

# *The Scribe*

September 2025

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Friends, I have to admit something. Last year, while I was still unpacking boxes and learning names, I approached Rally Day with nervous hesitation. First, I had never been a part of a church that “rallied.” I didn’t fully understand what it was for, and second, the session had voted (before I arrived) to do something unprecedented – have a combined, single service at 9 a.m. that day. I had been warned by the search committee, Interim Pastor Joan, and multiple church members that the demand to have two services at 8 and 10 a.m. was a “sacred cow” that must not be touched. And yet here we were, six weeks into my tenure, doing the inadvisable!

But it went great! Andy came up with a creative way to get us to visit all the committee boards, folks whipped together a delicious brunch, and we not only survived, but thrived. The demand was immediate to try it again!

This year, I get it. Rally Day is a launching point for new ideas, energy, volunteer opportunities, and a new season of programs. It’s our fifth time to worship together, and the energy at these services is palpable. Behind the scenes, church members have been working for months to get ready for it. The Christian Ed committee has purchased new curriculum and recruited volunteers to meet our growing children and youth programs. A team has been hard at work on a new directory, a new website is ready to launch, an experienced audio/visual tech company will come this month to enhance our equipment for a better worship experience in the sanctuary and online, the mission trip to North Carolina is almost upon us, and Andy’s got big plans in the works not only for a new season of choir and handbell music but a children’s music program as well! It’s all coming together in September!

This year’s Rally Day will mark the beginning of a new chapter for us! We’re growing and adapting to meet new opportunities and challenges. Needless to say, it will take all of us to meet the moment, and I hope you’re on board.

Finally, I hope you all had a great summer. Some of you have been away for quite a bit, and I understand why. Summer weekends are precious things, but I’m really looking forward to seeing all of you back at church again. I hope you are excited, too. Invite your neighbor, your coworker, your child’s friend’s family. We’re going to have an amazing September!

*Peace, Pastor Gin Courtney*



## RALLY DAY

### Sunday, September 7th

We will have one worship service at 9 am.

**Rally Day** is our day to celebrate being back together at the start of the new church year.

**Rally Day** is our time to learn what each of the various parts of the church are doing or plans for the new year.

**Rally Day** is our opportunity to offer to help one or more of these groups.

**Rally Day** is our time to commit to our being a rich community of all members and friends.

#### Church Worship Attendance and Donations Summary July, 2025

Date	Attendance				Donations		
	8:00 AM	10:00 AM	Single	Total	Pledged	Other	Total
Jul-06	67	84		151	\$ 5,184	\$ 1,537	\$ 6,721
Jul-13	52	74		126	\$ 6,071	\$ 593	\$ 6,664
Jul-20	52	70		122	\$ 3,612	\$ 1,169	\$ 4,781
Jul-27	42	58		100	\$ 2,099	\$ 588	\$ 2,687
Average-2025	43	100	98	140			
Average-2024	39	81	145	119			
* percent of year completed				58%			
Pledged Donations Year-to-Date *			\$ 161,806	60%	Percent of annual budget collected		
Other Donations Year-to-Date *			\$ 26,124	26%	Percent of annual budget collected		
Per Capita Payments			\$ 5,317	101%	Percent of annual budget collected		



*from our*  
**Session**

After taking the month of July off, we gathered on August 12 for a full night of planning. We began by quickly and enthusiastically approving a single 9 a.m. service for Rally Day on September 7. Many of you will remember that last year's single service on Rally Day was the first time we had a combined 9 a.m. service, and it went so well that we had one quarterly after that. We're pleased to be worshipping as one body once again.

We heard reports from several committees about work that had been done over the summer, including an insurance on-site walk through of the whole church campus, an ELC inspection for lead, and a free energy efficiency audit, all of which went very well.

Looking ahead, we are excited that the church directory, a new website, new children's Sunday school curriculum, a children's music program, and audio-visual improvements are all slated to launch in September!

And we listened compassionately as the mission committee reported on their efforts to support homeless children and adults in the area and reported on the struggles at food banks as federal funding cuts impact the supply chain. We celebrated the generosity of the Westerly Stop & Shop and Dunn's Corners Market which both donated extra food when they heard of the recent shortage.

There is so much to look forward to this fall as we worship and serve together!

AG





**Deacons who are faithfully serving the congregation are:**

Sue Eldridge, Stephanie Cahoon, Karen Ingalls, Bonnie Krauss, Sam Pierson, Jeanne Pietraallo, Stacey Pride, Cheryl Remsbecker, Sandy Santy, Doreen Smith, Cheryl Spino, and Susan Strouse.

The deacons of DCCCP are busy helping people and groups in the congregation and the larger community. Our deacons are currently involved in many activities, and we invite you to join us in our endeavors. Deacons continue to seek ways to grow as a community where God's love and kindness are available for all. A few ongoing activities are highlighted below.

**Warm Shelter Dinner:** DCCCP will begin serving the Warm Center Swiss Chicken dinners on September 6. This is the first time we have been given this opportunity since the Covid shutdown. Volunteers are needed and there is a signup list next to the Warm Center food signup list in Fellowship Hall. This will take place on the first Saturday of each month from approximately 3:00 - 6:00. This includes heating, setup and serving the food - there is no cleanup required of the volunteers.

The Warm Shelter address is 56 Spruce St in Westerly, RI. We are reaching out to the congregation to help support this ministry.

If you have any questions, please contact Doreen at (401) 429-8969. Thank you.

**Jonnycake:** We continue to greatly appreciate all the donations received! As we turn to fall we could use the following items:

- Pasta
- Soup
- Tuna
- Crackers

Thank you for your support!

**Coffee Fellowship:** Please help us provide simple refreshments for the congregation following the 10:00 am service. Fruit, or coffee cake, or cookies, or cheese and crackers, etc. are much appreciated. See Doreen Smith or Sandy Santy for more info. It's easy and a fun way to help out!

Continued on page 5

**Deacon's Corner** continued...

**Food and Fellowship Ministry:** As we all know, food and fellowship are important parts of DCCCP! Coffee hour, memorial collations, holiday dinners, and Diamond lunches are significant ways we can join together and share food and friendship inside and outside the congregation. We can help feed neighbors and involve the community in lifting our spirits and sharing our love.

We have a few deacons who are working together as a Food Safety group. We're hoping to make the kitchen more user-friendly for members who assist with collecting and serving food all year. As we start the new year in September, please check the bulletin board for information and notice updates and safety features in the kitchen. This will be an ongoing process as we put together a food safety manual that includes cleanliness practices, food allergies info, and other important topics for kitchen use.

**Speaker Series:** Learn about what you can do for Habitat for Humanity!



Join us on Sunday, September 21 at 11:30 am to meet Emily Passeroni, Volunteer Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity. South County Habitat for Humanity has been dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide. SCHH serves all towns in Washington County, Rhode Island.

## Save the Date!!



*Diamond Luncheon*

On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, the deacons will be hosting a Diamond Luncheon.

11:30a.m. worship  
12:00p.m. lunch

Look for more information in the bulletin and the October Scribe.



We are filled with gratitude and joy as we reflect on the incredible week we shared at our True North Vacation Bible School Camp! A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our amazing volunteers and the generous individuals and families who donated time, resources, and support. Your kindness and dedication made this camp a powerful and memorable experience for the children of our community.

Throughout the week, we were blessed to witness children laugh, learn, and grow—not only in friendship with each other but in their relationship with God. From engaging Bible lessons to creative crafts and meaningful conversations, each day was a step closer to understanding God's unwavering love and direction in our lives.

Thank you again for being part of this vibrant ministry. We couldn't have done it without you!

With gratitude and blessings,  
The Children's Ministry Team



We are excited to launch a new curriculum for Christian Education this fall. We will be using the Sparkhouse digital curriculum platform that has activities specially designed for children and youth of all ages. There are a variety of programs depending on the age group, and we are excited to be exploring them all.

The Sparkhouse curriculum will align with the lectionary being preached, while also allowing for flexibility. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school weekly during the 10:00 service beginning on September 7th. Children will begin in the sanctuary and leave after the children's message. We look forward to learning and growing with you and your children this year.

~ Christian Education team

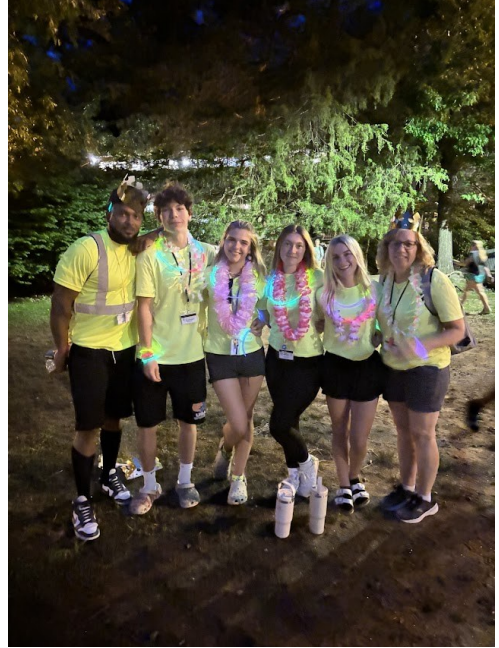




Highlights from  
Vacation Bible Camp



More pics from Montreat



The youth at Dunn's Corners church are an important part of the church. They are not just the future of the church; they are the church right now. We value their input and invest in programs for youth.

Teens in Grades 7-12 are invited to join Teen Time on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. They participate in worship services several times a year. The DCCCP Teen Team is a youth group focused on acceptance, inspiration, and fun—serving God, our community, and one another.

In addition to our weekly meetings, we also do fun extra activities such as trips to Block Island, lock-ins, movie nights, and more. We also attend annual youth conferences such as Masanetta for middle school-aged youth and Montreat for high school-aged youth.

All youth are invited to attend any of the youth programs, and we look forward to building relationships with our youth.

## Montreat Youth Conference 2025 - Light My Path

At the end of July, we were able to travel with four youth - Nathan, Katie, Carlie, and Catherine - to Montreat, North Carolina, to join 850 other youth for the Montreat Youth Conference. Each day we explored the theme for the week - Light My Path - with inspiring and thought-provoking morning keynote addresses, ongoing small group conversations, evening worship services, recreation time, and end-of-day back home reflections and discussions.



One of the messages that was delivered to the youth regularly was that they are not just the future of the church, but they are - right here and right now - the church. They are not asked to save some future church, but to be the church today.

We explored themes of darkness and light. Talking about how darkness and light, pain and belief, can co-exist. We explored the idea of darkness as a sign of discovery and an opportunity to connect and get closer to God. We looked deeper at where we are right now and ways to take an honest look at ourselves. We acknowledged that throughout life there will be challenges to face, boulders to navigate, and dark times we need to figure out. We are only able to face one challenge at a time, and while we need to navigate our own road, we also need to know that we have people here for us, supporting us, and travelling this road with us.

We would like to thank everyone at the church for their support of the youth. Whether you gave through emotional and spiritual support or financially during the car wash, the pancake breakfast, or donations made to the church, we are grateful to have such a loving and supportive church family that is there for all of us regardless of age and stage of life.

Our final night at Montreat was capped off with a beautiful candlelight service around Lake Susan, the lake at the center of the Montreat Conference Center. As we finished up our time at Montreat, the youth reflected on what they had learned and the time we shared. They prepared and led worship on August 10. If you were unable to attend, we encourage you to go online to watch it as you will see and hear from the youth themselves about what this experience meant to them.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Michael and Mary



## Stewardship

The Stewardship committee is excited to announce our stewardship season for the fall of 2025. The first Sunday will be Oct. 12, and we will wrap up on November 2.

For those of you who are new to Dunn's Corners, during this season you will receive written information about pledging, and there will be communication during worship about what stewardship means and why it is important for our future. On November 2, we will celebrate what has been and what will be, and we'll announce the total pledges received so far during a light luncheon.

The theme is: "Writing tomorrow's story with today's gifts."



## Membership and Evangelism

The newest edition of the church directory will be available on Rally Day, September 7. Many thanks to Rachel Pierson, Teresa Utt, Bruce Yarnall, and Jaye Simmons for helping with photography, formatting, and layout. This edition was published internally rather than hiring a company, in order to keep the costs at a minimum, and we're very grateful for their help! September is an exciting time for the church. We continue to bring forth innovative ideas to help build our faith community and serve the wider area with much needed outreach.

Remember also to stop by the board in Fellowship Hall. There are many opportunities to serve and enjoy each other's fellowship found there. The best way to try something new is to do so with a friend!

If you are a visitor or regular attender but not yet a member, it is our hope you feel welcome and already an important part of this community. If you would like to learn more about how you can be an official member, please contact Pastor Gin Courtney or Bruce Yarnall. We would love to hear from you and help transition you into full membership!

Thank you, DCCCP Membership Committee  
Bruce Yarnall  
[spedbo68@gmail.com](mailto:spedbo68@gmail.com)



## *Just a note of thanks*

**Dear Church Family,**

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for the outpouring of love and support following the unexpected passing of my mother in July. Your many cards of sympathy, heartfelt prayers, warm hugs, and kind words have brought comfort during a time of profound sorrow. In the midst of grief, your compassion has been a source of strength and peace. I have felt truly surrounded by the grace and care of this beautiful community, and I am so thankful to be part of a congregation that lives out Christ's love so generously. Thank you for walking with me through this difficult season. Your presence has meant more than words can express.

With love and appreciation,  
**Tina Chapman**

*give, receive, take part  
and connect were  
deeply meaningful  
to both of them.*

*Thank you and  
best wishes to all,*

*Allyson Haut  
and family*

Today, August 17th was our 45th wedding anniversary. We celebrated in Ogunquit, Maine at the Dragonfly Guest House. It is a beautiful beach community. The Baptist church there is historical and filled with friendly and faithful people. The pastor also has a sense of humor, like Gin! I credit our becoming members at Dunn's Corners as a rebirth of our joy of worship and meeting new Christian friends. We are so grateful to be a part of a wonderful and caring church family.

Love and blessings, Sue and Jack McLaughlin



# Women's Retreat

October 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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## **THEME: Did The Bible Really Say That?**

We will be taking a closer look at sayings that are attributed to the Bible that may or may not be biblically based. We will also look more closely at some of the more familiar biblical stories.

**LEADERS:** Mary Slattery and Marilyn Brandyberry will return with their inspired leadership for their 4<sup>th</sup> Dunn's Corners Women's Retreat. They are members of our church, and lead our Grief Share workshops and enneagram classes. Pastor Gin Courtney will lead the Saturday afternoon session.

**AND . . .** in addition to our study sessions, we will have time for games, jigsaw puzzles and s'mores around the campfire. Learn, play, share, and get to know one another better!

**WHERE** Beautiful Camp Wightman, 207 Coal Pit Hill Road., Griswold, Connecticut

**ARRIVAL** Check in 4:00 pm, Friday, Oct. 17th. Dinner served at 6pm.

**DEPARTURE** Check out 4:00 pm, Saturday, Oct. 18th

**COST** \$115 for two days and staying overnight; \$60 for two days but not staying overnight; \$45 for Saturday only. Includes all meals.

**REGISTRATION** Make checks payable to: DCCCP with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. **Final payment is due by September 28th.** Place your registration in the offering plate or send to the church office.

**\*Deposit of \$25.00 must accompany registration\***

**SCHOLARSHIPS** No woman left behind! Please call Cathy Kellers to discuss financial aid.

**WHAT TO BRING** Comfortable clothes, flashlight, top sheet, your favorite pillow with pillow case, an extra blanket (one is provided), pajamas, toiletries, bath soap, and towels (hand, bath, face – or all). Rain gear, if rain is predicted.

**CANCELLATIONS:** If a participant cancels her attendance by Sept. 28th, all monies will be refunded minus the non-refundable \$25.00 deposit.

***All women of the church plus friends and family are invited to join us!***



# Women's Retreat

October 17<sup>th</sup> - 18, 2025

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to sleep on: Upper Bunk \_\_\_\_ Lower Bunk \_\_\_\_ No Preference \_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies of any kind \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose: **\$115 for two days and staying overnight** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$60 for two days but no overnight** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$45 for Saturday only** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAID WITH THIS REGISTRATION: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (includes all meals)**

Make checks payable to: DCCCP with "Women's Retreat" in the memo line. Final payment is due by September 28th. Deposit of \$25.00 must accompany registration.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to speak to someone about a scholarship (confidential)

By signing below, I acknowledge that Camp Wightman is an alcohol-free facility.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

During July and August the mission committee continued various projects in place since the beginning of the year.



A major outreach is addressing **Homelessness**. All year we have been purchasing supplies like sleeping bags and tarps for those in need. We have also supplied quite a few gas and laundry cards to be distributed by Jonnycake. As of this writing we have \$2400 left to invest in homelessness for the remainder of the year. We decided to split this up as follows: \$800 each for more laundry and gas cards, further supplies like tarps and special supplies needed by the unhoused students in Westely. Session approved a collection box to be placed in Fellowship during August to allow the congregation to also donate items. Further, the committee will be working with Pastor Gin and the VBS leadership to feature donations of items under the banner of "Kids for Kids".

Your Mission Committee has also been working to provide significant **funding for the upcoming Mission Trip**. Between special collections and budget allocation the committee has earmarked \$4300 towards the estimated \$6000 budget. Members of the committee will also be participating in the upcoming Pasta Dinner fundraiser. Funds are being kept in reserve as it is anticipated there will be a **substantial need at the food pantries** in the coming months.

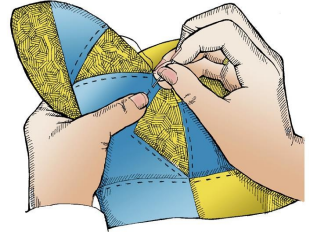
Thank you to the congregation for your many contributions to help the homeless students in Westerly and your support of the Pasta Supper!

Respectfully Submitted  
Bob Rieger & Rachel Pierson



## Sew Good Souls

We did it! We held our annual quilt show on Saturday, July 26 with great success. We were seeking donations for the NC Mission Trip and you gave great support.



*Sew Good Souls*

This was the first year we offered all visitors donation options; If you donated::

\$20.00 you could bring home 1 sundress OR 1 backpack

\$60.00 you could bring home 1 quilt off the racks

\$100.00 you could bring home 1 of Linda Chaffee's quilts

Through your generous donations and donations from our 44 external visitors we raised \$1,378.00 of which \$1,000.00 will go towards the NC Mission Trip and the balance to our sewing mission. Thank you for your generous support and we are looking forward to starting sewing again in January of 2026.

Lois, Jane, and Yvette

## ARE YOU FREE ON THE 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 1PM?

Then come join us for the Presbyterian Women (aka Calista Circle) meetings in Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are welcome.

What we have done in the past: created a basket for the Christmas bazaar, sent care packages to the graduates, read to Early Learning Center children, toured the Jonnycake Center, toured the Westerly Public Library, toured the Wilcox Park, ate at Ladies Night Out, oversaw the Bazaar Cookie Walk, held a Christmas Lunch, had speakers from WARM Center, and so much more.

# Holiday Bazaar & Raffle

Saturday, November 22nd, 2024  
9 am to 2 pm



The Planning for the Christmas bazaar has begun and we are excited to start planning. To make this successful, we need everyone's help. We need folks to help with each of the bazaar favorites including the Cookie Walk, Bake Sale, Pastors pies, Jewelry, Raffles, Crafts, and other ideas. Our next meeting will be September 8th at 6p.m. All are welcome!

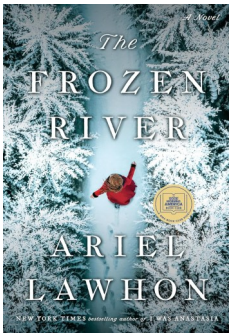
If you have any questions about the bazaar, please contact Christine Fonicello [dcelldirector@yahoo.com](mailto:dccelldirector@yahoo.com)

## Raffle



Once again the raffle will be a part of the Christmas bazaar. Much of the raffle's success is due to the amazing prizes that are donated, and we are grateful to all who donate prizes and those who request and collect donations. This year we are asking for donations to be turned into Mary Slattery by September 30 (we will not need the physical items by this date, but we will need a description for the list). This will allow us to start ticket pre-sales in October with a full list of the prizes. Please talk to Mary Slattery or Kathy Koziol if you have any questions.

## Presbyterian Women Book Club



Our in-person book club will meet at 7pm on Monday September 22nd in the Meeting House at church. We will discuss the book, *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

Email Sue Rieger at [talltreesue1@gmail.com](mailto:talltreesue1@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

*New members are always welcome.*

# GriefShare®

GriefShare is a 13week, Christ centered seminar and support group where you can find help and healing for the loss of a loved one. We will meet weekly in the Meeting House on Sundays from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM starting on September 10, 2023

If you are interested in signing up or have questions, please contact Marilyn Brandyberry at [mebrandyberry@gmail.com](mailto:mebrandyberry@gmail.com) or (401) 662-3926.

## CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Dunn's Corners Community Church is looking to have a showing of artwork at the Hoxie Gallery in the Westerly Library.

This can include: paintings, sculptures, pottery, handmade cards, quilts, handmade dresses. The list can go on.

The goal is to show those that visit the gallery the handy work of our church. We know there are a lot of you so please think about displaying. Please contact Cathy Kellers ([cmek313@earthlink.net](mailto:cmek313@earthlink.net)) if you would like to display.



[We need to send pictures with the application to the library.](#)

This is a time sensitive request so please respond quickly or we will miss out on a spot for 2026.

## ART SHOW

Dunn's Corners Community Church,  
Presbyterian  
221 Post Road  
Westerly, Rhode Island 02891

**Non-Profit Organization**  
US Postage Paid Westerly, RI 02891  
**Permit No. 145**

**Return Service Requested**






*The Scribe*  
September 2025

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*Diamonds Among Us!*

**We extend our birthday wishes to:**

-  Vic Rickman on September 11th
-  Judy Vredenburg on September 20th
-  Jesse Johnson on September 27th



Diamonds (70 and beyond), please contact the Church Office at (401) 322-0655 or sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and add your name to our list.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
		8:30 am Work Team  4 pm Worship Committee(Z) 5 pm Christian Ed Committee 5:30-7pm Griefshare (M) 5-7 pm Teen Time 6 pm Buildings & Grounds (M)		7-8:30pm Chancel Choir		8 am-2 pm Deacons Collect Meals for the WARM Center (FH)
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Communion Sunday</b>  9am Worship 10am <b>Rally Day Celebration</b>  	6pm Trustees (M)	8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time 5:30-7pm Griefshare (M) 6pm Mission (Z)	1:30-3:30 Westerly Village (FH)  6-8 pm Cub Scouts 6 pm Mission trip meeting	5:45-7 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir		
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour	1 pm Presbyterian Women (FH)	8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time 5:30-7pm Griefshare (M) 7 pm Session (FH)	1:30-3:30 Westerly Village (FH)  6-8 pm Cub Scouts	5:45-7 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir		
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
8 am Worship 9 am Fellowship Hour 10 am Worship & Sunday School 11 am Fellowship Hour 11:30pm Deacon Speaker Series (S)	7 pm Presbyterian Women Book Club (Z)	8:30 am Work Team  5-7 pm Teen Time 5:30-7pm Griefshare (M) 7 pm Deacons (M)	1:30-3:30 Westerly Village (FH)  6-8 pm Cub Scouts	5:45-7 pm Glory Ringers 7-8:30pm Chancel Choir		<b>Mission Trip — returning October 4th</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			
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