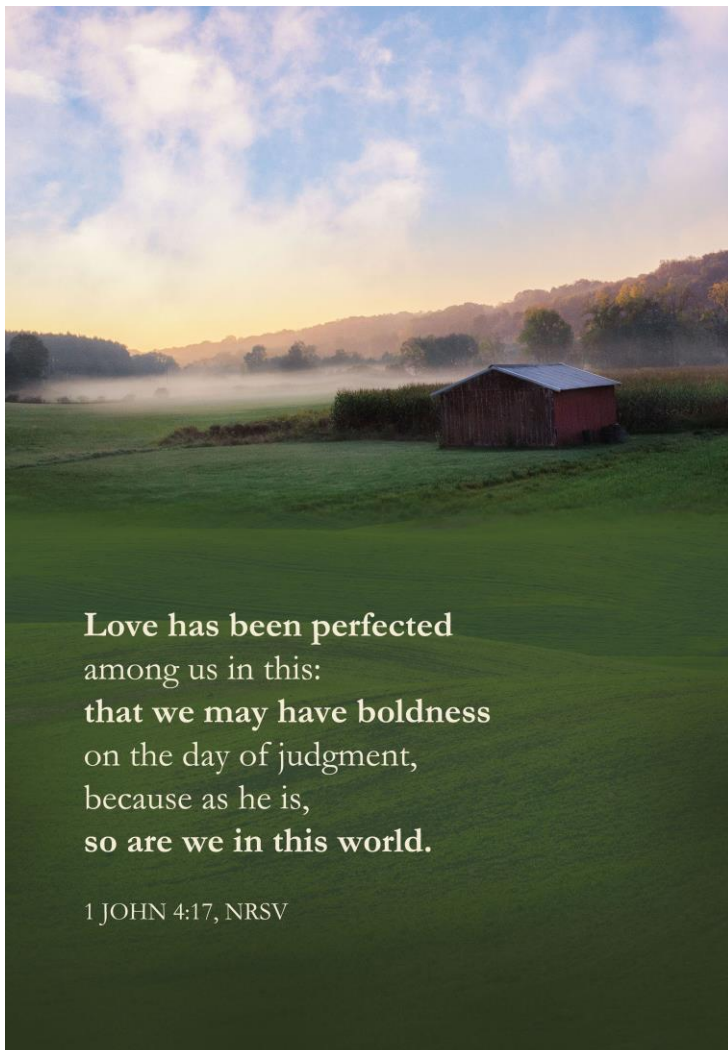


Opus Christi Works of Christ

St. James United Methodist Church
646 Daniel Webster Highway
Merrimack, NH 03054
Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy, Pastor
Robin House, Office Administrator

Contact Us:
Office phone: (603)424-7459
Email: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com
Stjames-umchurch.org
Facebook: St. James UMC
Prayer Request email: sjprayerchain@gmail.com

Building Christian Community Within and Beyond the Church



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Pastor's Message



Beginning on Friday, April 19th, United Methodist delegates will be gathering from all around the world in Charlotte, NC for the postponed General Conference (which was supposed to take place in 2020). For those of you who don't know or need a reminder, General Conference is the global meeting of our denomination (usually every four years) when international delegates from around the globe gather to decide the future of our denomination – what we say we believe, how we spend our money, who we aspire to be in the world. I was recently reminded by a colleague that “To the world, our actions this April, like it or not, will say something about Christ and his followers.”

For the first week of the General Conference, committees will meet to go through hundreds of legislative documents to bring to the floor of GC the following week. I served as an alternate lay delegate for New England at GC 2012, so I know just how many hours delegates spend reading, writing, praying, and discussing these documents. Then, during the second week of GC, the committees of delegates will bring the legislation that makes it through committee to the floor for all delegates to vote on.

Here are some of the major legislation up for discussion and vote this GC:

- A revision of our Social Principles
- Regionalizing our church structure to correct our colonialist US-centric rules
- A 50% budget decrease due to disaffiliations and a natural decline of the universal church

You can find more information about these items and other legislation by clicking [here](#).

You can find a more detailed guide to General Conference by clicking [here](#)

Please be in prayer not only for our own delegation from New England Conference, but for all delegates attending GC2020. Also be in prayer for The United Methodist Church as a whole as the decisions made at GC *will* impact us on a local level.

Pastor Annie

GENERAL CONFERENCE: BY THE NUMBERS

The Postponed 2020
General Conference will
take place **April 23-May 3 2024**
in Charlotte, North Carolina

133

annual conferences
represented



862 voting delegates,
half clergy and half laypeople

1,099

valid petitions submitted



Delegates:

55.9% from the U.S.
32% from Africa
6% from the Philippines
4.6% from Europe



5 continents represented

26

plenary sessions



18
worship
services



**4 official written
languages:**
English, French,
Kiswahili and
Portuguese



14
legislative
committees

9

special addresses
and celebrations

10 languages spoken
via interpreters on site



Learn more about General Conference at
ResourceUMC.org/UMCGC



...andKNOWthatIamGOD

The United Methodist Church General Conference | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

WORSHIP



Guy Martin

Guy Martin, a member of St. James since 2021, passed away on December 12, 2023 of cardiac complications. His memorial service will be held on May 4 at 10 am at the Old South Burying Grounds in Bolton, MA (59 S Bolton Rd)

World Parish Citation Recognizes Mission Share Giving

Out of the 82 churches in the Granite District, St. James was one of 54 that met the goal of paying 100% of our 2023 Mission Shares. As a token of thanks, we received a citation that is framed and hanging in the church office. The citation was accompanied by a letter from District Superintendent Rev. Taesung Kang that reads:

“Dear Saint James United Methodist Church family,

I am reaching out to you to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your full dedication to local community ministries and your meaningful participation in the missions of the New England Annual Conference and the world, especially throughout the connectional giving.

With Joy, I am excited to highlight Pastor Mark Zimmerman and his wife Dierdre’s inspiring story. After 33 years as a medical missionaries, in Nepal, commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries, Mark now serves Lebanon UMC, NH as a Licensed Local Pastor.

See your mission giving has supported not only Mark and Dierdre’s mission in Nepal, but has come full circle, blessing us with their mission experiences within our local churches and district. This is the beauty of our connectionalism, extending far beyond or boundaries and imaginations. Your ongoing contribution toward connectional giving undoubtedly continues to make God’s kingdom wider.

I hope and pray that together we will persist in demonstrating that our collective efforts can truly impact and transform lives here and everywhere. Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

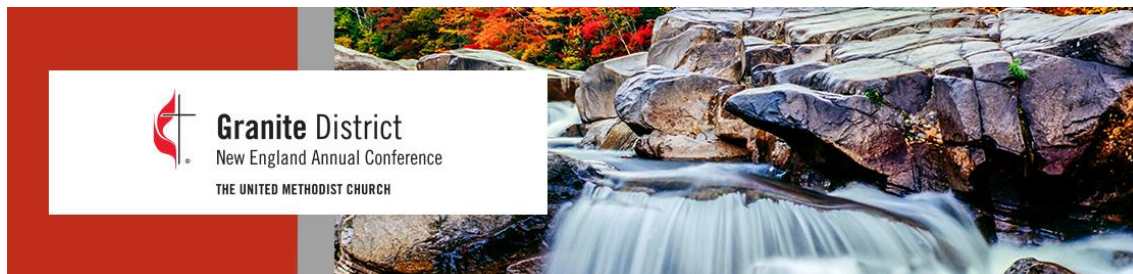
Shalom,
Rev. Taesung Kang
Granite District Superintendent

Office Administrator Vacation

Robin will be on vacation from April 24 through April 30. Since we are leaving on a Wednesday and coming back on Tuesday, I can come in to the office on Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23 before we leave and Wednesday and Thursday May 1 and 2 when we get back so it won't be necessary to have a substitute in the office. So to summarize – Here are the revised office hours for the last week of April and first week of May:

Monday, April 22	Office open 8-2	Monday, April 29	Office Administrator Vacation
Tuesday, April 23	Office open 8-2	Tuesday, April 30	Office Administrator Vacation
Wednesday, April 24	Office Administrator Vacation	Wednesday, May 1	Normal Office Hours 8-2
Thursday, April 25	Office Administrator Vacation	Thursday, May 2	Normal Office Hours 8-2
Friday, April 26	Office Administrator Vacation	Friday, May 3	Office Closed (normal Friday)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



2024 Granite District Mission Possible Leadership Academy

Members of our congregation are invited to join this encouraging journey toward understanding our role in the church in these new and changing times.

Date: April 6, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Place: Wesley UMC, 79 Clinton St. Concord, NH

Keynote Speakers: Bishop Peggy A. Johnson, Dr. Mark & Dierdre Zimmerman

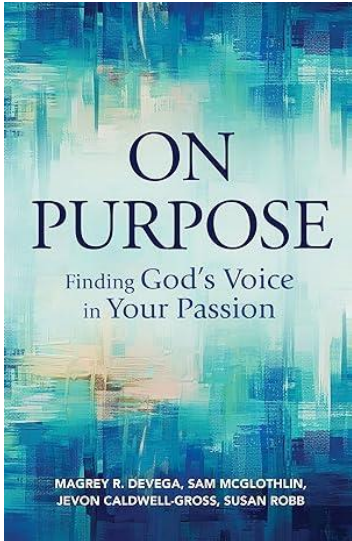
AM Breakout Sessions: Children's Family Ministry, How to Become a Green Church, Leadership Development, Social Witness in a Post-Christendom context

PM Breakout Sessions: Healing, Leadership Development, New Models of Church Ministry, Trustee Training

\$10 per person, lunch included. For more info and to register, visit

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/granite-district-2024-leadership-academy-18294567>. Registration deadline April 4.

Carpool from St. James: If you would like to carpool, we will meet here in the St. James parking lot at 7:45 am. Please call the church office if you are planning to carpool so we don't leave without you!



Spring Book Study- On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion

Discussion on five Wednesdays April 10, 17, 24, May 1 and 8 at 7 pm via Zoom

Be part of something more. We are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives. That's as basic an ingredient to the human experience as they come. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are.

In *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*, authors Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb help us see God's purpose for our lives, how to open ourselves to God's voice, and how to take the first or next step to follow God's call. Reading this book and exploring life choices alongside

others, individuals will learn how to channel their passions, hear God's voice, and live the life they were meant to live.

Pre-order books for \$14. Contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board in the office hallway so we can send you the Zoom invitation for the discussion.



Looking Ahead to VBS 2024 July 19 and 20, 2024

This year's VBS theme is Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God.

Camp Firelight invites children on an exciting summer adventure where they learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know God is always with them, and feel confident in sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ. As campers experience Bible stories through music, storytelling, games, arts & crafts, science and snacks, they learn ways to connect with and trust God as well as connect with others at VBS, church, home and every area of their lives.

Volunteers needed. Help kids put their trust in God. See Robin House if you can help.



Bible Quiz



What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"



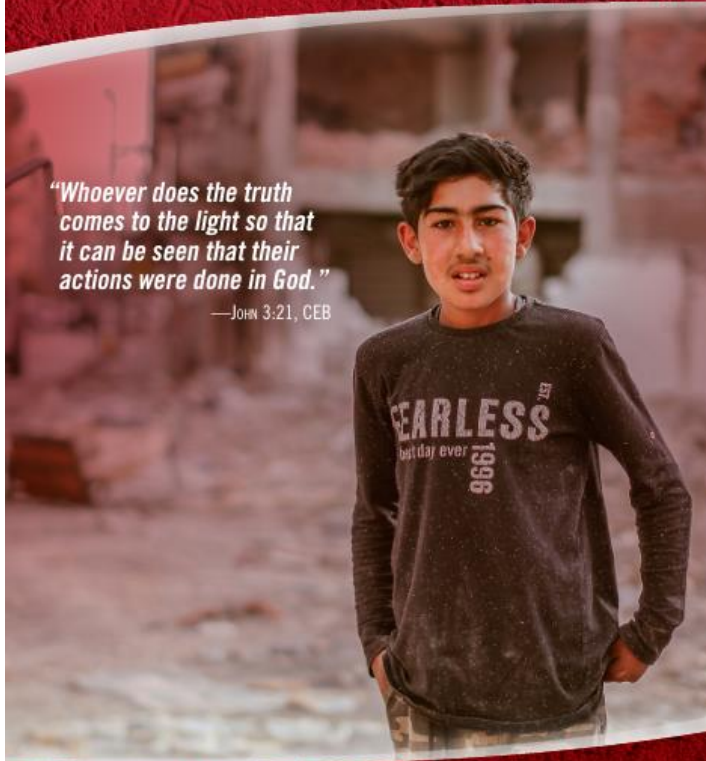
Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)


OUTREACH

SPECIAL SUNDAY

UMCOR SUNDAY
Embodying Compassion: Being God's Light

"Whoever does the truth comes to the light so that it can be seen that their actions were done in God."
—JOHN 3:21, CEB



 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Special Collection for UMCOR in April

Our HUB is well stocked with hygiene kits, so rather than have our usual April collection for more hygiene kits, the Outreach Team has decided to concentrate on supporting UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Through UMCOR, we are able to make a difference in the lives of communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement and climate change. This offering underwrites UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Make checks payable to St. James UMC with UMCOR on the memo line or donate online at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive.

FELLOWSHIP

Monthly Breakfast

The St. James United Methodist Men (UMM) would love to have you join them for breakfast on the first Saturday of every month. RSVP to George Fisher at fishergf@comcast.net so he knows how many people to expect.



Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 8:00 am

Place: Mary Ann's Diner, 1 Craftsman Lane, Amherst

Chicken Parm To Go



We are taking reservations for the Chicken Parm To Go Dinner. The dinner will include chicken parmesan, penne or ziti, green beans, sauce, parmesan cheese, Italian bread, and dessert. Meals will be ready for pick-up from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 20. You can also pick up your meals after church on Sunday, April 21. Meals will only be available for those who have ordered them by April 9. If you wish to reserve meals, please see Lesley Fallu or Brenda DuLong after church, or call the church office at 603-424-7459.

Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to make coffee and provide refreshments for coffee hour after church during the months of May, June, July and August. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Feel free to use baked goods in kitchen freezer that are marked for coffee fellowship





United
Women
in Faith

GRANITE DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SPRING GATHERING REGISTRATION FORM

**Main Street United Methodist Church
154 Main Street**

Nashua, NH 03061

Ph: (603) 882-3361



Thanks to Main Street's Pastor Kelly
for her brightly designed artwork found
throughout this newsletter.

**Date: Saturday, April 13, 2024
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

In-Gathering Collection: used sneakers for the GotSneakers
Recycling Program, bags of beans and rice for Nashua's Soup Kitchen
Communion Offering: Will go to the Nashua Soup Kitchen.
(see details on page 7)

If you are registering for more than one person, please list the names of others attending with you on the back side of this form with their names and contact information if mailing. Our online registration is for one person at a time, but one person can do multiple individual registrations using the same email address. Thanks for helping other members of your local unit to register online, especially those who may not use a computer! **For those registering by email, you may pay when you arrive at the event. No refunds after April 3** although you can send someone in your place.

Registration deadline is April 3, 2024

Number of Attendees _____ **x \$10.00 each = \$** _____ **(includes lunch)**

Name _____ **Church** _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ **Phone** _____

If mailing, please send the registration form with check(s) made payable to Granite District United Methodist Women to: Nancy Fransen, 185 Loudon Rd #11, Concord NH 03301 to reach her **by April 3** (call Nancy if you know it will be late). **Phone: 603-856-7350** (note: this is a new phone number) **Email: nof42@comcast.net**

List any food allergies, are vegetarian or need childcare (ages 2-12).

Allergies: _____ **Vegetarian:** _____ **Need childcare:** _____

Note: The morning session will be taped and our District President, Nancy Fransen, will offer it via Zoom at a later date for those unable to attend the spring meeting.

Contact Cheryl Barb 603-494-1959 if you have questions.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter Run & Walk for Food & Shelter

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Registration is now open.

There will be a USATF Certified 10K course, a USATF Certified 5K course, a 3K Walk and a fun Kids Sprint for children age 7 and younger.

TIMES of EVENTS: Kid's Sprint: 12:30PM
 Race Chair Duo 10K & 5K: 1:00PM
 10K and 5K Races: 1:03PM
 3K Walkers: 1:05PM

LOCATION: Outside the Muldoon Fitness Center on the campus of Rivier University, 420 South Main Street, Nashua

Register at <https://nsks.org/run-and-walk-for-food-and-shelter/>.



LIVE UNITED



United Way
of Greater Nashua

United Way Coffee and Causes

Join United Way of Greater Nashua on April 5th at 10:30 am for an informative session at the Nashua Senior Activity Center, 70 Temple St in Nashua. Discover how Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity & RSVP FixIt assist low to moderate-income homeowners with vital repairs. From safety improvements to minor fixes, learn how these programs make a difference in our community's homes.



Wanakee Summer Camp Registration is Open

Summer at Wanakee includes dozens of overnight summer programs for children of all grades and ages over 7 weeks. There is truly something for every camper at Wanakee. Wanakee's camper fees operate on a tiered "pay what's right for you" plan. A week at Wanakee starts at 50% less than the national average and

scholarships are always available. They are again offering #CountdownToCamp and multi-week discounts. Visit the Wanakee website www.wanakee.org to view their summer schedule and online registration form.

Merrimack Parks & Recreation Presents

EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

SATURDAY APRIL 20TH
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Show your love for Merrimack by signing up to be a part of our Earth Day Community Clean Up. Help us clean up our parks, open space area and adopt a road locations in Merrimack. You can sign up as a group or as an individual. Groups will meet at the Parks & Recreation Office at Wasserman Park to pickup gloves and trash bags.



REGISTER ONLINE AT:
WWW.MERRIMACKPARKSANDREC.ORG/EARTHDAY

April 2024

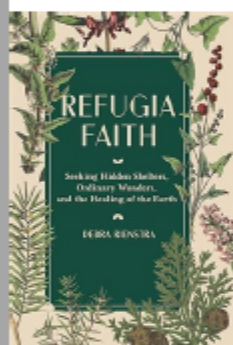


New England Conference
The United Methodist Church

Connected is a publication of the New England Conference of The United Methodist Church. This monthly insert is designed put Conference news directly into the hands of our local church members.

Find more at www.neumc.org.

Join online book study on climate change & theology



You are invited to join a six-week inter-church book study on climate change and theology offered by the [Green Church Movement](#) of the New England Conference.

The book is [Refugia Faith: Seeking Hidden Shelters, Ordinary Wonders, and the Healing of the Earth](#) by Debra Rienstra, Published by Fortress Press, 2022.

NEAC Creation Care Task Force member Peggy Drew will lead the weekly online study April 3 to May 8. A UMC Global Ministries EarthKeeper, Drew is a lay servant at Main Street UMC in Nashua, NH. She has an MA Spiritual Formation and MA Theological Studies.

Participants are expected to attend all six sessions and have the capacity to read ~40 pages each week.

To learn more or register, visit www.neumc.org/events



Getting ready for AC 2024

The 2024 New England Annual Conference will be Thursday to Saturday, June 20-22. This will be a hybrid session online via Zoom or in person at the DoubleTree Boston North Shore in Danvers, MA. The session will be streamed live on the NEAC YouTube channel.

This year's theme is "Co-Creating Justice & Joy" and our guiding Scripture is Isaiah 58:6-14, The Message.

The 2024 Clergy and Laity sessions and the Preachers' Aid Society Luncheon will be June 19.

As we prepare for the session, here are some opportunities to participate:

Nominate a Ziegler Preacher

The Wilbur C. Ziegler Award for Excellence in Preaching is awarded each year at the New England Annual Conference session to a person who demonstrates excellence in preaching the whole Gospel, addressing both personal and social salvation. The honoree is invited to

preach during the Annual Conference session in June. Deadline for nominations is Tuesday April 30, 2024.

Celebrate laity social justice action

The New England Conference Board of Church and Society will present the John Bryant Award for Excellence in Social Justice Action at the 2024 New England Annual Conference in June. This award will honor a lay person (non-clergy) who lives in New England and embodies the vision of social justice as interpreted by the [United Methodist Social Principles](#). Nominations will be accepted from groups or individuals within the New England United Methodist Conference. Continued on page 2



GET ALL THE AC 24 NEWS AND INFORMATION
www.neumc.org/acsessions

Getting ready for the 2024 New England Annual Conference session

Enter to give the Laity Address at AC 24

Continued from page 1

Deadline for nomination submissions is Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Find Bryant and Ziegler nomination forms at www.neumc.org/CSawards

2024 Laity Address Challenge

The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons in the New England Annual Conference to enter the Laity Address Challenge to have an opportunity to give the Laity Address at the 2024 Annual Confer-



2024 Laity Address Challenge

ence. The Laity Address is tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning, June 22, either in person or pre-recorded. The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 5.

For additional information on how to submit your entry or to ask any question about entering the challenge, please email Co-Associate Conference Lay Leader, Ruby Blake at msrube65@gmail.com or call 617-953-6964.

Peace with Justice Sunday is May 26

Your support for this special offering funds programs and ministries to educate, equip and mobilize actions on identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Your donations provide funds for three different grants for United Methodist congregations and organizations. Your generosity is transforming our social impact. Learn more at resourceumc.org

Special Sunday

SPECIAL SUNDAY PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY



"But you! Return to your God with faithful love and justice."
—HOSEA 12:6, CEB

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church

Do you feel called ...

... to serve as Conference Lay Leader or Assoc. Lay Leader?

New England Conference Lay Leader Rich Huguen will step down as of July 1.

The Annual Conference will elect a new lay leader at the upcoming session in June.

If you are feeling called to serve as either the

Conference Lay Leader or Associate Conference Lay Leader, please contact Leadership/Nominations Committee Chair Karen Cassidy, and she will lead you through the process of nomination.

Her email is kdcassidy@msn.com

Scan the QR code to get all the latest news and info on AC 2024



Let's Connect

Do you have a story to share? A feature idea? A question to ask? Contact Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, at communicate@neumc.org or (978) 682-8055 ext. 150

A stylized illustration of a yellow rain boot with black laces and a black sole. The boot is surrounded by pink flowers and green leaves. A small red bird is perched on the side of the boot.

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, one, anything, only, God, grow

APRIL 2024

Thank you to the members of SPRC for providing refreshments following worship during the month of April.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 6:00am Sunrise Easter Service 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	1 Reg deadline District Leadership Academy	2 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting	3 Reg deadline United Women in Faith	4 8:00am Fit & Strong	5 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	6 8:00am Monthly Breakfast 8:30am Granite District Leadership Academy
7 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	8	9 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	10 7:00pm On Purpose Book Study	11 8:00am Fit & Strong	12 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00am United Women in Faith Spring Gathering
14 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	15	16 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	17 7:00pm On Purpose Book Study	18 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group	19 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	20 4:30pm Chicken Parm To Go
21 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	22 8:00am Church office open	23 8:00am Church office open 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Trustees Meeting	24 Office Administrator vacation 7:00pm On Purpose Book Study	25 8:00am Fit & Strong Office Administrator vacation	26 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	27
28 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	29	30 Office Administrator vacation 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry	1 7:00pm On Purpose Book Study	2 National Day of Prayer 8:00am Fit & Strong	3 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4 8:00am Monthly Breakfast