

Open hearts

Open minds

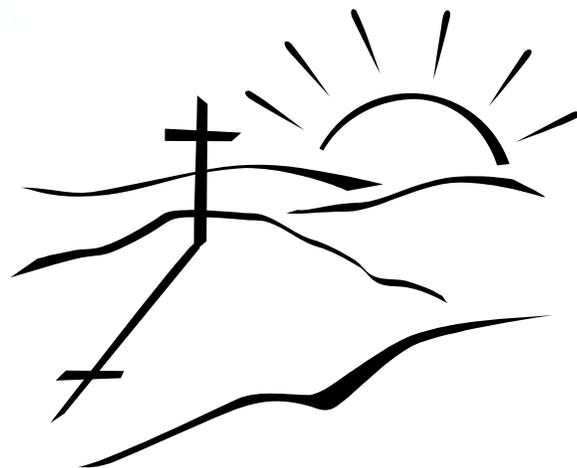
Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



Faith United Methodist Church
8640 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

They will mock him,
and spit upon him,
and flog him,
and kill him;



and after three days he will rise again.

Mark 10

The *Koinonia* is a monthly publication from Faith United Methodist Church. Its purpose is to provide items of interest and information about events and people related to the ministry of the church locally, district-wide and the conference.

Robert T. Hoshibata	Resident Bishop
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The KOINONIA
Monthly Newsletter from
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The Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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April 2014

From the **PASTOR**—

Celebrate!

I just spent 48 hours at a retreat for the Conference clergy called "The Gathering." In addition to wonderful worship and great times of fellowship catching up with colleagues' lives and activities, Bishop Bob enriched the time with his presence and his wisdom.

He addressed the group on three occasions with topics that point to the vitality of the church. Bishop Bob made it clear that he was not talking about the "numbers" that we are to report (attendance, groups, baptisms, membership); rather he was speaking of the vitality of the people who ARE the church. Although he was speaking to clergy regarding their leadership, I believe that this must be applied to everyone.

The first was HEALTH – our self-care – a balance in our lives. Do we offset being busy with some kind of relaxation? Quiet time, vacation, hobbies. Do we take care of our physical needs? Exam, exercise, diet. Do we have a time that we care for our spirits? Prayer, meditation, resting in God's grace. Without some kind of self-care, suffering results: for ourselves, our families, our church, and our relationship with God.

The second was EMPOWERMENT – delegation of activities to others: church leadership, in our workplaces, with our children. It means training, bestowing, permitting, mentoring, being in covenant, enriching lives, giving up power to others. It all has to do with



relationships and being connected to others. It means being willing to give up some control to others. Antonyms would be having hidden agendas, degrading or under-cutting others.

The third was application of the general rules of the UMC. We've learned them in short form: Do No Harm; Do Good; Stay in Love with God. I've talked with you about them. I've even preached about them. Bishop Bob put a slightly new twist on them. He applied them to the "hot potatoes" – the "elephants in the room" – of our Church – those topics or issues that "we don't want to talk about" because we have difficulty agreeing on how to deal with them and we don't want to "raise anyone's hackles." Some of these divisive issues include: quality of life (abortion, euthanasia), marriage equality (same sex unions/marriages), citizenship (immigration laws), sex trafficking (economics and exploitation), violence (gun control, capital punishment).

In thinking about these topics we need to consider several things: to be educated on all perspectives of the issues; to look to scripture that supports all sides of them; and then to be in prayer about the issues.

And then we need to respond to the 3 rules in regards to the issues: 1) what is the harm in the activity; 2) what is the good in the activity; 3) how does this activity help us stay in love with God?

I would be interested in hearing your response to this. Please contact me if you have any thoughts you would like to share. Don't be afraid of touching "hot potatoes" or addressing "the elephant in the room."

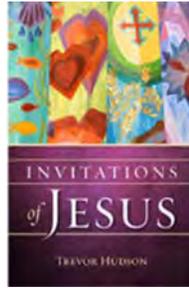
Shalom, Pastor Judy

the corner pew:

invitations of Jesus

Sermon Series

We are considering these invitations in our Lenten Study. In the first week we were asked to think about what invitations in life we have refused, discarded, or over-looked; and then ponder if we had a sense of loss in missing those. That's a tall request, I think – but one worth contemplating.



They have to do with these being invitations to the transformation of our lives. They are entitled: "Invitation to Transforming...." – Intimacy; Discipleship; Solitude; Mission; and Mystery.

Each of the lessons begins with looking at our relationship with God in regards to these topics – being drawn deeper and more meaningfully into that relationship. If we stop with that, however, we isolate ourselves. We must then turn these values outwardly in order to deepen our relationships with others: family, friends, neighbors, even enemies.

I encourage all of us to use this Lenten Season as a time of reflection into our spiritual lives. Thoughtfully read the Lenten Devotional booklet. If you've already looked at all the offerings, re-read them prayerfully, considering how they may relate to your lives. Look at the Lenten Calendar and consider why each activity was placed on it. How do they draw you closer to God; to Christ? What do they have to say about your values and your lives?

And then enter into the special services that are being offered: Wednesday Holden Evening Prayer; Maundy Thursday – 7:00 p.m.; Good Friday – noon. If you have "given up" or "taken on" something for Lent, use that time to be in prayer. All of these activities and ponderings will help you with the third general rule of: Staying in Love with God.

Blessings, Pastor Judy

Apr 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 11:1-45
"God's Promise of New Life"

Apr. 13 - Palm - Passion Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11 (Palms)
Matthew 27:11-54 (Passion)

"God's Promise of Presence in Good & Bad Times"

Apr. 20 - Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. - Sunrise Service
10:00 a.m. - Cantata

John 20:1-18

"God's Promise of a Risen Christ"

Apr 27 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
"Peace with Doubt "

Additional Services during Holy Week

Apr. 17 - Maundy Thursday

Footwashing and Communion

John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Apr. 18 - Good Friday - Noon

John 19

A Service of Meditation

* * *



Faith UMC will again be hosting families in the Family Promise program the week of **April 27th through May 3rd**. If you are able to help, please contact Gary and Jane Kriege.

Joshua's Journey

Recently I had a reverse interview with an interim team leader. I was discussing with the interim team leader about their qualities and what they would offer to the team they were about to lead. It's our organization's way of getting "managing up" when someone is joining a unit.



He explained how he has "come up from the ranks" and listed all his years in a whole other division of our company, and all his accomplishments, which is all well and good. I definitely felt that he has the personality and the potential to lead such a dynamic group of people.

Near the end of the conversations, they asked me what aspirations I have in life, because I have been in the same or similar roles for about six out of my ten years at the company. I explained to him what I was doing within the church, ministry, and school, and that I felt called to full-time ministry. He asked me

why I was pursuing this role and not something "higher up the career ladder" in our company.

I told him that I see the true goodness in everyone. I shared that being in service to God's church in full-time ministry is what I believe my purpose in life is, and now that I have discerned and pursued this call I feel I am where God needs me to be. My answer, I believe, startled him as he was not ready for what I was sharing since that mindset is unconventional in the corporate world.

Thinking about that conversation and reflecting on the life of Jesus as we go further into the Lenten season, isn't that what Jesus did? He seriously looked beyond what was visible, looked into other's souls, and saw the goodness in everyone, even those who criticized and eventually crucified him.

In our lives on earth, this is our time to look beyond descriptors or identifiers. We must look beyond what we perceive, and look at others with the eyes of Christ. By doing so, we are living out our calling as Christ's children to be the hands and feet of God to the world.

In God's Graces, Joshua

FAITH'S FREE BOOK PROGRAM

Free Books for Children was a program started at Faith four years ago and has been delightful in every way. Originally the thought was to get the books into the hands of children but almost immediately we became aware of the need and desire to expand including all family members. We, Pat Evans, Terry Goekler and I, finish this summer hoping and praying someone young or not so young may choose to take over. We can guarantee you a rich experience providing books to families. The first year an 8 year old came in and announced "we don't have one book in our home" and her dad stated that as a slight exaggeration. They returned the next year. If you might be interested in taking over we'd love to have you join us this summer, Friday mornings in June. We can always use the help and you may have suggestions for changes. Contact one of us or the church office.

Karen Clark



GRANDMA'S LUNCH BUNCH

The monthly lunch group, "Grandma's Lunch Bunch" met on March 20 for lunch at Alexi's on Union Hills and 19th Ave. There

were ten ladies present to enjoy a lunch & visit session.

It was decided to go to "Shangri-La" for Chinese lunch on April 17th. Shangri-La Chinese Restaurant is located at 2855 W. Cactus Rd. We will meet there at 11:30 for food and fellowship. All ladies are welcome to join in the fun.

THE PROPHET IN THE CHOIR

Dear Friends:

This is all Jesus had to say in the Gospels about homosexuality in all of its forms:

Matthew. NOTHING

Mark NOTHING

Luke NOTHING

John NOTHING

Paul did discuss it in Romans 1, but he was referring to acts of pagans in the Roman capital and was not talking about same-sex orientation.

So when the United Methodist Book of Discipline for 2012 says in ¶ 304.3 that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, it begs the question.

Upon what Christian teaching is this idea based? It is certainly not based on New Testament Scriptural teaching. We then must look to the subordinate parts of John Wesley's Quadrilateral: Reason, Experience and Tradition.

Reason – with the absence of a sound basis in the basic documents of Christianity, reason has nothing to do with it.

Experience – human experience is tainted by prejudice, and is also subjective in nature, thus determining that the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teachings through this filter isn't justified.

Tradition – the Old Testament negatively discusses homosexuality in various places. However, it places divorce in a significantly

MISSION STATEMENT

Faith United Methodist Church

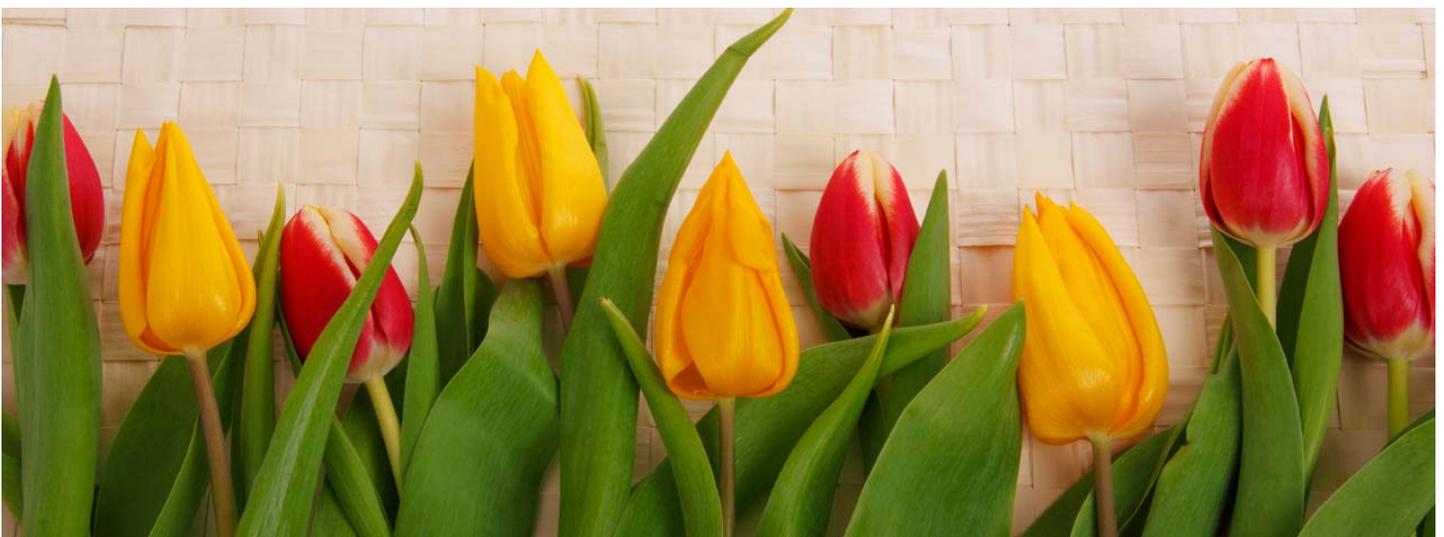
Faith United Methodist Church is an inclusive* Christian congregation dedicated to the care of its constituents in order to serve the local community; and in co-operation with other faith-based organizations, to reach out to all persons* who seek personal acceptance, require sustaining assistance, or yearn for a meaningful life purpose beyond self.

*Regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation.

more negative light than it does homosexuality. Jesus also disapproved of divorce. Divorce doesn't stop someone from being remarried or ordained in the United Methodist Church, but it does stop someone of same-sex orientation from either being ordained or getting married. The traditional argument is just that – traditional. It falls under the Seven Last Words: we've always done it that way before. Divorce used to bar people from active participation in Methodist ministry. Being a woman did as well.

From my own perspective, excluding openly practicing homosexuals from ordination and marriage in the United Methodist Church is inconsistent and incompatible with the commandment of Jesus that we love one another.

Howard J. Moses , Chaplain



TRUSTEE REPORT

Our Fellow Faithonians

As we look into April things around the church are beginning to take shape.

- Our new road connecting the parking lots between Faith and Washington school has been completed and is ready for use. Please see the separate article with the hours of operation
- Improvements to the lighting, both inside and outside, are currently underway. Keep a sharp eye as these improvements take shape.
- The kitchen is also showing signs of an upgrade or two. Thanks to all those who are taking part in the renovation.
- We have added lighting and power to the new community garden.

Please enjoy this lovely weather while it's never here long enough.

That's all for now see you soon.

Jerry Dotto, Trustee Chair

THANK YOU!



Thanks to all of you for the gifts, good wishes, and delightful retirement celebration you gave me. I have a wonderful family in Faith UMC!

Dolores Pfaff

DUET TO HOLD CABARET

Duet presents Duet Cabaret on Sunday, April 27th at 1:30 pm at Montelucia Resort & Spa - Omni. Enjoy the music of Dmitri Matheny Group featuring Renee Patrick plus a sumptuous meal, dancing, cocktails, and silent and live auctions. Proceeds will support Duet's free-of-charge health and aging services. \$125 per person. Purchase your ticket by April 21 at www.duetaz.org or 602-274-5022. A good way to support our shared interfaith cause!

NEW ROAD AND GATE HOURS OF OPERATION



While the new road and gate is a welcome addition and provides much needed access during the light rail construction it will only be available during specified hours. Please make note of the following restrictions.

Be sure to use the appropriate "in" and "out" lanes in the school's parking lot.

The road will be available for use during the following hours:

- Sundays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Weekdays for classes & meetings: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; 4:45 p.m. - end of class/meeting.

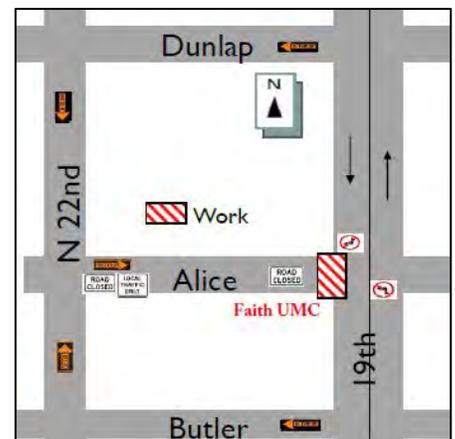
The last person leaving is responsible for making sure the gate is closed.

The road must NOT be used when

- School children are outside.
- Before 9:00 a.m. as school buses are coming and going
- Between 2:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. as school buses are coming and going

ALICE ROAD CLOSURE

Due to gas line installation, SRP irrigation installation, and traffic signal installation the intersection of 19th Avenue and Alice will be closed from March 29th through April 19th. Construction dates and restrictions may change due to weather or unforeseen conditions.



FLEA MARKET DECLARED A SUCCESS

Good weather, good food, good vendors = good time!

We did it again! Our 25th Flea Market has been declared a success despite the 19th Avenue construction.



The light-rail construction continued to have an adverse effect on public attendance; but vendors and customers who did participate seemed to have a good experience. Plus the weather was co-operative with no cold or rain; but just a few gusty winds mid-morning.

The women's bake sale was a big success as usual. Early arriving vendors were particularly eager for the baked goods to show up as well as the breakfast burritos. The men's food concession did it's usual good business as the day wore on.

Of the vendors who signed up last November, only three were "no-shows". Their rental will be carried over to our 11/08/14 event. We signed up three new vendors between the time our sign went up and the day of the event, plus one more on the day of the event. So, we ended up with only 6 of the 54 spaces not rented.

The church granted a space to the West Alice Community Garden for its promotional use. The Krieges inform us that a great deal of interest in our newest endeavor was shown and that at least two people expressed an interest in renting a plot for the next planting. John Goad

and some others donated several items for sale to raise money for the installation of the Garden's irrigation system.

At the February meeting of the Church's Neighborhood Outreach Committee (under whose auspice's the Flea Market is conducted by our men's group), it was decided to lower the rents we charge for spaces and tables if the traffic was too sparse. It was the consensus that it would be better to keep the event "alive" rather than shut it down and try to relaunch it after the construction was completed. When early morning traffic indicated the need to do so, we informed the vendors that we were

reducing the rent to \$5 per space and \$2 per table "for the duration" to encourage them to re-up. All but three of them did so! Plus, we signed up one new vendor and gave two more inquirers information for the fall



sale.

So, it's a GO for November 8, 2014. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this most recent event the success that it was. body

*Gary Drown,
Flea Market Registrar*



WEBINARS FROM GBOD

. The General Board of Ministries (GBOD) is offering several interesting webinars in the near future. Pastor Judy is willing to set some of these up in the office if anyone is interested in participating. For further information contact Pastor Judy or visit the GBOD website (www.gbod.org).

Developing Your Ministry Plan 3: Discovering Your Discipleship Process

This session focuses on three key areas of congregational life: values, small groups, and social outreach.

Thursday, April 3, 2014 - 4:30 pm - 1 hour

New Children's Ministers

Recruitment and retention is a continual challenge in children's ministry programs. This interactive webinar will review how to most successfully recruit people to serve as well as provide tangible tools online, print, and verbal for identifying and encouraging adults to both connect with children's ministry programs and continue serving. Participants will also discuss how to encourage and empower adults for effective ministry.

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 - 8:00 am - 1 hour

Teaching the Way of Jesus

Following Jesus is a primary affirmation of all Christians. We seek, as we are able, to be disciples of the ministry that Jesus released into the world. Therefore, what does it mean for us to educate "followers of Jesus" for faithful living in the world? We will look at six key directions to focus our ministries in Christian education.

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 - 4:30 pm - 1 hour

Media: What's Trending in Elementary School

Media is such a general word, and most of the time we focus on media exposure of young children or media use by teenagers. What about elementary children who are too young for most social media, but savvy enough to navigate any electronic they can hold in their hands?

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 - 10:00 pm - 1 hour

Children's Ministry: Choosing Curriculum

This interactive webinar will focus on some of the important aspects to consider when selecting curriculum, including the theological perspective, the teaching perspective, and the needs of the students. Participants will examine a variety of curriculums and identify the perspectives of each as well as consider resources and costs associated with curriculum decisions.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 - 8:00 am - 1 hour

Developing Your Ministry Plan 4: Worship, Small Groups, and the Next 12 Months

Building on the previous three sessions, your team will be guided in a process to identify key steps for your congregational development. The focus will be on small groups and worship as well as thinking about putting your ideas into action.

Thursday, May 8, 2014 - 4:30 pm - 1 hour

Stewardship: What's New in the Toolbox?

Annual Campaign Helps for You!

Will your church be planning an annual campaign this year? If so, have you looked at some of the new resources that are available? If not, there are some simple ideas that you might want to try that could increase giving in 2015!

Thursday, May 15, 2014 - 4:30 pm

Children's Ministry: Created By God

This interactive webinar will equip participants for either coordinating or leading Created by God experiences that teach 'tweens about bodies, growth and development, relationships, reproduction, and God's role and desire for this process. We will discuss how parents and tweens practicing family communication skills can begin to operate from common vocabulary, understanding, and experience, and we will examine how this practice makes a healthy space for asking questions.

Participants should expect to WRITE THE WORDS out loud.

Thursday, May 29, 2014 - 8:00 am - 1 hour

EASTER SERVICES

Faith UMC will have two services on Easter morning. We will once again have a Living Cross. It will be present at both services. Don't forget to bring fresh-cut flowers to adorn the cross.



The sunrise service will be held in the patio garden at 7:00 a.m. and will include communion.



The late service will be at 10:00 a.m. - note that this is 1/2 hour later than normal Sunday services. This service will include the Easter Cantata featuring the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and Handbell Choir.

RECIPE FROM SOUP SUPPERS

If you have attended the Soup and Bread Suppers during Lent you know how delicious some of the soups and breads have been. LaVonna has graciously passed on her recipe for

Taco Soup.

Ingredients

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 lbs ground beef or turkey | 1 15oz whole kernel corn |
| 1 large onion, diced | 1 14oz can stewed tomatoes |
| 3 cloves garlic, chopped fine | 1 10oz can diced tomato with green chilies |
| 2-3 Tablespoons olive oil | 1 4.5oz can chopped green chilies |
| 1 envelope taco seasoning | 2 fresh Anaheim chilies, roasted, skinned and chopped (optional) |
| 1 envelope Hidden Valley Ranch Salad Dressing Mix | Flour or corn fresh tortillas for garnish (or use chips) |
| 1 16oz can chili beans not drained | |
| 1 15oz can pinto beans not drained | |

In Dutch oven sauté onion in olive oil until soft and golden brown. Add garlic and cook for another few minutes. Add beef or turkey and cook until browned. Drain fat if there is an excess.

Add taco seasoning and ranch dressing packets and mix well. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil, stirring often. Reduce heat. Simmer uncovered for about 15 minutes. Recipe yields about 2 quarts. Makes about 8 (1½ cup) servings.

If soup is too thick add a little water to thin out.

For the tortilla garnish:

Heat about ½ cup vegetable oil in skillet. Slice four medium tortillas into thin strips. Carefully add them to the hot oil and cook for 1-2 minutes until strips are golden brown. Drain on paper towel. Sprinkle on top of soup.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>APRIL 2014</h1> 						
6 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal - S 9:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11.15 am - Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00pm - Samoan Worship	7 6:00 pm - Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm - TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm - Scouts - K	8 9:00 am - Zippers-Rm 1-2 10:00 am - Quilters-Rm 4 6:00 pm-Finance 7:00 pm-Ad Council	9 10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2 5:45 pm-Soup Supper-K 6:30 pm-Holden Evening Prayer-S 7:15 pm-Choir Rehearsal	10 9:00 am RIAZ-K 3:00 pm-Disciple BS	11	12 6:00 pm-Bird Club-K
13 Palm Sunday 8:00 am - Handbells-S 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal - S 9:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am - Handbells-Rm 1-2 1:00pm - Samoan Worship 1:00 pm - Confirmation-Rm 1-2	14 6:00 pm - Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm - TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm - Scouts - K	15 9:00 am - Zippers-Rm 1-2 10:00 am - Quilters-Rm 4 6:00 pm-Movie-Sanctuary	16 10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2 5:45 pm-Soup Supper-K 6:30 pm-Holden Evening Prayer-S 7:15 pm-Choir Rehearsal	17 9:00 am RIAZ-K 11:30 am-Lunch Bunch 3:00 pm-Disciple BS 7:00 pm-Maundy Thursday-S	18 12:00 pm-Good Friday	19 7:00 a.m.-UMM
20 Easter Sunday 7:00 am - Sunrise Service-Patio 8:00 am - Breakfast-Koinonia Rm 8:00 am - Handbells-S 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal - S 9:00 am - Children's Choir-S 10:00 am - Cantata-S 11:00 am - Coffee Chat - K 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship	21 6:00 pm - Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm - TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm - Scouts - K	22 9:00 am -Zippers -Rm 1-2 10:00 am. - Quilters-Rm 4 7:00 pm - Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 4	23 10:00 am-Bible Study-1-2 7:30 pm-Choir Rehearsal	24 9:00 am RIAZ-K 3:00 pm-Disciple BS	25	26
27 8:30 am - Choir Rehearsal - S 9:30 am - Worship 10:00 am - Sunday School 11:00 am - Coffee Chat - K 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship 5:00 pm - Family Promise Begins	28 5:00 pm - Family Promise	29 10:00 am - Quilters-K 5:00 pm Family Promise	30 5:00 pm Family Promise 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	BIRTHDAYS 4/03 Shirley Hemphill 4/06 Jeremy Cook 4/19 Verabelle Smith 4/14 John Shields 4/15 Bob Barker 4/15 Bob MacAlpine 4/11 Kathryn Thurston 4/24 Bill Wright ANNIVERSARIES: None that we are aware of		