

BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

STREET ADDRESS:

1965 Church Hill Road
Lehighon, PA 18235

One in Christ

Church Phone: 570-386-3870

Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990

E-mail: bensalemucc@verizon.net

Website: www.bensalemucc.com

Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back]

Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126

Office e-mail: pstrbens@verizon.net

BEN SALEM UCC
PO 128
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM VOICE

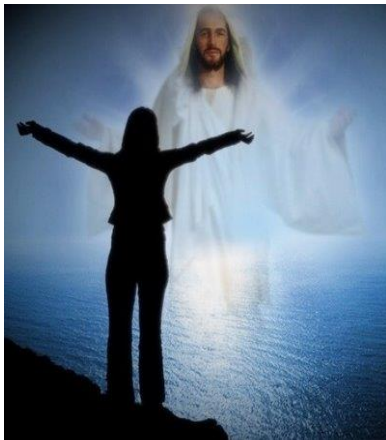
November 2016

**Ben Salem United Church of Christ
PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month I would like to begin this article with a short but deeply insightful poem. The poem is titled I MISSED HIM...FOUND HIM. It was composed by the long deceased Scottish author, poet, and Christian minister George MacDonald. Let me share it with you now;



*I missed Him when the sun began to bend;
I found Him not when I had lost his rim;
With many tears I went in search of Him;
Climbing high mountains which did still ascend,
And gave me echoes when I called my friend;
Through cities vast and charnel-houses grim,
And high cathedrals where the light was dim,
Through books and arts and works without an end,
But found Him not – the friend whom I had lost.
And yet I found Him – as I found the lark,
A sound in fields I heard but could not mark;
I found Him nearest when I missed Him most;
I found Him in my heart, a life in frost,
A light I knew not till my soul was dark.*

This poem is a wonderful work that provides us with an insightful look into how people many times want to call on God at their own whim all the while missing God's presence in the place God lives. Within its message is our assurance of God's presence in our life if we know where to look. And for this – we can give thanks.

Our lives many times seem similar to the imagery this poem conjures up. There are times we feel as if we are constantly climbing up a high mountain that appears to continually ascend into the clouds without end. As we work on ascending this mountain it continues upward and when the climb becomes too much we may stop to yell out for Jesus - only to hear our voice echo back to us. We look for Jesus in our cities and towns and wonder if somehow we have been abandoned. There are times we come to church only to find the experience we wanted to have with God was not what we expected. And so we begin to doubt and turn to others forms of help that promise relief; books, entertainment and "works without an end."

This is not unique to us, for this poem was written over 100 years ago. So as much as our world has changed over the course of the past century; people of faith are still struggling with the same question when it comes to our spiritual life, and that is - where is Jesus? Jesus of course is found in our heart!
With all the things we deal with throughout our lives the one thing that is constant and without question is Jesus is right where He has been since our baptism into Christ. As we surrender our self, our inner being, to the love of God we find Jesus when we need Him most. We are not abandoned or alone, we do not have to look far and wide, we have Jesus with us and all we have to do is surrender the things that distract us from our true reason for being. And for that we can be ever thankful during this season of thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.

Blessings to you all,
Pastor Mike

November Worship Services Services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM

November 6, 13, 20, 27



Communion:

Sundays, November 6th & 27th
8:00 and 10:30 AM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings
10AM – 12 Noon
Fellowship Hall Board Room

*Please consider joining our
group as we begin
a new study....
"Be Basic" (Genesis 1-11)
by Warren Wiersbe.*

Worship Schedule for December 2016

December 4 10:30AM Worship/Congregational Meeting/Advent II
11 8AM and 10:30AM Worship/Hand Bells/Advent III
18 8AM and 10:30AM Worship/Advent IV
24 2PM and 7:30PM Christmas Eve Service
25 9:15AM Christmas / Unity Worship Service

Concert featuring...
The Hawks and Lost & Found

Sunday, December 4th
2PM
in the Church



Meal

Sunday, November 20
10:30AM Service



Church Budget

How to Contribute
Salem's bills]
+ Use your weekly
+ Designate "Church
Missions – OCV
+ Place in offering

Note from Church Office & Financial Secretary:

Remember, it is important to keep us informed of any address changes. Please give changes of address to either Dollie Behr or Sue Messina.

Have you moved recently?

Members can help by updating the church office with their new address prior to moving. It is also helpful to provide the church office with your home phone numbers, cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses if you wish. By doing this we can keep in touch with you and also provide you with important information regarding the church. Thank you in advance for your help.

18211

Call to a Congregational Meeting

December 4, 2016 10:30 AM

(There will be no 8AM Service this Day)

Purpose: To vote on the proposed 2017 Budget
To elect Church Board Officers
To appoint Church Auditor

*It is very important that everyone attends the meeting on December 4th!
If you are interested in serving on Church Board, please see an Elder.*

Board Members:

Officers: Sharon Elder, President

Barry Fink, Vice President

Robert Pope, Church Board Secretary

Elders: Sharon Elder, Walter Keeck, Terry Lusch, Dayle Smith

Deacons: Terry Blair, Barry Fink, Doris Lusch, Kevin Lusch,
Kenneth Oswald, Robert Pope, Barry Reed, David Rex, Jr.

Pastor: Rev. Michael McGowan

Church Secretary: Dollie Behr

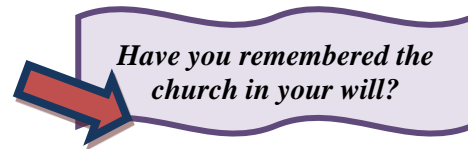
Treasurer: Dawne Beidleman

Financial Secretary's Address: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252

Upcoming Church Board Meeting: November 21 at 7 PM

Ben Salem History Books – Limited # available

\$60 – Contact the Church Office 570-386-3870



Upcoming Committee Meetings

Cemetery Association Officers: Christian Education: Nov. 1 at 6:30 PM

Next Meeting: November 3 at 7 PM Fundraisers: November 8 at 6:30 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt, Vice President: Eyan Bellay

Caretaker: David Fritzer, Stewardship & Finance: (to be scheduled)

Treasurer: Doris Lusch, Property Committee: November 17 at 7 PM

Church Board: November 21 at 7 PM

Membership & Growth: (to be scheduled)

Cemetery Lot Prices: \$300 (with perpetual care)

Newsletter Assembly: November 30 at 6 PM

Scheduling Events at Ben Salem Church:

To prevent scheduling problems...prior to calling meetings or events, please check with the Church Secretary at 570-386-3870 to make sure that the date you have planned is available.

suedmess@ptd.net

Hospitalization ?

If you or someone you know is going to be in the hospital for surgery, please let the church office know a day or two before the surgery. This way the Pastor will make every effort to be there to visit and pray with the patient before the surgery.

Altar Flower Sponsors:

[Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

A sign up sheet is located in the narthex. The cost of flower sponsorship is \$20.00. If you would like to sponsor flowers, please call Cindy Smith at 570-386-4248. ***Payment should be sent directly to: Cindy Smith, 707 Hoffman Rd., Lehighton, PA 18235.

Note: All bulletin and flower sponsorship should be paid in advance.

Bulletin Sponsorship: [Checks payable to Ben Salem UCC]

Please call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880 with your sponsorship information or e-mail her at suemess@ptd.net. The cost of Bulletin Sponsorship is \$7 per week. *** Payment should be sent directly to: Susan Messina, 66 River Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

Please do not call the church office with sponsorships!



Recycle...Save your soda cans...

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's.

Remember aluminum cans and clean aluminum only. There is a fenced in area to the rear of the old social hall for aluminum cans. Please do not place any of the following items in this area: garbage, wood, plastic, or other metals.

Do not place aluminum cans in the garbage shed.

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday – work from home

Tuesday – 10 AM to 2 PM

[visits in the afternoon]

Wednesday – 9 AM to 1 PM

[visits in the afternoon]

Thursday – 10 AM to 5 PM

Friday & Saturday

[by appointment]

Mission Minders November 2016

November is a month that we should consider all that we are thankful for, and, hopefully, find ways to help others with acts of kindness and generosity. The mission committee will also be working to help others during the upcoming holiday season.

Our fourth quarter Mission effort, **Lutheran World Relief**, runs through the end of the year, and addresses issues of world hunger by assisting with the needs of people in

third-world countries who need farm animals to become more self-sustaining. Please be generous in supporting this cause.

The **Walk, Run, and Cycle Exercise Challenge** netted \$975 of undesignated mission funds. Three health-related charities will each receive \$325 because of the efforts of our members. Thank you to all who participated.

On November 17th, Ben Salem will host the **Feed a Neighbor** meal at Zion's UCC. We host this dinner twice per year, and serve approximately 100 people each time. This is a good way to help others in need, and to realize how we and our families receive so many blessings as we learn to serve others. If you are interested in donating two hours of your time helping by serving at this dinner, please contact Bernice Steigerwalt.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Promise will host again the week of December 18th. Please call Karen Hayman if you can help. **Food Bank will distribute on November 19th.** A box for food donations is in the narthex. Call LaVaun Shanton or Sandy Bealer if you know of families who might be served by the Food Bank. Those receiving food need not be members of our congregation.

We will also be sponsoring the **Shoe Box Project and the Bethany Bows** again in coordination with the Ben Salem Youth Group. These are two wonderful missions to participate in during the holiday season that benefit children from our region and around the world.



We wish you the joy and happiness in this upcoming Holiday season that comes from helping and sharing with others as we thank Our Lord for the many blessings that we and our families often take for granted throughout the year.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Campaign: The youth group is facilitating this project this year. Shoeboxes are located on the mission table in the narthex along with suggestion sheets for gift items. We ask that you use these shoeboxes as it is easier for shipping if all boxes are uniform in size. You may choose boy or girl, and the general age category you wish to buy for. We ask that you also enclose a check for \$7 made payable to "Ben Salem UCC" to cover shipping costs. Deadline for boxes to be filled and returned is Sunday, November 20.



Luncheon for Widows & Widowers **November 16 at Noon (Arrive between 11:30 –Noon)**

for all all widows/widowers. The pastor would like to invite anyone who is single because of the death of a spouse to attend for lunch and fellowship.

Ben Salem UCC Financial Report

September 2016



Phase II Mortgage Loan

Commitment:

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*

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We Need Your Help to Fulfill This Commitment!!!

BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - BUDGET

2016

2017

“Having a Generous Eye”

We have all heard the old saying that the eye is the window to the soul. Our eyes can provide a lot of information to others. People can tell by our eyes whether we are happy, worried, or sad. Some people even believe that they can determine if we are lying or telling the truth by our eye movement. In Matthew 5:22-23, Jesus talks about our eyes (and our body) being either full of light or full of darkness.



But what does it mean to have a “generous eye”? Having a generous eye means first, that we look in the right place to find people in need... sometimes you may be the only one to see their need. Then, the love in our heart will flow and move our hand to help those in need. We do this with compassion and kindness, and we do this even when we have little to offer.

Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
Give me your love for humanity
Give me your arms for the broken-hearted
The ones that are far beyond my reach
Give me your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me your eyes so I can see.

*Lyrics to “Give Me Your Eyes”
by Brandon Heath*

Jesus tells us that he who is generous is blessed. As God so loves us, we ought to also love one another. And as we use our generous eye, we need to remember that we are doing this to please God.

Proverbs 22:9 – He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. (NKJV)



Our “generous eye” will help us to see that there are many families in need. Please consider volunteering with Family Promise and offering these families some hope!

Our next hosting week is December 18-25, 2016. This is going to be a very busy week for everyone, but what a perfect week to share God’s love with these families. Also, look for upcoming information on Christmas gifts that will be collected for our families.

Thank You Notes...

**To the volunteers of the Ben Salem Church:
Thank you so much for all you’ve done for my
family. We had an amazing time at your
church! Santana/Tran Family**

Thank you for your time with us. I also want to thank the church for donating money for us to make sure we had dinner. I want to say a special thank you to Karen from my son Khale for doing puzzles with him. It was the highlight of his week. Bachman/Henson Family

**If you are able to help or need more information:
Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or khayman@ptd.net**

Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at Ben Salem UCC,
Greetings in the Name of Christ our Savior! Words will never adequately express my gratitude to all of you for the seemingly never-ending stream of prayers sent heavenward on my behalf as well as the many, many cards and encouraging notes sent to me both before my recent kidney cancer surgery and throughout these weeks of recovery. I am pleased to tell you that the doctors are optimistic about the outcome. A C.A.T scan scheduled for December should tell if all the cancer has been eradicated. Please don't stop praying!
I love you all and think of you often and fondly. As always, God bless you every one in every way!
Pastor Jim

Ben Salem Church Family,
Thank you all so much for the prayer shawl. The prayers and caring sent with it have been a wonderful comfort. Mitch is recovering slowly but surely. Thanks again for all your prayers. Linda & Mitch Nace

GAME DAY INFORMATION
Wednesday, November 30, 2016
Fellowship Hall
12 Noon
Bring a snack to share!

Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives.

Thrivent Choice, the member-advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, continues to be a welcome funding source for congregations and nonprofit organizations nationwide. If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help make a difference for organizations you care about. The Thrivent Choice program offers a way for eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year. Eligible benefit members are designated Choice Dollars® that they can direct, thereby recommending charitable grant funding for their choice among thousands of enrolled congregations and nonprofit organizations, including **Ben Salem United Church of Christ**. If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice® program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete Terms and Conditions.

paper,
time,
money

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL?

If so, please fill out the following form and place it in the box located in the narthex or mail it to Ben Salem UCC, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211.

Name/s _____

e-mail: _____

→ Christian Education Meeting ←

Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 6:30 PM

Used Clothing Bins have been placed below the old dining hall. Items that can be placed inside are as follows: wearable clothing [men's women's children's], household items made of fabric, shoes [must be in separate bags], handbags & belts, fashion accessories, stuffed animals, small hard toys, bicycles. We cannot accept: books, furniture, cookware, baby gear, outdoor toys. If you have questions, please call the church office. Money raised through this project goes to the General Fund of Ben Salem.



Coffee Hour – Coffee hour has resumed!

We need volunteers to help! *If you enjoy coffee hour and wish to see it continue, please volunteer.*

Blanket Makers / Quilters:



The Blanket Makers and Quilters meet on Thursday mornings starting at 9 AM at the Social Hall. Anyone is welcome to come and join them. The quilt for this year is a 60 X 60 size, multi-colored patchwork Quilt. Tickets will be available through the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz or Linda Stoss to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Money raised through ticket sales & sales of knotted blankets goes directly to the General Fund to help with the mortgage.

Fund Raiser Fall Profit Report:

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C.

ORDERS DUE: November 6

PICK-UP November 17 (10:30 AM – NOON)



NAME _____ PHONE # _____

PLAIN – HAM, SALAMI, CHEESE, LETTUCE & TOMATOES (no onions or peppers)

PLAIN _____ WITH HOT PEPPERS (no onions) _____
WITH ONIONS _____ WITH ONIONS & HOT PEPPERS _____

TOTAL # ORDERED _____ @ \$5.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Place order form in box in narthex or call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.



Shoo Fly Pies being made Saturday, November 5

Pickup on November 5 from 1-2 PM

Candy Making Supplies Needed:
(Please bring to the church by Nov. 20)

- Powdered Sugar – 35 lb. Domino or Sam’s Club Brand
- Butter – 25 lb.
- Creamy Jif Peanut Butter – 30 lb. 40 oz. jar or 4 lb. can
- Philadelphia Brand Cream Cheese – 9 lb. 18 – 8 oz.
- Karo Light – 96 oz. 6 – 16 oz. bottles
- Dry Roasted Peanuts – 15 lb.
- Raisins – 8 lb.

There is a sign up sheet located on the counter in the narthex.

HOMEMADE
CHRISTMAS

CANDY SALE

Ben Salem U.C.C.

Orders must be received by Sunday, November 20
 Pick-up on Saturday, December 10 (9:00 A.M. - Noon) Candy is
 packaged in half-pound containers.

Cost: \$5.00 per half pound - Please specify # of half-pound containers.

Kind	Milk	Dark
Peanut Butter		
Peanut Butter Rolled in Peanuts		
Butter Creams		
Peanut Rolled Creams		
Peanut Clusters		
Raisin Clusters		
Coconut Creams		
Molded Choc. Mini Pieces		
Non-Pariels		

Fudge - \$5.00 per half pound	# of ½ lbs.
Chocolate	
Peanut Butter	

Assortment (Peanut Butter, Peanut Rolled Creams & Coconut Creams)	Milk	Dark
Sold in pound boxes only - \$10.00 for 1 pound box		

Chocolate Covered Pretzels	Milk	Dark
Mini Pretzels – \$4.00 for a half-pound bag		
Rods decorated for Christmas - \$2.00 for a package of 4 rods		

Christmas Lollipop	Cost \$1.00	

Name _____ Phone # _____

Total \$ amt. ordered _____ Sold by _____

Make checks payable to “Ben Salem U.C.C.” Orders may also be placed by calling Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.

Volleyball Game – Saturday, Nov. 19
from 6 to 9 PM at Fellowship Hall



Contact Barry Fink for more information.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Sponsored by the Ben Salem Youth Group
Deadline for orders is December 4th

Cost of Plant: \$7.50 (6.5" Pot, 8+ Flowers)

Orders may be placed in memory of someone, to the Glory of God, or in honor of someone. Plants can be picked up after the Christmas Eve Services on December 24th. Payment should accompany the order. **Checks should be made payable to the Ben Salem Youth Group.** Please place your orders in the box located in the Narthex of the Church. If you prefer to mail your order, please mail to: Amy Lusch, 6 Clearview Crossing Road, Tamaqua, PA 18252. Any questions, please call Amy at 570-386-5816.

The Youth group greatly appreciates your support!

In Memory of _____ *by* _____

In Memory of _____ *by* _____

In Honor of _____ *by* _____

In Honor of _____ *by* _____

To the Glory of God by _____

To the Glory of God by _____

Name of Person Ordering: _____ *Phone Number:* _____

Number of Poinsettias Ordered _____ *Total Amount Enclosed \$* _____



The Difference Youth Group Info...

Crafts

- Sunday, November 13 – Bingo at Pleasant Trees PCH
- Saturday, December 10 – Christmas Caroling

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, November 12 – Making Holiday

Any questions, please ask Terry Lusch or Karen Hayman

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs:

In Institutions:




!

Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain is a way for anyone to request prayer for a specific need.... [or thanksgiving or joy]. To have our Prayer Chain pray for you: Contact Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644. Please call Betty if you would like to be called with others' prayer requests as part of the Prayer Chain.

Meals Ministry: Do you know someone who is shut-in or recovering from a hospitalization, serious injury or illness, or mourning the loss of a loved one that could benefit from a hot or a frozen meal? Ben Salem has a Meals Ministry Team that can help ease the daily burdens of families or individuals within our church and community by providing ready-to-eat meals. If you would like to volunteer with this ministry or know of someone in need, please contact Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842 or the Church Office.

Called to Care: Trained volunteers from our church are available to assist the Pastor in visiting shut-in or hospitalized church members who are no longer able to attend regular worship services or participate in church functions. If you would like a "Called to Care" volunteer to visit you, please contact the Pastor at the Church Office (570) 386-3870. We are looking for more volunteers for this Committee! If you are interested in sharing God's love with shut-in members of our congregation, please contact Pastor McGowan. The next Called to Care meeting will be held on January 10 at 10 AM.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The Prayer Shawl Committee is in need of helpers to make prayer shawls. If you can knit or crochet and would like to help, please contact coordinators Betty Nothstein at 570-386-5644 or Barbara Snowberger at 570-386-2112 for more information. If a prayer shawl is needed, please contact Betty or Barbara.



Support Our Troops - All military personnel
 Jessica A. Bealer: FC2# Bealer, Jessica, A USS Paul Hamilton [DDG-60] CS/CF, FPO AP 96667-1278
 → Jessica is now back on base in the USA
 Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

*Please notify us if you know of anyone who is serving at this time or if any names are missed or if status changes.

Congratulations to: John and Megan (Hoppes Hine) on the birth of their son, Allen John William Hine. Allen was born on October 1, 2016.




BAPTISM: Ava Elizabeth Schaffer, daughter of Brandon and Samantha (Bechtel) Schaffer – October 23, 2016



~ November 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 PM Christian Education Mtg.	2 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	3 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Cemetery Association	4	5 Making Shoo Fly Pies
6 Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Deadline Hoagie Orders	7	8 6:30 PM Fundraisers	9 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	10 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Hand Bells	11	12 Youth Group Crafts - 1 PM

~ November 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Youth Group Bingo At Pleasant Trees	14	15	16 11:30 / 12 Noon Widow & Widower Luncheon at Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	17 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10 AM Bible Study 5 PM Feed A Neighbor at Zion UCC 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Committee	18	19 Food Bank Volleyball Game at Fellowship Hall 6 to 9 PM
20 OCC Shoeboxes 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Hand Bells Thanksgiving Meal (After Worship – served by Confirmation Class)	21 7 PM Church Board Meeting	22	23 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir	24 	25	26 Fellowship Hall Reserved Decorate Church for Christmas
27 Advent I Communion 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	28 Making Candy	29 Making Candy	30 Noon – Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly 6:30 PM Cherub & Jr. Choir 7 PM Senior Choir			