

Perspective

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church
of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

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First Presbyterian Church
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
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Table of Contents

Message from Pastor Doug	2
Upcoming Scriptures	4
Stewardship	5
Sunday School.....	5
Parish Life	6
Worship & Music.....	6
Women's Circle	7
Personnel	7
Church Growth.....	7
Deacons' Dialogue.....	9
MAC Committee.....	10
Extras.....	12
Birthdays	13
Calendar	14

FROM THE PASTOR

Proverbs 4

¹⁰ Hear, my child, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.

¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.

¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered;
and if you run, you will not stumble.

¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.

Everything has a lifespan, including the things we do at church. Ministries begin, and ministries end. In the spring and summer of 2020, along with the fear and upheaval of COVID, we saw a great deal of attention paid to people protesting for racial justice. With the murder of George Floyd as a tipping point (in a long, long line of similar points in our history), the protest movement we saw on the news even came to Phoenixville, with two large protests taking place that summer led by youth and young adults from our community.

As one of our responses to this time, we did what (primarily) white people often do - we started a book group, and our Antiracism Book Group was born. Now, five years later, we have decided to go on indefinite hiatus. Our current moment has changed, and our time together has borne fruit, leading all of us to become more involved in social justice in various ways, which takes more time and energy. We discerned it was time to move on.

I want to take a moment to reflect on all we've read and learned and discussed, though. I have almost 30 pages of discussion notes, but I will spare you all of that. In the end, I could honestly recommend any of the various books we read, though I would recommend them for different reasons.

How to Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

We started with a book that made sense, given the name we'd chosen for the group. This was a challenging book to start with, but it was crucial to have this, or a book like it, as a foundation for the discussions that would come. It provided us with basic definitions, and with a framework for understanding the books we would read and the things we would learn.

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

After being challenged by Ibram Kendi, we took a moment to read a middle-grade book that still addressed topics of racial justice, but from a fictional point of view. This felt like a time of rest and contrast, and we all enjoyed the book.

continued...

Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Duncan

You might be thinking, “Are we Presbyterians the whitest denomination in the US?” Close, but not quite - Lenny Duncan is a pastor in the Lutheran Church. He wrote this book explicitly as a challenge to his denomination, and I thought it might challenge us as well, in a similar denomination.

Black Radical: The Life and Times of William Monroe Trotter by Kerri K. Greenidge

This was the most detailed book that we read during these past five years. It is written with a block-by-block understanding of a hundred years of Boston history, telling the story of Monroe Trotter, a historical figure that we knew basically nothing about going in. He was a newspaper editor, businessman, and civil rights activist, and he became famous in part because he was an opponent of some of Booker T. Washington’s views.

Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save American from the Culture of Contempt by Arthur C. Brooks

We took a pause from books on racial justice and read this book by Arthur Brooks next. It is on the harm that can be done through contempt, especially on a large scale, and what we can do to push back against those who want to foster a culture of contempt.

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson

I think some in the group would agree with me that this was the deepest and most transformative book that we read. Reading through Wilkerson’s superb work, I could see things coming together for some of us in discussion. After reading it, many of us said that we simply saw the world differently.

Letter from a Birmingham Jail by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We read this famous letter between books, giving us time to select the next thing we would read. If you have not read it before, you should.

A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry

For another change of pace, we decided to read this famous play. Some of us also watched performances of the play, or scenes from it, to help us translate what was written on the page.

We Remain: Race, Racism, and the Story of the American Indian by Keith Burich

We next selected a book that would focus on antiracism, but from the point of view of Native Americans rather than African Americans. I think that we all learned a lot about American history that we did not know.

The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes

The last of our texts was a favorite of mine personally, as I love the poetry of Langston Hughes. It was an interesting exercise because the book is significant, and some of our group had no background reading poetry at all.

Wisdom takes many forms. During these past five years, I think our group has grown in knowledge and wisdom, and we now see the world in a new, more truthful, way. Some of us have been motivated to take action, and all of us have been moved and changed. It was time well spent, leaving us with a better understanding of our history, and a better appreciation for our neighbors who suffer from racial injustice.


Sincerely,
Pastor Doug

HOLY WEEK

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY
COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE
 April 13th at 10:30 am - First Presbyterian Church



MAUNDY THURSDAY
TABLEAU
 April 17th at 7:30 pm - First Presbyterian Church



EASTER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE & EGG HUNT
 April 20th at 10:30 am - First Presbyterian Church
 Egg Hunt - Church Lawn after the service

UPCOMING SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Apr. 6th:** 1 Kings 10:1-10, 13; Luke 11:27-32
- Apr. 13th:** **Palm/Passion Sunday**
 Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 14:32-15:47;
 Luke 22:54 -23:56
- Apr. 17th:** **Maundy Thursday**
 Exodus 15:11-21; Matthew 26:17-35
- Apr. 20th:** **Easter Sunday**
 Isaiah 49:1-13; John 20:1-18
- Apr. 27th:** Judith 8:1-17; Luke 18:18-30



LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

This year's suggested Lenten devotional is from the Luther Seminary. It is titled "There in God's Garden". To access the **devotional** online or to download a copy, please visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/16OadMkz_DfAwVuLhYmX4t6sO8WUTrnDL/view. A few hard copies are available in the narthex and the church office.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES

One Great Hour of Sharing

A friendly reminder that during the weeks throughout Lent, we have invited you to give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to end hunger, provide repairs and relief after disasters, and promote the self-development of all people. Envelopes are available in your offering envelope boxes, in the pew racks and on the table in the narthex. You may also send a check to the church office with OGHS noted in the memo.

In addition to offering envelopes, don't forget about Gracie the Fish! This is a good opportunity for you to clear out your collection of coins to feed Gracie!! Join our Sunday School children and fill up a "fish box" with coins. Boxes are available on the table in the narthex. Offerings will be received on Sunday, April 27th. Together we can once again help change the lives of many. Thank you for your life changing offering.

Save the Date- Sunday May 4

We are working with Liberty Union Bar and Grille for a Dine to Donate. Support a local restaurant and they will support us back by donating a portion of your bill to FPC. More details to come!

The Stewardship Committee

SUNDAY SCHOOL



As we barrel toward the end of the school year, our Sunday School teachers and students have been as busy as ever!

This month, our children wrote letters to our representatives in congress asking them to support legislation that will protect and provide for the hungry and impoverished.

We've also been learning other ways to practice generosity, especially as it aligns with the teachings of Matthew 25. The children have discussed sharing resources and justice, and will be continuing with learning how to share wisdom and power. As we get closer to Easter, they'll have the chance to do some exciting activities while they learn about Jesus's death and resurrection.

Next Friday, April 4th, is our next Bingo Night! We would love to see you there, so please reserve your spot by scanning the QR Code or by visiting this sign-up link - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044EA4AD23A1FD0-55268646-church>! Our Bingo Nights have been so successful so far, and it is because of the commitment of our volunteers as well as the joyful participation from all of you!



Our Sunday School teaching volunteers are essential to our program and congregation, and I am constantly amazed and grateful. If you know someone who would be a great fit to teach our children, nudge them my way. And whenever you get a chance, thank a Sunday School teacher!

If you have any questions about Sunday School or Youth Group or wish to volunteer to help out with either program, contact Sarah Shulman at fpcchildrenandyouth@gmail.com.

PARISH LIFE

As usual we will end the Lenten season with an Easter Egg Hunt following Easter Sunday worship, hopefully on the lawn with the sun shining!



More fun after church activities are in the works for the summer as well as the return of Lemonade in the Shade beginning on June 1st.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES

Wow! April is full of worship opportunities.

- April 6 adds our Merry Ringers as part of the service with a piece foreshadowing Palm Sunday.
- April 13 is Palm/Passion Sunday. We will start the service with the children and palms and then work our way with Communion through Good Friday.
- A non-Sunday service will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:30pm featuring a living tableau of the Upper Room with Communion. You also will want to be sure to stay until the end of this service.
- Next, we get to celebrate EASTER! That will be at our regular Sunday service on April 20.

The final Sunday in April is the 27th. After all that will have happened before this, who knows what will happen. You will just need to come to find out.

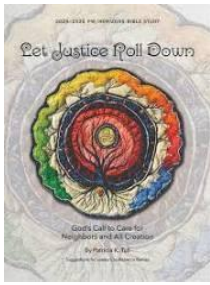
See you in church!

PRAYER CHAIN & PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send any prayer needs to Sandy Schrack at fpcprayerchain2@gmail.com. Your request will be distributed to FPC's prayer angels. Their silent efforts will be put to work to lift you up. The same email address can be used for anyone wishing to join the prayer team.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S CIRCLE



The 2024-2025 study of *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* will continue on April 27th (Easter is the 3rd Sunday) with lesson seven, Economic Climate Justice. *The Bible's economic wisdom never promises to eradicate poverty: "You always have the poor with you." it says instead. But we can reduce suffering and strengthen the entire social network.* To learn how, please join us in the parlor with your lunch or snack after worship on April 27th. Contact [Jewell Baker](#) for more information.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

One of the Personnel Committee's functions is to process feedback from the congregation about our staff's performance. Please feel free to email Jean Osterhoudt (jeanoster@comcast.net) or any committee member with your thoughts. If you would like to speak to the committee in person, then we will schedule a time to meet with you confidentially. Typically, meetings are held by Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

CHURCH GROWTH UPDATE

Meetings are held on the second Friday of the month, with the Grant Writing subcommittee meeting at 10:00 am and the Church Growth committee meeting at 11:00 am in the Church Office. For questions about the Church Growth, email CommunityFPC145@gmail.com.



The upcoming meeting dates are April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

Anti-Racism Book Club:

The Anti-Racism Book Club is taking a hiatus. For more information, talk to Pastor Doug.

Mental Health Ministry:

Be on the lookout for another game night/day! We are coordinating at date/time with Cornerstone Clubhouse!

Mental Health First Aid

Chester County Suicide Prevention Task Force is offering Mental Health First Aid Classes – one geared towards administering first aid to youth and one to adults. Below is information for both of these sessions. Join Jacqui Busch and Pastor Doug Hagler and get certified!

- Thur, Apr 24, YOUTH MHFA @ Govt. Services Center, West Chester
<http://ccsp-task-force.ticketleap.com/ymhfa-apr24/>
- Wed, May 7, Adult MHFA @ Chester County Hospital
<http://ccsp-task-force.ticketleap.com/mhfa-may7/>

Prison Ministry:

Book Through Bars

The next visits to Books through Bars will be on **Saturday, April 5 & Saturday, May 3**. Please meet in the church parking lot at 12:30 pm.

Books Through Bars is a volunteer-run nonprofit based in Philadelphia, PA, that sends free books to incarcerated people. To learn more about Books Through Bars, visit <https://www.booksthroughbars.org/>.

If you are interested in attending or have questions about FPC's involvement, contact Terri Camilari or email CommunityFPC145@gmail.com.

Donate books and calendars

- Please look at the books we need right now at BTB, and be sure to look at the type of books they DO NOT need. <https://www.booksthroughbars.org/donate-books>
- Alternatively, you can purchase books from the Wishlist using [this link to Bookshop.org](#) and have them shipped directly to Books Through Bars 4722 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. And by ordering from Bookshop.org, you will be supporting small booksellers.
- Books Through Bars is always looking for calendars! If you have any 2025 calendars, please bring them in. There is a box in the church office labeled "Books Through Bars" where calendars or any other books you wish to donate to Books Through Bars can be dropped off. As a reminder, calendars cannot be spiral bound.

Pen Pals

Our Pen Pal program has started! If you would like to be a Pen Pal, talk to Kristin Craven or email her at CommunityFPC145@gmail.com.

Queer Circle:

The next meeting of Queer Circle will be on **Sunday, April 27 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. Queer Circle is reading *In the Margins; A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture* by Shannon T.L. Kearns. Book or no book anytime is a great time to join this group! For more information, talk to [Pastor Doug](#), Sarah, or Jacqui.

The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in PA

Save the date! We are proud to host The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in PA, sponsored by the PA LGBT History Network and the LGBT Center of Central PA. The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in PA is a traveling history exhibit that chronicles the efforts of activists in PA to achieve full equality for LGBTQ+ people.

- The exhibit will be on display to the public on the following days in June: Sundays, 12-3 pm; Wednesdays, 5-8 pm; Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm; and Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm.
- As a group showing this exhibit, we are looking for hosts to welcome folks into our space and answer questions (you will have information!) If you are interested in being a host, [sign up here](#).



DEACONS' DIALOGUE

At First Presbyterian Church, the Board of Deacons is here to serve and care for our members and the greater community. Our focus is on caring for members in need, whatever that need may be. We are blessed to have a faithful, dedicated, and compassionate group, committed to helping others.

Know that the Deacons are always here for you, especially in times of need. Please feel free to reach out to a Deacon, whether for a visit, a meal, special assistance, a prayer, or just a conversation with a friend.

If you would like to be a Deacon helper by providing a meal or occasional transportation, please get in touch with any Deacon or email DeaconsFPC145@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DEACONS

<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>	<u>Class of 2027</u>
Paulette Mark	Rebecca Barkley	Terri Camilari
Lucinda Parrish	Jen Johnson	Kristin Craven
Lynne Williams	Amy Mincavage	Laura Hobbins
Sue Casey	Gail Schnaedter	Sandy Schrack

Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve
what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.
Romans 12:2

PACA LENTEN COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICES

The PACA Wednesday evening Lenten worship services continue at various churches throughout Phoenixville. All may attend to hear the Word, pray, sing, and reflect with fellow community members. Here is the remaining schedule.

- **7:30 PM on April 2nd** at St. John's Lutheran Church: Rev. Nathan Coleman preaching
- **7:00 PM on April 9th** at First United Methodist Church: Rev. Dan McDowell preaching



MISSIONS, ACTIONS, CONCERNS (MAC)

If you are looking to expand your involvement in church, consider MAC. Meetings are usually held in the Parlor and via Zoom on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9:00 – 10:30 am and include a hands-on service project. However, there will not be a meeting in April and May's meeting will be the first Wednesday of the month, May 7th. Join us!

Questions? Email Kristin at MissionsFPC145@gmail.com.

Service Sundays

Service Sundays are on the second Sunday of the month from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the parlor. Coffee, tea, and light breakfast refreshments will be available. Join us for some fellowship and an easy service project that will impact the community. Feel free to drop in and out as your schedule allows. The upcoming dates are April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14. If you would like to suggest a project or provide light breakfast items (muffins, scones, bread, fruit, etc), email or talk to Kristin Craven at MissionsFPC145@gmail.com.

Local Missions

You can see all updates from our Local Mission Organizations (and all organizations we support) at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCMissionaries>.

Collections

Did you know MAC collects things to help the surrounding community? If you have these items lying around – bring them in and drop them off. We'll take care of the rest!

- Outside church office by the bulletin board: Eyeglasses, Soda Tabs, Greeting Cards, Printer Cartridges
- In church office (box under the blue chair): toilet paper and paper towel rolls

Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)

Thank you to those who have donated goods or monetary donations for PACS. We will the final numbers in next month's Perspective.

PACS Fundraiser

Join Us for a Night of Giving

THURSDAY **APRIL 10** 2025 5:30-8:30 PM

PACS
Nourish & Flourish
SPRING SOIRÉE

Historic Three Throned Manor
1497 Valley Forge Road,
Phoenixville, PA 19460

EXPERIENCE A SPECIAL EVENING WHERE HISTORY & COMMUNITY SPIRIT COME TOGETHER.

Enjoy An Evening Featuring:
ARTIFACTS FOUND ON-SITE
ENGAGE WITH TWO LOCAL HISTORIANS & A PUBLISHED AUTHOR
ELEGANT DINING
SILENT AUCTION

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets: \$125 per person
For more event information, scan
the QR code or visit the URL below:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2025SpringSoiree>



GENE DELAPLANE



RYAN CONROY DOUG SHUPINSKI

Help us continue our mission to be the lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

Phoenixville Free Clinic



We are hiring! Phoenixville Free Clinic is seeking to hire: a Front Desk Specialist, Behavioral Health Specialist, and a Portuguese Language Support Contractor. For more information, visit <https://www.phoenixvillefreeclinic.org/job-opportunities>.

Phoenixville Free Clinic's mission is to provide quality healthcare to the uninsured and underserved with dignity and respect. For more information, visit <https://www.phoenixvillefreeclinic.org/>.

National Missions:

You can see all updates from our National Missions (and all organizations we support) at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCMissionaries>.

Bread for the World

Sunday, April 13th during Service Sunday, we will write letters to our representatives to support expanding the Child Tax Credit, addressing college hunger, fully funding and strengthening the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and robustly funding global nutrition.

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging U.S. decision-makers to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. Our mission is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world. For more information, visit <https://www.bread.org/>.

Global Missions:

You can see all updates from our Missionaries (and all organizations we support) at this link: <https://bit.ly/FPCMissionaries>.

WANTED: USED INK CARTRIDGES



FPC continues to get savings by using Staples' ink cartridge recycling program. Thank you for all the empty cartridge contributions! Recently, a \$45.99 carton of copier paper cost the church just \$3.99 after our recycling reward points were redeemed. Keep the drop-off coming! The collection box is located in the hallway outside of the church office. Sandy Heidel can best answer questions about this program. Her dedication to delivering your

donations to Staples is greatly appreciated!

PUB THEOLOGY

The next Pub Theology gathering will be on Sunday, April 13th at **7:00 PM** at **The Foodery**, (325 Bridge St, Phoenixville). Join Pastor Doug in a discussion of theological topics and current events over food and drinks. Listen, chat, and hash things out...it's fun and thought-provoking!

ATTENTION REDNER'S SHOPPERS

Redner's has a rebate program that financially helps the church. Your rewards card must be scanned at checkout in order for FPC to benefit from purchases. If you're not already a member, sign up is available online at <https://www.rednersmarkets.com/redners-rewards.html> or in person at the Customer Service desk. After using your card at checkout, please place your register tapes noted with Redner's Rewards in the box in the church office. Thanks!

NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

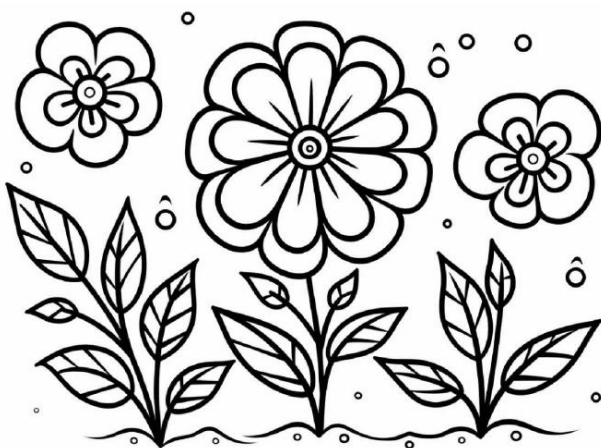
For those who are new members of FPC, and for those who want to learn more about our congregation and ministry, there will be a New Members' Class on **April 6th** at 12:00 PM after worship. You are invited to meet with Pastor Doug for about an hour in the Parlor. (We can bring our own lunch or order some pizza if we are hungry.) Bring your questions, and enjoy a chance to learn about the church!



Happy Birthday

Best Wishes to everyone celebrating a birthday in April!

April 2: Sue Tyson, Barb White	April 17: Kevin Casey
April 3: Cathy Walker	April 19: Norma Carlson
April 12: Jacqui Busch	April 21: Bob Williams
April 15: Karilyn Bayus, Ron Williams	April 25: Evelyn Eitl, George White
	April 26: Paulette Mark



WWW.MAKENSTITCH.COM

The desert and the parched land
will be glad;
the wilderness
will rejoice and blossom.
Like the crocus,
it will burst into bloom;
it will rejoice greatly
and shout for joy.

Isaiah 35:1-12

April 2025

First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30p Zumba 7:30p Praise Team	2 10:30a-3:00p Music Ministry 6-8p BDA Office Hours 6:30p Zumba 6:45p Drama Team 7:30p PACA Lenten Service 7:30p Handbells	3 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 11:30a Long-Term Planning 7:00p Choir	4 9:00a WIC	5 12:30p Books Through Bars
6 8:00a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday School 12:00p New Members Class	7 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	8 Parish Life Meeting 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Personnel (Z) 7:30p Praise Team	9 10:30a-3:00p Music Ministry 6-8p BDA Office Hours 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Finance (Z) 7:00p PACA Lenten Service 7:30p Handbells	10 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 7:00p Choir 7:00p Compassionate Friends	11 10:00a Grant Writing 11:00a Church Growth (MO & Z)	12
13 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> Communion 8:30a Bible Study 8:45a-10:15a MAC Service & Fellowship 10:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday School 7:00p Pub Theology	14 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Stewardship (Z) 7:30p Christian Ed (Z)	15 6:30p Zumba 7:30p Property 7:30p Praise Team	16 10:30a-3:00p Music Ministry 6-8p BDA Office Hours 7:30p Handbells	17 9:00a WIC 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 11:30a Long-Term Planning 7:30p Maundy Thursday Tableau Service	18 9:00a WIC	19
20 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 10:30a Worship 11:45a Easter Egg Hunt	21 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	22 6:30p Zumba 7:00p Session (Z) 7:30p Praise Team	23 10:30a-3:00p Music Ministry 6-8p BDA Office Hours 7:30p Handbells.	24 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 10:00a People to People Food Ministry 7:00p Choir	25	26
27 8:30a Bible Study 10:30a Worship 10:45a Sunday School 12:00p Women's Circle 7:00p Queer Circle (Z)	28 9:00a People to People Clothing Ministry 6:30p Zumba	29 6:30p Zumba 7:30p Praise Team	30 10:30a-3:00p Music Ministry 6-8p BDA Office Hours 7:30p Handbells.	27	28	