



First United Methodist Church Champaign

Where connecting, growing, and serving are a way of life



The Mission of First United Methodist Church is to:

- **CONNECT** people with God and one another
- **GROW** as disciples of Jesus Christ
- **SERVE** others.

Messenger

Volume XXVI, No. 3

February 7, 2018

Love and Surprises

During Children's Moments on Christmas Eve, I asked the kids to tell me their favorite part of the Christmas story. One response I received was, "The part where he rises from the dead."

Admittedly I had said "the Jesus Christmas story" so as to avoid digression into the world of Santa, elves, etc. So it wasn't a far stretch for a child to think beyond the birth when considering the whole story of Jesus. And if the resurrection is your favorite part you might as well say so, even on Christmas Eve.

It is, after all, the same story. The God who came to us in flesh in the infant Jesus is the same God who was "crucified, dead, and buried," as the creed states, and who rose from the dead "on the third day." There is hardly enough time to unpack all that.

So, I am reminded of how swiftly we are moving this year from the season of Christmas, through the revealing of Christ to the whole world as acknowledged in the season of Epiphany, to Lent, which begins February 14. It is all part of a single story.

Somewhat oddly (at times), the Christian liturgical calendar imposes itself on the secular calendar without apology. That is to say, Christian seasons, observances, and celebrations take place when they are scheduled to occur no matter what else we are busy doing.



To be more specific, this year Ash Wednesday will fall on Valentine's Day and Easter will fall on April Fools' Day. Valentine's Day is a celebration of love, and ultimately the season of Lent and specifically Ash Wednesday are about the power of God's love in the face of our sin and mortality. April Fools' Day is about jokes and surprises, and perhaps there is no better joke God could play on the world, and no greater surprise, than to raise from the dead the One we killed through our selfishness and send him back to us with forgiveness and a new start.

Whatever else you are doing on February 14, I hope you will plan to join in Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:00 p.m. in order to renew your faith in God's love.

If you have not attended First Wednesday Prayer, or if you have, I hope you will plan to do so on February 7 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

If you have not signed up for the Lenten Study, "Serving from the Heart: Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service," I hope you will do so by this coming Sunday either online on our church's website or in the Friendship Center on Sunday morning. Wesley Covenant Groups and our Youth Sunday School Class will both participate.

Taizé Worship services will be offered again this year from 6:00-6:30 p.m. on the Wednesdays of Lent, beginning February 21. These services of scripture, prayer, gentle singing, and meditative silence offer the opportunity to allow God's love to sink into our spirits deeply. I hope you will attend those as well.

My prayer is that this season of Lent, and Easter to follow, will be for us a season of love and grace-filled surprises.

Faithfully Yours,
Rev. Tom Corum
Directing Pastor



ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

**at 6:00 p.m.
on February 14 in the Sanctuary.
Everyone is welcome!**

Come Away to the Quiet - Taizé Services during Lent

Singing is an essential element of worship. Short songs, repeated again and again, can enhance the meditative character of worship. A characteristic of Taizé songs is the use of repetition. This use of repetition allows the text to gradually penetrate one's whole being. Thus, meditative singing becomes a way of listening to God. It allows everyone to take part in a time of prayer together and to remain together in attentive listening to God.

These songs also sustain personal prayer. Through them, little by little, our being finds an inner unity in God. The music continues in the silence of our hearts when we are at work, speaking with others or resting. In this way prayer and daily life are united. Music allows us to keep on praying even when we are unaware of it, in the silence of our hearts.

You are invited to "Come away to the quiet" and join in a 30-minute meditative Taizé worship service at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary on Wednesdays during Lent. The services will include candlelight, meditation, scripture, song, and prayer. The music is led by FUMC musicians; you are welcome to join in the singing or to simply listen.

Wednesday, February 21 – Bennett Kosma, cantor
Wednesday, February 28 – Perceptions Praise Team
Wednesday, March 7 – Bennett Kosma, cantor and
Chancel Ringers
Wednesday, March 14 – Youth Music
Wednesday, March 21 – Kevin Lucas, cantor

Business Office Update

As most of you are aware, John Jones, our Business Manager, has faced serious health challenges over the last few years with tremendous faith and his usual optimism. He has experienced two hospitalizations since the beginning of this year and is now in a place where he has elected to receive Hospice care at home.

Our gratitude to and for John can hardly be expressed in words. His faith, love for the church, and commitment to the workings of the Business Office are a rare combination and a tremendous gift for which our thanks will continue indefinitely.

Prayers and love are extended to John and his family. Notes of support and appreciation can be sent to: 2901 Robeson Park Dr., Champaign, IL 61822.

In the midst of this emotional time, we are pleased to announce the hiring of John Rear as Interim Business Manager effective February 1. John holds degrees in Accounting and Finance from Illinois State University and is a CPA, having held positions with Busey Bank and Martin Hood. For the time being, he will be in the Business Office from 9:00-1:00 Mondays through Fridays. We welcome John to our staff.

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee will begin right away to seek a new Business Manager, and we will keep you informed.

Clyde Lee & Jane Cecilia Baker Endowment Fund Scholarship on Behalf of Professor Jack Sherman Baker

First United Methodist Church is pleased to announce the Clyde Lee and Jane Cecilia Baker Endowment Fund Scholarship on behalf of Professor Jack Sherman Baker. This scholarship is available to current and previous youth who have been active in the youth and/or music ministries of FUMC. It is available for advanced education, including community/junior college, 4-year college/university, or accredited trade school. Applications can be obtained by contacting the church office and must be turned in for consideration by April 2, 2018.

Perceptions X



On Sunday, January 28, FUMC celebrated the tenth anniversary of the first Perceptions service. That first service, on January 13, 2008, was the culmination of nearly three years of planning by a dedicated group of church staff and volunteers who sought to bring a new style and energy to worship. They had spent countless hours considering all that was involved in creating a contemporary service and talking with church members about how this new service could meet their spiritual needs.

Perceptions' original motto was "Engage Your Spirit." The service's goal is to lift people up with music and to allow them to experience the presence of God in their lives. The service's vision statement is "A Perceptions worship experience will ignite your spirit, engage your mind, and fill your heart with God's love."

We have been blessed over the past ten years to have been led by four people who devoted their time and talents to making Perceptions successful. Jill Dautzenberg was the first worship leader, coming aboard in 2007, even before the service was launched. Chris Noyes joined us in 2008 and brought a wealth of knowledge about experiential worship along with his great musical talent. Chris left us for family reasons in 2010 and we were blessed to welcome Gordy Wilson, an extremely talented musician, to succeed him. Gordy led the team until 2014, when Barbara Zachow was appointed as Director of Music and Worship for the church.

Each of these leaders contributed greatly to the growth of the service. Perceptions has provided opportunities for church members, our youth, university students and others to lend their musical and other talent. We are proud that several who arrived at FUMC because of the musical or technical opportunities provided by Perceptions were moved to become members of our congregation. Also, the audio, video, and music technology needed for the contemporary service has been embraced throughout the congregation and enhances worship for the Classic service as well.

It has been exciting to watch Perceptions develop over the past decade. It will be exciting to see what Perceptions becomes over the next decade and beyond.



Flower Calendar Sign Up for 2018



Do you have birthdays, anniversaries or other special events you would like to celebrate? Do you have special people in your family whom you would like to honor?

Why not celebrate by providing flowers for a Sunday. The flowers are ordered for you by the chairman of the month. It is a quite simple way to beautify the chancel and remember the special people in your life.

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall across from the office.

For questions, call Teryl Pigott at 621-2744 or email terylpigott@gmail.com.

FUMC Recognized as a Chaddock Partnership Church

Dear Rev. Tom,

Congratulations! Your congregation is recognized as a Chaddock Partnership Church. Your 2017 giving to Chaddock's ministry proves your generosity and compassion for our children, and is deeply appreciated. We hope you continue to partner with us in ministry in 2018.

A certificate of appreciation is enclosed for displaying in your church. Please convey our gratitude to each individual, group, and your general congregation who made possible this honor. It was the contributions which gave you this distinction . . . those gifts made directly to Chaddock and those sent through the Conference Treasurer's office, all credited to your church.

Our prayers for your church as it continues to serve as a place where God's people can gather to worship, pray, learn, enjoy fellowship, and unite in their outreach to share the love and peace of Jesus Christ with the world.

In Christian love and service,

Jeff VanCamp
Director of Development

Jeff Rasche
Associate Director of
Stewardship



SHARE LOVE with MANY HEARTS



ALTERNATIVE GIVING FEB 4 and 11

*Our individual mission is
where our talents/gifts
meet the needs
of our neighborhood,
our community,
our nation,
or the world.*

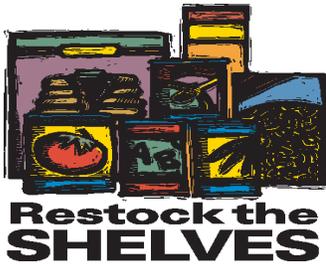
First Wednesday Prayer

Mid-Week Reflection

February 7 6:30-7pm
In the Chapel

Join us for this peaceful and spiritually
renewing time of devotion, music, and prayer.

Stock the Food Pantry Early & Often



First United Methodist Church members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to the church on the first Sunday of each month to stock our food pantry. These items are used by the volunteers to provide food for the families in need.

Especially needed are: spaghetti sauce, canned peaches, canned pears, pork & beans, cereal, ketchup, mustard, salt, and dish soap. Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated.

“God gave you your particular mix of talents and abilities because they match up with the mission he has in mind for you.”

MATTHEW KELLY
Taken from *Resisting Happiness*



UMW Executive Board will meet on Wednesday, February 7, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room.

Dorcas Circle will not meet in February.

Sarah Circle will meet on Monday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Paula Charter's home. Terry Benson will lead the program.

To Our Guests and Visitors . . .



Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Champaign. We are honored that you have chosen to worship with us, and we invite you to visit the Hospitality desk in the Friendship Center, adjacent to the Sanctuary. Or you can visit us on our website, www.champaignfumc.org, to learn more about the many opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service available through the ministries of our congregation.

How do I become a member...?

If you are considering membership in the congregation of First United Methodist Church, you are invited to attend an orientation group: “Connecting@First.” This is an opportunity to learn more about the ministries of the Church.

If you would like to register for the next group, please contact Sharon Johnson, Administrative Assistant to the Directing Pastor, sjohnson@champaignfumc.org, or 356-9078.

Transportation Coordinator

The Nominations Committee is looking for a Transportation Coordinator to organize transportation for those otherwise unable to attend Classic Worship on Sunday mornings. This project could also be managed by a couple, a group, neighbors, etc. We look forward to hearing that you are willing to be a part of this much-needed service for members and guests. Please contact Sharon in the church office (356-9078) to indicate your willingness or for additional information.



Youth News



This past January, before school was starting back up, I invited all of the previous FUMC youth that had gone away to college over for a Youth Group Reunion Dinner. It was great getting to see all of them again--some of them who just started college this past semester and some who are almost entirely done! We met at my apartment for conversation, food, and games. It's always so much fun to reconnect with them.

As kids in youth group grow up and age out of the youth program, that doesn't mean we stop caring about them here. When I was in college, and even now, my youth director continued to reach out to me and I continued to grow in the friendships I had made in youth group. It may be only 6th-12th graders that meet on Sunday nights, but it helps build relationships for a lifetime.

Meredith

meredith@champaignfumc.org

Coming Events:

Sunday, February 18 - No Youth Group

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - High School Bible Study - Our high school Bible study meets on Wednesdays at Panera on Kirby from 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.! Study the Bible and grab dinner while you get to spend time with friends!

Sundays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Youth Group - Our middle school and high school youth meet every Sunday evening at the church! Come join us for an evening of activities, fellowship, and fun! We meet in the youth room and dinner is provided.

Lenten Love Banks



Lenten Love Banks and Calendars Are Coming! Sunday, February 18

The Lenten Love Banks/Calendars will be available following both services on Sunday, February 18, and may be returned on Palm Sunday, March 25.

This year's theme is "With Christ, All Kids Count".

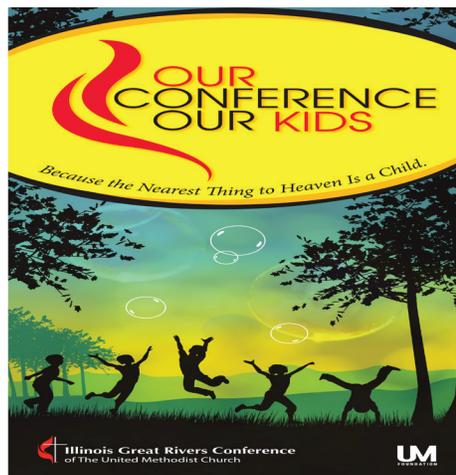
The calendars will help individuals and families to hold our various church mission programs in prayer. The banks will give us an opportunity to support two United Methodist Illinois Great Rivers Conference special projects:

"Our Conference, Our Kids", three-year campaign will provide an endowment fund to support the spiritual life programs at our five conference agencies which serve children/youth/families.

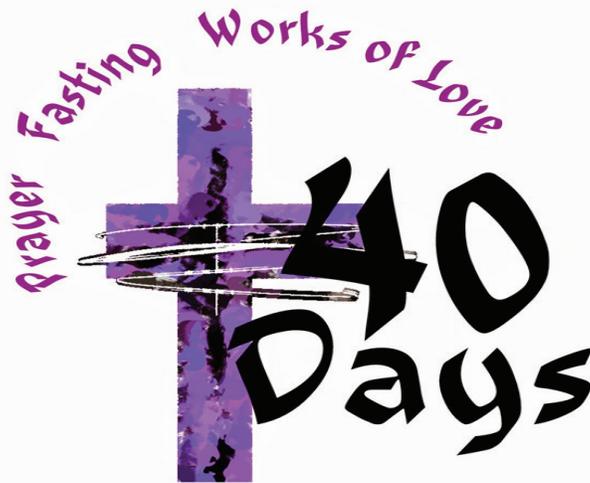
The bank donations will also benefit the "Alain Rocco Endowment Fund" which helps to give education opportunities to children in Methodist schools in Haiti, (scholarships, teacher support and noon meals).

We hope that using the banks/calendars will enrich your Lenten experiences.

Thanks for your support,
National/Global Missions Team



The Liturgical Season of Lent, 2018



Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays), begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Saturday, the evening before Easter, in remembrance of the 40 days and nights that Christ spent fasting in the desert, tempted by Satan.

During Lent, we enter into a season of preparation, self-reflection and repentance when we seek to literally “turn around” and realign our lives and focus toward God. It is a time to give up things as well as take on new life-giving practices, helping us rid ourselves of distractions and our own selfish desires. By doing so, we seek to live and love as more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent prepares us to share in the joys of Easter Sunday with purity of heart.

Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, while Lent is a time of preparation for Holy Week. Holy Week recalls the events preceding and during the crucifixion, which occurred in Jerusalem in the Roman province Judea.

The color for the liturgical season of Lent is purple (sorrow, penitence).

Personal Spiritual Resources for your 2018 Lenten journey:

- Join our six-week Lenten Wesley Covenant Group: *Serving from the Heart*
- Read and meditate on the Bible and/or one of our Lenten devotion booklets
- Seek out times for fasting, praying, alms-giving, works of mercy (doing good; visiting the sick and prisoners; feeding and clothing people; earning, saving, and giving all you can; opposition to slavery (in all its forms)
- Cultivate gratitude for God’s loving mercy

Worship opportunities at FUMC during Lent:

- Ash Wednesday worship service with imposition of ashes – Wednesday, February 14, at 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday morning Celebration of Joy worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday evening Taizé worship services with candlelight, meditation, scripture, and prayer at 6:00 p.m.

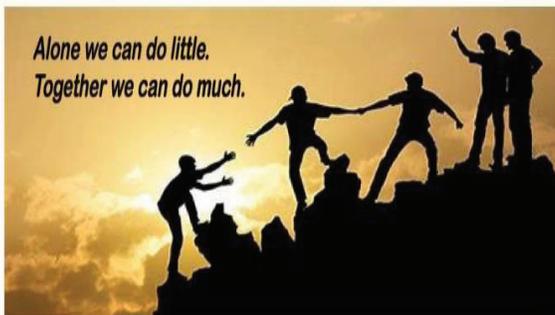
Worship opportunities at FUMC during Holy Week:

- Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday worship with palm processional at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, March 30: Good Friday worship at 12:00 noon in our sanctuary
- Prayer Vigil: Friday, March 30, 1:00 p.m. - Saturday, March 31, 1:00 p.m.

Lent concludes with the Easter Celebration of Joy on Sunday, April 1, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Mega Work-A-Thon

CONGRATULATIONS – Your gifts to empty tomb during 2017 provided help to many, many people in Jesus' name. Now the Mega Work-A-Thon is happening again on March 3. This year the goal is to raise \$60,811 to fully fund empty tomb's No-Late-Bills Reserve Fund. This fund helps to ensure a more even cash flow to fund the operations and salaries of empty tomb when due. To this end, Local Outreach is collecting monetary donations on Sunday mornings, February 11, 18, and 25. Checks should be made payable to FUMC with "empty tomb" on the memo line. If you prefer, you can place your donations in the offering plate during worship services, although it would be nice to visit with you at the Local Outreach table. However you do it, your generous participation will be greatly appreciated.



January at Austin's Place

We provided 120 beds of shelter for 17 women

Using 47 overnight volunteers and 23 drivers.

Thanks to Everyone for your time, donations, and prayers!

STRONGER

TOGETHER!



21st Annual SAFE Houses Winter Benefit Concert

in Memory Deacon Willie T. Summerville
(who led the charge for this benefit for twenty years)

Sunday,
February 25, 2018
4pm

First United Methodist Church
210 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Performances by

- **Chancel Choir**

First Presbyterian Church Champaign

- **Choral Union and Chancel Union Choir and the Chancel Ringers**

First United Methodist Church, Champaign

- **Canaan Baptist Church Mass Choir**

- *Special Guest*

The University of Illinois Black Chorus

Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, Conductor



For more information or to contribute online go to:
www.canaandevelopmentfoundation.org/contribute

By Mail: Canaan Development Foundation
404 West Main Street
Urbana, IL 61801
Or call: 217-367-2158

Please post and share on Facebook, Twitter, or email.
Thank You!

WCG Lenten Study
Serving From the Heart
 Starting the week of Feb. 18
 through the week of March 25



Take a 6-week journey of self-discovery and learn more about how the Body of Christ is intended to function, and what that means to you. Explore your spiritual gifts, talents and abilities, resources, individual style, dreams and experiences--all adding up to an enhanced capacity to serve God and neighbor.

Sign up for classes will be:

January 28 - February 11
 Sundays in Friendship Center
 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 Online registration available at
www.champaignfumc.org

Class Offerings:

Wesley Covenant Groups
 Sundays 10-11 a.m.
 Sundays 6-7:00 p.m. (2 classes)
 Mondays 1-2:00 p.m.
 Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.
 Tuesdays 7-8:00 p.m.*
 Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Wednesdays 7-8:00 p.m.*
 *classes meet at private homes

Cost of Books: \$13. Please pay at sign up.

Youth Lenten Study
Serving From the Heart
 February 18 - March 25



Using the model from “Love Languages” in the fall, we will be offering the Lenten study, “Serving From the Heart” to our youth (6-12 grade) during our Sunday School class at 10 a.m., February 18 – March 25. Stephanie Corum and Andrew Bequette will be leading the class.

Parents, adult relatives, or mentors can join the class and share this discovery experience with their youth.

The curriculum explores spiritual gifts – what they are and how we can use them. A spiritual gifts inventory is included in the class.

Sign up for classes will be:

January 28 - February 11
 Sundays in Friendship Center
 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Cost of Books: Books are free for youth. An adult may share a book with their youth. If the adult wants his/her own book, the cost will be \$10. Please pay at sign up.



Congregational Life of FUMC

February 16-28, 2018



- 17 Jonathan Fotzler
- 17 Phyllis Robeson
- 18 Ann-Marie Best
- 19 Dot Beldon
- 19 Madeline Geis
- 19 Grace MacRae
- 19 Nathan Petersen
- 21 Norman Andersen
- 21 John Ayers
- 21 Bill Hand
- 21 Adam Simmons
- 21 Seth Simmons

- 22 Emersen Geis
- 22 Jenna Martin
- 22 Althea Stockwell
- 23 Helen Archer
- 24 Jeanne Kemper
- 25 Joseph Hadler
- 25 Jack Hou
- 25 Connie McCray
- 25 Gale Morenz
- 25 Greg Moser
- 27 Barbara Foil
- 27 Meredith Garreau
- 27 Hillary Veitch
- 28 Larry Askew
- 28 Krista Beyler
- 28 Sunny Choo
- 28 Josef Hallbeck

- 18 Norman & Holly Andersen
- 25 Ken & Kelli Kemper
- 26 John & Sylvia Ronsvale
- 28 Joseph & Marin Mattingly

Hospital Report

Hospitalized in the past two weeks: Thelma Berbaum, Judy (Mrs. Carl) Johnson, John Jones, and Berenice Spiegel.



GOING INTO THE HOSPITAL?

If you are scheduled by your physician to be hospitalized, please indicate "**Champaign First United Methodist Church**" on your admission form.

Privacy guidelines will not allow hospitals to notify the Church without your permission. If you can, call us before you are admitted, or have a family member or friend let us know.

We don't want to miss you when we visit.

Rev. Tom & Rev. Jerry



If you have a need for prayer, please call the Church Office at 356-9078.

NEXT

Messenger Deadline, February 15, 2018

published on February 21
Articles may be submitted by e-mail to:
bberner@champaignfumc.org
or brought to the Church.



TRUST IN *THE* LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.

PROVERBS 3:5. ESV

Do YOU need a ride to 11:00 Sunday Morning Worship Service?



We want you here to worship!! Call 352-6943, and let Al Boehm know of your need. He will be happy to assist you.

Congregational Life of FUMC

Church Calendar

Thursday, February 8

8:00 Quilters
 10:00 Minds in Motion
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 7:00 Wrapped in His Love
 7:45 Austin's Place

Friday, February 9

7:45 Austin's Place

Saturday, February 10

7:45 Austin's Place

Sunday, February 11

8:15 Coffee Connections
 8:45 ARK Child Care
 9:00 Perceptions Worship
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:00 WCG Sign-up
 11:00 Classic Worship
 4:00 Kids Choir
 4:30 LIFT
 5:00 Youth Music
 6:00 Youth Group
 7:45 Austin's Place

Monday, February 12

8:00 Quilters
 5:15 Board of Trustees
 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
 7:00 Choral Union
 7:00 Staff-Parish Relations Committee
 7:45 Austin's Place

Tuesday, February 13

10:30 Staff Meeting
 11:45 WCG Leadership Team
 6:00 Chancel Ringers
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
 7:45 Austin's Place

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

1:30 NDFL Committee
 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service
 7:00 Chancel Choir
 7:30 Venturing Crew 1
 7:45 Austin's Place

Thursday, February 15

8:00 Quilters
 8:30 *Messenger* Deadline
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 7:45 Austin's Place

Friday, February 16

7:45 Austin's Place

Saturday, February 17

7:45 Austin's Place

Sunday, February 18

8:15 Coffee Connections
 8:45 ARK Child Care
 9:00 Perceptions Worship
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:00 WCG Sign-up
 11:00 Classic Worship
 3:30 WCG Leaders
 4:00 Kids Choir
 5:00 Youth Music
 6:00 Corum WCG
 6:00 Jones/Corum WCG
 7:45 Austin's Place

Monday, February 19



Church Office & Child Care Center Closed

1:00 Goller WCG
 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 11
 7:00 Choral Union
 7:00 Sarah Circle
 7:45 Austin's Place

Tuesday, February 20

9:30 Program Staff Meeting
 10:00 OMA (Opening Minds with Art)
 11:45 WCG Leadership Team
 1:30 Brown WCG
 6:00 Chancel Ringers
 7:00 Bachman WCG
 7:00 Boy Scout Troop #1
 7:45 Austin's Place

Wednesday, February 21

8:30 *Messenger* Assembly
 11:30 NDFL Event
 6:00 Taizé Service
 6:30 Beyler WCG
 6:30 High School Bible Study
 7:00 Chancel Choir
 7:00 Mattingly WCG
 7:30 Venturing Crew
 7:45 Austin's Place

Thursday, February 22

8:00 Quilters
 10:00 Minds in Motion
 5:30 Local Outreach
 6:30 Perceptions Praise Team
 7:00 Wrapped in His Love
 7:45 Austin's Place

Friday, February 23

7:45 Austin's Place

Saturday, February 24

7:45 Austin's Place

Worship Attendance

Sunday, January 28, 2017

9:00.....92
 11:00.....104
Total.....196

Sunday, February 4, 2018

9:00.....87
 11:00.....113
Total.....200

