BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHERE TO REACH US: MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

STREET ADDRESS: 1965 Church Hill Road Lehighton, PA 18235

> Church Phone: 570-386-3870 Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990 E-mail: <u>bensalemucc@ptd.net</u> Website: <u>www.bensalemucc.com</u> Fax: 570-386-3870 [call, speak to secretary, then call back] Pastor Michael McGowan: Home – 610-759-9126 Office e-mail: <u>pstrbens@ptd.net</u>

BEN SALEM UCC PO 128 ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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Dear Church **family,** It's time for a New Directory!



Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

 Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.

If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.

 Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church!
You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Set your appointment with Universal today!

UNIVERSAL HUKCH DIRECTORIES Gathering families,

Connecting generations.



Online Scheduling Available!

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to the Universal website, <u>www.rodin.com</u>, and dick on schedule your photography seasion on the right side, enter 2479 in the Church Code field and enter in the Church Pasaword field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 5 or more in your family of ease use 2 consportive the c stars. The online scheduling option is available Norday through Friday.



BEN SALEM VOICE March 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would guess that many of us, if we don't particularly care for the winter months, become a little anxious when March rolls around. March is a month when we begin to transition from the season of winter to the season of spring. If we are fans of the sport of baseball the players have begun reporting to their teams' respective training camps which means the baseball season will begin shortly. If we are gardeners who plant from seed, we can prepare the starter trays for all of the vegetables or flowers we will plant in the weeks and months to come. The month of March can surely be an exciting time.

And yet, the name March is derived from a Roman god of war, *Martius* or Mars. March in ancient Roman times was a month that had been used to plan for the season of military campaigns. Since it was the beginning of the Roman year, March was a time of preparation, a time to ready the troops for the struggles of protecting and defending the Roman Empire. March was a time when the Roman military would advance into lands they felt were hostile to the empire so they could try to bring peace to the region.

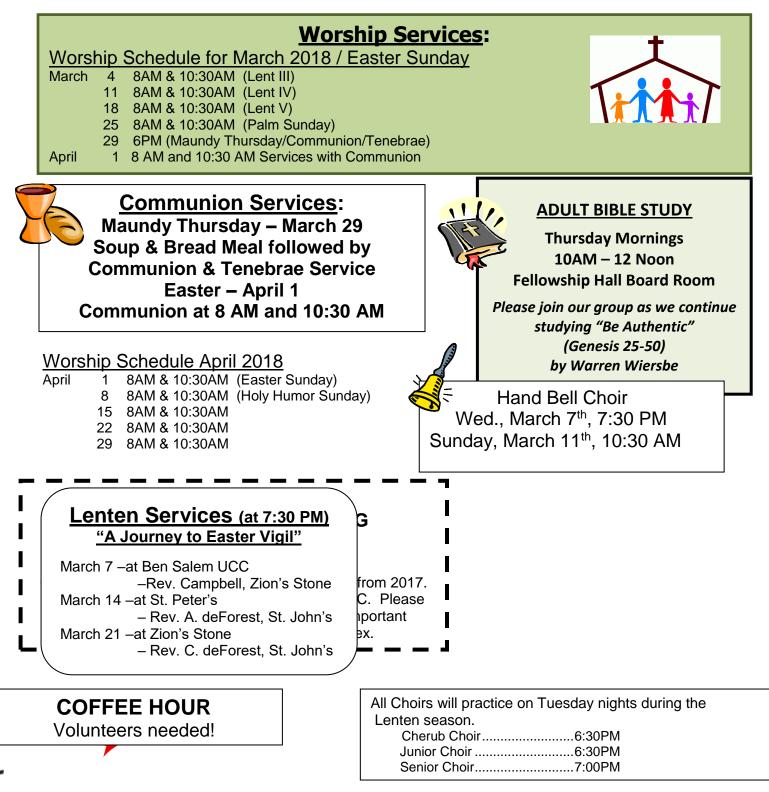
If you think about it, March is still a time of preparation. For many people who follow the Christian tradition a portion of the season of Lent always occurs during this month. The season of Lent represents for Christians a time of preparation. It is our time to invade our own soul in the hope of finding peace for our life as we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection and the new life it represents. Lent is that time when we ask God to vanquish those things in our lives that have a way of getting in the way of the relationship we truly desire with our Lord. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the wonderful and joyous celebration of the resurrected Christ. A time when we look up to our merciful God and say; I accept all of the goodness and extravagant love You offer us in our new life in Jesus Christ.

Hopefully March can be a time of rejuvenation and renewal for everyone, a time when you can peacefully walk with Jesus. March may not mark the beginning of our year any longer, but it does mark a time of newness, the period when we rekindle our relationship with God in Jesus. So, as we make our way through this month may we experience the extravagant love of Jesus for all as we work on following Him more courageously and confidently.

May God's love comfort you during the month and may your eyes be focused on our Sovereign God who through grace forgives all transgressions. And as you journey during this Lenten season may you find peace in knowing how much you are truly loved by the Almighty God of resurrection, the resurrection that gives us the hope of eternal life. Blessings and peace to you all and may God's unending grace be with you all in your undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.



Pastor Mike



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OGHS - March 11, 2018

"Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)

In addition to Our Church's Wider Mission (Basic Support), the UCC has four special mission offerings. These offerings exist to allow congregations and individuals to meet people at points of critical need in their lives. One Great Hour of Sharing is designated to help in places lacking health and educational resources and / or where disaster has struck. We believe that One Great Hour of Sharing and the other three offerings (Neighbors in Need; Strengthen the Church; Christmas Fund) collectively serve to lift people closer to the abundance and wholeness to which Jesus Christ has called us to work together to bring about. Please join the other 1,000 churches that have made a decision to become 5 for 5 congregations, supporting OCWM and all four of the Special Mission Offerings.

Church Business

How to Contribute to Our Operating Budget: to pay Ben Salem's bills] Use your weekly envelope [in your envelope packet] Designate "Current Expenses": [Benevolence is <u>only</u> for Missions – OCWM] Place in offering plate or send to the Church: Ben Salem UCC, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

2018 Church Board Members:

Elders:	Brian Beidleman, VP, Barry Fink, Pres.,				
	Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger				
Deacons:	Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz,				
	Robert Pope, Sec., Barry Reed, Carly Smith, Ron Steigerwalt				
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: March 19th at 7PM

Ben Salem History Books – Very limited # available \$60 – Contact the Church Office 570-386-3870

eetings:

Cemetery Association: March 1, 7PM Cemetery Association Officers: March 12, 6:30PM Next Meetings: March 1 applerity Starking: March 12, 6:30PM President: Bernice Steigerwalksletter Asseidant: March 15, 7 PM President: Bernice Steigerwalksletter Asseidant: March 15, 7 PM Caretaker: David Fritz (please Storing Throwshattor 9C week prior) Treasurer: Doris Lusch Called Stee are PAPIN From to AM Cemetery Lot Mainers Composition for the store of the store

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.

<u>Hospitalization</u>? 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. 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.

Have you remembered the church in your will?



Recycle...Save your soda cans...

Aluminum cans will be taken to Zaprazny's.

Remember aluminum cans and clean aluminum only and should be placed in bags.. 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 garbage shed.

Note new email address for Church & Pastor McGowan <u>bensalemucc@ptd.net</u> – Church Office

<u>pstrbens@ptd.net</u> – Pastor McGowan



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 <u>suemess@ptd.net</u>. 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!

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]

Financial Report January 2018



<u>Phílíppíans 4:13</u> - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Do you like the convenience of scheduling bills through Internet Banking?

Not having to worry about writing those checks each month is nice. Well if your bank offers free internet banking why not schedule your giving to the church on a bi-monthly or monthly basis. The bank could send the check every other week or every month and you wouldn't have to worry about having cash on a Sunday. If this sounds good then simply schedule your offering like you do your other bills and have it sent to: Ben Salem UCC, P.O. Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211-0128 If there is a place for a note about the payment you can even fill in how much you would like to go to the church and how much should go to OCWM. It's that simple – really! Our treasurer receives the check and your account is credited the same as if you utilized an envelope. And if you are uncomfortable not having an envelope to put in the plate – don't forget there are other envelopes to utilize in the box you receive at the start of each year. If this sounds good to you – please consider signing up with your bank. Thank You.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee

MISSION MINDERS-MARCH, 2018

Our first mission project for 2018 will be the **Bo Tkach Foundation.** Bo Tkach was an outstanding high school athlete from the Northern Lehigh School district, who went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Wilkes University. Bo's parents, Jim and Sandy, grew up in Lehighton, and Jim was a teacher, principal, and coach for several area high schools.

Bo suffered from Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder, which often led to prolonged bouts of severe depression. In 2007, Bo committed suicide. His parents have formed a foundation in his memory that speaks to the spirit and life of their son. Each year with the donations that it receives, the Bo Tkach Foundation does the following: 1. Sponsors **youth athletic programs** throughout Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties. 2. Provides **scholarships** to students in Palmerton, Lehighton, and Northern Lehigh School Districts. 3. Gives **financial assistance** to students who would not have access to mental health screening and treatment. 4. Presents **talks/workshops** to school and youth groups, educators, and health personnel that discuss facts about Obsessive/Compulsive Behavior and Depression, and resources available for these conditions.

Depression and suicide affect thousands of people each year. We at Ben Salem have not been immune to the loss and pain inflicted on families and friends who have had to suffer and endure its consequences. We ask that you support the Bo Tkach Foundation mission project, which will run through the end of May. Please mark your mission envelopes with "**BO**" to designate your donation.

Please also note upcoming opportunities to volunteer:

The **Food Bank** is in need of volunteers to help with distributing food to needy families in our congregation and local area. It distributes 6-8 times per year on a Saturday morning, and takes only a ½ hour of your time to help on that day. If you are able and available earlier, it could use volunteers to shop for groceries and/or sort the items given to each family. **Contact LaVaun Shanton to help**.

Ben Salem will host **Family Promise** during the last week of March. Volunteers are always needed to donate and serve meals, stay for fellowship, or sleepover with the families. **Contact Karen Hayman to volunteer your time.**

The **Feed a Neighbor** meal at Zions UCC in Lehighton will be sponsored by Ben Salem on May 24th at 5:00. Help is always needed to serve the meal. In November, we served over 100 people who appreciated and thanked us for being there for them. **Contact Bernice Steigerwalt to participate**.



are needed, as well as items for Easter Baskets. Please consider helping out!

Murder Mystery at the Deadwood Saloon – West End Fire Company, Palmerton, PA on Saturday, April 7 at 6 PM to 9 PM (Saloon Food Included) – Refreshments & Desserts by donation....This Murder Mystery supports "Family Promise"...Tickets - \$25 Purchase your ticket by March 22 at FAMILYPROMISECARBONCOUNTY.ORG/NEWS

LOOKING FOR A PICTURE.... The Church Leaders are looking for an old picture of our Church as a "Log Cabin". If you can help us, please contact Sharon Elder or the Church Office.



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Needed

Names of 2018 Graduates Needed: If you know someone who is graduating this year, please call or email the Church Office. This includes high school and college graduates. Please include majors and degrees if possible. Graduate Recognition Sunday will be held on June 10.

The Confirmation Class is collecting items to assemble Hygiene Kits to send to areas devastated by the hurricanes. Donations of the following new items are appreciated and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex. 1 Hand Towel – 15"x28" up to 16"x32" (no larger) – no fingertip, bath, dish, or microfiber 1 Washcloth 1 Wide Tooth Comb 1 Fingernail/Toenail Clipper 10 Standard Band Aids

1 Bar of Soap (original packaging) 1 Toothbrush (original packaging)

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Candy Making: March 5, 6, 12, 13
- Spring Bazaar: Friday, March 16 from 5-7:30PM AND Saturday, March 17 from 9AM – 3PM (Volunteers Needed!)
- Hoagie Sales: March 22nd & April 26th
- Ham & Dandelion Dinner: April 21 (making dressing on April 16)

HOAGIE SALE - BEN SALEM U.C.C. ORDERS DUE MARCH 11 PICK-UP MARCH 22 (10:30 AM – NOON)

NAME PHONE #

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

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

TOTAL # ORDERD ______ @ \$5.00 EACH TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$___

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



<u>Items needed for Spring Bazaar 2018</u> Items needed by Sunday March 11th

Chicken gravy (4) Large jars Hot Dog Rolls 13 pkg. of (12) Dietz and Watson Deli Beef Franks (4) 4 lb. boxes Coke (2) pkg. of 12 Bread 14-16 loaves White Sandwich Hamburger Rolls 23 pkg. of (12) Diet Coke (3) pkg. of 12 Sprite (2) pkg. of 12



BEN SALEM UCC 1965 Church Hill Road, Lehighton Saturday, March 17, 2018 9AM – 3PM

<u>Also...Open Friday, March 16th from 5-7:30PM</u>!!!

- Raffle
- Basket Raffle (100+ Items!)
- Food, Bake Sale & Homemade Easter Candy
- Quilt Raffle & Knotted Blankets
- Wooden Handcrafted Items

Egg Hunt at 11AM: Old Social Hall at 1749 Church Hill Road

10% of the profits will be divided between Lehighton United Veterans Organization and Lehighton American Legion Post 314.

In case of inclement weather, please check our website at <u>www.bensalemucc.com</u> Contacts: Judy: 570-401-1518 Karen: 570-241-7842

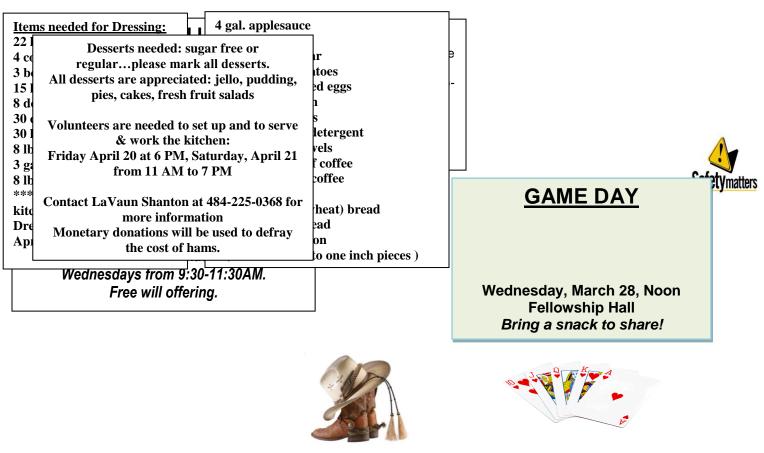


Items Needed for





Ham & Dandelion Dinner – April 21



Thank You Notes:

Dear Ben Salem family,

Thank you so much for the prayers, prayer shawl, and great concern for Tom after the accident. We are so thankful and blessed for all the love and support! By the grace of God, Tom is healing nicely and going to be ok. Much thanks and love, Brenda, Tom, and Nathan Mertz

Dear Prayer Shawl Committee, Your kindness was most appreciated. Thank you so much for the prayer shawl that was given to me. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless. Mary Jane Kistler



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. A new quilt has been picked for the Quilt Raffle, tickets will be available throughout the year at church dinners & functions. See Dollie Frantz, Betty Nothstein 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 Phase II Fund.

NOTE: An ongoing project of this group is to make hand-knotted blankets for the needy. Lap robes, caps, walker bags and blankets were delivered to Valor Clinic by Sally & Mike Wargo. Blankets, walker bags, lap robes were delivered to Victory House in Bethlehem by Don and Gail Handwerk.

Thrivent Choice®: Strengthening communities. Changing lives. - Thrivent Choice, the memberadvised 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.

Richard and Cynthia Smith Scholarship Fund: Applications for the Smith Scholarship Fund can be obtained by calling the Church Office at 570-386-3870. The forms can be sent in the mail or e-mailed to those who wish to apply. This fund was established to assist high school graduates who are furthering their education. The applicant must be a member in good standing of Ben Salem UCC. The applicant must have graduated from high school and be enrolled as a full time, undergraduate student in an accredited college or technical school to further his/her education. A person may only be a recipient of this scholarship one time but if you have applied in a prior year and not been a recipient of the scholarship, you may apply again. Preference will be given to those who have a financial need, who are loyal to the church, its worship and life, and who have performed community service. Applications should be submitted to the Church Office by June 30, 2017.

Special Prayers

Our Members and Friends with Special Needs: In Institutions:



Keep in Your Prayers:

***When you place a name on the prayer list, please remember to update the church office when the person is doing better and can be removed from the list. Thank you!

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.

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 names are missed or status changes.

Community Events: at Emmanuel UCC, Bowmanstown (Call 610-852-2707 FMI) Ham & Dandelion Dinner – Saturday, March 17 from 3 to 7 PM (snow date: March 18) Basket Social Saturday, April 28 from 8 AM to 2 PM (<u>ticket sales only</u>) Sunday, April 29 from Noon to 4 PM

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7PM Cemetery Assn.	2	3 Candy Making Preparations
4 LENT III 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship Noon - Ann. Cong. Dinner &	5 8 AM Candy Making	6 8 AM Candy Making 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	7 9:30 AM Line Dancing 7:30 PM Lenten Service At Ben Salem UCC/ Hand Bells	8 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study	9	10
11 LENT IV 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship/ Hand Bells Hoagie Orders Due	12 8 AM Candy Making 6:30 PM Fundraisers	13 8 AM Candy Making 5-7PM Candy Pickup 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	14 9:30 AM Line Dancing 7:30 PM Lenten Service At St. Peter's Church	15 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Meeting	16 5-7:30 PM Spring Bazaar Fellowship Hall	17 9AM - 3PM Spring Bazaar Fellowship Hall 11 AM Egg Hunt Old Social Hall

18 LENT V 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	19 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	20 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	21 9:30 AM Line Dancing 7:30 PM Lenten Service At Zion Stone Church	22 7 AM Hoagie Sale 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10:30-Noon Hoagie Order Pickup 10AM Bible Study 6:30PM Hand Bells	23	24
25 Palm Sunday 8 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	²⁶	27 AMI	28 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day 6 PM Newsletter 6:30 PM Cherub & Junior Choirs 7 PM Senior Choir	29 Maundy Thurs. 9AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 10AM Bible Study 6 PM Soup & Bread Meal Communion/Tenebrae Service	30 Passover	31 8 AM Prayer Vigil

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