

FRIENDLY NEWSCASTER

April 2024 (V14-4)

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Dave**
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We are gathered together as a family of faith to share God's love by: Inviting and welcoming all people of God's creation. Worshiping and praising God. Teaching and preaching the Good News. Caring for the needs of one another, the community, and the world.

April 2024 Newscaster

Wasting Nothing

Last month, I was blessed to enjoy a week of vacation skiing with my children, father, and sister's family. At the beginning of the week, as has been our habit for decades, we sorted the recyclables from the rest of our trash. But then we discovered that there is no recycling in the area where we were staying. Nothing could be easily recycled.

In this Easter season, we celebrate the power of God's love that raised Jesus from death to life and can and does lift us from death to the fullness of life in God's loving presence. Nothing can get in the way of God's love, not even feeling that we are trash or others telling us we are disposable. As the saying goes, "God does not make junk!"

Our loving God who raises us to life is also our God who creates and sustains life on this beautiful earth. In God's ecology, in God's economy, nothing is wasted. Did you know that the Greek word *oikos* from which we get the words economy and ecology, means "household"? In God's household nothing is wasted. Everything is reused. What dies becomes a source of life for others. The grassy meadows and restful waters might give way to dark valleys, but those become tables set before us.

In this Easter season that is also Earth Month, we take notice of all that we throw out, all that we regard as trash. Did you know that the average American throws out three times as much trash today than in 1960? Much of the increased volume of trash is plastic. Creation Justice Ministries of the National Council of Churches notes:

"Everywhere we look in our culture you will find plastic. It surrounds our food, it makes up our technology, and is a standard element in our household items. Unfortunately, it is also overflowing from our landfills, floating in our waters, and polluting our soil. More and more, you can even find it in our own bodies and those of other living creatures. There have even been traces of plastic found in breast milk. Despite the fact that we have learned the harms of plastics, we are steadily increasing our production of the material and integrating it into more and more items. Plastic is everywhere!"

This Easter season and Earth Month we'll be talking about and working together to reduce our use of (single-use) plastics, recycle plastic and other materials, and advocate for less waste in God's household, so one day we might say with the psalmist:

The Lord is my shepherd.
I lack nothing because God wastes nothing
God lets me rest in grassy meadows free of litter;
God leads me to restful, clean, and unsullied waters;
God keeps me, a creature connected with countless of God's creatures, alive.
God guides me in life-giving paths
for the sake of his good name.

Peace, *Pastor Dave*

Worship Helpers, April 2024

Date	Acolyte	Streaming; Sound	PowerPoint Projection	Read Scripture	Greeter	Head Usher	Communion Preparation
Apr. 7	Josh B.	Chip H.	Holden G.	Joy G.	Darlene H.	Terry G.	na
Apr. 14	Holden G.	Chip H.	Luke M.	Darlene H.	Pat J.	Terry G.	na
Apr. 21	Grant H.	Chip H.	Kayla T.	Merideth H.	TBD	Terry G.	na
Apr. 28	Luke M.	Chip H.	Josh B.	Tom H.	TBD	Terry G.	na

Events & Announcements

Food Pantry Shopping Cart requested for this month: Peanut Butter and Marshmallow Fluff

Hygiene Kit Supplies Needed: We will be collecting items for the Spring Grove School hygiene kits during the month of April. We need 35 toothbrushes and 35 tubes of toothpaste- 6-8 oz. size, 45 packs of tissues, 30 bottles of shampoo, and 15 unisex deodorants. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions see Maryann.

Consistory Highlights: Volunteers are still needed to assist with the planning and coordination of the 40th Anniversary Celebration on *Sat, 6/15 and Sunday, 6/16*. We would also like to hold a "Spring Cleanup" both within and around the church grounds. Some suggestions are windows, curtains, weeding and cleaning up flower beds, etc. An Inactive Member list was reviewed. Various means for contacting these members were discussed.

Faith Discussions: The Difficult Words of Jesus

During our Faith Discussion times on *Sundays at 9:00 am from April 7 to May 12* we will examine the most perplexing teachings of Jesus with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine in this video Bible study experience.

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how have they been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Sonshine Singers: Our Sonshine Singers gatherings for young children will meet on *Thursdays at 6:30 pm*. Are there children in your circle of care who enjoy singing, stories, movement, and art? Contact Joy Gobrecht for more information.

40th Anniversary of the Dedication of our church: Please plan on being part of a weekend (*June 15-16*) when we will gather to celebrate the 40th anniversary of moving into our church and the dedication of this special place. Part of the plan is a *Saturday* "community block party" with various musical groups, food trucks, games, crafts, and other activities from about *11am until 4pm*. Our *Sunday June 16 10:15am* worship will focus on that June 10th, 1984, dedication Sunday. A meal, pictures, memorabilia, and sharing will follow the worship time. There will be more information as we get closer to June.

We might view this weekend as a sort of "homecoming" and hope you will invite family, neighbors and friends. See Chip if you would like to offer your ideas, time, and talents for this special event.

Mowing Schedule: We have been blessed to have several volunteer crews to do the lawn mowing and trimming. The official schedule begins the first week of May and ends in early October. If you would like to help, either on one of the six crews or during these weeks prior to May, please contact Chip.

Monthly Birthday Fellowship!

Throughout this year, our Fellowship & Outreach Committee will be organizing monthly birthday celebrations and fellowship on the first Sunday of each month.

On *Sunday, April 7*, our fellowship will start during our gathering time, around 10:00 am, and continue after worship with birthday well wishes and more fellowship. Thanks to our Stewardship Committee (Maryann Brenneman, Darlene Hoover, Pat Joseph, Sally Kern, and Barb Senft) for turning this month's birthday celebration into nutritious and/or sugary calories and fun.

Our April birthdays include the following: Scott Young (1), Christina Loesch (6), Robert Dubbs Jr. (7), Blaine Smith (11), Zoe Stover (16), Karen Brooks (16), Johnny Wilhide (17), Janice Hoke, Matt Gobrecht, Darren Gobrecht (20), Larry Bare (22), Larry Thoman Jr., Nathan Bollinger (24), Ollie Barr (25), and Rachel Miller, Wesley Pritt (26).

Thank you to

Maryann Brenneman, John Brenneman, Bill and Jane Bankert, Joy Gobrecht, Chip Hoover, for help with the reception in memory and celebration of Stuart Fishelman's life.

Maryann Brenneman for organizing our spring soup making and sale, and for all who helped to make the many, many gallons of soup we sold.

Mark Sterrett for organizing a time of fellowship and bowling.

All those who prepared salads or desserts for our community Maundy Thursday supper at St. Peter's Lischey's: Jane Bankert, Maryann Brenneman, Joy Gobrecht, Darlene Hoover, Pat Joseph, Bonnie Martin, and Jen Miller.

Joy Gobrecht and our Youth Group for helping to prepare for our community Easter Egg Hunt with St. Paul's Lutheran.



Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' (Genesis 1:26)

We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. We show our respect for God by our stewardship of creation. Caring for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith.

In recognition of Earth Day April 22, 2024, St. Paul's Stewardship & Mission Team is asking each of us to take time to consider where, how, and why we recycle, both as individuals and as a church. Throughout the month of April, a temporary recycling station will be available in classroom #7 (next to the pastor's office). There will be handouts on recycling opportunities in our community, as well as collection bins/boxes for your use.

You are encouraged to bring recyclables which are currently not collected by the refuse services in our area, such as: magazines, paper (office, junk mail, phone books, etc.), books (paperback or hard cover), paperboard (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, etc.), batteries (rechargeable, lithium ion, coin/button style, mercuric oxide), small electronics (cellphones, tablets, coffee makers, BP monitors, etc.), plastics (#1-7, styrofoam, plastic bags)

- Please note, all items should be clean, free of food particles or grease.
- We would appreciate your flattening all cardboard and paperboard boxes.
- Alkaline batteries cannot be accepted. The York County Solid Waste Authority has advised us that single-use batteries such as AAA, AA, 9V, C, or D cell do not contain mercury (since 1996) so when they are done, you can throw them in the trash.

Please contact Barbara Senft if you have questions or need assistance. bjsenft@aol.com

1 Corinthians 14:40 “But all things should be done decently and in order.”

Sometime ago I asked longtime friend Austin Chinault to write a short article in my place. Thank you Austin for sharing some memories of those days with us. *Chip*

Memories of moving into the new church facility:

I have been asked to reflect on moving into the new church facility and first worship service in the new sanctuary of St. Paul UCC, Stoverstown. After 40 years the date sticks in my mind, April 15, 1984! It was Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week and all the mystery that Christ’s death and resurrection implies—the heart and soul of our faith. It all seemed so fitting to find our new beginning here after all the work, exhaustion, obstacles, joys and exhilaration we had experienced during the last number of years. There were countless meetings, planning, encouraging, voting and praying to dissolve the Union Church and create a vision to build a new facility in the way that Christ was leading. On the whole it was a very positive experience to which many people were devoted. There was a deep sense of completion in preparing that first worship service in the new building. I remember thinking that if my time had come I would be happy to lay down and die! Such was my sense of fulfillment in all that God had done for us, and with us, during the last number of years. We had come a long way in a short period of time and we gave God all the glory and credit because we walked by faith, realizing none of this could have been accomplished on our own.



We were blessed by our Conference leadership, by cooperation from the Lutheran Synod and our sister Lutheran congregation whom we loved. We received tremendous commitment from the lay leadership of our congregation, family members and many local businesses that worked with us to make the construction process easier. Perhaps 75% of the construction was accomplished by members of the congregation—some with very little experience, including shingling the new roof! Looking back it seems like a miracle!

I think we began that first service by gathering outside with everyone receiving a palm branch. We processed into the sanctuary waving our palms and singing “Hosanna” just like in the Bible. I don’t remember any details of the service except such a feeling of happiness and joy that everyone had to be there. I don’t remember the attendance, but some of those first services through the dedication on June 10, 1984, were very well attended reaching perhaps 200 people. We had a large youth group and a complete Sunday School and committee structure under the leadership of our new Parish Assistant, Phyllis Baum. It was a very rich time to be serving in Stoverstown. Perhaps worth remembering how far we had come in a five-year period as the whole church today, in all denominations, deals with the challenges of the ebb and flow of faith throughout history.

As the Bible says we are always dying and rising in Christ as we journey through this earthly life to the eternal kingdom.

God is always good and God is always faithful,

Rev. Austin Chinault, II



Dear Friends,

April is often a month of contrasts. We can experience both winter and summer weather. We've just experienced the victory of Easter. April is also observed as Cancer Control Month. Cancer continues to be the second leading cause of death in our country.

You may wonder what you can do to reduce your risk of cancer. The following suggestions are taken from The American Cancer Society's brochure "Taking control".

Activities to protect you from cancer:

- Eat more cabbage family vegetables.
- Add more high-fiber foods to your diet.
- Choose foods with Vitamin A.
- Choose foods with vitamin C.
- Control your weight.



Activities to reduce your cancer risk:

- Trim fat from your diet.
- Avoid salt-cured, smoked and nitrate-cured foods.
- Stop smoking.
- If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation.
- Respect the sun's rays.



There are several things we can do to reduce our cancer risk. We can reduce our risk for cancer of the breast, colon, prostate, esophagus and stomach by eating a diet that avoids fatty and cured meats. Smoking remains the biggest cancer risk factor. Smokers who quit will reduce their cancer risk. Heavy alcohol use has been associated with cancer of the liver. Too much time in the sun especially between 11am and 3pm causes skin cancer. You can protect yourself from the sun by using sunscreen with a factor of at least 30.

Have a good month and enjoy all the spring flowers, birds and even the April showers.

Peace, *Maryann*



Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Readings for April		
Date	Themes	Scriptures
April 7	Marks of Faith	Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31
April 14	Christ Among Us	Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
April 21	Enfolded by Love	Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
April 28	Abiding in Love	Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8Sc



Please pray with us!

Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.
Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.
—Psalm 25:17-18

Holy One, we pray for:

Those shut in their homes/assisted living:

Liz Chubb, Norma Foye, Claire and Mary Ellen Fritz, Randy Senft, Sarah Senft

Those who need healing:

Rylan Borys, Ken Church, Nevin Gentzler, Robin Gentzler, Fay Herman, Linda Herman, Sue Howes, David Klinedinst, Terry Miller, Larry Thoman

All those longing for peace in the world, refugees escaping terror, people suffering from disasters and all soldiers serving their country in the military, especially:

Chris Glass, Jason Moncuse

Our college and graduate students:

Mackenzie Fritz, Braden Gobrecht, Darren Gobrecht, Hannah Mansfield, Rachel Miller, Emily Ramsay, Bryce Thoman, Chris Wilhide, Johnny Wilhide



Monthly Mission Offering: Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen serves meals to the residents of York, Pennsylvania. They are a small nonprofit organization that relies on donations of food and time from individuals and businesses around York County. They serve breakfast and lunch, Monday through Friday. Our Daily Bread makes it a point to not discriminate against anyone who comes in to eat; all are welcome to a hot meal!

Contact Information

Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 - 11:30 am.

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings.

Prayer Chain Contact Pastor Dave (716-946-7349), Jane Bankert (717-225-3738), or Darlene Hoover (717-792-3153) to begin the prayer chain. To add a name to our printed prayer list, contact the church office.

Emergency Pastoral Needs For more immediate care, please contact Pastor Dave at 716-946-7349 (cell).

Submission due dates:

Newsletter:

Refer to Calendar

Sunday bulletin requests:

Tuesday of each week

Committee minutes:

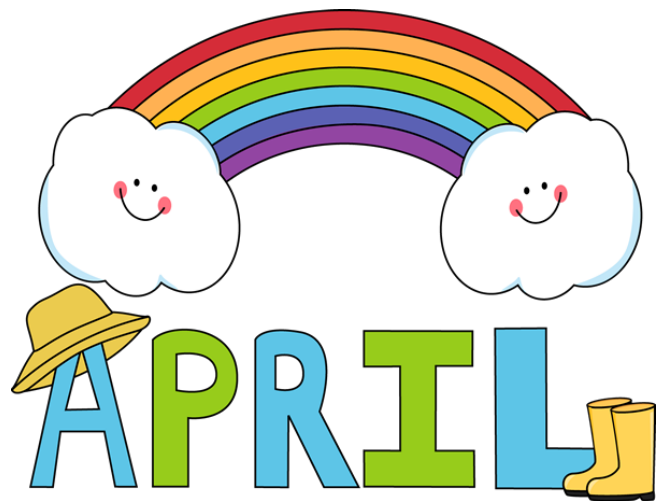
Tuesday prior to Consistory meeting

Requests for use of the church building:

Forms are in the narthex tray.

Ways to Support St. Paul's UCC

Grocery Cards Giant, Weis and Kennie's cards are available in amounts from \$10 to \$100. The church receives 5% of your purchase toward our expenses. Call Maryann Brenneman (717-225-4497) for additional information.



ADDRESS: St. Paul's United Church of Christ Stoverstown
2173 Stoverstown Rd, Spring Grove PA 17362-7829
WEBSITE: www.stpaulsstoverstown.org
E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net
FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucc>
CHURCH CALENDAR: <http://tinyurl.com/spucccalendar>
CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaulsstoverstown@comcast.net
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: (717) 225-6357

Please "like" us on Facebook and refer us to your friends.



APRIL 2024 – Newsletter

Mission Statement

We, the members of the York Association of the United Church of Christ, are called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Christ by:

- supporting one another in our covenantal relationship;
- calling clergy and laity to mutual accountability to the faith and order of the church;
- witnessing together to God's redeeming love. (Adopted April 28, 1991)

News from Penn Central Conference

- For the first time, all four Pennsylvania conferences of the UCC will be gathering for a **shared Annual Meeting on June 7-9, 2024**, at The Penn Stater in State College, PA. We will have shared worship, workshops, meals, and meetings as well as each conference's separate business meeting. The theme is: *"Together We Are Stronger"* with the centering scripture Matthew 14: 18 – 21.
- We will be joined by General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, who will be preaching during closing worship on Sunday. All four conferences will be hosting a reception with her on Saturday evening as well.
- Registration is now open – register [here](https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/keystone-conferences-annual-gathering). (<https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/keystone-conferences-annual-gathering>). You can learn more in [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzue8IoCa5k) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzue8IoCa5k>) featuring all four conference ministers, plus a tentative schedule is posted to the registration page. If the cost of attending annual meetings is prohibitive, financial assistance may be available! Please contact Paul at pkeller@pccucc.org
- Hartman Center Homecoming Camp 2024 registration is open! Various camps are scheduled for July 28 - August 3rd in Milroy, PA. Check out the full list of camping experiences for all ages and register here: <https://penncentralconference.regfox.com/hartman-homecoming-week-2024>

Blessings,
C. Paul Keller, Office Manager

Join the Tree Tenders

At Emmanuel UCC, York we have been TREE TENDING at Nixon County Park for 11 years. We go to the park as a group to a small area in the wetlands between the creek and the road that leads to the Nature Center. We check on the trees which we have planted over the years, straighten the cages, make sure the stakes are sturdy in the ground, and pull invasive weeds in the area. We all love being out in nature and enjoying creation. Birds appear often, sometimes Deer, and a Great White Heron a couple of times.



As "Many Hands Make Light Work," we would love it if a couple more people from the York Association could join us. **Our first Tree Tending will be Saturday, April 13th from 9 to 11am weather permitting.** In May and the following months, we are planning on the first Saturday of the Month at Nixon County Park from 9 to 11am during the growing season, weather permitting. For details about parking and any date changes, call Libby 717-887-6633 and leave a message or message us on the church's Facebook page: Emmanuel York UCC.

Climate Hope 2024 Art Contest

There will be this year a Vote for Climate Hope 2024 Art Contest for children and youth that would be good to advertise to our churches. Here's the link to register: <https://www.ucc.org/vote-for-climate-hope-2024-art-contest/>



The UCC Environmental Ministries is conducting a Vote for Climate Hope Art Contest. UCC children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color the world and the environment in which they want to live. What are their hopes for the world? What is it that they value and want to have protected? What is it that adults should remember and take to heart when they vote this year? **We'll accept art submissions from March 1 to April 16.** An online award ceremony for finalists will be held on May 4, and the winning art will be featured on "Climate Hope Voter Pledge Cards" that church members throughout the UCC will collect during the summer and fall before Election Day.

Registrants will receive:

1. A printable "Vote for Climate Hope" art template.
2. A link to a video promoting the art contest.
3. Regular updates and resources about the "Vote for Climate Hope" campaign.

Images and Pictures – Part 1

This topic is one that catches many groups – you can't just use random pictures off of the Internet. It is illegal. Pulling pictures from Google or Pinterest and using them in your PowerPoints, flyers, website, or bulletins is, technically, not legal. There are some ways to check to see if the image you have found is legal and allowed to be used. Sometimes you have to give attribution (i.e. – name, location, website) to use it. It doesn't matter if you are non-profit – you are breaking copyright law.

Churches now have an Internet presence. In the past, you have gotten away with using someone's work without giving them credit (or paying for it) because the newsletter/handout/PowerPoint never went beyond the walls of your church. Now you are posting your newsletter to your website, you are advertising your activities on your main page, and you are posting your service – which includes the PowerPoint images you used.

Points to remember:

- Anything that you create is copyrighted as soon as you create it. If you post a picture or write an article, it is copyrighted once it is completed.
- You must be given permission to use articles or images that were created by someone else.
- Fair use allows very limited use of someone else's work. (See <https://bit.ly/3UMfv1v> or search for Fair Use.) Just because you are a non-profit, doesn't mean that Fair Use applies.

When I ask people where they got the image, they often answer, Google images or Pinterest. This is similar to using a quote and saying that it came from a book from the library.

What you need to use are non-copyrighted images. The images can be in the Public Domain because the creator has chosen to make them available. There are also images that have a Creative Commons's license (there are several versions of the CC license.)

In the May newsletter, we will share some sources of images that are FREE to use. Stay tuned...

Submitted by: Jaron Flickinger

Around the Association

New Hope Fissel's UCC

3426 Fissel's Church Rd, Glen Rock

What: FRIDAY Morning Drive-Thru Coffee & Prayer

When: Friday, April 5 thru Friday, May 10

Time: 7:00am till 8:00am

See you in the parking lot!

What: Easter Bunny Egg Hunt, (in the pavilion)

When: Saturday, March 30, 10:00am

Who: Children ages 12 and under

What: Fissel's Fair, 34th Annual & FINAL Flea Market

When: Saturday, May 11, 9:00am till 2:00pm

Rain or shine. Call the church office, 717.235.2033, to reserve a space and for more information.

Attn: York Association UCC Clergy

The next meeting is April 10, at 11am, at Lion's Pride Restaurant, Red Lion, PA.

The next newsletter, MAY, will be emailed April 17, 2024.

Please send articles to

news@yorkassociationucc.org

by April 15. Thank You!

St. Paul's UCC - Stoverstown

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter Sunday 9:00am Faith Formation-All Ages 10:15am Worship with Communion 🏰 Eleanor Henry	1 6:00pm Planned Giving Committee 🏰 Scott Young † Leon Douglas	2 1:00pm Stewardship & Missions Committee † Darcey Hull; MacKenzie Fritz	3 6:30pm Sonshine Singers 7:15pm Shalom Choir † Daniel Fake	4	5 † Susan Davis	6 🏰 Christina Loesch
7 9:00am Faith Formation-All Ages 10:15am Worship 🏰 Robert Dubbs, Jr. 💎 Tom & Denise Harlacker	8 7:00pm Worship Committee 💎 Rev. Dave & Bonnie Martin	9	10 4:00pm Union Cemetery clean up day 6:00pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee 6:30pm Sonshine Singers 7:15pm Shalom Choir	11 🏰 Blaine Smith	12	13 † Sharon Smith
14 9:00am Faith Formation-All Ages 10:15am Worship	15 Tax Returns due 7:00pm Consistory † Bobbie Pope; Christina Stough	16 Newsletter deadline 🏰 Zoe Stover; Karen Brooks † Robin Gentzler; Samantha Ripple	17 4:00pm Union Cemetery work day 6:00pm Fellowship & Outreach Committee 6:30pm Sonshine Singers 7:15pm Shalom Choir 🏰 Johnny Wilhide	18	19 † Lucinda Gruver	20 🏰 Janice Hoke; Matt Gobrecht; Darren Gobrecht
21 9:00am Faith Formation-All Ages 10:15am Worship	22 🏰 Larry Bare † Tate Brooks	23	24 6:30pm Sonshine Singers 7:15pm Shalom Choir 🏰 Nathan Bollinger; Larry Thoman, Jr.	25 🏰 Ollie Barr 💎 William & Jane Bankert † Joyce Dubbs	26 🏰 Rachel Miller	27 💎 Robert & Maryann Brenneman 💎 Susan & Ed Davis
28 9:00am Faith Formation-All Ages 10:15am Worship † Faith Brenneman	29	30	1 6:30pm Sonshine Singers 7:15pm Shalom Choir	2	3	4 † Devon Gentzler