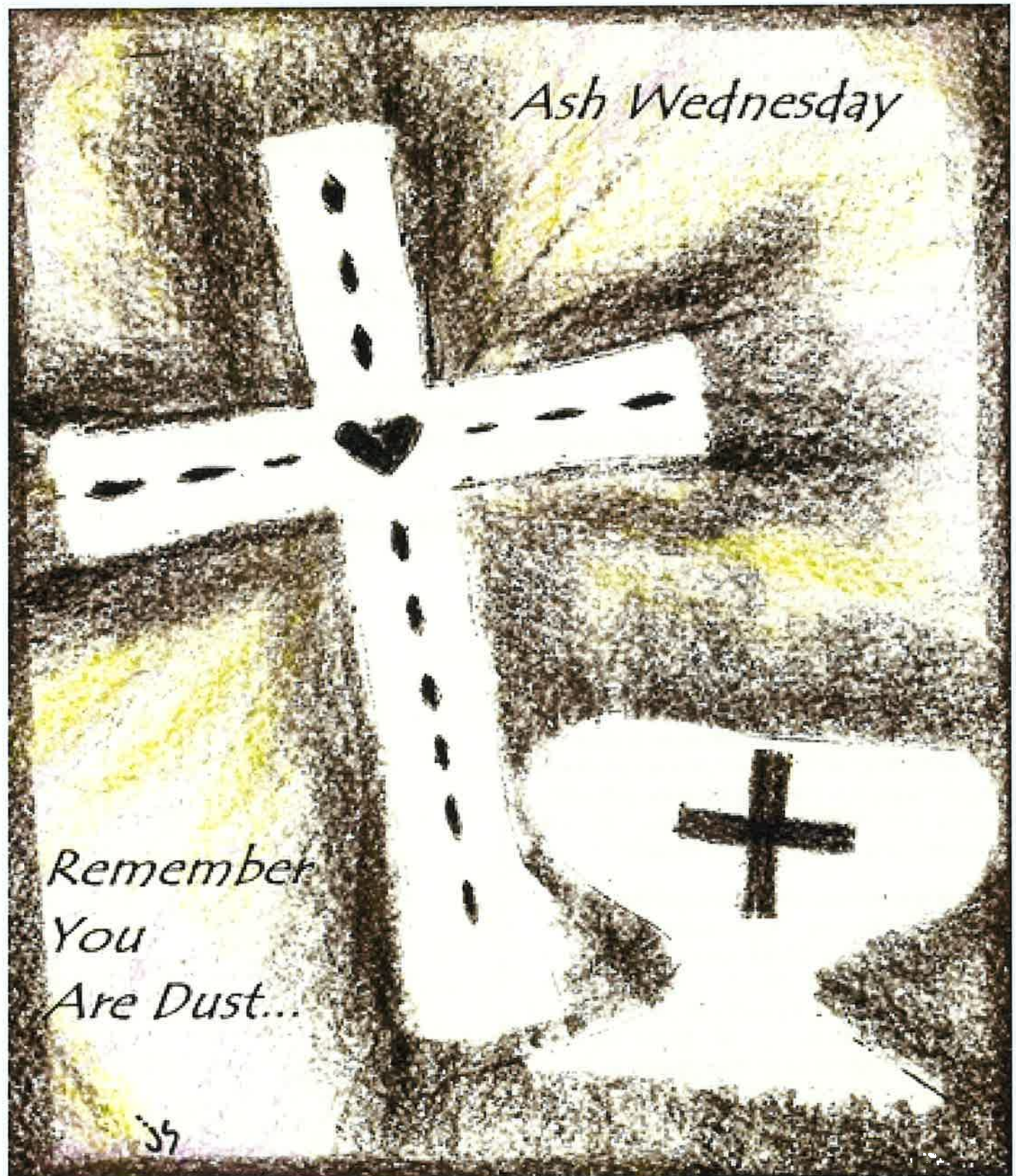


CALVARY CALLER

MARCH 2025





I'll Be There

Today a pop song from my childhood came wafting through my brain. It's probably actually a wistful song about the end of a relationship, but it was just the chorus that came to me unbidden:

Whenever you call me, I'll be there

Whenever you want me, I'll be there

Whenever you need me, I'll be there

I'll be around...

Taken completely out of context, that's basically my pastoral care policy. Now, if I don't know about a crisis in your life, and you or one of your friends does not reach out to me or the church office to let me know—honestly, I'm not a very good guesser. I have enough trouble guessing what Sister Jennie wants much of the time. How much more so for anyone I haven't known for over 20 years? Alas my "direct line to the divine" does not keep me informed that way!

When it does seem like I miraculously know about something difficult you or a loved one is going through, it's probably because you told someone who thought I should know. That's not a miracle—that's the power of friendship!

My family members all understand that they always come first—except in a pastoral emergency or crisis. Please don't hesitate to reach out when you need me—or Sister Jennie if you prefer—or even if you think you might. I'd rather help you decide over the phone whether you need me than miss an opportunity to be there for you or your family.

Sister Jennie and I both have our numbers in Calvary's phone directory, and the office has

standing instructions to give it out freely to those who've misplaced or not yet received one. Also, phone messages left at Calvary now produce transcripts that come to my email when the office is not open. And although I take most Fridays off (except Lunch with Friends), I'm still "on call"—and part of the joy of our partnership is that sometimes Sister Jennie can jump in when I do need a break or am otherwise unavailable.

In short, when in doubt about whether you should call or text me or call the church office, or have a friend or family member do so when you cannot, please err on the side of reaching out. Whenever you call, I'll be there, as soon as humanly possible, by the gracious support of the One who called me to this work!

Pastor Jon

REFLECTIONS FROM SISTER JENNIE

Change Is Good!

Changes are already happening in the Upper Room (Calvary's original sanctuary), slowly but surely. First, the Parish Ed Team did a good clean-up of the stage area, which everyone agreed desperately needed to happen. Things needed to sit empty for a time for our youth to start imagining what their dream space for them might look like. It's starting to take shape now. They have a wish list that we have begun acting on. Next time you duck your head into the Upper Room, you won't be able to miss our first addition: A big, cozy couch!

More will be coming, like a colorful rug. We are going to find ways to decorate the stage area with some lights and add art to the walls. New board and card games will be coming soon, as well as a coffee maker of their picking and a mini fridge to store snacks and coffee items in to keep the ants away.

This is for our current youth, but also to set the tone for the youth who walk through our doors into the future. This is an area where youth can feel comfortable and safe. This is a space in their church where they get to have a say, a voice about how things look, knowing that will be honored.

So I know, change can be scary. But change is also good. Change means that we are moving into a new phase where having space for youth is important in life at Calvary, and we're able to act on it with youth who are excited to be a part of its creation. Let's celebrate that and wait in anticipation as the space takes shape and comes together along with them.

Be excited with them!

If you have any questions about the Upper Room/Youth Room, I'm glad to answer any.

In peace,

Sr. Jennie Myers



FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, MATT EIDE

Dear Calvary Friends,

The Easter Season is upon us! A great time to reflect during Lent and celebrate on Easter.

*“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.” (Psalm 25:5)*

Be sure to join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for the Holden Evening Prayer. There is a schedule posted on the bulletin board outside the Church office that details the days/times of services throughout this important season.

Our finances are doing okay. We are just a bit behind, but as you all have shown us last year, we are to have faith. Calvary was able to send money through a Special Benevolence to the Fire Victims in Los Angeles. Thank you for those that donated through this effort and donated directly to other organizations.

We are getting tight on our handicap parking spots on Sunday mornings. I encourage those of you who can walk a bit further to allow the spaces for those who have a bit more trouble. The Church property is being frequented more by our unhoused populations, and this can become a problem for us. The upper part of the property, used by our youngest Calvary members, is particularly vulnerable. We are trimming our landscape to ensure the safety of our youth and to keep the property healthy. If you drive by and see a problem, call the Grants Pass Public Safety Non-Emergency Line at (541) 450-6260. Our Public Safety Officers have asked that we not handle the issue ourselves, in case of potential violence.

On a much brighter note, we have had a lot of new visitors to our church lately. Make sure to say hello and introduce yourself.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to myself, the Pastor, or a member of the Council.

Together in Christ,

Matt

CALVARY'S CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Calvary Lutheran Church

Financial Bottom Line
as of January 31, 2025



As of
January 31, 2025
Actual

Operating Income

\$29,162

Operating & Payroll Expenses

\$40,638

Net Operating Income

(\$11,476)

2025 Benevolence Giving
As of January

Oregon Synod

\$2,495

Disaster Relief Budgeted/Designated

\$5,846

**Local Benevolence
Budgeted/Designated**

\$3,743

PARISH ED NEWS / INVITES



Save the Date for Calvary's Easter Egg Hunt!

April 20 is Easter Sunday. We hope your family will join us and stay for our Easter egg hunt immediately following worship. Invite your friends to join you for worship and stay for the egg hunt as well!

No need to bring a basket. We have plenty for all!

Easter Candy Collection

During the month of March, we will be collecting Easter candy that can be used to prepare for our kids Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday.

Look for a bin in the narthex starting Sunday, March 2. Thank you!

Parish Ed Happenings!

As we announced in our updates last month, Kendyl and Charlene Jernigan will be available as needed to open the nursery and provide support to young families. If you read this and know that we might need to have the nursery open for a particular family member who is coming with you to church ahead of time, please let Sr. Jennie know in advance so she can coordinate with the Jernigans and so we can be there to support young worshippers. This space is intended for children up to age 5 or who have not yet begun kindergarten. But children of all ages are always welcome for any and all parts of worship. That's how they learn to participate!

The last Sunday of February, we just had a fun and engaging learning afternoon with the folks at Operation Rambo where we learned about the ministry of service dogs to local veterans in the area. It was a great mix of ages and families. Some even invited a friend to join them. It was fun to watch the kids and youth engaging with the dogs at the end. A big thank you to Charlie Stucke who organized this event for us.

We have some fun things coming up to look forward to. On Easter Sunday we invite all kids to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt. This is for our regular families as well as any visiting kids that day. All will be welcome to participate. We have plenty of Easter baskets so no need to remember a basket to participate.

But we need your help in the meantime to prepare for the egg hunt. You can bring in a bag of candy between Sundays, March 2 and April 6. It should be candy that can easily fit inside the plastic eggs. As a special note, on Easter Sunday, for anyone who might be needing the nursery for their young worshippers, the Jernigan team will be waiting for your child in the nursery.

*In peace,
Sister Jennie and the Parish Ed
Committee*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer 2025 Vacation Bible School Updates



Vacation Bible School is returning to Calvary this summer, but in a new way. We will be joined with some of our ecumenical brothers and sisters in town, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and Newman Methodist Church who are part of the planning team. We're hoping to have a good crowd of kids around the building this summer.

Our VBS program will run weekly on Wednesday evenings in June, beginning with a family dinner each session. **Save the following dates: June 11, 18, and 25. Each evening will begin with dinner at 5:00 p.m. Kids programming will start at 5:30 and end at 7:30 p.m.** We will together be exploring God's New Creation and the important role that farms and animals play in helping solve the problem of world hunger and how we are called to help, as well. Stay tuned for information on registering your child for this summer!

Thinking ahead...

- If you have kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade, please save the date. We hope to see them here this summer.
- If you have middle- or high-school youth, we invite them to save the date. We would love their help, too!
- If you would enjoy teaching or interacting with kids in some fashion, or would like to be around to volunteer in even the smallest way, please come talk to Sr. Jennie Myers, Whitney Bixler, or Vicki Gindlesperger sooner than later.
- We'll need people to greet and check kids in each week.
- We'll need volunteers to help cook dinner on Wednesday, June 25.

If you think of a way you'd like to be a part of VBS this summer, please check in with Sr. Jennie soon!

Prayer Small Group

Our Prayer Small Group gathers the second Tuesday monthly at 10:00 a.m. Join us and explore new ways to pray! If you have any questions, please talk to Sr. Jennie.

**Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 11th at 10:00 am.
Hope to see you there!**

February Youth Hangout

Our next Hangout will be Sunday, March 9 at 3:00 p.m. at Calvary. To celebrate now owning a Nintendo Switch system, we're going to have a Mario Kart Party in the Youth Room! We'll be decorating our own too! Bring a friend!

CALVARY EVENTS & INVITATIONS

A few of our volunteers. We'd like to thank you for all you do!



KIDS KORNER LIBRARY



IT'S EASY TO CHECK OUT A BOOK
OR TWO!
COME, READ ALONG WITH US!

Scouting America visitors on February 16th!



  
Love. Grow. Serve.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ~ INVITATIONS!

GREETERS NEEDED!

First Impressions Are Important! Two of our Calvary members were on vacation, visiting family out of state.

On Sunday, they attended a church close by. As they walked into the church to attend the worship service, no greeters were at the door. No one acknowledged them. No one. Not even the Pastor said hello or welcomed them that day, before or after the service. How would you feel if this happened to you? They never went back to that church! If you can relate to this experience, then you understand the importance of having greeters' welcome people as they enter our doors at Calvary.

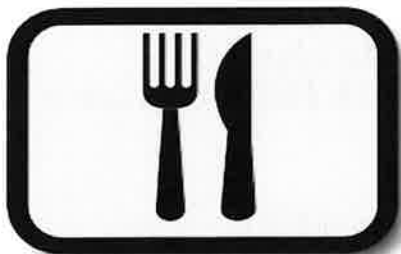
Remember, it takes effort for folks to get up early to come to worship, rather than stay home for more shuteye or an extra cup of coffee, especially if it's raining, or the kids are cranky, or the body is aching, or it's a beautiful morning for golf, or a leisurely breakfast. It can take even more effort for people who have fallen out of the habit of regular attendance or who might have felt

invisible the last time they worshipped somewhere.

Let's make sure that Calvary meets guests and members at our doors with a smile and a sincere welcome into our church home. Let's remind everyone to sign the pew pads and share the peace, especially people whose name or face we might not remember. Eye contact, a handshake, or a fist bump makes a meaningful connection.

Greeters are essential and it is FUN! Smiling people of any age can participate. No experience is necessary. Guidelines are available. Please sign up to volunteer on the Greeters Sign-Up sheet posted on the office bulletin board, or put a note in Marcia Cottrill's mailbox. For more information, please contact marciacottrill@gmail.com or 541-218-8540.

**LUNCH WITH FRIENDS
WILL BE FRIDAY,
March 7th
at NOON.
PLEASE JOIN US!**



The next **Blood Drive** at Calvary is scheduled for **Friday, March 21st from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

Blood donations save lives. Please consider making an appointment to give. The American Red Cross thanks you!

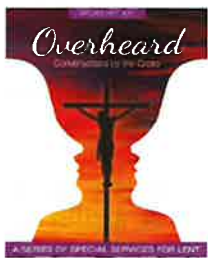


Mid-Week "James" Bible Study



James Bible Study currently meets at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays and 1:30 pm on Wednesdays at Calvary for 12 weeks.

Pastor's exodus Bible study occurs every Sunday following worship. All are welcome!



THE SEASON OF LENT - 2025

ASH WEDNESDAY - March 5th

5:00 p.m. Service with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT - March 12th - April 9th

5:00 p.m. Services with Holden Evening Prayer

Our 2025 theme is **Overheard: Conversations at the Cross**

March 12th: Malchus and Mark at Gethsemane

March 19th: The Criminal Barabbas and High Priest Caiaphas

March 26th: Pontius Pilate and His Wife Procula

April 2nd: Cross bearer Simon of Syrene and the Roman Centurion

April 9th: Mary, the mother of Jesus and John, the beloved disciple

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY - April 13th

9:30 a.m. Service with Holy Communion and Palm Processional

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Thursday, April 17th

5:00 p.m. Service with Individual Absolution & Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY - Friday, April 18th

5:00 p.m. Service (Tenebrae: A Service of Music & Darkness)

Final Conversation at the Cross: The Thieves Crucified Next to Jesus

EASTER - Sunday, April 20th

9:30 a.m. Service with Holy Communion and Special Music



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!!

WINTER ADVENTURES UPDATE



We're going on a snowshoe hike at **Crater Lake on Sat, March 15th at 1:00 pm**. There is still room for 1 if you're interested to try something new. Those already signed up, look for a text about carpooling. Talk to

Sr. Jennie
for
questions.



"Community Corner"

Recovering from surgery? In rehab? Need a short-term caregiver? Need a driver?

Sherry Love may be your answer. Sherry provides **respite care** to those in need. While Sherry is not a nurse, she can assist with cleaning, meals, visiting, laundry, shopping, pharmacy runs, etc. This little angel would love to help you during your time of need.

Call Sherry today at 541-821-3294.

(Leave a message if she doesn't pick up right away.)



Outreach is hosting a **new member potluck brunch** on Sunday, March 16th, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex by March 9th. For questions, contact Judi Bliss or Karen Nantais.

On April 13th, Palm Sunday, Hearts and Hands is having **bake sale**. If you would like to bring baked goods, please bring them before service on the 13th. For questions, please contact Bonnie Lawler at

916-517-9154.



BAKE SALE

ROOMS FOR RENT

Looking for a room to rent on a month-to-month basis in a shared home? Sherry Love has a lovely home with two rooms available for rent, utilities included. These rooms are furnished and light house-keeping is included. Laundry service is available at an extra cost.

Rooms are \$850/month.

You may reach Sherry at 541-821-3294 to discuss your needs or if you know someone that is looking for a room/bathroom to rent.

Perfect for traveling professionals, or anyone in need, on a short-term basis!

**ROOM
FOR
RENT**

March Celebrations!!!



03/01	Chuck Hathaway
03/01	Don Lanahan
03/01	Mitchell Matheny
03/05	Sandy Hoadley
03/05	Lori Nissen
03/06	Scott Christopherson
03/07	Paul Hoadley
03/07	Linda Welo
03/09	Andrew Jaroslow
03/11	Bowman Bixler
03/12	Brandon Jaroslow
03/13	Kendyl Jernigan
03/14	Hope Rodriguez
03/14	George Straka
03/16	Kirby Nave
03/17	Rudy Rugenstein
03/18	Zane Bjorge
03/18	Vic Connelly
03/19	Dawn Grinde
03/19	Mary Ann Stevenson
03/22	Adele Tamosunas
03/23	Grace Connelly
03/23	David Gilmour
03/24	Rich Acosta
03/26	Linda Butler
03/26	Kim Grinde
03/26	Roger Scheusner
03/29	Evelyn McFarland
03/30	Karen Nantais
03/31	Kerrie Bjorge

03/02 **JEFF & ELAINE
WOLF**

03/04 **FRANK & SHERRY
DAMICO**

03/05 **BEV & GENE
TOTTEN**

03/07 **KEN & ANN
STUTTS**

03/09 **DAN & DOLLY
RODRIGUEZ**

03/17 **TIM & LINDA
SULLIVAN**

03/23 **DON & CAROL
WILSON**






03/25 **EVELYN & BARRY
McFARLAND**

03/26 **DAVE & JILL COOK**

03/27 **ALAN & BONNIE
CORDES**

HAPPY
anniversary

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 11 am Bev Kane's Memorial Service at Calvary
2 9:30 am Service Sunday School Adult Ed (Exodus) Easter Candy Collecting Begins	3 No Community Bible Study 11:00 am P. Ed 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	4 3:00 pm Stewardship meeting 4:00 pm James Bible Study	5 ASH WED 9:30 am H & H 10:00 am Worship & Music 1:30 pm James Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir 5 pm Lent Svs	6	7 12 pm LWF  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	8
9 9:30 am Service Baptism of Dean Sunday School Adult Ed 3:00 pm Youth Hangout 	10 10:00 am Community Bible Study (Resumes) 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	11 10:00 am Prayer Group 4:00 pm James Bible Study	12 9:30 am H & H 1:30 PM James Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir 5 pm Lent Svs	13 2:00 pm Countryside Service 4:30 Council Meeting	14 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	15 1:00 pm Crater Lake Snowshoe Hike 
16 9:30 am Service New Member Potluck Brunch following worship Sunday School Adult Ed	17 10:00 am Community Bible Study 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	18 4:00 pm James Bible Study	19 9:30 am H & H meeting 1:30 PM James Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir 5 pm Lent Svs	20	21 9-2:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive  11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	22
23 9:30 am Service No Sunday School Adult Ed	24 10:00 am Community Bible Study 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	25 4:00 pm James Bible Study	26 9:30 am H & H 10 am Outreach Mtg 1:30 PM James Bible Study 3:30 pm Praise Team/Choir 5 pm Lent Svs	27	28 11-11:45 am Chair Yoga 12-1:00 pm Yoga	29
30 No Sunday School Adult Ed	31 CBS 10-11:30 Yoga 11—1:00					

