



THE CARILLON

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STAFF

Rev. David A. Jones, Pastor
Sam Brandt, Custodian
Cindy Klahr, Secretary
Cynthia Johnson, Organist
Ken Shultz, Music Director
Faye Fox, Consistory President
Ron Follett, Church Treasurer
Dawn Shultz, Consistory Secretary

A Prayer for the New Year

Dear God,

Thank you Lord for giving us a brand new year.

Let my heart be encouraged with the truth that

You are a good God.

Give us the kindness to hear with compassion, to
offer support, loving comfort and care.

Give us the courage to do what is needed, the
wisdom to choose what is right and most fair.

Give us the vision to see what is possible.

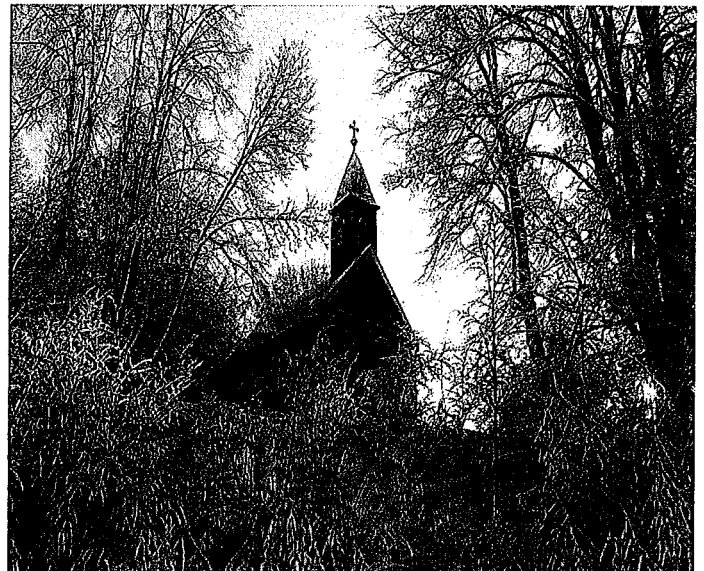
Give us the faith that will help pave the way for a
present that's hopeful, a future that's peaceful.

And give us the heart to bring joy to each new
day.

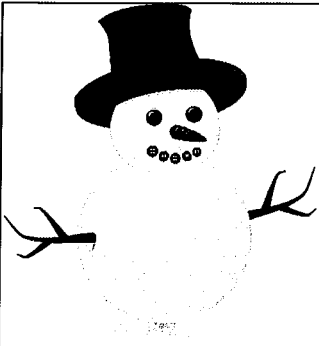
May my words and actions be ones that glorify

Your Name.

Amen.



BLESSINGS FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR



BLESS THIS YEAR
with love and light.
Bless this year
with faith and sight.
Bless this year
with grace and ease.
Bless this year
with joy and peace.

New Year Wishes and Messages

Cheers to new memories and brighter days ahead

A year to cherish and create unforgettable moments

Here's to a year full of new adventures

Wishing you endless joy and laughter this year

May every day bring a special moment to treasure

Another year, another chapter of beautiful memories

Here's to new beginnings and cherished memories

Let this year be a journey of unforgettable moments

NEW YEAR QUOTES

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream" –
C.S. Lewis

"Hope is the only thing stronger than fear." –
Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." –
Mother Teresa

"God never said that the journey would be easy, but He did say that the arrival would be worthwhile." –
Max Lucado

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy." - Timothy Keller

Scriptures for the New Year

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
Lamentations 3:22-23

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
Isaiah 43:19

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

"Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."
Ephesians 4:23-24

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11



*Happy New Year
Through every storm,
through joy and pain,
we have stood as one,
through sun and rain.*

*Another year to walk this
land,
Together, always hand in
hand.*

The Journey Continues...

We've been hearing a lot about "Artificial Intelligence" over the past few years. Artificial Intelligence is also known as "AI". I'll be honest, I used to be pretty nervous about ever-increasing use of AI, but my nervousness was the result of a lack of accurate information. Truth be told, the only knowledge I had about AI came from the movie 1984 science fiction/thriller titled "The Terminator." The Terminator is a movie starring Arnold Schwarzenegger about an indestructible killing machine that looks human, but it uses Artificial Intelligence to learn and get smarter, so it becomes more deadly. Once the Terminator was programmed to find and "neutralize" a target, it never stopped until the mission was completed. It's an interesting concept for a movie, but it made me nervous to think that this type of Artificial Intelligence could be a part of our every day lives.

Whenever I get nervous (or fearful), it always helps to take some time to learn what is really going on. I'm not talking about "researching" through social media or by watching YouTube videos. I'm talking about the education we gain by talking to (and learning from) real experts. So, I attended a seminar from someone who teaches college students about Artificial Intelligence, and I started to ask questions in order to learn.

The first thing I learned is this: we are already surrounded by Artificial Intelligence. AI has actually been a part of our lives for a long time now. If you've ever sent a text, and your phone suggests words (or spelling of words), that is AI in action. If you've ever searched for something on Google, and you get a list of suggestions before you finish typing in your request, then you've been experiencing AI. If you've ever watched a TV streaming service like Netflix or Hulu, or used GPS for traveling, or shopped online (like Amazon or ordered your groceries online), then you have been using Artificial Intelligence, whether you know it or not.

Learning that Artificial Intelligence has been a part of our lives for such a long time already gave me a sense of relief. Because I thought AI was brand new, I also believed the only uses of AI were bad uses. Which leads to the next thing I learned: the use of Artificial Intelligence as seen in "The Terminator" movie is simply not possible. AI makes for an edge-of-your-seat movie plot, but the reality is, a killing machine that looks human is simply not possible. Not now. Not ever. Think of it this way: just because we put a man on the moon, that doesn't mean we can send humans to another solar system and land on another planet. We haven't even been able to figure out how to get people to land on the closest planet in our solar system, so how could it be possible to think we can land on another planet in a different solar system? Well, in the same way that traveling to another solar system is not possible, creating machines that can take over the world like they try to do in the Terminator movie is simply not possible.

Having said that, I'm not saying Artificial Intelligence is harmless. Just like anything else that has potential to bring a benefit to our lives, AI can (and is) being

used for nefarious reasons. For example, AI is being used to create "deep fakes" that makes it look like people are saying and doing things they have never said or done before. For example, foreign governments have been using AI to create fake images and stories of political candidates and then using social media platforms to spread false information in the blink of an eye. And there are plenty of people who are gullible enough to believe the ridiculous stories and conspiracy theories being spread.

Another nefarious use of AI is found in our classrooms. There are AI platforms available where students can type in the requirements needed for a paper, and the platform will produce a paper in a matter of seconds. No research or typing is needed. If you are wondering, yes, pastors can do the same thing with sermon writing. Say you needed a sermon on The Good Samaritan or the parable of the Prodigal Son. All you need to do is type your request into the information line, and within seconds, a sermon is produced. Which is where a lot of nervousness is coming from. But I can assure you of something, the papers and sermons produced by AI are not usable in the classroom or in worship. The information provided is very rigid and mechanical. There is no heart or passion or individualism in a paper or a sermon produced through AI. So, there are easy ways to tell if something was written by a human, or if it was generated by Artificial Intelligence. But still, whenever there is a lack of true information, the level of fears among people will increase.

I recently took part in a discussion of the use of Artificial Intelligence among a group of pastors, and a concern was raised about AI machines taking over for pastors. I spoke up and shut down that fear immediately. I said, "Let me ask you a question: who calls pastors into ministry? Does God call pastors? Or does AI call pastors?" The answer, of course, is that God is one who calls us into ministry. OK, next question, "Where do you place your faith in salvation? Do you place your faith in God's love through Jesus? Or do you place your faith in salvation of AI?" The answer, again, is that we are saved through God's love shown in Jesus. You see, whenever there are fears, you fight those fears with facts. It works every time.

As amazing as Artificial Intelligence can be, AI will never replace God. This crazy world in which we live is going to keep moving forward, and inventing new things, because that's how God created the human mind to work. Technological advances are not going to stop because God created humans to be creative problem solvers. Humans will also take solutions to problems and twist them into new problems. That is part of the challenge of free will. But no matter what happens, God is still God. Know this: nothing will ever replace who God is or what God has done in our lives. Just like nothing (either machine or human) can take God's love and salvation for humanity away either. So, there is no reason to fear. We will always be safe in the presence of our loving God, no matter what the machines, or our fears, may tell us. Trust in who God is, and the rest will take care of itself.

The Journey Continues... *Pastor Dave*

WOW! That seems strange to type 2025 for the year! We are on the brink of a new year and that means it's time to think about resolutions. (I know, we make these resolutions, but they only last for a week or two and then we forget all about them.)

This year, let's think about positive resolutions that can help us have a closer relationship with our Lord. Maybe we need to attend church more often. Maybe the Wednesday Bible study would be something that we could benefit from. Or maybe we just need to think of ways that we can help others and be a real asset to our church and community. Things like praying for those we know are struggling or visiting sick friends or members of our church cannot only benefit those we visit, but you may be surprised at how it can make you feel better, too.

Other ways that we can become more involved are to offer to help with activities at the church. Maybe you would like to sing in the choir or perhaps you would like to read scripture on a Sunday morning. Maybe you would like to start out with joining a committee or two at church. Think about all of the ways you can become involved in the life of St. Mark's. If you feel that you would like to become more involved in the church, talk with Pastor Dave. I'm sure he would be happy to put you in contact with the right people who would be eager to help you.

Let's make 2025 the year we make a New Year's Resolution and keep it for the whole year!

A special "thank you" to all those who have helped at St. Mark's throughout the year. Your willingness to help others and serve the church is greatly appreciated.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Faye Fox

Report of the Consistory - December 2024

The profit from the Hoss's fundraiser in late October totaled \$169.61. The profit from the candy sale in November was over \$900. The budget for 2025 was reviewed and questions were asked and answered prior to approval to send it for a vote at the annual congregational meeting in January. Cindy Johnson plans to return to the church organist position on a limited basis in February 2025 and will increase her time as tolerated. Patricia Singer is available as a substitute organist through the end of March 2025. Kathy Follett will remain as the accompanist for the choirs. Kenneth Shultz was approved to move from interim music director to music director effective December 1, 2024. The grant application submitted to the conference was approved for the projects at Pine Acres.

Kid's Team/Youth/Young Adults Corner

Kid's Team

Kid's Team will be bowling at Palmyra bowling in February. Stay tuned for date, time and cost.

Kid's Kamp 2025 – plan early to mark on your calendar. Kid's Kamp will be held July 14-17.

If you aren't sure the age for Kid's Team and have a child or grandchild that might be looking to join, most Kid's Team activities are planned for ages K-4 through 6th grade. If you aren't already receiving Kid's Team announcements, please check in with Kathy Follett or Meredith Myers.

Youth/Young Adults

Here are the upcoming activities for the Youth/Young Adults for the next few months of 2025:

Jan 19th – Bowling at Palmyra. We'll try to get lanes from 1-3 pm that day. Cost will be between \$12 and \$15 depending on the number in attendance. Stay tuned for more information closer to the time.

April 19-20th – Prayer Vigil. More information closer to the time when the Youth/Young Adult will begin overnight.

May 30th – June 1st – the youth/young adults will be heading again to Cassville, PA for a weekend of respite and retreat.

If you hear of a good Christian movie being released in 2025, let Kathy know so we can throw that into the mix.

If you know of someone between 7th grade and 30 that is currently not receiving the Youth/Young Adults information, please contact Kathy Follett.

Mission Corner

WARM Mission Trip News

They voted to go back to Wilmington NC to assist WARM and stay at Matthew House. Currently, we have 14 interested in going, which will be the 2025 max due to Matthew House limitations. The week of the mission trip to support WARM is August 2nd – August 9th 2025. Look for an announcement for a meeting in February.

Asheville Mission Trip News

As a result of us taking donations to Beloved Asheville in November, the mission group determined they'd like to return to do mission work in the area for a few days. Join us on Sunday January 5th after church in Fellowship Hall to discuss this trip and determine interest. This trip would not be as long as the WARM Mission trip in August. It will be either 4 or 5 days where 2 days are travel and the remaining 2-3 days we'll be working for Beloved Asheville in home repair. This trip will be in May 2025. To not confuse with the August mission trip, this will be referred to as the Asheville Mission Trip.

Jigsaw Evangelism

The mission team is inviting the congregation to join them in January, February and March in what we're calling Jigsaw Evangelism. We love to do jigsaw puzzles on the mission trips and decided that would be a good way to pass the winter cold months. We'll meet on the following Saturdays

January 4, January 18

February 1, February 15

March 1, March 15

Time is 9-9:30 – continental breakfast (coffee, juice, donuts, bagels, etc)

Puzzle making 9:30 – 11

Have 4 tables in north end of Fellowship Hall

Puzzle size – 300, 500, 1000 and 1000

You don't need to be a jigsaw competition wizard to join. There will be tables for all skill sets. Consider joining us for a Saturday morning of jigsaw puzzle fun.

Non-Mission Trip Mission News

Stay tuned for our Community meal dates (May and July) and our dates at the Lebanon Rescue Mission (March and October).

David J. Leopold

In 1908 David Leopold began his duties as Assistant Superintendent of St. Mark's Sunday School under Superintendent Abraham Miller. Leopold had been born on a farm in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County where he received his early education. He proved to be such an excellent scholar that he began teaching at a young age. After a year in the Hanover Schools, he moved his teaching career to Millbach, then Annville, and finally to the Independent Borough.* He was also one of the teachers at the Annville Normal School. For a short time Leopold was a proprietor of a country store. In 1896 he entered his final business venture as a bookkeeper in the First National Bank. By 1904 he had been elected Cashier of the institution.

As a boy he attended the Walmer Sunday School, a few miles west of Lickdale, and while but a youth he served as superintendent of Lembergers Sunday School in Hanover. He was also a teacher in Christ Reformed Sunday School, Annville.

This varied background of experiences proved beneficial to St. Mark's. Leopold assumed the leadership of the Sunday School when Superintendent Miller suffered his fatal accident in 1910. Under his guidance the school continued to flourish. Mr. I. C. White served as his assistant throughout the years and followed him in the office.

After 28 years, Mr. Leopold retired in 1938 but continued his role as teacher.

Today we salute Superintendent David J. Leopold!

(*Independent Borough had its southern boundary along the Union Canal which ran north of the present APR Supply Company (or San Giorgio Macaroni Co.) and south of the Senior Center, formerly Harrison School. The Borough became part of the City of Lebanon in 1950.)

St. Mark's Mission Becomes a Church

From the very beginning of the Sunday School Mission, the consistory of Tabor envisioned the creation of the Third Reformed Church of Lebanon. Two years after the Mission's founding, on January 1, 1887, the consistory recommended that St. Mark's congregation be organized if the people of the Mission wanted it. They appointed a committee of 5 men to be joined by 5 from St. Mark's. Their responsibility was to explore the question of a new church. On March 31 St. Mark's chose the second half of the committee, and a survey was conducted to determine who would join and how much they would give toward the pastor's salary.

The consistory of Tabor placed but two conditions on a new church. First, all of the land and buildings were to be transferred to the new church and thus relieve Tabor of all financial obligations. The second condition was this: Tabor would pay off the debt on the Chapel if "care be taken to move in harmony, love, and peace with the 'Mother Church' ".

The results of the survey are not recorded, but it must have been positive for on the evening of May 12, 1887, a meeting in the Chapel resulted in the adoption of a constitution and the election of Abraham H. Miller and E. D. Krall as elders and John Albright, Hiran D. Miller, Charles Swope, and A. P. Wilhelm as deacons. The new officers were ordained and installed the following Sunday, May 15. The new congregation consisted of 156 members; 152 had come from Tabor and 4 from St. John's, Jonestown.

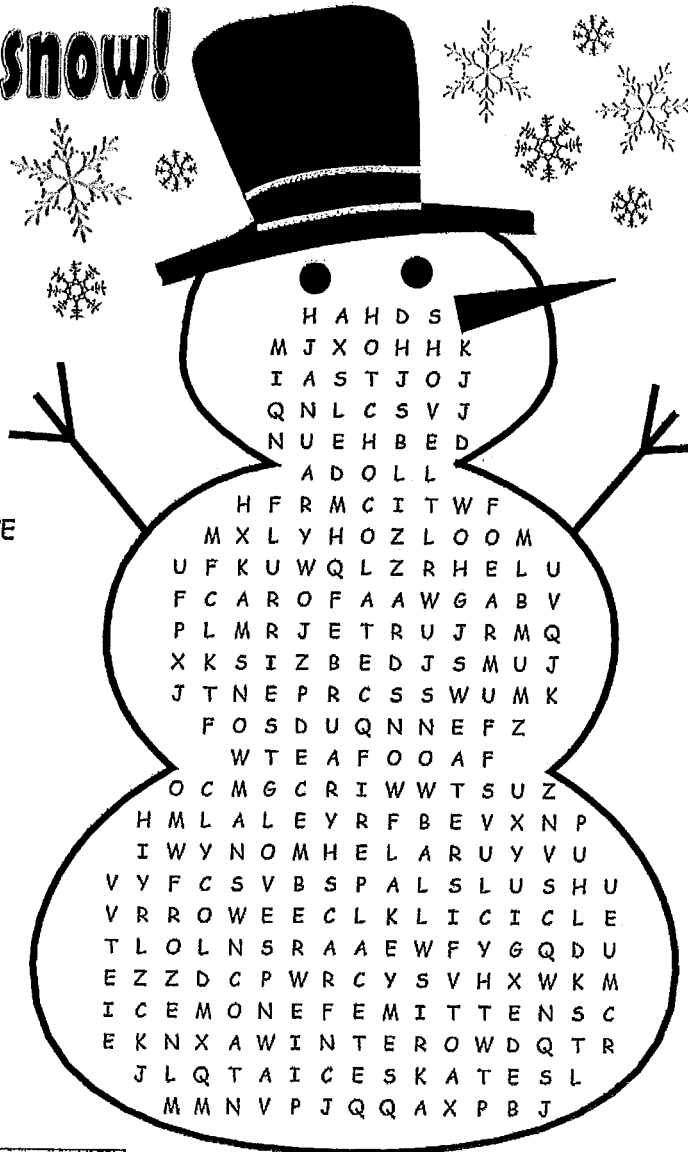
With the new independence came a \$4462 debt which the congregation reduced to just \$2000 by April 1, 1889. On June 17, 1888, St. Mark's received title to the Chapel and land. While they were quick to ask Tabor for continued financial support, it was never needed.

Jim Schucker

KID'S KORNER

Let it snow!

BLIZZARD
COAT
COLD
DECEMBER
EARMUFFS
FEBRUARY
FIREPLACE
FLURRIES
FROZEN
GLOVES
HOT CHOCOLATE
ICE
ICE SKATES
ICICLE
JANUARY
MITTENS
SCARF
SHOVEL
SLED
SLUSH
SNOWBALL
SNOWFLAKE
SNOWMAN
SWEATER
WINTER



Name: _____

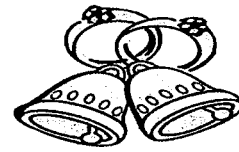
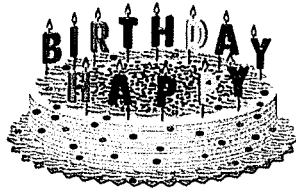
HAMBURGER SOUP

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. hamburger (season to taste)
- 1 can corn
- 5 medium potatoes, diced
- 3 or 4 hard boiled eggs

Cover hamburger with water and cook about 20 minutes, then add potatoes. when potatoes are half finished, add corn. When ready to serve, dice eggs and add to soup.

This recipe is in the St. Mark's Evangelical and Reformed Church Cookbook and is from Mrs. George Aunspach.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

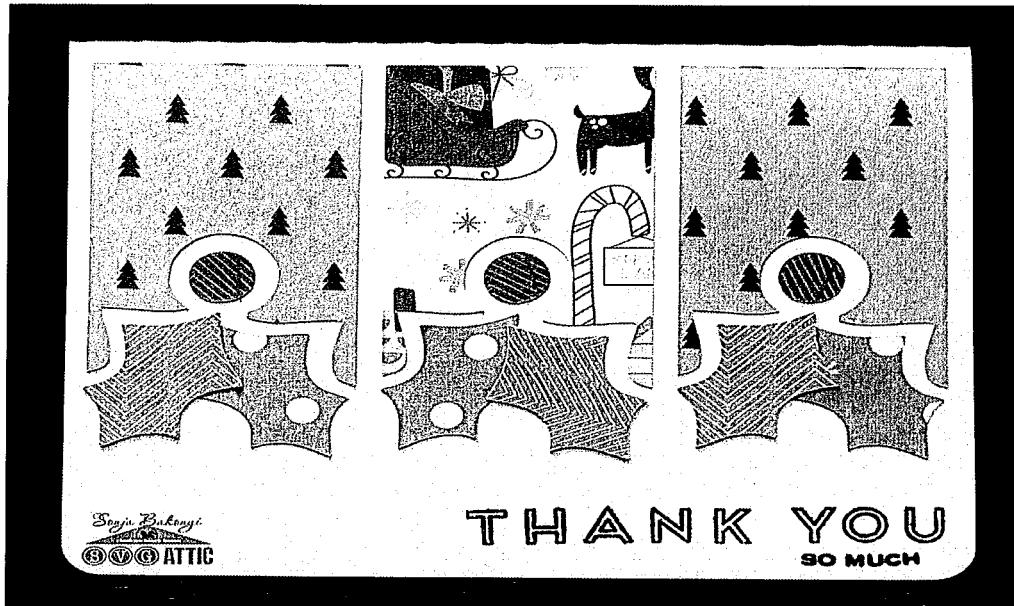
Birthday		Anniversary
January 1	Izayah Raiger	None
January 2	David Musselwhite	
January 3	LuAnn Schneider	
January 5	Graham Musselwhite	
January 10	Logan Whitman	
January 11	Abigail Eggert Kenneth Wengert	
January 12	Ronald Follett Larry Houser	
January 13	Stephen Wentzel	
January 15	Heather Eggert	
January 16	Karen Musselwhite J. Scot Ruffner	
January 20	Lowell Sherman	
January 22	Jeanette Heim	
January 23	Paul Whitman	
January 24	Carol Ruffner	
January 25	Jeanine Keefer Candace Wentzel	
January 26	Juanita Fuhrman	
January 29	Kathy Burke	
January 30	Wyatt Fox	

SENIOR CORNER

Gloria Simmers
2000 Walnut St.
Lebanon PA 17042

Robert Trautman
c/o Terry Trautman
112 Lexington Drive
Annville, PA 17003

Please send notes, cards or give them a phone call. Let Gloria and Bob know that St. Mark's has not forgotten about them. Thank you.



A great big thank you to the congregation from all of the staff for the most generous Christmas gifts. We appreciate your gifts so much.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Annual Family Day. The day was a great success and we could not do it without everyone's help. We are so blessed at St. Mark's.

A big thank you to all who helped make the candy and to those who purchased candy. We made \$936.00 profit on the candy this year.

The Christmas boxes for the children at the Agape Shelter have been delivered. And the gifts for the residents at Cedar Haven have also been delivered. Thank you to everyone that has participated in these projects for the Good Samaritan Committee. You have all helped to give the children and seniors a very Merry Christmas.

JANUARY

PRAYER AND EVENTS CALENDAR

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Zachary Bell New Year's Day	2 Karen Bennett	3 Linda & John Bering	4 Sarah, Dylan, & Roman Blauch Jigsaw Puzzle 9-11 AM
5 Judy Blouch Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship-10 AM Holy Communion	6 Barry & Cathy Bossler Epiphany	7 Casey Bossler Bell Rehearsal	8 Ruth Boyer Bible Study - 10 AM	9 Kenneth Brandt Spiritual Council - 6:30 PM Consistory Mtg. 7:00 PM	10 Mary Brandt	11 Samuel & Holly Brandt Kathy Burke Birthday Party - 12-7 PM (Fellowship Hall)
12 Jake Brewer Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	13 Fred Brown	14 Ken Brown Bell Rehearsal	15 Timothy Brown Bible Study - 10 AM Christian Ed Mtg. - 6:30 PM (Deb Follett's Home)	16 Kathy Burke	17 Roxanne Carpenter	18 Kathryn Ceresini Jigsaw Puzzle 9-11 AM
19 Destiny Chernich Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM	20 Matthew Chernich	21 Ruth Clark Bell Rehearsal	22 Rebecca Colban Bible Study - 10 AM	23 Gerald Collins	24 Michael & Jennifer Collins	25 Colin Daub Leb. Comm. Concert Band Mem. - 9 to 1 PM (Fellowship Hall)
26 Michael & Heather Daub Choir Rehearsal - 8:30 AM Worship - 10 AM Annual Cong. Meeting	27 Ryan Daub	28 Kathryn Dissinger Bell Rehearsal	29 Bob & Anita Eby Bible Study - 10 AM	30 Kimberly, David, Andrew & Taylor Edmondson	31 Abigail Eggert	