

Newsletter for Faith Eyota Methodist Church - Eyota, MN



A Note Worth Sharing from Pastor Keith

Hello, once more, everyone,

I send you my heartfelt greetings from the Church office on this rainy April day. However, there's a silver lining: with the April showers comes the promise of God's love, grace, and, indeed... May flowers. I hope this message finds you joyful and in good health.

Reflecting on the past month while looking ahead to the new one, I am truly delighted to see so many cheerful faces eager to serve God and receive service in return. We gather in God's house, seeking His goodness and mercy. I continue to be amazed by the increasing presence of young Christians, both before and during our services. It is a genuine joy to witness them, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone committed to teaching them about our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

On a personal note, my leg issue is healing, enabling me to get out more and accomplish additional tasks. I sincerely appreciate your patience and prayers during this gradual recovery. If any of you know someone I could visit, please feel free to reach out; I would be more than happy to offer assistance.

At Eyota Faith, we are a family of believers who love to "Go with the Flow." Let us allow our love for Jesus to flow through our community in everything we do. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

As always,
Pastor Keith



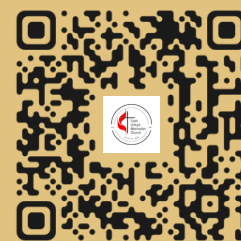
Faith United Methodist Church

27 4th St W | Eyota, MN 55934

Pastor Keith Mercer ☎ (507) 545-2641 | ✉ faithUMC@gmail.com

🌐 eyotafaithumc.org | @faithumc_in_action

Service every Sunday at 10:00am *Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Here for Good.*



Mother's Day

Mother's Day, is a holiday in honor of mothers that is celebrated in countries throughout the world. In its modern form the holiday originated in the United States. It was established by Anna Jarvis, who sought to honor her own mother. The first Mother's Day church service was held in 1908. The day became a national holiday six years later, and it is observed on the second Sunday in May. Mother's Day is celebrated with cards, flowers, and family dinners, among other activities.

Many other countries also celebrate the holiday on this date, while some mark the observance at other times of the year. During the Middle Ages the custom developed of allowing those who had moved away to visit their home parishes and their mothers on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This became Mothering Sunday in Britain, where it continued into modern times, although it has largely been replaced by Mother's Day.

Jarvis was inspired to create the holiday by her mother, Ann Jarvis, who organized women's groups to promote friendship and health. In 1868, three years after the end of the Civil War, Ann Jarvis reportedly organized a Mothers' Friendship Day to promote reconciliation between Union veterans and Confederate veterans and their families. In 1876, when she was 12 years old, Anna Jarvis witnessed her mother offer a prayer at the close of a Sunday school class: "I hope and pray that someone, sometime, will found a memorial mothers day commemorating her for the matchless service she renders to humanity in every field of life," her mother said. "She is entitled to it." Anna Jarvis never forgot her mother's prayer. After Ann Jarvis died in 1905, her daughter began a letter-writing and public-speaking campaign directed at local, state, and national figures and organizations. She and her supporters advocated a Mother's Day to be observed on the second Sunday of May, which matched the day on which Ann Jarvis died.

On May 12, 1908, a Mother's Day service was held at Jarvis's late mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day, and in 1914 U.S. Pres. Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday. Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white carnation (her mother's favorite flower), the custom developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased. Over time the day was expanded to include others, such as grandmothers and aunts, who played mothering roles.



Leadership Committee Updates

N.O.W

Nurture, Outreach, Worship



April Food Drive Impact

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our congregation, our April food drive was a meaningful success! Together, we donated a total of 93 pounds of food to the Front and Center Food Pantry, helping support individuals and families in our community.

The donations included a thoughtful variety of much-needed items: **16 pounds** of proteins, **11 pounds** of baking and cooking supplies, **5 pounds** of grains, **10 pounds** of canned fruits and vegetables, **35 pounds** of meals and side dishes, **11 pounds** of snacks and beverages, and **5 pounds** of household goods. Each item given represents care, compassion, and a commitment to serving our neighbors.

The pantry shared their heartfelt gratitude, reminding us just how impactful these contributions are. Because of your generosity, they are able to continue their mission of feeding those in need.

Thank you for living out our faith through action and for making a difference right here in our community.

Leadership Council

Faith Church has updated our You Tube channel. Live Streams of our worship services are added to this channel after the service is over. In the near future, the live streams will be shown live on YouTube, allowing viewers real time access to our services.

As time goes on, more content will be added to this channel.

The address is:

<https://www.youtube.com/@EyotaFaithUMC>

Leadership Members

- **Leadership Council Co-Chair:** Lori Ehlenfeldt
- **Leadership Council Co-Chair:** Peter Larson
- **Nuture Chair:** Irene Vehrenkamp
- **SPRCC Chair:** Linda Tamminga
- **Finance Chair:** Jaime Putzier
- **Head Trustee:** Frank Merchant
- **Financial Secretary:** Jessi Leichtnam
- **Treasurer:** Michelle Merchant
- **Secretary:** Irene Vehrenkamp
- **Lay Member:** Peter Larson

Finance Committee Quarterly Update

We are grateful for your continued generosity and the many ways you support the mission and ministry of our church.

Where We Stand Financially

At the end of the first quarter, our financial position is strong:

Total Revenue: \$46,968 (budget: \$26,470)

Total Expenses: \$31,661 (budget: \$35,070)

Net Income: \$15,307

This positive start reflects not only faithful regular giving, but also **fundraising income and designated gifts (including memorials)** that have strengthened our overall position.

A few key highlights:

Regular offering is slightly below budget overall (about 95%), though March giving showed strong momentum.

- Online giving continues to grow and exceed expectations.
- Designated and memorial gifts have provided a meaningful boost this quarter, but cannot be used for operational monthly expenses.
- Expenses are being managed carefully and are currently about 10% under budget.

While this is an encouraging start, it's important to remember that some of this surplus comes from one-time gifts and fundraising. Consistent, ongoing giving remains essential to sustaining our regular ministry and operations throughout the year.

“Here for Good” Campaign Update

We are excited to share progress on our Here for Good campaign:

Goal: \$50,000

Raised so far: \$4,709

These early funds have come from pie sales, Kwik Trip gift cards, flower sales, and designated gifts. Thank you to everyone who has supported these efforts!

What's Coming Next:

We have several upcoming opportunities to participate, including our garage sale during Eyota's citywide garage sale. We will also be sending a congregation-wide letter inviting thoughtful and prayerful consideration of giving, along with offering the option to make a pledge that can be fulfilled in installments over time.

This campaign is intended to be above and beyond regular giving, and we are working to approach it creatively—broadening participation and offering flexible ways to give without placing additional strain on those who already give faithfully.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing through Faith United Methodist Church. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to a member of the Finance Committee.

– Faith UMC Finance Committee



Trustees Update



Help Us Make the Citywide Garage Sale a Success!

Our church is excited to once again participate in the upcoming Citywide Garage Sale—and we need your help to make it a success! This event is an important fundraiser, and with a little extra care in what we collect, we can make it more effective than ever.

This year, we are being intentional about the items we accept. Rather than a large quantity of small or hard-to-sell items, we are focusing on higher-value, gently used items that will sell easily. Think quality over quantity.

Examples of items we gladly welcome include:

- Bikes (we already have two great mountain bike sets!)
- Furniture or outdoor items in good condition (like lawn chairs)
- Household sets (such as a complete dish set, not single pieces)
- Tools or specialty items (like a marine-grade winch or power tools)
- Luggage sets
- Seasonal and holiday décor (small holiday decor should be put into “lots” to sell as a bundle.)

Examples of items we are **NOT** able to accept this year:

- Clothing
- Electronics
- Miscellaneous small or single items (such as individual dishes, knick-knacks, etc.)

In the past, donations have sometimes resembled thrift store drop-offs, and while the generosity is appreciated, we simply don't have the volunteer capacity to sort, price, and dispose of unsellable items. This new approach will help us steward everyone's time and energy more effectively—and ultimately raise more funds.

New Donation Drop-Off Process

To help manage donations well, we are implementing specific drop-off times. A member of our trustees will be present to receive and review items:

- **Monday, May 11 | 5:00–7:00 PM**
- **Tuesday, May 12 | 10:00 AM–1:00 PM**
- **Wednesday, May 13 | 5:00–7:00 PM**

If you need to arrange a different time, please contact Michelle Merchant at 414-333-7529 (call or text). **Please do not leave items at the church outside of these times unless you have made prior arrangements.**

Thank you for your understanding, your generosity, and your partnership in making this event successful. All sale proceeds will be for our Here for Good Fundraising Campaign

Family Moments

Have you ever noticed character flaws or struggles in your children and thought, “Where did that come from? I’ve told them over and over again to do the exact opposite of what they’re doing right now.” And then after a moment’s reflection, you realized, “Oh. That’s how I act. That’s exactly what I do. They’re getting this from me.”

If you’ve been a parent or caregiver for any length of time, you probably know that we teach our kids more by what we do than by what we say.

This is not to guilt you. We all have this struggle. Rather, it’s to encourage you that you can influence your kids to follow Christ just by following Him yourself and letting them observe you.

How? Let them “catch” you studying your Bible in the morning. Let them hear you in prayer.

Let them see you worshipping God. Let them observe you being kind, showing mercy, leading with grace. Let them witness you participating in godly community.

Yes, kids see our flaws and those same flaws sometimes come out in how they act. But they also see the way we love and follow Christ. And by seeing what we do, they can be encouraged to do the same.

Talk About This One Thing:

Ask your kids, “What is one thing I do that encourages you to follow Christ?”

From: *The Child Discipleship Team* Thechilddiscipleship@awana.org



Scroll Smart: A 4 Week Sunday School Series

Faith United Methodist Church is inviting students to a 4-week Sunday School series exploring how social media shapes beliefs, choices, trends, and truth—and how to respond with a biblical mindset instead of simply following the crowd. In a world of constant scrolling and viral voices, this series creates space for students to pause, think, and reflect on what’s shaping their hearts and minds.

Check out the bulletin board display they added to our Fellowship Hall.

It's not too late to join us! The series meets Sundays at 9:00 am on May 3 & 10



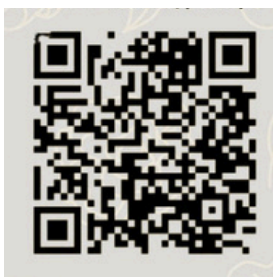
Mother's Day Fingerprint Craft Event

Faith United Methodist Church invites you to join us for a special Mother's Day fingerprint craft event on ****Wednesday, May 6th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM****.

- Bring your children to create a heartfelt gift for mom.
- Alternatively, moms can accompany their kids and craft together.

There is a ****\$6 fee**** for the event, which covers the following supplies:

- Flower pot
- Paints
- Sealant
- Dirt
- A live flower



Please ****RSVP through Zeffy**** so we can prepare the appropriate amount of supplies.
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/flower-pots-for-mom>



Thanks to the congregation for bringing grocery bags to support the ministry of Ruby's Pantry over the last years. Alex Flury (pictured on left) has enjoyed collecting them and using them to distribute the food shares. Unfortunately, Rubys Pantry has now closed operations, so bags will no longer be needed. We have appreciated your support of this ministry!

How Eyota Faith UMC Came to Be

NEW EUB CHURCH BUILDING

By Gerie Asleson

During the ministry of Rev. A. E. Walden, who served the United Brethren Church from 1939 to 1944, a building fund was established. In 1948, the members of what is now the Evangelical United Brethren Church began cultivating land to contribute to this fund, following the denominational union of 1946. By 1953, the church was completed at a cost of \$65,000. (Stay tuned for more details about the farming efforts in next month's newsletter.) The Dedication Service was held on December 6, 1953.

The building committee included Albert Pries as Chairman, along with Elmer Fuchs, Elmer Randall, Ernie Higgins, Mary Ethel Lovejoy, Bessie Smith, Richard Curtin, Russell Pries, Cecil Head, and David Bush.

Members continued their farming efforts until 1961, raising approximately three-quarters of the funds necessary for the new church and parsonage through these activities.

Note: The old EUB church building was purchased by Harry Jones and moved to his farm on West Second Street, where it served as a barn for several years before being burned down in the early 1980s to make way for the Eyota Manor apartment buildings.



DESCRIPTION OF OUR NEW CHURCH

**From the Dedication Bulletin -
Dec. 6, 1953**

Construction began in the early part of June, 1953. The new church edifice is a building thirty-four by sixty-six feet with a ten by sixteen foot left wing. It is gothic in style and is constructed of brick and tile. Upon the south wall is a huge cross which is made of glass block and is lighted at night. The windows are gothic and have within them amber stained glass. There are four large laminated trusses visible from the Nave.

The seating capacity of the Nave is one hundred and ninety with additional room in the choir room to the left of the chancel; a classroom underneath the balcony, which is closed off by a modern fold door; and a balcony, giving an over-all seating capacity of approximately two hundred and eighty. Off of the balcony within the tower, is a nursery room. The church is trimmed in white oak with the ceiling in light blue and the walls in a buff color. The church also has a large Parish Hall which provides ample space for all suppers and congregational functions. The stage in the Parish Hall, provides ample room for dramatics. The floor is covered with a light green asphalt tile. There is also a beautiful, large fully equipped kitchen adjoining the Parish Hall. There are also rest room facilities. (NOTE: the old church had no running water or rest rooms. There was an outdoor privy behind the church.)

Being United Methodist

Holy Club. Bible Moths. Methodists.

These are just a few of the names people called Charles and John Wesley and those gathered around them before anyone called their group a movement, let alone a church. Charles and John Wesley are considered founders of the Methodist movement that led to what is now The United Methodist Church.

It all began around 1728 with a few men at Oxford University, where Charles was finishing his studies. Charles Wesley had not always been very good at focusing on his studies or his faith. His first year at school was full of diversions like playing cards and enjoying music, theater and dancing. Nevertheless, by his final year, he was ready to devote himself to a more focused method of engaging study and faith.

Charles knew he could not do this on his own. He gathered with others in a small group, a practice common at Oxford in those days.

Originally, the group discussed classical literature, but they eventually moved onto spiritual materials. According to Dale Patterson, former archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History, they would read classical literature during the week but on weekends, especially Sundays, read works about divinity or theology as we call it today.

Even with these conversations, Charles continued to feel like he was struggling. He reached out to his brother John for assistance.

"There is no one person I would so willingly have to be the instrument of good to me as you," Charles wrote in a letter to John. "It is owing, in great measure, to somebody's prayers (my mother's most likely) that I am come to think as I do; for I cannot tell myself how or why I awoke out of my lethargy, only that it was not long after you went away."

John had been away for a time helping at his father's parish since he had already graduated and was ordained in the Church of England. When he returned to Oxford, where he was also a fellow, he soon assumed leadership of the group and brought to it his organization skills and some initial instruction.

Others started noticing the group. Some called them "Sacramentarians," that is they sought the sacrament of communion frequently. The Wesleys thought it good to have communion at least weekly, though the common thought was monthly was satisfactory.

This was one of the first items to grow out of their meetings. They had to search out communion since no single Protestant congregation offered it every week.

Others called the group "Enthusiasts." Were they religious fanatics of some sort? "That was an insulting term," says Patterson. "People claiming to be spirit-filled [or enthused] were considered suspicious." The term pointed back to "the wild-eyed people of a century ago," during the English civil war.

Continued on next page

Being United Methodist

(Continued)

Despite that, John Wesley considered himself a "reasonable enthusiast," says Patterson. "Supererogation-men," was another term applied to this small, but growing, group. Supererogation refers to their desire to go beyond what is typically required by most religious in hopes of winning divine approval.

It was common for the Wesleys and their companions to engage regularly in prayer, fasting (twice a week), giving alms and visiting those in prison. Many of these activities were not even the Wesleys' ideas, though John would check in with the local bishop to ensure there was no problem with their activity.

"These guys are accused of doing too much good," says Ted A. Campbell, professor of Church History at Perkins School of Theology. The supererogation-men nickname was also, Campbell continues, "a veiled accusation of Catholicism." There remained tension in those days between Protestant and Catholic supporters, and the practice of Catholicism was restricted.

The group the Wesleys were a part of engaged in regular Bible study and were then called "Bible-moths." Did they eat their Bibles as a moth may eat their clothes?

They were viewed as "Bible-bigots," because they reproved others who they thought did not live up to scriptural standards. "A lot of people thought of them as sourpusses," Campbell says.

By the time they were called "The Holy Club," there were actually at least four small groups connected with the growing movement.

"These were all names foisted upon him," Campbell says, "but John Wesley had the habit of taking them onto himself."

It was "Methodist" that eventually stuck. While John Wesley initially did not like the name, he eventually made it his own.

Why did it stick? "It was something people could see," Campbell says.

The initial Holy Club dissipated when the Wesleys and two others went on a mission trip to Georgia. However, many, if not most, of the evolving group went onto ministry.

The Wesleys and their colleagues stuck to their methods upon their return to England and the Methodist movement would spread throughout Great Britain and into the Americas and now the world.

Today, United Methodists pledge in their membership vows to give of their "prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." Thus, United Methodists continue the active life the Wesleys and their colleagues brought forward.

Our methods may have evolved over the years, but we still seek to follow John and Charles Wesley's desire to live a more holy life.



The Holy Club started here at Christ Church College, Oxford, England. Image by Photochrom Print Collection (Public domain), via Wikimedia Commons.

Spring into Giving – Just by Filling Up!

As the days get longer and we head into a new season, it's the perfect time to support the ongoing ministry of our church in a simple, everyday way – just by shopping where many of us already go: Kwik Trip!


When you purchase Kwik Trip cards through our fundraiser, a portion of each purchase blooms right back into supporting the church's general needs:

- Gas & Store Cards – 5% back
- Grocery-Only Cards – 15% back
- Car Wash Cards – \$16 back per card

It's an easy way to turn your regular errands into meaningful support for our church community.

You can sign up at church or find everything you need on our Facebook page, website, by scanning the QR code, or using our Zeffy link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/kwik-trip-gift-cards-april>

Thank you for helping our church grow and thrive this season – one stop at Kwik Trip at a time! 



Supporting Our Ministry Through Recurring Giving



Recurring giving is a simple, meaningful way to support the ongoing work of our church. Consistent gifts—whether weekly or monthly—help provide a steady foundation for our ministries, allowing us to plan ahead and continue serving our congregation and community.

We make it easy to set up recurring giving through Tithe.ly. In just a few minutes, you can choose your amount and frequency, creating a convenient and consistent way to give.

Set up your online giving at <https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=5d0a04de-e11e-49d4-a26b-5a4001d0531c>

At the same time, we understand that the act of placing something in the offering plate each week is an important part of worship for many. That's why we've placed giving cards in each pew. If you give online, you're invited to participate in the weekly offering by simply placing one of these cards in the plate.

Thank you for your faithful and generous support—it truly makes a difference in all we are able to do together.

Pentecost - Sunday May 24th

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50th day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians primarily celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry. Some do this through services of confirmation on Pentecost. And still others have also, historically, offered baptism on Pentecost as well.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White was used in some places, including England, where Pentecost had also become a day for baptisms by the Middle Ages. Whether it happened at Easter or Pentecost or at some other time, those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."



Stewardship

What is Connectional Giving?

No matter where or how we serve Jesus Christ, United Methodists live out our faith through a unique covenant of connection. One important expression of this is connectional giving—a shared system of financial support that enables us to accomplish far more together than any congregation could alone.

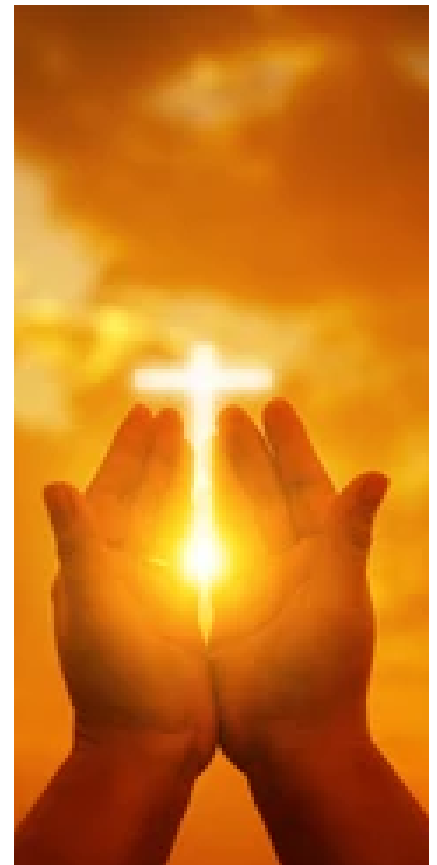
United in impact, our combined resources create real and lasting change. At its core, connectional giving is a tangible expression of our unity in Christ. It fuels our collective mission to make disciples and transform the world—locally, regionally, and globally.

United Methodists give in two primary ways: Apportioned giving, where local churches contribute a portion of their offerings to support the wider mission of the church. Designated giving, which allows individuals or churches to give directly to specific ministries or needs. While the vast majority of giving stays in your local church— impacting your local community—a portion supports ministries across your annual conference and general church ministries. These funds support disaster response, hunger relief, new church starts, education, leadership development, advocacy, and more. Connectional giving reflects what we believe: We are stronger together.

What Do Apportioned Funds Support in The United Methodist Church?

United Methodists support apportionment funds through a connectional giving system that proportionally distributes the churchwide budget across all conferences. Local churches contribute to these funds as part of their connectional commitment. There are seven official apportioned funds that sustain the church's global mission and ministry. These funds support everything from leadership development, global mission work, and theological education to communication, justice ministries, and the operations of the general church.

All U.S. annual conferences support all seven funds, while annual conferences outside of the U.S. support two, based on structure and contextual needs. World Service Fund Provides financial support for general agencies that carry out the shared vision, mission, and ministries of The United Methodist Church, offering services beyond the reach of local congregations and annual conferences. Africa University Fund Supports the general operating expenses of Africa University, located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, including faculty and staff salaries and vital infrastructure. Additional donations through World Service Special Gifts support scholarships and the endowment fund.



SCAN ME!



MAY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service 11:00 Coffee 11:30 Choir Practice 2-3:30 Girl Scouts	4	5 Office Open 9-1 6:00 Trustees Meeting	6 Flower Pots for Mom Event 6:30 pm	7 9:30 Bible Study	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 Service 11:00 Coffee	11 Garage Sale Drop Off 5-7 pm 7:30 Finance Committee Mtg	12 Office Open 9-1 Garage Sale Drop Off 9 am - 1 pm Cub Scouts 6:30 pm	13 Garage Sale Drop Off 5-7 pm	14 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Leadership Meeting	15 Eyota Citywide Garage Sale	16 Eyota Citywide Garage Sale
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service 11:00 Coffee 11:30 Choir	18	19 Office Open 9-1 Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	20	21 9:30 Bible Study	22	23
24 PENTECOST 10:00 Service 11:30 Choir Practice	25	26 Office Open 9-1	27	28 9:30 Bible Study 630 Leadership working meeting	29	30
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Service 11:00 Coffee 11:30 Choir						