

NEW DOVER HERALD

June 2019

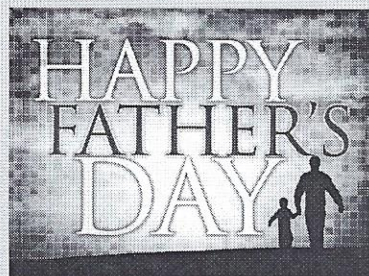
Holiness unto the Lord

Vol. 157

Highlights

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CHUCK'S CHURCH CHAT

Saints,

Grace to you and peace!

Let's talk about community...

The Greek word **koinonia** is defined as "Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with fellow Christians." The first biblical use of the term occurs in Acts 2:42-47, and it emphasizes the important role that *koinonia* played in the life of the early church...

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship (koinonia), to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."

I believe one of the great things about New Dover is the wide variety of *koinonia* communities that exist with our congregation. For example...

I'm writing this on an unseasonably cold, misty, rainy Tuesday morning in May and so yes, it's Flea Market Day! The weather has determined it will be a slow day with few vendors showing up and not many shoppers either, but, despite the dark, dank conditions, *koinonia* is alive and well and together we will make the most of it. There are long time vendors like Sandy who sells everything from laundry pods to toy cars (Sandy also collects coupons and uses them to donate food to our hunger ministry!). There's Joe who every year returns to the market from the south on the Tuesday after Mother's Day and sells jewelry while spinning tales of how he's related to British royalty (he actually is!). Then there's Pete, who sells beauty products and batteries way below retail (they power our mics on Sunday!). And of course there's our own Beverly who oversees our church tables featuring items you have donated, and the amazing kitchen crew led by "top chef" Joe Murante, who make sure the shoppers never have to leave the flea market because they're hungry! All this is coordinated by Jeff Rowland who makes sure the rent is collected and disputes are settled.

As I mentioned, the Flea Market is just one of the many examples of **koinonia** that exist at NDUMC. Some are built around fellowships like the United Methodist Women and our United Methodist Youth Fellowship; some around classes like Hot Topics and Anita Davis' Bible study; some

around councils and boards like the Worship Committee, Nurture, and Administrative Council; some around vital ministries like the Wednesday morning prayer group, Vacation Bible School, or the Social Justice Task Force; and some around worship like our adult and youth choirs, our bell choirs, and our Telugu congregation.

Without the bonding element of *koinonia* groups like these would be quickly drained of their energy and enthusiasm, not to mention their focus. This month as we celebrate Pentecost, when that first community of believers mentioned in Acts was overcome by the Holy Spirit and Christianity was born, let us also celebrate the role *koinonia* has played in the mission of New Dover over the decades. Saints, the growth of the early church can be attributed to three major reasons: the life and teaching of Jesus, his death and resurrection, and the close fellowship (*koinonia*) of his followers that empowered them to support one another through centuries of persecution. It will be no different for us as we march forward, taking on the challenges of the world around us, empowered by Christ and holding onto one another in love.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Chuck



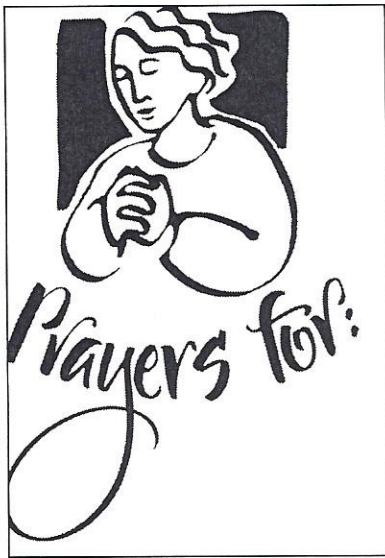
ATTENTION ALL YOUTH FROM
GRADES 6 - 12!!

IGNITE 2019
OCTOBER 4-6
WILDWOOD , NJ

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING, TALK TO
REV. CHUCK .

IGNITE is more than a conference.
It's more than bands and speakers.
It's about a generation.
A generation united for Jesus Christ.

KEEP US IN YOUR PRAYERS



Christine & Judy Tymitz
America
Christians of India
Marian Jones' List
LuLu Kamenas
NDUMC Missionaries
Preston Family
Boyce Family
Fran Livecchia

Our Schools
Robyn & Carolyn DeCicco
All suffering with
Addictions
Convalescent Homes
All Servicemen and
Women
Allie Forbes
Carney Family

Vicki Aludino
Mary Ellen Anglin
Family of Carol Mota
Amadeu & Kathy Baptista
and Family
Bub & Earlette Butterfield
Coblentz Family
Chris & Rachel Stanley

Pray for all those seeking employment, those affected by Natural Disasters, those suffering with addictions, those suffering from depression, those affected by acts of terrorism, all national leaders and troops, and all those serving at New Dover UMC.

Any names that may have been left off are not intentional. We trust in God to know all our needs.



Sunday, June 9
after 10 am service

Please plan on joining us for the Strawberry Festival on Sunday, June 9 being held in Fellowship Hall after the 10am service and closing Church School program.

Sign up to help out with sides and/or desserts, etc. Please let us know how many will be attending!

SAVE THE DATES

Jun 1	Pedals for Progress
Jun 9	Strawberry Festival
Jun 16	Father's Day Bake Sale
Jul 15-19	Vacation Bible School
Oct 4-6	Ignite
Dec 27	Sight & Sound



SERMON OF THE MONTH

“Known by His Brokenness”

(Sermon preached May 5, 2019)

Luke 24:13-31

Late on a dry, dusty afternoon, two figures walked a road winding its way from Jerusalem down to Emmaus. Only a week before they were celebrating the what looked like the eminent restoration of Israel, but now they reflected on the most heart-wrenching event they had ever experienced. By all rights Jesus' execution should have been all there was to it: a shattered end to a dream, a tremor that shook the very foundation of the faith they had placed in both the man and his mission. Jesus' crucifixion had rendered it all meaningless, had it not? Despite his enlightened teaching, his healing miracles, despite his compassion for the poor, and his call for justice. In the end hadn't the mighty Roman Empire exposed him as just another false messiah? Sure he meant well, sure he raised everyone's hopes, but hey- he was dead, and as anyone knows, the true messiah wouldn't have died, and certainly not in that manner. Judged false not just by the political leaders, but by the religious leaders as well! Handed over by the Sanhedrin, condemned to death by the Roman governor, his capital sentence cheered by the masses as he carried his cross through the narrow streets of the city. It was painfully obvious to anyone looking on that as promising as it may have been, his mission had been in vain. In the end there would be no miracle from the cross, no rescue by his followers, only a slow, lonesome, agonizing death. The two Emmaus travelers knew Jesus was dead, and so their dream of a restored Israel was dead as well; hope itself was dead.

Yet something was askew. All the pieces to their depressing puzzle didn't fit. Despite what looked for all intents and purposes like the end of their cause, despite the apparent finality, there remained one last straw to reach for, to grasp, to hold onto. Or perhaps their swirling emotions had rendered them delusional? Earlier that day they heard a story that made no earthly sense whatsoever. It involved women running from an **empty** tomb, and the tomb in question was that of Jesus. But what to make of it? They dared not think the impossible. To do so would be beyond grasping at straws; it would be the epitome of a psychological defense mechanism, a way to put off accepting the hard fact of Jesus' death. No, they had to face the facts- Jesus' mission was over. His terrified disciples had scattered, and soon, like so many who pass through “this veil of tears,” his memory will fade from the land. Gone like dust in the wind.

And yet, like a flickering candle in the pitch-black darkness was this story of an empty tomb, this barest of hopes, hanging by the thinnest of threads. In the fading western light this desperate story, told by Mary Magdalene and the other women was all they had left to cling to. On the dusty road to Emmaus, the two dared to wonder: *“what, if anything, could this possibly mean?”* When the world shatters your dreams, what does it mean to be left with nothing but the most unlikely of hopes? In the words of Saint Bruce of New Jersey, *“Is a dream a lie if it don't come true, or is it something worse?”*

Here 2,000 years later, in the pews and pulpit of this sanctuary we ask the very same question.

We live out our lives surrounded by suffering, despair, and death, and ask ourselves, *“What does this crazy story of the empty tomb mean in **our** lives?”* Is it a genuine hope we can place our faith in? Or is it merely a psychological defense against the inevitability of our own impending death? Just another spiritual dead end capable of dashing our hopes to the ground once again?

To confront these questions let's allow our imaginations to cross the centuries to walk beside these two confused disciples, just as the late afternoon breeze stirs the dust and the sinking sun throws long shadows across the road to Emmaus, and just as the men turn to see, in the distance, a traveler approaching, a stranger who, as Luke tells us, was none other than the risen Jesus. As he got closer we're told they failed to identify him, not because he looked different, but because as the scripture tells us, *“their eyes were kept from recognizing him.* Why? we might ask, were their eyes were kept from recognizing him? Well, it's so a lesson, crucial to the understanding of the Gospel, may be learned by us. Then this stranger begins to speak. And you know it appears as though he's having a little fun with them at this point, for although **he** obviously knew what had happened that morning, Jesus feigns ignorance; he wants to hear it from them. So they tell him what had happened in Jerusalem, how their devoted leader had been executed, how all their hopes had been dashed, and lastly, almost as an afterthought, they tell him the crazy story of the women and the empty tomb. Jesus sees for himself how confused they are, and

how their faith had been shattered by the crucifixion, but rather than sympathize, check it out, he actually berates them! *"Oh how foolish you are, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had declared."* And then he opens the scriptures to them, reminding them of all he had previously taught them: that it was necessary that the Messiah first die if he was to be raised to glory. And as they journeyed on they began to understand the events of Jerusalem in a whole different light; they understood that it was only through the cross that the Messiah would be empowered.

Saints, as we walk our own Emmaus Road, Jesus approaches to us in a similar manner. When through prayer we speak to him of our confusion and lack of faith in the face of disappointment, despair, and death, he opens the scriptures to us. He points us again to the Old Testament prophecies, to his life spent proclaiming the Kingdom of God as he walked the roads of Palestine, healing the sick, challenging the authorities, and reaching out to the disenfranchised.

By revisiting the scriptures we gain a renewed understanding of his arrest, humiliation, suffering and death upon the cross, and then like the Emmaus Road disciples, our hearts are better prepared to hear with an open mind the story of the empty tomb. Then we too give credence to that mere wisp of hope left buried beneath the wreckage of our despair. Why is it so important that Jesus be unrecognized during this walk with his followers? Perhaps it's because like them, we aren't able to see Jesus physically revealed to us. Perhaps our faith can only be awakened as was theirs- by listening to the scriptures and hearing anew the proclamation of Easter morning.

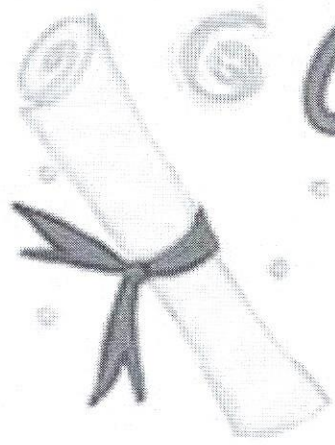
By the time they reached the outskirts of Emmaus, the sun was going down, the light was dying. They came to where the road split off, one branch led west, the other toward Emmaus. The stranger walked on ahead as if he were going to follow the sun as it departed, but the men, their hearts now warmed with a renewed hope begged him to stay with them through the night, for who knew what terrors lurked along the unlit roads at night. He accepted their invitation. And so, hungry from the walk, they entered a house in town, and as they gathered around the table, the stranger took the bread in his hands, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them, and finally, with the breaking of the bread, their eyes were fully opened, and they recognized Jesus. How their hearts must have leaped, how their faces must have streaked with tears! At last everything was made clear- the broken bread really was his body, and in his brokenness they recognized Jesus as the one true Messiah.

Saints, on Easter morning we left you standing at an empty tomb on the outskirts of Jerusalem; now the brief journey you will undertake to the altar this morning is the conclusion of your own to journey to Emmaus. Because it is here that we too might come to grips with both the cross and the empty tomb, the crucifixion and the resurrection, for when we see the bread broken, it dawns on us as well- it's in his brokenness that we recognize Jesus. The bread symbolizes two essential realities of our faith journey: that Jesus' body was broken for each one of us; and that it is in our brokenness as a church we are recognized as the Body of Christ on earth.

Think about it Saints, how does the world recognize that we are the true Body of Christ? It is not by winning theological arguments. It is not through the arrogant judgment of the beliefs and practices of others. It is not by debating who is or isn't worthy of membership. It is not by promising material wealth in exchange for faith and a check. It is only when we embody Jesus through our own brokenness, by walking the world in humble compassion and possessing a willingness to sacrifice a part or all of ourselves that others may experience his presence. Saints, we cannot rightly claim to be Jesus' disciples unless we take on his brokenness as our own. But understand that this is not the bitter brokenness of the disciples before Jesus appeared to them; this brokenness is now held in the hands of the resurrected Jesus, and it is given a new and vibrant meaning!

At the close of the story the moment the disciples recognize Jesus, (poof!) he vanishes, but, you know, there was really no point in his hanging around was there? The true meaning of the Gospel had been rendered. The flickering candle of Hope had been more than relit, it was now an all-consuming flame. The instant he broke the bread Jesus moved from being the unrecognized physical presence, to being the recognized spiritual presence. And the good news is this: what the disciples received at that table in Emmaus, so too we might receive at this table in Edison- the hope of Easter and the power of the resurrection.

But the story, you see, is not quite over; it doesn't end here; it begins. Immediately that night the disciples got up and made their way back to Jerusalem. The darkness with all its dangers yet surrounded them, but they were no longer afraid. Saints, we too will rise from the table after we share in the bread and the cup. The world anxious for any word of hope remains so dark and threatening, but because of the One revealed to us at this table, the One made known through his brokenness, we need no longer be afraid.



Congratulations
To all of
New Dover's
2019
Graduates

Wawa Food Connection/Volunteers Needed

Did you know that New Dover UMC participates with Wawa in its Wawa Food Connection program? What is the Food Connection? According to their website it was created in 2013. This is what it says:

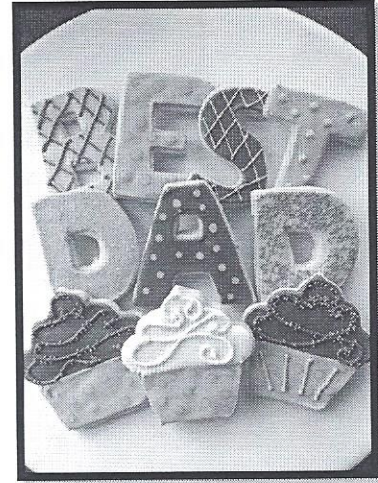
“Food Donation Connection makes it possible to donate some of Wawa’s popular hot food express items. It involves a method of preserving the quality and freshness of the foods while ensuring they reach facilities that will benefit the most. Quite simply, we’ll be able to donate some of Wawa’s food products, reduce waste and make an even greater difference in the communities Wawa serves.”

We are currently looking for volunteers to pickup the food donation and either bring it back to the church or deliver it to St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth. We pickup from the Colonia store on Wednesday, Thursday and now Friday.

Please talk to Brian Richards or Anita Donnelly at church for more information.

Give your dad the gift of a home baked goody from the United Methodist Women. You know the treats will be delish.

Stop by the Father’s Day Bake Sale table after each service on Sunday, June 16th.



Pedals for Progress
June 1, 2019

Drop-off from 9am-12pm

We're collecting adult and kids bikes to send to Nicaragua, Ghana, Fiji and Guatemala. Donate your used, unused bikes and sewing machines and help promote economic development throughout the world.

Bikes should be rust free. No trikes, but bikes with flat tires in need of some repair are accepted. Portable sewing machines should be in working condition.

\$10 minimum donation with each bike or sewing machine is requested for shipping. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided on site.

For more info, contact Paulette at 732-259-0852.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NEWS

The next meeting of the UMW will be held Wednesday, June 12th at 6:30 pm. We will have election of officers followed by a planning meeting for our fall and winter meetings. Please think about what type of program might interest you, if you have a guest speaker in mind or any ideas you would like to bring to the table.

Afterward, we will have our closing “dinner” before the summer begins. Please bring your favorite covered dish to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

Our next meeting will be September 11, 2019. Look for more information in the September Herald.

Have a safe and happy summer, everyone.

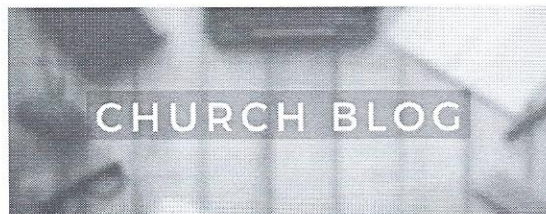
Sincerely,

Dianne Petersen - UMW President

MEMBERSHIP BLOG

We begin with Palm Sunday, the second Sunday of April. Service began with children handing out palms to incoming congregants, and the bell choir was present to provide music for the prelude, opening hymn ("Hosanna, Loud Hosanna") and the anthem. The congregation was blessed to witness the baptism of Leyandra Grace Perera, the tiny, precious pride and joy of Sheoni and Ravi Perera-regular visitors to New Dover. During the offering, a group of our Indian members sang a Palm Sunday Hindi song, done beautifully and well received by everyone. The Scriptures for the day were Joshua 24:14-20 and Matthew 27:15-24. Rev. spoke of a tale of twos-two crowds and two Jesus'. He compared the poor and outcasts who were desperate for change to the rich wanting to keep the status quo, as well as the motives and actions toward revolution both for Jesus Bar-abbas and Jesus of Nazareth. Are we shocked and too quick to judge the decision of the people to crucify Jesus over Bar-abbas? What would be OUR decision under the same circumstances; what crowd are we part of? Let's choose the kingdom of God and be faithful to Him despite circumstances and opposition. Our congratulations to the Perera family! Holy Week included evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both well attended. Thursday's service was blessed by Rabbi David Vaisberg, who discussed the meaning of the Seder elements; Friday reflected the traditional Tenebrae service. The following Sunday was Easter and a large crowd filled the sanctuary. Easter lilies beautified the altar and the traditional white cloth graced the Cross, heralding Christ's Resurrection. A large Chancel Choir was on hand to sing for both the anthem and offering. The Scriptures for the day were Jonah 2:1-10 and Mark 16:1-8. Rev. discussed the original Gospel of Mark, which ended with the angel at the tomb announcing to the women to go and tell what had happened. What was the reaction of those who heard the news then and what is ours now? Every believer has personal responsibility to witness the Good News; each link, each Christian, is important in continuing to spread the Word. Go and Tell! On the last weekend of April the congregation was treated to the vocal talents of Ravi P, who sang "The Lord's Prayer" for the anthem. Thank you Ravi for sharing so beautifully. The Scriptures for the day were Number 21:4-9 and John 3:1-15. The sermon addressed the recent bombings and killings worldwide, and reaction from various faiths. Terrorism is not new, and even in Jesus' time many groups sought to control the people through fear. On our faith journey, fear waits to strike us as a serpent and destroy us; the solution to dealing with it is to face the fear, expose it for what it really is, and turn to Jesus as our role model for sacrificial love. We must hold fast to what we believe and witness the kingdom of God. Don't fear the Cross; lift it up!

May services began on the 5th with Communion Sunday. The anthem was performed by Grace, singing a lovely piece highlighting her awesome talent. The Scripture for the day was Luke 24:13-31 (the walk to Emmaus). When Jesus had been crucified, all the hopes and dreams of his followers went with Him, YET the rumors of the empty grave gave many pause. When WE are left with the barest of hope in life, what does the Resurrection of Christ mean to us? Despite the lack of the physical presence of Jesus, do we have the faith to believe and carry on? As the body of Christ, strengthened in our bond to Him through Holy Communion, we must take our brokenness into the world and spread the Gospel; in this way we can face the world and conquer our fear. The next Sunday was Mother's Day. Our bell choir was in attendance, not only providing music for the service but handing out the traditional Mother's Day carnations to the ladies in the congregation. The new banners were also dedicated with a special litany. The Scriptures for the day were I Kings 1:11-17 and Matthew 20:17-28. Rev. discussed that these mothers wanted their children to have futures of power and prestige, rather than spiritual strengths such as humility, compassion and self-sacrifice. As parents, are we able to drink the cup that Jesus drank and lead our children to do the same? We can't teach our children to live a transformative life if we are not willing to do so as well. We must examine our own faith, then make the decision to sacrifice for the kingdom of God. The service ended with "Blest Be The Tie That Binds". Thanks moms!



The Incredible Race
July 15-19, 2019
9am - 12pm

It's a race, unlike anything you've ever experienced. A race filled with fun clues to find and interesting challenges to attempt! At the same time, it's about another race. A race that began at the Garden of Eden and continues until this day. What race? The Human Race. As the children attempt challenges and fill their scorecards, they'll also discover that, no matter where we live, what shade of skin we have, or what language we speak, we are all part of the same race—the human race—and all part of the same family from Adam and Eve. Send your kids on an *Incredible Race* to **experience God's love for every tribe, language, and nation! Register today!**

Online registration, as well as printable registration forms, may be found on our website www.newdoverumc.org, outside the church office, or email us at newdovervbs@gmail.com





June Birthdays

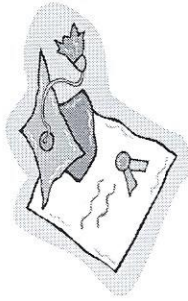
- 1 *Lauren DeZaio*
Amy Silva
Nayan Vyas
- 2 *Sunhee Yoon*
- 5 *Harold Petersen*
- 6 *Evan Gilmore*
Geoff Hudson
- 7 *Marilou Lelina*
- 8 *Zander Christian*
Pramila Ponugubaty
- 9 *Jelovus Jeevaraj*
- 10 *Rosalina Allarey*
Margaret Silva
- 13 *Jaffy Jeevaraj*
- 15 *Meghan Vilela*
- 16 *Andrew Hunt*
Danielle Mizak
- 18 *Daniel Gray*
- 19 *Frankie Pagano*
- 20 *Stefanie Ladym*
- 21 *Charles Bennett*
- 22 *Jayne Bonner*
Shynee Christian
- 23 *Joe Preston*
Marilynne Romeo
- 24 *Joseph Maza*
Frank Pagano
- 25 *Zill Christian*
Caroline Christian
- 27 *Maureen Sanders*
- 28 *Lina Christian*

- 30 *Alice Bennett*
Samuel De La Paz

June Anniversaries

- 2 *Thomas & Sunith Duggimpudi*
Charles & Janet Greve
- 5 *Daniel & Sharon Gray*
- 25 *Kevin & Paulette Harland*





June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School 11:30 Bell Choir Practice 11:30 Choir Practice 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 4:00-6:00 Youth Group 5-6:30 Telugu Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:30 Social Justice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (WH)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate 7:00 Trustees</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 AA</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00-12:00 Pedals for Progress 10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 KFC 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telugu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon</p>
<p>9 Strawberry Festival</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship & Church School Closing 11:30 Bell Choir Practice 11:30 Choir Practice 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 5-6:30 Telugu Service</p>	<p>10 Herald Articles Due</p> <p>7:00pm Nurture</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (WH)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate 6:30 UMW</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>CS #318</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 KFC 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telugu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon</p>
<p>16 Father's Day/UMW Bake Sale</p> <p>8:30 Worship 10:00 Worship 11:30 Bell Choir Practice 11:30 Choir Practice 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 5-6:30 Telugu Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Herald Team 10:30 Hot Topics</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (WH)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate 7:00 Worship</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 AA</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 KFC 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telugu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30 Worship 11:15 Bell Choir Practice 11:30-1:00 ADC Bible Study 5-6:30 Telugu Service</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00pm Administrative Council</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30-1:30 Flea Market 7:30 Scout Troop 44 (WH)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Prayer Fellowship 6:00 Karate</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30 AA</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Karate 1:00-4:00 KFC 5:00 Praise Service 6:30-8:00 Telugu Service 7:30 AA & Al Anon</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Same as above</p>						