

# 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

Church Phone: 570-386-3870

Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990

E-mail: [bensalemucc@ptd.net](mailto:bensalemucc@ptd.net)

Website: [www.bensalemucc.com](http://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@ptd.net](mailto:pstrbens@ptd.net)

One  
In  
Christ

BEN SALEM UCC  
PO 128  
ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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JULY &  
AUGUST  
2018



## **BEN SALEM VOICE** *July & August - 2018*

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*The mark of a saint is not perfection, but consecration.*

*A saint is not a man without faults, but a man who has given himself without reserve to God.*

*Brooke Foss Westcott*

I want to share with you the words of a song that was written by a singer/songwriter whose name is Mr. Ken Medema. In this one particular song of his it speaks about what the church needs to be for people, regardless who they are or where they are from. So read the words of the song as you think about the need for a place like this in the world, a place that contains a group of people who are real enough to be what this song describes.

### **If This Is Not A Place...**

If this is not a place where tears are understood, then where shall I go to cry?  
And if this is not a place where my spirit can take wings, then where shall I go to fly?  
I don't need another place for trying to impress you, with just how good and virtuous I am.  
I don't need another place for always being on top of things; everybody knows that it's a sham.  
I don't need another place for always wearing smiles, even when it's not the way I feel.  
I don't need another place to mouth the same old platitudes; everybody knows that it's not real.  
So if this is not a place where my questions can be asked, then where shall I go to seek?  
And if this is not a place where my heart cry can be heard, where, tell me where shall I go to speak?  
So if this is not a place where tears are understood, where shall I go, where shall I go to fly?

It is my prayer that for many Ben Salem is this place. I hope that those who come through our doors find comfort, freedom to express their emotions, and a place where they can be real! Let's face it, we all have faults and we all have tears we cover-up. But God through Jesus Christ has brought us together for just such a task as we are loved by Him and comforted through the Holy Spirit.

How this might happen for others who come through our door is anyone's guess. All I can really say is we must remember how God called us together to be the willing hearts Jesus teaches and the vessels through which the Spirit moves so that together a little piece of God's Kingdom will be experienced. It is an important task we are called to but for the saints it is not work. As the church we are the refuge for the weary, the home to the sinner, we are the place where the hungry are fed and where the timid can find their wings and fly.

So as the summer months approach and the calling of summer freedom beckons, think about what this world would be like without a place like this. Think about if Ben Salem wasn't here to serve all the folks who came through our doors during the Ragnar Relay, for our week of Vacation Bible School, during Family Promise along with the other good ministry done by our church for the people of God's creation. Please continue to be the church during these summer months, because without the church the world is surely a dimmer place. And continue to support the Ben Salem Church because without your help we can no longer be the place where you can fly!



*Pastor Mike*

## Blessing of Pets Sunday - July 8



On July 8<sup>th</sup> you are invited to bring your pet to church. Unlike in the past when we would hold our Blessing of the Animals service on the church lawn in the hot sun - this year you are being invited to bring along your best friend and join for worship in the comfort of the Fellowship Hall. Our service that day will be held downstairs in the air-conditioned hall so all humans and pets can be together in comfort. Come on out and join the fun; and hey, bring a friend as we praise and worship God together.

## Teaser --- Teaser --- Teaser --- Teaser --- Teaser --- Teaser



Set aside some time during the summer for a new ministry here at Ben Salem UCC on Thursday nights.

**FIRE PIT FELLOWSHIP** for Young Adults!  
Look for more information  
in your snail mail box.



### **Our Confirmation Class** this year will be an eight month program.

In order to do this I will need more than the hour allotted for Sunday School between services.

This new class will be held on Tuesday night from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. We will be using a textbook that has been utilized here at Ben Salem previously but that has since been revised and updated, titled - My Confirmation, A Guide for Confirmation Instruction.

A "***get to know you and informational meeting***" will be held with parents and youth on **September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**. The class will begin on **September 11, 2018**. Please make the church office aware if you would like your child/grandchild to attend and they were born in 2005 or before.

### **Thank You Note - 30 Hour Famine:**

Dear Ben Salem Youth Group, Church Members, & Pastor McGowan,

We cannot express our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, participation and donations for the "30 Hour Famine". We enjoyed having your Youth Group with us during the famine. We loved the video of Pastor McGowan kissing the pig! We appreciated sharing this time with your youth.

Darryl Fritz, Charlotte Fritz and the youth group from Zion's Stone Church

## **Summer Worship Services at 9:15AM**

JULY WORSHIP

AUGUST WORSHIP





**Communion Service:**  
**Communion at 9:15AM**  
**July 1 & August 5**

Hand Bell Choir  
 July 15, 29, Aug. 19  
 9:15 AM Service



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Will resume on September 6th.  
 Thursday mornings at 10AM

Please consider joining  
 this small group as we begin  
 a new study on 1 Corinthians...  
 "Be Wise" by Warren W. Wiersbe

**Worship Schedule for September 2018:**

September 2: 8AM & 10:30AM (Communion)  
 9: 8AM & 10:30AM  
 16: 8AM & 10:30AM  
 23: 8AM & 10:30AM  
 30: 8AM & 10:30AM

**Congratulations Graduate!**

Savana Serfass  
 Graduated from Lehighton  
 Area High School  
 – will attend LCCC



**Children's Sunday School**



We are looking for members who would like to join the fun and become Sunday School teachers beginning in the fall term. If interested, contact Cliff Snowberger at 570-386-2112.

**Feed a Neighbor**

Thursday, July 26  
 5-8PM  
 Zion UCC, Lehighton

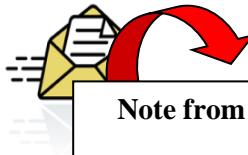
Ben Salem UCC will be providing the meal. Volunteers & baked goods needed!  
 See Bernice Steigerwalt for more information!

**Invitation for Applications for the part-time position of Administrative Assistant**

All interested church members are invited to submit an application and/or resume, citing relevant experience and qualifications to the Human Resource Committee of Ben Salem United Church of Christ. All correspondence may be delivered to the Church Administrative Office. A copy of the position description along with the application form for this vacancy can be obtained in the narthex of the church.

Position available January 2019.

**Deadline to apply: August 19, 2018**



# 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 only 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, President,  
Kenneth Oswald, Cliff Snowberger

**Deacons:** Terry Blair, Shirley Kline, Doris Lusch, Robin Lutz, Secretary,  
Kevin Lusch, 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 Meetings:

**July 16 & August 20 at 7PM**

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

## Cemetery Association Officers:

Next Meeting: Sept. 6 at 7 PM

President: Bernice Steigerwalt Vice President: Evan Beblavy

Caretaker: David Fritz Secretary: Walter Keeck

Treasurer: Doris Lusch Trustee: Dennis Frantz

**Cemetery Lot Prices:** \$300 [with perpetual care]

## 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.

**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](mailto: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!*

## 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 Secretary or Financial Secretary.

**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.

## Upcoming Committee Meetings:

Fundraisers Meeting: no meeting scheduled

Property Committee: July 19 & Aug 16, 7 PM

Newsletter Assembly: July 25 & Aug. 29, 6 PM

*(please submit information 1 week prior)*

Called

C

Wor

Christian E

Mission Committee: online meetings at [ctj2@ptd.net](mailto:ctj2@ptd.net)

*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 bin in an area to the rear of the old social hall for aluminum. 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.**



## Email addresses

for Church & Pastor McGowan

[bensalemucc@ptd.net](mailto:bensalemucc@ptd.net) – Church Office

[pstrbens@ptd.net](mailto:pstrbens@ptd.net) – Pastor McGowan



## 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 May 2018



[Philippians 4:13](#) - *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

*Thank you for your continued support in fulfilling our commitment!!!*

### *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



**Family Promise®**

Building communities, strengthening lives.

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve dinners, fellowship with the families (play games or read with the children), and stay overnight.

Donations of food, snacks, and baked goods are needed.

Please consider helping out!

Contact: Karen Hayman at 570-241-7842

[khayman@ptd.net](mailto:khayman@ptd.net)

*Our next hosting week will be September 9-15, 2018*

### **MISSION MINDERS-SUMMER, 2018**

Our summer mission project for 2018 will be the **St. Peter's Community Resource Center** in Weissport. St. Peter's Center offers social and life-enhancing programs to needy individuals in the Carbon County area. These include assisting with referral services, providing space of other nonprofit organizations to operate, such as Al Anon, and the Penn State Extension Service, and distributing basic toiletry items to qualifying Lehigh residents on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. In addition to monetary donations to this project, there will be a box on the mission table in the narthex to collect toiletry items such as toilet paper, soap toothbrushes/toothpastes, and tissues. Please be generous in helping us to support this very worthy local mission that will run through September 30<sup>th</sup>. **Mark your mission envelopes with "ST. PETER'S" to designate your donation.**

Also in July, our yearly donations to Child Sponsorship are due. For many years, Ben Salem has supported 2 children from 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries through this vital mission. If you are interested in donating, please mark your mission envelope **Child Sponsorship**.

#### **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. Donations of food items can be put in the Food Bank box next to the credenza in the narthex. A "tear off" list gives suggestions for what items are needed for our distributions. **Our next Food Distribution will be Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. Contact LaVaun Shanton to help.**

Ben Salem will host **Family Promise during the week of September 9-16<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Lehigh has been rescheduled and will be sponsored by Ben Salem on **Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> 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.**

As always, we thank you for your constant support of our mission efforts.



## **Safety Committee:**

If someone in the congregation is aware of a safety issue, it should be reported to one of the safety committee members listed below or to someone on the Church Board. The purpose of the committee is two-fold. Ben Salem will get a discount on the insurance bill and the same time enhance the Risk Management of the Ben Salem properties. Members of the Safety committee include: Ron Steigerwalt, Rodger Diehl, Barry Reed, Tom Kupres, Pastor Mike – Ex Officio.



## **CLOTHING BIN UPDATE**

A red clothing bin is in place by the old Social Hall. Please feel free to donate clothing or shoes that you no longer need. The church can earn up to 10 cents/lb.



## **Beginners Country Line Dancing**

*No experience necessary!*

*If you are interested in this activity, please contact Dot Eberts at 570-386-2149 for more information. Classes will meet Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30AM. Free will offering.*



## **GAME DAY**

**Wednesdays, July 25 & Aug. 22**  
**12 Noon**  
**Fellowship Hall**  
***Bring a snack to share!***

**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.



## **Blanket Makers / Quilters:** **(next meeting September 6 at 9 AM)**

Anyone is welcome to come and join this group.. A new quilt (white floral embroidered 84 x 98 in.) has been made 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 and other items goes directly to Phase II Fund.

**NOTE:** An ongoing project of this group is to make hand-knotted blankets for the needy.

**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](http://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](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) for complete Terms and Conditions.





## Fundraiser Report

I know everyone is interested in how we do with our many functions, so here is a list of the profits for the first six months of 2018:

Sticky Buns - \$900.39

3 Hoagie Sales - \$2,408.30

Easter Candy - \$1,025.18 (not including the \$2,442.50 sold at the Bazaar)

Spring Bazaar - \$16,213.92

Ham & Dandelion Dinner -

\$2,786.98

Shoo-Fly Pies - \$738.09

Strawberry Social - \$3,809.80

Ragnar Relay - \$528.62

Giant Cash Cards - \$150.

**Next Fundraiser: September 20 –  
Hoagie Sale (order deadline is  
September 9)**

By the way, anyone who shops at Giant can help with no extra cost to you. All you have to do is buy Giant Cash Cards from us and then use them the same as cash when you purchase your groceries or gas. For every \$100 you spend at Giant using these cards instead of cash, the church gets \$5. If interested, call Sue Messina at 570-386-2880.

By the end of June the fundraisers were able to donate \$41,662.00 to the Phase II Fund. We could not have done this without your continued support. Each year 10% of the Spring Bazaar profit is donated to a local charity. This year \$810 was donated to the Lehighon UVO and \$810 to the Lehighon American Legion. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with our fundraisers, whether it was by donating your time, funds, or requested items, or by supporting our various events. We have a good time working together and always welcome anyone who would like to come out and join us. The fundraiser meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Please don't hesitate to get involved.

Once again thanks for your support.

Sue Messina, Fundraiser Treasurer



## Ben Salem is going to Washington D.C.!

*Saturday, September 8, 2018*

### Schedule

6:00 am - Depart Ben Salem

10:30 am - Visit to The Museum of the Bible

12:00 pm - Lunch on your own

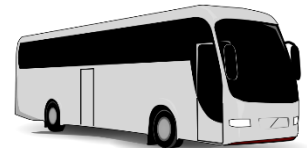
12-4 pm – visit attractions of your choice

4:00 pm – Load busses to visit west end of national mall (Lincoln Memorial, Reflecting Pool, Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial)

5:00 pm – Leave DC and head towards home

6:30 pm – Dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant

10:00 – 10:30 pm – Expected Return to Ben Salem



All adults are \$70.00 per person (includes transportation, ticket to Bible Museum, Dinner at Mountain Gate Restaurant, all taxes, tips, and fees)

Checks payable to Ben Salem Youth Group

\*\*All Youth Group Members are paid for by the group!

Deadline to sign-up SUNDAY AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup>, sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

*“The Museum of the Bible is a museum in Washington D.C. which documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. The museum opened on November 17, 2017. With 1,150 items from the museum's permanent collection and 2,000 items on loan from other institutions and collections, the museum claims to have amassed one of the largest assemblies of biblical artifacts and texts in the world through collaborations with private donors, institutions, and other museums.”*

## 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. Next Meeting: August 14, 10AM

**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

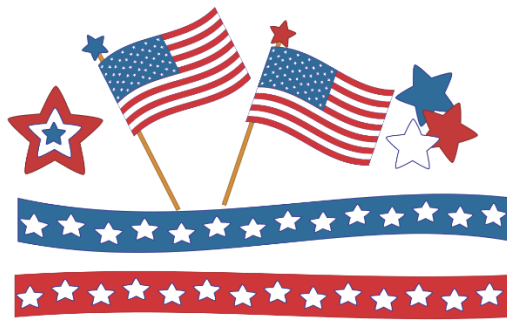
Jeremy Zellers, Norfolk, VA – on Submarine Newport News

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



*Our Sympathy is extended to:*

**The Family of Mildred Rehrig. Mildred passed away on May 31, 2018.**



# July 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Communion 9:15 AM Worship 2-6PM Fellowship Hall Reserved	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Independence Day</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 AM Worship Fellowship Hall Pet Blessing  Social Hall Tentative Reservation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>12</b>  9 AM Safety Team 6:30 PM Hand Bell Choir 7:30 PM Fire Pit Fellowship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Worship/ Hand Bell Choir	<b>16</b> 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>19</b> 7 PM Property Mtg.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Social Hall Reserved
<b>22</b> 9:15 AM Worship Fellowship Hall Reserved	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day	<b>26</b> 5PM Feed a Neighbor At Zion UCC, Leh. 6:30 PM Hand Bell Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Worship/ Hand Bell Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				



# August 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30 AM Line Dancing	2	3	4 Fellowship Hall Reserved
5 Communion 9:15 AM Worship	6	7	8 9:30 AM Line Dancing	9	10	11
12 9:15 AM Worship	13 6:30 PM Worship Committee	14 10 AM Called to Care	15 9:30 AM Line Dancing	16 6:30 PM Hand Bells 7 PM Property Mtg.	17 Fellowship Hall Reserved Rehearsal Dinner	18 Wedding in Sanctuary Reese
19 9:15 AM Worship/ Hand Bell Choir	20 7 PM Church Board Mtg.	21	22 9:30 AM Line Dancing 12 Noon Game Day	23	24	25 Pastor on Vacation
26 9:15 AM Worship Fellowship Hall Reserved	27	28	29 9:30 AM Line Dancing 6 PM Newsletter	30	31	
Pastor on Vacation						