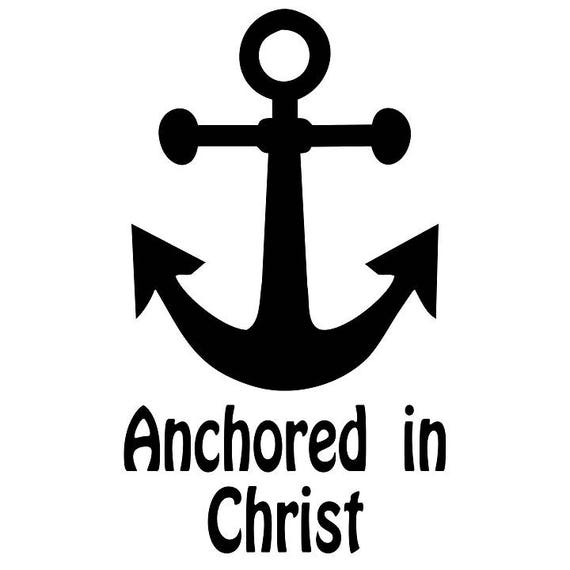
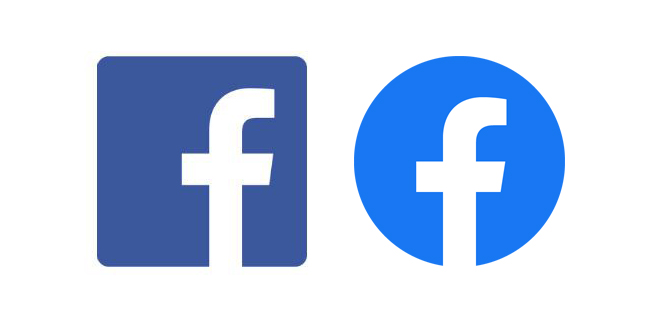
***Hope Anchor  
for February 2025***



**211 Elton Adelphia Road  
Freehold NJ 07728**

 ***Growing in Faith, Love and Service***

[www.youtube.com/hopefreehold](http://www.youtube.com/hopefreehold) [www.facebook.com/hopefreehold](http://www.facebook.com/hopefreehold)

[www.instagram.com/hopefreehold](http://www.instagram.com/hopefreehold)  [www.hopefreehold.org](http://www.hopefreehold.org)

***We Can Make a Difference***

***Growth through Kedging***

Recently it suddenly occurred to me that there may be a problem with our vision statement: “Anchored in Christ, Growing in Faith, Love, and Service.” The problem was the juxtaposition of those two words: “anchored” and “growing.” You see, normally an anchor is used to secure a boat or ship to the lake or ocean bottom in order to prevent the craft from drifting due to wind or current. In other words, it literally *anchors* it in place.

Now the concept of being “anchored in Christ” is a very comforting one, of course. In fact, our congregation’s name is actually *based* on Hebrews 6:19 which says, “We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul…”

To be anchored, however, implies that you’re not moving. And yet, the second half of that statement is “Growing in Faith, Love, and Service” in which the word *growing* actually *communicates* movement; the positive movement we refer to as “growth.”

Anchored in Christ… but Growing in Faith, Love, and Service, then, is kind of an oxymoron, isn’t it? Or a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms are nevertheless connected to each other. Like “military intelligence.” Or “honest politician.” In other words, how can you be anchored in place, and yet at the same time still be growing?

Well, in preparing for my Daily Devotions back in December, I came across a nautical term that actually *explains* how this can be possible. It’s called “kedging.”

A kedge anchor, you see, is a special *type* of anchor that is used when a ship is either grounded or finds itself in turbulent seas. Sailors will row the kedge anchor out as far as they can from the ship, and in the general direction they want to move towards. There they drop the kedge anchor into the sea. Once the anchor secures itself on the ocean floor, the sailors on board the ship then begin to operate a winch in order to *pull* their way towards the anchor.

Again, we normally don’t think of moving *towards* an anchor, do we? For one thing, an anchor may actually hold us *back*. In the past, perhaps. Sometimes, however – as in the case of a kedge anchor – the anchor represents our future. We actually *do* move towards it. In especially turbulent times, we may even *need* to pull ourselves into the future. And a kedge anchor, then, helps us to do this.

The Bible calls “hope” an “anchor” in Hebrews 6:19. Yet the anchor is not behind us, it is before us. We are kedging our way into the future with the hope that is ours in Christ.

This is one of those times, I believe. We live in turbulent times. Not just for the church. But for our entire country as well, and even the world. Nevertheless, and despite all the uncertainty and challenges before us, we are being called into the future by a gracious God with an anchor of hope. Hence, the name of our Generosity Initiative: “Hope Grows Here.”

I’d like to close with a prayer that I came across a few years ago. And that seems especially appropriate for us right now.

It’s entitled “This Is My Church.”

*This is my church. It is composed of people just like me.**It will be friendly, if I am.**It will do great work, if I work.**It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am generous.**It will bring others into its fellowship, if I bring them.**Its seats will be filled if I help fill them.**It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service, if I who make it what it is, am filled with these qualities myself.**Therefore, with God’s help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.**Amen.*

**Pastor Ed**

**A logo with a tree and anchor

Description automatically generated**

***1/13/2025 - Congregation Council Meeting Minutes***

7:00 PM - Those present were as follows: Sue, Michelle, Bill, Pastor Ed, Steve, Dave, Pat, Jess, Matt M, Sarah, and Matt S.

Mike D, Judy, and Josh were also present.

**Devotions**: Sue shared devotions about being thankful. We listened to the hymn Now Thank We all Our God.

**Approval of Minutes**:

Council meeting minutes of October 28th, 2024. Pat makes a motion to accept, Steve second. Motion carried.

**Hope Christian School Report**: Judy Canfield shared the December and January newsletters. Registrations are starting up again, and filling up fast as always.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Mike Della Rosa (November and December 2024 previously distributed)

Keep in mind, comparing the previous years of YTD numbers, they will look different because of the change of our fiscal year.

Our offerings are down compared to last year (comparing Sept-Dec), about -8%.

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Kropa distributed his end of year report.

**Old Business**:

Generis. Status report. (Pastor / Sarah).

* Jan-March is the most active and engaged part of this 2 year program.
* Beginning to expand out. 2 events, after church.
  + January 26 is the vision gathering, bringing together the “Ministry champions”, those most engaged in the congregation. Planning for the future, getting everyone to be actively engaged in these plans. Where does everyone see us going? In 5 years, what do we want to be known for? Etc.
  + February 16 is more of a celebration event, offsite.
* Wednesday night Bible Study
* 5 week sermon series leading up to the public phase.

**Architectural designs**. Drive to design and draft a Congregation presentation.

* The numbers that we have been looking at may be outdated. With the most recent numbers, all 6 main options are possible. Once we narrow down with the council, we will need to narrow down the costs before presenting to the congregation.
* Council is in favor of eliminating the options that don’t add on the multi-purpose room. Depending on how many rooms are added, it may not warrant moving the classes out of the fellowship hall.
* Dave makes a motion to eliminate the options that included “restoring the fellowship hall”. Based on the 3 options left, the building finance committee and the architecture committee will narrow down the facts and figures. Pastor seconds, motion carried.
* Mike is going to contact Jerry Johnson and ask him about the current rates, and the rates for 20 vs 30 year mortgages.
* Matt M is going to sketch up the 3 options, what they might look like. Check in on the square foot prices.

**New Business**:

Lutheran Disaster Response for the fires in California- Bill makes a motion to donate $5000 to Lutheran Disaster Response, Matt second. Motion carried.

2025 Nominating Committee- Michelle and Matt S. will be finishing their 2nd term in June 2025.

Pastor ended the meeting with prayer at 8:40.

***A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL***

As you know Council has been working on a facilities renovation plan. This was being conducted while we concentrated on moving our Generis Generosity 2-year program to fruition. Our “Hope Grows Here” generosity program has recently kicked off.

***As an update on the facilities renovation:***

* The Council has been working on various designs. We started with some basic thoughts and are moving toward multiple designs. We went from twelve designs and are now concentrating on three designs that will provide for a new a “multi-purpose room” and added classroom /meeting rooms. Once these designs are finalized, they will be presented to the Congregation for their review and eventual approval. We anticipate the approval process will happen no later than our June annual meeting.
* Another consideration is factoring in what we can afford based on our current financials. Members of Council, our Congregation Treasurer and a Renovation Financial Team has been “crushing the numbers” to pinpoint what we think we can afford. We have also consulted with the Mission Investment Fund (a financial ministry of the ELCA) whose mission is to assist congregations with various investment / mortgage options.
* Another aspect of a “facilities renovation” is what the education landscape looks like from a “free pre-school” point of view and what impact that has on our Hope Christian School. At this point in time there has been no impact on our pre-school, and we are endeavoring to further research this.
* I ask that if you have questions, concerns, or thoughts on this please reach out to Pastor and or members of the Council for further information or status of the program.

**

***Don’t forget to sign the“NEW” 2025 Hope Covenant!!***



**Next meeting is Saturday, February 8th @ 9:30am in the Narthex**



**Saturday, February 8th @ 9am in the kitchen**

**A bowl of soup with helmets on the side of it

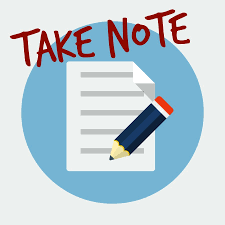
Description automatically generatedSOUP SALE!!   
will be on   
Sunday, February 9th**

***There will also be boxes out if you would like to donate cans of SOUP for Freehold Area Open Door – Put your donation in the box of the team you want to see WIN! (GO EAGLES!)***

Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday, February 16th *at 10am*** in the ***Kitchen*** and we will be discussing….



***Join our online link for the most up to date information!***  
[**My Meetings**](https://bookclubs.com/hope-book-club/meetings) **-** *🡨 (Control + right click)*



***We will have an altered Sunday Schedule for  
Sunday, February 23, 2025  
NO 9am Service  
10am – Sunday School and Youth Group  
11am – Mixed Worship Service  
NOON – Commitment Sunday Celebration with   
Gifts and Refreshments!***

***A green leafy background with text and a couple of leaves

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I do not know where to begin when it comes to THANKING everyone who helped us with our Outreach Meal and all I can say is WOW! We really truly came through with enough food and enough volunteers to serve DOUBLE what we normally do. With the cost of food forever rising, the need of our community is also rising! That being said, I also understand how hard and expensive it may be to get this all together so I do truly appreciate the time, the effort and the expense of you all pitching in to allow us to represent Hope in this ministry.

***I can’t put into words how happy this makes me for our community in need but all I can say is….***   
**THANK YOU!!!**



***We are currently taking book donations for this wonderful cause!! From now until the beginning of May!!! Stop by anytime to drop off donations!***

***A poster with a cartoon of a person sitting in a chair

Description automatically generated***

***Dear Youth and Families,***

February is here, bringing new faith, fellowship, and service opportunities! We have several exciting events planned this month, and we encourage you to join us in helping Hope grow here!

On ***Saturday, February 8,*** we will gather at 5 PM for a Soup Cooking Night, preparing homemade soups for our annual “Soup-er” Bowl Sale the following day. Be sure to stop by on ***Sunday, February 9, from 10-11 AM*** to purchase soup and support this ongoing Hope tradition, where all proceeds will benefit Open Door, helping those in need in our wider community.

Later in the month, join us for a fun-filled evening at ***Family Bowling Night on Friday, February 21, at 7 PM***. This is an excellent chance for families to enjoy time together and connect with others in our church community. Please let Josh know ASAP if you plan to attend!

We also have a fantastic opportunity to serve others on ***Wednesday, February 26, at 6 PM***. Depending on participation, we will gather to make at least 150 sandwiches up to 400 for the St. Peter’s Community Meal. These sandwiches will be handed out the following day to those in need.

Looking ahead, youth are invited to help set up, cook, and serve pancakes at our ***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner on March 4***. We will meet at 5 PM to set up, and serving will begin at 6 PM. This is a fantastic way to get involved, serve others, and enjoy a delicious meal with the wider Hope community. The following day, March 5, we encourage everyone to join us for our Ash Wednesday service as we begin the season of Lent.

All youth and Sunday School families are invited to Josh’s on ***March 8 at 4 PM*** for great food, fellowship, and fun!

I am grateful for your continued involvement and support of our broader ministries. If you have any questions, please get in touch with me!

***Blessings, Hope Lutheran Church Youth Ministry***



***Updated Winter “Wish List”***

Men and Women Thermal Sets  
Gloves  
Hats  
Coats  
Shoes  
Hot Hands   
Hot Feet  
Crackers w PB or Cheese  
Soft Granola Bars  
Flats of Water

***Donations can be dropped off at EHAP 41 Throckmorton Street – Tuesday – Thursday from 10am until 2pm***

***If you have any questions please contact   
Joan @ 848-459-6215***



I do not know where to begin when it comes to THANKING everyone who helped us with our Outreach Meal and all I can say is WOW! We really truly came through with enough food and enough volunteers to serve DOUBLE what we normally do. With the cost of food forever rising, the need of our community is also rising! That being said, I also understand how hard and expensive it may be to get this all together so I do truly appreciate the time, the effort and the expense of you all pitching in to allow us to represent Hope in this ministry.

***I can’t put into words how happy this makes me for our community in need but all I can say is….***   
**THANK YOU!!!**

***NEW STAINED GLASS***

Dear Hope Family,

There is a new stained glass hanging in the window near the main entrance of the building. This stained glass was designed and constructed by Bill Unger. It is in loving memory of Evie Freudenberger. Evie was Hope Christian School’s three-

year-old teacher for many years. The second anniversary of her being with her Lord and Savior is March 17. The stained glass is in the form of a “living tree” to represent the many families that she touched throughout her tenure at HCS. Several of her former students, now grown adults brought their children to attend HCS

under her tender, loving care. She taught them rules of being in school, how to color and begin writing their names. She introduced them to Jesus by saying grace at snack/lunch time, to learning the Lord’s Prayer, what happened to Him at Easter

at their level, sing happy birthday Jesus at Christmas time and much more. The first week of school, she would take them on a tour of the building and sanctuary and to meet the pastor and the staff in the church office.

Thank you, Bill, for designing such a beautiful piece. This is our donation to Hope Lutheran as a lasting memory of Evie who will never be forgotten. She is resting in our Savior’s gentle arms and knowing Evie, she is laughing, playing games and

having fun with all the angels in Heaven. Rest in Peace good and faithful servant. My dear friend, I miss you so much!

***Submitted by Wanda Nebiolo***

**A stained glass window with a tree

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**\*\****Better quality, larger pic is at the end of the Anchor – it is the best to see in person!!*

*A screenshot of a map

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***January’s Giving (final!)***

***Online - $ 2,811.51  
Worship - $ 13,015***

***TOTAL MONTHLY OFFERING = $ 15,826.51***

**Amount needed each month to reach budget = $15,000**

***WE MADE IT!!!!!***

A qr code on a cross

Description automatically generated

**We are in the process of setting up another online giving platform for those of you interested!!!**

**A green and white infographic with white text

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**HOPE GROWS HERE!**

**SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE:**

It is a good time to reflect on how well the Hope family contributes to sharing their financial resources. The Hope Congregation continues to contribute toward God’s message about helping others to thrive and grow. Your continued generosity defines the message that “HOPE GROWS HERE” by providing assistance beyond our physical boundaries:

* Council at their January (2025) meeting approved a donation of $5,000 from our “Social Ministry” budget to support the California wildfire via Lutheran Disaster Relief.
* Our Holiday Giving Tree this year (2024) was a wonderful success. Hope was able to help double the number of children that we have helped in years past. Typically, we commit to between 40-50 families, this year we were able to help a grand total of 91 children.
* Hope’s direct support to the NJ Synod/ELCA totaled $27,000 for 2024. These funds are then distributed.
* Council at their October(2024) meeting approved two donations ($ 2,000 each) from our “Undesignated Benevolence” to support recovery efforts in North Carolina via Lutheran Disaster Relief and to support relief efforts by World Disaster Relief.
* A donation was made to World Eye Care honoring a family member of our Hope family who was recently lost to retinoblastoma.
* Crop Walk As we have for many decades Hope again fielded a “walking Team” and contributed financially to this ongoing effort to curb hunger and reduce food insecurities in our local communities.
* Hurricane Helene disaster relief. Deb Crawford (who recently relocated to North Carolina) was provided with disaster relief supplies donated by the Hope congregation. The recipients appreciated the efforts!
* Lutheran Disaster Response. Though summer is here with many of us enjoying life many areas are suffering with no break or let-up. At the August Council meeting we decided / motioned a $2,000 donation to the Lutheran Disaster Response for their efforts in Gaza and Ukraine. As we all know, these areas are in the midst of a human tragedy.
  + We provided funds ($5,000) to assist with the mission provided by Edna Williams (Mary Jane Enrichment Center). As many of you know the center had a fire and was destroyed. Ms. Edna has already started the process of restarting this mission that Hope has supported for many years.
  + Provided three youngsters with funds to attend Bear Creek Camp. Both Bear Creek and Crossroads provided summer camping experiences for youth that may not be able to participate due to financial issues.
* Hope Christian School. After the creation of Hope Lutheran Church, our next longest ministry is our Hope Christian School that has served generations of youngsters since Hope was founded in 1967. The school and the teaching staff, with the established curriculum, prepare our youngsters to migrate directly into a learning environment along with having a spiritual starting point in a Christian life.
* Community Projects included donations to the following start-up Congregations:
* Christus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camden NJ and
* Santa Isabel Lutheran Church in Elizabeth NJ.
* Community Projects included donations to the “180 Turning Live Around” organization of Monmouth County to overcome domestic violence and sexual assault.
* Undesignated Benevolence (for emergency situations). This year included donations to the following emergency situations:
* Lutheran World Relief to support Ukrainian relief.
* Lutheran World Relief providing direct support to earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.
* Lutheran Disaster Response for flooding and fire situations.
* Lutheran Disaster Response for the devasting fires in Maui Hawaii.
  + Emergency Housing and Advocacy Program (EHAP). This is another long-running ministry at Hope that provides support to those most in need in our community. For close to 20+ years Emergency Housing has been supported by seven houses of worship that are part of the Freehold Clergy Association. This program has moved from a “housing” program toward a “meal” program providing additional weekday meals to the community. The housing program for the winter seasons has been suspended because of having no government funds available to support the program along with a lack of volunteers in some houses of worship*.* The Advocacy Program includes many areas of support to those most in need, including securing transitional and permanent housing along with assisting in securing employment and government benefits. They also coordinate with medical and mental health agencies for counseling, medication management, detox and substance abuse treatment and medical care.
* Education that includes Vacation Bible School (VBS) that started in 1967 with sixty-seven students! We also conduct Sunday School each week.
  + Open Door This is another long-term ministry that supports those who have food needs in our community. Food stuffs are provided with no questions asked a few times a week.
  + St Peters Outreach Meals Each of the churches that are part of the Freehold Clergy Association take turns during the year to prepare and serve meals at St Peters in Freehold Borough. This has become an incredibly significant community project and again supplies those in need that suffer from food shortages.
* Facilities Usage. Almost every night our facility is used as a meeting place for those in need. Whether 12 Step or other similar needs there is always a meeting place.

***Bill Unger, for the Congregation Council***

***A stained glass window with a tree

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**Text, letter

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**We take lots of pictures at our events and post them on our website and social medias to show our community how we help others and what we offer as a Church Family. If you do NOT want your picture taken and posted please let Josh know by sending an email requesting not to have any of your pics posted to** [**hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com**](mailto:hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com)

A poster with text and images

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**HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST**

***Kaitlin Kropa***, is under the weather and back   
in the hospital and could use prayers…

***The McGeady Family;*** ***Unger Family***  former work friend, ***Larry Qualter;*** ***Verdino Girls’*** Grandpa, ***Edward Rader;* *Erika Woods;*** ***Gerry Bergh;* *Bill*** and ***Janice Seifert;* *Joey Livingston;* *Corn Family*** friend**, *Shannon Fourney;* *Somodi Family Friends,*** the ***Hullett Family,*** could use prayers; ***Colin Alaia,*** family friend of the ***McGeady Family*; *Jennifer,*** family friend of ***Brenda and Dennis Johnson;* *Charles Sona;* *Steve Weiss’*** cousin, ***Brian Menavier;* *Ryan McAuly,* *Kless Family*** nephew; ***Courtney Volk;* *Justine Brozyna,*** friend of the ***Corn Family;* *Kuehn Family Friend,* *Deena Harmon;* *Deloris Laub;* *Dolores O’Brien;* *Gary Rosenberg;* *Willy*** and ***Marilyn Wolter*, *Cindy Lynch’s*** mother and father*;* ***Margaret Holen;* *Erin Bereheiko;* *Jim Mulligan* ; *Dani Hulsart*** family friend of the ***Donmoyer Family* ; *Pam Renouff*;**

***Those serving as first responders and in the armed services.***

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **President** | Bill Unger |
| **Vice President** | Sarah Kozak |
| **Secretary** | Michelle Miele |
| **Education** | Jessica Somodi |
| **Financial Secretary** | Sue Hu |
|  |  |
| **Open Door Alternate** | Pat Fensham |
| **Architecture Team** | Brian McMillin |
| **Architecture Team** | Matthew Malanuk |
|  | Matthew Sprunger |
|  | Dave Peters |
|  | Steve Weiss |
|  |  |
|  | **NON COUNCIL MEMBERS** |
|  | **HOLDING POSITION/S** |
| **Treasurer** | Mike Della Rosa |
| **Open Door** | Rebekah Heilman |
| **Worship** | Jackie Peters |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Assisting*** | ***Altar*** | ***Counting*** |
| ***Feb 2*** | Steve W | Diane K | Ungers |
| ***Feb 9*** | John D | Sue D | Fenshams |
| ***Feb 16*** | Dave P | Barbara T | Della Rosas |
| ***Feb 23*** | Tom T | Debbie U | Weiss/Tyrrell |
| ***March 2*** | Bill U | Rebekah H | Ungers |
| ***March 9*** | Rita C | Rachel R | Fenshams |
| ***March 16*** | Rebekah H | Pat F | Della Rosas |
| ***March 23*** | Debbie U | Christine H | Weiss/Tyrrell |
| ***March 30*** | Sue H | Sue D | Ungers |

***Traditional Acolytes – Cara S and Melody B  
Contemporary Acolytes – Hedin Girls, Joey M and Ryan S***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Ushers 9am*** | ***Ushers 11am*** |
| ***Feb 2*** | Matt M | Matt S |
| ***Feb 9*** | Mark | Chuck M |
| ***Feb 16*** | Ken B | John S |
| ***Feb 23*** | Bill U |  |
| ***March 2*** | Matt M | Matt S |
| ***March 9*** | Mark | Chuck M |
| ***March 16*** | Ken B | John S |
| ***March 23*** | Bill U |  |
| ***March 30*** |  |  |

***Please feel free to step in if you are present during one  
of the Sundays where nobody is scheduled!!   
Thank you!!***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| February | | | | Happy Valentine's Day Decoration PNG Clip Art​ | Gallery Yopriceville -  High-Quality Free Images and Transparent PNG Clipart | | | |
| Happy Valentines Day Banner Stock ... | | | | 2025 | | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | |
|  |  |  |  | |  |  | **1** | |
|  |  | ***Save the Date - March 4 – Shrove Tuesday*** | ***Save the Date -  March 5 – Ash Wednesday*** | |  |  | 12p - Counseling | |
| **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | | **6** | **7** | **8** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemp  630p - Confirm |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step  7p – Stamp Club | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | ***9a – GOM  930a – WOH*** 12p - Counseling | |
| **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | | **13** | **14** | **15** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth ***“SOUP”erBowl*** 11a – Contemp | ***7p – Council Meeting*** | 7p – Yoga Zoom ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | 12p - Counseling | |
| **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | | **20** | **21** | **22** | |
| 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth ***Book Club Meets*** 11a – Contemp |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | 12p - Counseling | |
| **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | | **27** | **28** |  | |
| 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Mixed ***Commitment Sunday FUN!***  630p - Confirm |  | 7p – Yoga Zoom ***730p - Choir*** | 7p – 12 Step | | 5p – Counseling 7p – 12 Step ***7p – Praise Band*** | 7p – 12 Step | ***Coming up - Outreach Meal  March 28*** | |