

Spruce Street UMC Newsletter

386 Spruce Street Morgantown, WV 26505 304.292.3359

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. In-Person & 10:45 a.m. In-Person & Online

April 2026 Newsletter



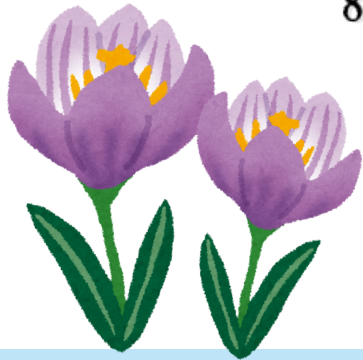
The Easter Season

The Easter Season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost. It is the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. It focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the givings of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Lessons from the Acts of the Apostles replace readings from the Old Testament because the early church, empowered by the Holy Spirit, is the best witness to the Resurrection.

The ancient Christian name for this festival is Pasch, derived from the Hebrew pesah ("deliverance" or "passover"), thus connecting the Resurrection to the Exodus. The origin of the English word Easter is disputed but may come from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess Eastre and her festival. Pentecost comes from the Greek pentekoste, which means "fiftieth." It refers to the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which Greek-speaking Jews called the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1). Early Christians also used the term Pentecost to refer to the Great Fifty Days as a season.

In addition to the acts and services of worship that follow, see The Great Thanksgiving for Easter and The Great Thanksgiving for Pentecost and the scripture readings for the Easter Season in the Revised Common Lectionary, Easter. Baptisms, confirmations, and congregational reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant are highly appropriate throughout this season, most especially at the First Service of Easter and on the Day of Pentecost. Use the colors of white and gold and materials of the finest texture for paraments, stoles, and banners. On the Day of Pentecost use bright red. Bright red symbols may also be used on a white background earlier in the season. A focus on the baptismal font is appropriate throughout the season. A large freestanding white candle called a paschal candle may be used at every service during this season and at baptisms and funerals during the rest of the year. Standing for prayer is most traditional. Flowers of all colors are appropriate. Visuals for the Day of Pentecost may include red flowers, doves, flames of fire, a ship, or a rainbow.

FROM THE UNITED METHODIST BOOK OF WORSHIP.



- 4/2 Simon Goulet
- 4/4 Jonathan Carr
- 4/7 Vivian Weaver
- 4/8 Jason Kennell
- 4/12 Marguerite Bostonia
- 4/12 Darlene Clingan
- 4/16 Tom Mersing
- 4/18 Meghan Wolfarth
- 4/21 Linda Bowers
- 4/22 Dixie Downes
- 4/26 Janet Schlobohm
- 4/26 Aly Hutzel
- 4/28 Preston Hetrick
- 4/28 Madison Kennell
- 4/28 David Davis





Music Musings



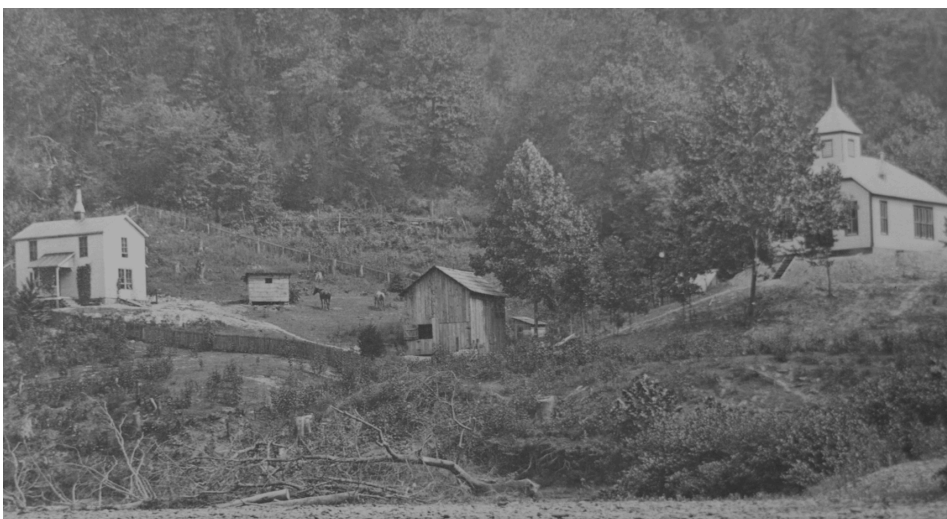
As a choral director, an early Easter can bring a bit of stress. Our choir has to work extra hard to put together a cantata in a relatively short amount of time. However, as an individual, I always prefer an earlier Easter. It feels right somehow to have Easter Sunday coincide with the true beginnings of Spring. Spring, for me, is a time of wonder. I'm always amazed at the slow return of warm weather, the sound of new birds in the trees, and the sight of colorful flowers beginning to emerge. The Easter story is one filled with wonder as well—a story of miracles, of grace, and of love. An early Easter in the beginning of Spring invites me to dwell extra-long in this feeling of wonder.

Our Easter cantata this year is told from the perspective of individual encounters with Christ. Each movement describes the joy, power, and wonder of experiencing the divine. We, of course, do not have the opportunity to touch Christ's robe or witness his ascension or view the empty tomb. However, I hope that this cantata encourages you to notice the day to day encounters with Christ. For me, divinity is often experienced through seemingly mundane things—the scent of fresh flowers, the feel of a warm Spring breeze, the sound of a familiar melody. Whatever form your encounters with the Spirit may take, I hope that you take the time to revel in the wonder of divinity this Easter season.



"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom." - Isaiah 35:1

- Ashley



Mountaineering Voices: Appalachian Primitive Baptists and Congregational Singing in West Virginia with Ginny Hawker

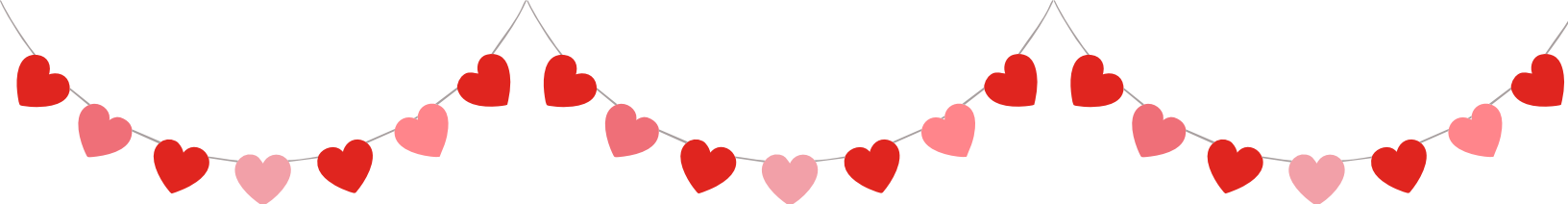
Monongalia Arts Center – Saturday, April 11 at 10:30am



WVU is holding an event about Appalachian congregational singing, "lining out" in particular.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 11, 10:30am-12pm at the Monongalia Arts Center. Anyone who might enjoy learning about and participating in this rare and beautiful tradition of hymn-singing is welcome to attend!!





Rooted in Love: Breaking bread and opening books

The WV Conference Justice & Advocacy Team has asked local congregations to participate in this year's theme: "Rooted in Love: Breaking bread and opening books." To do this, we will string cloth hearts together with string or ribbon and/or make bookmarks with encouraging messages.

The J&A Team will combine the strung hearts throughout buildings at the yearly West Virginia UM Conference in June; these will symbolize our advocacy for the one in five children in our state who lacks adequate food each day. Conference participants will receive bookmarks as reminders that opening books opens doors for children.

The theme "Rooted in Love: Breaking bread and opening books" is scriptural:
"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." — Matthew 25:35
"Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." — 1 John 3:18

A box will be available in Seekers Hall with the label "Justice & Advocacy hearts & bookmarks" to collect your heart strings and encouraging book marks.



Our participation does not stop with the hearts and bookmarks! We have other ways to help our community. Children in our state are suffering hunger - for lack of food and for lack of books!

We can:

- Donate to food banks and offer information to people where they can find food.
- Volunteer at food banks when needed, or drive for a meal delivery service.
- Be readers: Join local initiatives which places volunteers in schools to read with students.
- Participate in or fundraise for neighborhood school-based events, literacy nights, and book drives. (When we read "neighborhood" think "close enough" because we no longer have many neighborhood schools in Monongalia County.)
- Ask if local libraries need books before donating them; support their efforts in fundraising and tax levees.
- Volunteer in a school library or public library.

If you are reading this, someone taught you to read at some point, right? Pass on your knowledge.

-Judi McCracken
WV United Women in Faith, Social Action Coordinator



UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Spruce Street United Methodist Men held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11th. Normally meeting at Eat n' Park, March's meeting was held at Spruce Street United Methodist Church. To the delight of the group, the dinner was catered by Colasante's. Indeed, this dinner was very special and very delicious! Thank you Colasante's.

Following the usual devotional and business, the group was treated to a very entertaining and enlightening program by our own Kent Hastings. Kent, quite dressing the part, took us on a brief historical walk through the firearms and other related items of the USA over the last 250 years. His display of these items was quite amazing as was his detailed account of their origins and use. Kent's program (and his remarkable memory and recitation of the past) was both very entertaining and educational. Much thanks to Kent for another great program!

Take a moment to enjoy the photos.



Applications are OPEN for WV Scholar

High school juniors in West Virginia can apply for the West Virginia Scholar Program. The program, in its 19th year, provides a full scholarship to West Virginia Wesleyan College. **The scholarship includes four years of tuition, fees, room and board valued at \$160,000.** To apply click the "Apply Now" button at wvmetronews.com. The application deadline is May 3.



Upcoming Events with United Women in Faith



MonValley United Women in
Faith
Book Club Discussion

We are Not Here to Be Bystanders By Linda Sarsour

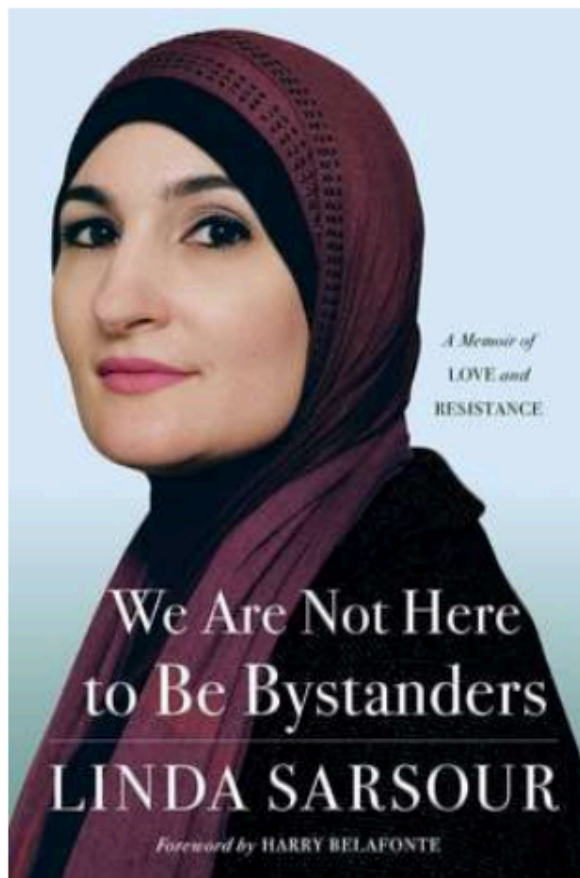
Tuesday evening, 6 p.m.
April 14, 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95645874428?pwd=81NnSOPR7aa4w9ak6Yz8EIEIEM2reOif.1>

Meeting ID: 956 4587 4428
Passcode: 604310

A native New Yorker, Linda Sarsour provides a memoir from growing up in Brooklyn and working in her father's small neighborhood market ("Linda's"), to co-chairing the 2017 Women's March in Washington DC. Be inspired by reading about one woman's influence and leadership.



MonValley District United Women in Faith Spring Meeting



Guest Speaker: Pastor Tim Edin

Saturday morning, April 25, 2026

9 a.m. to Noon

Registration – 8:30 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

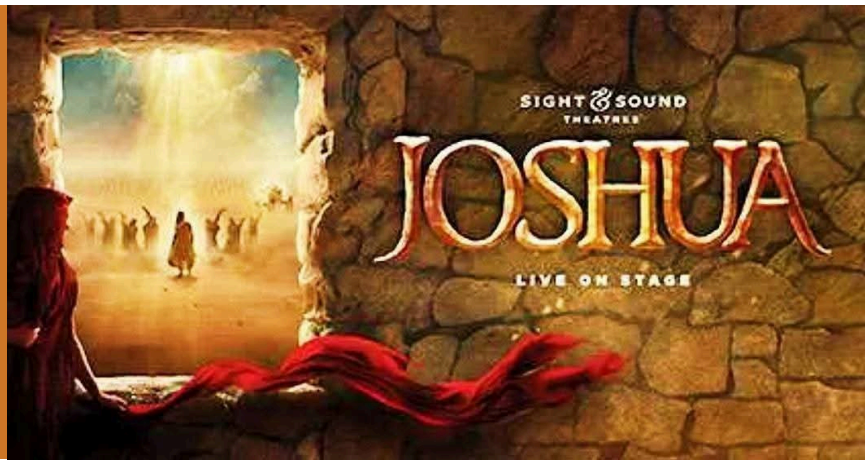
315 Kerens Ave, Elkins

We will collect items for
Tyrand Cooperative Ministries:



Pasta Noodles Pasta Sauce Jiffy Cornbread Mix
Canned or Instant Potatoes Peanut Butter & Jelly





Spruce St UWIF is offering a trip to Sight & Sound to see the fabulous production of Joshua!

Experience with us one of the most redemptive stories of the Bible as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theaters. Be **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**. From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, JOSHUA is a miraculous adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. Includes the following:

- Lodging
- Hot Buffet Breakfast at Family Restaurant
- Shopping at Kitchen Kettle Village
- Dinner hosted by the Amish in their home
- Also includes an admission ticket to the Gettysburg Cyclorama & Museum and guided tour of the Battlefield.
- Ticket for Joshua at Sight & Sound

Date: April 10 – 11, 2026

Bus Pick-up: Morgantown, WV (Wal-Mart parking lot 75 Retail Circle Morgantown, WV)

Cost: \$435 single

\$385 double

\$355 triple

\$335 quad

For more information, please contact Teresa Johnson at 681-209-3961 or by email at teresa81265@hotmail.com

SCOTTS RUN DONATIONS

We collect nonperishable food and other items for Scotts Run Settlement House in our Overflow Area. **Please keep our low-income neighbors in mind as you are doing your grocery shopping. Additional helpful things to donate include non-perishable, high-protein items such as canned tuna or beans and whole grains such as rice or pasta. These items help keep bellies full!**



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS ANNOUNCEMENT

Hi everyone,

It is with a sad heart but proud spirit that I share this announcement with you. It is self-explanatory, but I want you to know that we have been an active part of this group since about 2018–19.

I am so proud of all of you and so grateful for your sponsorship of this ministry. You have been outstanding. We will continue to help our community people in every way that we can. I will share any and all news that I receive about ways that we can support our community. Thus, *this action will not affect our Gifts of Love ministry in any way.*

This is the official notice about Circle of Friends:

What excellent work we have done through Circle of Friends! For almost 30 years, we have provided our downtown neighbors with meals on Saturday and Sunday nights. We have much to be proud of!

Now it is time to close this chapter of our good work in God's name. As feeding and other services have moved to the Hazel's House of Hope location, fewer and fewer persons are using Circle of Friends. It has become more difficult to find groups to provide meals, and one of our 4 sites, the Lutheran Campus Chapel, will no longer be part of the Circle. Our mission to downtown feeding has come to an end.

If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Carr.

SPRING HEIGHTS CAMP REGISTRATIONS OPEN

Spring Heights Camp and Retreat Center is the outdoor camping ministry of The West Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church that provides creative opportunities and a safe and loving community for everyone to know God, develop character, care for creation, and build connections that will shape them into a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ.

Get ready now for the highlight of your summer! Camp at Spring Heights is like nowhere else on earth and we would love to have you join us. Pick your own activities in Camp Outrageous – or join us for a classic or a specialty camp, the choice is yours!

We work hard to create an environment where God can easily work in the hearts of everyone here. Ready for an epic, life-changing experience? Jump on in! See you soon!

Everyone knows that camp is tremendous fun, and its benefits are proven. Multiple studies reveal that camp fosters independence, builds self-esteem, strengthens faith, creates meaningful friendships, and builds valuable life skills.

Through swimming, we teach water safety; horseback riding builds confidence; nature study fosters interest in the stewardship of God's creation. The list goes on and on. All of our programs focus on faith, friendships, and fun. Questions? Feel free to call us at 304-927-5865 or email us at info@springheights.org

Register now at springheights.org



International Street Festival

BAZAAR · LIVE MUSIC · FOOD TRUCKS

April 19, 2026
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Free
Entry

AT MORGANTOWN MARKET PLACE
400 Spruce St, Morgantown, WV 26505

Sponsored by:

West Virginia University's Office of Global Affairs
Arts Council of Greater Morgantown
Main Street Morgantown
Morgantown Sister Cities Commission
Your Community Foundation

Join in at the Spruce Street Farmer's Market on April 19 at 12pm to celebrate the cultures, perspectives, and traditions that make our community strong.

Enjoy dancing, live music, food vendors, cultural displays, children's activities, and community-fun!

Please note: there will be no parking under the pavilion on Sunday, April 19th due to the festival.



Support Parents' Place!

Parents' Place invites you to support our annual Silent Auction fundraiser!

The Silent Auction is the organization's signature event that has helped to fund its mission for decades. An in-person event will take place on April 11, 2026 from 9am-12pm at Parents' Place, located at 386 Spruce Street, where members of the community are welcome to view and bid on auction items while celebrating the work Parents' Place has done in Morgantown for more than 45 years.

*Online bidding will open April 9, 2026 at 12pm and close on April 11, 2026 at 12pm.

For more information and sponsorship/donation opportunities, visit <https://www.parentsplacewv.org/events/silent-auction>

Please join us for the annual

Silent Auction FUNDRAISER

to benefit Parents' Place



April 11th | 9am-12pm
**online bidding opens April 9th*



386 Spruce Street



Learn more at [parentsplacewv.org/events/silent-auction](https://www.parentsplacewv.org/events/silent-auction)



Parents' Place invites all artists from preschool age through high school to create and submit original artwork to the 2026 Noodles & Doodles Art Contest -- a free art contest for students, and a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit Parents' Place.

Any student artwork is eligible for consideration. Artists may enter individually or as a group. There is no fee to enter. Reservations of gallery space should be made by 4/17, with artwork being due to the venue by 4/24. There are some guidelines to follow, which can be found online by scanning the QR code below.

Families of artists are welcome to view all of the submitted artwork in a gallery-like setting at, as well as to purchase dinner tickets for, the Noodles & Doodles event on May 2, 2026 from 3-6pm at Parents' Place, located at 386 Spruce Street.

Prizes to be awarded:

1st place in age category • People's Choice • Best in Class for Group Collab • PP Alumni

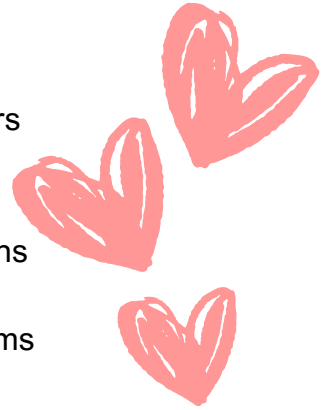
Scan for full details



Gifts of Love

Thank you for supporting this ministry and donating your gently used household items. Please ensure items are clean and usable before donating. Suggested items include but are not limited to:

- Dishes
- Pots & pans
- Silverware
- Glasses/mugs
- Cooking utensils
- Can openers
- Mixing bowls
- Serving dishes/spoons
- Tupperware
- Coffeemakers
- Toasters
- Blenders
- Microwaves
- Dishcloths
- Towels
- Baking sheets
- Bakeware
- Measuring cups/spoons
- Potholders/mitts
- Cutting boards
- Storage organizers
- Blankets/quilts
- Backpacks
- Flashlights/lanterns
- Batteries
- Basic hygiene items



April Lectionary Scriptures

April 5 - Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18; Matthew 28:1-10

April 12 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 19 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 26 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10



Prayer Chain

Our prayer ministry is very active. If you are part of the prayer chain and have not been receiving the emails or if you'd like to join the prayer chain, please send your email address to Carolyn at cocarr@yahoo.com. Short term prayer list can be found in the bulletin each week. Names are moved to the long-term list in the Newsletter after a month in the bulletin.



Prayers For

Lori Britton
Saundra Britton
Becklu Davis
Rubyann Downes
Sara Fuqua
Mike Grant
Judy Harman
Sharon Hillerary
Jerry Holt
Carolyn Hubbard
Aly Hutzel

Carolyn Keech
Ben Lee
Charlotte Murphy
Sharon Richman
Mary Belle Rowe
John Simpkins
Syndy Slaughter
Linda Sweetman
Penny Turley
Mary Lynn Withrow

Spruce St UMC Office Hours & Contact Info

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

304-292-3359

sprucestumc.org

SPRUCE STREET STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor	Rev. Bart Thompson	304-813-7213 pastor@sprucestreetumc.org
Lay Minister	Eldon Callen	304-290-7142 eldonc45@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant	Em Pechon	304-292-3359 secretary@sprucestreetumc.org
Financial Secretary	Judy Kennell	finance@sprucestreetumc.org
Music Director	Marguerite Bostonia	margbos6@gmail.com
Choir Director	Ashley Lewis	jashleylewis@gmail.com
Children's Ministry	Lena Glowacky	childrensministry@sprucestreetumc.org
Building Supervisor	Bonnie Johnson	johnson26541@yahoo.com
Prayer Focus	Carolyn Carr	cdccarr@yahoo.com

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	30	31 12PM Lent Study	1 No Bible Study 6:30PM Barnabas Group	2 10AM Chair Yoga 7PM Holy Thursday Service 7:45PM Chancel Choir	3 7PM Good Friday Service	4
5 Easter Day 6:30AM Sunrise Service 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 9:45AM Easter Egg Hunt	6 1:30PM Heritage Bible Study	7	8 11AM Bible Study 6PM UMM @ Eat N Park	9 10AM Chair Yoga 6:15PM Handbell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	10	11
12 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	13 6PM SPPRC	14 6PM UWIF District Book Club	15 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	16 10AM Chair Yoga 6:15PM Handbell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	17	18
19 3rd Sunday of Easter International Festival – No parking at the pavilion! 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School 5:30PM Messy Church	20 6PM Finance 7PM Trustees	21	22 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	23 10AM Chair Yoga 6:15PM Handbell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	24	25
26 4th Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 10:45AM Worship 10AM Sunday School	27 7PM Ad Council	28 6PM UWIF	29 11AM Bible Study 6PM Prayer Meeting (Zoom)	30 10AM Chair Yoga 6:15PM Handbell Choir 7PM Chancel Choir	1	2