

St. Luke's Newsletter

MAY 2021



**“All things
are
possible for
one who
believes.”**

Mark 9:23b

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Pastor's Note

Dear Friends,

After the CDC set it's 6' spacing guideline one year ago, the Session voted - after two and a half months of no people in the Sanctuary except the worship team - to do a soft in-person reopening for worship to begin on the first Sunday in June. I am so proud that our congregation has continued to honor the decision of the Session this past year and everyone has worked together to keep each other safe as we worship our Lord.

Because the CDC has relaxed its guidelines about spacing - the recommendation is now 3' - the Session has voted unanimously to create a new plan for worship that is a bit more relaxed. Beginning on Sunday, May 9th, everyone may sit together if you're in one household or 3' apart from your nearest neighbor if you're not related, and bulletins will be handed to you by the ushers as you enter the Narthex. We will continue to wear masks in worship, use hand sanitizer and prepackaged Communion cups, and keep the offering plate in the Narthex.

Our Elders are in the process of recording short videos that we will post on our church Facebook page and share with congregants via email to help get the word out about our changing worship guidelines. Please also talk to your friends and family members to help us get the word out that we will now be able to have about 100 people in worship while still following the CDC guidelines for keeping each other safe.

See you in worship! :-)

In God's Love, Pastor Jody

Adventure Island VBS Online

**Mark Your Calendars Now For Our
Adventure Island VBS Online**

**Monday, July 19th
through
Friday, July 23rd**

*** Watch your email and June newsletter
for more details on backpack pick up.***



Easter at St. Luke's

Thanks to a miracle that kept the water meter pipe from bursting when it was hit by a car the day before Easter, we were able to have the 10 a.m. Easter worship service, complete with special music, 48 lilies (plus Lily Guarrine), an Easter Egg Hunt, and the wedding of Luis and Dawn Rosa.

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!



Presbyterian Women



*You Are Cordially Invited To Attend
the PW May Meeting and Bible Study*

**Tuesday, May 11th at 9:30 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall**

***We will have visiting time, conduct the business meeting and
Kathy Nichols will lead the Ch. 8 Bible Study in "Finding Hope
Through Prayers of Lament."***



May Worship Plans



The five Sundays in May provide us with wonderful opportunities for worship, sharing the sacrament of Communion, and completing our Easter Tide journey!

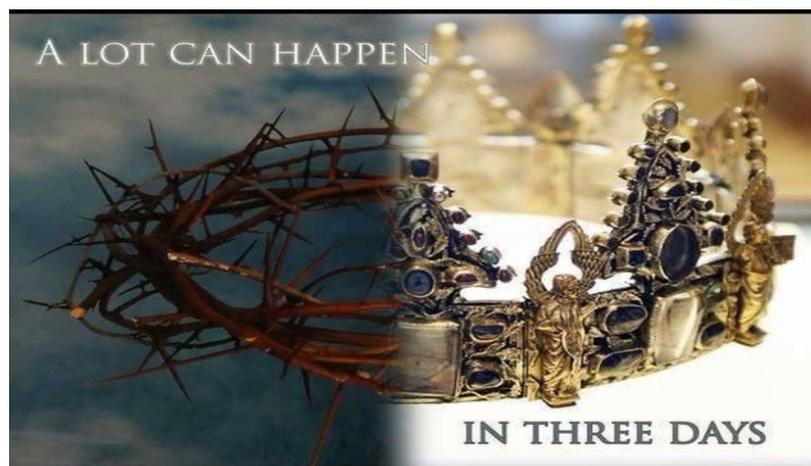
Sunday, May 2nd is the 5th Sunday of Easter and we will share in the sacrament of Communion together as part of the service. Pastor Jody will co-lead worship with Rev. Pam McMillan, Rev. Kristy Ray, and Elder Joni Ishmael. The Old Testament reading is Psalm 22:25-31, the Gospel reading is John 15:1-8, and Pastors Pam and Kristy will serve as the Co-Preachers of the Day.

Sunday, May 9th is the Baccalaureate celebration for Trinity Dontell and also is our Women of the Church Sunday recognition. Worship will begin at 10:00 a.m. via livestream on the church's Facebook page. Graduating Senior Trinity Dontell, Ruling Elder Joni Ishmael and Pastor Jody will co-lead the worship service. The Old Testament reading is Psalm 98, the Gospel Reading is John 15:9-17, and the sermon title is "I Chose You."

On **Sunday, May 16th** we will celebrate **Ascension Sunday** as we worship beginning at 10:00 a.m. via livestream on the church's Facebook page. Rev. David Lindemer will serve as the Preacher of the Day and co-lead the worship service with Joni Ishmael. The Old Testament reading is Psalm 1, the Gospel Reading is Acts 1:1-11, and the sermon title is "Open The Eyes Of My Heart, Lord."

Everyone is invited to wear red on **Sunday, May 23rd** for our **Pentecost Worship and Communion Service**, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Ruling Elder Joni Ishmael and Pastor Jody will co-lead the worship service. The Old Testament reading is Ezekiel 37:1-14, the Gospel Reading is Acts 2:1-21, and the sermon title is "Filled With The Spirit."

Sunday, May 30th is both our celebration of **Trinity Sunday and also Memorial Day**. Our chartered Scout Troop 488 will provide the Color Guard to begin the service, Pastor Jody and Ruling Elder Joni Ishmael will co-lead, the Old Testament reading is Genesis 1:1-5, the New Testament reading is John 3:1-17, and the sermon title is "Father, Son and Holy Spirit." As part of the day, the Troop may be doing an American flag retirement service so please bring your flags that need to be retired and the Troop will honor them appropriately.



* Youth Group News *

Youth Group is about growing deeper in our faith, participating in mission projects, making friends having fun. Here's our line up of Youth Group activities coming soon:

- Sunday, May 2nd *Youth Group in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*
It's a special homemade lunch and then a special project for our church shut-ins
- Sunday, May 9th *Youth Group in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*
Come celebrate Brandy-lynn's birthday ... her mom is throwing her the party and we are invited to share in the fun!
- Sunday, May 16th *No Youth Group ... Pastor Jody and Mike are in Ohio*
- Sunday, May 23rd *Youth Group in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 am-2:30 pm.*
We will have lunch at church and then head out for a surprise activity
- Sunday, May 30th *Youth Group in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.*
It's Party Time as we help you kick off your Summer Break in style!

2021 Summer Youth Mission Trip: Due to continuing concerns about Covid-19, we will be staying in Titusville one more summer for our Mission Trip week. If you have an outdoor project that you would like our help completing, please contact Pastor Jody.

Homework Club: Jeff Moody is leading our Homework Club every Wednesday and Thursday from 2:30-6:30 p.m., and Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45 a.m. Snacks are provided by people in our congregation for the Homework Club kids as many of them are very hungry after a full day of school. **The last day of Homework Club is Thursday, May 20th but Jeff is available for help the final week of school if your youth needs help with homework, projects and/or tests.**

**Are You Ready
To Make
Some Great
Memories
Together?**



The Bells of St. Luke's & Pure Percussion

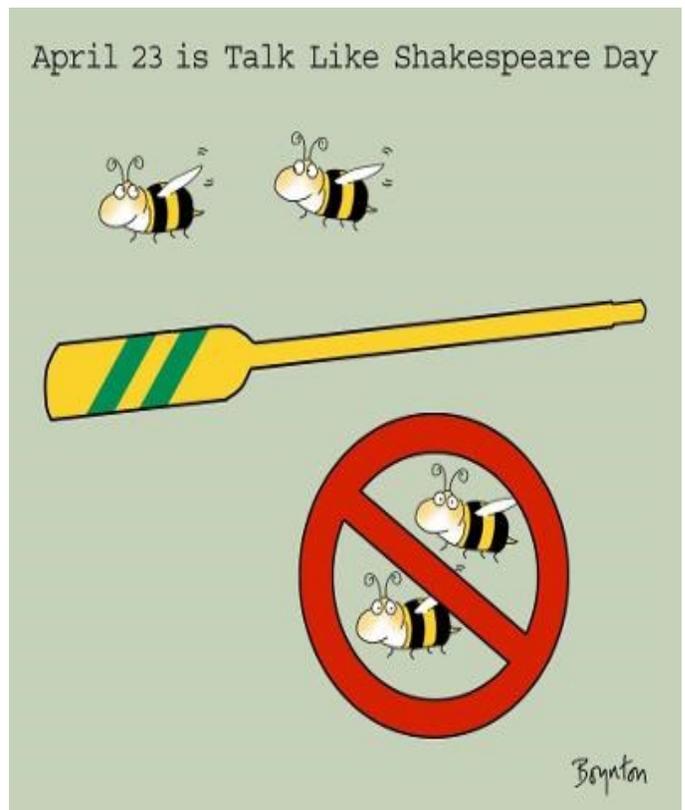
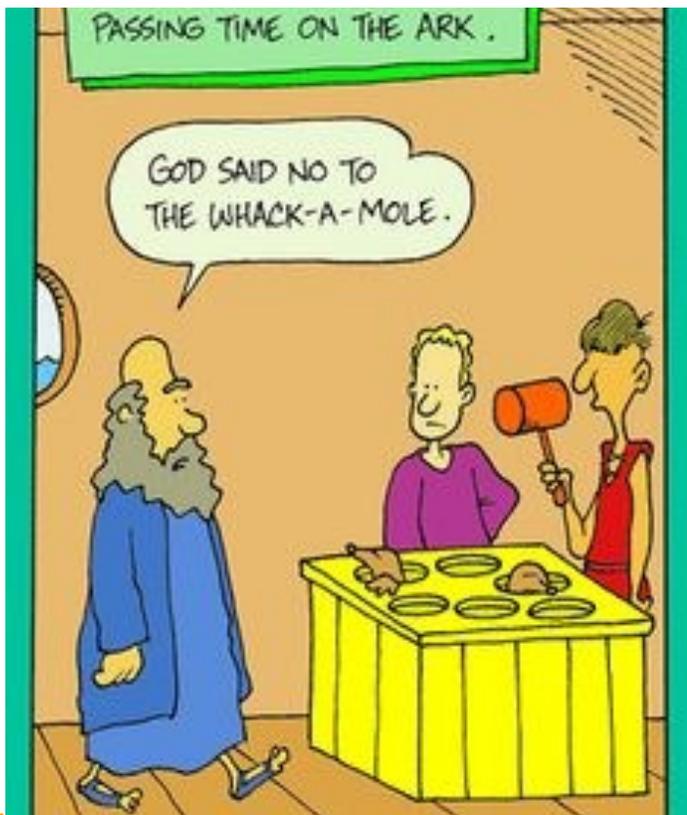
In a church music program year (September-April) when the choir was unable to sing, our congregation has been so blessed to have Sheila King launch two new groups of musicians who were able to provide special music for worship these past eight months.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make a joyful noise to the Lord in these two groups: Betty Parks, Linda Cook, M.E. Kelly, Joni Ishmael, Mike Noble, Willie Wendorff, and Pastor Jody. Sheila King gets double kudos for not only directing both groups, but also accompanying them as they played!

"Sing for joy to God our strength; make a joyful noise to the God of Jacob. Lift up a song, strike the tambourine, play the sweet-sounding harp and lyre." Psalm 81:1a-2



Need A Laugh? :-)

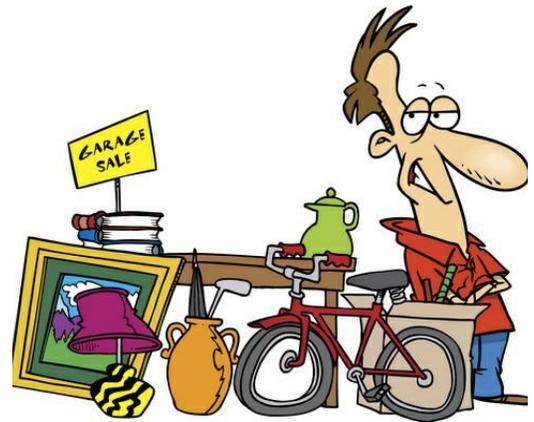


St. Luke's Rummage Sale News

Due to Covid-19, the decision has been made to hold the Rummage Sale in October. We are blessed that Susan Crum and Layne Hamilton will again be serving as the co-leaders for the Sale. They will be working with their team to set a date for the Sale and, when that is done, we will communicate the information out to the congregation. In the meantime, please continue to donate your gently used furniture, household appliances, seasonal decorations, cookware, purses, jewelry, clothing, pictures, tools, sporting equipment, collectibles, books, games, children's clothing and shoes, etc. to the church for the Sale.

In past years, the Sale has raised anywhere from \$5-7k for the general operating budget of the church and another \$500-700 from the Bake Sale to benefit the Summer Youth Mission Trip. It also gives us a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and pass out free Bibles/devotional materials to help people grow in their faith journeys.

As it gets closer to the time of the Sale, Susan and Layne will need people to help on the sorting team and volunteers to work 1 or 2 days of the Sale. They will also need volunteers to help with setting up the rooms, cleaning up after the Sale, putting yard signs out both days of the Sale, and collecting the yards signs. If you would like to help, please let Susan or Layne know.



The Final Numbers Are In!

AARP Foundation

TAX-AIDE

Free tax assistance for those who need it most

The 8 person Tax-Aide Team wrote a letter to the Session and congregation of our church to thank us for the use of Classrooms 5 and 6 for their tax season work. In total, the Tax-Aide Team E-filed 526 returns for 2020 and 3 previous years. They also prepared 18 paper returns, 12 amended returns, and answered 359 questions in the form of visits, phone calls, and checking returns that were prepared by patrons themselves.

Thank you to St. Luke's congregation for helping our community in this very important way!

TechSoup Grant

Our church is a registered non-profit partner with TechSoup, which is a clearing house for “all things technology” that are donated by corporate partners. TechSoup recently offered its non-profit partners the opportunity to apply for \$2k grants to be used to purchase hardware and software through their clearinghouse, we applied, and were blessed to receive a grant. Our grant allowed us the opportunity to purchase two new laptops and one monitor for the church office, a monitor for the A/V booth, and software to help improve our program security and functioning. Thank you, TechSoup, for this generous award and support of our mission!



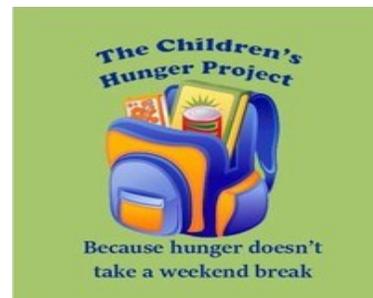
A Summer of Serving

Calling volunteers of all ages! Mark your calendars now for opportunities in June and July to serve our community neighbors of all ages who are in need of food assistance. To kick things off, we will be partnering with the Hummingbird Pantry on June 11, June 18, and June 25 from 1-3 p.m. to help distribute food to drive up clients at Riverview Elementary. You get to drive in your own car, we will all meet at church in the east parking lot, and we will leave each Friday at 12:30 p.m. and caravan up to Riverview Elementary to work outside helping with the food distribution. Volunteers must wear closed toed shoes, bring your own water bottle, and be able to lift boxes that weigh 10-15 lbs.

Our second volunteer opportunity for congregants of all ages is to help at The Children's Hunger Project to pack food bags for school age children in our county. Our dates for packing are Wednesday, July 7th and Wednesday, July 14th from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Volunteers drive themselves to The Children's Hunger Project (1855 W. King Street Cocoa, FL 32926) and must be in place, ready to work on the packing line at 9:30 a.m.

If you would like to volunteer for either opportunity, please call the office or M.E. Kelly (321-960-0710). We need firm numbers of volunteers 2 days before each event.

A final THANK YOU goes out to everyone who contributed to “The Great Hair Cutting.” We raised \$250 and Gail chose Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center as the recipient.



May Food Pantry

The Church Food Pantry will be open throughout the month of May on **Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and by appointment.** By expanding the hours when food is available to be picked up, we hope to be able to help more of our neighbors. If you or someone you know needs food help, our church food pantry is always available to help. And, if you're not able to get to the food pantry on Wednesday or Thursday, please call one of the Elders and they can arrange for someone to meet you at church to get you into Room 4 where the food pantry items are stored. Food items needed for our May 26th & 27th "Meals for Moms" include:

- Bags of chicken nuggets
- Boxes of spaghetti noodles
- Jars of spaghetti sauce
- Bags of shredded mozzarella cheese
- Parmesan cheese
- Canned apples (like you'd use in a pie)
- Bags of brown sugar
- Old fashioned oats
- Butter
- Salad dressing (Ranch or Italian)



Layered Enchilada Bake

April's entrée for Meals For Moms was an Enchilada Bake for Cinco de Mayo.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 lb lean ground beef | 1 lg onion, chopped |
| 2 cups chunky salsa | 1 can (15.5 oz) black beans, rinsed |
| ¼ cup Zesty Italian dressing | 2 Tbsp Taco Seasoning mix |
| Six 8" flour tortillas | 1 cup sour cream |
| 1 pkg (8 oz) Mexican Style Finely Shredded Four Cheese | |
| Optional: Lettuce, tomatoes, and guacamole | |

Heat oven to 400 degrees. Brown meat with onions in large skillet on medium-high heat; drain. Return meat mixture to skillet; stir in salsa, beans, dressing and seasoning mix. Arrange 3 tortillas in single layer on bottom of 13"x9" baking dish. Cover with layers of half each of the meat mixture, sour cream and cheese. Repeat layers: cover. Bake 40 minutes or until casserole is heated through and cheese is melted, uncovering after 30 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting to serve.

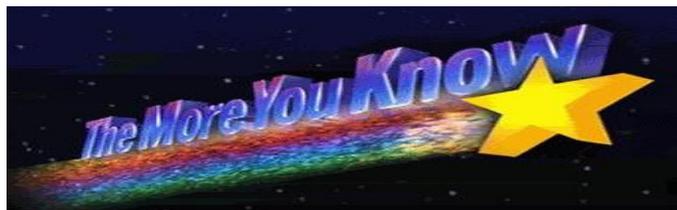
Recipe source: www.kraft.com



The More You Know

The Session continues to work to provide good answers to your questions each month on our church life together. Recent questions we have been asked include:

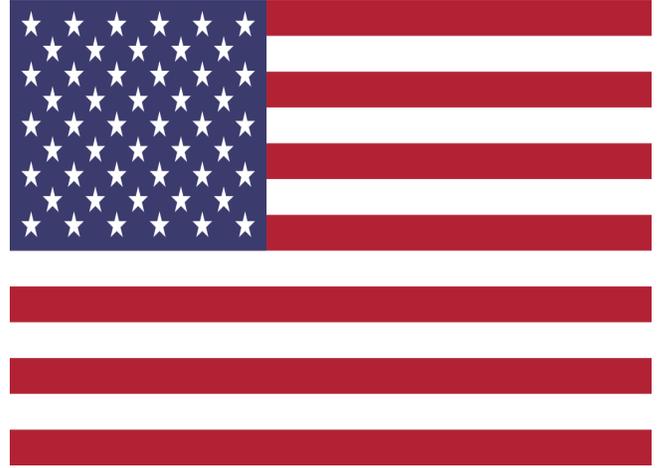
1. How many graduating Seniors do we have this year at church? We are proud to announce that Trinity Dontell will receive her high school diploma in May and Tyler Sauvaegnon will complete his diploma soon and then head to Marine Boot Camp.
2. What is the next Eagle Scout project that will take place at St. Luke's? Tyler Trawle presented his proposed Eagle Scout project to build a 90' long sidewalk that will extend from the Classroom 8 area out to the Vesper's Circle. The sidewalk will be 6' wide and the project will also include running conduit/electrical out to the Vesper's Circle. The Session approved the project (estimated cost is \$2,010), will match Tyler's fundraising efforts up to \$1,000, and invites the congregation to contribute to support Tyle's Eagle Scout Project as fundraising lunches are not yet possible.
3. What was done with the Easter lilies that were not picked up from the Sanctuary? All 21 of the lilies were planted in either the Memorial Garden or other flower beds around the church by Presbyterian Women volunteers on Wednesday, April 14th. Thank you to everyone who purchased a lily in honor and/or memory of a loved one this year and we are excited to see how many of our planted Easter lilies bloom next year.
4. How many people received tax return help from the AARP Tax-Aide Team hosted by our church these past three months? According to Mary Ann Snyder, who was a member of the AARP Tax-Aide Team, 526 people had their tax returns prepared by the team this year.
5. What projects need funding help at church? The Session has approved a contract to replace the ceiling inside Fellowship Hall but will wait to enter into the contract until funds are available. The project will cost \$6,000. Other projects under consideration include refurbishment of the Chancel furniture in the Sanctuary (cost unknown at this time) and reflooring the Secretary's office/Pastor's office (\$1,000).



American Flag Retirement Ceremony

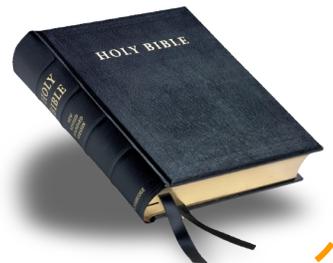
Our Scout Troop 488 will be holding a ceremony in late May to retire American flags that have been given to the troop. If you have an American flag that is ready to be retired, please drop it off in the church office or the Narthex before worship and we will ensure that it is given to the Troop for retirement.

If you have any questions about the flag retirement ceremony or process, our very own Jim Parks (Scout Troop Liaison) will be happy to provide you with great answers.



Worship Bible Texts and Sermon Titles

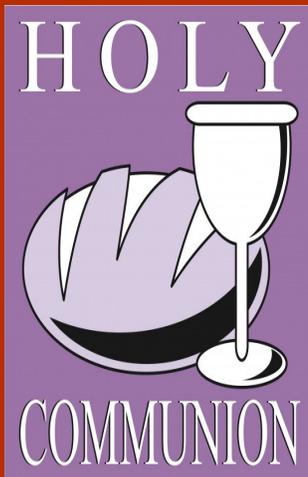
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| Thursday, May 2nd: | <p>The 5th Sunday of Easter & Communion
 Old Testament reading is Psalm 22:25-31
 Gospel Reading is John 15:1-8
 Sermon Title “Abide In Me”</p> |
| Sunday, May 9th: | <p>Baccalaureate & Women of the Church Sunday
 Old Testament reading is Psalm 98
 Gospel Reading is John 15:9-17
 Sermon Title “I Choose You”</p> |
| Sunday, May 16th: | <p>Ascension Sunday
 Old Testament reading is Psalm 1
 Gospel Reading is Acts 1:1-11
 Sermon Title “Open The Eyes Of My Heart, Lord”</p> |
| Sunday, May 23rd: | <p>Pentecost & Communion Sunday (Wear Your Red)
 Old Testament reading is Ezekiel 37:1-14
 Gospel Reading is Acts 2:1-21
 Sermon Title “Filled With The Spirit”</p> |
| Sunday, May 30th: | <p>Trinity & Memorial Day Sunday
 Old Testament reading is Genesis 1:1-5
 New Testament reading is John 3:1-17
 Sermon Title “Father, Son & Spirit”</p> |



Year To Date Financial Information

Financial Report as of March 31st:

2021 Operating Income Year to Date \$ 41,792.32
 2021 Operating Expenses Year to Date \$ 32,185.50
 Net Income Year to Date: \$ 9,606.82



Worship Attendance

April 4th Easter & Communion Sunday

80 in worship and 248 livestream views as of 4/24/21

April 11th The 2nd Sunday of Easter

57 in worship and 297 livestream views as of 4/24/21

April 18th The 3rd Sunday of Easter

53 in worship 237 livestream views as of 4/24/21

April 25th The 4th Sunday of Easter

TBD

Special Occasions

Anniversaries

Jose' & Karen Amador #30 (5/18)
 Mascheria & Rob Maxfield (5/21)
 Gene & Jeanine Ellinghouse (5/22)

Birthdays

Ryley Redditt (5/1)
 Chuck Stinnett (5/8)
 Brandy-Lynn Jones (5/11)
 Jack Boonstra (5/14)
 Mary Duncan (5/15)
 Phil Phillips (5/16)
 George Kay (5/17)

Birthdays (continued)

Emma Phillips (5/18)
 Serenity Dontell (5/18)
 Bill Dreier (5/19)
 Sara Shufelt (5/22)
 Kerry McClesky (5/24)
 John Holder (5/25)
 Barbara Sarro (5/26)
 Carol Carlson (5/30)
 Sarah Eldredge (5/31)
 Rev. Jim Snyder (5/31)
 Cynthia Filer (5/31)

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion 10:00 am Worship and Communion 11:00 a.m. Youth Group Lunch and making crafts for our shut ins	3 7:00 p.m. Deacon Zoom Meeting	4 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	5 7:00 a.m. Men's Study @ Cracker Barrel 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3	6 National Day of Prayer 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3 7:00-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 6	7 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	8
9 Baccalaureate/ Women of the Church Sunday 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Youth Group bday party for Brandy-Lynn in Fellowship Hall	10 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Committee Meeting	11 9:30-11:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Mtg. and Bible Study in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	12 7:00 a.m. Men's Study @ Cracker Barrel 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3	13 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3 6:00 p.m. ADK Sorority Mtg, Fellowship Hall 7:00-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 6	14 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	15
16 Ascension Sunday 10:00 am Worship Rev. David Lindemer, Preacher of the Day No Youth Group	17	18 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	19 7:00 a.m. Men's Study @ Cracker Barrel 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3	20 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3 7:00-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 6	21 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	22
23 Pentecost Sunday and Communion 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Youth Group lunch in Fellowship Hall and then a special activity	24	25 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	26 7:00 a.m. Men's Study @ Cracker Barrel 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3	27 2:30-6:30 p.m. Homework Club Room 3 6:30 pm Session Fellowship Hall 7:00-8:00 p.m. Girl Scouts, Rm 6	28 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	29
30 Memorial Day/ Trinity Sunday 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Youth Group lunch and Summer of Serving Kick Off Party in FHall	31 Memorial Day					