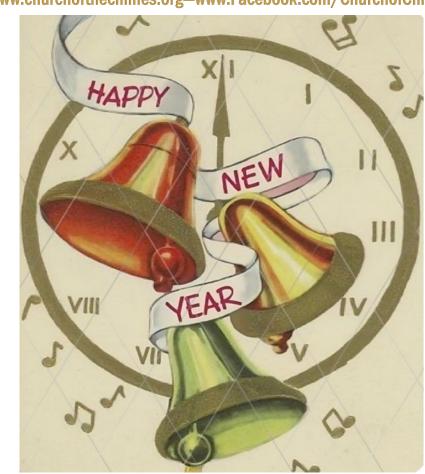
# Chiming In

**NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE CHIMES** A Diverse and Loving Christian Community Accepting of All www.churchofthechimes.org-www.Facebook.com/ChurchofChimes



**January 2025** 





Challenges

Dr. Elizabeth Bingham, Senior Minister Lindsay Hill, Facility Allyne Baker, Jane G. Jennifer Lee, Church Office Manager Curtis Peek, Associate Minister Poole, Wedding & Events Coordinator **Preschool Director Christian Education Director** 



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818-789-712

| office@churchofthechimes.org

www.churchofthechimes.org



Church of the Chimes BLOOD DRIVE Next one: Friday, January 3rd. Happy New Year! Sign up online at www.churchofthechimes.org





14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA

CHURCH OF

CHIMES

#### FROM OUR SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Bingham

#### **FAITHFULLY YOURS**

Some years ago these words from a New Year's prayer by Ted Loder lifted a friend out of despair. Reading this prayer he was able to look ahead to see light even from the shadows of his difficult time. May they offer all of us a hopeful vision of the year to come:

Patient God, in this teetering time this time in the balance, this time of waiting, make me aware of moments, moments of song, moments of bread and friends, moments of jokes [some of them on me] which for a moment deflate my pomposities, moment of sleep and warm beds, moments of children laughing and parents bending, moments of sunsets and sparrows outspunking winter, moments when broken things get mended with glue or guts or mercy or imagination; moments when splinters shine and rocks shrink, moments when I know myself blest, not because I am so awfully important, but because you are so awesomely God, no ess of the year to come as of all the years past; no less of this moment than of all moments; no less of those who forget you as of those who remember, as I do now, in this teetering time...O Patient God, make something new in me, in this year, for you. (Guerillas of Grace p. 116)

With Deep Affection, Beth

#### **CHURCH OF THE CHIMES TURNS 75 YEARS OLD!**

#### **HELP PLAN THE CELEBRATION:**

We expect the year to be filled with fun and memories and plans for the future. The highlight will be a grand Birthday Party in May.

Two opportunities to get involved:

- I. Want to plan a party? A group is forming to plan the May Party; they will beginning choosing a theme and then making it a wonderful and gorgeous fun filled event...Or...
- II. If you would like to join a group looking at all the ways to make our 75<sup>th</sup> year memorable, they will be publicizing our 75 years, planning special events throughout the year, reaching out to people from the past and setting goals for the future.

We would love your energy and ideas. Please contact Dr. Bingham or Jennifer in the Church office if you are interested.

#### **JANUARY 2025 HAPPENINGS**

- ⇒ COUNCIL MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30pm via zoom or in Dreier Hall.
- ⇒ BOUQUET CIRCLE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 11:30am—1:30pm: All women are welcome to join this group who enlighten one another on a variety of topics of interest typically on the first Wednesday of every month. Bring your own light lunch for the last part of the meeting. Snacks, dessert, and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to Barbara Downs at Barbaradowns1913@gmail.com or call the church office.
- ⇒ TRUSTEES MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 6:30pm in Dreier Hall.
- ⇒ VESPERS: THURSDAY, JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> at 6:30pm: All women of the church are invited to gather for dinner and conversation at a local eating establishment typically on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. Please contact Natalie (nataliefkarp@mac.com) if you would like to join in.
- ⇒ <u>"VOICES OF THE VALLEY": SUNDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 11:30am-1pm in Bower Hall:</u> COTC's 3rd Annual MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY Event. This is part of our ongoing mission to be a diverse and loving community, accepting of all. For more information there is an overview in this edition of Chiming In.
- ⇒ TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 10:00am in Dreier Hall.
- ⇒ BROWN BAG BIBLE: MEETS MOST TUESDAYS at 12noon in Dreier Hall:

  This is 45 minutes of lively discussion of the scripture passage for the coming Sunday. They munch their lunch, get background & context for the lesson, and talk about what it means. Next meeting will be January 3rd.
- ⇒ zoom WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAYS at 7pm: All women of any faith are invited to our virtual gathering of caring, sharing & loving women on Wednesday evenings at 7pm via zoom (e-mail jane.churchchimes@sbcglobal.net for the link.) We will begin a study on prayer. Hope to see you then.
- ⇒ SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: The Men's Group is hosting a Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month (i.e., January 12th and 26th) in Dreier Hall from 9:30 to 10:15am. We are currently studying the Book of Proverbs. Please feel free to join in at anytime for lively and interesting discussions.
- ⇒ NORTH HOLLYWOOD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY: NHIFP continues to help the food insecure in our community during the hard times we are in. Contributions of cans of fruit and diapers for babies and adults are needed. Contact NHIFP.org for other specific needs as well as for volunteer opportunities. Thank you for your continuing support of our community food bank.

Let us not become weary in **doing** GOOD for we will reap *a harvest of BLESSING* in **due season** if we DO NOT Give Up. Galatians 6:9

2024 was a productive year for your Board of Trustees! There is nothing new to report as we have previously mentioned projects which are ongoing.

I want to give a shout out to Javier who has been absolutely amazing tackling all the various projects around our campus. Thank you, Javier, we are all grateful for everything you do and always with a smile on your face!

On behalf of the board, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season!

#### **THE RALPHS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM**

We are a Ralphs Community Rewards Program member with 6 church families participating for the past 3 years and for 2024 we received \$172! If you are a Ralphs shopper and have not designated CotC as a recipient for this program, please contact Diane Delaney to find out how to do this. Thank you!

**DEACON NEWS** Greg Abbott, Chair

Happy New Year all. The Christmas families' program with All for Kids has wrapped up and wow, just wow. To say it was successful is an understatement. I can't tell you happy I am and how proud I am of this congregation, scouts and preschool. You used your blessings to bless others. Thank you all so very much.

In one note from our December 15 meeting, we confirmed Pam Voetberg as our nominating committee rep for 2025. Thanks again, and here's to a happy and prosperous New Year. Greg

#### **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Ally Baker, Director

The Preschool program begins at 2 years and 7 months through 5 years. Enrollment for our 24-25 school year is on-going. The Parent and Me Program offers a class on Thursdays from 9:30 – 11:30am.

Our current preschoolers return from winter break on Monday, January 6th. It will be great to have them back on campus!

For more information on our Preschool or Parent & Me Program, please contact <a href="mailto:preschool@churchofthechimes.org">preschool@churchofthechimes.org</a> or call the church office.

#### **SERMON TOPICS FOR JANUARY**

JANUARY 5: Starry Starry Night (Matthew 2:1-12)

~~Communion Sunday~~

**JANUARY 12:** *My Beloved* (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

JANUARY 19: Precious Lord (I Corinthians 12:1-11)

JANUARY 26: Guest Preacher

#### FROM OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev. Curtis Peek

#### YOU ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR

"God's way is perfect. All the LORD's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. For who is God except the LORD? Who but our God is a solid rock? You have given me your shield of victory. Your right hand supports me; your help has made me great. Psalm 18:30-31,35 The Lord told Paul (Saul at the time) that "it is useless to fight

The Lord told Paul (Saul at the time) that "it is useless to fight against my (God's) Will." You will never change God's mind concerning you. He loves you." Numbers 23:19

God desires a right relationship with you and nothing will ever change that. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to allow us each a position of righteousness once again. There is nothing we can do other than put our faith and trust in the Lord to receive justice and be made right with God again. Nothing.

God is intent on perfecting that which concerns us. (Psalm 138:8) He is making every detail turn out for good (Read Romans 8:28) according to His Perfect Plan that contains a future and hope. (Read Jeremiah 29:11)

Every single promise God has made to you has the potential and the power to become a reality in your life. The outcome is not based on one's ability to remain righteous standing on their own two feet, but rather one's ability to put all their faith in the Lord and trust Him completely waiting for His outcome rather than settling for less than God's Best.

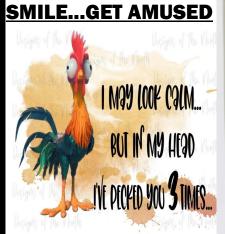
He has given you a shield of protection that is marked with victory. You are going to win if you do not give up on the Lord. Faith and confident hope produce victory after victory from glory to glory in the life of a believer. This is God's Perfect Plan for your life. He has written every detail with a positive outcome no matter how things look today.

If you believe it, you will receive it. But all too often we are like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness who continually forgot all that the Lord did for them when He brought them safely out of Egypt.

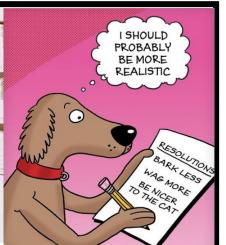
Some cried to go back into bondage fearing they would die on the journey. I must admit there are some days I try to remember what life was like before everything changed. To live carefree in the moment rather than with this burden on our heart. Some days I yearn to go back, but God reminds me to press on. God is with us. He is going to bless us with overwhelming victory if we will just cling to our faith—refusing to settle for anything less than God's Absolute Best.

The Lord is on this life journey with you! He will fight against your enemies! He will give you victory! (Deuteronomy 20:1-4) The Lord is fighting for us! (Read Exodus14:13-14) It is His battle for our heart, and know this: YOU ARE WORTH FIGHTING FOR...

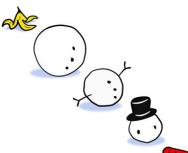
Believe it! **Curtis**Revisiting Curtis' article from the January 2021 Chiming In.























#### **THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

#### I choose LOVE

I choose Inclusion. I choose Empathy. Compassion. Equality. Dignity. Diversity. I choose Community. Kindness. Integrity. Honesty. Respect. I choose Justice. I choose Facts. Peace. The Planet. I choose Humanity.

I choose LOVE.

"May you live" as long as you want and never want as long as you live!







### **KEEP MOVING FORWARD...**



Martin Luther King, Jr., original name Michael King, Jr., (born January 15, 1929, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.—died April 4, 1968, Memphis, TN), Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination

- Martin Buther King, Ir.

#### **HISTORIAN CORNER**

#### Tess Harper, Historian

#### Let There Be Light - Fiat Lux\*

Genesis 1:14 begins with the words And God said "Let there be Light."

The acquisition of the light poles on our campus is documented in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volume, a history of the first 25 years of the Church of the Chimes. This volume was so ably prepared with the loving care and inspirational leadership of the late Alan Ross and his committee. The following narrative was taken almost verbatim from an article in this Volume.

The need for lighting on our campus was a topic of continuing discussion in the early years of the Church. In Spring 1963, an opportunity to acquire some light standards from the city of LA was made known to us by the late Jack Pratt, a LA city inspector and church member. Seventeen light standards in Canoga Park, that were fabricated by the Llewellyn Foundry, were declared surplus as that community was undergoing a modernization of their street lights. Jack notified the Church, and a bid was promptly tendered and accepted by the contractor who was doing the job for Canoga Park. A week later, this contractor was offered 10 times above our bid by Disneyland, but the deal had been struck. These iron light standards were delivered in April of 1963. The Church membership were quick to underwrite the cost of installing these lights through a project called *Buying a Pole*, that provided funds for a crane and other materials. With volunteer help, the standards were set in place within a month.

The plan was to have these lights wired up and ready for use as part of the celebration of our 13th church birthday. For this event, a bandstand on the lawn, complete with bunting, was erected. After the birthday dinner, the members were to arise from their tables and move toward the bandstand, accompanied by the sound of drum rolls. This plan included the spectacle of pushing a plunger to initiate the electricity into the light poles just at the close of twilight. It was meant to be very dramatic. But unbeknownst to all was the fact that the wiring was not completed until just before dinner, and there was no opportunity to test them. Under this setting, can you imagine the apprehension running through the hearts and minds of those involved in this last phase of the installation process?

The enactment took place with Dr. Staves depressing the plunger... Voila! Lights burst forth from the globes and a tremendous shout went up. The congregation spread out, and groups strolled, hand in hand, over the lawn beneath the gleam of the lights. It was a night and a project to remember! \*Fiat Lux is Latin for *Let There Be Light*, and this phrase is also the motto of the University of California. And do you know that its 1st President in 1868 was Henry Durant, a Congregational Minister from Yale.

Submitted by Stanley Dong during his tenure as Historian.

Dear church family,

Thank you all for your love, support, and prayers after Randy passed so unexpectedly. The many texts, emails, phone calls, cards, & Facebook greetings have been so deeply appreciated. It warmed my heart with the love so many of you shared when you attended his Celebration of Life service. I needed those hugs! You know he loved you all! Thanks also for the beautiful bouquet of flowers sent from the church that was displayed at the reception and kept for the next day's service. I don't know how often I will get back to see you all, maybe for one of the special events coming up in the next year. I appreciate so many of you keeping in touch with me by text, email, or calls. I don't want to lose my connection to you. Please know that I keep my church family in my daily thoughts and prayers! With love and gratefulness, Nancy Nelsen

### **CHRISTIAN ED NEWS** Julia Keiper, CE Director & Jan Long, CE Chair

Happy New Year 2025 to COTC's friends and families. December was an eventful time for the CE Board and our youth. We want to thank the CE Board members, our BE BOLD teens, and the Sunday School children and families for all your support in filling Christmas Boxes, Hanging the Greens, Lighting up the Night, the Children's Bureau toy drive, and our annual Christmas Pageant. Each of these events brought both joy and hope to my heart and reminded me of the continued generosity of our congregation and community. I hope you were also blessed as you participated in these many holiday activities.

As we enter the New Year, we reflect on the events of the past year and plan for ways to continue celebrating this joyful holiday season in 2025. With the leadership of dr. Bingham, the church council, and all the many boards that support our mission, the future is bright. Our beautiful church is headed for a fantastic celebration of 75 years of worship and fellowship, and the CE Board is looking forward to participating in the many anniversary events in the New Year.

We look forward to seeing our BE BOLD teens on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, 6-8 pm, at COTC. The event includes dinner and time for fun and fellowship. All are welcome, & we encourage you to bring a friend. Our schedule is slightly altered in January due to the holiday. We won't be meeting on January 3rd, but we will host a field trip to the Airport on Friday, January 10 and have our regular social time on Jan 17.

Our Sunday School program will expand to include a nursery program and classes for our children ages 2-5 in the lower classroom. We will continue to host Sunday School for our children in Grades 1-8 in the upper-level classroom following the Children's message each Sunday. A big screen TV in the lower classroom will allow parents to view the service while caring for their infants and toddlers, as needed.

We are grateful for your prayers and good wishes as we continue to provide educational and social opportunities for our children and the congregation. Here's to a fabulous 2025 for us all.

#### **RACIAL EQUITY**



## "Voices of the Valley"

CHURCH OF THE CHIMES'
THIRD ANNUAL EVENT
CELEBRATING
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Sunday, January 19, 2023 11:30am– 1pm

14115 Magnolia Blvd. Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 Bower Hall

The CotC Racial Equity Group is planning our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MLK Jr. celebration called "Voices of the Valley" for Sunday, January 19, 2025, following our 10:30am worship church service. We will have a lunch and then a one-hour program. If you are interested in helping to plan or want to speak at this event, please contact Beth Bingham or Diane Delaney. Thank you!.

## BOOK DISCUSSION RESUMES: SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 AFTER WORSHIP When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Our conversation will continue with chapters 4 and 5 of the book. If you haven't come before please join us. And if you need a book I still have a few. Our times together have been meaningful and helpful as we ponder the difficult question of our faith... Coming soon: Stepping up to Faith, Freedom and Fellowship!!





#### **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS**

WA HOLIDAY BOUTIOUE UPDATE

The Women's Association sold items at the December Magnolia Marketplace and made an additional \$220 so our grand total is now \$3,800!

# Church of the Chimes Woman's Association

The Women's Association (WA) fellowship is open to all women in our church community.

The WA is a great opportunity for fellowship and meeting new women while working on fundraisers, helpful crafts, and projects to assist with our church ministry. Money raised is put to use on campus improvements and college scholarships.

There are many opportunities for involvement. The crafters meet weekly on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for small projects, knitting, crocheting and even lessons! The Vespers meet monthly for dinner and socializing. The Bouquet Circle meets monthly for lunch, Bible based programs and social time. The board meets monthly to plan, manage and oversee the activities and funds raised.

The WA hosts the annual Holiday Boutique, the Holiday

Tea with the pre-school, and the Spring

and Fall Rummage Sales.

We invite all women to join us for fellowship, fun and enjoyable enriching experiences!

#### LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Natalie Karp, Chair

If you know someone who would enjoy a receiving a call or maybe a card with a short note, please send their name, address and phone number to the church office:

office@churchofthechimes.org 818-789-7124

One of our pastors or deacons will reach out...

Band of Prayer
A church that prays together,
stays together..
God is with us,
He hears our prayers.

Please send Band of Prayer requests to Sylvia McCormick;
miss\_daisy1226@yahoo.com
or feel free to call or
email the Church Office:
818-789-7124

office@churchofthechimes.org

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS**

**Hayley Cabral, Manager** 



YOU ONLINE!

I'm Hayley, the COTC Social Media Manager...and I teach gymnastics too...Thank you for continuing to follow COTC on Facebook & Instagram. Please LIKE, COMMENT & SHARE on all of the COTC posts you see; the more we post—the more our message is seen!

COTC IS A DIVERSE AND LOVING COMMUNITY ACCEPTING OF ALL PEOPLE.

Together we can reach so many! Let's do this!

#### TUESDAY CRAFT GROUP NEWS Cindi Olson | Michele Marot, Co-Chairs

December 2024 Gift Giveaway at Le Blue Chateau (AKA "Savant")

Besides remembering the residents at the assisted living facility with cards and crafts during the year, our Tuesday COTC Craft Group put on our annual "Free Holiday Gift Giveaway and Cookie Social" on December 19th - again a huge success!

Cindi Olson, Michele Marot, and Mary Rosebrock were joined by Julia Keiper and two of her granddaughters to make the party merry and bright! Christmas music, "shopping" (Mary and Michele have been collecting items all year for this event), and a table of refreshments were available after lunch until about 2:30. Residents could come in, choose 2 gifts from an assortment of hats, gloves, holiday mugs, stuffed animals, costume jewelry, 2025 wall calendars, plants, and more, and then partake of cookies, homemade fudge, Martinelli's, etc. with Cindi manning the refreshments table!

Everyone had a wonderful, magical time! One gentleman in a wheelchair showed us his wallet that he'd picked out the year before, while someone else pointed to a knit hat she wears all the time.

Towards the end, Yoley, Le Blue Chateau's Activities Director and Julia's granddaughters chose many gifts to put on a cart and take around to those residents who were bed-ridden: lap blankets, cozy socks, and stuffed animals were quite popular.

Thank you, Tuesday Craft Group, for creating and supporting this really worthwhile outreach - you made many residents happy for Christmas!







#### **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

Hanging of the Greens





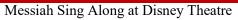




Children's Christmas Pageant









Light Up the Night





# January 2025 点





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR Office Closed & No Preschool	2 No Preschool	3 Red Cross Blood Drive 10AM –5PM IN Bower HALL No Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 9:45am Zumba—Dreier Hall 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 7:00pm tRPC CR Meeting	9am Kingdom Camp B Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
5 Communion Sunday CWS MEETING ~ 12 Noon CI 10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Alanon—Dreier Hall	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Music 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA—Bower Hall 7:30pm Alanon—Chapel	7 Council Meeting Dreier Hall ~ 6:30pm  9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Lower CE 10:00am Crafting 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 6:00pm Gymnastics ~	8 BOUQUET CIRCLE 11:30am –1:30pm 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Scouts—Bower Hall	9 9:00am Preschool 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Dreier Hall 10:00am 10 at 10 5:30pm Be Bold Gathering— HH 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	11 WA Board Meeting Dreier Hall ~ 10am 9am Kingdom Camp B Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Alanon—Dreier Hall	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Music 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA—Bower Hall 7:30pm Alanon—Chapel	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Lower CE 10:00am Crafting 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	15 TrusTEE Meeting Dreier Hall ~ 6:30pm 9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Scouts—Bower Hall	16 Vespers ~ 6:30pm*  9:00am Preschool 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower  *Subject to change	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Dreier Hall 10:00am 10 at 10 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower 7:00pm tRPC CR Meeting	9am Kingdom Camp B Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
19 MLKjr. Celebration "Voices of the Valley" Bower Hall ~ 11:30am-1pm  10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Alanon—Dreier	20 MLKjr DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO PRESCHOOL 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Upper CE 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA—Bower Hall	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Lower CE 10:00am Crafting 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Scouts—Bower Hall	9:00am Preschool 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Dreier Hall 10:00am 10 at 10 5:30pm Be Bold Gathering— HH 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9am Kingdom Camp B Ball 9:00am LM&S 9:55am LM&S
26 CE MEETING ~ 12 Noon Bower Hall Patio  10:30am COTC Worship Svc 10:45am Sunday School 1:30pm tRPC Worship Svc 7:30pm Alanon—Dreier Hall	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Music 7:00pm Sea Scouts 7:00pm AA—Bower Hall 7:30pm Alanon—Chapel	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Lower CE 10:00am Crafting 12Noon Brown Bag Bible 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 10:00am 10 at 10 7:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:Scouts—Bower Hall	9:00am Preschool 3:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	9:00am Preschool 9:45am Zumba—Dreier Hall 10:00am 10 at 10 5:30pm Be Bold Gathering— HH 6:00pm Gymnastics ~ Bower	