

# THE PRESTON PILGRIM

The newsletter of  
**The Preston City  
Congregational Church  
Gathered 1698**



**MARCH  
2014**

## CHURCH ADDRESS

321 Route 164  
Preston, CT 06365-8108

## TELEPHONE

(860) 887-4647, (860) 886-7200

## FAX

(860) 887-4647

## WORSHIP

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

8:45 A.M.

EMAIL: [PCCC@SNET.NET](mailto:PCCC@SNET.NET)

WEBSITE: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Visit us on **FACEBOOK**

News and information for the April newsletter is due in the church office by **March 16**. You may leave information in the holder located on the wall in the kitchen.

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From the Minister...

### ANNUAL MEETING IN REVIEW

It was a "snow-free" evening the night of the Annual Meeting, held on February 11. A quorum was declared by Clerk Barbara Perry, and in the absence of church Moderator Lynwood Crary, Sue Brosnan was elected to lead the meeting.

All church reports were accepted as presented in the Annual Report. Likewise, all nominees for boards & committees were accepted as well. The 2014 budget was approved with increases made to two line items (see annual report, p. 5). The revised 2014 budget stands at \$230,062.00.

Here's some of what took place that evening:

- The membership approved the Safety Committee's recommendation (p. 33) that *ALL church doors be locked 5 minutes after the start of each service, and unlocked 5 minutes before the conclusion of each service. Late arrivals will be allowed into the building via the double doors on the mid-level.* Because of the layout of our building, we want to insure (as best we can) that everyone - adults, infants, children, and youth are safe on Sunday

mornings. The implementation of this new plan will begin in mid-March.

- The membership, after some discussion, also voted to amend a portion of our bylaws regarding church membership. You may view the approved revision on the Information Center table. Basically, the new wording reads:

*An active member is a member who contributes to the life of the church. He/she shall support the church through faithful participation in worship (Exceptions include: shut-ins, college students, and active-duty military personnel).*

*Members shall only be removed from the membership list upon their request, or in the event of their death.*

- We will be working on making the church building Wifi accessible.
- Up to \$2,000 was approved for special programs and musical events to be held on the "Field of Dreams" or in the building in 2014. A committee will be formed to oversee these events for the church family and community.
- Last of all, the membership approved to proceed with the Building Committee's work on renovations to the Sanctuary this summer. Companies have submitted their bids, and the Committee is presently reviewing the bids. An official vote of the

membership to proceed with the renovations will take place in the very near future. Stay tuned for the official call to this very important meeting.

I think you will agree, exciting things continue to happen in our church. We are fortunate to have gifted people among us to make our ideas become realities.

If you have not read the Annual Report for 2013, pick one up at the Information Center table, or call the office and we'll be happy to mail you a copy.

Thanks for everything you do to keep the church we love moving in a positive direction.

See you in church!  
  
Rev. Stan

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### DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY & FEBRUARY

**WE WELCOMED** into the Household of Christian Faith through the Sacrament of Baptism:

1-12, *Gianna Jade Graves*, daughter of Dina Sears-Graves & John Graves, II of Norwich

1-19, *Ian Kinirons Whitacre*, son of Nancy Lou & John Whitacre of Exeter, RI

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### THANK YOU and WELCOME ABOARD

The Annual Meeting marked the official ending of service to the church for the following people serving on boards and committees, and we thank them for their time and dedication:

**Lowell Calkins**; Sr. Deacon, **John Whitacre** and **Larry LePage**; Trustees, **Tiffany Barry** and **Elizabeth Delcore**; Board of Religious Education, **Pat Faries**; Finance Committee, **Andy Kuvent**, and **Lisa Alder**; Members-at-Large, **Sallie Quinn**; Bylaw Committee, and **Evey Putman**; Music Committee.

The following people were elected to serve on boards and committees in the year(s) ahead:

**Alfred Raue**; Sr. Deacon, **Keith Harrison**; Deacon, **Sue Creamer**; Assistant Financial Secretary, **Lowell Calkins** and **Jason Stanko**; Trustees, **Tia Stanko** and **Shari Purcell**; Board of Religious Education, **Karen Talbot**; Finance Committee, **Claude Flory** and **Carolyn Shea**; Members-at-Large.

We appreciate All who accepted the call to serve in 2014 and beyond!



### SCHOLARSHIP MONTH

We thank everyone who offered a monetary gift to the Helen Benjamin Scholarship Fund in February. It's not too late to offer your donation. Put your gift in an envelope marked "Scholarship Fund" and be sure to include the information (in memory of..., in honor of...) that you want included in the worship folder of Scholarship Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We have many deserving graduates who would greatly benefit from your support. Please give as you are able.

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### LENT - ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5<sup>th</sup> is the start of the church season known as Lent. A wonderful tradition began in our church years ago - the Lenten Prayer Vigil, which is held on Ash Wednesday, from Noon to 5:45 P.M. People are asked to sign up to pray for 15 minutes in the sanctuary; a prayer list will be provided that day. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board. Please consider taking part in this meaningful event.

At 7 P.M. there will be an Ash Wednesday communion service in the Sanctuary. Join us for this quiet, reflective service that prepares us for the journey toward the cross.

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### IRON SHARPENS IRON National Men's one day EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

March 22, Hartford, CT  
**The First Cathedral**  
1151 Blue Hills Ave.

Are there any men interested in attending this very popular conference? The cost is \$53 (bring your own lunch). I plan to attend and am willing to drive. Check it out:

- 1 - go to [ironsharpensiron.net](http://ironsharpensiron.net)
- 2 - click on "state"
- 3 - click on green indicator for CT
- 4 - click on "VIEW" this will give you a list of the 16 sessions for the day. You will only be able to make it to 4 or 5.

Let me know if you can join me on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jack Smiley  
860.889.7820

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### GREAT JOB!

The soup & chili supper held on February 8<sup>th</sup> raised over \$800. There were 25 soups and chilis to sample that night, plus bread, salad, dessert, and beverage. Thank you Sally Exley, and Lee Ann Fessenden for organizing this event, and to the many people who made homemade soups and chilis for everyone to enjoy.



## SAVE THE DATE...

### Confirmation Sunday

March 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30

Five young plan to join the church through the Rite of Confirmation. Plan to be present on this meaningful Sunday.

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### YOGA

Monday evenings at 6:30 P.M.

Sunday School Hall

Instructor: Marcia Bartha

The 4-week sessions are "Free."

Those planning to participate should wear comfortable clothes, bring a Yoga mat (\$5 at Ocean State Job Lot), and water. A signup sheet is posted on the Information center bulletin board. To date, 25 people have signed up!

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### PRESTON PILGRIM ONLINE

Did you know that you can now read the monthly newsletter online? Our website is: [Prestoncitycongregational.org](http://Prestoncitycongregational.org). If you prefer to read it online, saving the church the cost of mailing one to you, please sign the sheet on the Information Center bulletin board, or call the church office.

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### SENIOR LUNCHEON

The last luncheon until the fall is planned for Tuesday, March 11, starting at noon in the Sunday School hall. Don't wait too long to sign up, space is limited to 60 people. Not only is it a delicious meal, free of charge, but a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with some wonderful people. The program that follows each meal is always interesting and entertaining as well! Plan to be part of the fun!

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### DON'T FORGET...

Spring forward 1 hour

March 9<sup>th</sup>

You don't want to be late for church!

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### SOMETHING NEW (for us!)

Look for this ad on the placemat at Village Pizza! We're happy to support this popular restaurant in town. Note the symbol in the lower right corner of our ad. It's called a "Quick Response Code." The QR code stores data about our church; the website and any other information we want the reader to know; i.e. upcoming events!

You can get a QR reader from your iPhone/iPad app store; many are "free" to download. What's nice about the QR code is that we can use the box on anything we want; worship folders, newsletters, advertising the Scarecrow Festival, and fundraising events, etc. The list is endless! This is one of the many new ways we hope to promote our church in the future. Do you know of other ways? We want to know, speak with the minister. Go ahead, download the QR app and check things out!



Where  
friends  
become  
family

## The Preston City Congregational Church

Preston's first church! - Gathered 1698

321 Route 164, Preston

860.887.4647 or 860.886.7200

Sunday Worship: 9 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday School: 8:45 A.M. ages 3 through Grade 12+

Email: [pccc@snet.net](mailto:pccc@snet.net)

Website: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)

Join us this Sunday!

Find us on  
Facebook



### ADULT GAME NIGHT

Saturday, March 15

6 - 9 P.M.

Those attending are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share with others. There are plenty of games in the community center, but feel free to bring your favorite! A signup sheet is posted on the Information Center bulletin board.

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### NEW MEMBERS

We're happy to tell you that new members will be received into the church on Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, during both services of worship. If you'd like to join the church, we'd love to have you as "part of the family!" Sign your name on the bulletin board in the Information Center hallway. We'll send all the material you need to become a member. New members must be present on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and must meet with the Diaconate and Minister the week before joining.

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### DID YOU KNOW...

that we have some extra copies of the new pictorial directory. They are available for purchase through the church office at a cost of \$20. It's a great way to put names with faces you see Sunday after Sunday. Please call or stop by if you are interested.

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### CAN YOU HELP?

From time-to-time, people/families in our congregation are in need of a home cooked meal. Maybe it's following a hospital stay, or when a baby is born, or upon the passing of a loved one, etc. Many people have generously volunteered to take on this act of compassion in years past, and now we are in need of more volunteers when the need arises. If you would be willing to be a part of this important ministry, please call meal coordinator Lois Woodmansee at 860.889.2128.

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### MISSING

While taking inventory of church property recently, we discovered that many of the metal chairs we loan to members of the congregation have not been returned. Do you have some in your basement or garage that you have forgotten to return to the church? Please return them as soon as possible so others may borrow them. Still missing are two 8' tables with tan laminate tops. Please remember that you must contact the church office before tables and chairs leave the property. Start looking! Thanks.

# Preston City Congregational Church

~Founded 1698~  
Rev. Stanley E. White



*Where  
friends  
become  
family*

321 Route 164  
Preston, CT  
06365-8108

Church  
860.887.4647  
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prestoncitycongregational.org

## "LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

March 2014

Dear Members & Friends,

In case you did not hear, those attending the Annual Meeting of the church last month voted to have the Building Committee continue exploring the possibility of major renovations to the Sanctuary this summer (July & August). Contractors have submitted their bids for the work to be accomplished, and the committee has carefully reviewed those bids. They will soon ask that a special meeting of the membership be called to vote on whether or not to proceed with the renovations.

Some of the major work to be performed includes:

- removing the suspended ceiling in the center section of the church.
- removing aluminum siding to expose 24 stained glass windows located above the suspended ceiling. Vinyl siding would replace aluminum siding around the windows.
- insulating the 4 vaulted/barrel ceilings as well as the newly exposed ceiling.
- installing new gutters on the upper roof.
- repairing the 3 large arch windows, as well as the other smaller windows in the Sanctuary.
- painting the Sanctuary and pews.
- replacing the Sanctuary carpet.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the church's available funds for the project. The total funds that could be used are \$75,000. In addition, if approved by the membership, we would apply for a loan (approximately \$100,000) from *The Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches* to which we belong. In addition, a yearly financial appeal to the membership, would take place to help pay down the loan; various fundraising events would help as well.

**What do we need from you? A couple of things:**

**1 - your vote** to begin this wonderful project. It's been nearly 30 years since any renovation work has taken place in the Sanctuary. Our worship space should be a priority, and should look nice at all time.

Following a vote to proceed;

**2- your financial support;** now and in the years ahead. Later this spring, the membership would receive a pledge form for this project. Like the yearly Stewardship campaign for the budget, you would be asked to contribute – weekly, monthly, to the Sanctuary renovation campaign; ***“Let There Be Light!”***

Today, I ask that you pray for your church, this project, and your part in it. Together, with God's help, we can make this project a reality.

Please watch for the date and time of the informational meeting and vote. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Building Committee:

*Tom Ames, Lynwood Crary, Keith & Debbi Harrison, Mary Lou Jensen, John Nichols, Barbara Perry, Ed Shea, John Whitacre, Jim Wright, Rev. Stan*

For the Committee,

Rev. Stan

# The Preston Junior Pilgrim



Preston City Congregational Church Sunday School Newsletter  
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:



Put on  
the full  
armor of  
God; so  
that...  
you may  
be able  
to stand  
your  
ground...

Ephesians 6:13

**YOUTH SUNDAY**, always a special day in our church! The Confirmation students led the 10:30 A.M. service and some of them volunteered to offer "sermonettes" in the morning message spot about "What The Church Means To Me." I was very proud of all of the students that day. Many of you attend the earlier service and do not get a chance to hear what they have to say, so this month, with their permission, I share their thoughts with you.

**KYLE MCCASLIN...** What the Preston City Congregational Church Means To Me: In the beginning my parents, Heather and Andy McCaslin were married here and soon came my brother Corey and then myself; after me came my sister, Lindsay.

All of us were baptized at the church and attended Sunday School. When I was young I thought that it was dumb having to get up early and go to the church every Sunday, but now it's my choice and I choose to go because I now enjoy it. Why? Because I have many friends here and it feels like a second home and I know Mrs. Dudek and Rev. Stan care about me, and I know my church family cares about me as well. This is a very special place where I can feel safe and secure.

Other than the church helping me feel at home, I have also enjoyed helping others by being involved in mission trips. I am excited to be confirmed in this church and I am thankful that I can call Preston City Congregational Church a home to me.

**CHAD DERROY...** When the question, "What Does The Church Mean To Me?" is asked, many things pop into my head...like a place to brighten my spirits, and somewhere to open up and be myself. I have been going to this church since I was a baby and I was baptized when I was almost a year old. Everyone at this church makes it so pleasant to come every Sunday...like Mrs. Dudek and all of the Sunday School teachers. It really astounds me; how all of the teachers are so excited about teaching all of us about God. Sometimes when I wake up on Sundays, I don't want to go to church, but when I get here I know that I made the right choice. I learned about the symbols, seasons, and holidays of the church. I am excited to become a part of this church in the future.

**KAYLA WISNIEWSKI...** I would like to tell you about what the church means to me. For those who don't know me, I am a basketball player and play basketball year round. Basketball has made a huge impact on my life and has helped me through many things.

To me, the church is like a basketball court. This may sound crazy at the moment but keep listening and you will find that these two have a lot in common.

A court is used to play basketball and in church terms, used to practice the word of God. The Coach is God and his assistant coach is his son Jesus. For coach knows the plays he has for us, plays to help us win, and not to cause a turnover. Plays to score baskets and make us better players.

When I think of what the church means to me, I see it as a place to come together and follow God's way. Once you have done your duty to others that is when you get the win. Most importantly, the only way to win is with your teammates. We, the people of the Preston City Congregational Church, are a team, working together coached by God and his Son. This happens everywhere in the church; people are always making plans to give back and help out, and that is called teamwork.

There are many challenges to the game, the hardest one is the defenders. There are defenders who try to pull you away from God's word, but you learn ways to beat your defender and get to the hoop. Sometimes you get knocked down and pushed around, but we always get back up and keep playing.

This church is the best team out there...one of the best teams I have played on. My favorite things about this church are: we are always working at becoming followers of Jesus and God, and that is the most important play.

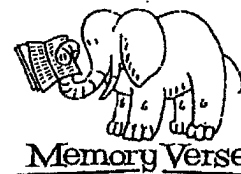
In addition to these speakers, **MADISON GILEAU** and **OLIVIA ROARK** led various parts of the service with excellence. These five young people will be confirmed into the church at the 10:30 service on March 30<sup>th</sup>. It has been a privilege as their teacher to be a part of their journey.

May the SONshine through me,

*Sandy Dudek*

### MARCH BIBLE VERSES

"Children, obey your parents..." (Ephesians 6:1) (N3-Grade 2)



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23 (Grades 3-12)

**PLEASE ENCOURAGE** students to learn these verses. To qualify for an award at the end of the year, verses must be correctly recited by the end of each month to a Bible Memory Verse Coordinator assigned by Mrs. Dudek. **The May verse needs to be recited by May 4<sup>th</sup> to allow time for those receiving a Bible Memory Verses award.** Nursery 3 & 4 students say their verse to the teacher and she will mark them off.

**PLEASE NOTE:** students who have recited the Bible verses will be posted on the Sunday School bulletin board in the SS Hall.

**THE RECOGNITION DINNER** for everyone who works with our youth...Sunday School teachers, Board of Religious Education, youth choirs leaders, and youth group leaders is scheduled for **Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.** A lot of help is needed as well as many items. Please call Sandy (860.887.4647) if you can help in any way.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **RACHEL ORLOMOSKI** who made the Dean's List (First Honors) for her first semester at Clark University in Worcester. She's a freshman and is a biology major. Your family and church family sure are proud of you Rachel and you know the rest...keep up the good work!



**THE STORYTELLING & ENRICHMENT...Moses and the Pharaoh** will take place on **March 9<sup>th</sup>**. **Moses and the Red Sea** is scheduled for **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The students and the teachers look forward to these learning and fun sessions. We thank Storyteller Judy Ladegard and Enrichment Coordinator Shari Purcell for their commitment to this segment of Sunday School.

**"BRING IT"**, the contemporary worship service for young people, will present a service for adults who are interested in seeing all that goes into these popular services. Join the youth leaders for this special night of worship. On **Tuesday, March 4, at 7 P.M.** in the Sunday School hall.



A **LASAGNA DINNER** is being planned by the Sr. Pilgrim Fellowship for **Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** from 5-7 P.M.(snow date, March 30<sup>th</sup>). The meal will consist of Lasagna, salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. Tickets are available after church services or call Cheryl Giuliano (860.376.8901). Adults: \$10.00 Children 12 and under: \$5.00

**LOOKING AHEAD...**The Good Friday Event for children Kindergarten and up will take place **April 18<sup>th</sup>**, 11:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

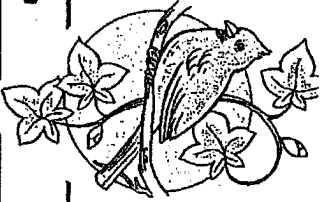
**April 27<sup>th</sup>**, The Junior Pilgrim Fellowship will have a Chocolate Dessert Fundraiser after each service...sounds scrumptious!

**SUMMER YOUTH CAMP '14...**(Jr. High Camp, Grades 5-8) (Sr. High Camp, Grades 9-12)

**Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>-Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup>** at Singing Hills Campground, Plainfield, NH...Join us for an Amazing Experience! Some of the things we will do: Outdoor games, outdoor pool, pond with water trampoline, 100 foot waterslide, hiking, great food, exciting Bible time, awesome praise and worship music, drama. Early registration - **\$225.00** per camper (before **April 6<sup>th</sup>**) After **April 6<sup>th</sup>** the cost per camper is **\$240.00**. You will need to send a **\$50.00** non-refundable deposit to save your place by **April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Registration forms are available on the Information Center table or through the church office.


**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Scholarship Funds are available through the Gary Lee and Lori Lynn Jensen Memorial Scholarship Fund, but you must notify Mrs. Dudek by **April 1<sup>st</sup>** if you are interested in receiving one.

Scholarship requests will be addressed at the April Board of Religious Education meeting; however, names of recipients are kept confidential.



# MARCH 2014

**INCLEMENT WEATHER CANCELLATIONS:** Tune in to WICH, WCTY, WNLC, WKNL, or Television Channel 3 or you may check Facebook or our website: [prestoncitycongregational.org](http://prestoncitycongregational.org)  
 When Sunday School is cancelled, church is NOT CANCELLED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ANNOUNCED.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>To place flowers in church during March, call Sue Torris at 860.859.2876</p> <p>2 Communion            SS communion 9:05a            Worship 9, 10:30a            Adult choir sings 9a            Two-can Sunday            Confirmation 10:30a            Halls' Hall in use 1-5p</p>	<p>Please note: Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.</p> <p>3 Bible study 10a</p> <p>Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>Please check with Rev. Stan or Sandy before using our names as references. This courtesy would be appreciated.</p> <p>4 Community Center            9-11:30a            ARC 10:30a            Board of Religious Education 6p            "Bring It" 7p</p>	<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b>            Active church members who wish to borrow church property (tables, chairs), call the church office.</p> <p>5 Ash Wednesday            ARC 10:30a            Prayer Vigil Noon-6p            Communion worship 7p</p>	<p>6 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p            Adult choir 7p</p>		<p>1            8 Youth Workers            Appreciation Dinner 6p</p>
<p>9 Worship 9, 10:30a            Move clocks ahead!            Baptism 10:30a            Confirmation 10:30a            "Bring It" 10:30a            Deacons' mtg. 11:45a</p>	<p>10 Bible study 10a</p> <p>Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>11 Community Center            9-11:30a            ARC 10:30a            Senior Lunch Noon</p>	<p>12 ARC 10:30a            St. Jude's worship 11a            AA 7:30p</p>	<p>13 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p            Adult choir 7p</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15            Game Night 6-9p</p>
<p>16 Worship 9, 10:30a            Baptism 9a            Confirmation 10:30a            Fellowship Hall in use 1-3p</p>	<p>17 Bible study 10a</p> <p>Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>18 Community Center            9-11:30a            ARC 10:30a</p>	<p>19 ARC 10:30a            Trustees meeting 6:30p            Standing Committee mtg. 7:00p</p>	<p>20 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p            Adult choir 7p  <b>SPRING!</b></p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22            Northeast Fellowship            Vision Event (Middletown)</p>
<p>23 Worship 9, 10:30a            Confirmation 10:30a            "Bring It" 10:30a            Fellowship Hall in use 1-6p</p>	<p>24 Bible study 10a</p> <p>Yoga 6:30p</p>	<p>25 Community Center            9-11:30a            ARC 10:30a            Safety Committee Meeting 6:30p</p>	<p>26 ARC 10:30a            AA 7:30p</p>	<p>27 Hand bell rehearsal 6:15p</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29            Lasagna Dinner 5-7p</p>
<p>30 Worship 9, 10:30a            Confirmation Sunday 10:30a            Food distribution Sunday (following each service)</p>	<p>31 Bible study 10a</p>			<p>For thou art my Lamp, O Lord; and the Lord will lighten my darkness.  <i>2 Samuel 22:29</i></p>	<p>FEBRUARY            S M T W T F S            2 3 4 5 6 7 8            9 10 11 12 13 14 15            16 17 18 19 20 21 22            23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>APRIL            S M T W T F S            6 7 8 9 10 11 12            13 14 15 16 17 18 19            20 21 22 23 24 25 26            27 28 29 30</p>