

# CONWAY VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH THE GOOD NEWS

## An Advent Theme for 2022

This Advent Season, which starts *Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>*, will begin **Year A** for the Church Lectionary. The Lectionary is a 3-year reading program so the main themes of scripture are covered. This season we will be breaking with normal pattern (*which we have followed for the past 5-years*) to offer an Advent Theme, "*What Do Angels Do ... Really?*" It's a chance to see how "*God's Messengers*", prepare the faithful so the revelation of Christmas can take place.

During Advent we will look at how angels interact with Zachariah (*father of John the Baptist*), Joseph, Mary, shepherds in the fields, and finally, the angel who protects the Holy Family against "*the Slaughter of the Innocents*". The theme will take place on all 4-Advent Sundays, Christmas Eve and New Years Day.

**Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Advent** *Psalm 122*  
Scripture: Luke 1:5-25  
Luke 1:57-66  
Theme: "*An Angel Strikes Out*"

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> – Communion – 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent** *Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*  
Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Theme: "*One Dreamy Angel*"

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent** *Psalm 146*  
Scripture: Luke 1:26-38  
Luke 1:46-55  
Theme: "*Utterly Aghast by an Angel*"

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Advent** *Psalm 24*  
Scripture: Luke 2:8-15  
Luke 2:16-20  
Theme: "*Angels Sing in Darkness*"

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve** *Psalm 96*  
Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14  
Theme: "*Presenting a God in a Manger*"

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day, Carl Vitters, preacher** *Psalm 98*  
Scripture: TBA  
TBA  
Theme: TBA

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – New Year's Day - communion** *Psalm 8*  
Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23  
"*Get Up! Get Out!*"

*Looking forward to a wonderful Advent Season,  
Rev. John Hughes*

*December 2022*



# The Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
Reverend John G Hughes, II

PO Box 333  
132 Main Street, Conway, New Hamp-  
shire 03818  
[www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

TO: All Members and Friends of the Conway Village Congregational Church

The Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Conway Village Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at approximately 11:00 am in the Sanctuary of the Conway Village Congregational Church after worship. The meeting will be held in person and via Zoom platform. Voting will be done via roll call method. Please email [cvccwebteam@gmail.com](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com) or call the office for the phone in information.

The purpose of this Annual Meeting will be:

1. To hear reports of the officers, board and standing committees for the preceding year.
2. To approve a Budget for 2023.
3. To elect officers, board and standing committee members for 2023.
4. To conduct any other business that may come to the floor of the meeting.

Dated at: Conway, New Hampshire, on the 22nd of November 2022

Dawn Vitters, Clerk

# Food Pantry Wish List



- Ramen Noodles-Chicken and or Beef
- Rice-A-Roni-Chicken or Beef
- Ketchup – 20 oz.
- Mustard – 20 oz
- Mayo - small jar
- Stable Milk box – 20 oz.
- Juice - Orange or Apple – 64 oz.
- Small Soup - Chicken Noodle or Tomato
- Jelly - Grape or Strawberry – 16 oz.
- Small canned Chicken or Tuna – 5 oz.
- Baked Beans – 15 oz.
- Tomato Sauce – 15 oz.
- Beef Stew - Canned – 15 oz.
- Boxed Crackers – 1 lb.
- Boxed Spaghetti – 1 lb.
- Canned Veggies - Peas, Carrots – 15 oz.
- Instant Oatmeal – 1 lb.
- Paper Towels
- Toilet paper – individually wrapped
- Shampoo - White Rain or Suave – 24 oz.
- Dawn Dish detergent – small size
- Tide Laundry Detergent – small size
- Large Laundry Detergent
- Hand Soap - Dial 2 or 3 pk bars



## Food Pantry Donations

Please call the office to schedule a drop off time.

Most of these items can be bought at Dollar Tree or any supermarket.

**Thank you for your donations!**



## Conway Village Congregational Church

### By Appointment Only

Tuesdays, 9-11:30 am

Serving Albany, Chatham, Conway, Center Conway, East Conway & Eaton

603-447-3851

Call for appointment or for more information.

## Outreach Committee

Anne Getchell, Sylvia Weld, Charlyne Gray, Dawn Vitters, Marilyn Hughes & Charles Monaghan

## Food Pantry Statistics

| <u>MONTH</u>  | <u>Households</u> | <u>People Served</u> | <u>Meals Given</u> | <u>Over 60</u> | <u>Under 18</u> | <u>Walk Ins</u> | <u>New Households</u> |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| January - November 2022<br><i>Does not include November 29th.</i> | 369               | 791                  | 33,222             | 356            | 137             | 74              | 40                    |
| <i>January - November 2021</i>                                    | <i>365</i>        | <i>789</i>           | <i>33,138</i>      | <i>311</i>     | <i>145</i>      | <i>69</i>       | <i>26</i>             |

**Conway Elementary School** children held a food drive and all the students walked to our Food Pantry from the school on Monday, November 21st, delivering an incredible amount of donations they collected! 700 pounds of food was donated, quite a successful food drive! Thank you to the school staff, students and all the many people who made donations to support our community!

Paul & Sylvia Weld, CVCC Food Pantry Coordinators



Photographs by Rachel Sharples



A student from Conway Elementary School donated his **End 68 Hours of Hunger** box to our Food Pantry through the school's food drive. The 68 hours of hunger program was created to ensure school children receive a box of food for the 68 hours of each weekend when they are at home! Our pantry would like to extend a **special thank you** to this young man **for his kindness, generosity and thoughtfulness!**

Conway Village Congregational Church  
Food Pantry



**End 68 Hours  
of Hunger**

[www.end68hoursofhunger.org](http://www.end68hoursofhunger.org)  
[end68hoursofhunger@gmail.com](mailto:end68hoursofhunger@gmail.com)

## Trustees

Winter has settled in with the start of Advent. We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

Stewardship Sunday was November 20th. To date, there are 22 pledges totaling \$60,545. In comparison, in 2022, we had 32 pledges totaling \$81,580. Knowing the pledges for the next year helps the trustees in budget planning. As you can see, we will be under last year's total. If you have not submitted your pledge yet, and plan to, please contact Duddie Andrews, our Financial Secretary.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the pork dinner on November 18th. We served 71 dinners by take out and sit down.

Our fundraising dinners are not as successful as they have been in the past. This year's numbers are down significantly. We had four dinners in 2021 with an average of 102 dinners per dinner and sales income of \$1,646 per dinner. Total sales from the four dinners in 2021 were \$6,586. This year our four dinners averaged 68 dinners and average sales revenue of \$1,045 with total dinner sales for the year of \$4,181. This year we are averaging 34 less dinners sold per event which reflects a \$2,405 decrease dinner sales revenue from what we realized last year. We had hoped that opening up fellowship hall for folks to dine together would bring more people out to the dinners but it has not. We are currently planning dinners for January and February, hopefully we will see a rebound to numbers closer to our 2021 numbers.

It's not all bad news on the fundraising front, the last two years of the Fryeburg Fair were VERY successful, with each of the last two years netting approximately \$30,000 after expenses.

We welcome proposals from our members and friends of our church for other possible fundraising opportunities. If you know of fundraising events or programs that have worked for a similar group in this environment we welcome your fresh ideas. Please consider how many volunteer hours are needed to plan and to execute the fundraiser? We have a very limited volunteer pool to draw from. What up front costs are there? What is the risk factor if it isn't successful? We would like to try some new fundraisers, or rejuvenate some past successful events that we have not done for a while, particularly since the pandemic started.

Save the date, the church's Annual Meeting will be January 22nd, after church.

Wishing you an Advent blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

*A Heartfelt*   
**Thanks**  
*To our volunteers!*



**TRUSTEE'S MEETINGS**  
**Tuesdays, 4:30 pm**  
**December 13th & 27th**

| <b>TRUSTEE OF THE WEEK</b> |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>12/4</b>                | <b>Duddie Andrews</b> |
| <b>12/11</b>               | <b>John Edgerton</b>  |
| <b>12/18</b>               | <b>Anne Getchell</b>  |
| <b>12/25</b>               | <b>Nancy Irving</b>   |

## Diaconate

Advent is a time of expectation and hope filled with rich traditions. This year Advent starts on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November and ends on December 18, 22. We will be celebrating Advent each week in church and our season will end on Christmas Eve with the lighting of the 4 candles and then the Christ candle.

The 4 candles are Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The Hope candle is first, which is purple and symbolizes hope. Sometime this candle is called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold of Christ birth. The Peace Candle, also purple, represents faith. This candle is sometimes called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. Third candle is Joy, which is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. It is sometimes called the “Shepherd’s Candle”. This Sunday in Advent is also called “Gaudete



Sunday” and is meant to remind us of the joy in the world. The fourth candle is the final week in Advent, it too is purple and is the Love candle. The final candle is the “Angel’s Candle” which symbolizes peace that the angels said. “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men”. Let us all remember this Advent season to be hopeful for the coming year, share peace among friends and family, spread the joy to our fellow man, and lastly love one another.

A note from the Diaconate, Webteam, and the Music Committee: As we proceed through the process of getting new equipment, setting it up, and getting ready to use it, please understand that this is a major work in progress. We are all working to find the right balance for those of us worshipping in church and for those worshipping on Zoom. We ask that you are patient with the teams. Please give us feedback if something isn’t working right.



Let the team know through our email at [cvccwebteam@gmail.com](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com) or talk to Steve, Nancy I, Judy, or Dawn. Thank you! Have a Blessed Advent Season and Christmas.

Blessings

Dawn Vitters, Co-Chair

### *Diaconate*

*Judy Workman and Dawn Vitters—Co-chairs,  
Beth Campbell, Suzanne Rancourt and Louise Saxby*

*Dawn Vitters*

### *Diaconate of the Month*

#### **A Christmas Prayer**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

**Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.**

**By Ray Pritchard**



## Join Us For Coffee Fellowship Following Sunday Morning Worship Services

We are slowly returning to pre-pandemic Sunday mornings. The chairs are fuller than they have been, with more people returning to in person worship and less people attending via Zoom. We are now able to sing familiar hymns from the hymnals accompanied by Stephanie on the keyboard. The music committee and tech team are working with Stephanie to find which "voices" on the keyboard sound best in church and on zoom. Please be patient as we work through this process. Post service coffee fellowship is back! It is great to be able to catch up with all that has happened in each others lives these past few years. Coffee fellowship consists of light snacks, such as pastries or cookies and coffee and juice. There is a sign up sheet available if you would like to provide the light snacks for any given Sunday.



### Join us in person

Sunday Worship via Zoom  
Website [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300  
Passcode: 589150

We'll use this meeting until further notice.

Sundays 10:00 AM



## Come Join Our BIBLE STUDY



~ Women's Bible Study ~

Thursdays 9:30am

Conference Room &/or Sanctuary

~ Men's Bible Study ~

Fridays 9:00am

Conference Room

Also available on Zoom.

If you would like to join a group, please contact the Church office at 603-447-3851

## The Dinner Bell

FREE COMMUNITY  
DINNER



Fresh Homestyle Meal  
Everyone Is Welcome!!

**Mondays 4-5 pm**

Call the Church office on Mondays  
for that days menu!

603-447-3851

**Take Out Only!**



These services continue to operate while taking recommended safety precautions and practicing social distancing.

## Conway Village Congregational Church

### Mission Statement

*"We are a community of faith in Jesus Christ, open to all, and by following His teachings we willingly serve God, our neighbors and each other through worship, fellowship and ministry."*

Sunday Worship via Zoom  
Website [zoom.us/join](http://zoom.us/join)  
Meeting ID: 876 2425 7300  
Passcode: 589150

To contact the web/tech  
team email  
[cvccwebteam@gmail.co](mailto:cvccwebteam@gmail.com)

## Conway Village Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

PO Box 333,  
132 Main Street  
Conway, NH 03818

Email  
[info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:info@thebrownchurch.org)

Website  
[www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)

Phone: 603-447-3851

Rev. John G. Hughes  
Minister

Music Accompanist  
Stephanie Miles Vacchino

Moderator  
Carl Vitters

Admin. Asst./Bookkeeper  
Melody Bergman

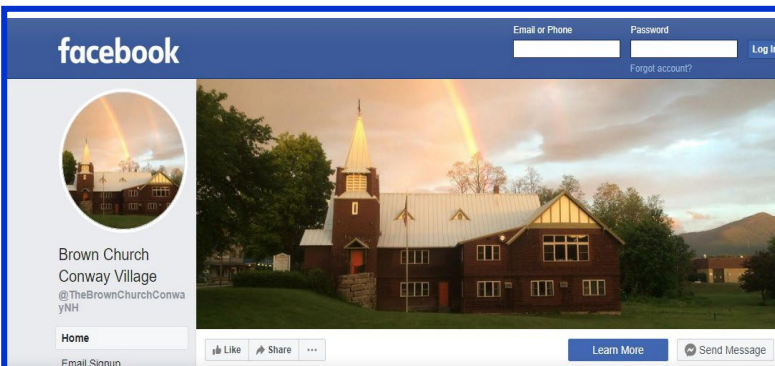
Please visit our website or email us to sign up for our email mailing list. Let us know which types of emails you are interested in, weekly worship, monthly newsletter, special events and volunteer opportunities, website: [thebrownchurch.org](http://thebrownchurch.org)



January  
Newsletter  
Articles Due  
By:

### CVCC Office Hours

Monday 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
Tuesday 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
Wednesday 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
CLOSED FRIDAYS



Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/TheBrownChurchConwayNH/> You can find it by searching in Facebook for the "Brown Church Conway NH" If you use Facebook please "LIKE" our Facebook Page by clicking the "Like" button at the top of the page.

By liking our page peo-



ple will see our church know that we are well liked within the community. You will be notified on your Facebook notifications when we post something new.

You in turn, if you choose to, can share that post on your page, which is very helpful in promoting the church, particularly for promoting our events. Thank you & God Bless



## Christmas Is Coming

Ah yes . . . Christmas is almost upon us and now, for many of us, begins the panic! What gifts should I buy for certain individuals, be it family or friends. Every year it seems to become more hectic. With the soaring prices, this Christmas will be a test of our imagination and most of our budgets. How can we survive the coming days? Oh dear me!!

If you're like me, this probably is how you feel every Christmas. How dreadful is it that we approach this glorious Holiday Season in this way. Shouldn't Christmas be a time of peace and good will? How shameful it is that amid all the hustle and bustle we tend to forget the true meaning of Christmas – the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who was born to give us grace and salvation.

Truly, the birth of Jesus, so many years ago, should be front and foremost in our minds. Just think how awesome it must have been for those three wise-men to follow a super-bright star and finally arrive at the birthplace of the Christ child. Wouldn't we all feel so sanctified and amazed to have witnessed such a memorable and sacred event? I certainly would.

Sure Christmas should be a time of giving. Still, it should not be the primary aspect of our Holiday Season. What has happened to the Christmas' of yore when good people concentrated on inviting friends and neighbors (*especially the poor*) to come in and enjoy a lovely dinner, then gather around the fireplace and simply sing carols? What is more beautiful than that?

Remembering my own Christmas' as a child I'm aware that Christmas is really a very significant aspect of a child's life. Firstly, children come to realize how good it feels to give. Secondly, how good it feels to receive. I recall how special I felt when Santa came on Christmas eve and left the toy I had asked for and bet of all, how our mother always managed to fill our stockings (7 or 8) with candy, cookies and school supplies topped by a big, juicy orange. I recall how my heart filled with pride and thankfulness. I remember feeling valued and loved - something I didn't experience everyday growing up with seven older siblings.

Aside from all of the above, the high-points of my early Christmas' was when mom read "The Story of Christmas" as we all huddled around the "parlor" wood-stove. That part of our Christmas never got old. Isn't simplicity delightful? Christmas should be a day when a child can feel thankfulness, pride and a sense of belonging . . . . . a day when a child gets to know Jesus and why He died on that cross so many years ago.

For adults a little gift on Christmas Day is always a nice gesture and one that is always appreciated. But, very often, most of us allow our shipping sprees to supersede the glory of the Holiday Season. Do any of us really need more clothes and stuff? Now that I don't have small grandchildren the part of Christmas for me is attending service at church, a glass of wine, lots of food and simply sitting around the table chatting and laughing with friends and family. Who needs more than that?

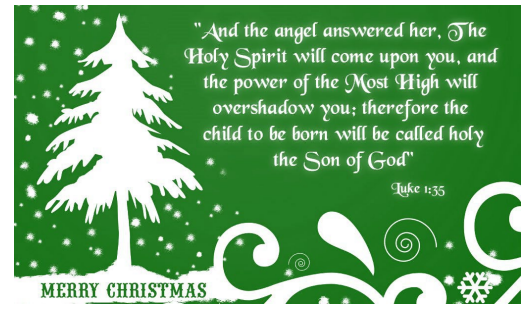
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Here at the Conway Valley Brown Church we see the Christmas Spirit prevail throughout the entire year ~ the Food Pantry, the Dinner Bell, Outreach and so on ~ all made possible by dedicated volunteers and faithful churchgoers.

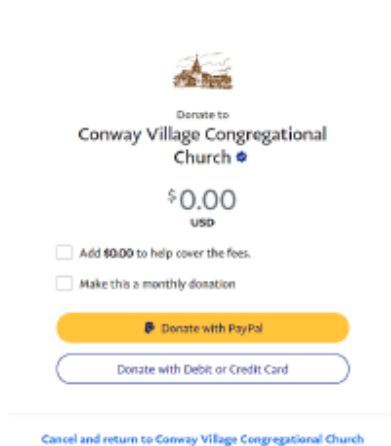
So this Holiday Season let's try to ignore all the hype and commercialization and fill our hearts with love and goodwill.

A Blessed and Joyful Christmas to all!

Mary Russo



You will soon see Quick Response (QR) codes on church print materials including our bulletins, pew cards, newsletters, and event flyers. QR codes are a type of barcode that is typically linked to a website or an application. A QR code provides easy access to our website when scanned with a mobile device (phone) camera. The two QR codes below are different they both have a small image of our church in the center. The QR code on the left when scanned takes the user to our donation page. The QR code on the right goes to the home page of our website. There are many potential designs and uses for QR codes but these are two that we will be using for now.



The primary reason we have decided to begin using these QR codes is to provide an easy way for people to make donations and to learn more about our church. A lot of people no longer carry much cash with them. This has been evident in our plate donations when we have visitors who would have gladly made a donation, or perhaps given a larger donation but were not carrying cash.

In the future we will likely use QR codes for the Capital Campaign or other specifically targeted donations such as to the Food Pantry.

## November Worship Service


| Date  | In Church | On Zoom | Special Day/Sermon Title                            |
|-------|-----------|---------|---|
| 11/6  | 33        | 23      | <u>Communion Sunday</u><br>"After Death Challenges" |
| 11/13 | 28        | 17      | "Here is the Church ... Here                        |
| 11/20 | 32        | 15      | "Let Him Save Himself"                              |
| 11/27 |           |         |   |

Happy Birthday  
to everyone born in  
December!

12/8 Bernie Plimpton

12/16 Wayne Fitch

12/30 Prudy Shackford



*What Is Christmas?*

An Inspirational Message  
By  
*Helen Steiner Rice*

*It's more than a day at the end of the year,  
More than a season of joy and good cheer –  
Christmas is really God's pattern for living,  
To be followed all year by unselfish giving.  
For in giving to others and in being kind  
Man finds true joy and peace of mind –  
And peace on earth will come to stay  
When we live Christmas every day.*



## PRAYER REQUEST

Our team would love to pray for you.

- † Alice Clapp
- † Cathy Currier
- † Colleen Albert
- † Elise Keeney Edgerton
- † Linda Frechette
- † Alice Spear
- † Jill & Curt Reynolds
- † John Vacchinos
- † Wayne & Mitzi Fitch
- † Nancy Spaulding
- † Lycia Morley
- † Father Paul Familia
- † Keith Hutchings, Jr.
- † Carol Baribeau
- † Brenda Hart
- † Tom Steele
- † Nicole Rabideau & Family
- † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne & Family
- † Cory Smith
- † John Hedden
- † Russell Hunter & Family

### To add someone to the Prayer List

Please call 603-447-3851

or email us at

[info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:info@thebrownchurch.org)

Also please provide the persons mailing address so we may send cards. Thank you

# December 2022

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday               | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday                         |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|
|   |   |   |                         | 1<br>9:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 pm AA Big Book  | 2<br>9:00 Men's Bible Study<br><br><u>Office Closed</u>  | 3<br>9 am AA Good Morning Group  |
| 4<br>10 AM Worship<br>2nd Sunday of Advent<br><br>6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit Mtg  | 5<br>Dinner Bell 4-5 pm<br>Take out only  | 6<br>Food Pantry 9-11:30 am<br>By Appt  | 7<br><br>4 pm Diaconate | 8<br>9:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 pm AA Big Book  | 9<br>9:00 Men's Bible Study<br><br><u>Office Closed</u>  | 10<br>9 am AA Good Morning Group |
| 11<br>10 AM Worship<br>3rd Sunday of Advent<br><br>6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit Mtg | 12<br>Dinner Bell 4-5 pm<br>Take out only   | 13<br>Food Pantry 9-11:30 am<br>By Appt<br><br>4:30 Trustees Meeting                | 14                      | 15<br>9:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 pm AA Big Book | 16<br>9:00 Men's Bible Study<br><br><u>Office Closed</u> | 17<br>9 am AA Good Morning Group |
| 18<br>10 AM Worship<br>4th Sunday of Advent<br><br>6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit Mtg | 19<br>Dinner Bell 4-5 pm<br>Take out Only   | 20<br>Food Pantry 9-11:30 am<br>By Appt<br><br>9am Children Unlimited Support Group | 21                      | 22<br>9:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 pm AA Big Book | 23<br>9:00 Men's Bible Study<br><br><u>Office Closed</u> | 24<br>9 AM AA Good Morning Group |
| 25<br>10 AM Worship<br><b>CHRISTMAS</b><br><br>6:30-7:30 pm AA Fire Pit Mtg     | 26<br>No Dinner Bell<br><br><u>Christmas Holiday Observed</u><br><u>Office Closed</u> | 27<br>Food Pantry 9-11:30 am<br>By Appt<br><br>4:30 Trustees Meeting                | 28                      | 29<br>9:30 Women's Bible Study<br><br>7 pm AA Big Book | 30<br><br><u>Office Closed</u>                           | 31<br>9 AM AA Good Morning Group |