



THE NEW DOVER HERALD

April 2022

Vol. 188

A Ministry Newsletter of New Dover United Methodist Church

CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace as we enter this month of waving palms, overturned tables, Jesus' last supper, his arrest and trial, a cross, and an empty tomb.

As we *finally* emerge from two years of Covid19, as we *finally* make our way back to live worship and Sunday School without a new variant hovering like "the sword of Damocles" over our heads, it would be nice if we could focus on the passion of Jesus and the drama of Holy Week, but instead our hearts are heavy and our gaze is turned toward Eastern Europe, the inexcusable war raging in Ukraine, and the plight of the refugees whose lives have been devastated.

As I write this, we have been praying for weeks for peace in Eastern Europe, and we shall continue to do so, even once the hostilities come to an end, but more than that we of New Dover have put our prayers into action and raised over \$5,000 for our neighbors in Ukraine. Thanks to all of you who have responded; we shall continue to do all we can to help the Ukrainians, and all those throughout the world, whose lives have been uprooted and who mourn the loss of their homes, their loved ones and neighbors.

We live in a culture that is quick to respond to need and yet all too eager to move on to the next crisis. What has occurred in Ukraine will take years to recover from, but as we sing in the hymn "Be Still My Soul," we who call ourselves Christ's disciples will "*bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.*"

The world is so beset by crisis that we often feel overwhelmed, but we cannot not let that discourage us from doing what we can to alleviate suffering, whether that is helping a family in Ukraine, or healing a virus-stricken patient in India, or feeding a hungry child in Plainfield.

Saints, as we emerge from the wilderness of the pandemic, let us remember the incredible courage of Jesus, who would always stop what he was doing in order to bring healing to one who is hurting. As his body on earth, we can do no less!



Have a blessed and meaningful April,

Rev Chuck



**April 10
Palm Sunday 10:15am**

**April 14
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm**

**April 15
Good Friday Service 7:00pm**

**April 17
Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am
Easter Morning Service 10:15am**

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Manny & Nora De La Paz

Pat & Brian

June Ebbets

The Brooks Family

Gail Engel

Debbie Ladym

Bud & Earlette Butterfield

Service men & women

Veterans

Homeless, unemployed

& uninsured

All affected by Covid-19 and
their families

The People of Ukraine

All Elderly of NDUMC

Pray for all those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, Victims of terrorism & violence, all national leaders, and all those serving at New Dover UMC.

All doctors, nurses, EMT, teachers, grocery store workers, janitors, and all other frontline workers. Thank you and God Bless.

If you wish to add anyone to the 2022 permanent prayer list, please contact Karen Rowland at krowland648@yahoo.com

FROM YOUR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PRAYER FELLOWSHIP EVERY
WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 AM

In This Issue:

- Chuck's Church Chat
- Keep Us in Your Prayers
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- UMW Trip
- Easter Baskets
- Financial News
- UMW News
- Lil Young Greeters
- Confirmation News
- Membership Corner
- April Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Calendar

**DEVOTE
YOURSELVES**

to prayer

**WITH AN ALERT
MIND AND A**

Thankful Heart

Colossians 4:2 NLT

SERMON OF THE MONTH

The Third Beatitude “Born to Be Mild”

(Preached on Sunday, February 6, 2022)

Zephaniah 3:8-13
Matthew 5:5

Saints, on this, the third in a sermon series on The Beatitudes, I think we we’re seeing a pattern! First there was “*Blessed are the poor in spirit...*” Then we heard “*Blessed are they that mourn...*” And this morning we have “*Blessed are the meek...*” In every one of these beatitudes, Jesus presents us with what might be considered oxymorons in his age as well as ours. Words or phrases, that at first glance, don’t seem to go together- like “small crowd,” or “pretty ugly,” or smart preacher!”

Blessed poor in spirit, Jesus? Blessed mourners? And this week, blessed meek? It’s like the world and its social structure is being turned upside down, right? Like when, during the Civil War a black Union soldier recognized a Confederate prisoner as his former master, and told him, “*Hello, Massa; bottom rail on top this time.*” And that’s exactly what Jesus is declaring to the crowd isn’t it! The world’s pecking order is being turned on its proverbial head- “*Bottom rail on top this time.*”

The Beatitudes describe who is most valued in God’s Kingdom, who is blessed by God, and correspondingly, who is not, and PS: and it’s not whom we would expect! Because in a world where the arrogant, the braggadocious, and the hard hearted, are so often rewarded, Jesus teaches that there’ll be no such reward in God’s eyes, because such attitudes and behaviors do nothing but wreck one’s soul, and no soul-wrecked, soul wrecking person will enter the Kingdom of God.

Take this third beatitude- “***Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.***” First of all let’s face it, the word “meek” is not usually viewed these days in a positive manner is it? How many of you out there would want to be described as “meek?” For instance, if you’re evaluated as “meek” after a job interview, chances are you ain’t getting’ that job, right? If you put down “meek” on your Tinder App, odds are you won’t be getting many swipe rights! Yet, Jesus, once again going hard against the world’s values, lets the meek know that, no matter what the world tells them, they are indeed blessed by God. Not only that, “...they will inherit the earth” as well! Hello?!! What the heck, Jesus?! We’ve been told only the loudest, most audacious, aggressive, braggadocious will inherit the earth! How does this make any sense?

Well, as in the first two beatitudes, one of the best ways to understand why the “meek” are the one’s who are blessed is to take a look at those who live lives the polar opposite of “meek!” Saints, allow me to ask you a couple of questions... Have you *ever* resolved a difference of opinion by shouting at the person or persons with whom you’re having the conflict? When was the last time you ever changed the mind of someone on Facebook by replying to their original post with comments openly challenging their position? Have you ever defused a heated argument by raising your voice, because somehow you thought the loudest voice will be the winner? Have you ever triumphed in an intellectual discussion by bragging about how smart *YOU* are? Odds are, when resorting to such methods, the conflict didn’t end there or even lessen in intensity; in fact it probably escalated!

Now the type of behavior I just described would not be defined as “meek,” would it? In fact it would be the opposite of “meek,” right? We would call it haughty, obnoxious, overbearing. And here’s the thing- inevitably it gets us nowhere! Never has, and never will! But that doesn’t stop us from going back to that same pattern of behavior over and over and over again, does it?! Why is that? Maybe its because, for all the failures we suffer by taking the aggressive route, we still think it’s better than being “meek,” for heaven’s sake! Again, who in our 21st century American culture wants to be labeled “meek?” And yet, who are the ones Jesus says are both blessed and will “inherit the earth?” The meek, right?! Again, what gives, Jesus?!

Perhaps we ought to take a look at that word “meek,” maybe that’s the problem, eh? Maybe it’s because meek sounds too much like “weak?” Maybe because of that we think “meek” means passive, laid back, or indifferent. But think about it- is that in any way what Jesus would teach? That we’ll be blessed if

we're passive, laid back, or indifferent? *DUH!* Of course not! Throughout the gospels Jesus taught just the opposite. So maybe the problem lies elsewhere. Come to find out, it's a matter of translation! Let me explain...

The Greek word in Matthew 5:5 we usually translate to "meek" is "*praiis*." *Praiis* means mild, humble, or meek. While we may be uncomfortable with Jesus blessing the meek, we may be more agreeable that the humble absolutely deserve a blessing, right? Time and again throughout the gospels, Jesus stresses the need for us to of humble spirit. Didn't he teach us that last should be first and the first last? Didn't he teach us that we can only enter the Kingdom of God as a little child? Didn't he teach us that when we are invited to a feast, we should sit down at the lowest place? Didn't he come right out in Matthew 23 and declare on no uncertain terms, ***"All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted?"*** The classic rock anthem from Steppenwolf shout out *"We were born, born to be wild,"* but Jesus would answer, "Hey, great song but its actually just the opposite." Those of us made in God's image were *"born, born to be mild!"* Look, Jesus even goes so far as to describe himself as "*praiis*"! In Matthew 11:29 we read ***"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble (praiis) in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*** And when he rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday we hear, ***"Look, your king is coming to you, humble(praiis), and mounted on a donkey..."***

Look, no one would call Jesus passive, laid back, or indifferent, right? But humble? Oh yeah! In fact Paul defined that as perhaps his greatest attribute when he wrote in Philippians:

"Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross."

Our understanding of the scriptures change as our perception of the English language changes, and for our 21st century minds, *"blessed are the humble"* just sounds more in line with Jesus' life and teaching than *"Blessed are the meek."* It's also more in line with the passages from the Hebrew scriptures as well. In Proverbs we read, ***"A person's pride will bring humiliation, but one who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor."*** Psalm 25:9 teaches that God, ***"...leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way."*** And of course we recall the words of Micah: ***"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"***

So if the humble are blessed by God who are those who have exemplified such attitudes and behaviors? Well they are precisely those who have done justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly with their God! They are the Abraham Lincoln's of our world, the Rosa Parks of our world, he John Lewis's of our world, the Desmond Tutu's of our world. In the light of this beatitude, we would do well to remember such blessed humble, righteous exemplars of humility who, far from living passive, laid back, or indifferent lives, acted on their call for justice and made this world a better place. These, and others like them, are who Jesus means when he blesses the humble!

Finally, in addition to a blessing, Jesus also declares that the humble will ***"inherit the earth."*** What does he mean by that? Here Jesus means the same thing as when, in the first beatitude, he taught that the "Kingdom of Heaven" belongs to the "poor in spirit." The humble are the rightful heirs to God's Kingdom. The Kingdom will never be seized by the brash, arrogant, power-hungry charlatans, no matter how they bluster and brag! In the words of Zephaniah:

"...I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord— the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid."

Saints, one of the chief virtues of being *"a people humble and lowly"* is patience. But it's not a passive patience, oh no, it is an *active patience*. A patience constantly working to see our promised inheritance come to fruition. Patience to envision a world beyond the pandemic, beyond the threat of war, beyond the ego-centric culture that presses in on all sides. God has promised to remove "the proudly exultant ones" from our midst and then, filled with the greatest of hopes, we shall meekly, humble, and patiently inherit the earth.

The UMW are sponsoring a trip to Long Beach Island on Thursday, August 4, 2022, to see "Escape to Margaritaville" at the Surflight Theater at 2:00pm. Prior to the show, we will have lunch at Buckalew's Restaurant.

The total cost of the show is \$95.00, which includes the show, lunch, bus and bus driver's tip. The bus will leave the church at 9:00am. A deposit of \$50.00 is upon making reservation with the balance due on June 12, 2022.

Registration forms are available at church or see me, if you are interested.

If you have any questions at this time, please call me at 732-287-2231.

Connie Thomas
UMW Vice President



Easter Food Baskets will be distributed on April 10th. If you know a family that is in need, please fill out the form that is on the office door and leave on Trish's desk.

Food needs: 5 chickens and/or hams, and standard dinner items, box or canned potatoes, canned vegetable, cranberry sauce, gravy, cakes mix.

FINANCIAL NEWS

The Finance Committee is continuing to provide financial information. The following provides the income and expenses as of January 2022. The church income includes what is provided to the church in pledge envelopes to current expense and other income sources such as building rentals, flea market and various fundraising activities. Church expenses are shown which include salaries, utilities, conference obligations and other costs to keep the church operating.

New Dover United Methodist Church Operating Fund		
	2022	
	January	Year to Date
Income	\$ 23,060.18	\$ 23,060.18
Expenses	\$ (52,215.53)	\$ (52,215.53)
Difference	\$ (29,155.35)	\$ (29,155.35)

April's United Methodist Women meeting is April 13 at 6:30. Pastor Rosie will be our guest speaker.

For April's UMW meet, we will cover the basis of "where are South Korean churches and Christians" along with the introduction of this beautiful and historic nation that I call home.

South Korea is where my family heritage dwells in and where I now call my parent's home since I've lived away more than 30 years, 32 to be exact. Since the 1988 Seoul Olympics to 2002 FIFA World Cup, from the 1950 Korea War to tremendous economic and infrastructure developments, the Korean peninsula is now one of Asia's and the world's Hot Topics as she remains the only one divided country.

Rich in resources, natural beauty, and electrifying technology, beauty, and K-Pop are some of the current sweeping hashtags South Korea is receiving from global citizens. With the new President elect, South Korea is off to another start.

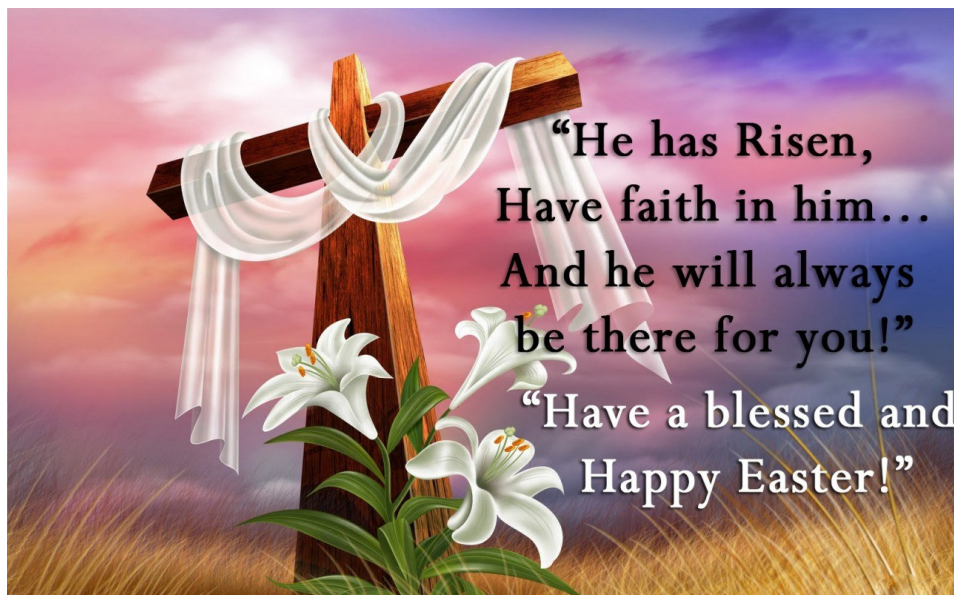
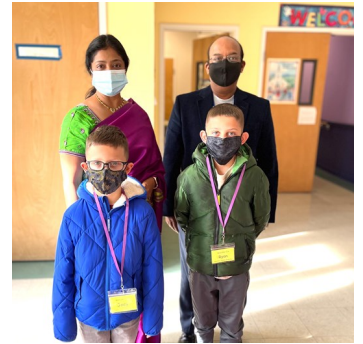
Lil Young Greeters of New Dover Sunday School is Back!
Lil Young Greeters of NDSS returned to service on 3/6 after a safety break.



Thanks to Joey and Ryan Stevenson for starting the Lil Young Greeters last year with great energy and smile (behind your masks)!

Serving March: Jiya Katthula and Abraham Kaktar

For April: Katelyn Samel and Chansen Pang



Confirmation Update

by Rosie Pang



Confirmation class met in-person on February 27 at our home ground for the first time since January. Although virtual classes got us through the lessons, meeting in-person was a completely upgraded level of learning to meet these teens and preteens face-to-face.

Lesson on the history and significance of Baptism and what a church is and does were shared. And, their very first group picture!

On March 13, they met at Centenary UMC in Metuchen and learned about the Wesleyan Quadrilateral: Scripture, Tradition, Experience and Reason as ways to experience God's presence and grace. Leading into the introduction to the Bible as first step to the quadrilateral, then followed by ways to experience God's presence and love through experiences like Christian Outreach Project and through the history of Our Social Creed of the United Methodist Church. Erica Campbell who is from New Dover and serving as the chairperson of COP board made time to travel to Centenary on a Sunday afternoon with her 9-month old sidekick Cole and introduced COP Project for this summer. It would be great to see these confirmands reconvene after the Confirmation class officially ends and go on this week-long local outreach to Sussex county community and start their summer off strong through their acts of faith.

There are days when some of the students can only miss a class or two due to schedule conflicts. So, each church staff makes sure that any lessons missed to be well-covered with a make-up class. Paulette Harland dedicates more than Sunday mornings to make this happen with our confirmands using video recording from meetings that New Dover Studio Youth And Young Adults like Naomi Hunt, Bhaarat Joshi, and Aidan O'Rourke help record.

New Dover's Confirmation this year is a great example of the whole church partnering to nurture faith together. The Nurture Committee and Chair, Janet Greve have been on full support to make every end meet for these students. Next Confirmation class will meet at Trinity UMC in South Amboy on March 27, 2-4pm. And then the class will take short break in April but there is no such thing as a break to the work of the Spirit. As a way to encourage students to make time for the quadrilateral they've learned, each student will be spending their time with their spiritual mentors in April, continue with their spiritual journal and faith development. The next class at New Dover will be on May 1.

Please continue to pray for these 8 students from New Dover:

Danny Mizak Jr., Eric Colon, Luke Colon, Declan O'Rourke, Rishith Duggimpudi, Farrah and Serena Allidina, and Jessica Rodriguez

And their Spiritual Mentors.



Confirmation Celebration is May, 22 during the 10:15am worship service.



And a special thanks to all the Bible-gift sponsors!

Confirmation Class of 2022 meeting at New Dover for the first time on Feb. 27



Confirmation Class on 3/13 at Centenary UMC, Metuchen



Erica Campbell, guest speaker for Confirmation to introduce COP (Christian Outreach Project)

"COP" Christian Outreach Project is a summer local mission opportunity. This year's date is June 26-July 2. Brochure available for more information. See Pastor Rosie.

COP is a Greater New Jersey Annual Conference Advance Special as well as A Future with Hope - Hope Center.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A note from the Nurture Committee:

Picnic to Picnic will be ending at the Strawberry Festival in June! Please be sure to make your "Secret Pal" feel special!!

A **spiritual journal** is a tool for self-reflection that allows us to cooperate with the Spirit to make sense of the deepening work he is doing in our soul. For thousands of years people have read the book of Psalms and been moved by the psalmists' words as they plea, pray and praise God. But as much as these psalms have blessed generations of readers, the one who likely benefited the most was David, who is believed to have written approximately half the psalms. Writing down our reflections, as David often did, so that we can examine and ponder over them can be a powerful tool for spiritual growth. The Bible does not mention spiritual journaling, but certain books of the Bible (e.g., Psalms, Nehemiah, Jeremiah) record prayers, personal life events, reflections on Scripture and other themes often associated with the practice. You don't have to be a writer — Many people avoid journaling because they don't consider themselves writers. But a spiritual journal is written for an audience of two: you and God. Proper grammar, spelling or style is inconsequential. No one has to ever read — or even know about — your journal. Your way is the right way — Good news! There is no such thing as "doing it wrong." If you find the practice helpful, just do it your way. You can choose your own schedule, your own style and your own topics to write about. Feel free to experiment to discover what works best for you. You can write whatever you want — Write about whatever the Spirit inspires in you. For instance, you could record your successes and struggles in being obedient to Christ, your fears, your joys, poems or songs you've found or written, or lessons learned from Scripture reading. You benefit by reviewing your writings — You only get half the benefit from writing in your journal; the other half comes from reading what you've written in the past to remember forgotten insights and gauge your spiritual growth. When you need something to write in your journal, consider finishing one of the following 20 prompts:

1. This week I was most blessed by . . .
2. My favorite passage of Scripture is . . .
3. The area where I need to put more trust in God is . . .
4. One lesson I learned from Scripture this week is . . .
5. An aspect of God's character he recently revealed to me is . . .
6. I find I feel God's presence most when . . .
7. God is leading me to make the following changes . . .
8. An act of obedience God is prompting me to take is . . .
9. My enthusiasm for the gospel is increased when . . .
10. Sometimes I get angry with God about . . .
11. I feel most distant from God when . . .
12. My calling in life is . . .
13. My spiritual gifts are . . .
14. What brings me the most joy in life is . . .
15. I'm eager for God to . . .
16. Three ways I want God to transform me are . . .
17. An area of my spiritual life where I need to seek God's guidance is . . .
18. Journaling has helped my spiritual formation by . . .
19. The most significant area of my life that is not finding its way into my journal is . . .
20. Two ways I can apply the gospel to my life are . . .

From *The Lifehacks Bible* by Joe Carter (Zondervan). If you want more information, look online at TGC Course:How to Keep a Spiritual Journal

April Birthdays

- 1 Jonathan Lamoreaux
Rhea Manglapus
Aiden O'Rourke
- 2 Judy Rienzo
Harold Shaban
- 3 Bobby Engel
Justine Stevenson
- 5 Angelina Budala
Phyllis Carney
- 10 Joanne Demler
- 12 Nicholas Castlegrant
- 13 Owen Gonzalez
Ryan Greve
- 14 Doug Rock
Joey Stevenson
- 15 Krisel Manglapus
- 16 Swati Christian
- 21 Chang June Yoon
- 22 Zachary Owsiany
Ma Angelika Vedana
- 24 June Ebbets
- 25 Rev. Chuck Coblentz
- 26 Naomi Hunt
- 27 Wilfredo Manglapus
- 29 Judy Tymitz

April Anniversaries

- 9 Ben & Patricia Stevenson
- 11 Richard & JoAnn Lettieri
- 13 Brian & Mackenze Chesney
- 16 Timothy & Robbin Roth



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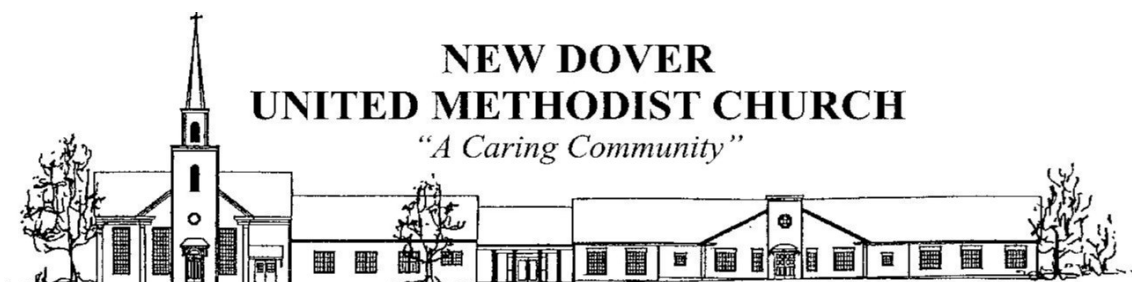
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**NEW DOVER
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
"A Caring Community"



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 5pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
3 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	4 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Trustees 7:30pm AA	5 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44	6 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	7 7:00p Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	8	9 5pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
10 Palm Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	11 10:30am Hot Topics 7pm Nurture Meeting 7:30pm AA	12 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6-7:30p GS 80105 7:30p BS Troop 44	13 10:00am Prayer Fellowship 6:30p UMW Meeting	14 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service 7:30pm AA	15 Good Friday 7:00pm Service	16 Holy Saturday 5pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
17 Easter 6:30am Sunrise Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	18 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Worship Meeting 7:30pm AA	19 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30p BS Troop 44	20 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	21 7:00p Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	22	23 5pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship 11:30am Bell Choir Practice 4:30pm Telugu Service	25 10:30am Hot Topics 7:00pm Council 7:30pm AA	26 7:30-1:30 Flea Market 6-7:30p GS 80105 7:30p BS Troop 44	27 10:00am Prayer Fellowship	28 7:00p Hot Topics 7:30pm AA	29	30 5pm Praise Service 7:30pm AA

