



Conway Village Congregational Church  
"The Brown Church"

# The Good News

March 2026

Volume 15 Issue 3



Conway Village Congregational Church 132 Main Street, P.O. Box 333 Conway NH 03818  
Phone 603-447-3851 Email: [Info@thebrownchurch.org](mailto:Info@thebrownchurch.org) Website: [www.thebrownchurch.org](http://www.thebrownchurch.org)  
Pastor: Rev. John Hughes

## TRUSTEES

Daylights Savings this month, March 8th

We had a wonderful Pasta Dinner at the church on the 20th. Thank you Wally and Beth Campbell and Valley Originals for putting on and supporting this meal. We served 58 meals and the church raised \$1,113. A big thank you to all the volunteers for setting up, serving, bussing tables and cleaning up. We also want to thank the community for coming out on a snowy evening to support the church.

*Thank You*



Due to all the snow so far this winter and having a roof that gets ice build up, we had a roof leak in the hallway. Burnham came out to clear 8-10 inches off the roof to stop the leak.

The Masons began work in the Henderson Room downstairs. They are converting this space for their Lodge. The work being done is very professional and we welcome them to the church.

The annual premium for the Flood Insurance in the amount of \$13,784 is due on March 13th. In order to pay that on time, we had to take funds from the Raymond James investment account. Additionally, we have seen an increase in our heating and plowing bills.

We have talked about having a Spring Event again in May. We did not have one last year due to not having have room to store yard sale items. Funds raised at this event do help with the church budget. We are looking for ideas for this event. We do well with the plant sale, raffle with gift baskets (which could be Spring themes this year), lunch/BBQ, crafts and bake sale.

**Trustee Board**  
Anne Getchell, John Edgerton,  
Duddie Andrews, Nancy Irving,  
& Carl Vitters, ex officio  
member, Treasurer

**Save the date**  
**Semi-Annual Meeting**  
**July 12th**



## ***Biblical Principles in Action at Isaiah 61 Café***

Recently, I visited **Isaiah 61 Café** in Laconia, NH looking for a couple absent from our **Dinner Bell** food program. Conway has no homeless shelters, so when someone needs emergency sheltering, they are sent to Laconia or Berlin. **Isaiah 61 Café** is a shelter which conducts religious services, with live music for its clients; it is one of 5 homeless shelters in Laconia.



The Biblical passage, **Isaiah 61**, reads, “**The Lord has sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, open the prison of those who are bound.**” Entering the Shelter and Café, you are struck by how the shelter is set up. One section has 31 beds set up dormitory-style. There are showers, 8 commercial washers and dryers, computers and mailboxes. Another section is the Café which offers hot food to order (**options on an overhead sign as you would see at any Café**), with tables and chairs for eating. The main area features couches and chairs arranged for comfortable listening to the band.

The **Isaiah 61 Café** complex is warm and inviting. Everyone is known by name as the mission of this project emphasizes acceptance and restoration. Clients during the colder months (**the beds are only offered for the 4 coldest months**) must leave at 2 p.m. each day and journey to a “warming shelter” several city blocks away. This keeps people active and moving. Residents and guests at **Isaiah 61 Café** represent a small fraction of the **6,806** documented homeless in the state of New Hampshire – a number larger than **80%** of N.H.’s towns and cities, according to the **Homeless Management Information System**.

David, (**who manages the shelter**) noted an urgent need for socks, gloves, and mittens. Working with **International Mountain Equipment** of North Conway we were able to provide 20 pairs of socks and 7 pairs of gloves. These were distributed while David’s wife played the guitar and sang to the guests as she regularly does. Isaiah’s themes of comfort for the oppressed and brokenhearted are being realized at **Isaiah 61 Café**. This small community takes its mission of healing and restoration seriously, bringing joy to those who need it most.



*Rev John Hughes*

*March 2026*



## PRAYER REQUEST

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| † Cathy Currier              | † Pat (Gahagen) Goetzinger |
| † Colleen Albert             | † Suzanne & Eddie          |
| † Elise & John Edgerton      | † Misty                    |
| † Linda Frechette            | † Charlotte                |
| † Alice Spear                | † Margaret Marshall        |
| † Carol Baribeau             | † John & Kathy P.          |
| † Sandy Stowell & Lisa Horne | † Cynthia Saxby            |
| † Mark & Caroline Weld       | † Sky Yeaton               |
| † Eileen Redmond             | † Kathy Monahan            |
| † Debbie Kelly               | † Logan Campbell           |
| † Greg Turgeon               | † Lew Busell               |
| † Tom Steele                 | † Joyce Hahn               |
| † Paula Burgess              | † Gloria Aspinall          |
| † Teresa Bernhardt           |                            |



-  Jennifer Lavigne
-  Donna West
-  Jonathan Saxby
-  Karen MacDonald
-  Gary MacDonald

Please call the office if you would like your name added to the birthday list.

## Women's Bible Study



Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm in the Conference Room.

We will continue our Study of The Chosen, Season 5. We have an empty seat waiting just for you. You are welcome anytime! Blessings, Judy

*Join us!*

## Fridays 8 am

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study meets in the conference Room. Reviewing weekly lectionary readings for worship. All are welcome. John <'><<<

## Fresh Homestyle Meal

Join us for a free <sup>Free Community Dinner</sup> community dinner!



Everyone Is Welcome!!

**Mondays**  
**Winter Hours**

**4 - 5**

**Take Out Only!**



Call office for menu.  
**603-447-3851**

# Deacons

## Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Just a Closer Walk with Thee  
Grant it, Jesus it, is my plea  
Daily walking close to Thee  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

The season of Lent is the six weeks or 40 days leading up to Easter in which Christian believers focus on deepening their faith and relationship with God as they prepare for Easter. Developing a deeper prayer life by spending more time in prayer and/or quiet reflection in the Bible are ways used to strengthen one's spiritual connection to God. Another practice is to reflect on what things in your life act to separate you from developing a closer relationship with God- time spent on social media or technology use, spending too much time watching TV, complaining, etc.- give those things up for the Lenten season. Instead of time used on worldly things, use your time on the giving of yourself in acts of kindness to others or volunteering to help a community charity.

By concentrating on these three traditional practices which encourage not only self-discipline, but also spiritual disciplines rooted in Jesus' teachings, we are able to show and share Christ's love in our hearts to others as we approach His resurrection on Easter morning.

"Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul." Psalm 143:8 ESV

Lenten Blessings,

Your Deacons, Boz, Beth, Jill and Judy

## Opportunity to Support Worship @ the Brown Church

What Do the following Words have In Common? **Music, Easter Flowers for shut-ins, Christmas Trees and wreaths, Palm branches, the Sanctuary-Worship, Bibles, Hymnals, and furnishings, Cleaning of Altar clothes, Technology equipment, Communion, Guest Musicians, Copyright Licenses for written and online Music, Coffee Fellowship, Birthday and Cards of Concern Ministry** .....

I know, the first word to pop into your head was **Diaconate!** **Not only do the deacons plan, organize and serve** to provide all of these facets of ministry, but we are **also financially responsible** for all these various aspects of the worship ministry. Many of these items are provided for by the Memorial Fund, others by financial gifts by members and friends of the Brown Church. However, much of the operating budget is not. This has resulted in a deficit budget for several years.

Continued . . . .

## Deacons continued

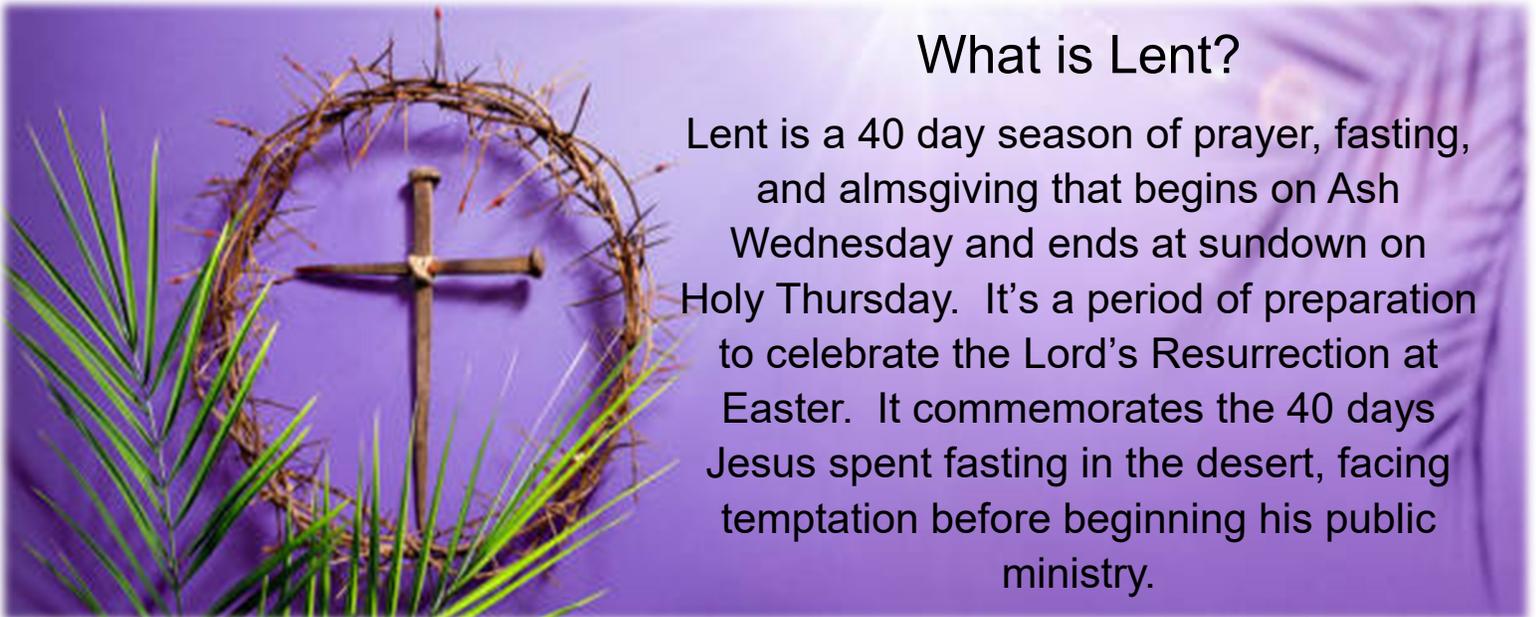
This topic was discussed at January's Diaconate meeting and brought to the Council's January meeting for approval. It was decided that in the absence of offering envelopes with designated Diaconate envelopes, beginning on Easter Sunday and each communion Sunday that follows, we will collect a designated offering for worship expenses. Designated Diaconate envelopes will be available with the bulletins.

Thank you in advance for your decision to be a supporter of Worship at our church.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* **2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV**

***Lenten Blessings,***  
**The Diaconate, Boz, Beth, Jill and Judy**

Your Deacons,  
Charles "Boz" Boswell, Jill Reynolds,  
Judy Workman & Beth Campbell



## What is Lent?

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. It commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, facing temptation before beginning his public ministry.



# Pasta Dinner ~ Olympic Winter Games



Thank you

## Moderator's Moment

Last month I talked about the building projects and goals we have for this year. The real elephant in the room is finances. Because the flood insurance that we are required to carry comes due in March, we have had to dive in to the endowment fund for \$20,000.00 to pay the insurance and help cover some of the deficit in the budget because we still are in our high cost part of the year, with snow removal, heating and all the things that go with winter, like the removal of the ice dam that built up on the roof in the usual spot and started leaking through the ceiling costing us \$1,600.00 in unbudgeted expense.

All of this brings me to the point that needs to be addressed. Cash flow. At this time, the only big fundraiser that the church does is the Fryeburg Fair. The two other fundraisers that can raise \$3,000 to \$5,000 is the spring event and the holiday fair. Dinners are no longer a profitable way to raise money, unless the food gets donated like our February dinner was, thanks to Valley Originals and Wally & Beth Campbell.

At the semi-annual meeting, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the council will be making a proposal about signing up for the casino distribution that they are required to make by state law to local non-profits. The only problem with this, is that there is a conflict of interest, mostly moral, about taking money from gambling. Other forms of gambling are bingo, raffles, pick a prize and lotteries. These other forms are considered more games of chance rather than gambling, but you still pay for a chance at winning something. The church will not enter into this venture without a majority vote of the congregation. Up until the meeting, I urge everyone to prayerfully consider what your personal feelings are about this, and whether you will support the idea or reject it. There is no wrong decision, and all concerns will be addressed and all voices heard before calling for the vote.

As the winter begins to wind down, and the clocks spring ahead, let us take the time to enjoy the extra day light. Let's marvel at the crocuses that break through the snow and begin to reveal that spring is near. Our Lenten journey up to Easter is a time of reflection. Are we happy with where we are? Or do we need to lean on the strength of Jesus to carry us through.



Try to be positive, look for the bright side of things, reject hate and harmful thoughts. God's love surrounds you all of the time. All you have to do is be open to it.

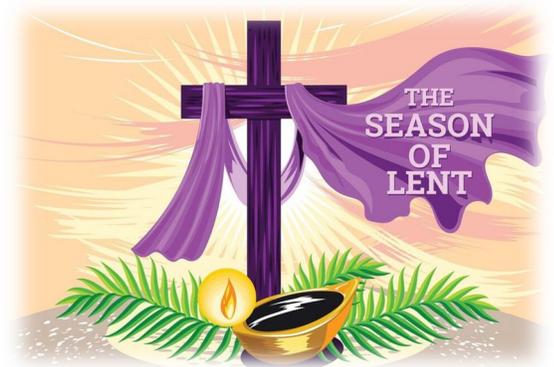
God's Blessings always,

Carl F Vitters, moderator



## Pancake Coffee Hour

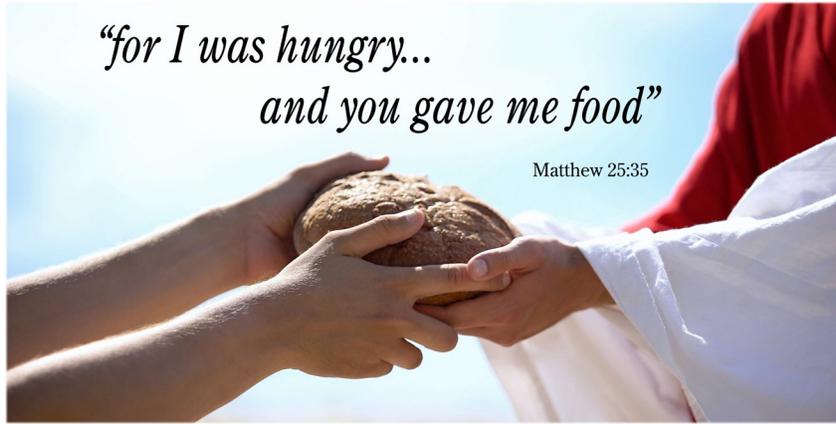
The season of Lent is a time of finding ways to draw closer to God. In the past, many people would Fast during Lent. The Fast often included forsaking treats, meat, butter, cream, eggs, chocolate. People would start the Fast on Ash Wednesday, the first of 40 days of Lent. Being practical, people did not want to waste food, so the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday became a day that one consumed all of the foods one was giving up for Lent. The French called that day Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), and the English called it Shrove Tuesday (Shrove being the past tense of “to shrive”, or to listen to ones sins and forgive them.) To use up the fatty meats, cream, butter and eggs, many people would make the treat of pancakes. The women of the churches would have races where they ran flipping pancakes in their frying pans! The tradition of Pancake Tuesday survives, so the church served pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, butter and real Maple Syrup for Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to the Deacons, Charlyne, Mike, and Marilyn (YUM blueberries in mid winter!) for the tasty fun Coffee Hour.



### **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."*

## Food Pantry/Outreach



## Pantry Wish List

- \* Canned fruit
- \* Assorted Canned pasta
- \* Canned baked beans
- \* Tuna Helper
- \* Mayonnaise
- \* Pancake mix
- \* Ramen Noodles
- \* Canned beef stew
- \* Ketchup
- \* Hamburger Helper
- \* Pancake syrup
- \* Canned tuna fish
- \* Rice-a-Roni
- \* Applesauce
- \* Peanut Butter
- \* Jelly
- \* Tomato Sauce
- \* Soup (packaged or canned)

### Personal Care Items

(unopened only)

- \* Toilet paper
- \* Toothpaste
- \* Toothbrush
- \* Paper towels
- \* Dish detergent
- \* Small laundry detergent
- \* Bar soap
- \* Deodorant

*Bring Some Luck*

We found your lucky charm!  
All March long, we receive \$1 from every \$2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag sold at our designated Hannaford store. Reducing waste and giving back? That's some serious good luck!



Once again, our pantry has been selected as the nonprofit partner in the Hannaford Fights Hunger Bag Program. Please visit Hannaford, located at 32 Mountain Valley Blvd., N. Conway, NH. Thank you for your support!



## Conway Village Congregational Church



### Food Pantry

By Appointment Only

Tuesdays 8:30 am - 11:30 am  
Serving East Conway, Center Conway,  
Conway, Eaton, Albany, Madison  
& Chatham.

603-447-3851

Call to make an appointment or for more information.



*Thank you!*

For your donation.  
We appreciate your support of  
our food pantry and our mission!

### Outreach Committee

Anne Getchell, Charlyne Gray & Marilyn Hughes

MONTH	Households	People Served	Meals Given	Over 60	Under 18	Walk Ins	New Households
January & February 2026	63	138	5,796	67	25	17	3
January & February 2025	37	64	2,688	39	8	0	10
<b>Increase</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>3,108</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-7</b>

## February 17, 2026 Council Meeting Highlights

### Financial Update

Four weeks of deposits totaled \$15,696.81, including pledges, worship income, reimbursements, building use, and designated gifts.

To cover the annual flood insurance premium, Council approved a transfer from the Endowment.

### Building & Property

- The Masons are making good progress on their room renovations and are working with proper permits and contractor guidance.
- Council will explore including Sanctuary window replacement as part of the upcoming siding project.

### Semi-Annual Meeting – July 12

Council selected **July 12** for the Semi-Annual Meeting. At that meeting, we plan to readdress the Revo Casino Charitable Giving Program. Council discussed possible guidelines for restricted use of funds (such as flood insurance and utilities). More information, newsletter articles, and possibly a member survey will be shared in advance of the meeting.

### Worship & Diaconate

The Diaconate noted increasing difficulty obtaining legal-size bulletin stock and discussed broader questions about bulletin use. Easter plans (whether to hold Sunrise Service and breakfast) are also under consideration, and member feedback may be sought.

### Website Review

Council is exploring updating or rebuilding the church website. Members are encouraged to review sample sites and share input — especially younger generations and those less familiar with our church. Anyone who wishes to participate in the website survey may do so by following this link: <https://forms.gle/AG9PRhMFWmar997e9>

### Christmas & Community Events

Early discussions included:

- Participation in a possible Town Christmas Parade (including a potential live nativity).
- Whether to continue hosting our own Tree Lighting if the town holds one in the village.
- Considering the timing of the Holiday/Christmas Fair (before Thanksgiving vs December).

Trustees: March 3<sup>rd</sup> 4:30 PM

Council: March 18<sup>th</sup> 4:30

John will be out of town April 9–17



# Conway Village Congregational Church

*“The Brown Church”*



## How to Donate to the Conway Village Church

For those who have asked how to make a contribution, donations to the **Conway Village Church** may be made in the following ways:

- **Checks** payable to *Conway Village Church* can be sent to P.O. Box 333, Conway, NH 03818.
- **Online:** Credit card donations can be made securely through **Zeffy** or **PayPal**.

Our **PayPal** account remains active; however, most credit card donations are now processed through **Zeffy**, which does **not charge any fees** to nonprofits — allowing the church to receive **100% of your donation**. (PayPal deducts 2.9% in fees.)

In addition to credit cards, Zeffy also accepts **Apple Pay** and **Google Pay**.

We are blessed by the continued support of our valley community, which helps us sustain our programs, community outreach, and the ongoing repairs and maintenance of our historic building following the December 2023 flood.

Scan either of the QR codes below to donate to the church using credit cards or phone pay app.



*thank  
you*  
**For Donating!**



**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> – communion**

Genesis 12:1-4a

John 3:1-17

**Sermon: “Let’s Finish the Job”**

*Psalm 121*

**Mountain View Worship – 2:00 p.m.  
93 Water Village Rd. Ossipee, N.H.**

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – “daylight savings time”**

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

**Sermon: “Well, Well, It’s a Scandal”**

*Psalm 95*

**Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Rose Sunday**

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

**Sermon: “Let Him Speak for Himself”**

*Psalm 23*

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

**Sermon: “It’s Beyond Belief”**

*Psalm 130*

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**

*Liturgy for Holy Week (Palm/Passion)*

*Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29*

**We are open for Worship Services in Fellowship Hall!**

**Service 10:00 AM**

**Please join us for Coffee Fellowship following worship service!**

**Sunday Worship via Zoom**

Meeting ID: **832 6656 0783** - Password: **074610**

To access Zoom meeting by Phone Call **1 646 558 8656** (for audio only)



# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  <small>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</small>	<b>2</b>  <b>4-5 pm</b> <b>Dinner Bell</b>	<b>3</b> <b>8:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>1 pm Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>4:30pm</b> <b>Trustees</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>NH Food Bank</b> <b>Delivery</b>	<b>6</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <u>Daylight Savings</u> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  <small>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</small>	<b>9</b>  <b>4-5 pm</b> <b>Dinner Bell</b>	<b>10</b> <b>8:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>1 pm Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  <small>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</small>	<b>16</b>  <b>4-5 pm</b> <b>Dinner Bell</b>	<b>17</b> <b>8:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>1 pm Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>18</b> <b>9:30 am</b> <b>Diaconate</b>  <b>4:30</b> <b>Council</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  <small>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</small>	<b>23</b> <u>New Hours!</u> <b>3 - 5 pm</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>4-5 pm</b> <b>Dinner Bell</b>	<b>24</b> <b>8:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>1 pm Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>8am Men's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  <small>Newsletter</small> <b>Articles</b> <b>Due</b> <u>Office Closed</u>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10 AM Worship</b>  <small>PALM SUNDAY</small>	<b>30</b>  <b>4-5 pm</b> <b>Dinner Bell</b>	<b>31</b> <b>8:30-11:30 am</b> <b>Food Pantry</b>  <b>1 pm Women's</b> <b>Bible Study</b>				