

**THE VISITOR**  
**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Reverend Dr. Jennifer Bannerman

Pastor's E-Mail: [revjenban@yahoo.com](mailto:revjenban@yahoo.com)



**JANUARY-2016**

Dear Friends,

*Beginning the Journey out of Egypt and into the Wilderness*

From the earliest cave drawings, to the latest explosion of blogging on the internet, an essential part of being human is telling stories. Stories help us understand who we are, where we come from, what we can dream of becoming, and how we fit into the world. The Bible is filled with stories that help us find and define our relationship with God, with each other, and with the world. These stories speak to us as individuals, and as communities. They speak to us regardless of where we are in our journey through life and our journey of faith. These stories help us to understand where we have come from, where we are now, and where we need to go as we journey forward with God. One such example is the Exodus story found in the books of Exodus through Deuteronomy.

Like the Children of Israel, we are stuck in a culture that no longer supports or nurtures our faith. We want God to intervene and change things back to the way they once were so that we can be comfortable remaining in Egypt. Instead God calls us out of Egypt, and into the Wilderness where we can be re-shaped and transformed by God, and where we can learn again what it means to be in Covenant with God and with one another as God's People.

Like Israel, we aren't quite ready for the journey that might ensue. We fear letting go of the old and familiar. We fear the Wilderness that will bring us into a strange new world with none of the old comforts of home. Yet we long for the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey. We long for a new way of living in the world. We long to be relevant again, and have church and faith and God matter. The only way we can reach this new Promised Land is to journey through the Wilderness.

We will begin our journey out of Egypt this January. During the Sundays of Lent, we will explore what awaits us in the Wilderness with God. We will be taking this journey during our worship time. I invite you to take a risk and be open to the experience as we try some new things to experience God in new ways in our lives. It may be a bit scary, and that's OK. It will definitely be an adventure. And, if we allow it, it will be the beginning of a new chapter in the story of God's People here at Zion United Church of Christ.

*Blessings on our journey together,*

*Pastor Jennifer*





### **“Notes” from the Director of Music**

**Dear Zion:**

It's so hard for me to believe that the big lead up to Christmas is now over and we are on to a new year. As always, it has been a wonderful holiday season working with a choir that I consider to be my “family”. You would think we would get tired of each other after getting together each and every Wednesday evening throughout the year but I think I speak for all of us that this doesn't typically happen. We've been blessed to have our regular singers with us as well as picking up a few new singers along the way. We average 15-20 on our choir each Sunday which is amazing in a time where churches in our county have either very small choirs or none at all. For this, I thank the dedicated members of Zion's Chancel Choir and Bell Choir.

It has also been a very fun time working with our youth preparing for the Christmas Eve service. Please be sure, this year, to spread the word of the opportunity that exists for our youth in the music program! We certainly can use more singers. Children are welcomed to bring their friends to choir rehearsal on a Monday to see what it's like!

By the time you are reading this edition of the Visitor, Zion Opera Workshop will have had their auditions for our 2016 production which will be a brand new show for our stage, “Thoroughly Modern Mille” I am very excited to be directing this show! Dates for the show will be March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and tickets will be going on sale in early January! We will once again be doing a matinee on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> for those of you who don't like to drive at night! We hope to see you at one (or more) of our shows! It's an exciting and VERY funny show with lots of great sets, costumes and wonderful dance numbers

I wish you many blessings for a prosperous new year and pray that 2016 is a year of growth, a year of love, a year of compassion and a year of exciting new gifts from God at Zion UCC.

Musically yours,

*Brad*



# THE VISITOR-JANUARY-2016

## Annual Congregational Meeting



The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 in the Dining Room immediately following the 10:15 Worship Service. Committee reports will be reviewed. Please prepare your favorite recipe and bring it to share with your Family of Faith at a pot luck luncheon to be held before the meeting. REMEMBER-Please, no food items containing Sauerkraut.

## Our Newly Elected Officers

At our Congregational Meeting held on December 13th, the following Church Officers were elected to serve Zion:

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Susan Rhoads-Procina | Consistory Elder    |
| Timothy Fritz        | Consistory Deacon   |
| Judy Greig           | Consistory Deacon   |
| Robert Schaeffer Jr. | Consistory Deacon   |
| Alyssa Schoch        | Consistory Deacon   |
| Timothy Fritz        | Moderator           |
| Gail Klemka          | Treasurer           |
| Julie Harris         | Auditor-3 Year Term |

Thank you to our outgoing officers, Jeff Roth-Deacon, Beverly Moser-Treasurer and Nancy Koch-Auditor for their service to Zion.

## Family Promise Host Week



Zion will be hosting the families and their children who are currently guests of Family Promise of Carbon County beginning January 31<sup>st</sup> and continuing through the first week of February. There are many ways for you to become involved with this rewarding ministry during the week that the families are with us. Why not prepare a meal, spend fellowship time and/or spend the night sleeping over? If you are able to help in any way, please contact Nancy Koch, Zion's Volunteer Coordinator for this ministry, at 610-377-5877. Make a difference in your life by making a resolution to make a difference in the lives of others!

## Mission Moments

### Food Pantry Request

Zion's Food Pantry is in need of any type of breakfast cereals, canned fruit and canned soups. Please place your donations in the receptacle in the Narthex. Thank you.

### Zion's "Let No One Be Hungry" Ministry

Zion's food programs continue to meet the nutritional needs of folks in our area through our *Feed A Neighbor Pantry*, our monthly Community Meal and our Mid-Week Lunch Program. Our next food distribution and community meal will be held on January 28th.

### Blankets-+Appeal-2016

Give Hope-Take Action!! The Mission Outreach Committee is pleased to sponsor the Blankets + Appeal on Sunday February 14, 2016. Please read the Blankets + Appeal flyer in this newsletter for more details on the ministries that are provided through this program. Please mail or deliver your donation for this appeal to the Church Office in an envelope marked "Blankets + Appeal."

### Dylan & Gavin Krum Faith Exploration Center



Join us for the 10:15 A.M. Worship Service in Smith Auditorium on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> when we will dedicate the newly renovated classrooms on the second floor of Derr Hall as the Dylan and Gavin Krum Faith Exploration Center. The renovation of the former Chapel and adjoining rooms included the creation of five new classrooms, new restrooms, a storage area and a fire resistant stairwell exit through the back of the building. The work was made possible through donations made to the Faith Lift Project, with substantial sums made as memorials for Dylan and Gavin Krum. The center will allow students to learn about Jesus, explore their faith and will keep the memory of two dear teenage children alive for generations to come.

*Have a healthy and spiritually enriching New Year!*



# THE VISITOR-JANUARY-2016

## **Trees For Troops**

In the span of a few weeks members of Zion donated a total of \$ 529.65 to the *Trees for Troops* ministry. Your overwhelming support of this ministry provided military families with live, fresh trees this past Christmas.

## **Take a Chance!!**

Zion's Property Committee is spearheading a Lottery Calendar as a fundraiser for the church during the month of February, 2016. Your daily number needs to be a straight match of the one drawn at the Pa. Lottery's nighttime drawing in order to win. Prize amounts vary from night to night. AND, if the same number is a straight match on both February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 29<sup>th</sup>, you will receive a \$ 10,000.00 bonus!! Calendars are only \$ 10.00 each and can be purchased from the Church Office or any member of the Property Committee: John Lopata, Ken Miller, Ted Smith, Barry Fisher and Dave Koch. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit Zion's General Operating Budget.

## **Jacob's Ladder**



The Consistory has approved the placement of 3 sections of scaffolding on Jacob's Ladder at a total cost of \$ 930.00. The scaffolding will enable the Property Committee to make repairs to elevated, hard to reach sections throughout the Church by themselves. Donors should place their contribution in an envelope marked Jacob's Ladder and place it in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the Church Office. To date we have received \$ 130.00 towards the scaffolding.

## **Touch Someone's Soul**

Zion is seeking folks who are willing to serve on our Lay Visitation Committee. As a member of this ministry, you would provide fellowship and serve communion to our members who are no longer able to attend services at Zion. Brighten someone's life by becoming a member of this team. Contact LaRae Hlavaty at 570-386-2108 to volunteer.

## **CROP Walk-2015**

CROP Walk-2015 hosted by LIFE (Lehighon Interfaith Council) on October 11<sup>th</sup>, raised a total of \$ 2,939.10. There were eleven churches participating with a total of 124 participants. 75% of the monies raised are turned over to Church World Services for their relief and development ministry while 25% is used to support the Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry in Lehighon.

## **No Sauerkraut Please**

Please note that sauerkraut is not permitted anywhere in the church. We have discovered that some folks can have a life threatening allergic reaction to the fumes that it produces. Thank you for adhering to this ban.

## **Miller-Keystone Blood Drive**

Zion will host a Miller-Keystone Blood Drive on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 A.M.-12:00 Noon in our Dining Room. Either contact Judy Greig at 610-577-5040 or visit the Miller-Keystone web-site at [www.GIVEaPINT.org](http://www.GIVEaPINT.org) to schedule an appointment to donate the *Gift of Life*.

## **El Niño & Our Micro-Fiber Cleaning Cloths**

Because of this unusually warm weather, you may want to keep your windows nice and clean this season so you can see your green grass and budding trees during the winter months! Why not purchase one or more of our wonderful Streak-Less Micro-Fiber Cleaning Cloths to keep your windows and other stuff in your house sparkling clean!! They cost a mere \$ 5.00 per cloth and are available in the Church Office (M-F) from 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. All proceeds from the sale of these little gems benefit Zion's General Operating Budget.



*Join the other 158 folks who like  
Zion on FaceBook*

*Have a healthy and spiritually enriching New Year!*





## *News from the Board of Christian Education*

**Happy New Year!**

Sunday School has been off to a wonderful start this year. We are so excited to see all the new and old faces who are joining us every week. It is not too late to still bring your child to Sunday School as we are always welcoming new faces.

During our December 20<sup>th</sup> church service, the Sunday School classes led the entire worship service and held a Birthday Party for Jesus. The service was definitely one to remember as some of our confirmation students shared the Birth Story, some of our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students shared the story "The Three Trees," our preschool and kindergarten class sang a version of Jingle Bells and all of our Sunday School Students shared their gifts to Jesus. After our service, we celebrated Jesus' birthday party in the Dining Room with a delicious covered dish luncheon and White Elephant gift exchange. Thank you to everyone that participated.

If you are still interested in having your child attend Sunday School, please bring them any Sunday morning at 9:00 am and they are still able to register and join us.

May we continue to serve in God's ways,

Jen Lopata and Tonia Schaeffer  
Co- Chairpersons, Board of Christian Education

### **From the Church Records**

#### **Marriage**

William Eichorn and Monica Hosier were united in Holy Matrimony during a Christmas Eve ceremony conducted by Pastor Bannerman. The Family of Faith of Zion United Church of Christ wishes Bill and Monica the very best.



#### **Memorial Gifts**

The following gifts have been placed in the Memorial Fund at Zion Church. Donations to this fund are used at the discretion of the Consistory unless designated by the donor.

#### **In Memory Of**

Berdell and Althea Beers  
Berdell Beers

Robert Bisbing  
Shirley Wentz

#### **Donor**

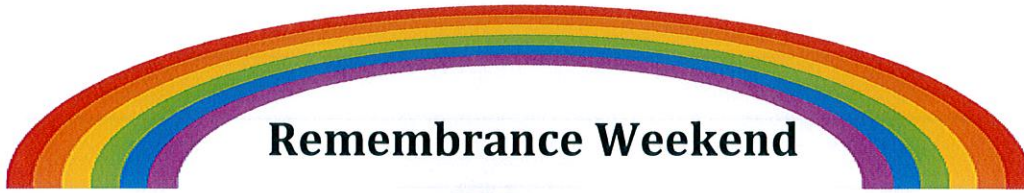
Sharon Garrett  
Phyllis Feller  
Paul & Sue Jimenez  
Kenneth J. Leffler

Glenn Gollobin  
James Wentz

#### **Designated Ministry**

Music Fund-Cantata  
Music Fund  
Non-Designated  
Dylan & Gavin's Rainbow  
Non-Designated  
Christmas Fund

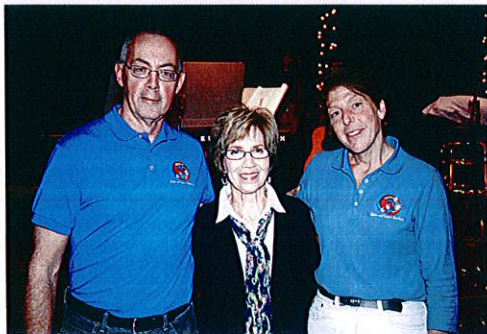




What a weekend!! It started on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> with 254 folks running and walking in remembrance of children who have left us at far too young an age. The day continued with lots of great food, a HUGE basket raffle and lots of grief resource materials in the Dining Room. As part of the Heart and Soul of the entire weekend, afternoon sessions in Smith Auditorium afforded an atmosphere where participants could share, listen and encourage each other as they continue on their life journeys saddened over loss.

Sara Ruble, guest speaker and the Trinity Lutheran Praise Band, provided everyone present with much hope, enriching words and beautiful, soul touching music.

Sunday night was a special time for grandparents, parents, brothers, sister and other family members and friends with hurting hearts to gather together in the warmth and beauty of our candle lighted Sanctuary in loving memory of children. These pictures say it all!!

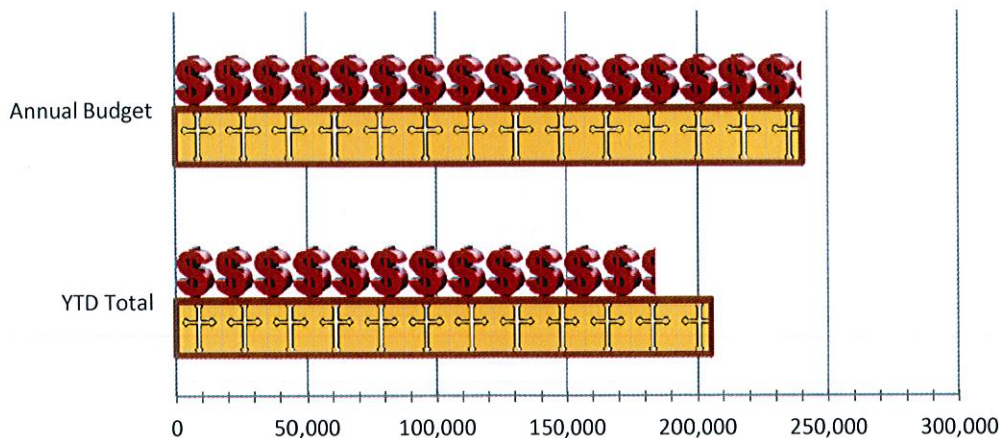






## Zion Operating Revenue & Expense Summary Actual to Budget

January - October, Current Month=November, and YTD for 2015

|   | January -<br>October | 10 Mths<br>Percent<br>of Annual | November<br>Actual | Month Percent<br>of Annual<br>Budget | YTD Total  | Annual Budget | YTD Percent<br>of Budget |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|   |                      | 83.33%                          |                    | 8.33%                                |            |               | 91.67%                   |
| Total<br>Operating Revenue                | 171,046.17           | 71.19%                          | 34,135.10          | 14.21%                               | 205,181.27 | 240,251.00    | 85.40%                   |
| Outreach Ministries                       | 6,100.00             | 84.72%                          | 650.00             | 9.03%                                | 6,750.00   | 7,200.00      | 93.75%                   |
| Music Ministries                          | 17,915.91            | 71.58%                          | 1,499.00           | 5.99%                                | 19,414.91  | 25,030.00     | 77.57%                   |
| Congregational Life<br>Ministries         | 6,030.55             | 65.73%                          | 59.95              | 0.65%                                | 6,090.50   | 9,175.00      | 66.38%                   |
| Property & Maintenance                    | 66,151.21            | 88.20%                          | 1,480.30           | 1.97%                                | 67,631.51  | 74,998.00     | 90.18%                   |
| Office Costs<br>& Support                 | 30,213.73            | 72.62%                          | 2,414.71           | 5.80%                                | 32,628.44  | 41,603.00     | 78.43%                   |
| Clergy Salary<br>& Benefits               | 52,949.48            | 75.71%                          | -13,079.29         | -18.70%                              | 39,870.19  | 69,940.00     | 57.01%                   |
| Insurance & Benefits                      | 6,616.27             | 101.79%                         | 405.86             | 6.24%                                | 7,022.13   | 6,500.00      | 108.03%                  |
| Payroll Expenses                          | 4,468.89             | 76.98%                          | 312.37             | 5.38%                                | 4,781.26   | 5,805.00      | 82.36%                   |
| Total<br>Operating Expenses               | 190,446.04           | 79.27%                          | -6,257.10          | -2.60%                               | 184,188.94 | 240,251.00    | 76.67%                   |
| Net (Deficit) of Revenue<br>over Expenses | -19,399.87           |                                 | 40,392.20          |                                      | 20,992.33  | 0.00          |                          |



|  | YTD Total  | Annual Budget |
|--|------------|---------------|
|  Expenses | 184,188.94 | 240,251.00    |
|  Revenue  | 205,181.27 | 240,251.00    |



## **CWS Blankets**

**Comfort in times of crisis.**

Help people around the world recover from disasters and get a fresh start.

Someone like Karen, a senior citizen in Michigan whose home was flooded in 2014. Or Nerline, a mother of four in Haiti, who lived in a tent for several years after the 2010 earthquake destroyed her house.

When you partner with us, through the CWS Blankets program, you are helping our neighbors in need recover from disaster, giving them hope and the tools they need for lasting change.

You are providing necessities and cleanup supplies to Karen and others impacted by stateside disasters, working with the community to rebuild their lives. You are coming alongside Nerline and others in Haiti, to construct a new home and accompany them on the long road to recovery.

You also make it possible to be prepared for whatever may come in the future so we are ready to act. Join us.



To learn more, visit [cwsblankets.org](http://cwsblankets.org).

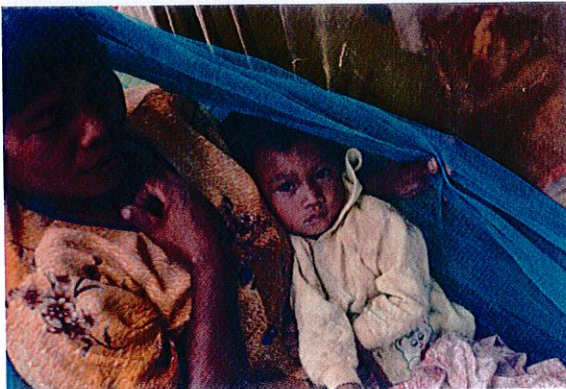
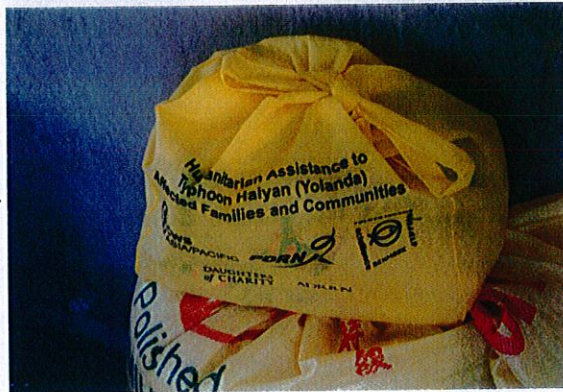


## Providing blankets and more.



**\$50** can provide five warm blankets for a family left homeless by a tornado or other disaster.

**\$110** can provide an emergency food package for a family of five for one month.



**\$200** can provide 20 mosquito nets to help keep families safe from the bite of mosquitos and the illnesses they bring.

**[cwsblankets.org](http://cwsblankets.org)**

P.O. Box 968 · Elkhart, IN 46515 · 800-297-1516

Photos top to bottom: Kentucky, CWS; Philippines, CWS; Cambodia, Annie Griffiths/Ripple Effect Images

♻️ Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

BP 1539a



# ZION CHURCH CALENDAR-JANUARY-2016

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY              |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|-----------------------|
|  |  |  |  |   | 1   | 2                     |
|  |  |  |  |   | OFFICE CLOSED<br>NO ACTIVITIES<br>HAPPY NEW YEAR! | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:00 |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9                     |
| WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15 A.M.<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M.<br>WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15 A.M.<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:30  |  | QUILTING-N-9:00<br>TOPS-N-4:00<br>DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG<br>D&G FEC-6:00<br>DRUM CIRCLE-GYM-7:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00           | MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30<br>DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30<br>SR. BELL CHOIR-DR-6:30<br>CHANCEL CHOIR-DR-7:30                                    | WORSHIP COMMITTEE MTG.<br>BCR-7:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00                   |   | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:00 |
| 10   | 11   | 12   | 13   | 14  | 15  | 16                    |
| WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M.<br>WORSHIP-SMITH AUDITORIUM-10:15<br>DEDICATION SERVICE<br>DYLAN & GAVIN KRUM<br>FAITH EXPLORATION CENTER<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:30 | JR. BELL CHOIR-DR-2:30<br>JR. CHOIR-DR-3:30                                    | QUILTING-N-9:00<br>TOPS-N-4:00<br>DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG<br>D&G FEC-6:00<br>FAMILY PROMISE MEETING-DR-6:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00 | MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30<br>DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30<br>SR. BELL CHOIR-DR-6:30<br>CHANCEL CHOIR-DR-7:30<br>PROPERTY COMMITTEE MTG-BCR-7:00 | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00   |   | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:00 |
| 17   | 18   | 19   | 20   | 21  | 22  | 23                    |
| WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M.<br>WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15<br>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG.<br>DINING ROOM -AFTER 10:15 SERVICE<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:30              | JR. BELL CHOIR-DR-2:30<br>JR. CHOIR-DR-3:30<br>SCOUT SERVICE UNIT MTG-BCR-7:00 | QUILTING-N-9:00<br>TOPS-N-4:00<br>DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG<br>D&G FEC-6:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00                                   | MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30<br>DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30<br>SR. BELL CHOIR-DR-6:30<br>CHANCEL CHOIR-DR-7:30                                    | DRUM CIRCLE-GYM-7:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00                                 |   | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:00 |
| 24   | 25   | 26   | 27   | 28  | 29  | 30                    |
| WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M.<br>WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:30  | JR. BELL CHOIR-DR-2:30<br>JR. CHOIR-DR-3:30                                    | QUILTING-N-9:00<br>TOPS-N-4:00<br>DAISY/BROWNIE TROOP MTG<br>D&G FEC-6:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00<br>CONSISTORY MEETING-BCR-7:00    | MID-WEEK LUNCH-DR-11:00-12:30<br>DAISY TROOP MTG-N-6:00-7:30<br>SR. BELL CHOIR-DR-6:30<br>CHANCEL CHOIR-DR-7:30                                    | COMMUNITY MEAL-DR-5:30-7:00<br>FOOD PANTRY-6:00-7:00<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-7:00 |   | ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:00 |
| 31   |  |  |  |   |   |                       |
| WORSHIP EXPRESS-8:15<br>SUNDAY SCHOOL-9:00 A.M.<br>WORSHIP-SANCTUARY-10:15<br>ZOW REHEARSAL-SA-1:30<br><i>Family Promise Guests</i>  |  |  |  |   |   |                       |

|  |
|--|
| LEGEND   |
| BCR=BROOKS-COPE CLASSROOM                              |
| CR=CONFERENCE ROOM                                     |
| DR=DINING ROOM/FELLOWSHIP HALL                         |
| D & GK FEC=DYLAN & GAVIN KRUM FAITH EXPLORATION CENTER |
| N=NURSERY  |
| SA=SMITH AUDITORIUM                                    |