# **BEN SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

WHERE TO REACH US: MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211

One in Christ

STREET ADDRESS: 1965 Church Hill Road Lehighton, PA 18235

> Church Phone: 570-386-3870 Social Hall Phone: 570-386-4990 E-mail: <u>bensalemucc@verizon.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@verizon.net</u>

BEN SALEM UCC PO 128 ANDREAS PA 18211-0218

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BEN SALEM VOICE July/August - 2016 Ben Salem United Church of Christ PO Box 128, Andreas, PA 18211



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may already realize, this newsletter spans two months. Next month you will not receive a newsletter in the mail. By the time you receive another newsletter it will be September and everyone will be gearing down for the end of summer and gearing up for the beginning of the school year, while here at the church we will once again commence our Sunday school classes and start holding two worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 am. But in the meantime, please remember we will be celebrating our worship as one united church at 9:15am.

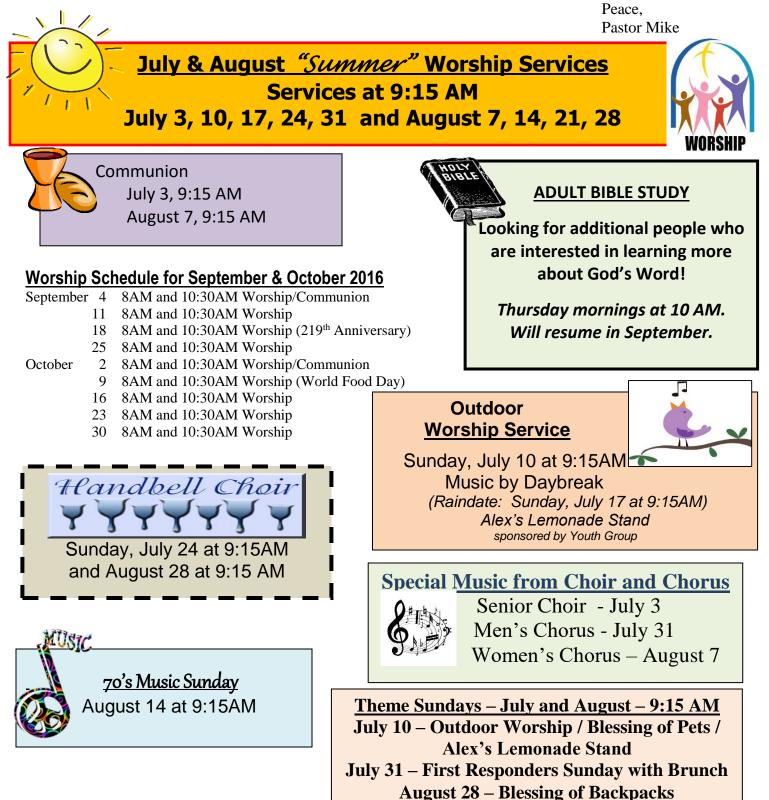
So it would seem as we move into the summer months everything here at the church slows down. We have held our Spring Bazaar, the Ham and Dandelion Supper is in the books and the Strawberry Social and Car Show was a success. We have celebrated another Sunday School year coming to a close with a breakfast for the kids while a group of fabulous youth have finished their confirmation class and affirmed their faith in Jesus Christ. As I write this we are also completing another successful week of Vacation Bible School for the kids of our community. So yes, it does appear that things here at the church are slowing down during the months of July and August.

But let me assure you this is NOT the case. While our more traditional activities may be finished there are still many reasons for coming to church. While we unite as one congregation during the summer we will be celebrating worship with our primary focus of course being on our redeemer Jesus Christ. But there are services planned that will highlight our concern for others of God's great creation.

- July 3<sup>rd</sup> the Ben Salem choir will sing for the last time as a unit as they break for the summer. Come out and hear the angelic voices one last time until September.
- On July 10<sup>th</sup> (rain date July 17<sup>th</sup>) we will once again hold an outdoor service as we 'Bless the Animals.' Come for this service as we join together in a traditional hymn sing and give God thanks for all the creatures of this earth.
- On Tuesday evening, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm we will be holding a service of release and healing. This service is for everyone but especially those who have been affected by addiction and it's long reaching effects. Come out for this service as we join together to encounter the problem of addiction facing this community, the state and our country.
- July 24<sup>th</sup> our Bell choir will be playing for the first time since their wonderful concert at the Strawberry Social. Come and hear the talented ringers and let their music awaken your soul and move you closer to the essence of God.
- Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> we will come together to worship God and to honor the First Responders of our surrounding communities. During the service we will be praying special prayers for them, allow them to express their own stories and concerns if they wish and have a brunch for them after the service. Please come out and support all those who put their lives on the line to protect us.
- On August 14<sup>th</sup> our lessons during worship will be expressed through the music and lyrics of songs from the 70's. If you are willing come dressed in your favorite outfit from the era and join us as we experience some of the beloved music of that decade as a means to help us find God in unlikely places.

• At the end of the month on August 28 we will hold our final unifying service. The hand bells will be playing during the service and all school age children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks, book bags, or whatever else they use to carry books to and from school for a blessing as we send our school age members out with God's blessing to go and learn.

Everything we will be doing during July and August is meant to give us a sense of meaning. Nothing is more important than having a sense of meaning in what we do. Coming to church during the summer can remind us that everything we do, not only during the summer but always, should be done as a way to honor God in our lives. That is the true meaning of our life. Blessings to you all and have a wonderful summer.



# <u> Church Business</u>

- 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, PO 128, Andreas, PA 18211

### 2016 Church 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: July 18 & Aug. 15 at 7 PM

#### Ben Salem History Books are still available / \$60 Contact the Church Office [570-386-3870]

#### **<u>Cemetery Association Officers</u>**:

Next Meeting: September 1 at 7 PMPresident: Bernice SteigerwaltVice President: Evan BeblavyCaretaker: David FritzSecretary: Walter KeeckTreasurer: Doris LuschTrustee: Richard Bealer

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.

<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.

#### 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!



#### 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.

Have you remembered the church in your will?

#### **Upcoming Committee Meetings**

Stewardship & Finance: September 8 at 6:30PM Church Board: July 18 & Aug. 15 at 7 PM Fundraiser: September 6 at 6:30 PM Property Committee: July 21 & Aug. 18 at 7PM Newsletter Assembly: Aug. 24 at 6PM Worship Committee: September 12, 6:30 PM Membership & Growth: Sept. 13, 6:30 PM [please submit information 1 week prior] Called to Care: July 12 at 10AM

Mission Committee: online meetings at cti2@ptd.net



#### 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] Ben Salem UCC Financial Report May 2016



# We Need Your Help to Fulfill This Commitment!!!

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How blessed Ben Salem is to have such wonderful response to our Quarterly Missions! Recently, a donation of \$400 to the **Bare Necessities Pantry** at St. Peter's Center in Franklin Township was sent as a result of your generosity.

This quarter, we are working with the **Domestic Violence Center** of Carbon and Luzerne counties to support their efforts of helping those in need of shelter and other resources due to situations in their homes that may put families in danger of being hurt or victimized.

Our third quarter mission will be **Martin's Flu Foundation**, a foundation initiated by Pastor Mike and his wife, Diane, after their son, Martin, died of complications resulting from a bout with the flu. Besides asking for donations to this mission effort, Ben Salem will also sponsor a health fair in the fall to insure that people can receive flu shots to combat getting the flu for the upcoming 2016-2017 flu season. Please be generous in donating to this worthy cause.

The big project that the Mission Committee is working on through September 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the **Walk, Run, and Cycle Exercise Challenge!!!** Tally sheets are located on the Mission table in the narthex for you to track your mileages for the summer. For every mile that you walk, the Mission Committee will donate 50 cents; for every mile that you run, 25 cents will be donated, and for every mile that you cycle, 10 cents will be donated from undesignated mission funds. Depending on the amounts tallied, the committee will donate to one or more local/regional charities that benefit local sport teams, such as Warriors of Faith, and/or to charities that benefit disabled individuals, such as Special Olympics of PA. People who do not participate in the exercise challenge can sponsor through donations to others who do participate in the challenge. This is a great way to make a family effort in staying healthy while helping others. Please pick up a sheet to keep track of all your efforts, so that we may donate to worthy causes. Exercise tally sheets will be turned in after September 4<sup>th</sup>.

As always, Family Promise and Food Bank events continue. **Family Promise will host again the week of July 10<sup>th</sup>.** Call Karen Hayman if you can help. **Food Bank will distribute again on July 16th.** 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.

#### Have a happy, healthy, and wonderful summer!



**Family Promise will be held on July 10-16, 2016.** There are currently two families in the program. Volunteers are needed to prepare and/or serve dinner, provide fellowship, and sleep overnight. Baked goods and donations are always appreciated!! <u>The older Youth</u> Group will be preparing and serving the meal on Saturday, July 16 at 5PM.

#### Recent Celebrations:

- Laura graduated from High School and moved into her own home!
- Crystal accepted a job and started working.
- MaryJo & John moved into their own place too!

<u>New Volunteer Orientation</u>: If you would like to volunteer or just want to know more about Family Promise, an orientation for new volunteers is being held at the Family Promise Day Center in Lehighton on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM. RSVP is required.

<u>Wish List</u>: The Family Promise Day Center is in need of paper towels, trash bags, and any outdoor tools. Donations can be dropped off at the Day Center during the week.

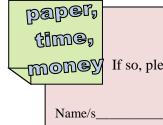
<u>Email</u>: If you would like to receive emails about Family Promise, please forward your email address to <u>khayman@ptd.net</u> or the Church Office.



#### 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, y ou 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup> is subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent

 ${\sf Choice}^{*}\,{\sf program}.\,{\sf Visit\,Thrivent.com/thriventchoice\,for\,complete\,Terms\,and\,Conditions}.$ 



#### WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HELPING BEN SALEM CHURCH <u>SAVE PAPER, MONEY AND TIME</u>? 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.

e-mail:

## <u>Thank You Notes:</u>

- Valor is very grateful for your generous gift. We would like you to know that your thoughtfulness is truly making a difference in the lives of so many. Sincerely, The Valor Clinic Foundation [in response to a donation from Blanket Makers & Quilters]
- My husband and I wanted to send a thank you to everyone at Ben Salem UCC for the wonderful time we had at the car show and strawberry social. Everyone was so kind and welcoming. The car show was a very nice event and the trophies were truly a work of art, true craftsmanship. We enjoyed the food and friendly atmosphere. We were able to take a peek at your church and it is truly a beautiful place of worship. Please pass along our thanks to everyone. Donna and Dave Kost
- I would like to offer you a sincere thank you on behalf of our Mission Outreach Committee as well as the scores of folks who came to Zion on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> (Feed-A-Neighbor) to enjoy the wonderful spaghetti dinner that you shared with the members of our community. We consider ourselves blessed and fortunate to have groups like your Mission Outreach Ministry partner with us in this vital ministry to the Lehighton area. Your willingness to share your time and talents with God's children through acts of kindness and compassion, like insuring that no one need be hungry, is truly what God has called you to do...his work through your hands and souls! Thanks again and God Bless each of you. Sincerely, Kenneth J. Leffler-Member of Mission Outreach Committee at Zion UCC, Lehighton
- Dear Friends, Just a note to thank you for your kind donation of \$556.50 to Shepherd House Inc. Your ongoing support if very much appreciated. Thank you on behalf of our brothers and sisters who we serve here in Carbon County. Sincerely, Shirley Radler, Secretary/The Board of Shepherd House, Inc.

#### Coming up ... in our community:

**St. John's Mahoning Valley is holding an Ice Cream Festival on Saturday, July 23** from 3 to 8 PM. St. John's is located at 826 Mahoning Drive West, Lehighton. Music by Daybreak and St. John's & Friends. Free activities for kids. Gift Card Raffle, 50/50 raffle, Fall Bazaar Raffle...Menu includes pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, corn on cob, pierogies, baked beans, potato salad and much more.

10% of proceeds will be donated to Bethany Children's Home.

## Fundraisers Report:

A great big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Strawberry Social a success.

<u>Profits</u> – Pierogies = \$2,324.00 May Hoagies = \$985.09 Beef Sticks = \$65.00 Strawberry Social = \$4,246.31



<u>Current Projects</u> – Subway Hoagie Coupons [sign-up sheet in narthex / deadline to order July 3] Giant Cash Cards

<u>Upcoming Projects</u> - Hoagie Sale – September 15 [deadline to order Sept. 4] Sticky Bun Sale – September 17 Pierogie Sale – September 30 & October 6 [deadline to order Sept. 18]

Next meeting is September 6, 2016.

<u>Used Clothing Bins</u> 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. Another \$300 was raised through donations of clothing and other items. This money goes to the General Fund of Ben Salem.

# Next <u>Fundraiser Meeting</u> will be held on September 6 at 6:30 PM.



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.

Thank You to the Blanket Makers and Quilters for donating \$500 so far this year to Phase II.



## Quilt as You GO class for Beginners:

The **project** is a quilt as you go Jelly Roll Project. A jelly roll consists of 2.5 inch strips. It will be able to be mostly completed in the class with finishing done on your own.

Dates: Tuesday, July 12th and Thursday, July 14th

**Time**: 5:30p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Difficulty/Skill Level: Beginner

Contact: Barbara Snowberger 570-386-2112 or bsnowyer@yahoo.com

Preregistration is required: Please notify Barbara. There is some preparation before class.

**Requirements**: know how to use your machine, bring a scissors and a sewing machine with thread and wound bobbins, precut jelly roll fabrics or 2.5 inch fabric by width of fabric (enough for project), backing fabric, fabric for binding/joining, and batting. **Children (who are able to safely use a machine and scissors)** need to have an adult with them to participate.

# **Confirmation Class forming in September**

A new confirmation class is forming in September. To be eligible, the young person should have been born in 2003 or be 13 years of age or older by the end of 2016. <u>Please contact the</u> <u>church office at 570-386-3870 if your son or daughter plans</u> <u>to participate in the confirmation class.</u> The class is a two year program which means that this class forming would be confirmed in 2018. More information will follow as participants register with the church office.



July 10, after 9:15 AM Worship sponsored by the Youth Group

<u>Summer Youth Explosion</u> – Wednesday, July 13 from 6:30 to 10 PM at Blue Mountain Christian Retreat, 1 Christian Lane, New Ringgold, PA 17960 Come enjoy live worship music, special guest speakers, fun games, prizes & more! You'll see the presence of God, make new friends, and have an awesome time up on "The Mountain". Parents are welcome to stay. Call if you need transportation!

Please RSVP to Terry Lusch or Karen Hayman - check out these links: <u>https://www.bmcr.org/site/?event=youth-explosion</u>

https://www.bmcr.org/site/?event=youth-explosion-tba&event date=2016-07-13

# Saturday, July 16 at 5-9PM: Family Promise - Meal & Fellowship

Our Youth Group will be making and serving a spaghetti dinner at the old Social Hall for Family Promise. From 7-9PM we will have fellowship with the children (play games, talk, watch a movie, play outside). Please come out for all or part of this very worthy mission, as we help those less fortunate than ourselves.

If you have any ideas on upcoming Youth Group events, please bring your ideas on July 16th. We should also try to formalize our Youth Group name. Hope to see you all there! If you have any questions, please contact Terry Lusch or Karen Hayman



<u>St. Paul's Lutheran Church</u> West on Route 534 to N. Old Stage Road, Albrightsville <u>is holding a Clothing Giveaway</u> July 13, 14 and 16 from 9 AM to 4 PM July 15 from 9 AM to 5 PM All are welcome to come and choose free clothing! Spread the word to your friends and family! Call Shirley at 570-325-3523 for more information!

St. John in the Heights Lutheran Church, 319 South Ave., Jim Thorpe <u>Annual Clothing & Household Item Giveaway</u> August 4, 11 & 18 – 9 AM to 4 PM August 5, 12 & 19 – 9 AM to 8 PM August 6, 13 & 20 – 9 AM to 1 PM

#### **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 July 12 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  $\rightarrow$  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.



## Our sympathy is extended to:

The Family of Melvin Kershner. Melvin passed away on June 8, 2016.



~ July 2016 ~								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1	2		
<b>3</b> 9:15 AM Worship Communion Senior Choir	4	5	6	<b>7</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	8	9		
<b>10</b> 9:15 AM Outdoor Worship Daybreak	11 Osti	<b>12</b> 10 AM Called to Care 5:30-9 PM Quilt as you go class	13 • am	<b>14</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 5:30-9 PM Quilt as you go class	15	16 Food Bank		
9:15 AM Worship Raindate for outdoor worship Daybreak	<b>18</b> 7 PM Church Board Meeting	<b>19</b> 7 PM Healing Service	20	21 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 6:30 PM Hand Bell Practice 7 PM Property Mtg.	22	23		
<b>24</b> 9:15 AM Worship Hand Bells	25	26	<b>27</b> Noon - Game Day	<b>28</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	29	30		
<b>31</b> 9:15 AM Worship Men's Chorus First Responders								

Men's Chorus First Responders Sunday Brunch after the service



~ August 2016 ~									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
	1	2	3	<b>4</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	5	6			
<b>7</b> 9:15 AM Worship Communion Women's Chorus	8	9	10	<b>11</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters	12	13			
<b>14</b> 9:15 AM Worship 70's Music Sunday Daybreak	7 PM Church Board Meeting	16	17	<b>18</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 7 PM Property Mtg.	19	20			
<b>21</b> 9:15 AM Worship Daybreak	22	23	<b>24</b> Noon – Game Day 6 PM Newsletter Assembly	<b>25</b> 9 AM Blanket Makers & Quilters 6:30 Pm Hand Bell Practice	26	<b>27</b> Food Bank			
<b>28</b> 9:15 AM Worship Hand Bells Blessing of Backpacks	29	30	31		1				