



# The First Baptist Church of Dover

301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE 19904

July & August 2025 Newsletter



## Contact Us

Brian Cunningham - Pastor  
Mike Metzger - Moderator  
Debbie Geiser - Newsletter Editor  
Vicky Smith - Church Secretary  
Church Office - 302-674-1980  
Email - [info@fbcdover.org](mailto:info@fbcdover.org)  
Calendar - last page

Visit the  
First Baptist Church website at  
<http://www.fbcdover.org>

**The First Baptist Church  
of Dover**  
will gather in the sanctuary for  
worship  
on Sunday,  
at 11 AM.



**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday 8:00 - 2:00**  
**Tuesday - Friday 9:00 - 3:00**

# From the Pastor's Desk

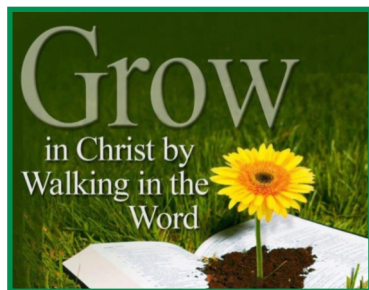
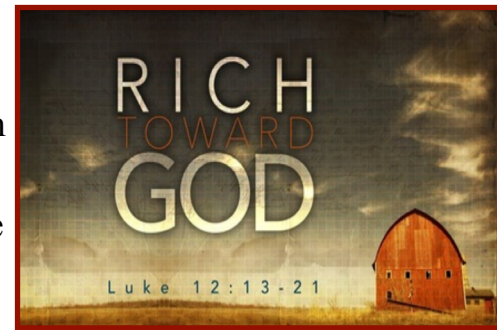
**Dear Church Family,**



As we move into the summer months, I want to acknowledge that this is a time when many of us take the opportunity to vacation and travel. While some of our church family may be away, the work of the church continues, and we remain focused on our mission and calling as a community of faith.

We will continue to worship, serve, and grow together, even as we enjoy the blessings of this season.

Throughout July and August, we will explore themes of discipleship, service, and trust in God. As we study the Gospel of Luke, we will be challenged and encouraged to live out our calling more faithfully. From being *"Sent Out with Authority"* to learning how to be *"Rich Toward God"* we are reminded of the importance of following Christ's example in every area of our lives. These themes will guide us as we seek to serve God and others, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to those in need.



As we journey through these months, I encourage each of us to reflect on how we can grow in our discipleship and deepen our trust in God. Let us remember that even in times of change and transition, God is constant. As we listen at the feet of Jesus, as we learn to pray, and as we continue our labor of love and service, let us do so with joy and commitment, trusting that He will lead us in every step.

Looking ahead, we are excited to celebrate a special milestone this fall—our 175th church anniversary! This is a time to reflect on God's faithfulness through the years and to look forward with expectation to the future He has for us as a congregation. As we continue to serve, I encourage you to be part of the preparations for this celebration, as it will be a time of reflection, renewal, and commitment.



May God continue to bless each of you as we move through the summer months. The work of the Lord is ongoing, and I am grateful to serve alongside you all.

Blessings,

**Pastor Brian C. Cunningham**





## The Liturgical Cycle

The Christian year includes two central cycles focused on major events in the life of Christ: the **Christmas cycle** (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and **Easter cycle** (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Advent begins the Christian year, even as it coincides with the end of the secular calendar.

Each of these seasons begins with a time of preparation and anticipation followed by a time of celebration. A season designated as **Ordinary Time** follows each cycle.

The word "ordinary" here does not mean "routine" or "not special." Instead, it refers to the "ordinal numbers" (first, second, third, etc.) used to name and count the Sundays (such as the Third Sunday after Epiphany). This term comes from the Latin ordinalis, meaning "numbered" or "ordered," and tempus ordinarium, "measured time."

The **first period of Ordinary Time**, called the Season after Epiphany, begins on Epiphany Day and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). The central theme of this season is the calling of disciples and the early ministry of Jesus.

For some congregations, this will mean a focus on evangelism, as found in the Old Testament and Gospel reading for each week. For others, the focus will be preparing to help others grow in their discipleship.

The **second period of Ordinary Time**, the Season after Pentecost, follows the Easter cycle. It begins the day after Pentecost and continues to Advent. The purpose of this season is to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during the Easter Season and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.

Every year, Christians experience the contrast between the central seasons of Christmas and Easter, where we see God in the events around the coming of Christ, and the in-between times, where we see, speak about and join God's ongoing work in the world.

We thus experience two regular cycles of preparation, celebration and action in ministry each year, with the Ordinary Times as the primary periods of action.

In the month of June, the surprise of Pentecost and the glory of Trinity Sunday has moved us into the **second Ordinary Time** of the Christian Year. This is always the way of it in the liturgical year and in the Christian life, this juxtaposition of extraordinary and mundane, the shocking revelations and the ordinary question of "What do we do now?" As our congregation moves into this extended season after Pentecost, take a moment to experience the meaning of this season. In Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Eastertide, we remember the story of God's revelation of divine love among us in Jesus, God Incarnate. **Ordinary Time** calls us to listen, discern, and wrestle with how to live into the story of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection in our daily lives as individuals and as a community.

**Phil Steinhoff**





# One Great HOUR OF SHARING



## One Great Hour of Sharing- Be The Light!! — 2025

For Jesus, God's Reign is about forming communities of diverse people, living as siblings, caring for each other, communities of justice and love where all are fed, sheltered, healed and safe. Jesus declares that God's Reign is happening right now, even as we wait for its fulfillment.

Jesus invites his listeners-and us- to live fully into the gift and grace God offers- be the gift that keeps on giving; be the light that keeps on shining. Many of the ordinary people listening to, and eavesdropping on, Jesus' conversation with his disciples that day understand and dedicate themselves to the challenge. Jesus assures us that we are what God intends- open-hearted, generous, compassionate—it's already in us. By fully living into our identity as children of God, we spread God-colors throughout the world bearing light, hope, and love.

Our offering for June 15th was \$391.00 which gives us a subtotal of \$2168.00 so far this month. Your gift supports those who are doing ministry throughout the United States and across the globe - bringing hope, expertise, compassion and love to places you may never visit and people who may never meet.

You still have until June 29th to "Be The Light" for many people around the globe.

Beryl Gerhard







The total is in---\$2,200 has been sent to ABCOPAD for our regional project. Wonderful job ladies, members of FBC, and friends of FBC. Thank you so much for helping us send children to camp this summer at the back of the Philadelphia Park Racetrack. That amount will pay for almost 16 children to learn about Jesus and our Father in Heaven. Through our monthly offerings the ABWM ladies also raised another \$2000 to support our missionaries after which our circles are named.

We've had a very successful year. Thanks to Mary Stewart we've had meaningful and interesting programs. With the internet we've been in more contact with our missionaries. We've also had several new ladies join our circles. We were also pleased to have Dr. Cecile Cunningham lead our installation of officers on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We are thankful to our Father for all the blessings He had bestowed to us.

The Board will meet this summer to plan our events for the coming 2025/26 year. We have plenty of room for more women in each circle. If we have enough, we can always form a new circle. It is a wonderful way to meet and get to know each one in special fellowship for our Lord. Our support of each other provides so much of God's love for all of us.



If anyone out there has an interesting stitch or new type of yarn they'd like to demonstrate to us, please notify Sue Moore at (302)670-2626 to schedule a time. We love seeing new stitches and trying them out on new shawls. Also, if you know of someone who needs a nice warm hug of yarn, again notify Sue and she'll help you choose a shawl for that person. The next meeting will resume in September. If you don't crochet or knit, we'd love to teach you.



# Anniversaries

Christian & Karliatu Harris	7/03	5 years
Sal and Veronica Manno	7/13	51 years
Tom and Patricia Ward	7/19	22 years
Mike and Deb Metzger	7/21	52 years
Harry & Diane Anthony	7/23	59 years

Terry and Terry Lentz	8/1	44 years
Gene and Sue Moore	8/5	53 years
Dan and Rebecca Taylor	8/13	37 years
Larry and Joyce Buckley	8/26	64 years
Sam and Debbie Geiser	8/30	28 years



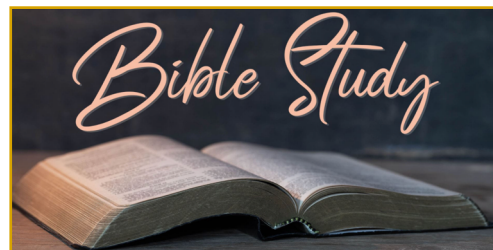
Wednesday Night  
Prayer Call  
Phone Number

**1-978.990.5083**  
**Access code - 676527#**

## FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Wednesday, 6pm

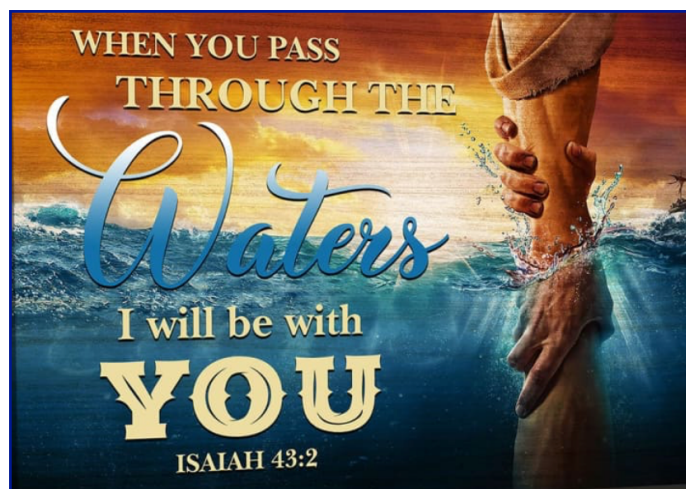
Bible Study, 6:45



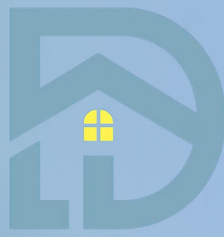
## Men's Shelter Meal Wednesday, July 9, 2025



Men's Shelter Meal-July 9th. Thanks for everyone's help with meals at the Dover Interfaith Men's Shelter in June 11, 2025! Our next scheduled meal contribution is Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The meal contribution sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. July's menu includes: Sloppy Joes, hamburger rolls, potato salad, fruit cocktail and bottled water. Please deliver your contributed food item to People's Church, 46 South Bradford Street, Dover between 4:00pm and 5:00pm on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. Everyone's help for this needed service is greatly appreciated!







## DOVER INTERFAITH

MISSION FOR HOUSING

**"Building Pathways of Hope and Opportunity"**

### **Bulletin from the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing**

The men's shelter and transitional housing facility owned by the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing on Walker Road experienced a fire. All residents and staff were evacuated safely in the middle of the night. Fortunately, People's Church of Dover is providing a temporary space for shelter and meals, with close cooperation on meeting the needs of Dover Interfaith residents and other unhoused individuals coming to People's Church for dinner and assistance.

The building is intact and will be repaired. Most of the impact was due to water from the sprinkler system, which caused ceiling collapse and other internal damage. Clean-up began immediately.

No timetable for renovations has been set; however, the Dover Interfaith board is acting quickly to address the repairs. It is possible that volunteer assistance will be useful at a later date.

Of immediate concern is the \$10,000 deductible on the insurance policy. Dover Interfaith is most grateful for contributions to a fund to meet this unexpected financial challenge. Donors may either click the "DONATE" button on our website at [www.doverinterfaith.org](http://www.doverinterfaith.org) or send a check to DIMH at PO Box 1148, Dover DE 19903. Thank you in advance for any support you may be able to provide. The Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, and contributions are tax deductible. Donations will be acknowledged.

Best regards,

Denise Engelsen

FB Representative to the DIMH Board

2024

AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

First Baptist Church  
Dover, DE

Congratulations on your 2024 ranking of #81  
among all American Baptist Churches in United Mission Giving  
with your support of \$12,077.12!

*Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain*

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain  
ABCUSA General Secretary



***Please Help Blessings Box***

**Donations Needed**

**Any Single Serving Food Item**

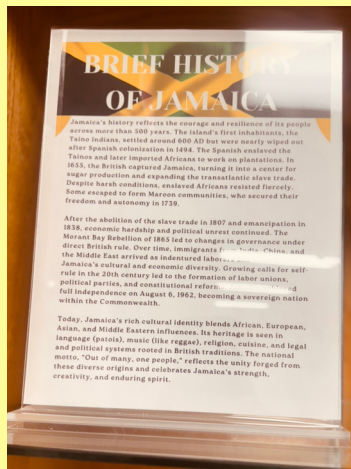
**Especially Applesauce, Fruit Cups**

**Deposit in Blessings Box in Narthex**

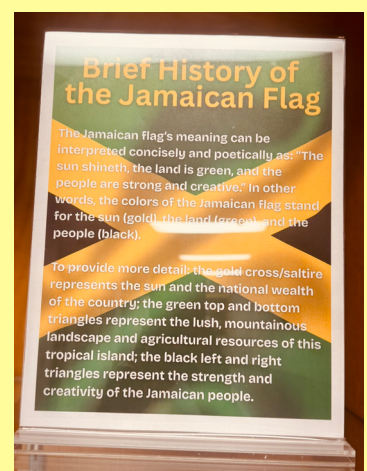
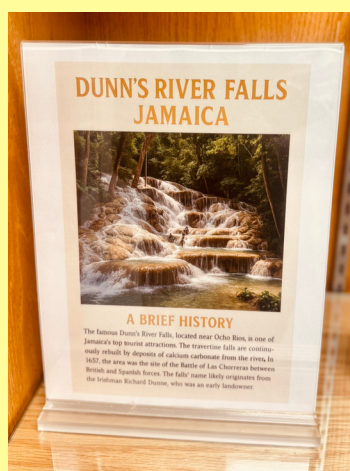
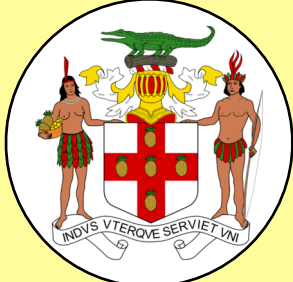
**Or place near food pantry/mark for Blessings Box.**







The Mission Display Cabinet in Fellowship Hall now features Jamaica, the home country of Dr. Cecile Cunningham. Check it out!!







The Board of Missions will be collecting school supplies for the month of August.



# Back to School Supply List

## Kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Pencil Box
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Washable Markers
- No. 2 Pencils
- Pencil Sharpener
- Ballpoint Pens
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Ruler
- Blunt-Tipped Scissors
- Assorted Color Construction Paper
- Plastic Folders
- Wide-Ruled Notebook
- Tissues
- Lunchbox or Bag

## Extra Supplies for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

- Highlighters
- Three-Ring Binder
- Three-Hole Punch
- Loose-Leaf Paper or Spiral Notebooks
- Graph Paper
- Subject Dividers
- Index Cards
- Calculator







# Birthdays



Kathy Becker	7/2
Fred Corazza	7/13
Charity King	7/16
Barbara Gilsdorf-Jones	7/20
Irv Culver	7/21
Isaac Yarsiah	7/27
Ikegai Lenyee	7/30
Lester Blakeman	7/31



Teresa Gedney	8/2
Jane Meder	8/2
Cindy Cannon	8/4
Brandy Lentz	8/9
Morgan Stiegler	8/9
Aaron King	8/12
Youjay McIntosh	8/13
Mike Metzger	8/15
Nathanael Guy	8/16
Christian Harris, Jr.	8/18
Phil Steinhoff	8/19
Don Lee	8/24
Joan Foster	8/27
Cody Leavel	8/30



**Join our Church  
Services  
Online**

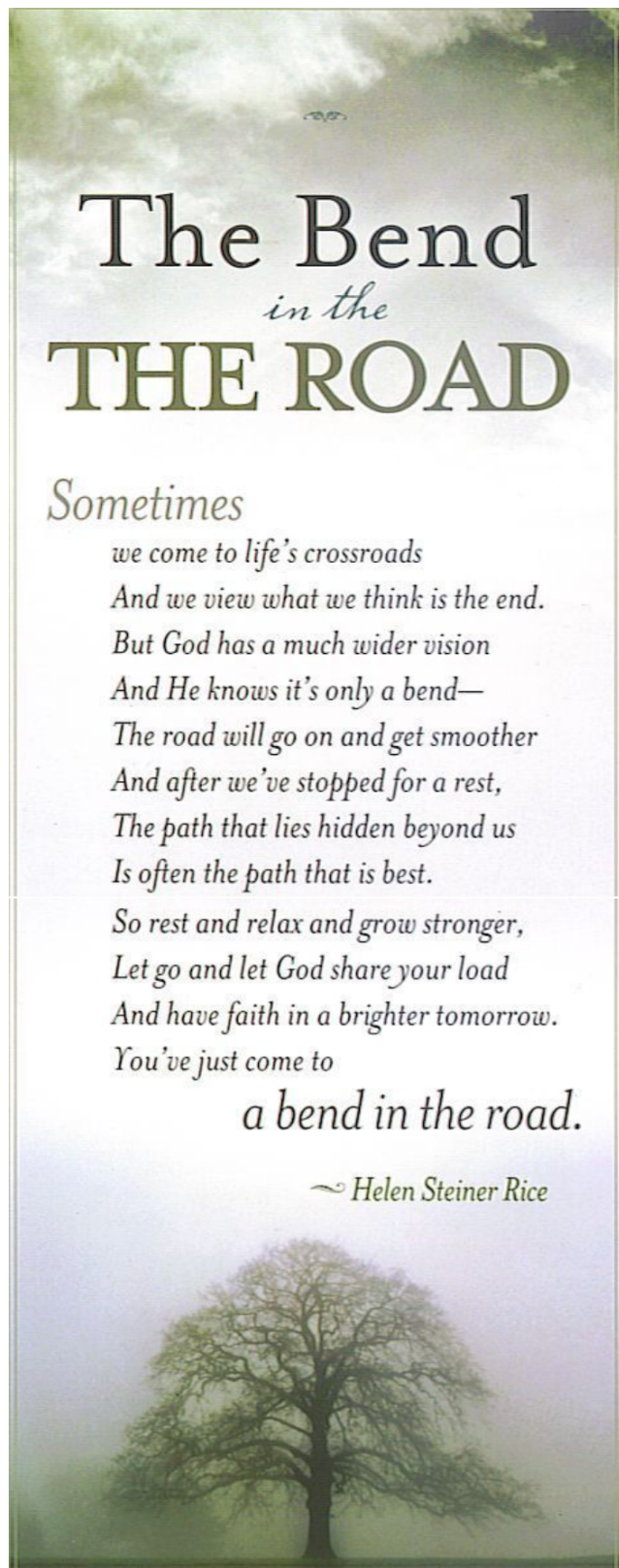
YouTube.com at  
First Baptist Church of Dover DE

## The Bend *in the* THE ROAD

*Sometimes*

*we come to life's crossroads  
And we view what we think is the end.  
But God has a much wider vision  
And He knows it's only a bend—  
The road will go on and get smoother  
And after we've stopped for a rest,  
The path that lies hidden beyond us  
Is often the path that is best.  
So rest and relax and grow stronger,  
Let go and let God share your load  
And have faith in a brighter tomorrow.  
You've just come to  
a bend in the road.*

*~ Helen Steiner Rice*



**July 5, 2025, Saturday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm**

Any items contributed for sale must be donated and all proceeds will go to our Davis Fellowship Hall flooring project. Please do not bring items you expect to be returned for any reason. If we do not sell the items on the day of the sale we will either plan another time to sell them or donate them to another charity.

You may drop any items off between now and the day of the sale at Adelle's house, 1564 Allabands Mill Road, Wyoming, DE. (Near Fifer Orchards) Please call ahead of time to be sure someone is home. (302-242-9605)

If you have items and are not able to take them to the location, please contact Debbie Metzger or Adelle. We have a couple volunteers who will pick up the items.

# Yard Sale

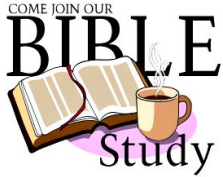
**All Proceeds go to the Fellowship  
Hall Flooring Project  
Total needed \$30,000.00**



**Sponsored by First Baptist Church  
Women's Sunday School Class  
301 Walker Rd., Dover, DE**



## Here's What's Happening at our Church!



Wednesday Evening  
Prayer Call 7:15PM  
See page 6 for  
information



About the church or one of our  
programs? Stop by the Welcome  
Center for the answers.



**ATTENTION**  
Read all about it!  
Don't forget the  
deadline for  
newsletter  
submissions is the  
15th of each month.



Please email your articles to Vicky Smith at  
[secretary@fbcdover.org](mailto:secretary@fbcdover.org)



Sermons are now available on the church's website,  
[fbcdover.org](http://fbcdover.org)  
under the title  
"Sermons". Or, if  
you prefer, you  
may request a CD  
copy of a  
Sunday's sermon  
by contacting the church office.



## Sanctuary Flower Arrangements


Would you like to honor someone  
or celebrate a special occasion by  
providing the worship service  
flower arrangements? If so, please  
contact the church office at  
302-674-1980.

Need a little extra help in  
monitoring your blood  
pressure? Contact the  
church office for more  
information about having  
your pressure checked by  
one of the FBC nurses.

This activity is sponsored by the American Baptist  
Women's Ministries.



# Here's what's happening in July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3  6:00 Praise Team	4  Church Office Closed 	5  Yard Sale 8:00 - see page 12
6  9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	7	8	9  11:30 XYZ at Restaurant 55 12:00 Bible Study 4:00 DIMH Dinner 6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	10  3:00 Christian Ed (Library)  5:00 Worship Committee 6:00 Praise Team	11	12  10:00 Missions (Conference Rm)
13  9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	14	15	16  12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	17  4:30 Deacons (Library) 6:00 Praise Team	18	19
20  9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship  12:30 Quarterly Business Meeting	21	22	23  12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	24  6:00 Praise Team	25	26
27  9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	28	29	30  12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	31  6:00 Praise Team		
VBS July 21 - 25, 5:30 - 7:30 PM						

## How would you prefer to receive your newsletter?


In vivid color on the website (<http://www.fbcdover.org>) or black & white in the mail.

To respond, one may contact the office at 302-674-1980  
if the preference is by mail.

Please be sure we have your current email address.



# Here's what's happening in August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	4	5	6 12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study  7:15 Prayer Call	7   6:00 Praise Team	8	9   10:00 Missions (Conference Rm)
10 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	11	12	13 11:30 XYZ - 12:00 Bible Study  4:00 DIMH Dinner  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study 7:15 Prayer Call	14  5:00 Worship Committee  6:00 Praise Team	15 September Newsletter Articles Due 	16   9:00 Coordinating Committee
17 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	18	19	20 12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study  7:15 Prayer Call	21  10:00 ABW Board Meeting  4:30 Deacons (Library)  6:00 Praise Team	22	23
24 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	25	26	27 12:00 Bible Study  6:00 Fellowship Meal 6:45 Bible Study  7:15 Prayer Call	28	29	30
31 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Worship						

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