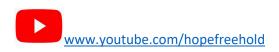
# Hope Anchor for March 2025

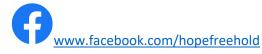


# 211 Elton Adelphia Road Freehold NJ 07728



Growing in Faith, Love and Service











www.hopefreehold.org/hopegrowshere



Sunday, March 2, 2025

#### He Already Has!

The late Tony Campolo, the well-known Baptist preacher and college professor, once observed that the church often seems to lack the money to carry out its mission, even though its people already have the financial resources that are required. To prove his point, he offered the following story.

He was giving a major address at a women's conference. At one point in the program, the women were being challenged with a prayer request they had received from a missionary in Venezuela. This missionary doctor was asking for \$5,000.00 to put an addition on her medical clinic. The addition was desperately needed because she wasn't able to handle all the sick people who came to her facility.

The leader of the event then turned to him and asked, "Dr. Campolo would please lead us in prayer that the Lord might provide the \$5,000.00 that's needed by our sister in Venezuela?" To her astonishment, he went to the podium and graciously declined. He said "No! But what I will do is take all the money I am carrying on me and put it on the altar. And I'm going to ask everyone here to do the same. No need to write out checks," he added. "We'll only accept cash. After we've put all the cash we're carrying on the altar, we'll count it. Then I'll ask God to write out a check for the difference." (It was a good day to pull this off, he later remarked, because he had just arrived back in town that very morning from another speaking engagement and only had \$2.25 on him!)

The leader smiled benevolently and said, "We've all gotten the point, haven't we?" To which Campolo responded, "No. I don't think we have. Here's my \$2.25. Now, it's your turn."

She was somewhat taken aback by his aggressive request but nevertheless opened up her wallet and pulled out \$110.00 and slapped it down on his "meager" offering. "We're on our way!" he responded. "We've got \$112.25. Now it's your turn!" he said looking toward the other women in the room.

He pointed at one woman sitting in the front pew over to his right. She looked around and smiled a bit. But she got up and came to the altar and put her cash on top of theirs. Then he got the next woman to do it, then the next, and the next. It took more than 25 minutes to take up the offering as one by one, woman after woman came and placed her money on the altar. (Even so, he knew he hadn't gotten all of their cash that day, judging by the dirty looks he got from some of them!)

When they had finally finished taking turns laying their money on the altar, they counted it. They had taken in more than \$8,000.00! Remember, the original prayer request was for only \$5,000.00. Then he said to them, "The audacity of asking God for \$5,000.00, when he has already provided us with more than \$8,000.00! We should not be asking God to supply our needs. *He already has!*"

This past Sunday was Commitment Sunday for our Hope Grows Here initiative. This coming Sunday, I will be announcing the results thus far. And we will also have the chance to place our offerings on the altar, so to speak. Just like those women in Tony Campolo's story.

I say "thus far" because perhaps not everyone has had the opportunity to participate. If that's true for you, it's not too late. I would encourage you to prayerfully consider what you might be able to contribute to this effort as well. In fact, this generosity

initiative is a two-year program. So, there's a chance for you to join in at any point along the journey.

We've spoken previously at length about how this money will be used, and the various ministry efforts of our congregation that it will support. And, given our current political reality, there is a very real possibility that in the days ahead the church, including our congregation, will be required to aid those in need even more than we have in the past.

But that's simply who we are and what the church does in the name of Jesus Christ. And while the need is perhaps even greater than ever, we need not worry whether we have the resources necessary to respond to those needs. Or wonder if God will supply them. Because God already has!

Pastor Ed

#### February 10, 2025 Council Meeting

Those present were as follows: Michelle, Bill, Dave, Sue, Pat, Pastor Ed, Steve, Matt S., Jess Judy and Josh were also present.

Devotions: Dave shared devotions beginning with the story about the faith of the Centurion. In this story Jesus heals someone without being physically with them.

Approval of Minutes: Steve makes a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Pat 2nd. Motion carried.

Hope Christian School Report: Judy Canfield shared the HCS February report. They are working hard on registrations for next year.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Della Rosa shared the January Report via email.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Kropa shared his report with attendance and offering numbers.

Pastor released a special daily devotion today (2/10) in response to the media attention focusing on Lutheran relief organizations. Sarah and Bill beginning the HGH initiative with their faith testimonials was a great success, and seemed to move those listening. Pastor has met with many "pacesetter" members to talk to them about the initiative.

#### Old Business:

Generis. Status report. (Pastor / Sarah) - HGH website is up! Advance commitment event, 2/16. Commitment Sunday 2/23, one service 11am. 3/2 First Fruits Sunday, bringing in our first offering of the new commitment, celebration.

Architectural designs - Matt is going to reach out to the architects, show them our 3 ideas and find out some estimates. Once these plans/numbers are more firmed up, we can take those to the congregation to get more input and comments. Renovation Finance Committee update: Shared some preliminary numbers with the group, meeting again in March hopefully with new numbers from architects.

#### **New Business:**

Council membership - 2 members will be leaving. That will bring the council to the minimum of 9 members.

Maturing CDs- Steve makes a motion to roll the Mission Investment- Capital Reserve CD into another 12 month CD. Michelle seconds, motion carried.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - March 4.

Josh is looking into improvements to the Organ, he will reach back to council with any quotes.

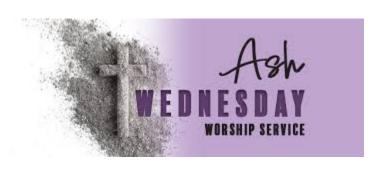
Adjournment- Pastor closed the meeting with prayer at 8:20.

Next Meeting: March 17th. Devotions: Steve

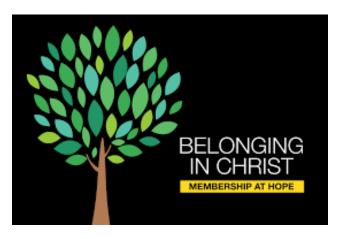


# Join us for pancakes, sausage, fellowship and FUN!!! Tuesday, March 4 starting at 6PM Please RSVP -

### https://forms.gle/CpSNpczPy9p 31bCN6



# Services at 1130AM and 7PM



Don't forget to sign the "NEW" 2025 Hope Covenant!!



# Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9am in the kitchen



Next meeting is
Saturday,
March 8<sup>th</sup> @
9:30am

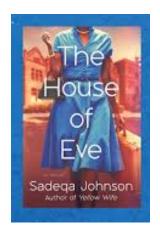


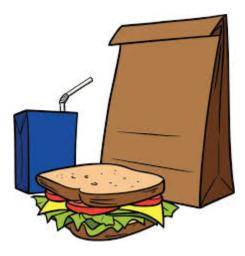


Our Next **BOOK CLUB** meeting will be: **Sunday**, **March 16**<sup>th</sup> *at 10am* in the *Kitchen* and we will be discussing....

### Join our online link for the most up to date information!

**My Meetings** -  $\leftarrow$  (Control + right click)





Join us!! Help make 150 sandwiches for Saint Peter's Lunch Program!

Wednesday, March 19

a 6pm

# Our next Outreach Meal is Friday, March 28

# Please use this link to sign up - Hope Lutheran Church: March 28 Outreach Meal

We will be using this recipe for our main meal — (we do have crockpots that can be used or borrowed here at HOPE! Just ask and I'll always help you!)

Easy Crock Pot Angel Chicken Recipe

8 boneless chicken tenders or 4 boneless chicken breasts

1/4 cup butter melted

1/2 cup chicken stock

1 can of Cream of Chicken (10.5 oz)

1/2 cup cream cheese (4oz)

Turn crockpot on high to warm up

Put butter, chicken stock, cream of chicken and cream cheese into crockpot and whisk together while it warms up

(cut up/shred chicken) either before cooking or after cooking – up to you - Place chicken pieces in the crockpot with the mixture

#### Cover crockpot and cook on high for 2-2.5 hours

#### 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.

#### > FREEHOLD CLERGY ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES

> LUNCH AT 12:00 & 1:00 P.M.

> SERVICE AT 12:30

> TOPIC: PARABLES OF JESUS

$\triangleright$					
$\triangleright$	Host	Speaker	Parable		
$\triangleright$					
	March 12	St. Rose of Lima	Rev. Ruth Scott Lost Sh	ieep: God i	s happy
$\triangleright$		16 McLean Street	about	Sinner rep	enting
		Freehold		Matthe	w 18:10-14
		Lunch will b	e served at 1:00 p.m. o	nly	
^					
~	March 19	Frist Assembly of Cod	Dichan Frad Dubin	Laborare	s in the Vineyard
<b>A</b>	March 19	Frist Assembly of God 272 Jackson Mills Road	Bishop Fred Rubin		s in the Vineyard s Hired early, late
>		Freehold			v 20:1-16
>		rreenoid		iviattic v	V 20.1 10
$\triangleright$	March 26	Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Rev. Ala	an Olson Friend	at Midnigh	nt: Will God
		61 Georgia Road		give a sn	ake instead of fish?
		Freehold		Luke 11:	5-13
~					
>	April 2 repents	First United Methodist	Pastor Matt Jon	es	Lost Coin: One sinner
$\triangleright$		89 West Main Street		Luke 15:	8-10
$\triangleright$		Freehold			
>	April 9 of Sins	First United Methodist	Msgr. Sam Siria	nni	Prodigal Son Forgiveness
		86 West Main Street		Luke 15:	11-32
$\triangleright$		Freehold			
>					
	Good Frida	ay:			
	April 18	Freehold Baptist Church	Rev. Dr. A. Roy I	Medley	Good Friday Service
>		81 West Main Street			
		Freehold			
		Lunc	h will not be served		
>					
/					





FREEHOLD AREA (NJ) BRANCH The collection of books for next year's sale has started!!! Feel free to drop off any book donations here at Hope from now until May for 2025 AAUW book sale!



#### WE NEED YOUR BOOKS for the



#### Book Sale June 18 - 21, 2025

#### A Freehold tradition since 1973

This sale is our major fundraiser which enables the AAUW Freehold Area (NJ) Branch to offer awards to the highest ranking female high school seniors within the six Freehold Regional High Schools and scholarships for women over the age of 25 returning to college to pursue their undergraduate or graduate degrees. Your book donation will help us support the women from the Freehold area as they pursue educational opportunities.

We accept books, audiobooks on CD, CD's and DVDs. Books must be clean with bindings and covers intact.

Please do not pack books in anything larger than a file box (Beer boxes are perfect!)

To donate please email your phone number to aauwfreehold@gmail.com

#### We CANNOT accept the following:

- · Books that are musty, dirty, moldy, torn, missing pages, contain underlining
- Reference sets (e.g. encyclopedias) & Textbooks
- Magazines
- Reader's Digest
- Philosophy, business, reference, psychology, cookbook sets, annuals, cooking with wine or microwave cooking
- . Travel books/guides and medical books more than 5 years old
- VHS tapes or books on cassettes

#### Dear Youth Families,

I can't believe how quickly February flew by and how fast March arrived! We have an exciting month ahead at Hope Lutheran Church, and we invite you to join us for upcoming activities and service opportunities! On Shrove Tuesday, March 4, we will host our annual Pancake Supper. We ask the youth to help set up at 5:00 PM as we prepare to begin serving at 6:00 PM. The following day, Ash Wednesday, March 5, we will hold our worship service at 7:00 PM, marking the start of the Lenten season.

On March 8, Josh invites all Sunday School and youth families to his home at 4:00 PM for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. It will be a fantastic opportunity to connect and enjoy each other's company.

Later in the month, we will gather again on Wednesday, March 19, at 6:00 PM to make sandwiches for those in need, continuing our community service and outreach tradition. I would also like to plan another social outing after the great time we had bowling last month! I will contact the youth families to coordinate the best time for everyone!

We look forward to seeing you and your families at these events as we grow together in faith, love, and service, while continuing to cultivate a culture where Hope Grows Here and flourishes! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

#### With 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



February's Giving (final!)

Online - \$ 2,350.83 Worship - \$ 11,585

#### *TOTAL MONTHLY OFFERING* = \$ 13,935.83

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

SO CLOSE!!! - \$1,064.17



#### NUMBERS HAVE NAMES, NAMES HAVE STORIES, EVERY STORY MATTERS AT **HOPE**



#### **AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE**



2024

2023



6.7% INCREASE

#### HLC EDUCATION MINISTRY



42



10



5

72

Sunday school & Youth enrollment

BAPTISMS 2024 CONFIRMATIONS 2024

2024 VBS ENROLLMENT

#### **OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES**



\$62,000

#### TOTAL DONATED TO OUTREACH MINISTRIES

ELCA MISSION SUPPORT, OPEN DOOR, EHAP, LUTHERAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES, LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF, LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE, CROP HUNGER WALK, MARY JANE ENRICHMENT CENTER



10



350+

OUTSIDE GROUPS SERVED AT HOPE

PLATES SERVED AT OUTREACH MEALS

#### HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



196



40



225



18



42

2024-2025 ENROLLMENT

MOMMY & ME

SUMMER CAMP &
LITERACY

STAFF MEMBERS

BEFORE & AFTERCARE

211 Elton Adelphia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728 | (732) 462-7545 | hopefreehold.org | Of D @hopefreehold

### HOPE GROWS HERE! GENEROSITY

There is a very strong connection between being generous and using that generosity to assist others in need.

Generosity extends beyond the mere act of giving material possessions; it encompasses the sharing of time, knowledge, compassion, and love. The impact of generosity is profound, transforming both the giver and the receiver in life-affirming ways.

Generosity exhibits itself in various forms:

- <u>Material Giving</u>: Donating money, food, clothes, or other resources to those in need is the most common form of generosity.
- <u>Time:</u> Volunteering time for community service, helping friends and family, or mentoring someone can be one of the most valuable gifts.
- **Knowledge**: Sharing knowledge and expertise can empower others and foster growth and innovation.
- **Emotional Support**: Offering a listening ear, providing encouragement, or simply being there for someone in times of need.

Generosity can be cultivated through planned practices and a shift in mindset.

- <u>Mindful Living</u>: Practicing mindfulness helps individuals become more aware of their abundance and the needs of others, fostering a natural inclination towards generosity.
- <u>Gratitude:</u> Developing a habit of gratitude for what one has can inspire a desire to share and give back.

- <u>Community Engagement:</u> Being actively involved in community activities and causes can provide opportunities to practice and witness generosity, reinforcing its importance.
- Educating and Leading by Example: Teaching children and young adults the value of generosity through education and by setting examples can cultivate a culture of giving in future generations.

In conclusion: Generosity is more than an act; it is a way of life that enriches the giver, the receiver, and society as a whole. By embracing the essence of generosity and overcoming its challenges, we can create a world rooted in kindness, empathy, and shared prosperity. The ripple effect of one generous act can inspire countless others, creating a legacy of giving that transcends generations. Let us all strive to be generous, not only in our deeds but in our hearts, for in giving, we truly receive.

Bill Unger, for the Congregation Council



Rainbows is an international non-profit organization fostering emotional healing for children in grades K-8 (ages 5-14) children who are grieving from a life altering crisis, due to death of a loved one, divorce, separation, illness, incarceration, deployment, or other painful family transitions.

Rainbows trained facilitators use age-appropriate curriculum for children support groups which have helped over 3 million of our youth over the past 32 years. Children are provided with a safe environment to express their feelings and realize they are not alone. The program helps children develop problem solving and appropriate behavior management skills.

Rainbows is non-denominational and completely free of charge.

It is open to all families in Monmouth County from all economic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, and from two-parent, single- parent, or foster-parent families.

Meetings are held on Wednesdays at St. Robert's Parish Hall in Freehold.

For more information please contact:

Sue Della Rosa

Sdell425@optonline.net



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



2024-2025

#### CLASSES/CURRICULUM

- Classes take place Sunday Mornings from 10am-10:45am
  - o 3 year olds-Second Grade meet in room I with Mr. and Mrs. Peters and Ms. Jenn
  - o Third Grade-Sixth Grade meets in room 3 with Mrs. England and Mr. Somodi
- We use the Spirit and Truth Curriculum, which follows the church calendar.
- There is no cost for Sunday School, but we always accept donations! Our PayPal e-mail is is HopeLutheranl7@gmail.com
- Parents are welcome and encouraged to stay for fellowship during Sunday School hour. We host different events like book clubs and crafts.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Jess Somodi

Sunday School Director

JessicaAcker@Gmail.com

732-832-1585

Please contact for more info or to

register!

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

September 8- Rally Day and Backpack Blessing

December I- Family Advent Craft

December 29-No Sunday School

January 5-No Sunday School

April 19- Easter Egg Hunt

April 20- No Sunday School

May 18- Family Bingo

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

We could always use help in Sunday School! No experience required! Please reach out to Jess if you are interested.





#### **HOPE FAMILY PRAYER LIST**

The Panek Family, friends of the Somodi Family dealing with a significant loss; Ruth Furco,

Jackson Behn's Gigi...

Kaitlin Kropa; 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; 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; 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
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
April 6	Ken B		Fenshams
April 13	Steve W		Della Rosas
April 20	John D		Weiss/Tyrrell
April 27	Dave P		Ungers
May 4	Tom T		Fenshams
May 11	Rita C		Della Rosas
May 18	Rebekah H		Weiss/Tyrrell
<i>May 25</i>	Bill U		Ungers
June 1	Debbie U		Fenshams
June 8	Sue H		Della Rosas
June 15	Ken B		Weiss/Tyrrell
June 22	Steve W		Ungers
June 29	John D		Fenshams

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

	Ushers 9am	Ushers 11am
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!!

## March





### 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 12p - Counseling
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary 630p - Confirmation	3	6p – Shrove Tuesday 7p – Zoom Yoga	5 1130a – Ash Services 7p – Ash Wednesday 7p – 12 Step	5p - Counseling 7p - 12 Step 7p - Praise Band	7 7p – 12 Step	8 9a – GOM 930a – WOH 12p – Counseling
9 9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary	10	11 7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p - Counseling 7p - 12 Step 7p - Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	15 12p - Counseling
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth Book Club Meets 11a – Contemporary 630p - Confirmation	7p – Council	7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	7p – 12 Step	5p - Counseling 7p - 12 Step 7p - Praise Band	7p – 12 Step	12p - Counseling
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary 630p - Confirmation	24	25 7p – Zoom Yoga 730p - Choir	26 7p – 12 Step	5p - Counseling 7p - 12 Step 7p - Praise Band	Outreach Meal 7p – 12 Step	12p - Counseling
9a – Traditional 10a – SS/Youth 11a – Contemporary	31	Daylight Savings!! "Spring Ahead" 3/8 into 3/9				

### MARCH 2025 \* YOUTH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	Service hour opportunities for youth and confirmands!  If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out our team!  Faith Formation Director:  Josh Staudinger (hopelutheranmusic@gmail.com)  Youth Group Leader: Inhyoung Chae (istaudinger@gmail.com)						
First Fruits Sunday  Youth Group 10:00am  Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm	3	Shrove Tuesday 5PM setup	5 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7PM	6 BAND PRACTICE 7PM	7	Dinner at Josh's 4PM	
9 Youth Group 10:00am	10	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	12	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	14	15	
Youth Group Bible Study 10:00am Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	SANDWICH MAKING FOR ST. PETERS 6PM	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	21	22	
Youth Group Bible Study 10:00am Confirmation Class 6:30-8:00pm	24	CHOIR PRACTICE 7:30 PM	26	BAND PRACTICE 7PM	28	29	
Youth Group 10:00am	31						