Opus Christi Works of Christ

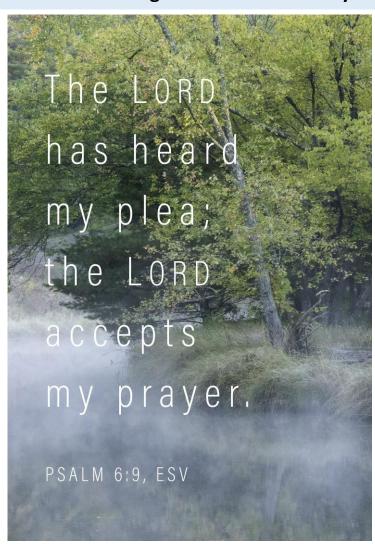
St. James United Methodist Church 646 Daniel Webster Highway Merrimack, NH 03054 Rev. Annie Baker-Streevy, Pastor Robin House, Office Administrator

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

Welcome Back!

Singing Welcome, Welcome to this place.
You're invited to come and know God's grace.
All are welcome, the love of God to share,
'Cause all of us are welcome here;
all are welcome in this place.
-Mark Miller, "Welcome"

This is one of my most favorite "newer" church songs written by Mark Miller. I say "newer" because even though it was written in the year 2000 (almost 25 years ago!), it's located in the green *Worship & Song* music book that we don't have pew versions of in our sanctuary as it was published after *The Faith We Sing* (the small black book that feels very new itself to longtime Methodists). But the words of the song and the sentiment behind it are so crucial to our faith as Christians and people of God! I encourage you to listen to a recording of it here: Welcome - Words by Mark Miller and Laurie Zelman; Music by Mark Miller

As summer comes to an end and we get back into gear for the fall, **welcome** becomes an extra important thing for us to think about. How do we welcome people back from a season of rest/vacation/travel? How do we welcome people back who might have not come to worship in person with us for a long time but have decided to try again this fall? How do we welcome people who are completely new to our church? How do we welcome those of us who have been here all along? Everyone wants to feel welcomed and cared for and included. Mark Miller's words are a powerful reminder of how God ALWAYS welcomes us no matter how often we show up to church, how often we pray, or how often we are intentional about our relationship with God. It is a good reminder that as the church, the body of Christ, we are also called to embody a spirit of welcome for everyone.

Next week on September 8th we are hosting a Welcome Back Brunch Worship service that will be held in fellowship hall at 9:30am (our normal worship time). We will share a potluck meal together (feel free to bring a dish and/or just yourself!), sing songs together, pray together, and reflect on what it means to offer and receive welcome. We will welcome the choir back (yay!) as well as people who have been away this summer or maybe even longer. This is a great opportunity to offer words of love and welcome to everyone rather than saying something off putting like "wow haven't seen YOU in a while." I encourage you to think about how you might offer the welcome of God's love on that day. I hope to see many of you there so I can say "you are welcome in this place!"

Welcome back friends, it's a joy to be with you! Pastor Annie

WORSHIP



Welcome Back Brunch Church Service September 8, 2024

Our welcome back church service will take place in Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal while we worship. Sign up to bring a dish to share on the bulletin board outside the church office. Sunday school will start the following Sunday so that all family members can participate in this brunch service.

Stay After the Service for Fun with Blowing Bubbles

After the brunch church service come outside where Betty Ann Dudziak invites you to have some fun with blowing bubbles (weather permitting, of course).

Pre-recorded Online Service September 8

The welcome back brunch service will not be live streamed. A pre-recorded service will be available for our online worshippers.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Founding St. James church member William (Bill) Hummel passed away on August 12, 2024. Bill was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Elizabeth Ann Hummel. A graveside service with Military Honors was held at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH on August 16.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Webinar: A Voice from the Other Side of the Wall: I Am a Palestinian Christian

The NEAC Committee of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations (CUIR) is hosting an online conversation with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb at 11 am on Friday, Sept. 20. Despite Christians having lived in Palestine since the days of the Jesus movement, their voices are often unheard and ignored. This webinar aims to provide insights into the realities of life on the ground from a leading Palestinian pastor and theologian and to learn from his wisdom on Christian unity and interreligious relations for peace. We invite you to attend this webinar to understand the situation, struggles, and hope of Christians in Palestine and to discern God's calling for us regarding our siblings in Christ and neighbors.

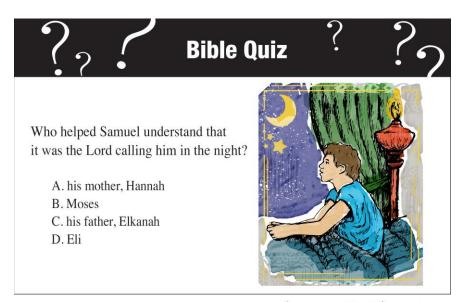
Get the link at https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/18541120?month=9&year=2024&day=1&display=m





We are looking forward to another fun year of Sunday school at St. James. Our curriculum throughout the year will be based on the children and youth lessons from Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Occasionally we will use other curriculum that coordinates with the current worship series. For example we will do a 4 week series called "The Jesus Tour: Do Unto Others" from September 29-October 27.

We welcome children ages 3 and up. Online registration is on the church website www.stjames-umchurch.org or contact the church office.



Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)

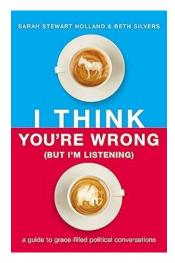
Fall Book Study

"I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations" by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers.

We will start Wednesday September 25th and follow the below schedule... all discussions will be on Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom:

9/25: Read Chapters 1&210/2: Read Chapters 3&410/9: Read Chapters 5&610/16: Read Chapters 7&8

- 10/23: Read Chapters 9&10



More than ever, politics seem to be driven by discord. People sitting together in pews every Sunday feel like strangers and loved ones at the dinner table feel like enemies. Toxic political dialogue, hate-filled rants on social media, and agenda-driven news stories have become the new norm. But it doesn't have to be this way.

In *I Think You're Wrong (But I'm Listening)*, two working moms from opposite ends of the political spectrum teach us that politics don't have to divide us. Instead, we can bring the same care and respect to policy discussions that we bring to the rest of our lives.

Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers, co-hosts of Pantsuit Politics, recently named an Apple Podcasts Show of the Year, give you all of the tools you need to:

- Respect the dignity of every person
- Recognize that issues are nuanced and can't be reduced to political talking points
- Listen in order to understand
- Lead with grace and patience

Join Sarah from the left and Beth from the right as they teach you that people from opposing political perspectives truly can have calm, grace-filled conversations with one another.

See you September 25th! Pastor Annie

Amazon: https://a.co/d/5LsI9WC

Barnes & Noble: https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/i-think-youre-wrong-sarah-stewart-

holland/1128930067?ean=9781400208449

Merrimack Public Library:

https://discover.merrimacklibrary.org/Record/1449719?searchId=9542982&recordIndex=1&page=1 Cokesbury: https://www.cokesbury.com/9781400208449-I-Think-Youre-Wrong-But-Im-Listening

NEWS FROM COMMITTEES AND TEAMS



Church Work Day: Saturday, September 7 from 9:30 am to noon

Submitted by Dick Wallace

Church work days are a great way to give a helping hand and enjoy spending time with your friends from church. This month we will work on indoor and outdoor projects weather permitting.

All Church Meeting September 15

Join us on September 15th after worship for an All Church Meeting in Fellowship Hall with coffee, cookies, and conversation. We will hear from the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees with updates.

OUTREACH

The Clothes Closet



Clothes Closet News

Submitted by Joyce Hawkins

Fall/Winter clothes will be available to our clients soon. For that to happen, the Clothes Closet staff could use some extra helping hands.

You can help:

Tues. Sept. 17 from 1-4 PM packing up summer clothes.

Fri. Sept. 20th from 7-8:30PM strong backs needed to move clothing bins from the basement to the

Wesley Room.

Sat. Sept. 21st from 8AM-12PM Unpacking, folding and hanging the clothes.

Mon. Sept. 23rd 10AM-12PM (finish unpacking if needed)

A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board outside the church office door. Thank you for your consideration!



Troop 401 Service Project

Submitted by Marsha Kofman

I am pleased to report that BSA Troop 401 donated over 625 individual school supply items to the Food Pantry on Monday, August 19.

Join Vermont Mission Trip

The Seacoast District is organizing a mission team to help with flood recovery in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont from Sept. 22-28, 2024. The team is being organized by Rev. Tom Lank, serving North Kingstown (RI) UMC. All skill levels are welcome. The cost of the trip will be \$100 per person plus food and fuel. The team will be housed at Covenant Hills Christian Camp and assigned to work on one or more local homes affected by last summer's flooding. To participate or learn more, contact Rev. Lank at tom.lank@gmail.com or 919-428-0461.Rev. Lank anticipates organizing another team for the summer of 2025 as well.



Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk:

"We walk because they walk." This is the 40th year for the Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk and the 7th year that St. James has participated. The walk will take place on Sunday, November 3, 2024 beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12 to 1pm with opening ceremonies at 1pm and stepping out at 1:30pm. Those who raise all their monies online don't need to register and can grab lunch before coming at 12:45.

St. James United Methodist Church is registered as a team. We'd love to have you walk with us or support us! Here is the website link: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/nashuanh You can also find us on Facebook; just search for Nashua Cropwalk.

In 2023 we had 29 faith communities or teams and some unaffiliated folk as well. There were more than 300 people at the walk. *Greater Nashua ranked #2 in New England and # 19 in the country! We raised \$49.097*, which resulted in \$3069 to each of our 4 recipient agencies.

They are:

Corpus Christi food pantry Nashua Soup Kitchen Merrimack Community Food Pantry at St James Share Inc. of Milford

If you can't walk, be sure to sponsor a walker, or make a team donation. We can also always use volunteer help at the event if your feet aren't made for walking! For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at nashuacropwalk@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

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, September 7

Time: 8:00 am

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



Refreshments Schedule for Coffee Fellowship

Starting in September, we'll resume our regular schedule for committees and teams to provide refreshments after church. Here is the schedule for the rest of this year:

September: Nurture Team

October: Outreach Team

November: Church Council

December: Trustees

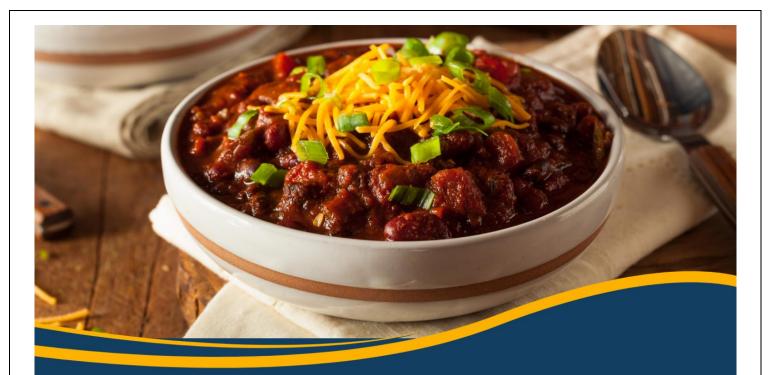
Apple Pie Assembly and Sale

Submitted by Lesley Fallu

It's apple pie time! Can you smell those delicious St. James apple pies? On Saturday, September 21 from 8:00 – 12:00, we will be assembling the pies. If you can help out, please email Lesley Fallu at fallu@comcast.net.

This year, we will be taking orders for pies starting on Sunday, September 8. The pies will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, September 22 for \$15. Stop by the Harvest Fair table in Fellowship Hall and order your pies before they sell out!





1ST ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF!

\$15.00 for contestants \$5 for tasters (under 5 are free) Tickets can be purchased @ https://stjames-umchurch.org/first-annual-chili-cook-off

- ✓ lst Place \$100 gift card
- ✓ 2nd Place \$75 gift card
- ✓ 3rd Place \$50 gift card

St. James United Methodist Church 646 Daniel Webster Highway

Email: stjamesmrmk@gmail.com Facebook: St. James UMC SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER. 28TH
3-5 PM

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Classes at Rivier Institute for Senior Education (RISE)

RISE offers a vibrant and collaborative learning environment for adults ages 55+ who share a belief that curiosity never retires. Fall 2024 Semester goes from September 9-November 15. Registration period is from August 16 to September 3. The RISE membership fee is \$100 per term for an unlimited number of courses. Courses are offered online via Zoom, on the Rivier University campus and at off-site locations. Visit https://www.rivier.edu/academics/rise/ for course descriptions and registration information.

Merrimack Lions & Lioness to Host a Free Luncheon for Merrimack Senior Citizens

On Saturday, September 21st, 2024 the Merrimack Lions & Lioness Clubs will treat Merrimack seniors to a delicious meal prepared by restaurants in town. The event will take place at the John O'Leary Adult Community Center, 4 Church St., Merrimack, NH from 2PM to 4 PM.

Admission is open for Merrimack residents only who are 65 and over. <u>Pre-registration is required and will be on a first come - first served basis.</u> There are limited seats available and registrations will close once the 75 available seats are booked.

Reservations will close no later than September 6.

Please RSVP to Anna at 603-682-9627 or via email at anna.addiss@gmail.com.

United We Sleep

September 27, 5pm – September 28, 8am at Nashua Community College

We live in a beautiful community, so we tend to forget that there is serious poverty here. We cannot imagine what it feels like not to have a safe, comfortable place to sleep at night. But every year, people in our community die while homeless. At least 300 kids in the Nashua School District are homeless.

Experience a night without "home" at United We Sleep. This event brings people together to discuss and become more aware about the issues of extreme poverty and homelessness. Come away with a better understanding of the hardships that the homeless go through. Through your participation and fundraising you are making the statement, "I care about my community". Help increase awareness of a problem that won't go away until we join together to solve it.

For more information visit https://unitedwaynashua.org/event/united-we-sleep/ or contact United Way of Greater Nashua at info@unitedwaynashua.org or (603)882-4011.



Saturday, October 19, 2024 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Get ready! The fair is around the corner. Have you finished your crafts? Did you try out some new recipes for baked goods? Have you done your fall cleaning for the yard sale? Have you saved all of your books and puzzles? What about your baskets for the Silent Auction? Don't worry, there's still time...but not much!

Similar to last year, we hope to have an indoor-outdoor fair. Baked Goods and Candy will be in the Wesley Room. The Silent Auction will be in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast and Lunch will be in Fellowship Hall. Outside, weather permitting, we will have the Yard Sale and Books. Crafts, Jewelry, and Kid's Corner could be inside or outside. We do have a new feature – Merrimack Police and Fire will be on site with their cars and trucks for all to visit.

Starting on Sunday, September 8th, after church, we will be signing people up to work at the fair, to set up and break down the fair, to lend pop-up tents, to bake, to make candy, and to donate baskets and gift cards for the Silent Auction, and everything else we can think of.

Chairpersons:

Yard Sale: Linda and Doug Wilson; Debbe and Jim Walter

• Crafts: Lisa Sanborn and Lucille Fisher

Baked Goods: Carol Marrone and Lynne Snow

• Jewelry: Betty Ann Dudziak

• Silent Auction: Brenda DuLong and Lesley Fallu

• Breakfast: Susan Cooke

• Lunch: Cheryl and Richelle Barb

Chairpersons are still needed for Books and for Candy.

Collections: We are collecting NOW! Bring in everything but food as early as you can. Sundays after church is a great time. We have space in the Undercroft and in closets for crafts, books, puzzles, and yard sale item. Remember, we <u>cannot take</u> electronics, appliances, clothing or bedding. If you bring any large furniture donations, you need to be prepared to take them back if they don't sell.

The Silent Auction has been a very successful table for the past several years. Can you donate to this table? Gift cards, themed baskets, other new items are all welcomed. This is a great way to recycle those presents you have never opened. However, all items must be new or collectible.

Bake! Bake! Bake! Much of our profit will come from food. We will need muffins, candy, cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, fudge, and more. Jellies, jams and relishes are always welcomed.

Questions or Suggestions: call or email Lesley Fallu (497-4060; fallu@comcast.net) or Brenda Dulong (493-5945; bsdulong@gmail.com). We would love to hear your new ideas. Thanks for your help. It's sure to be a great success!

Video series looks at UMC's Revised Social Principles — 2

September 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.

Welcome, Bishop Bickerton

The New England Conference welcomes a new episcopal leader as of Sept. 1, 2024.

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton has been assigned to the New England and New York conferences, which are being called the New Hope Episcopal Area.

A Past President of the Council of Bishops, Bishop Bickerton has been serving the New York Conference since 2016. Read more about him at www.neumc.org/bishop-bickerton

Watch our website and weekly enewsletter for information about Bishop Bickerton's October district visits.





Creation care focus of webinar series



Creation Care | Creation Justice



The New England Conference Creation Care Ministry presents a four-part webinar series for the 2024 Season of Creation.

The series will focus on a new topic at 7 pm every Wednesday in September.

9/4 Creation Care Confidence How to prevent frustration, burnout,

now to prevent frustration, burnout, and despair by capturing the resiliencebuilding momentum of everything we do.

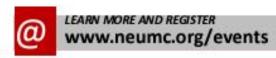
9/11 Creation Care | Creating Community How to help pollinators and people by developing sustainable permaculture and community gardens to ensure food security.

9/18 Creation Care | Cascading Crises How to become aware of watershed activity and coastal erosion as we prepare for disaster mitiaation, response.

pare for disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

9/25 Creation Care | Climate Action

How to advocate for healthy climate policy by joining with groups at the local, state, national, and international levels.



NEAC video series examines Revised Social Principles

At the postponed 2020 General Conference held April 23-May3, 2024, delegates approved the first overhaul of the denomination's Social Principles in nearly 50 years.

The Social Principles, contained in both the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions, are statements that reflect official United Methodist teachings on a wide range of topics. They are not church law but are intended to inform United Methodist witness on issues of the day with a biblical foundation.

The 2012 General Conference approved revising the Social Principles, setting in motion a process that involved input from people around the world, coordinated by the General Board of Church and Society. In addition to the language changes regarding human sexuality and inclusiveness, the Social Principles address the importance of advocating for human dignity and combating racism and other threats, caring for creation and the environment, standing against social ills, and supporting healthy community in all its forms, including economic, social and powww.neumc.org/news litical.

The NEAC Commission on Religion and Race (CORR), Board of Church and Society, and Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) have created this eight-part video series exploring the revised Social Principles with an invitation to reflect on and actively engage with these principles.

Revised

Social

Principles

Webinar: A Voice from the Other Side of the Wall: I Am a Palestinian Christian

The NEAC Committee of Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations (CUIR) is hosting an online conversation with Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (pictured) at 11 am on Friday, Sept. 20.



Despite Christians having lived in Palestine since the days of the Jesus movement, their voices are often unheard and ignored. This webinar aims to provide insights into the realities of life on the ground from a leading Palestinian pastor and theologian and to learn from his wisdom on Christian unity and interreligious relations for peace. We invite you to attend this

webinar to understand the situation, struggles, and hope of Christians in Palestine and to discern God's calling for us regarding our siblings in Christ and neighbors.

Visit www.neumc.org/events to get the link.

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

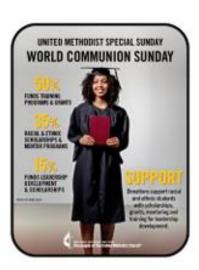
Special Sunday



World Communion Sunday

Oct. 6, 2024, or can be celebrated any Sunday conven-

World Communion Sunday is bration emphasizing the value of education and training.



We commemorate this day by giving generously to support young adults and make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

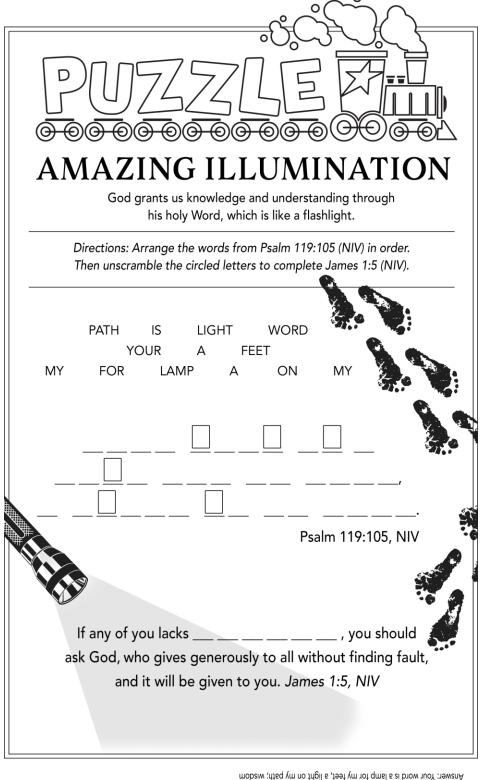
ient for your church. World Communion Sunday is a denomination-wide celewww.umceiving.org and go to Special Sundays to learn more and get resources.

Visit

SMALL BLESSINGS







SEPTEMBER 2024

Thank you to the Nurture Team for providing refreshments following worship during the month of September.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	2 Labor Day	3 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	4	5 8:00am Fit & Strong		8:00am Monthly Breakfast 9:30am Church Work Day
8 9:30am Brunch Worship in Fellowship Hall 10:30am Blowing Bubbles with Betty Ann 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	9	8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	11 Patriot Day	12 8:00am Fit & Strong	13 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14
15 9:30am Worship 9:45am First day of Sunday school 10:30am All Church Meeting 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	16	17 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 1:00pm Clothes Closet seasonal turnaround 6:30pm SPRC Meeting	18	19 8:00am Fit & Strong 1:00pm Dress sewing group		21 8:00am Apple Pie baking 8:00am Clothes Closet seasonal turnaround
22 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	10:00am Clothes Closet seasonal turnaround		25 7:00pm Fall Book Study	26 8:00am Fit & Strong	27 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	28 3:00pm Chili Cook-Off
29 9:30am Worship 5:30pm NH Table Tennis Club	30	1 8:00am Fit & Strong 9:00am Clothes Closet 9:30am Food Pantry 6:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	2 7:00pm Fall Book Study	3 8:00am Fit & Strong	4 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 8:00am Monthly Breakfast