

# *First Community Church*

# *Newsletter*

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November 2012

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## *Our Mission Statement*

*We are a community of faith believing in the power of prayer and seeking earnestly to deepen our spiritual life and share the love of God with others.*

## *The Pastor's Message*

“What’s with the \$5 bills?”

This question was asked more than once following the October 7 celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of my call to serve as Pastor of this church. The question was occasioned by the modern tree sculpture that I was given as a gift, a tree that has a plethora of \$5 bills fixed to the branches in the place of leaves. Actually, Darlene and I like the tree so much that we have not even taken the \$5 bills off the tree and counted them. Suffice it to say that it was a very generous gift.

You may not know this, but the members of the Diaconate and I meet at Carbone’s for the \$9.95 dinner special prior to our monthly meeting. And the answer is no, this does not come out of the church budget. This is our time for fellowship, for just being with each other. As an added benefit of this ritual we have found that the actual meeting following the dinner tends to be shorter. I guess this is because we don’t have to do all that fellowship/sharing stuff during the meeting and can just get down to the business of the church.

Anyway, after we paid the bill in September several members of the Diaconate noted that I set aside the \$5 bill that I received in change. I explained to them that I save \$5 bills. I set aside every \$5 bill that comes into my hands over the course of each year, setting them aside in a can that is hidden at my office (not my church office, just in case you were wondering). I told them that this was a great way for me to save for something special – like Christmas presents for my loved ones or my next trip to Nepal & Tibet. Their mouths dropped open when I informed them that I already had \$750 in the can for the present year, and that I was hoping to reach \$1,000 by the end of December.

Someone suggested that this might be a great sermon illustration – sort of like the story of the widow’s mite. I could preach on how, if we are faithful, a little can add up to be a lot. I

considered using it in one of the sermons leading up to Stewardship Sunday, but I just can't wait. I need something for this newsletter.

It's actually true – if we are faithful to a practice, a little can add up to be a lot. This is true when it comes to saving money. It is true of church attendance, where every single individual is an integral part of the whole. It is also true of any spiritual discipline, e.g., prayer. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

So I would like to challenge you. That's right – you! This challenge is directed to you because since you are reading this newsletter you must care about our church. I challenge you to take the \$5 pledge.

This coming week (and every succeeding week), I challenge you to set aside just one of the \$5 bills that come into your hands. Just one. I know you have to come across at least one \$5 bill a week since, without going out of my way to solicit them, I stow away approximately 4 a week. To tell the truth, I don't even miss them as I'm going along and I really appreciate how they have added up at the end of the year.

If you already pledge to our church (bless you!), I challenge you to add this single \$5 bill to your weekly pledge. If you do not already pledge to our church, an awareness and appreciation of God's blessings might just nudge you toward beginning to pledge with this simple gift of \$5 a week. So whether you already pledge or not, I challenge you to set aside just one little \$5 bill a week (which is the price of a Grande Starbucks Pumpkin Latte, not that any of you would know), and add it to the amount you give to help cover the operating expenses of our church. If every single person who is reading this newsletter would take the challenge, our church would be in a very solid position financially.

Darlene and I are already committed to take this \$5 challenge. We will be adding \$5 a week to the amount we already pledge to the General Fund, and we challenge you to do the same. If you do, like it says in the Bible, I suspect that your gift will come back to you many times over.

Faithfully yours,  
Reverend Paul D. Sanderson

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## *Adult Bible Study*

We are now starting a new book, indeed a new section of the Bible in our Sunday morning Bible study. By popular demand, we are going to examine what is called the "wisdom literature" of the Bible – particularly Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Proverbs, which is also known as The Proverbs of Solomon, is an amazing collection of brief passages that are full of not only spiritual insight, but also very practical guidance for the living of a deep, meaningful, and fulfilling life.

We hope that through our study of these books we might come to a deeper appreciation of the feminine aspect of divinity that the biblical writers referred to as Wisdom.

We meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of every month from 9:15 – 10:30 AM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome! Bibles are provided!



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## *Stewardship Sunday*

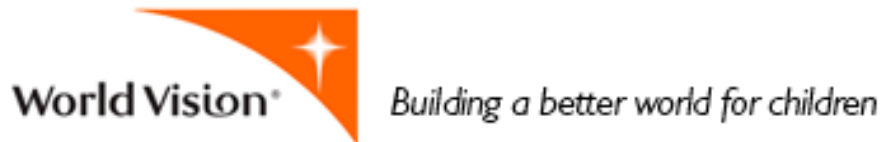
Watch the mail the next few weeks for a letter from your Pastor and the Stewardship Committee inviting you to renew (and hopefully increase) your pledge for the coming year. Bring your pledge card to church on Sunday, November 18, Stewardship Sunday, or mail it back to us by that date so we can begin to prepare our budget for the coming year.

We traditionally celebrate Stewardship Sunday on Thanksgiving Sunday because of the deep connection between Thanksgiving and Christian stewardship. As we gather together to thank God for our many blessings, we also renew our commitment to share our time, talent, and treasure with our church. This is a very important day in the life of our church. We invite you to be with us as we celebrate what we have in this church and as we lay the foundation for the coming year.

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## *Missions Offering*

For the month of November, we reach out with our gifts to support the International Mission of World Vision.



World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Working in nearly 100 countries around the world, World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

No person or nation is exempt from the threat of disaster. Some catastrophes are man-made and may develop over months or years. Others, such as floods, droughts or earthquakes, can strike almost anywhere without warning, claiming thousands of lives in seconds.

As the Editor of First Community Church's Newsletter, one of my goals is to bring to our members, friends, and readers a look into each of the monthly Missions that we have chosen to support. I feel that I learn so much about how other people in the world are suffering – their hunger, their pain, and their losses that are so unimaginable. Many times it is hard to pick out one single thing to hone in on. The scope and magnitude of the outreach of our Missions is incredible. It makes me want to fill the pages with all the tremendous efforts that these organizations accomplish around the world and locally in our own back yards and communities.

World Vision is one of those organizations that just can't be nailed down to one cause. As I "surf" their website and read their many publications of newsletters, magazines, press releases, as well as other articles written about them by outside institutions, I can't help but feel that they are truly an organization that "Say What They Do" and "Do What They Say."

As I work on this November Edition of the Newsletter, hitting so close to home is "Hurricane Sandy" the Superstorm that we have all just experienced this week and the aftermath of her power and destruction. I thought I would share what World Vision has done to help those who did not escape her wrath and fury.

**Friday, October 26, 2012****World Vision readies national response to Hurricane Sandy**

- *Relief supplies readied to respond to impacted East Coast areas including the greater New York City area*
- *World Vision launches fundraising appeal to provide disaster-impacted families with 1,500 flood clean-up kits*
- *Needs of children will be priority in World Vision's immediate response and long-term recovery assistance*

With Hurricane Sandy forecasted to impact much of the greater New York City area by early next week, the Christian humanitarian aid organization World Vision is preparing to respond along the East Coast to hundreds of children and families impacted by the storm. At the organization's New York City and Washington, DC sites, pre-positioned relief supplies, including cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and emergency food kits, are being readied for immediate delivery. Meantime, staff at World Vision's Domestic Disaster Headquarters near Dallas, Texas are preparing to send additional relief supplies to New York City next week to provide teams with back-up supplies and support.

"Hurricane Sandy could be one of the most devastating storms we've responded to in decades," said Phyllis Freeman, World Vision's Domestic Disaster Director. "We're asking our supporters to pray that the impact isn't as severe as some forecasters are predicting but World Vision is prepared to respond if we do see the worst."

World Vision has been working in the New York area since just after September 11, 2001. Just last year, approximately 475,000 people benefited from the Christian organization's services. In 2005, World Vision responded to Hurricane Katrina by providing \$8.2 million in goods to more than 318,000 survivors. Already this year, World Vision has used its National Disaster Headquarters in North Texas to respond to Hurricane Isaac along the Gulf Coast, launch a nearby Texas tornado response in April and deploy a wildfire response in Oklahoma.

**Monday, October 29, 2012****World Vision scales up emergency response efforts along East Coast to Hurricane Sandy**

- *World Vision staff evacuate as rising flood waters threaten pre-positioned relief supplies and team in greater New York area*
- *Hundreds of relief supplies en route from World Vision's National Domestic Disaster Headquarters in North Texas to field sites in New York City and Washington, DC*

As hundreds of thousands of East Coast residents evacuate to seek shelter from Hurricane Sandy, the Christian humanitarian relief organization World Vision is scaling up its emergency response to provide immediate relief supplies to families and children impacted by the storm. Three rapid assessment teams will deploy in New York, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia this week while additional staff will remain on standby to begin distributing emergency supplies to the hardest-hit areas.

"On Monday, World Vision's staff at the organization's New York City site in the Bronx were forced to evacuate after rising flood waters from the East River that threatened to close nearby bridges and leave World Vision staff stranded and unable to respond. Meanwhile, more than

1,000 pre-positioned relief supplies at the New York City field site have been elevated to higher ground within World Vision's warehouse to avoid water damage.

"It's not ideal, but we felt it was necessary to evacuate our staff and seek shelter closer to Manhattan so we wouldn't be stranded ourselves," said Phyllis Freeman, World Vision's Domestic Disaster Director. "We unplugged electrical equipment and put all the relief supplies up higher, but we're not sure when our response teams will be able to access the site if the river continues to rise."

World Vision has additional relief supplies strategically positioned at its Washington, D.C. site and at the National Domestic Disaster Headquarters in North Texas. On Monday, several hundred blankets and emergency kits were sent from the North Texas site to arrive this week at World Vision's sites along the East Coast. World Vision's pre-positioned relief supplies include emergency food kits, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, blankets and tarps.

**Tuesday, October 30, 2012**

### **Destruction of relief supplies by Hurricane Sandy creates unexpected challenges for World Vision disaster response teams**

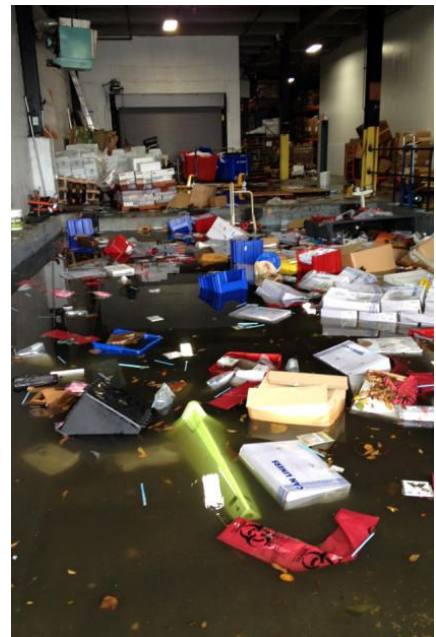
- **World Vision staff return to evacuated NYC site to find 3 to 4 feet high flood waters inside and hundreds of damaged relief supplies**
- **Assessment teams mobilize from NY and DC to determine the full extent of Sandy's damage and identify hardest hit areas along East Coast**

As hundreds of thousands of East Coast residents continue to seek shelter from Hurricane Sandy, the Christian humanitarian relief organization World Vision is facing unique challenges to respond to hardest hit survivors. On Monday, World Vision's Domestic Disaster Response team was forced to evacuate its New York site based in the Bronx as floods waters from the East River crept closer to the edge of the facility. By Tuesday, teams returned to the site to find significant flood damage including three to four feet of water within the building and hundreds of relief supplies damaged from this week's storm.

"Honestly, it brought tears to my eyes when I saw it," said Tim Reeve, World Vision's Bronx storehouse manager, who was among the first to survey this damage today. Hundreds of emergency food and hygiene kits for storm survivors were destroyed, and several delivery trucks were flooded.

"The irony of this situation is just painful," said spokesperson Mindy Mizell. "These supplies were meant to help those who have lost power and are dealing with their own flooded homes. And now they're soaked."

Fortunately, the organization has warehouses throughout the U.S. and additional pre-positioned supplies from World Vision's Domestic Disaster Headquarters in Dallas are en route. For now, World Vision teams are in New York and Washington D.C. to assess the extent of the damage in under-reported and more impoverished communities and determine how best to help.



**Wednesday, October 31, 2012**

## **World Vision targets most vulnerable and impoverished communities hit by superstorm**

- **Today World Vision disaster teams are assessing needs and damage in NY, NJ, and KY with a focus on children**
- **Crews are also working to cleanup World Vision's storehouse in the Bronx, which was under 3 - 4 feet of flood water**

While the worst of Superstorm Sandy's destruction may be over, the long-term recovery of the hardest-hit communities battered along the Eastern Seaboard is just beginning. The Christian humanitarian relief organization, World Vision, is sending relief crews into some of the most vulnerable communities in New York, New Jersey and Kentucky to assess the extent of the damage, to find which areas need the most help, and determine how children are being affected by this storm. World Vision is connecting with local partners, such as churches and community groups, to distribute relief supplies to those who will need them most.

“Our teams are seeing an immediate demand for kits to clean up flood-damaged homes,” says Phyllis Freeman World Vision's Domestic Disaster Response Director. “Blankets will also be essential in West Virginia and Kentucky where communities are experiencing heavy snowfall.” World Vision’s pre-positioned relief supplies include emergency food kits, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, blankets and tarps.

World Vision’s relief operations are continuing despite the fact the organization’s storehouse in the Bronx was flooded by 3 to 4 feet of water in the storm. Staff returned to the storehouse today to begin clean-up operations. Up to a third of the stock in the warehouse has been destroyed, but many of the supplies prepositioned for emergency relief operations remain intact. A truckload of additional supplies is also en route to the disaster area from World Vision’s National Domestic Disaster headquarters in North Texas.



**Thursday, November 1, 2012**

## **World Vision assessment teams reach out to victims in Superstorm Sandy’s aftermath**

- **Relief supplies arrive as second South Bronx site opens**
- **Assessment teams deploy from New York to Appalachia offering food and hygiene kits**

As millions in the eastern United States hard-hit by Superstorm Sandy are still without power, World Vision relief workers and volunteers are cleaning up damaged supplies in a South Bronx warehouse and opening a new facility to receive urgently needed relief supplies arriving from across the nation. World Vision, an international Christian relief and development organization, is also sending out assessment teams today to other regions hard-hit by the storm offering an initial batch of hygiene kits and food kits.

Monday, the South Bronx World Vision site was heavily damaged when the nearby East River flooded its banks destroying relief supplies. That site will be closed until repairs are completed. Today, relief supplies trucked in from World Vision's Domestic Disaster Headquarters in North Texas are arriving at a second, newly-opened New York warehouse location.

"We lost about one-third of our relief supplies when Sandy hit," says Rick Miltimore, World Vision's National Director of Resources and Relief. "However, we're mobilizing hundreds of partners to potentially reach thousands of people immediately."

World Vision assessment teams from West Virginia are also providing immediate assistance in areas hard-hit by heavy snows. In Appalachia, where power is still out, the World Vision site in Philippi, West Virginia is closed because of a power outage. This is the third day that facility has been shut down.

World Vision is now using its existing pre-positioned supplies to help as it restocks shelves. "In the last three days we have bought additional blankets, tarps and clean-up kits," says Miltimore. "Donations are critical to replenish our supplies." World Vision is setting up a long-term distribution center in New York to distribute family fundamentals (clothing, cleaning supplies and household goods). "We're going to help restore this community," says Miltimore.

**Friday, November 2, 2012**

## **World Vision distribution teams reach out to survivors in Superstorm Sandy's aftermath "You're the first people to help us."**

- **Relief teams challenged by gas shortage, heavy snow**
- **But still distributing food, flood and hygiene kits**

As millions recovering in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy are still without power, World Vision relief workers are hard at work distributing much-needed relief supplies, with more on the way. World Vision, an international Christian relief and development organization, has sent out distribution teams to regions across the eastern United States hard-hit by the storm.



"You're the first people to help us. Thank you," was the reaction from one storm survivor who got help today at a distribution set up by World Vision in Far Rockaway, New York. Hundreds of food kits were distributed along with blankets and flood cleanup kits. Each flood cleanup kit for example, contains a mop, two brooms, sponges, bleach, a scrub brush, a bucket and gloves. World Vision has ordered an additional 9,000 blankets now en route. More New York distributions

are scheduled for the days ahead. World Vision staff is working through the weekend. Crews are challenged by the lack of gasoline.

In Appalachia, where power is still out at the World Vision Storehouse in Philippi, West Virginia, heavy snows still limit mobility. This is the fourth day that facility has been shut down but food kits and water are still being distributed by staff.

Cleanup is progressing at the South Bronx World Vision Storehouse, heavily damaged Monday when the nearby East River flooded its banks destroying relief supplies. Relief supplies from World Vision’s Domestic Disaster Headquarters in North Texas and International Distribution Centers in Denver and Pittsburgh are arriving at a second, newly-opened disaster relief distribution center in the South Bronx. “We’re mobilizing hundreds of partners to reach thousands of people immediately,” says Rick Miltimore, World Vision’s National Director of Resources and Relief.

World Vision US is using existing pre-positioned supplies to help as it restocks shelves. “In the last four days, World Vision has replenished blankets, tarps and cleanup kits,” says Miltimore. “Donations are critical to replenish our supplies. We’re going to help restore these communities,” says Miltimore.

In Haiti, torrential rains from Hurricane Sandy hit the capital, Port-au-Prince. More than 20 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, prompting widespread flooding, landslides and destruction of crops. More than 70 people died. World Vision has supplied tarpaulins, hygiene kits, jerry-cans, blankets, and sleeping mats to flood-affected Haitian families from pre-positioned relief supplies.

**S O U T H B O R O U G H  
F O O D  
P A N T R Y**



Please help us help others!

**First Community Church Shopping List for November**

For the month of November will be collecting all donations that are appropriate and you are willing to give. Choose from the list below or consider making a check out to First Community Church of Southborough with a note earmarking it “Southborough Food Pantry.”

**Cookies -- Pudding -- Jell-O**



The collection box is located next to the L’il Shoppe for you to drop off your items.



## 24th Annual PI Sale

**Saturday, November 17, 2012**

In December 1988, the Board of Trustees decided to sponsor a new “venture.” A holiday pie sale! Holiday as in Christmas holiday -- As in the middle of December when the sun is the lowest on the horizon and the mercury dips to lows that challenge the warm-hearted volunteers from our Church. That inaugural year realized a net of \$337.

A few years later, it was decided that it made much more sense weather wise AND much more marketable timing wise to hold the sale the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The salesmen rejoiced warmly.

From meager beginnings, sales have reached toward almost triple that first year. As we look toward our 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive Pie Sale, wouldn't it be grand if we could reach pi (3.14159) times our first year? At \$1,058.72 that may be a bit of a reach.

Pie sales are like houses. Location, location, location. We set up around 8:30 AM in front of Mauro's (the old McCarthy's i.e. “The Spa”) in downtown Southborough on Main Street, next to the RR tracks. We sell as long as the pies keep coming or until shortly after noon.

A few guidelines from two dozen years of pie sales:

Mark the type of pie with a strong adhesive label. If food allergies are an issue, it should be so indicated (such as with or without nuts). Saran wrap or otherwise cover each pie. Deliver early to Spa location to give maximum opportunity to sell. Largest clientele tends to be between 8:00 - 10:00 AM. Or make arrangements to leave your pies in the Church kitchen the day before. Salesman will do last Church call at 8:30 AM the day of the sale.

Our customers who have bought pies from our previous sales know just what they are looking for -- blueberry, lemon meringue, banana cream, pecan, and the always popular “apple pie.” All breads are an added delight.

Remember happy salesman work best on full stomachs. This explains their frequent trips into the Spa for something to warm their bellies and their tendency to take advantage of first crack at purchasing pies.

And be on the lookout for Mrs. PPW (Pushy Pastor's Wife) (technically the Pastor's Pushy Wife) alias Darlene Sanderson, who has again offered to coordinate the list of baked goods needed. If you are able to bake anything (including cookies, breads, apple crisp, etc.) please tell Darlene. If you don't, she will be looking for you!

Thanks to the bakers without whom much Christian fellowship by the salesmen would be missed!



Photo Courtesy of Linda Hubley, Editor and Photographer of Southboroughnews.com

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## *A Service Of Thanksgiving*

This year St. Matthew Church will be hosting the annual United Parishes of Southborough Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 19 at 7:30 PM. Clergy and Laity from all of the United Parishes member churches participate in this service and is sponsored by the United Parishes Lay Council.



This is always a wonderful service and a true celebration of not only Thanksgiving but also the wonderful ecumenical spirit we enjoy in this community. Please take a moment out of a busy week to remember and celebrate all we have to be thankful for as individuals, as families, as a church, and as a nation.

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## *Spiritual Exploration Reading*

### **Tuesday afternoons with Rev. Sanderson**

We are just beginning our reading together of the short novel *The Journey to the East* by Herman Hesse (translated by Hilda Rosner).

*The Journey to the East* describes an expedition that can be charted in both geographic and spiritual terms. The hero, identified by the initials H.H., embarks on a journey with the League, a secret society whose members include Paul Klee, Klingsor, Mozart, and Albertus Magnus. In the course of their travels, in which they traverse both time and space, they come across Noah's ark in Zurich and meet Don Quixote at Bremgarten.

The harmony that ruled at the outset of the trip, however, degenerates into discord at Morbio Inferiore, a dangerous gorge, as the pilgrims begin to argue over the purpose of their mission. The fate of the voyage is sealed when Leo, the humble servant who seemed to carry everything that was truly essential for the journey, disappears. Unable to settle on a common path, much less a common pursuit, the group breaks up and each of the participants heads off in his own direction.

Years later, after the hero has returned to conventional life, he undertakes to record this adventure and, as he writes, comes to understand that it was he who failed the journey rather than the journey, which failed him. The meaning of the lesson he learned as a young initiate – that “this expedition to the East was not only mine and now; this procession of believers and disciples has always and incessantly been moving toward the East, toward the Home of Life” – becomes clear to him, and with this realization, he takes the first step toward rejoining the movement.

This novel is, of course, a metaphor for our spiritual journey, a spiritual journey that people have been on throughout the ages. It reminds us how easy it is to wander from the path, and then how we can come to even doubt that there is a path, that there is a spiritual journey.

It is worth noting that Herman Hesse was psychoanalyzed by C. G. Jung, and if one looks carefully, one can discern in much of Hesse's writings the touch of Jung's archetypal psychology.

The Tuesday afternoon study group, which is led by Reverend Sanderson, meets every Tuesday from 2:30 – 4:00 PM in the Vestry. Everyone is welcome!

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*The Advent Event* **POTLUCK** *Supper*

*& Tree Lighting Sing-A-Long*

It's that time again! Mark your calendars! Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM! Your choir will once again be hosting The Advent Event, which will put you in the holiday spirit and have you smiling throughout the entire month.

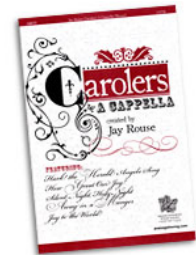


There will be a potluck supper followed by a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long in the sanctuary. And to keep with our new tradition from last year, we will have the lighting of the First Community Church Christmas Tree.

After the singing, you will be treated to dessert and even more surprises in the Vestry. It promises to be a night filled with food, fun, and fellowship. So come and join the First Community Church Choir as we gather to celebrate the beginning of the Advent season!

Please sign up on the posted sheet in the Vestry and let us know what food you will be bringing (entree, appetizer, side dish, or salad – whatever your specialty is). Desserts and drinks will be provided by the Choir.

If you would like a ride to and from the Advent Event, don't hesitate to call Jim and Cheryl Holmes (508-460-0142). We want you to be there and share in this special event with us.



*Our Gifts We Bring*

<b>MISSIONS -- JANUARY – OCTOBER 2012</b>		
<b>MISSIONS</b>	<b>COLLECTED</b>	<b>DISBURSED</b>
Straight Ahead Ministries	\$410.00	\$410.00
Assabet Valley Pastoral Counseling	\$300.00	\$300.00
Abby's House	\$433.00	\$433.00
Worcester County Food Bank	\$320.00	\$320.00
Southborough Food Pantry	\$100.00	\$100.00
Heifer Project	\$300.00	\$300.00
Church World Service	\$251.00	\$251.00
Haiti – "His Royal Ministry"	\$325.00	\$325.00
Rape Crisis Center	\$250.00	\$250.00
Stop Girl Trafficking Project (American Himalayan Foundation)	\$325.00	\$325.00
Tibet Mission	\$295.00	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$3,339.00</b>	<b>\$3,014.00</b>

Bob Farmer  
Treasurer



....*The Women's Fellowship*

2012 Membership: Mattie Cummings (President & Secretary); Martha Hubley (Vice President); Beverly Lees (Treasurer); Beth Hook (Corresponding Secretary) and all Women of First Community Church of Southborough

Meetings: 6:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month (except January, February, July and August)

Responsibilities:

The Women's Fellowship has been and will continue to be a very special group within the church family at First Community Church of Southborough.

The work of the Women's Fellowship is ever on going and ever changing as we minister to the church family and the greater community.

Annual Accomplishments:

- November Sunshine Baskets to our shut-ins
- February Annual Meeting Luncheon
- November Pie Sale Fundraiser
- Christmas Fundraiser
- All collations when needed
- Kitchen clean ups
- Bake Table Fundraiser
- Co-hosting meals with our sister church, Pilgrim Church, for the United Parishes Lenten Series programs
- Overall general support of other programs going on in the Church such as Yard Sales, Southborough Food Pantry, etc.

Recent accomplishments and programs: When possible the Women's Fellowship sponsors Guest Speakers and entertaining programs to enlighten and inform the Church and our greater community.

- Zack Bird and Angie De Cormier, FCC close friends, spoke to us about their work at the New England Center for Children (NECC) and their future work in Abu Dhabi. NECC, located right here in Southborough, is a national recognized leader for AGA treatment, early intervention, preschool, day school, and residential services for children with Autism and PDD since 1975.
- Joanne Koenig Coste, the author of *Learning to Speak Alzheimer's* and international consultant to healthcare providers and an outspoken advocate for Alzheimer Disease (AD) patients and families. Joanne, invited by Sandy McKeen, spoke about her own life as a caregiver to a loved one with AD, and opened our eyes and hearts to other caregivers who were and are living with this disease.
- Joined with efforts of people all around the country on "Make A Difference Day" by collecting clothing and many household goods for Abby's House, one of our many Mission Outreaches, located in Worcester MA.
- Created and published a new church cookbook "*Gracing the Table.*"
- Worked together to design and sew many "Pillow Case Dresses" for our Haiti Mission.
- Rev. Jeanne Friswell, a Tai Chi instructor with over twenty-four years of experience put on an informative program on Tai Chi and taught us some new energizing body movements as well as some breathing exercises.
- Mary Brown gave us an Art Deco presentation with a lesson in oil painting. She brought some of her painted pieces on canvas and wood, as well as some in black and white that got us all thinking about painting. Mary is the sister of Barbara Crane.

Your Input Is Welcome: There is much more that could be said but let's just say the Women's Fellowship adds so very much to our First Community Church of Southborough. Our fellowship is always open to all the women of the Church.

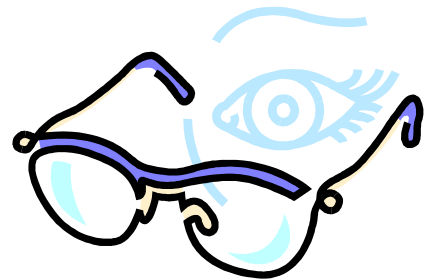
*\*This is the fourth in a series of focus articles on the Boards and Committees of First Community Church of Southborough*

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## *Have You Seen One?*

The question has been posed.

Has any one ever seen an angel in our Church? Or any sign of an angel? I'm not talking about the human "angels" but heavenly angels. We have one, but want to know if anyone has seen it. If so, please see Darlene or Rev. Sanderson.



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## *A Blast From The Past*

### **125 Years Ago**

#### **1887 – November**

- ◆ November 2nd, meeting called to order by the clerk. J.E.S. Moore elected moderator. Meeting called for purpose of considering hiring Rev. Truman Merrill for a year or longer. Motion made that we employ Mr. Merrill for one year and one month from Dec. 1, 1887 if we can obtain the aid from the missionary Society that we have heretofore been receiving (\$350); that we make it up to six hundred dollars as the Ministers salary. Motion carried.

Mr. E.A. Guild motioned the Treasurer collect and send five dollars to the Treasurer of the "Union." He offered to give one of the dollars and Miss Susie LeBosquet offered to give another. Motion carried.

Moved to adjourn. Isota L. Tyler (clerk)

### **50 Years Ago**

#### **1962 – November**

- ◆ The Women's Fellowship held a meeting at the Walker Missionary Home in Auburndale. Mrs. Wilder spoke to us about her work in India. This was also "Fair Month" November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The theme was the Country Store and proved to be a great success. The Men's Club operated a very successful "coffee shop."

### **25 Years Ago**

#### **1987 – November**

- ◆ The stewardship drive culminated with an every member canvass on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The response was gratifying with 36 pledges received totaling an estimated income of \$15,651 for 1988.
- ◆ The Women's Fellowship made up and distributed 21 Sunshine Baskets; one of their best loved and appreciated activities. Bessie Blake started this tradition many, many years ago and until recently, her family maintained a special fund for this purpose in her name. The Women's Fellowship voted to reestablish this fund in her name in memory of her.

### **10 Years Ago**

#### **2002 – November**

- ◆ The Sunday School celebrated with a Thanksgiving banquet.
- ◆ An ecumenical Thanksgiving service was held at St. Marks Church.
- ◆ The Church Fair was held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> with all the ladies of the Women's Fellowship contributing in some way to this very successful fair.
- ◆ The fellowship met on November 19<sup>th</sup> and made up over 20 Sunshine Baskets for shut-ins. Jean Hunt provided baskets and ribbon for the project.
- ◆ Stewardship Sunday was celebrated on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The result was 36 pledges including the Women's Fellowship for a total of \$47,572.

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## *Women's Fellowship*

*"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Psalm 126:5*

The Women's Fellowship met on October 16 with all officers present. Evelyn Till, who was visiting family and friends here in Massachusetts, also joined us. We finished updating our shut-in list and gave special thanks to Sandy McKeen and Helen Varney for working on that effort.

On Tuesday, November 13 we will have our meeting at 6:30 PM to make up fifteen Sunshine Baskets to distribute to our shut-ins. We are asking for contributions from our church family this year to help fill these baskets. We are looking for diabetic items, homemade baked goods (pre-wrapped), store-bought goods, granola bars, wrapped crackers and cheeses, etc. Contributed items may be brought to the church any Sunday through November 11. Please see Mattie Cummings or Martha Hubley if you have any questions. That evening Mattie will be leading the devotions and Martha Hubley will take care of the refreshments.

We also filled in our calendar schedule for the rest of 2012.

Our "Christmas Table" Fundraiser will be held again this year with varied Christmas items for sale on the first three Sundays in December (2, 9, and 16). As in the past, we would appreciate any and all Christmas item donations for the table. See Mattie Cummings or Karin Farmer about any items you want to donate.

December 9 is our date for the Women's Fellowship Christmas Party to be held at the Church. We will meet together at 1:00 PM after Morning Worship Service and Coffee Hour. Barbara Crane will be responsible for devotions and other members attending will be bringing light finger foods and desserts. All women of the Church are invited and as always, we will have our Yankee Gift Swap (\$8.00 minimum cost on gifts).

Mattie Cummings  
Secretary

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## *Spiritual Study & Growth Group*

**Thursday Evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM**  
**Led By Rev. Sanderson**

The theme of our Thursday evening Spiritual Study and Growth Group this fall is the relationship of Jungian psychology (the psychology of Carl Gustav Jung), particularly the dynamics of the persona and shadow, to the Christian faith and to our personal, social, national, and international conflicts.

We are reading (together in the sessions) Robert Louis Stevenson's short novel *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* to explore how Stevenson's resolution of the ego-shadow conflict compares with that suggested by Jung, and how this is congruent with the teachings of Jesus.

The Spiritual Study and Growth Group meets every Thursday from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Vestry. The group is open to all.

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## *Giving Thanks*

No matter how you look at it, November is a “thank you” month. The Pilgrims, finally landing at Plymouth Rock, and in spite of their remarkably fearful and arduous journey, knelt down and gave thanks to God.

Even after surviving that first unrelentingly long and crushingly cruel New England winter, which resulted in the loss of too many souls due to illness and starvation, they then faced the enormous task of settling permanently into virgin territory, building homes and staying alive.

That subsequent first year they tackled whatever was necessary and urgent; clearing, tilling, planting, harvesting for present consumption and storing provisions for winter’s survival. They certainly were not afraid of hard work under tight restrictions, demanding conditions, and the ever present threats of another New England unpredictable weather on the horizon.

They prepared a meal and again gave thanks to God and with their new found friends, the Native Americans, ate together, sharing whatever they had with each other. They enjoyed the fruits of their harvest, wild berries, herbs, and nuts. They fished for all kinds of shellfish and hunted for wild life. The Natives brought corn, wild honey, deer and other meats that they had hunted for (but, no turkey!). They felt fortunate and blessed to be free of the strictures that forbid the practice of their faith and they gave thanks!



It was many, many years later that we, as a country, created a holiday called Thanksgiving Day, designated to occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November and was dedicated to remembrance and recognition of those early settlers who began it all here in New England. Their desire to worship freely paved the way for tolerance and respect for those who may not believe the same way we do. Just think, that precarious and fragile beginning almost failed!

I for one, deem Thanksgiving Day as one of the most important holidays we observe; gathering together and giving thanks for all we have received -- praising God for His many blessings freely given for family so precious and the freedom from want.

Thanksgiving dinner represents God’s abundant gifts to His people. For those of faith, we know all our gifts ultimately come from God, whose most important gifts were love and life itself, our creation. Other gifts throughout time are too numerous to recite, yet are uniquely individual as well as universal.

In time, after we (mankind) demonstrated an attitude of expectation from Him with little thought of giving thanks to the giver, turmoil reigned and He recognized our desperate need to somehow reconnect with Him. As a result, we received the greatest gift of all, His son – Jesus’ birth, teachings, death and resurrection -- Our second chance!

**God is ever giving!      We are ever receiving!      Shouldn’t we be ever thanking too?**

Let Thanksgiving Day encourage us to be ever giving thanks! Happy Thanksgiving.

Martha Hubley  
FCC Columnist

## “Just The Facts, Ma’am”

Our Church Internet Ministry is definitely getting some “hits” as they say in “Internet lingo.” Here are a few interesting facts about what people are “checking out” on our website.



For our standard website, some selected statistics for the last three months:



Total visits – 310



60% of these were new visitors



The top pages that have been visited:

Sermons – 176

Newsletter - 98

Pastor - 79

Who We Are - 65

Music Ministry - 30

Fellowship - 20

Spiritual Study - 19



Visitors from the US, Norway, Canada, United Kingdom, Burma, China and India as well as other countries have viewed our site



In the US, sermons are being downloaded by many towns in New England as well as cities such as Lynchburg and Chicago



69 visitors have viewed our site on mobile devices such as tablets and iPods

Some statistics for our audio sermon (blog) site:



In the past year since we started posting - a total of 366 have listened to or downloaded sermons



In the last 30 days, 44 have listened to or downloaded sermons



In the 24 hours between Nov 1 and Nov 2, 5 have listened to or downloaded sermons

Dave Crane  
Website Coordinator

## From The Editor

The deadline for the December 2012 Newsletter will be **Sunday, November 18**. Remember to include any dates for meetings or events you would like listed on the calendar.

Articles and/or dates for the calendar may be submitted to Cheryl Holmes by:



(508) 460-0142



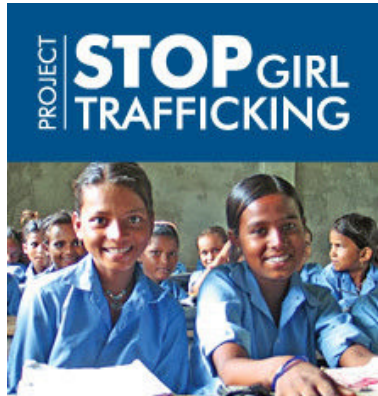
244 Flanders Road  
Westborough, MA 01581



caholmes@charter.net

# Thank You

## *From Our Missions*



Dear Friends at First Community Church of Southborough,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful gift to the American Himalayan Foundation. As you requested, your kindness will keep girls safe in school.

Poverty and a caste system that does not value girls have made Nepal a haven for traffickers who prey on the desperation of rural families by promising marriage or jobs to their daughters. But instead the girls are made slaves or sold into Indian brothels, a cruel waste of up to 20,000 young lives every year.

It is possible, however, to help girls escape this web of lies and exploitation – and we are doing it. Education prevents – and prevention is the key – girls from being trafficked. Being in school gives them the skills and confidence that helps their families understand that they have worth.

Our partnership with the fabulous Dr. Aruna Uprety and RHEST has kept 10,000 at-risk girls in school and away from a life filled with despair and abuse. 10,000 girls and we have not lost even one.

Thanks for being part of it!

Sincerely,

Erica Stone  
President



## *From Our Pastor*

Darlene and I would like to thank the church for the wonderful celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of my call to serve as Pastor of this church. Everything was wonderful: the many cards and expressions of appreciation; the gift certificate to the Wayside Inn; the modern tree sculpture adorned with \$5 bills as leaves (see Pastor's Message), and the magnificent luncheon.

Also – it was a total surprise! We were both touched by your expressions of gratitude for the gifts we find so much joy in sharing with you, and we celebrate the relationship we have built over the fifteen years that we have spent together in the life and ministry of this church.

## *From Our Friends*

To all at First Community Church,

Just to take a moment to thank you all for your prayers, cards, and good wishes. I think they must be helping because I'm still doing good.

I think of you all from time to time. I miss the choir and our rehearsals together. I miss the family of us all being together for the annual cookout and the fundraiser we all worked on.

It's good to have family and thank you for being there for me. God Bless You all.

Love,  
Dennis Roy

## *With Our Special Thanks To --*

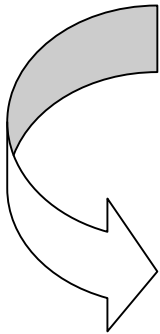
- ◆ All those who participated in the planning and/or the execution of the very special 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Rev. Sanderson's call to ministry: Barbara Crane, David Crane, Mattie Cummings, Karin Farmer, Joyce Harrington, Cheryl Holmes, Jim Holmes, Marlene Joe, Beverly Lees, Bob L'Heureux, Sandy McKeen, Dianne Simmons, Cathy Ten Eyck, and Helen Varney.
- ◆ The Choir and David Sickles, the Director, for hosting the special coffee hour to celebrate Michael Larson's 15 years of beautiful music to our church.

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*For beauty in nature, Your glory we see  
 For joy and health, friends and family.  
 For daily provision, Your mercy and care  
 These are the blessings You graciously share.  
 So today we offer this response of praise  
 With a promise to follow You all of our days.*

*by Mary Fairchild*



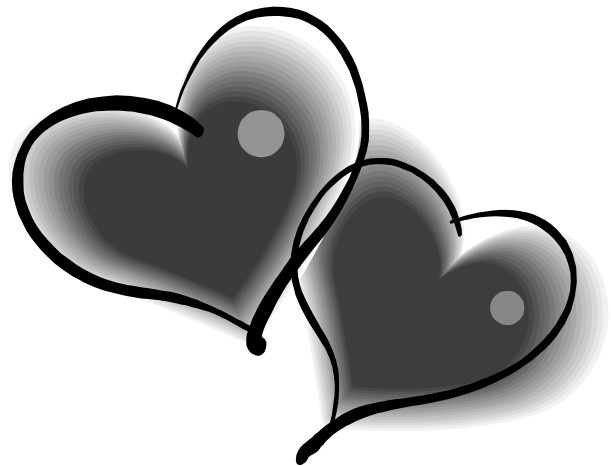


# LOOKING AHEAD

The Advent Potluck & Christmas Tree  
Lighting Event  
Saturday, December 1



## Write down these dates!!



### *Birthdays*

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Shirley Hutchinson | 4 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Beverly Lees       | 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| Austin Renaud      | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Mackenzie Renaud   | 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Earle Watkins      | 17 <sup>th</sup> |
| Dennis Roy         | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Garcia Passley     | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| Ann Deschamps      | 25 <sup>th</sup> |
| Sharon Willman     | 26 <sup>th</sup> |

# CELEBRATIONS

### *Anniversaries*

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Diane & Ron Sickles      | 8 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Darlene & Paul Sanderson | 18 <sup>th</sup> |



# Forgiveness

## Part 3

21. *When you are having a difficult time forgiving, recall a moment when you wanted to be forgiven. Offer the other person what you wanted to receive.*
22. *Forgiveness takes practice. Start with small hurts and work your way up to the big ones.*
23. *Forgiveness is a lifelong process. Forgive over and over – even for the same offense.*
24. *Forgiveness may seem futile when you see no immediate results. But healing and growth are like fine aged cheese – not instant mashed potatoes. Give forgiveness time.*
25. *No one can make you feel bad. You have the power to choose between getting bitter and getting better. Take responsibility for your feelings; claim your power.*
26. *You cannot change someone for the better by holding a grudge. Grudges only change you - for the worse.*
27. *Ask yourself whether “I can't forgive” means “I won't forgive.” Then turn your heart toward the warmth of God's love and allow that love to thaw your heart.*
28. *Forgiveness takes courage and determination. Dig deep and you will find the strength you need.*
29. *Allow forgiveness to open the door to reconciliation. Today's bully could be tomorrow's friend.*
30. *Accept the possibility of rebuilding a relationship. Past offenses can be bulldozed and buried and a better life built atop the debris.*
31. *Don't put conditions on your forgiveness, or your inner peace will depend on the decisions of the person who hurt you. Make your own choice.*
32. *When someone won't forgive you, refusing to forgive in return is no answer. That's like wrapping yourself in the other's chain. Keep yourself free; forgive.*
33. *To help you forgive, picture the other person surrounded by the light of God. See yourself stepping into that same light, and feel God's presence with you both.*
34. *Forgive even when there has been no apology or restitution. If you withhold forgiveness until a wrong is made right, you risk condemning yourself to a life sentence of unresolved bitterness; you risk letting your life be shaped by someone else's actions.*
35. *Forgiveness is not something you do for someone else; it is something you do for yourself. Give yourself the gift of forgiveness.*

*The End*

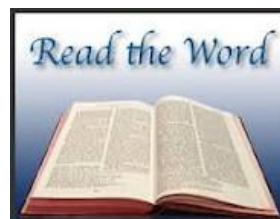
*Author: David W. Schell*

*Karin Farmer  
Contributing Columnist*

For we are laborers together with God...(1 Corinthians 3:9)

Lay Readers

November 4 - Pat Grogan  
November 11 - Martha Hubley  
November 18 - Cathy Ten Eyck  
November 25 - Joyce Harrington



Greeters

November 4 - Beverly Lees  
November 11 - Cathy Ten Eyck  
November 18 - Garcia, Roy, & Nigel Pinnock  
November 25 -

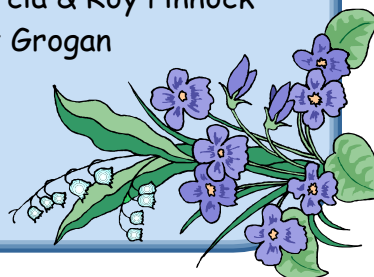
Coffee Hour Hosts

November 4 - Beth Hook & Eileen Prefontaine  
November 11 - Marlene Joe  
November 18 -  
November 25 - Joyce Harrington







Memorial Flowers

November 4 - Cheryl & Jim Holmes  
November 11 - Beverly Lees  
November 18 - Garcia & Roy Pinnock  
November 25 - Pat Grogan



Deacons for November

Bob L'Heureux and Scott McKeen

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                                                                                                                 | Tuesday                                                                                                                               | Wednesday | Thursday                                                                                   | Friday | Saturday                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <h1>November 2012</h1> <h2>Missions -- World Vision</h2>                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                       |           | 1<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                          | 2      | 3<br><br><i>Set Your Clocks<br/>Back 1 Hour</i>     |
| 4<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br><i>Sacrament of Holy Communion</i><br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                                              | 5<br>7:00 PM<br>United Parishes'<br>Lay Council<br>Meeting                                                                                                             | 6<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:30 PM<br>Diaconate Meeting                  | 7         | 8<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                          | 9      | 10                                                                                                                                     |
| 11<br><br><b>VETERANS DAY</b><br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                       | 12                                                                                                                                                                     | 13<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>6:15 PM<br>Trustee's Meeting<br>6:30 PM<br>Women's Fellowship              | 14        | 15<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                         | 16     | 17<br><br><b>Annual Pie Sale</b><br>8:30 AM – 12 PM |
| 18<br><b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY<br/>&amp;<br/>THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b><br>9:15 AM Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service<br><br>*December Newsletter Deadline* | 19<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual<br>Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>7:30 PM<br><b>United Parishes<br/>Ecumenical<br/>"Service of<br/>Thanksgiving"</b><br>St. Matthew Church | 20<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group                                                                               | 21        | 22<br> | 23     | 24                                                                                                                                     |
| 25<br>9:15 AM Adult Bible Study<br>10:30 AM Choir Rehearsal<br>11:00 AM Sunday School<br>11:00 AM Worship Service<br>Coffee Hour following Worship Service                                                                                                      | 26                                                                                                                                                                     | 27<br>2:30 PM<br>Spiritual Exploration<br>Reading Group<br>5:00 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>6:00 PM<br>Stewardship & Growth<br>Committee | 28        | 29<br>7:00 PM<br>Spiritual Study &<br>Growth Group                                         | 30     |                                                                                                                                        |