmas, led by our wonderful musicians. We will hear the message of God's love each week. We are also thrilled that our children and youth will present a Christmas pageant on December 12 during worship too!

We are so excited to be able to have our traditional services on Christmas Eve! The 7 p.m. service will include a children's message, a story and a homily about Christmas along with wonderful music. The service will end with our candle lighting. The 11 p.m. service will have special music, the Christmas story and a sermon (“Starry Starry night”). We will also end the service lighting candles outside (weather permitting, of course!)

JANE'S CORNER

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

Thank you to all who have already purchased raffle tickets for our Youth's Sunshine and Shadows quilt project! All proceeds will benefit "Shoes that Fit". This non-profit organization provides athletic shoes for children who can't afford them. The shoes provide a sense of self-worth as well as giving the kids the opportunity to participate in sports. Please take a moment to view the quilt in the Narthex and buy some tickets! One ticket is \$2.00 and three are \$5.00. Help support this important children's mission outreach project! THANK YOU!

In the spirit of Advent and Christmas, I'm sharing the two poems below. I hope you enjoy them!

Dear Little Stranger ~ Written by Charles H. Gabriel, 1900

Low in a manger – dear little Stranger,
Jesus, the wonderful Savior, was born;
There was none to receive Him, none to believe Him,
None but the angels were watching that morn.
Angels descending, over Him bending,
Chanted a tender and silent refrain;
Then a wonderful story told of His glory,
Unto the shepherds on Bethlehem's plain.

Dear little Stranger, born in a manger,
Maker and Monarch, and Savior of all;
I will love thee forever! Grieve Thee? No never!
Thou didst for me make Thy bed in a stall.

~~~~~  
**Christmas ~ written by an unknown author**

In another land and time,  
Long ago and far away.  
Was a little baby born,  
On that first glad Christmas day.  
Words of truth and deeds of love,  
Filled His life from day to day;  
So that all the world was blest,  
On that first Christmas day.

Little children did He love,  
With a tender love always;  
So should little children be  
Always glad on Christmas day.

Blessings and love in the Christmas Spirit, Jane  
*P.S. Please take quiet time with the Lord*

## **DECEMBER 2021 HAPPENINGS**

### ***DREAMMASTER...LET YOUR DREAMS BE YOUR WINGS...***

Step into a magical dream world of dance, music, contortion, martial arts and powerful percussion rhythm. Be amazed by the new generation of young performing artists living their ultimate dreams on stage!

**Performance on December 5th at 7PM ~ Church of the Chimes' Bower Hall Stage**

**Gratis Tickets for COTC Members are available in the Church Office.**

- ⇒ **BLOOD DRIVE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 10AM–5PM in Bower Hall**
- ⇒ **ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND at 6:30pm**
- ⇒ **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH at 7pm**
- ⇒ **VESPERS HOLIDAY DINNER: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2ND at 6:30pm**  
All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner typically on the 4TH Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. The Holiday Dinner is early this year—scheduled for December 2nd. Natalie will send out an email with info as to where we are gathering. Please join us when you can!
- ⇒ **NEW COTC WRITER'S GROUP: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18TH 12NOON**  
In person, on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 12noon in Dreier Hall. Will get together via email as needed. All ages who are interested in the creative art of writing are welcome.
- ⇒ **NEW CRAFT CREATIONS: TUESDAYS at 9:30am in Dreier Hall**
- ⇒ **BROWN BAG BIBLE: TUESDAYS at 12noon in Dreier Hall**  
Come to Dreier Hall every Tuesday at noon for 45 minutes of lively discussion of the Scripture passage for the coming Sunday. We munch our lunch, get background and context for the lesson, and talk about what it means. Join us!!!!
- ⇒ **ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS at 7pm**  
All women are invited to the virtual gathering of this caring, sharing, loving group of women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via ZOOM to e-mail Jane Poole at jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net. See you then.
- ⇒ **NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY:** Thanks for all the donations made to sustain this much needed organization's mission of feeding those in need in our community. Please bring donations to the church and Jane will take them to the Pantry. Check out their web site (NHIFP.org) and/or contact Jane Poole at jane@nhifp.org for more information.

## **HISTORIAN NEWS**

Robert Jones, Historian

### **STAVES CHAPEL ~ STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

When the Chapel was dedicated in 1952 the windows were of plain glass; the stained glass windows depicting the history of Congregationalism from our roots in England to the founding of Church of the Chimes replaced the plain glass over the years through designated memorial gifts. The fourth of the Chapel's fourteen stained glass windows, entitled "Mayflower Sails" is featured below:



#### **4: MAYFLOWER SAILS:**

Around August of 1620, 102 brave men and other determined people, Pilgrim and non-Pilgrim set sail from Plymouth, England on the merchant ship, Mayflower. The trip lasted 66 days.

Below are the first three of the stained glass windows featured in earlier editions of Chiming In.



1: "ROBERT BROWNE"



2: "Imprisonment of the Faithful"



3: "Pilgrims in Holland"

5: "Plymouth Landing" will be featured in the January 2022 Chiming In...

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS**

Diane Delaney, Chair

Towards our effort to seek members to become involved with an activity of their choice, every month we will be featuring one of the COTC Boards and their activities. This month we are featuring the Board of Deacons for which we have four openings.

### **Deacon ~ Position Description**

The Board of Deacons is responsible for the spiritual life of the church, cultivating new members, assisting with church services and monitoring the church membership rolls. They also arrange the receptions that follow memorial services for members and where possible, they assist the ministers with visitations for the sick and shut-ins. They also organize "Christmas in July" and our "Christmas Families" sponsorship. There are twelve members total on the Board of Deacons; each member serves a two year term.

~~~~~  
If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Ginger Wright, the Nominating Representative for the Deacons. Thank you!

THEN I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING
"Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
AND I SAID *"Here I am; send me!"* ISAIAH 6:8

Band of Prayer

A church that prays together, stays together especially during these challenging times when the need for social distancing often separates us... What is certain is that God is with us, filling in the spaces between us, and He hears our prayers. Band of Prayer requests may be sent via email to Sylvia McCormick; miss_daisy1226@yahoo.com or feel free to call or email the Church Office; office@churchofthechimes.org | 818-789-7124
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

Let's Keep In Touch

If you know someone who would like to receive a card or note, please send their name, address & phone number to the church office:
office@churchofthechimes.org
818-789-7124

We believe in no one being left out; it's always nice to receive a note...
"Just Because"



Church of the Chimes BLOOD DRIVE
Wednesday, December 8th in Bower Hall
Sign up online at
www.churchofthechimes.org


Blood donation is essential to ensuring community health.

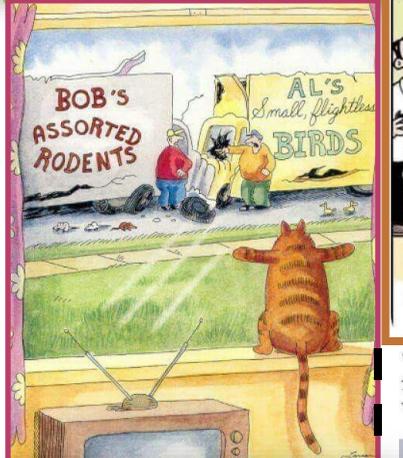
GET AMUSED...



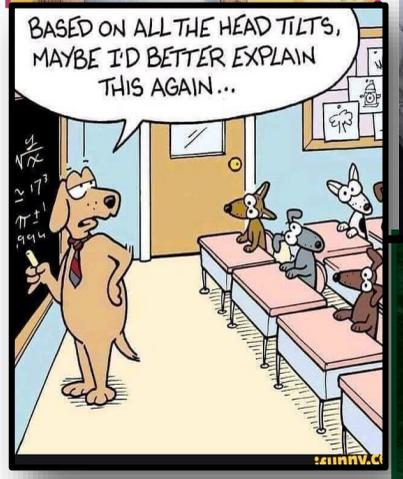
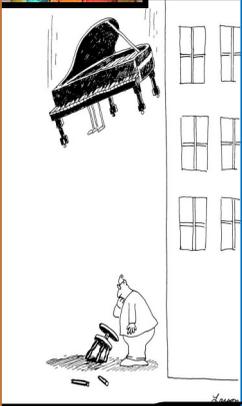
yesterday i told my nephew i'm not allowed to eat popsicles (bc my sis doesn't want him eating junk & he copies me)
so he pulls me into the bathroom, slams the door, and whispers: "ssshhhh i got us both popsicles but we need to eat them in here so my mom doesn't find out"



Bob loved the outdoors. Wound up with quite a collection.



ORIGINALLY, TRISHA WAS UPSET THAT HER CAT LICKED THE CUPCAKES



WHEN I WAS LITTLE MY MOM USED TO FEED ME ALPHABET, SOUP CLAIMING I LOVED IT.
I DIDN'T REALLY. SHE WAS JUST PUTTING WORDS INTO MY MOUTH.



I hate hotel bath towels. So thick and fluffy I can't even close my suitcase.

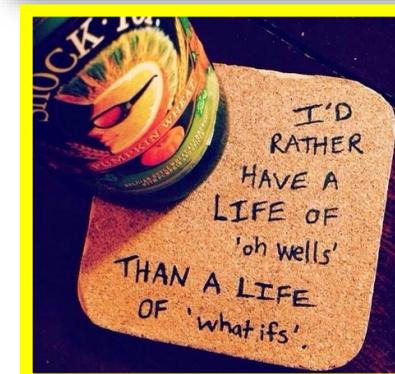
Four-Year-Old Excited To Learn Her Pet Fish Is Magic And Changes Colors After Every Family Vacation



THOUGHTS TO PONDER

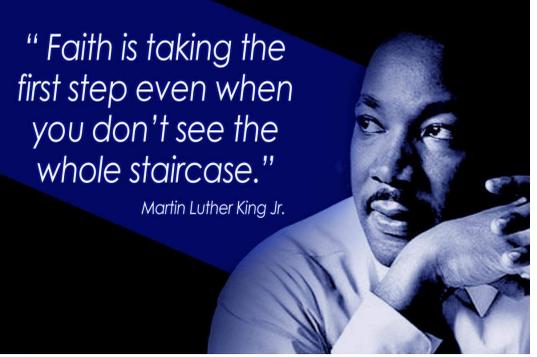


You can never make the same mistake twice because the second time you make it, it's not a mistake, it's a choice.
Steven Denny



every day may not be good but there is something good in every day

Life is too short to be anything but happy.



"AN OBSTACLE IS OFTEN A STEPPING STONE."

Until God opens the next door, praise Him in the hallway.

You have two choices... One will lead you to happiness, the other ~ to the madness!... My advise to you is don't step aside!...
-Alice in Wonderland -

NO ACT OF KINDNESS IS TOO SMALL.
THE GIFT OF KINDNESS MAY START AS A SMALL RIPPLE THAT OVER TIME CAN TURN INTO A TIDAL WAVE AFFECTING THE LIVES OF MANY.
KEVIN HEATH

NOTHING is impossible, the word itself says **"I'm Possible"!**

OUR STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: Stewardship: A way of living...

Estimate of Giving cards are available in the office or use the one below. Knowing the potential level of giving helps the church immensely as we continue to serve the needs of our church community. Thank you for the blessing of your generosity!

Congregational Church of the Chimes
2022 Estimate of Giving

“Honor God with everything you own; give God the first and the best.” ~ Proverbs 3:9

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Grateful for God’s love in Christ, I (we) make the following estimate to support the Missions and Ministries of the Congregational Church of the Chimes and God’s Kingdom.

Our Estimate of Giving for 2022 is \$ _____ per ___ week ___ month ___ year ___ other ___
For an annual total of: \$ _____

Signed: _____

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA TO HONOR LOVED ONES

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM



Cost: \$12.00 each

NAME _____

Phone No. _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF: (please specify which) _____

No. of plants _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to Church of the Chimes and return this form along with your check to the church office. Thank you.

Please write/print legibly!

HANGING OF THE GREENS NEWS

Jan Long, Director

"First, a big thanks to the CWS Board for the delicious chili lunch on Sunday. It fueled us up for a fun and productive Hanging of the Greens! Next, a huge thank you to all who worked so tirelessly at making our campus look so festive this Christmas season for not only our members but our neighbors and passersby to enjoy. Last but not least, thank you to my church friend and teammate, Joi Staves, for all her hard work, couldn't have done it without you!

Come Friday, 12/3, at 6:00 to enjoy "Light Up The Night". We will greet this beautiful Christmas season with lighting up our campus, enjoying carolers, hot cider and wonderful friendship.

COTC WRITERS GROUP NEWS

Michele Marot, Group Leader

We met for the first time on November 20, and though small in numbers, we got a lot done! We are currently working on a name for our group as well as our group’s purpose (mission statement). Two members shared something they had written, and we have encouraged each other to bring a new piece, to be critiqued, to our December 18th meeting which will be held from noon to 1:30 in Dreier Hall. All are welcome to join us!

RACIAL EQUITY DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS

The COTC Racial Equity Group met in November and, as always, was very encouraging. We each shared personal experiences and talked about the power of testimony and ways to share our different cultural/racial/lifestyle experiences with others.

It was suggested we read, as a group, the book “Beloved” by Toni Morrison. This excellent book will be new to some, and a refresher to others. Please pick up a copy for discussion at our January meeting at which time we will also discuss plans for Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday. The date of our January meeting will be noted in January’s Chiming In and will be via zoom.

Please join us! Our Racial Equity Discussion gathering is a place where all views are welcomed as we continue to learn from one another. For we are **“a diverse and loving Christian community accepting of all.”**

VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2022 HOMELESS COUNT

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is January 25, 26, and 27, and covers all of LA County except the cities of Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach, which conduct their own counts. COTC is hosting the Sherman Oaks count on January 25th. **27** out of **80** Volunteers needed have already signed up. If interested in participating in this event go to their website for more details:

https://www.theycountwillyou.org/sherman_oaks_count_20220125?fbclid=IwAR0IdqkgUkCmI-uc80mPw8FJdYECPrTJNYXtvC8g5A1hNVqCJiOAuzlvU



December 2021



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<u>1</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>2</u> VESPERS ~ 6:30PM 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Parent and Me 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>3</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> COMMUNION SUNDAY 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>6</u> 9:00am Pre School <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>7</u> COUNCIL MEETING 9:00am Pre School 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	<u>8</u> RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE 11am to 5pm in Bower Hall 9:00am Pre School <i>10:00am 10 at 10</i> 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>9</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<u>10</u> 9:00am Pre School 10:00am 10 at 10	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> CWS MEETING 10:30am Worship Service <u>Children's Christmas Pageant</u>	<u>13</u> Preschool Closed <i>10:00am 10 at 10*</i>	<u>14</u> TRUSTEE MEETING Preschool Closed 9:30am Crafting	<u>15</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>16</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10*	<u>17</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10*	<u>18</u> COTC WRITERS GROUP 12NOON IN DRIER HALL
<u>19</u> 10:30am Worship Service In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>20</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>21</u> Preschool Closed 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10* 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	<u>22</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>23</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10*	<u>24</u> CHRISTMAS EVE Office & Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Family Service 11:00pm Candle Light Service	<u>25</u> CHRISTMAS DAY
<u>26</u> <i>10:30am Worship Service</i> In Sanctuary and Streaming Live via Facebook	<u>27</u> Office & Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Sea Scouts	<u>28</u> Preschool Closed 9:30am Crafting 10:00am 10 at 10* 12Noon Brown Bag Bible	<u>29</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10* 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<u>30</u> Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10*	<u>31</u> NEW YEARS EVE Office and Preschool Closed 10:00am 10 at 10*	