



Garden City Community Church Connections December 2025

Building a community where all are enriched
through Christian Love, Service, and Spiritual Renewal.

Some Musings on Advent...

November 30th marks the First Sunday of Advent! While many of us will still be munching on the leftovers from our Thanksgiving feast, the Church quietly ushers in a new year. Most of us don't even begin to think about a new year beginning until January when the calendar year changes, but the worship life of the Church has its own unique rhythms, and the new liturgical year begins in late November or early December on the first Sunday of Advent. Many of you know that our Church uses a three-year cycle of scripture readings at worship called the Common Lectionary, and this Advent we will restart the three-year cycle with the readings appointed for Year A.

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for Christmas. Just as prophets of old waited expectantly for the promised Messiah to come, Advent offers us a respite from the secular observances of Christmas and other day-to-day concerns, and a chance make some quiet time to prepare our hearts and begin anew.

One of my favorite Advent hymns, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", is a metrical setting of the "O Antiphons" first prayed by early Christians during the seven days leading up to Christmas Eve. It expresses the sense of longing felt by those who were faithfully waiting for the Messiah to come.

Here at the Garden City Community Church, there are many ways to enjoy Advent; attending 10:30am worship on each of the four Advent Sundays, helping to decorate the Church on Wed. December 3rd, Candlelight Carols at 4:30pm on Sun. December 7th, and the Church School Christmas Pageant on Sun. December 14th are all ways to prepare our hearts for the Savior's coming.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! Happy Advent!

Frank L Crosio
Minister of Music



Inside This Issue

Page 1	Message from Frank Crosio, our Minister of Music
Pages 3-5	Advent Scripture Reading Calendar
Page 6	Decorating the Church for Christmas Flyer
Page 7	Mission Trip Tree Sale Flyer
Page 8	Mission Trip Ornament Sale Flyer
Page 9	Candlelight Christmas Concert Flyer
Page 10	Christmas Music & Flower Fund Donation forms (in honor/memory of...)
Page 11	Men's Breakfast, TestTakers info, Americana Fair information
Page 12	Altar Flowers & Fellowship Donations & 'The Chosen' scheduled discussions
Page 13	Christmas Giving Opportunities (gifts for children at Nueva Vida, Bedford Hills, Mitten tree, Food Pantry), Tuesday Prayer Service, Ushers & liturgists opportunities
Page 14	Bedford Hills Donations flyer
Page 15	Stewardship Campaign, Christmas worship services & special events schedule
Page 16	News from the Office, Members at Home list request, and Building & Tech Team
Page 17	Musical Ensembles
Page 18	Lutheran Counseling
Page 19	December Calendar

Worship Schedule

Sundays

10:30 AM

Livestream & In-person

Tuesdays

Intercessory

Prayer Service

9:30 AM In-person

Welcome to the liturgical season of Advent. The season of Advent is the perfect time to set aside worldly concerns, even for 15 minutes a day, and get into God's word so you can truly prepare to experience the Christmas story.

In this Advent Bible reading plan, I have selected commonly used scriptures for each day of Advent. That means there are short daily bible readings for each day leading up to Christmas, to help us prepare our hearts for Christ's Birth.

WHAT IS ADVENT?

The season of Advent comes from a Latin word, *adventus*, which means "coming" or "arrival." In the Christian tradition, Advent is the season of preparation and expectation leading up to Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth.

During Advent, Christians focus on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, reflecting on the anticipation of Jesus' arrival as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. It is a time of prayer and growing closer to Jesus as we await the coming of the Christ Child.

WHEN IS ADVENT?

Not everyone knows this, but Advent is not simply the day leading up to Christmas, or the month of December. The season of Advent is calculated each year based on the date of Christmas. There are always four Sundays of Advent. That means that Advent can be a full 5 weeks long, if Christmas falls on a Sunday, or just a day over 4 weeks, if Christmas falls on a Monday!

To account for this, this Advent bible reading plan takes into account the longest Advent season. In a short year, you will need to omit some readings from the fourth week of Advent.

WHO IS THIS ADVENT BIBLE READING PLAN FOR?

This Advent bible reading plan can be used by the entire family, or as personal bible devotion. You could even use this in small groups or with your women's bible study group.

WHEN SHOULD WE DO OUR DAILY ADVENT BIBLE READINGS?

In the midst of traditions and with the busyness of the Christmas season, it can be difficult to find time for daily scripture reading.

However, in this special season, gathering together by the Christmas tree or around the lit Advent wreath is a great way to calm the busyness of the season, to gather together as a family and allow the Holy Spirit to help you encounter the person of Jesus and the real reason for the holiday season.

In fact, this quiet time, with your lit Advent candles glowing and in the anticipation of Christmas day in your hearts, may truly become one of your favorite Advent family traditions.

WEEK 1

- First Sunday of Advent: Jeremiah 33:14-16 – God’s Promise Will Be Fulfilled
- Monday: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17 – Prophecy of Balaam
- Tuesday: Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14 – The Lord is my Light
- Wednesday: Baruch 5:1-9 – Encouragement for Jerusalem
- Thursday: Jeremiah 23:5-8 – A Righteous Branch
- Friday: Matthew 1:1-17 – The Genealogy of Jesus
- Saturday: Matthew 1:18-25 – The Birth of Jesus

WEEK 2

- Second Sunday: John 3:16-17 – God’s Love for the World
- Monday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 – The Anointing of David
- Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 – The Davidic Covenant
- Wednesday: Isaiah 2:1-5 – A Vision of Peace
- Thursday: Isaiah 7:10-14 – The Sign of Immanuel
- Friday: Isaiah 9:1-7 – The Coming of the Prince of Peace
- Saturday: Luke 1:5-25 – The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

WEEK 3

- Third Sunday: Isaiah 11:1-10 – The Coming of the Messiah
- Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10 – Joy and Salvation
- Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11 – Comfort and Hope
- Wednesday: Isaiah 42:1-9 – The Servant of the Lord
- Thursday: Isaiah 53:1-12 – The Suffering Servant
- Friday: Isaiah 61:1-11 – Good News to the Poor
- Saturday: Luke 1:26-38 – The Annunciation to Mary

WEEK 4

- Fourth Sunday: Micah 5:1-5 – The Coming of the Messiah
- Monday: Luke 1:39-56 – The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
- Tuesday: Malachi 3:1-5 – Refiner's Fire
- Wednesday: Matthew 1:1-17 – The Genealogy of Jesus
- Thursday: Luke 1:67-79 – The Prophecy of Zechariah
- Friday: Isaiah 60:1-6 – Light in the Darkness
- Saturday: John 1:1-18 – The Word Became Flesh

CHRISTMAS DAY:

- Luke 2:1-20 – The Birth of Jesus



ATTENTION ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

The Garden City Community Church is scheduling volunteers to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas 2025!

Please let us know if a family/friend team is interested in decorating on Wednesday, December 3rd starting at 4 PM.

We will have a small potluck fellowship dinner immediately after the decorating is done.

Suggestions: Soup, Salad, Bread, Pizza, Cookies and whatever else is delicious!

To be added to the Decorating Schedule, please reach out to Alice Melkonian - Email: alicemelkonian24@gmail.com or 516-672-8099

We look forward to hearing from you!



Garden City Community Church

Mission Trip Fundraiser

Christmas Tree, Wreath, and Garland Sale!



Saturday, December 6th, 8 am-12 pm

The Garden City Community Church (corner of Whitehall and Stewart) will be holding a Christmas Tree Sale Saturday 12/6 from 8am to 12:00pm. There will be trees from 6-9 feet, garland and beautifully adorned wreaths for sale, as well as a bake sale!

The proceeds from the sale go towards offsetting the cost of this summer's youth mission trip. Each year the youth spend a week working on construction, and other projects to improve the lives of those less fortunate.

This year the youth will be going to Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Please come support this worthy cause while getting beautiful items to fill your home with holiday spirit!

Garden City Community Church

245 Stewart Avenue

Garden City, NY 11530

516-746-1700





**SUPPORT THE 2026 MISSION TRIP & PURCHASE
A CUSTOM GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

ORNAMENT

AVAILABLE IN PLUM OR GOLD



**ORNAMENTS WILL BE AVAILBLE DURING THE CHRISTMANS TREE SALE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 6TH 8AM-12PM**

OR YOU CAN ORDER IN ADVANCE BY CONTACTING:

JILL FRAIN - 516-808-0523

JILLFRAIN@GMAIL.COM

\$22





Christmas is Coming!

*Start the holidays with music,
fellowship and dinner!*

Candlelight Christmas Concert

Adult, children, and bell choirs

Save the Date:

December 7, 2025

4:30 pm

*For additional information, please contact the church office at
(516) 746-1700 or churchoffice@theGCC.org*

CHRISTMAS MUSIC 2025

If you would like to donate to enhance the Music Program of our Church, you are invited to contribute to the Music Fund in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Monday, December 8th**

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



CHRISTMAS PLANTS 2025

If you would like to donate to enhance the Flower Program of our Church, you are invited to contribute to the Flower Fund in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office no later than **Monday, December 8th**

In memory of: _____

OR

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Men's Breakfast

All men of the church and their visitors are welcome; it is an opportunity to enjoy relaxed fellowship and conversation over a shared meal. **Next meetings are on December 6th and January 3rd at 8:00 am at the Carle Place Diner—151 Old Country Road in Carle Place. Reservations are not needed.**



TestTakers starting Winter Classes Soon

TestTakers will be starting classes here in January. They offer SAT prep, ACT prep and academic tutoring. If you are interested in more information contact the church office. They are offering a special discount to GCCC students.



Message from Cindy Campbell, chair of the Americana Fair

I want to take this moment to sincerely say that I appreciate all the praise I have been given in having a successful Americana Fair. I want you to know that I really enjoy being your leader. It warms my heart to see youth, friends & members volunteering and sharing time together. It has been my pleasure leading you all now and into the future.

We will be having a recap meeting on Sun. Jan 11th after church for those interested in attending.

Americana Fair

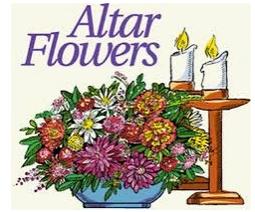
Thanks to everyone that helped out with the Americana Fair this year. If you donated items for the fair, baked, cooked, sorted or priced items, if you wrapped raffle baskets, helped set-up or clean-up, manned any of our rooms, helped with security, or purchased items—**THANK YOU**. We couldn't have done it without you.

Next year's Fair will be on Saturday, November 7, 2026. We will start collecting items after Easter beginning on Tuesday, April 7, 2026.



MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Worship Altar Flower Donations



A \$50.00 dollar donation provides a gift of love! Use this link: <https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2025 Flowers' - or - hand deliver or mail to The Garden City Community Church.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023564-2025>

Include the wording you wish us to include in the Order of Worship.

2025 Fellowship Hour Sign Up



Hosting Refreshment and Friendship after worship conversation

Perhaps hospitality and hosting are your passion. Schedule two ways: notebook in the Parlor or: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54023569-2025>

Questions? Call the office at (516) 746-1700 or email churchoffice@thegccc.org

Fund a Refreshment and Friendship conversation time:

<https://www.gardencitycommunitychurch.org/give> and go to the online giving 'quick give' and choose the dropdown line: 'Give to 2025 Fellowship'.

The Chosen—Series Viewing and Discussion

Wednesday, December 3rd and 10th at 7:00 pm will be the last two sessions of our series viewing and discussion of the series, 'The Chosen'. We hope to see you there!



Tuesday Prayer Service

The Prayer Service welcomes anyone who wishes to join us. We are meeting in the Chapel Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am. Please email the office if you have a prayer request.

All requests are kept confidential.



Worship Ushers or Liturgists Opportunity

Perhaps you would love to serve as an usher or liturgist on Sunday morning?

Please call the church office at (516) 746-1700 or email us at churchoffice@thegccc.org.

Here is the link to sign up to be a liturgist:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-54020501-2025>



Christmas Giving Opportunities

Gifts for the Children of Nueva Vida Presbyterian Church—Deadline is Sun. Dec. 7th

If you want to sign up to purchase a Christmas gift for a child this year here is the link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084BACAD2EAA8-60592051-2025>

Once you sign up we will supply you with the name of the child to put on the gift tag

Gifts for the mothers at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility—Deadline is Sun. Dec. 7th

We are again collecting unwrapped gifts for the mothers at Bedford Hills. See the flyer in this newsletter for the gift ideas.

Hat, Scarf & Mitten Tree—Deadline is Sun. Dec. 7th

Our 'tree' is set up in the church building hallway if you want to donate a hat, scarf, or mittens for a person in need

Food Donations for the LICC Emergency Food Pantry

Non-perishable food items are always needed—especially during the holidays.

**WE ARE COLLECTING GIFTS FOR CHILDREN OF
MOTHERS AT THE BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

We will continue the tradition of collecting NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts for the children of mothers incarcerated at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Please use the enclosed "Wish List" to choose your donations. **The items will be picked up first thing Mon. Dec. 8th so please bring gifts to the church no later than Dec. 7, 2025 and drop them off in the Parlor.**

Checks may be sent to/received by the Church Office no later than Dec. 5th. Please make checks out to: **HOOR CHILDREN PARENTING CENTER.** *All donations are tax deductible*

The Parenting Center at Bedford Hills Holiday Program Wish List **(NEW and UNWRAPPED Items Only, Please)**

Ages 0-2: Clothing: for Newborns to 2T (No Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Baby Blankets (Toddler Size - No Solid Colors of Blue, Black, Orange, Gray); Rattles; Teething Rings (NUBY Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (Newborn – 1 year); Stacking Cups/Rings; Baby Einstein or Fisher Price Toys; Shape Sorters, Hooded Fleece Bunting in various sizes up to 18 months.

Ages 3-5: Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Frozen Character Items; Crafts Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls

Ages 6-10: Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Actions Figures - Captain America, Stars Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbook Tracks and Car Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting and Art Sets; 3D Glasses and Books; Train Sets; Card Games such as: Skip Bo, Uno and Monopoly, Lip Smacker lip gloss, hats, and scarves.

Ages 11-17: Craft Kits; Sports Balls - Basketball, Soccer, Football; Baseballs, Mitts (No Bats); Chess and Checker Games; Friendship Bracelet Kits; How to Knit/Crochet Books; Make-Up Kits Only (No Mirror or Glass); Burt's Bees Lip Gloss; Burt's Bees Shower Gel And Body Wash (No Alcohol in Ingredient List); Wallets (boys and girls), Burt's Bees Face Wash; Sunglasses (No Bling); Headphones/Ear Buds; Watches (Analog only and No Bling); Board Games for Ages 10 and Up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit (Adult and Children Versions) etc.; Leather Bracelets; Musical Instruments (No Recorders), Hats & Scarves, Jewelry, New Kids Books, Nail Polish, Lip Smackers, Bath Bombs, Shower Sponges

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR HOUR NURSERY MOMS (New or Gently Used) Strollers; Pack 'N Plays; Baby Swings; Bouncing Chairs; Medela Breast Pumps and Accessories; "Bobby" Pillows and New Car Seats

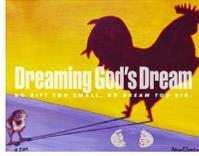
NONE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE ALLOWED: Glass, scissors, sharp objects, pencil sharpeners, mirrors, clay, Play-Doh, items that promote violence, teen/adult clothing, electronics, DVDs, no rhinestones on watches or toys, metal or items in tins; wooden toys, soft dolls or stuffed animals.

Please bring items to the Church Office **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 7, 2025.**



Stewardship Campaign

'Dreaming God's Dream' no gift too small, no dream too big has ended



Our Stewardship Campaign ended on Stewardship Sunday, November 23rd but if you didn't pledge yet, you still have time. You can pick up a pledge card in the church hallway, you can go to the church website: <https://www.thegccc.org/> and then click on the give/pledge button. Then you can make a pledge through the 2026 Pledge 'make a pledge' button. Or if you prefer, you can pledge online by clicking on the QR code below.



Christmas is coming, please Join us...

Worship

Sun. Dec 14 10:30am Christmas Pageant & Service

Christmas Eve 4:30pm Family Service

Christmas Eve 10:00pm Candlelight Communion Service



Special Events

Sat. Dec. 6 8:00am Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale

Sun. Dec. 7 4:30pm Candlelight Christmas Concert

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE



HAVE YOU CHANGED ANY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION LATELY?

Moving or preparing to move?

Do you have a new address, a new phone number or a new e-mail address?

Do you want to receive our weekly e-blasts about all the activities going on in the church?

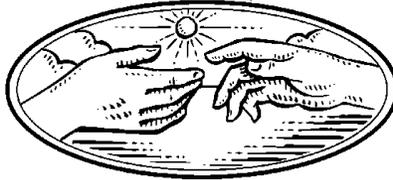
Are you getting the mailings from the church?

Please let the church office know if any of your information has changed so that we can stay in touch with you! We are updating our files and want to make sure we have the correct information.

Members at Home List

If you or a loved one would like to be included on our 'Members at Home' list or if you have moved to a residential facility, please make the church office aware by emailing us at:

churchoffice@thegccc.org or calling us at (516) 746-1700 prompt 2. We want to make sure we can reach out to you! Do you know a church member that we should add to this list? If so, please let us know.



GC Community Church Tech Team

We are looking for youth (and the otherwise young-at-heart) to contribute to bringing our weekly services, special services, and other content to our homebound and our away-from-home members. This is also our chance to reach out to those seeking a new church home. But we cannot do this alone, we need your help, or your children's help in making this happen. Absolutely no experience required, and while we will guide newcomers, we will also gladly take advice from the old sages.

Contact Steve Short, Tim Martens, or William Stone

Or Just join us some Sunday, in the balcony



Musical Ensembles September through June

Adult Choir – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. The choir sings from Welcome Day in September through Church School Sunday in June.



Youth/Church School Choir – Open to grades 3-5. Rehearses during Church School. Performs at the 10:30 am service before Church School dismissal.



Handbell Choir – Open to H.S. students through adults. Rehearsals are planned in modules before each performance. Performs 4 times a year.



Youth Band – Open to grades 8-12 and college students. Performs on special occasions.



For more information contact Frank Crosio, Minister of Music at music@thegccc.org

DECEMBER 2025

WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING SESSIONS
AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

10 Commandments of Hearing

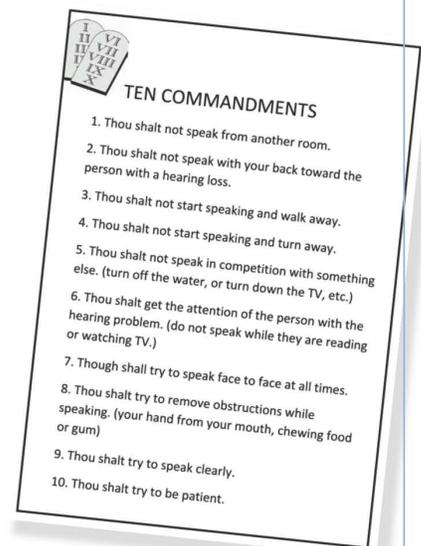
By the Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD, LCSWR, STM

I first noticed something was amiss in a restaurant. My wife was speaking and I couldn't make out what she was saying. The ambient noise around me seemed to cancel out what she said. Later, I spoke to a few other seniors who had similar hearing problems. It's a thing!

This progressive, gradual hearing loss, known as presbycusis, reflects the natural breakdown of the inner ear's hair cells and nerve fibers, making it harder to hear high-pitched sounds and understand speech, especially in noisy environments. According to mayoclinic.org, more than half the people in the United States older than age 75 have some age-related hearing loss. To continue to live an active and engaged life many of us need to make adjustments – both the person with hearing loss and those around them.

A fellow senior with similar hearing issues sent me the Ten Commandments of hearing by John Leddo, Director of Audiology at the Easter Seal rehabilitation center of eastern Fairfield County, CT.

1. Thou shalt not speak from another room.
2. Thou shalt not speak with your back turned (or their back toward you).
3. Thou shalt not speak while walking away.
4. Thou shalt not start speaking and turn your head away.
5. Thou shalt not speak in competition with something else (running water, TV, etc.).
6. Thou shalt get the attention of the person before speaking.
7. Thou shalt try to speak face to face at all times.
8. Thou shalt not obstruct your face while speaking.
9. Thou shalt try to speak distinctly.
10. Thou shalt try to be patient.



Goals of these 10 Commandments are to create an optimal environment for a hearing loss person AND to improve patterns of communication with others.

You don't need to live with hearing loss to improve patterns of speaking and listening. No matter what our age, engaged and mutual two-way talk is a benefit.

Thanksgiving is an opportunity to gather with loved ones around the table. I realize, however, this opportunity is also a potential set up for frustration and feeling shut out. Especially if someone cannot hear well. Instead of the joy of being together, one may feel unengaged and isolated. Practice the 10 commandments with hearing and turn the frustration into joy.

Have an engaged and happy Thanksgiving.

Tom Taylor
Assistant Executive Director

To learn more about Dr. Thomas S. Taylor and all LCC's Counselors, go to <https://www.lccny.org/meetourcounselors>.
Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org to set an appointment.

December



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Prayer Service 9:30 am	Decorating the Church & Pizza Dinner 4pm The Chosen – Series 4 viewing 7pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm	Tree Sale Prep 6:45pm	Men's Breakfast Carle Place Diner 8:00 am Tree Sale 8am -noon Ball Choir & Adult Choir Rehearsal 9am
Second Sunday in Advent 7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Candlelight Christmas Concert/Dinner 4:30 pm		Prayer Service 9:30 am	Food Donation drop off - noon The Chosen – Series 4 viewing 7pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm		
Third Sunday in Advent 14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday Service /Christmas Pageant 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am	F&A Meeting 5:30 pm Council of Trustees (COT) Meeting 7pm	Prayer Service 9:30 am		Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm		
Fourth Sunday in Advent 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday Service/Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30 am Ministry Meeting 12pm		Prayer Service 9:30 am	Christmas Eve Family Service 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service 10pm	Church Office closed Christmas Day	Church Office closed	
	28	29	30			
Sunday Service 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 11:30am		Prayer Service 9:30 am	New Year's Eve 31			