

Chiming In

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



February 2021



www.churchofthechimes.org office@churchofthechimes.org 818-789-7124



Congregational Church of the Chimes
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FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

FAITHFULLY YOURS

Despite the cold winter Wisconsin weather, February was always a month to look forward to when I was growing up. Every week there was a family birthday which meant cake, which is always a good thing. We had two President Days off from school: February 12 for Abraham Lincoln and February 21 for George Washington.

The best, of course, was Valentine’s Day. Big party at school. Heart shaped cookies. Little valentines from everybody in the class which cute cartoonish greetings. And of course the conversation hearts with their funny messages which we ate even though they always tasted a little stale.

What I marvel at now is how everybody in the class got a valentine from everybody else. It didn’t matter if we were friends. It didn’t matter if we didn’t even know each other well. But that day we knew that everybody had taken the time to at least write our name on an envelope, and sign their name to our card.

Such little acts of love and kindness might be remembered this year, all years, Valentine’s day and all days. Whether we know someone, or whether or not we are friends, to extend a moment of love, a gesture of kindness is something St. Valentine himself would appreciate.

For these are days when God’s love needs to be made real in the smallest ways, for even the smallest moments can brighten a heart that needs to be brightened. God’s love needs to be made real in the smallest ways, for even the smallest moments can dry a tear, lessen a burden, and bring a smile to a face that hasn’t been able to smile.

As Paul writes in his letter to the Corinthians, “Faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.”

Love and blessings to all, Beth

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*Hope is hearing the melody of the future,*

*Faith is dancing to it today.* -Ruben Alvarez

**JOIN US STREAMING LIVE ON FACEBOOK**

Sunday Worship Service — 10:30am Every Sunday Morning

Sermon Topics for January

February 7: Rev. Peek is preaching (Communion will shared)

February 14\*: All you need is ??? (I Corinthians 13)

\*NOTE: Guest speaker, Brad Sherman, our Representative for California's 30th Congressional District since 2013, will be addressing how constituent needs are being met during the pandemic.

February 21: A Long Story Short

February 28: Non Profit

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

Lively and relevant chats with Beth (MWF) & Curtis (TTH)

VIDEOS of past Sermons and Devotionals are on Facebook and YouTube

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

Jan Long, CE Chair

**INVITATION TO JOIN SUNDAY ZOOM GATHERINGS**

As many of you already know, we have been having 30 minute ZOOM Sunday Gatherings with our kids every other week. The groups consist of Super Kids (pre - 2nd grade), Church Kids (3rd - 5th grade), and Be Bold (pre-teen). Although these on-line gatherings are a bit different from those held in person, the kids seem to be doing okay within this new cyber world, and thanks to Jane, we have a wonderful new curriculum that the kids seem to be enjoying. Plus Jane, armed with goodie bags, supplements that curriculum with fun seasonal projects which she periodically delivers.

We would love to see more of the kids participating, and I believe the kids who already participate would like to see more of their friends gather with us.

In an effort towards this wonderful outcome, we are reaching out to all of the parents of our youth membership—hopeful that you will encourage and/or continue to encourage your children to join us, and to ask them to consider inviting other friends to join us. Thanks, Jan

**PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Ally Baker, Director

All is going well at the Preschool! For more information about the Preschool, Parent & Me Program or school events, please feel free to contact Ally at the Church Office. Call 818.789.7125 or email [preschool@churchofthechimes.org](mailto:preschool@churchofthechimes.org)

\*\*\*NEWS FLASH\*\*\*:

Open Enrollment for the next session has begun.

Ally



**Wear a mask...Save a life**



## **JANE'S CORNER**

Jane G. Poole, CE Director

### **THANKFUL HEART = HAPPY HEART**

*“The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings  
that continually surround us.”* ~James E. Faust

In my children's story this past Sunday, I spoke about how I believe it's ok to be happy, even with the world swirling around us with the virus and all. One thing I didn't talk about was how being thankful leads to being happy.

Giving thanks and saying thank you can make happy happen in your heart. Taking this statement to heart, on my walk this morning with Phoebe, our dog, I said good morning to the post person and the Amazon delivery person in our neighborhood and thanked them for the work they do. Both responded with a whole hearted thank you for the thank you, and even with a mask on, I could tell they were both smiling. (Their eyes showed me the smile!) That action made them happy and, as a result, made me happy. And yesterday while I was working at the food pantry, someone thanked me for what I was doing. That made me happy, and I could tell it made him happy to say it.

See the trend here? Passing on thanks equates to happy all around. Give it a try, and I know you will see how thanks = happy!

Blessings, love & hugs, Jane (Please Remember to spend quiet time with God.)

### **THE LENTEN SEASON BEGINS**

After He was baptized in the River Jordan, Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil. It was a time of prayer and strengthening.

The season of Lent is the forty days before Easter, as we too have a time of prayer and strengthening and repentance. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, when we are invited to come before God to ask God's presence, God's love and God's forgiveness. Often people "give something up" as a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus and the presence of God in our lives.

The tradition of our church has been to celebrate communion on Ash Wednesday, and to have times of study and reflection as we anticipate the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

This year is, of course, different. On Ash Wednesday our usual 10 at 10 devotion will begin with a study of the time Jesus was in the wilderness, a time of prayer, followed by a celebration of communion. The service will be available on Facebook so people can participate at any time.

## **FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev. Curtis Peek

### **PROMISES KEPT!**

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing,  
that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,  
and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness;  
but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish,  
but that all should come to repentance.

~2 Peter 3:8-9

Have you ever prayed for something with such an immediate need, only to feel like you waited forever to see the answer? Things don't happen when we expect them to. We might experience doubt and even try to control things on our own when we don't see God at work in our time frame. Peter tells us that the passing of time is very different for God. God is not limited by hours in a day or by the number of days in a year. 2 Peter 3:8 says that to God, "A day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day."

Peter goes on to say that God, "is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness." It may seem like time is going by slowly and our situation isn't changing, but in reality, God may be doing something that we simply can't see from our human perspective. God tells us that He is patient with us, wanting every one of us to know Him (2 Peter 3:9). In moments when we feel like God is not responding to our circumstances, He may be showing His patience with the people He so dearly loves.

God's ultimate goal is for us to know Him, not necessarily to know the answer to our prayer. God will always keep His promises in His perfect, patient timeline. Let us pray:

Dear Lord, you promised never to leave me alone nor to abandon me in my time of need. Even when I can't feel your presence, I know that you are near. Thank you for your faithfulness Lord. Teach my heart to rest in you. Let me learn to be patient and anxious for nothing. I trust you, God, even when I can't trace you. In Jesus Name. Amen.

God will always keep His promises in His perfect, patient timeline.  
Believe it! Curtis

## **FEBRUARY 2021 HAPPENINGS**

- ⇒ **ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 2 at 6:30pm**
- ⇒ **ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING: FEBRUARY 7 at 12Noon**

### **Call to a Congregational Budget Meeting: February 7 at noon**

All decisions in the congregational church rest with the congregation, so that the participation of all members of the church is critical. This month we will be voting on the budget for 2021 proposed by the Board of Trustees.

The meeting will be conducted remotely, via Zoom with people able to participate through the internet or by phone. When a quorum is established the trustees will present their proposal and answer any questions you might have. There will be a voice vote and if that is not conclusive we will be able to vote via the zoom screen.

If you did not get a copy of the budget in the mail please call the church office and we will send you one.

- ⇒ **VIRTUAL ASH WEDNESDAY COMMUNION SERVICE: FEBRUARY 17 at 10am**  
COTC invites you to the observance Ash Wednesday, the beginning of holy Lent, a six-week celebration that helps believers prepare for Easter through self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.
- ⇒ **ZOOM DISCUSSION: *Racial Equity and the Church*: FEBRUARY 21 at 1pm**  
Our monthly conversation continues on how we as the church, and we as believers can work towards racial equity. We meet via ZOOM, and have found the sessions to be challenging, enlightening and a great exchange of ideas and experiences. The ZOOM link information will be in the e-blast on Friday, February 19. Please join us!
- ⇒ **ZOOM BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: FEBRUARY 16 at 6:30pm**
- ⇒ **ZOOM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WITH JANE WEDNESDAYS at 7pm**

All women are invited to the virtual gathering of this caring, sharing, loving group of women on **Wednesday evenings @ 7:00pm PST via ZOOM**. We are currently studying "Everybody Always" by Bob Goff. This book is about loving everyone the way Jesus did—without fear, insecurity, or restriction. Beginning with loving people right where you are, through serving and helping people God has placed in your world.

Want to join us? Email Jane Poole at [jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net)

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS**

Robert Jones, Chair

### **THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD WHEN WE CAN ALL GET TOGETHER AGAIN**

Until then, we thank those currently serving on Boards and Committees for continuing to do so. All members are invited to consider offering your time and talents to an area of interest to you. When doing so, you will be helping Church of the Chimes on our continuing path of being recognized as a vibrant and deeply caring church. If you would like more information on the various opportunities available, please call the church office, and we'll connect you with the right person. Thanks, Robert

### **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

## **DEACON NEWS**

Nancy Nelsen, Chair

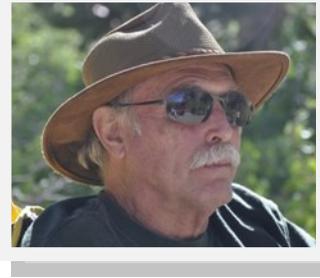
There is nothing new to report from the deacons, but I will share a daily devotional that is from a Guideposts booklet based on Hanna's prayer from 1 Samuel 2:2 "No one is holy like the Lord; there is none like him, no protector like our God."

"Are you facing a hopeless situation? Never underestimate the power of a desperate prayer. No matter how dire things may seem, cry out to Him and know that he hears you. All-knowing Father, when I am confused and fearful about what lies ahead, You reassure me that my future is rock solid in You. Nothing is hopeless when I put my hope in You!" Nancy

### **A Moment in Time ~ Time Capsule 2020**

The Time Capsule collection box is still on the Hamilton House patio just outside the office door. We'll keep the box there a bit longer before we seal all the baggies in a thermal holder to bury when we can all be in person again at church. Please put your baggie with your writings and even a little something else, such as a news paper clipping, an artificial flower if you're a gardener, etc. Thank you in advance for your participation.

## JOHN VAN VEEN RECEIVED THE BSA "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD"



The Legacy of Servant Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award was created to recognize 2nd and 3rd generation "Founders" - Scouters who have built an enduring legacy to Scouting through a lifetime of cheerful service to others. On Saturday, January 30th, our very own John Van Veen was so honored for his service with the Campo de Cahuenga District of the Western LA County Council. He has indeed influenced significantly, and tirelessly

contributed to the vision, direction and growth of COTC's Boy Scout community having served as Scout Master for Troop 191 for 24+ years. Dedicated to the advancement of our scouts in rank and development in character as well as skills, John's record of accomplishments and dedication to each Boy Scouts' growth (31 of whom became Eagle Scouts) greatly exceeds the norm of any volunteer. These Scouts have been blessed by his commitment and service to these principles...and just quite simply by having him as a part of their lives. Congratulations, John!



The Congregational Church of the Chimes founded our troop in 1952, through the efforts of Dr. Walter H. Staves, Founding Minister, and Mr. Larry Mountjoy, our first Scoutmaster. While the church was only two years old, it recognized the need to provide youth programs for the congregation. As a result, they chose to implement scouting as one of the Church's youth programs. Since then we have maintained a continuous, active, fun and exciting BSA program.



## MORE FEBRUARY 2021 HAPPENINGS

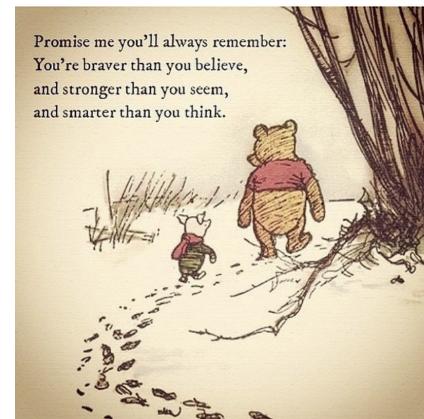
⇒ SUPER BOWL—Chiefs vs Buccaneers— FEBRUARY 7 at 3:30pm

Yes, it's Super Bowl time...and that means it's SOUPER BOWL OF CARING time too! The Christian Education Board met last week and we decided to make this special outreach happen even though we can't be face to face. So, here's the game plan...

The vote was unanimous: All contributions to Souper Bowl of Caring will go directly to the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry to support those who are food insecure in our local neighborhood. Here's how you can donate:

- **Can Collection:** Canned foods can be delivered to the church at any time the week before and/or the week after the Super Bowl game. There will be a collection bin labelled "SOUPER BOWL" on the Hamilton House patio near the office entrance door.
- **Monetary Donations:** Donations can be made three ways:
  1. Checks can be sent to the church via mail noting "Souper Bowl" in the memo line, or if preferred...
  2. You can hand deliver it to the church office or put in the white metal mail box outside the office door, or...
  3. You can make an online donation via the church website. Scroll down to the bottom of the homepage to the section for the North Hollywood Interfaith Food Pantry. Below the logo is a link for the food pantry's website. Once you are there, you can donate on-line from the donate button. You can also go directly to [NHIFP.org](http://NHIFP.org) to donate.

Thank you in advance for supporting this very important outreach effort!  
Go to [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org) to learn more about Souper Bowl of Caring.

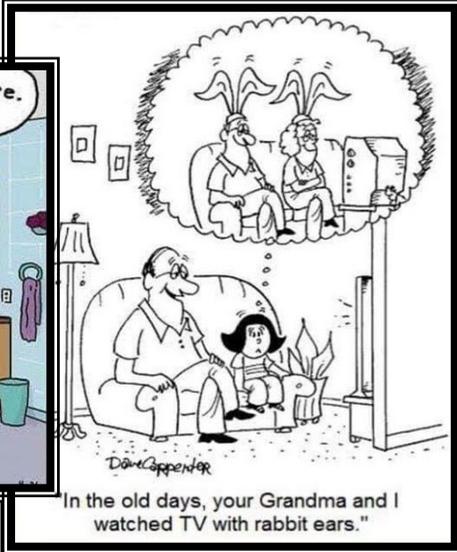


A little girl was holding two apples; her mother asked for one. The girl quickly bit one apple, and, then, the other. Her mother held back her disappointment. Then the girl handed one to her saying: "Here, this is the sweeter one."

Moral: Never judge.

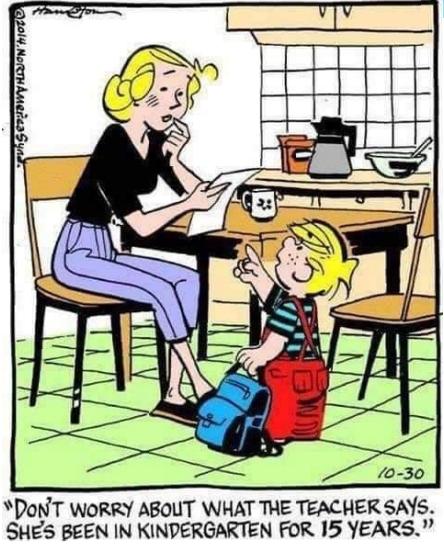


**GET AMUSED...**



**Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me everyday. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.**

**I told my suitcases that there will be no vacation this year. Now I'm dealing with emotional baggage.**



**CHURCH OF THE CHIMES IS LIVE ON-LINE**



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Visit various productions on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLl2TLj2XfbBtgAOY0rjjA>  
 Weekly Worship Services and Daily Devotions are now available on



Get this app on your smart devices and then arrange conference call events to meet with Church Boards, Committees, Bible Studies\* and/or other groups up to 100 participants. \*e.g., Wednesday night Women's Bible Study with Jane. <https://zoom.us/meetings>

**If you need help connecting to and/or otherwise utilizing any of these on-line tools, please call the church office and we'll find someone to get you started.**

**Let's Keep In Touch**  
 When we can't embrace we can send our love through the mail.  
 If you know someone who would like to receive a card or note from the Women's Association, please call or send an email with their name, address & phone number to the church office  
[office@churchofthechimes.org](mailto:office@churchofthechimes.org)  
 818-789-7124  
 -or-  
 Joi Staves  
[joistaves@gmail.com](mailto:joistaves@gmail.com)  
 818-648-1638

**Band of Prayer**  
 A church that prays together, stays together especially during these challenging and uncertain times when we are separated by the need for social distancing not knowing what happens next...  
 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](mailto:miss_daisy1226@yahoo.com)  
 or feel free to call or email the Church Office;  
[office@churchofthechimes.org](mailto:office@churchofthechimes.org)  
 818-789-7124

## **TRUSTEE NEWS**

Greg Abbott, Chair

By now COTC members should have all received a copy of the 2021 budget that will be discussed and voted upon at the ZOOM Congregational meeting on February 6 at 12:00 noon. I'd like to go over a little bit of where we were and where we believe we are headed.

For 2020, we were looking at operating loses of just over \$368,000. Due to better than expected income from the pre school and film industry, plus the Payroll Production loan, we ended up with a loss of just over \$221,000.

For 2021, we have made cuts to, among others, budgets of several boards, reduction in the maintenance budget, as well as to our annual contributions to Cal West. Most significantly we instituted an across the board 5% payroll cut. We are anticipating a second Payroll Protection loan of \$40,000. This will leave us with an anticipated deficit of just over \$150,000. Needless to say this leaves us more than ever dependent on keeping up with the estimates of giving. Thank you to each and everyone of you for your gifts.

Let us all pray for a recovery that allows the 2022 budget to be balanced and to restores the cuts we made this year.

### **OUR STEWARDSHIP DRIVE: Reach in to Reach out!**



The Board of Trustees worked hard to create a budget for 2021, which has been sent to member for their perusal and will be presented and voted on at the Congregational ZOOM Meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 6th at 12 Noon.

We are asking you to “Reach in to Reach out”— Reach into your pockets so we can continue to reach out with our worship, our educational programs, and our gifts to missions and organizations.

Estimate of Giving cards were initially sent out in November, and are available in the office for those who haven't had a chance to respond. Please know that we understand that these are uncertain times

for all of us, but having an idea of what you estimate you can give helps immensely as we journey down the path of serving the needs of our church community. Thank you for your generosity!

## **LET'S REMEMBER HOW WE WERE AS KIDS!**

Robert Dunn

When I was a kid I so wanted to grow up fast and become an adult. I could not wait to be with the adults, or to sit at the grownup table on holidays. I wanted people to recognize that I was not a kid anymore.

When, as I made some foolish choices, I still can hear the voice of my mother saying, ‘Robert, grow up and stop behaving like a kid!’

What? I thought I was a kid, ...or was I a grownup? When did my thinking change? Life is so confusing, and how we view it can be confusing as well.

This past month I have thought a lot about when I was a kid. What did I learn then? How did I behave then? And now as an adult, what am I learning, and how am I behaving?

This led me to think of two things that I learned as a child. In kindergarten I learned The Pledge of Allegiance and in Sunday School I learned that famous song, ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children’.

Do I think about the Pledge of Allegiance and that beautiful song as an adult? When was the last time I said The Pledge of Allegiance, and asked myself, ‘Am I living that Pledge as an adult’? Am I part of one nation under God? Or am I part of dividing it? Am I ensuring ‘Liberty and Justice for all’... or just for the people I like...or are like me? Do I really know what Liberty and Justice for all means?

That takes me to the song ‘Jesus Loves the Little Children’.

‘Jesus loves the little children, all the children in the world  
Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.’

Well, all I need to do is to sing that song, and I have my answer. Yes! ‘Liberty and Justice For All’ means loving all the little children in this world. All of them. That means me and you.

That may be the answer. As we become adults, maybe we need to remember what we learned as children, and take all those precious words and make them the foundation of who we are as adults.

Let us take a pledge to Love all God's Little Children! All of them.



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**  
Tuesday March 2nd  
Sign up on-line at COTC's web link





# February 2021



| Sun                                                                                                                                                                            | Mon                                                                                   | Tues                                                                                                                                                                                              | Wed                                                                                                                                    | Thurs                                                                                 | Fri                                                                                   | Sat       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                | <u>1</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook  | <u>2</u> <b>RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE</b><br>11am to 5pm in Sanctuary<br><b>COUNCIL MEETING</b><br>6:30pm via <b>ZOOM</b><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook | <u>3</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook<br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>via <b>ZOOM</b>  | <u>4</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook  | <u>5</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via<br>Facebook  | <u>6</u>  |
| <u>7</u> <b>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b><br>11:30pm via <b>ZOOM</b><br><br>10:30am Worship Service<br><b>Streaming Live</b> via Facebook                                         | <u>8</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook7 | <u>9</u> 9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook                                                                                                                 | <u>10</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook<br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>via <b>ZOOM</b> | <u>11</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook | <u>12</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via<br>Facebook | <u>13</u> |
| <u>14</u> <b>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY</b><br><br>10:30am Worship Service<br><b>Streaming Live</b> via Facebook<br><b>1:00pm THE CHURCH AND RACIAL<br/>JUSTICE ZOOM DISCUSSION</b> | <u>15</u><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook                            | <u>16</u> <b>TRUSTEE MEETING</b><br>6:30pm via <b>ZOOM</b><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook                                                            | <u>17</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook<br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>via <b>ZOOM</b> | <u>18</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook | <u>19</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via<br>Facebook | <u>20</u> |
| <u>21</u><br><br>10:30am Worship Service<br><b>Streaming Live</b> via Facebook                                                                                                 | <u>22</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook | <u>23</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook                                                                                                             | <u>24</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook<br>7:00pm Women's Bible Study<br>via <b>ZOOM</b> | <u>25</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute<br>Devotional via Facebook | <u>26</u><br>9:00am <b>Preschool</b><br>10:00am Ten Minute Devotional via<br>Facebook | <u>27</u> |
| <u>28</u><br><br>10:30am Worship Service<br><b>Streaming Live</b> via Facebook                                                                                                 |                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |           |