

**Willoughby United Methodist Church**

15 Public Square

Willoughby, Ohio 44094

440-942-9068 • willoughbyumc.com

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# The Broadcaster

*Willoughby*  
UNITED-METHODIST-CHURCH

**February 2020**

***Discovering the Heart of God in the  
Heart of Downtown Willoughby***

**Staff**

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Organist, Young Oh

<https://www.dtwchurch.org/staff/>

**440.942.9068**

**[www.dtwchurch.org](http://www.dtwchurch.org)**

**[Facebook.com/wlbyumc](https://www.facebook.com/wlbyumc)**



**Weekly Services**

**Sunday**

8:00 am Heritage Service  
9:15 am Multigenerational Service  
11:00 am Contemporary Service

Kingdom Kids 9:15 and 11:00 am  
Nursery, Toddlers, Grades K-6

**Wednesday**

5:00 pm Meal & a Message

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# FROM THE PASTOR

*Pastor Christopher Liberati*  
*ChristopherL@WilloughbyUMC.org*  
*440.942.9068*



## *Stuck in the Middle with You*

John 8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>8</sup> <sup>1</sup> while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup> And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

So far, 2020 is shaping up to be an exciting year. How ever exciting it appears and hopeful we may be, there is some anxiety and tension in the air, as the United Methodist Church prepares for the 2020 General Conference. As a worldwide denomination, the UMC holds their General Conference every four years. At this General Conference, the conference delegates discuss and vote on proposals that might impact the United Methodist doctrine. Any action that is voted into legislation is then added to the United Methodist Book of Discipline. Essentially, the Book of Discipline offers to the whole denomination a binding document that gives direction to how we operate as a denomination, council of Bishops, jurisdictional conference, annual conference, district and local church.

There is tension in the air, living as a United Methodist in our current climate, as the church seeks to determine a way forward regarding human sexuality issues. This tension is much like being a child caught in the middle of an ugly divorce. I wonder, can you visualize the tension of this illustration? Tension happens when the child is faced with the uncomfortable choice of having to decide. Both parents are positioning themselves to get the child to be on their side. Maybe they are trying to convince the child to pick which parent they will side with or which parent they will love more or which parent they

will reside with. Both parents have their arguments as to why living with them would be the better choice for the child. Maybe both parents are trying to convince the child why to turn away from the other parent. No matter what the angle is, or motivation is, the reality is, the child finds themselves "*Stuck in the Middle.*"

Truth be told, continuing with this illustration, the child is the one living in the tension, not the parents. Truth be told, the child loves both parents. Truth be told, the child just wants to be a child. Sometimes I get a sense the local church has become like the child stuck in the middle. And when we find ourselves stuck in the middle, we find ourselves carrying the weight of tension that seems to be dividing us as a denomination and distracting us from our mission. Remember our mission? "To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

During this season of tension in the church, I wonder if we could find comfort and peace realizing that Jesus found himself stuck in the middle all the time. In our passage today, we see a woman caught in adultery on one side and the church, ready to carry out the law, on the other side. Where is Jesus? Stuck in the middle! And in the middle, he remains a calm, non-anxious presence, offering both grace and truth to each side. He offers grace to the woman by meeting her where she's at in her life. He's not showing her condemnation, judgment or anger. He offers her forgiveness. To the church he offers grace by simply hearing their concerns and taking their questions concerning the direction they should proceed. Jesus goes on to then offer truth to both sides as well. To the woman he says go and sin no more. To the church he says, he who has not sinned, carry out the law. Both sides have received grace and truth. Both sides are reminded of the mission of Jesus Christ. That mission? To offer the liberating power and restoring grace of Jesus Christ to all people.

Jesus found himself stuck in the middle most of his life. Stuck in the middle between the glory of heaven and the fallenness of this world. Stuck in the middle between brokenness and wholeness. Stuck in the middle between the keepers of the law (the church) and the people God so desired to redeem. Even upon his death, Jesus found himself stuck in the middle, crucified between two criminals. On one side he had a criminal that recognized and accepted Jesus for who he was. On the other side he had a criminal that despised and rejected him. In the end, I find myself thinking that maybe, just maybe, being stuck in the middle is exactly where God wants us to be. Because that is where Jesus would be.

So, let me close this long-winded article with this challenge. Would you consider remaining stuck in the middle with Jesus? Can we be a church ready to offer both grace and truth? Can we be a church committed to being in prayer for the 832 delegates to the General Conference? Can we be a church that remains focused on the command Jesus gave us, "Go therefore and make disciples?" Can we be a church willing to extend grace to both sides? Can we be a church dedicated to maturing as disciples? I think if we remain stuck in the middle, we'll find the very best God has to offer, and that is Jesus!

With a prayer,

Pastor Christopher

## Missions and Social Concerns

Thank you to all who donated during December's Noisy Collection; we sent \$395.41 to Lake County's Forbes House.

Thank you to all who donated for a second well in Liberia! We have sent funds to UMCOR.

Judy Yackin spoke at the January Mission Moment about our Wednesday night Meal & a Message service. We always need volunteers and funds to continue this outreach program.

The church's Food Pantry is always in need of plastic grocery bags and Dollar General gift cards.

Ash Wednesday, February 26, marks the beginning of Lent. We as a church will focus on ZOE this year with videos to describe their very worthwhile work. Have a blessed month as we prepare for Easter in April.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 12, in the Parlor at 6 pm. All are welcome!

## Update From ZOE: Special Guest Speaker Sunday March 8

On Sunday, March 8, we will have a special guest speaker!! Barbara Matsanga from Zimbabwe will share about the ZOE program in her country. She will **only be at WUMC for the 8:00 AM service!!** Then she will move on to another of our partners in the Zimbabwe Connection at Willoughby HILLS for their 9:30 and 11:00 AM services. You will not want to miss hearing Barbara share about the wonderful work ZOE is doing with orphans in Zimbabwe and around the world!!



Finance Committee wants to say thank you for your continued support. We struggled financially this past year as you all know. Tithes & Offerings were down a little over 12% but church spending was also down by nearly 11% from 2018. We were only able to pay 25% of our apportionments. We had to borrow a little more than \$72,000 from the church Foundation Fund to meet our bills. This all sounds so bleak, but we are beginning 2020 with nearly \$50,000 in our checking account. Finance Committee will continue to work at being good Stewards of church funds. We will assist the staff and all church committees as they develop and present programs, provide community outreach and of course, offer up lifting worship services. We are so glad for you and pray **you** will help us with your continued support for Willoughby United Methodist Church.





## Coming Soon: The Prayer Course

We are excited to announce that we will again be offering **The Prayer Course**, an eight-week journey through the Lord's Prayer. If you were not able to participate in this course when it was first offered last fall, here is another chance to grow and deepen your prayer life. In response to requests for an afternoon course, the sessions will begin on Thursday, February 6 and meet for the next eight weeks from 1:30-3:00 pm. Each week a different theme will be

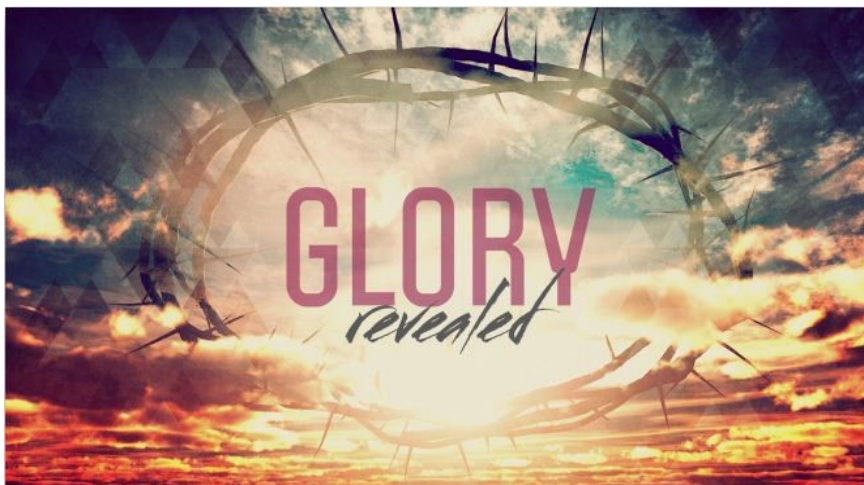
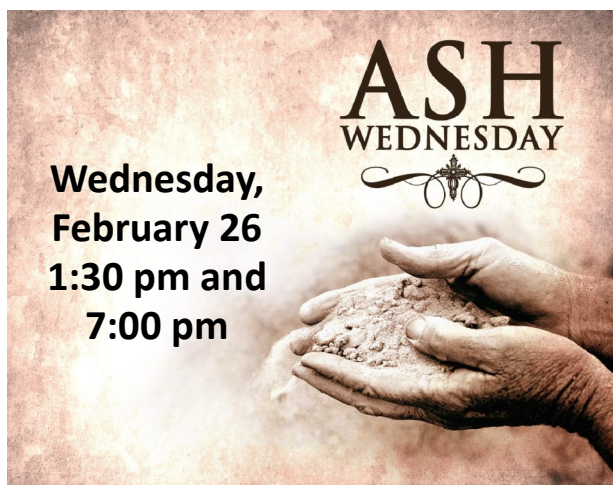
introduced through a brief video teaching, discussion questions that will help us unpack the theme, and a practical prayer activity for participants to use during their prayer time at home. The themes include prayers of adoration, petition, intercession, and more.

If you would like to take part in this course, please join the leaders, Jane Page and Carolyn Lingenfelter, in room 213 on February 6th. To register for the course, you can add your name to The Prayer Course sheet at the information center (opposite the church office) or contact the church office by phone at 440-942-9068 or by email to [Juliegalicz@gmail.com](mailto:Juliegalicz@gmail.com).



## Ash Wednesday Services

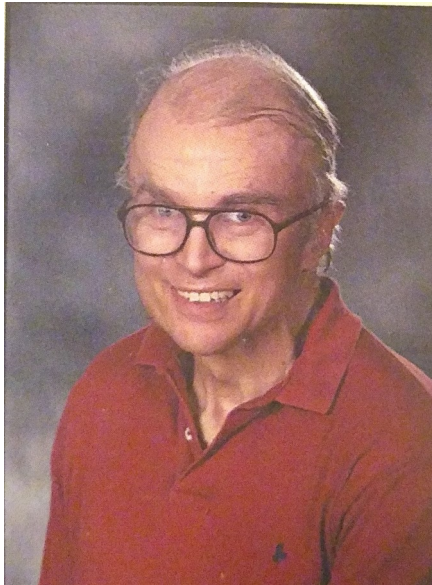
## Lent/Easter Sermon Series February 23 - April 15



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## Who's Who at WUMC By Pastor Hazel Tom Loomis



If we ever made a list for the most dedicated servants at WUMC, I am sure that Tom Loomis would be one of the top contenders. Probably some of you don't even know who he is because Tom is the type of servant that stays out of the limelight and serves in the trenches.

He was born on November 9, 1950 and has lived in this area all his life. As a boy, Tom lived on SOM Center when it was still a two-lane road. He went to Browning School and Thomas Edison, then to Willoughby Junior High across from WUMC.

Tom joined the church with about fourteen others from his

confirmation class. It was there that he learned the important lessons of giving back to others and always trying to leave a place better for the next generation. He has lived out those principles very faithfully. For example, he has been recognized in Lake County with an award from Project Hope for the Homeless. In the year 2019, alone he put in over 400 volunteer hours at Project Hope. He also served as the representative of Willoughby United Methodist Church at Project Hope and Lake County Community Network. He serves faithfully on the WUMC Mission Team and is already ready to help wherever it is needed.

He took an offer for early retirement from G.E. in Euclid at the age of 60, which has given him even more time to offer his services to those in need. Tom has been on 25 Mission Trips, taking the love of God to those who need a helping hand. He has had many experiences but especially remembered a very special lady who was disappointed in the color of the house that the Mission agency had chosen for her home. So the Mission Team from our church gave her the special privilege of choosing her own color, even though it would be an additional expense to the Team. She chose the color "cantaloupe!"



Mission Committee-Project Hope

## New Small Group Coming in February

Pastor Hazel is offering an 8 session small group experience using *Forgiveness Isn't Easy* materials. There are 2 opportunities to choose from: Mondays at 6:30 PM at her home (11 Shawondassee Dr. Timberlake) or Fridays 10:00 AM in Room 213. The groups will meet twice a month: the first and fourth week of each month. The first Monday group will meet February 10 at 6:30 PM and the first Friday group will meet on February 14. At 10:00AM. Please let Pastor Hazel know if you are coming so she can provide materials.



## New Member Class

If you are interested in becoming a member of Willoughby United Methodist Church, you are invited to attend the New Member Class starting Sunday, February 2, 2020. The time together will consist of four sessions held on Sunday, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2020. Classes will be held from 3:00 to 4:30 in Room 3 on the Lower Level. For more information or to register please email Julie Galicz at [juliegalicz@gmail.com](mailto:juliegalicz@gmail.com) or call the office at 440-942-9068.





## **JOIN OUR WORSHIP CHOIR!**

### **Choir Rehearsals Resume**

Choir rehearsals for 2020 are in full swing and we are glad to be back together after our Christmas break. If you love to sing, why not consider joining us this year? We rehearse on Tuesday nights 6:45-8:30 pm in the Music Room and sing in the 9:15 Multigenerational Service twice a month – usually the 1st and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. We'd love some new members to join us as we sing, pray and worship together. We are starting work on the Lent/Easter season and have some beautiful music planned!

Contact Choir Director Cathy Schneithorst @ 440-477-2010 or [cathyapicello@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathyapicello@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like more info. Our goal continues to be "Excellence in Worship" and we are all so grateful to have the opportunity to praise God in song!



## *Walking Through Grief™*

Tools For Finding Hope Along The Grief Journey

### **Willoughby United Methodist Church**

15 Public Square, Willoughby, Oh  
**10 Week Class - Thursdays**  
**March 19-May 21, 2020**  
7:00-9:00 pm - Room 3



Our next 10 week **"Walking Through Grief" class** will begin on **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>** (the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Spring), **7-9 pm in Room 3**. Our goal is to be the 'arms of Jesus' to people who are grieving the death of a loved one and give them much needed tools, support, encouragement and hope in their grief journeys. About 200 people have come through this program since it was started in 2014, and this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> class session to meet at WUMC. Many in our congregation have come through the program and found help.

This class is open to anyone in the community, so if you know of someone who might need this type of important grief support, please pass this info along. We provide a class notebook **FREE** of charge and there is no cost to attend.

FYI, the bonds developed by those who take this class are further strengthened by our once a month Group Dinner which is held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at Applebee's Restaurant in Willoughby, 6:30 pm – all group alumni are invited to attend, and those who choose to attend can continue to find support in this community in this way.

For request more info or to register, visit [www.dtwchurch.org](http://www.dtwchurch.org), & click on the 'prayer & care' tab. Or feel free to contact group facilitator Cathy Schneithorst directly via cell 440-477-2010 or email: [cathyapicello@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathyapicello@sbcglobal.net)

# **What's Up WUMC and Chili Cook Off**

**Sunday, February 9  
4:30 PM**

**Bring your favorite chili or  
a side dish to share.  
Drinks and dinnerware  
provided. All are welcome!**



2019 Chili Cook Off Winners



**Mini Winter  
VBS POLAR BLAST  
is coming!**

**Saturday  
February 29  
9:30-12:00**

**Music, Activities,  
Snacks, Bible lesson  
Hope your kids &  
grandkids can come!**





1200 LOST NATION ROAD WILLOUGHBY, OHIO 44094  
440-269-8008 mckinleycenter.org

*Distributions for residents of Willoughby, Willoughby Hills,  
Eastlake, Willowick, Lakeline, Timberlake and Wickliffe  
Please bring photo ID & utility bill every visit*

*MCOC is a 501(c)3 Tax-exempt organization; Donations accepted  
Volunteer opportunities available*



#### ◀◀◀◀ AVAILABLE AT TAXABLES DISTRIBUTIONS ▶▶▶▶

- ⇒ Taxable/Personal Care Items
  - ⇒ Clothing
- ⇒ Linens & Household Goods
- ⇒ Pet Food & Supplies



- ⇒ Meet Jesus – for Kids
- ⇒ Prayer/Chapel
- ⇒ Hot Meals
- ⇒ Coats, hats, gloves & boots
- ⇒ Shoes

847 families made 3,414 visits during Taxables Distributions in 2018; One visit per family permitted each month  
In 2018, MCOC gave away 18,468 rolls of toilet paper, 2,690 rolls of paper towels, 2,006 bottles of dishwashing liquid

#### ◀◀◀◀ AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY ▶▶▶▶



- ⇒ Durable Medical Goods  
Wheelchairs, walkers/rollators, raised toilet seats, canes and shower chairs are available depending on donations received.



- ⇒ Baby Supplies  
Clothes, diapers, wipes, baby furniture & strollers as available depending on donations received.

#### ◀◀◀◀ CHOICE FOOD PANTRY ▶▶▶▶

Guests may select items from what is donated and/or purchased from the Cleveland Food Bank.  
Number of items to select is based on family size; Families may visit once every 30 days.

In 2018, 854 families visited the pantry 2,498 times; MCOC distributed 65,581 pounds of food



#### ◀◀◀◀ FEED THE BODY, FEED THE SOUL MEALS ▶▶▶▶

On the second, fourth and fifth Mondays of the month, a brief message and time of prayer leads into a time of food & fellowship, beginning at 5:30pm. All are welcome.

#### ◀◀◀◀ PROGRAMS & SERVICES ▶▶▶▶

- ⇒ Voting Willoughby wards 1A, 1B, 1C, 2A and 2C
- ⇒ AA Men's Insight Group  
Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Enter by North door

- ⇒ Ohio Guidestone Opportunities First  
216-403-1719

- ⇒ GED Classes provided by ABLE 440-358-8027  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30am-noon

- ⇒ ShadeTree Community Church - 440-497-0251  
Sundays at 10:45am; Youth group Thursdays at 6pm

### WE NO LONGER ACCEPT FURNITURE

The Lake-Geauga Furniture Bank 440-255-3051  
<http://lakegeaugafurniturebank.org/> can pick up furniture donations  
for a \$10 fee.

Also, Habitat for Humanity's Restore in Eastlake 440-226-3212  
<https://www.habitat.org/restores> offers free pickup.



**YOU  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**

#### Taxable Distribution hours

Saturday, February 8 9:00-10:30 am  
Tuesday, February 18 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Saturday, February 29 9:00-10:30 am

#### Food Pantry hours:

Mondays: 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Wednesdays: Noon-2:30 pm  
Thursdays: Noon-2:30 pm

#### Feed the Body--Feed the Soul Meal

Monday, February 10 5:15 - 6:00 pm  
Monday, February 24 5:15 - 6:00 pm

#### Greatest Current Donation Needs

##### TAXABLES:

Paper Towels,  
Toilet Paper (double rolls),  
Laundry detergent (32 loads/64 oz size)  
Dishwashing soap  
Deodorant

##### PET FOOD:

Dry cat food

##### HOUSEHOLD GOODS:

Children's clothes of all sizes  
(larger than 2T)  
Bed sheets, towels, small appliances

**FOOD:** Peanut butter, jelly, soups,  
canned corn

#### Donation & Building Administration Hours

**Mon-Wed: 9:00 am—1:00 pm**  
(No Thursday or Friday hours)

**Saturdays in January:**  
**11th & 25th 9:00—11:30 am**

Please note that the McKinley  
Community Outreach Center does NOT  
pick up furniture donations.

**Beth Morgan, Director**  
**McKinley Community Outreach  
Center**

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# February 2020

\*Sunday service times listed on Page 1.

Visit our web page at [www.dtwchurch.org](http://www.dtwchurch.org) for the most up-to-date information.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>Ash Wednesday Services Wednesday, February 26 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm</p>						
<b>2</b> <i>Sunday</i> <b>Worship Schedule*</b> Communion 10:45 am Discipleship Fast Track 1:00 pm Youth Group 1:00 pm Confirmation Class 3:00 pm New Member Class	<b>3</b> 9:30 am Alanon 6:30 pm Riverstreet Breakoff 7:00 pm Discipleship Pathway 7:15 pm Women's GA	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Front Line 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm SOS Bible Study 7:30 pm River Street 7:30 pm Worship Band	<b>5</b> 9:30 am Library 9:30 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Meal & a Msg 6:30 pm Kennedy Bible Study 6:30 pm Walking Thru Grief Dinner	<b>6</b> 9:30 am Mom's Group 1:00 pm Daytimers 1:30 pm Prayer Course 7:00 pm Church Council	<b>7</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry	<b>8</b> 9:00 am <b>McKinley Distribution</b> 2:00 pm Hearts For Music
<b>9</b> <i>Sunday</i> <b>Worship Schedule*</b> 10:45 am Discipleship Fast Track 1:00 pm Youth Group 1:00 pm Confirmation Class 3:00 pm New Member Class 4:30 pm Chili Cook Off	<b>10</b> 9:30 am Alanon 6:30 pm Riverstreet Breakoff 6:30 pm Forgiveness Class 7:15 pm Women's GA	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Front Line 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm SOS Bible Study 7:30 pm River Street 7:30 pm Worship Band	<b>12</b> 9:30 am Library 9:30 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Meal & a Msg 6:30 pm Kennedy Bible Study 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>13</b> 1:30 pm Prayer Course 6:00 pm Missions	<b>14</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry 10:00 am Forgiveness Class  <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> 2:00 pm Hearts For Music <b>Broadcaster Articles Due</b>
<b>16</b> <i>Sunday</i> <b>Worship Schedule*</b> 10:45 am Discipleship Fast Track 1:00 pm Youth Group 3:00 pm New Member Class	<b>17</b> 9:30 am Alanon 6:30 pm Riverstreet Breakoff 7:00 pm Discipleship Pathway 7:15 pm Women's GA	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm <b>McKinley Distribution</b> 6:00 pm Front Line 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm SOS Bible Study 7:30 pm River Street 7:30 pm Worship Band	<b>19</b> 9:30 am Library 9:30 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Meal & a Msg 6:30 pm Kennedy Bible Study 7:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>20</b> 9:30 am Mom's Group 1:00 pm Daytimers 1:30 pm Prayer Course	<b>21</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry 7:00 pm Burrough's Nature Club	<b>22</b> 9:00 am <b>McKinley Distribution</b> 2:00 pm Hearts For Music
<b>23</b> <i>Sunday</i> <b>Worship Schedule*</b> 10:45 am Discipleship Fast Track 1:00 pm Youth Group 3:00 pm New Member Class	<b>24</b> 9:30 am Alanon 6:30 pm Riverstreet Breakoff 6:30 pm Forgiveness Class 7:15 pm Women's GA	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Front Line 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00 pm SOS Bible Study 7:30 pm River Street 7:30 pm Worship Band <b>Broadcaster mails</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 9:30 am Library 9:30 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Meal & a Msg 6:30 pm Kennedy Bible Study 7:00 pm Bell Choir	<b>27</b> 12:00 pm R & R 1:30 pm Prayer Course 7:00 pm SPR	<b>28</b> 9:30 am Food Pantry 10:00 am Forgiveness Class	<b>29</b> 930 am <b>Polar Blast</b> 2:00 pm Hearts For Music