

MAY 2023

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville, NY



“Now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, - and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.” Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Mission Statement

“We are a community of God’s faithful people called by Christ to love, welcome, and care for all.”

Contact information

Office 518-458-1562

Pastor Joyce Fiore 518-588-3149

Kathy Flynn Admin. Assistant

Kevin Wertman Custodian

Church Council:

Danny Patrick President

Mike Serge Vice President

Jeff Emptage Treasurer

Patti Kopach Secretary

Atif Dean

Kathryn Ingalls

Nancy Layne

Carol Phelps

Maryanne Sangiacomo

Elizabeth Sickler

Susan Spofford

Marie Wertman

Meg Winters

Next Newsletter Deadline: Thursday, May 18

Call the Church Office at 458-1562 or e-mail office@gscl.org if you have item(s) for publication.



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kathy Ingalls
Carolyn Wolfe
Bob Cole
Keith Kelly
Betty Cadwallader
Carlos Sanchez



Pentecost – Feel the Spirit!

Sunday, May 28th – Feel the Spirit at our 9:30 am service as we celebrate Pentecost. The color of the day is red, so **wear red** and **help decorate the sanctuary with beautiful red geraniums!** You are invited to donate red geraniums and place them at the altar that Sunday. If you will not be in church that day, they can be dropped off earlier in the week. The Geraniums will be planted later in the front of the church.



ANNUAL SHRED-IT EVENT

DATE: MAY 13, 2023

TIME: 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

LOCATION: 80 WOLF ROAD, ALBANY

**GOOD SHEPHERD CONTACT: JEFF EMPTAGE AT
518-280-4942**

Please consider a donation of non-perishable food items in support of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. There is no cost or obligation.



May Birthdays

- 2 Ann Howland
- 3 Colbi Kromrey
- 6 Danny Patrick
- 7 Betty Suarez
- 8 Mark Wiegert
- 10 Nancy Layne
- 12 Susan Spofford
- 14 Kayla Bradley
- 21 Paul Spofford
- 23 Richard Walker
- 28 Megan Dwire,
Christopher Rudat
- 29 Mary Long

Spring Cleanup Days

Our church property is in need of some Spring cleaning and we need volunteers! Dates are being finalized and will be announced in the midweek messages going forward. Please contact Marjorie Raymond if you'd like more information.

Pastor Joyce's Message

We begin with prayer: *"I Happened To Be Standing"* by Mary Oliver



*I don't know where prayers go,
or what they do.*

*Do cats pray, while they sleep
half-asleep in the sun?*

*Does the opossum pray as it
crosses the street?*

*The sunflowers? The old black oak
growing older every year?*

*I know I can walk through the world,
along the shore or under the trees,
with my mind filled with things
of little importance, in full*

*self-attendance. A condition I can't really
call being alive: a prayer a gift, or a petition,
or does it matter?*

*The sunflowers blaze, maybe that's their way.
Maybe the cats are sound asleep. Maybe not.*

*While I was thinking this, I happened to be standing
just outside my door, with my notebook open,
which is the way I begin every morning.*

Then a wren in the privet began to sing.

*He was positively drenched in enthusiasm,
I don't know why. And yet, why not.*

*I wouldn't persuade you from whatever you believe
or whatever you don't. That's your business.*

*But I thought, of the wren's singing, what could this be
if it isn't a prayer?*

So I just listened, my pen in the air.

Greetings in this month of so much happening and yet, we take time to look at God's creation and celebrate. The above poem by Mary Oliver says it all, everything we do, and plan we make, is of God's creation! My prayers go with you this coming month. As with Mary Oliver, my pen is in the air.

Please join us On May 7th as eight children celebrate the Holy Meal with God, family, friends, classmates for the first time. The children, with people who support them will be first in taking the bread and wine and many thanks to those who taught, supported, and made possible the opportunity to gather with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

May 14 is Mother's Day. We give thanks for the mothers who have nurtured us as we grow up...growing up never goes away. Mary Francis Miller, along with Jeff Emptage will offer a hymn of praise. May 30 is Pentecost...the coming of the Holy Spirit. This is a special day in the church as we are promised God is always with us. It is also Memorial Day with the four ELCA clergy amidst planning a special way of remembering those who have gone before us during times of great turmoil. More to come as plans are made. Along with special worship opportunities, and all worship is an opportunity to celebrate our being together, many plans are moving forward. One conversation taking place is my hours will likely go from 30 hours a week to 20 hours a week. I am in conversation with the council on this process. Careful planning is needed as we adjust and look forward in discerning the pastoral needs of GSLCL. In the June newsletter I plan to list the pastoral milestones we, together, have met as we look at the past to inform the future.

Change, adjustment to current times and looking to the future is frightening, exciting, and hopeful. This month we will look at what change means as we read from the book of Acts telling us the challenges of the first weeks and months, after Pentecost. The Holy Spirit walks and talks with us in our faith journey and always inspires us with hope. In peace and Joy, Pastor Joyce

Financial Report for March 2023			
	This Month	YTD	
Expenses	\$11,048.27	\$35,029.60	
Revenue	\$8,085.66	\$29,196.98	
<u>Surplus +</u>			
Deficit -		\$-5,832.62	

Year-Round Stewardship

When most people hear the word stewardship, they think of financial giving. While finances are a part of stewardship, there are so many other aspects of stewardship such as being stewards of our time, talents, relationships, etc.

Stewardship Opportunity – Building Fund

We've had many new improvements to the building lately to help keep it in good condition for the ministry that we provide and for the many groups in the community that use our space. Please consider making a donation to this fund. Envelopes for "Designated Gifts" are available in the narthex. Donations to the Building Fund are separate from the annual pledge. All donations are included on the annual contribution statement for tax purposes. Thank you for your generosity.

CROP WALK

This year's CROP walk will be on **Sunday May 7** with registration starting at 12:30 pm and the opening ceremony at 1:15 pm at First Lutheran Church on Western Avenue in Albany. **Atif Dean will be our Team Captain** and will have more information and forms. If you would like to walk that day please get in touch with Atif at a18dean@gmail.com.



Friends - During the summer, Crop Hunger Walk received a check for \$28,065.23 from Church World Service, which was the 25% local share of the final walk income total of \$112,260.92. That amount has been distributed to the 26 food pantries and soup kitchens that applied to receive a share of the funds.

Thanks again for your part in making the 2022 JUM Memorial CROP Hunger Walk - the most successful one in our 42-year history. I look forward to hearing from you and working with you again this year.

Peace,
Atif Dean, Team Captain

Sunday School Update

The Sunday School team continues to provide a lesson and creative craft activity each week that corresponds with the church calendar. We use short animated videos that provide a bible story which children of all ages enjoy. The activities, snacks and music provide an overall positive experience for the children and our attendance continues to grow!



The month of May brings two special events planned for the Sunday School children:

- **May 7th First Communion**

Since the children are either receiving their First Communion or their family members are, there will be NO Sunday School.

- **May 14th Mother's Day**

The children have been busy preparing for a special Mother's Day event. During the service they will be singing a song and honoring Moms. Mark your calendars and please join us!

May 14 will be the last Sunday School class for the school year. Look for information in the summer regarding our exciting plans for resuming Sunday School in the Fall!

The Sunday School team would like to thank everyone for their support in making our program one that inspires children and their families to attend our church.

Our deepest gratitude,
Marie Wertman
Nancy Layne
Nancy Serge

First Communion



First Communion for eight children will take place on Sunday, May 7th during the 9:30 am service. A special thanks to Betty Suarez for her assistance in teaching and preparing the children for this blessed day. A celebration for the children is planned after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



Blood Drive Results

Thank you to all who donated blood at Good Shepherd's successful April drive. We had 30 successful donations which will help 86 patients in need of red cells, plasma and cryoprecipitate. There is no artificial substitute for blood so that makes these donations so special to those patients in need.

Thank you also to our volunteers, Kirsten Andersen, Jane Ludwin, Danny Patrick and Paul Spofford who donated their time to meet the Red Cross, lock the church, register donors and serve the snacks.

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be **Wednesday, October 25th 1:30-6:00PM**. Please consider donating. Any questions or to donate please contact Carol Phelps (518) 355 3901.

Our Eucharistic Ministry Team

Many thanks to our four Eucharistic ministers: Betty Suarez, Bertie Cole, Meg Winters, and Dick Walker. The program is going extremely well, visits are happening, the sick and homebound are able to receive communion and we look forward to continuing this special ministry.

HELP THOSE IN NEED!



American Clothing Recycling has a Clothing Bin in our parking lot just waiting for your clothing donations. If you or someone you know has clothes or shoes they no longer want or need, donate them here. GSLC also receives 5 cents per pound for the donations, which we can then use for our various ministries.



Wednesday Bible Study

Join us for the Wednesday Bible Study 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm as we study Scripture and grow in God’s word. Men and women are invited! Each week we begin in prayer, and then

discuss the lessons relating to the upcoming Sunday worship service.

You are invited to attend in person at Good Shepherd or by calling in. Contact Bertie Cole at 518-626-0657 for current information about joining the group

Holiday Boutique Scheduled

The Holiday Boutique will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 9 am to 2 pm. Save the Date! We will have a Silent Auction, a Bake Sale, Food Sales, vendors and possibly a Book Sale. Marjorie Raymond has agreed to chair this event and will be working with the Fundraising Team to ensure its success. A planning meeting will be scheduled in late May. Start collecting those gift cards and think about the crafts or gift baskets you can contribute for the Silent Auction. For more information or to volunteer to assist, please contact Marjorie at 518-424-6043.



Once again!!

Thank you to Laura from Constantine's for the bright & cheery panzies placed at our front entrance. She helps to brighten every season at Good Shepherd and we are so very grateful!

Fundraising Team Update

We had the first meeting of the Fundraising Team on April 17, 2023. There were many good ideas put forward with people to sponsor these events! At this point, we are planning the Berry Festival in July with Danny Patrick sponsoring that event.

And then on September 16 & 23 – “Got Sneakers” chaired by Nancy and Mike Serge. This event involves the collection of used sneakers and a payout is received. There will be collections of sneakers on both of the September dates listed above. We will put flyers up advertising this event starting in August. The Guilderland High School has done this fundraising event and it was very successful. Depending on the condition of the sneakers, the payout can be as high as \$7.50 and as low as \$.25 for each pair. This is a green initiative and the sneakers are broken down and used for playgrounds, etc.

November looks to be a busy month with an Election Day Bake Sale along with a Soup and Sandwich sale. This will certainly be a busy event as the Board of Elections has chosen Good Shepherd to use for voting. With people coming in and out all day long, it should be a hit. And then on **November 18**, the always popular Holiday Boutique, Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Food Sale, vendors and possible book sale as well. This is being sponsored by Marj Raymond and has always been a success.

December will be the annual Cookie Walk on December 9. Again, this is always a big event and last year, we sold out in an hour and a half! So we need as many of our fine bakers as possible to make additional baked goods this year!

There were also other possible events suggested such as a Roast Pork Dinner, an Italian Dinner, and a Pancake Breakfast. And maybe having a company come to do shredding.

BUT WE NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP! We need other ideas and sponsors of events! We are a community of many fine, talented people. Please join us in working and supporting these events as well as any others you can come up with!!!!

Call Committee

There has not been any activity on our Ministry site profile. The Call committee has a meeting scheduled with Rachel Sosebee from Synod and the Executive Council on **May 1**. Rachel stated she will give us an update from her end and answer any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Layne

Technology Update

Please take a few minutes to review the Church website. The background colors are changed to follow the colors of the church calendar. New pictures are replacing some of the old ones and the monthly newsletter, calendar and you tube videos of the weekly Worship service can also be found there. You can access it at <https://www.gslcl.org>

Sometime between Good Friday and Easter Sunday the church network suffered a power surge and it knocked out our internet which prevented us from being able to zoom and record our Easter Worship Service. This has been fixed and everything is now working. The Wi-Fi password has been changed so if you need it I can provide it to you. I am in the process of add a guest internet which will not require a password.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Layne



Upstate New York Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Save the Date: Synod Assembly 2023 ***Cultivating a G.R.A.C.E Mindset:*** ***Generous Love***

June 2-3, 2023 / Registration is open now.

Join us for the
2023 Upstate NY Synod Assembly
June 2-3, 2023
at Bethany Baptist Church,
Syracuse, NY

We will celebrate Restorative Justice throughout the conference with hands-on workshops from our Social Justice Task Forces and special speaker Rev. Amy E. Reumann, who serves as ELCA Senior Director for Witness in Society in Washington, D.C.

Voting Member Registration: \$150

Non-Voting Guest Registration: \$50/day

Reserve a Hotel Room at [DoubleTree by Hilton](#) in Syracuse by May 2nd for the reduced rate.

All Registrations Include Meals. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be catered and eaten at Bethany Baptist due to the shortened schedule. Social time at the hotel is also included in this price, with a planned Sundae bar. Cash bars will be available.

Online registration is open March 23-May 5, 2023. No registrations will be taken after this time, with the exception of substitution on-site at the Assembly in case of illness.

Outreach & Evangelism

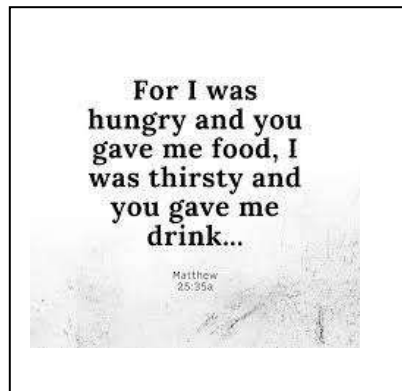
The next Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 2 at 7:00 pm** via in person or zoom.

Shelter Meals

It is hard to believe but another Overflow Homeless Shelter Season is coming to an end. Good Shepherd along with the other cluster churches and congregations in the area have been providing meals to the residents and staff at the shelter. A very special thanks to the following people who have provided meals and they are: Nancy and Steve Layne, Betty Sickler, Beth Sickler, June Alford, Patti Shook, Kathy and Mark Silo, Marie Wertman and Dorothy Wimble. Words cannot convey enough thanks for these home cooked meals and the residents and staff really appreciate all of the wonderful meals. Thank you all again for supporting this special ministry.

Social Ministry – Our “Little Pantry”

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church responds to the needs of our community by stocking our Little Pantry every day with needed items for those struggling to make ends meet and feed their families. Consider donating to this amazing cause. Blue envelopes designated for this appeal are in the narthex. **BE SURE TO NOTE ON THE ENVELOPE "LITTLE PANTRY"**. Please remember you have the option of conveniently donating through tithely.com, not just for this special donation but for your regular donations as well. It's so easy and convenient!



“A helping hand blesses the giver and receiver”

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Some of us have been involved in making sure that the Little Food Pantry in the parking lot is full and we really tend to this just about every day due to the need. We are amazed that the bins in the narthex are always replenished by the members of the congregation. We want to take a minute to wholeheartedly to thank all of you who bring in food donations and for those of you who have made monetary contributions.

Thank you so much for your generosity to this special ministry!

Church Council News

The next meeting of the Church Council is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm. There was no council meeting in April.



Thrivent Grants

The many outreach projects of our congregation are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for two \$250.00 Action Team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help, please ask Carol Phelps or Danny Patrick. **If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member. Associate membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a \$250.00 Thrivent grant for our congregation’s outreach projects.** Contact Thrivent either by phone or at Thrivent.com for more info.

May/June Cluster Collection

Throughout May & June the Lutheran Cluster congregations

will gather items for Things of My Very Own (TOMVO), a non-profit organization, located in

Schenectady that provides crisis intervention services to children

who have been impacted by extensive abuse and/or neglect.

They also provide services to children at-risk of a Child Protective Services intervention where families don't have items necessary for sustainability.



The organization works to keep children with their non-abusive family members and out of the foster care system whenever possible. The transition out of an abusive situation is often sudden and unexpected. Rarely is a child able to return home to retrieve belongings prior to the move. TOMVO recognizes the need for children to have "things of their very own," even when they are in an unfamiliar setting.

Urgent Needs: Twin Sized Sheets & Blankets, Blankets (All Sizes), and towels.

*** Clothing and Bedding in New or Gently Used Condition Please.

Always Needed: Seasonal Appropriate Clothing, Pajamas, Diapers and Wipes, Hygiene Products, Shampoo, Body Wash, etc., Toilet Paper, Baby Formula, Household Cleaning Products



*Donate here to support
the various ministries of
Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church*

The Good Shepherd unit of Women of the ELCA meeting was held on April 20. Officers were elected for 2023 as follows:

Unit Coordinator: Patti Kopach
Treasurer: Marjorie Raymond
Secretary: Marie Wertman

The group agreed to use a mission statement for this year of **“Love Welcome Serve.”** All agreed that this will be the focus of our group for 2023. Several suggestions were shared as to how we can be more visible to the congregation while serving our mission statement.

The WELCA group will host Fellowship Hour on May 14th (Mother’s Day).

Activities for 2023 are:

Dinner and get together at Lanie’s Café on May 11th. Everyone is welcome! If interested, contact Marjorie Raymond at 518-424-6043.

WELCA Christmas Party- November 30th.

Annual Cookie Walk - December 9th

The next meeting of Good Shepherd Women of the ELCA will take place on **Thursday, May 18th at 6:30 pm in person or zoom.** Every woman in the congregation is welcome to attend. Agenda to be announced.

If you have any questions about what WELCA is or what we do, please speak with Patti Kopach, Unit Coordinator at church or email her at patti.kopach@yahoo.com. We hope you can join us!



Plan ahead! On May 11th WELCA will be having a “Girls’ Night Out” at Lanie’s Café in Loudonville. All are invited. If you would like to attend, please let Marjorie Raymond know (518-424-6043) as she will be making the reservation. We will

continue discussion on the service projects that we are looking at for this year.

And a Special Thanks to

Many thanks to our teachers, Marie Wertman, Nancy Layne, and Nancy Serge for undertaking the Sunday School ministry. It has been a joy to have the children join us in the sanctuary and participate in so many ways. They have brought light into our church family. We hope students, parents, and all at GSLC will continue to take time to worship over the summer.

In Memoriam – Neil Olsen

We extend condolences to Neil's wife, Patti, and to all of Neil's family and friends.

Contributions in memory of Neil Olsen have been received from:

- Robert Beach (to Memorial Fund)
- Bertie Cole (to Memorial Fund)
- Jeff and Barbara Emptage (to Building Fund)
- Steve and Nancy Layne (to Memorial Fund)
- Carl and Carol Phelps (to Memorial Fund)
- Marjorie Raymond (to Building Fund)
- Paul and Susan Spofford (to Memorial Fund)

*The Easter flowers placed in the sanctuary on
Easter morning were in memory of*

*Gladys and John Ludwin by Jack and Jane Ludwin
Mildred and John Konecnik by Jack and Jane Ludwin
Our Father Sajid Hamid by Atif and Kiran Dean
Bud and Edna Layne by Steve and Nancy Layne
Walt and Grace Wajda by Steve and Nancy Layne
Stephanie Ferrill by Dave Ferrill
The Rev Peter Suarez by Betty Suarez
Kathleen Seaton by Meg Winters
Mary Mertan by Meg Winters
Mary Winters by Meg Winters
Our Parents William and Joyce Wiegert and
Edward and Catherine Goehring by Bill and Chris Wiegert
The Rev Robert Cole by Alberta (Bertie) Cole
Departed Family Members by Paul and Susan Spofford
The Ingalls Family by Kathy Ingalls
The Campbell Family by Kathy Ingalls
The Heitzman Family by Kathy Ingalls
Gladys and Dave Miller Family by Kathy and Mark Silo
Agnes and Mark Silo by Kathy and Mark Silo
Esther Marchand by Nancy and Mike Serge
Loved Ones by Carl and Carol Phelps*

in honor of:

*Our Grandsons by Kathy and Mark Silo
Her Children by Bertie Cole
Caroline Serge by Nancy and Mike Serge
Gods Redeeming Word by Pastor Joyce
Sue and Cliff Brant by Meg Winters
My Daughters, Aimee and Kate by Patti Kopach*

*Pastor Dave Preisinger sends thanks for your
attention to his not feeling well on Sunday, April 23rd.
He is much better now and following up with his
physician.*

MANY THANKS TO OUR WORSHIP SERVERS & VOLUNTEERS!

THOSE WHO SERVE 5/7 – FIRST COMMUNION

Opener	Patti Kopach
Greeter	Patti Kopach
Usher	Paul Spofford
Lay Reader	Mark Silo
Communion Assistant	Betty Suarez
AV Tech	Emmie Knobloch
Closer	Danny Patrick

THOSE WHO SERVE 5/14 – MOTHER'S DAY

Opener	Mike Serge
Greeter	Dick Walker
Reader	Meg Winters
Communion Assistant	Bertie Cole
Usher	Rob Beach
AV Tech	Steve Layne
Closer	Marie Wertman

THOSE WHO SERVE 5/21

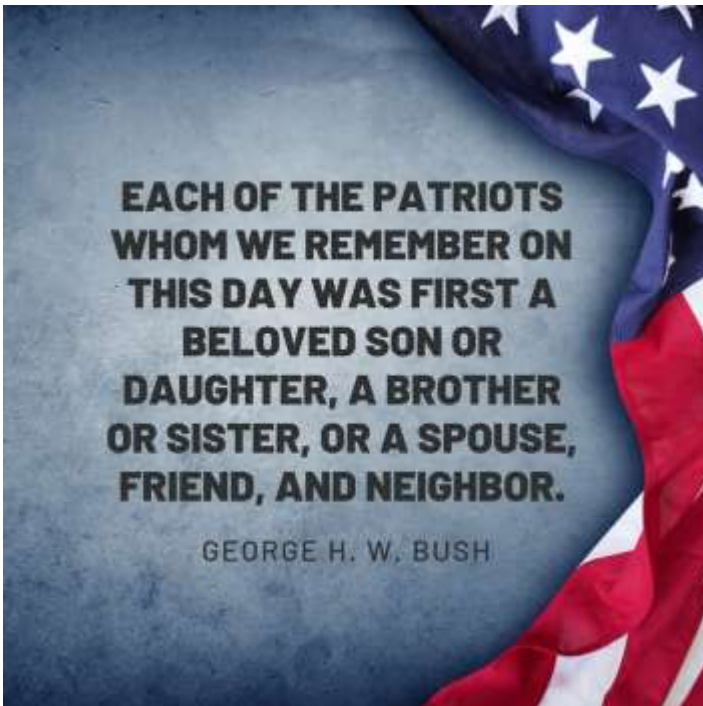
Opener	Kathy Ingalls
Greeter	Kathy Ingalls
Reader	Kiran Dean
Communion Assistant	Atif Dean
Usher	Mike Serge
AV Tech	Marie Wertman
Closer	Mike Serge

THOSE WHO SERVE 5/28 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Opener	Emmie Knobloch
Greeter	Betty Suarez
Usher	Danny Patrick
Lay Reader	Dick Walker
Communion Assistant	Marie Wertman
AV Tech	Maryanne Sangiacomo
Closer	Carol Phelps

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 7		FIRST COMMUNION
MAY 14		MOTHERS' DAY
MAY 20	5 PM	ASCENSION DAY @ ST. JOHN'S
MAY 28		PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 29	1 PM	A RELIGIOUS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE @ HOLY SPIRIT CEMETERY 422 FEURA BUSH ROAD GLENMONT



HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY



~ May 2023 ~

	1	2	3	4	5	6		
	6:30pm Call Committee	12:30 Colontie Srs 7:00pm Outreach & Evangelism	1:00pm - Bible Study	12pm Colontie Srs 5:30-Drama Kids	9:30 Colontie Srs	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
7 FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30AM 10:30am: Fellowship Hour No Sunday /school	8	9	10	11	12	13		
		12:30 Colontie Srs 6:30pm-Church Council	1:00pm - Bible Study	12pm Colontie Srs 5:30pm- Girls Night Out 5:30-Drama Kids	9:30 Colontie Srs	Eucharistic Ministry Training @ Prince of Peace		
14 MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP: 9:30AM Sunday School 10:30am: Fellowship Hour	15	16	17	18	19	20		
		12:30 Colontie Srs	1:00pm - Bible Study	11am SAM Group 12pm Colontie Srs 5:30-Drama Kids 7:00 - WELCA	9:30 Colontie Srs			
21 WORSHIP: 9:30AM No Sunday School 10:30am: Fellowship Hour	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	6pm Fund-Raising Team	12:30 Colontie Srs	1:00pm - Bible Study	12pm Colontie Srs 5:30-Drama Kids	9:30 Colontie Srs			
28 PENTECOST SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30AM No Sunday School 10:30am: Fellowship Hour	29	30	31					
		12:30 Colontie Srs 6:30pm Worship & Music Team	9am Colontie Seniors Board 1:00pm - Bible Study 7:00pm Property					