"In our lives and in human history, we cannot see God's face but only see the backside of God's glory."

WESTERN SPIRE APRIL 2025

What is it going to feel like to sit with God for a conversation like we sit at a table with our significant other? I am not talking about taking a moment to pray and leave, as we normally do. I am not talking about having a sense of peace, joy, and connection with God either, because it still focuses on my feelings, not on the moment. Rather, I am talking about having a time of experiencing God up close and personal, as if we see God face to face and feel soaked in the presence of God. In such a moment of encountering God, are we going to fully enjoy God's nearness with a profound sense of reverence, respect and wonder, or it is more of a blend of fear and awe and will we even beg God to leave us, as Peter said to Jesus in Luke 5, "Please leave me, I am a sinful man"?

Fortunately, and unfortunately, nobody has ever seen God so closely because we live in a different dimension from the dimensions of God. We don't have the ability to see beyond three dimensions, even though the fourth dimension can exist in our imaginations. God's dimensions are beyond our comprehension because God exists in BOTH physical and spiritual realms. God is BOTH transcendent and immanent, BOTH universal and particular and BOTH living from everlasting to everlasting and moment by moment. God is BOTH the creator of all things, and the one intimately involved in the lives of people individually and collectively. We simply live in the dimension of either/or and are never able to understand the dimensions of God's realities of BOTH.

Like many of us, Moses wanted to be convinced of God's favor upon him in Exodus 33. As God was angry with the Israelites for making a golden calf and calling it their new god, God said to Moses, "I will let your people go into the Promised Land, but I am not going with them." Moses said to God, "How can anyone believe that you appointed these people as your people to display your glory, if you don't go with us?" God was finally persuaded by Moses and promised him to continuously lead the people into the land. Then, Moses sought confirmation from God as a sealing of the terms of the agreement and he said, "Please show me your glory." If you watched the movie, "Jerry McGuire," it was his way of saying to God, "Show me the money".

What is interesting to me is what God said to Moses who wanted to see God's actual glory, not just a representation form of it, "You may see my goodness pass in front of you. But you cannot see my glory because no one can see my glory and live. You will be able to see my back only after my glory passes by."

In our lives and in human history, we cannot see God's face but only see the backside of God's glory. After all things happen in our lives, we may be able to see the backside of God's glory and say, "Oh, it was God who did make it happen!" or "It could have been worse and we could have been irretrievably destructed, but God saved us from the worst scenario in the situation."

How about human history? After daunting tasks of human society end with successful or unsuccessful consequences, we often find God's hand that worked in the situations to change the status quo. In any monumental transformation in history, no paradigm shift didn't happen without growing pains. In American modern history, for example, the emancipation of slavery, women's suffrage, and the Civil Rights Act were signed into law, not because all the people including the Christians in those days supported the changes unanimously (in fact, it was the opposite), but because they somehow became law and everybody accepted the new realities, even unpleasantly or inevitably. There might be 10 reasons why and how such a shift was possible, but there should be 100 reasons why and how they might not have happened if any little thing had gone wrong. Albert Einstein said it in a secular manner, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." But I call it "the backside of God's glory" that made such changes possible in the world.

In April, we will continue to have our Lenten journey. We will also have Palm Sunday to enter Passion Week, which culminates in Easter Sunday. With all these church calendar events, I want you to know that they are not just recurring events that come back every year. I hope and pray that April helps us learn about God revealing God's self, not in power and strength as we normally expect from God, but in the most self-sacrificial way on the cross. I also hope and pray that we all can find the backside of God's glory in our lives and in the life of the world in which we live, so that we understand the meaning of God's victorious glory that rather chooses the meek and the weak to shame the wise and the strong (1 Corinthians 1:27).

Amen.

Peace of Christ, Rev. Hodong Hwang



PROCEEDS GO TO THE ROBERT D. GUNKLER CAMPERSHIP FUND



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received April 20, Easter.

We follow Jesus' example;
walking alongside the most vulnerable
WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER;
and we are there with those who need us.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM



SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

How long will it take us to donate 1,000 boxes of cereal?



Lois Daniels did it in one year. Her birthday is in July. Can we do it by her birthday?

Put boxes of cereal donated in the container in the front of the sanctuary.

Cereal will be given to those who use the Food Pantry or come to the Food Cupboard.

Save the DATE

May 15,16,17, 2025

WPC & Zion



Donation Drop-off starts May 4



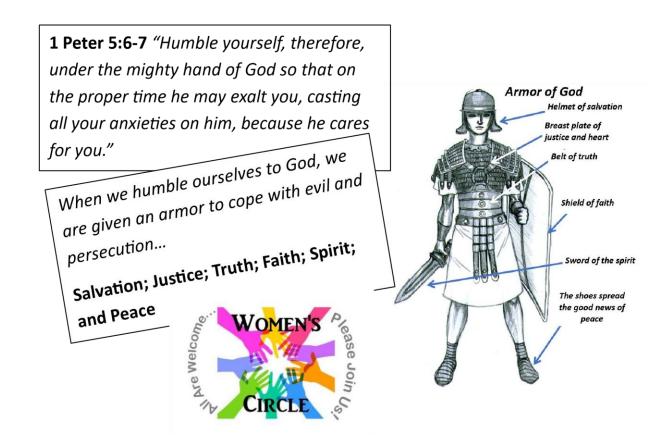
Western Presbyterian Church needs **Your Help** to Work and Donate goods to the Spring Rummage Sale

- * Please price Household Items, Toys, and such
- * No need to price clothing
- * Please No large appliances or furniture.

Thanks ~ Women's Association

HELP Sign-ups will be in WPC Church Hallway





When the thundercloud of anxiousness lays heavy on you what do you do? Do you feel you are persecuted? As Christians, what do we do? Do we talk to God? Can God help?

The Women's Circle gathered today to discuss what persecution is, who feels persecuted, how do others persecute and finally, how we can cope. We started by defining what it is: Shame; pushed down as an on-going state of being; unrelenting oppression ~ hostility and ill-treatment, especially based of ethnicity / minority, religion or sexual orientation of political beliefs.

Could these images represent you or someone you know?



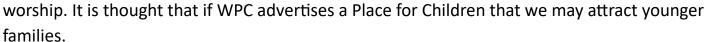
Everyone is persecuted to some degree. The more one might feel persecuted, the more our relationships, work and overall quality of life are at risk, leaving individuals with a feeling of isolation and powerlessness. Debilitating. An explosion of emotions.

It's really difficult to lift our worries, anxieties, and persecutions up to the Lord. It's difficult to release any power or control we may hold that might offer us a sense of power. Instead of allowing the concerns to eat our soul and our spirit, we can trust the Lord to sustain us. Humility and trust in the Lord – Humility is so desirable because of the marvelous thing it does for us; It creates in us a capacity for the closest intimacy with God. [Monica Baldwin]

seeking Help for Child Care During Worship

<u>Question:</u> Would you think about volunteering to help provide Child Care so a young family may attend worship?

There has been lots of discussion on having Child Care available for any visitors interested in coming to



The CE Committee has spent time rearranging rooms to help with this process, and the Property Committee has spent time working to provide TV screens for the worship to be watched live by the childcare providers.

Many ideas are being discussed. However, the first priority is to have volunteers and begin to have people to help.



SO, I am seeking 2 people each week to help. Then I will advertise the coverage. I will make a rotating schedule with any willing volunteers.

Please Contact: Jody Pruitt 315-879-7225 or jody.pruitt@gmail.com



~ Jody



Building community, strengthening lives.

Update 3-19-2025

Today we had a coordinators' meeting at the Day Center in Lyons. Several items were reported...

- 1. Lyons has not allowed more than 1 family to be in the Day Center and seems to throw up roadblocks to FP's continued participation in the community.
- 2. The FP Office is being moved to the United Methodist Church in Newark, the first week in April. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE OFFICE MOVE.
- 3. The Day Center will be put up for sale.
- 4. Items will be sold off at a yard sale on April 8, 9, and 10. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE YARD SALE.
- 5. The last of the 62 families who have been in the program will move out of the Day Center on April 1.
- 6. FP will continue to contact and provide care for all families who have graduated from the program in the last year.
- 7. All families will continue to be contacted every 6 months as has been the program procedure.
- 8. The staff has been working ½ time since February.
- 9. The ROTH (Roof Over Their Head) program will continue and help families stop evictions.
- 10. FP has about \$60,000 for operations. The donations for the purchase of an apartment building continue to be separate from operations money.

- 11. FP's yearly budget is about \$200,000. This is not enough for most grant applications. If Ontario County and the Greater Rochester Area join together for grant writing, the \$750,000 budget threshold would be reached.
- 12. FP needs to look forward for 2-6 years for funding rather than the 3-6 months as has been happening in Wayne County.
- 13. FP will continue to have fundraisers to grow their bank balance to \$200,000. Donations from churches, civic organizations, and individuals continue to be welcomed. Yvonne will come and speak at gatherings to get the word out about FP and what is happening.
- 14. FP will look for property in Newark, or elsewhere in the county, for a store front and apartments above that can become the home of Family Promise of Wayne County, NY.
- 15. At this time, there are no families housed by Family Promise of Wayne County. But it is far from dead in the water, as the organization continues to find ways to continue serving homeless families and to make a difference in their lives.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 8	Emily Hunt	April 12	Terry & Val Gendron
April 10	Jonnie Fontaine		
April 18	Lloyd Durfey		
April 18	David Pinkney		
April 22	Val Gendron		
April 24	Benjamin Dlugosh		
April 24	Jan Semans		

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!

The team minutes received for March include:

WPC Christian Education Team Minutes March 11, 2025

Building Faith, Family, and Fellowship. WPC nurtures spiritual growth, joyful fellowship, meaningful community, and global involvement: worshiping and serving God with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Present: Jody Pruitt, Emily Hunt, Cim McFarlane

In Spirit: Ellen Avery, Pastor Hodong

Upcoming Events:

March 16- Girl Scout Sunday
March 16- Easter Card Making
March 23- Palm Sunday Bulletin Making
April 12- Easter Bunny Breakfast
April 13- Palm Sunday Parade
April 20- No Sunday School (Easter weekend)
June 1- Spring Children's Service
July 28- August 1- VBS

Continuing and New Business

Sunday School News- Cim shared that the Easter cards will be made this coming Sunday. She plans to have the Youth Group participate in cards as well. We discussed making Easter cards in 2026 earlier, like in February so we aren't conflicting with sports and musicals.

Easter Bunny Breakfast- April 12- Cim will advertise on Facebook. The sausage is labeled in the freezer. A big thank you to Conrad for donating the sausage. Jody will cook the sausage again this year. Cim reported that her mom and sister will donate some money that we can use for decor, take out bins, and to fill the cash box for change. A big thank you to them for helping us start! Emily will check the donation sign-up sheet and purchase what else is needed. We will set up on Friday, April 11 at 3:45.

Toddler Time- Cim shared that numbers continue to be big. Rachel has decided to extend her maternity leave and will start Toddler Time at the PCC in the fall.

Little Froggies Daycare Update- After Emily and Cim met with Gary and Phil our biggest news to report is that the Sunday School classroom does not need to move. (Hooray!) It may become a shared space in the future, but for now we are set to use the room. Property has great plans for Sunday School/CE storage spaces.

Camp Whitman Board- Cim shared that staffing is going well, but some international counselors have decided not to come for the summer of 2025. A dinner will occur in Chili on May 10. There will be a chicken BBQ at camp during Memorial Day weekend for a fundraiser.

Girl Scout Sunday- March 16. The girls will lead the children's sermon. Girl Scout cookies will be served for coffee hour. Emily has been in contact with the worship team to make sure we are ready for the Girl Scouts.

Palm Sunday Parade- Children participating in the parade will meet in the hallway by the office at 9:55. The parade will take place during the prelude.

VBS- The True North- we are going to join forces with the Mission team and run a cereal drive during VBS to honor Lois Daniel's birthday and her lifetime cereal donations. We are so excited to support this cause.

Youth Group- Pastor Hodong, Cim, and Lisa P are excited with how the Youth Group is taking off. They have had groups of 4 to 8 youth. Different youth are joining each week with three regulars.

Nursery- We hope to have the downstairs nursery up and running in September. Only one person reached out to Jody to volunteer, so please consider. If you are able to volunteer your time, please reach out to Jody. We discussed opening up the nursery for Easter Sunday.

June Youth Service- June 1- we will honor senior Sammie Teeter. Emily will order the gift. Cim has an idea to gift some of our new Sunday School students a Bible. The theme of the service is Block Party (Lego). Emily M is working hard on the script for the service. Emily will reach out to the worship team to let them know we will not need coverage for Pastor Hodong that day.

Next meeting: April 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted, Emily Hunt

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes February 4th, 2025

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Patti Dlugosh, Muffie Beato, Linda Pulcini, Sandy

Betts & Hodong Hwang In Support: Sara Bush

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle This month's scripture and prayer

• Old Business:

- 1. Approval of last month's minutes corrections? Motion: Sandy B. Second: Linda P.
- 2. Treasurer's Report: Current balance & expense/donation Status Sandy M. -

Feb-25	Deacons Checking Account			
Initial balance	\$1,007.92			
Additions	\$ 112.10			
Deductions	\$ -			
Ending balance	\$1,120.02			

Description of Additions: Offertory \$112.1

Description of Subtractions: -

- a. Balances
 - 3. Sharing Correspondence: letters/emails/cards card from W.R.
 - 4. Next Communion on February 9th ~ Usually on 2nd Sunday of the month
- a. Prepared 65 and served 49 on JANUARY 12TH
- b. Verify that enough Pita, loaf and juice for this month? ... FREEZER
- c. Who can assist in set-up- February 9th- Sandy B., Patty D., Nancy T. Sandy M
 - 5. Review of Prayer List and adjust accordingly of needs
 - 6. Visits/ Calls/ cards counts visits with special meaningful moments of faith
 - Clarify that the count for special needs mailings are only added to the total after each deacon reports their personal count

2025					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	15	24	69	49	1/12/25
Year to Date	15	24	69	49	

7. Special Needs Mailings – regulars plus others... (List managed by Sandy B.)

Bible Verse: Matthes 6:26

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

New Business:

- o How to handle all the elements after communion during clean-up firming protocols
- Session Information: nothing new to report
- o What is the chain of custody of the green cards completed in worship?

Meeting closed with prayer

Next meeting Tuesday 3/4/2025 @ 10:00am

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

Mission and Social Concerns Ministry Team Minutes

March 6, 2025

p Cassie Hughes _ex_Edie Chapman _p_Irene Fadden __ Nancy Roets___Johnnie Fontaine <u>ex__</u>Rena Haigh _p_Ruth Dantz _p_Sally Chase ____Pastor Ho Dong ____ John Cook

Opened with prayer and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Mission Worship March 9th – One Great Hour of Sharing – Introduction, Calendar, Bank

Cassie – Introduce OGHS (collection Easter, April 20) – PDA, SDOP, Pres. Hunger Scripture Matthew 25:31-40

Irene – What we do at WPC to end hunger – Love is something you do.

Presbyterians believe that the church exists for mission.

April 9th start **Hygiene Kits** – slides to introduce to congregation and women's circle

Get community to join with us to make kits. Party Pack \$168 to make 24 kits.

If we buy our own items for the kit, it will cost \$15.00.

If we use Party Pack from CWS, a kit will cost only \$7.

Irene will order one box to check it out.

Family Promise – Dinner March 17th Irene and Peter will attend.

Ruth and Sally will do the next dinner in April.

Food Pantry update – things going well.

Sometimes a lot of families (28) and sometimes only 10 to 12 families.

Food Cupboard "Take what you need, Give what you can." Being used a lot.

Cupboard is filled daily and is used daily. There are also subs who fill it when the regular fillers aren't in town.

Cereal Sunday – Challenge to bring in 1,000 boxes by Lois' birthday in July.

Use a thermometer to chart the 1,000 boxes of cereal put in sanctuary. (Phil) Half of boxes to pantry, half to cupboard.

Month	Food Cupboard \$200/mon.	Food Pantry \$200/mon.		
March	Irene	Ruth		
April				
May	Sally and Cassie			

Good Neighbor Fund Update -

Beginning balance \$1,244.96 no checks written

2 deposits 1,110.00 Ending Balance \$2,354.96

Presbytery Grant - \$3,000 for GNF. Session approval. Thank Wilma if you see her.

Weekend Wellness update – \$2,050 balance

Bags delivered in February – 432 bags

Bags delivered this school year – 2,284 bags

Books and Animals update – Edie – list for appropriate ages. Next steps.

Foster Care Backpacks – pjs, hygiene kit, blanket, book, and stuffed animal.

Foster kids get sent to a new home with their items in a black garbage bag. Irene has had no contact with Foster Care in Wayne County.

We need to know the age of the foster kids, so the appropriate bag is packed for the kid.

Sally will see if she can find someone who can help with foster care.

Budget spending: - Send \$1,250 to GNF and \$1,000 to Food Pantry for Weekend Wellness.

Also approved were February costs for food cupboard and food pantry.

Ruth needs tax free certificate to use when buying taxable items for food pantry.

Closed with prayer:

Dear Lord, help us to live Micah 6:8. "And what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." Amen

Respectfully Submitted,

Irene Fadden

The stated meeting of session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, New York was called to order by the moderator, Reverend HoDong Hwang at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall.

8 Present: Irene Fadden, Alicia Lynch, Emily Hunt, Phil Opdycke, Randy Kennard, Roxanne Dobson, Janet Manktelow (Zoom)

0 Excused

0 Absent

A quorum was present.

The meeting was opened with prayer and lighting of The Christ Candle.

•Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the meeting agenda.Devotions were shared by Randy Kennard.

Clerk's Report

- •Motion made by Philip Opdycke seconded and carried to approve the session minutes from January 2025.
- •Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to approve the minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting.

E-mail vote: ● Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to approve the use of Fellowship Hall on Sundays from 5-7PM for Youth Group Meetings.

Daycare Update

The inspection will be on Feb. 17th. We will install 2 sinks. One will be movable. Carbon monoxide detectors are here and will be installed. Alicia will contact the town assessor to make sure there aren't any problems with having the day care.

The Women's Association is starting the process of looking into possible replacement of the pew cushions. We had a discussion on whether to get new cushions or replace the foam in the current ones. There will need to be more feedback from the Women's Association about the cost and who will take the lead on this project.

Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team – They will not have a meeting in February. There will be Super Bowl Sunday sundaes at coffee hour on the 9th.

Fellowship Ministry Team – The game night that was held was a great success. 32 people attended. **Deacons Ministry Team**- They are amazed with the power of prayer.

Mission Ministry Team – They received a thank you from Weekend Wellness. The team will be participating in the worship service on March 9th and will highlight the One Great of Sharing program.

Finance Ministry Team – written report

CE Ministry Team – the Easter bunny breakfast will be April 12th.

Property Ministry Team – They have been very busy. They will get a new TV for Fellowship Hall, a new freezer in the kitchen, and fix the heater in the kitchen.

●Motion made by Property and carried to allow the Scout Troop to use the sanctuary on Feb. 11th for a Court of Honor.

Presbytery – It was an interesting meeting. They have 2 questions they will take to the General Assembly.

Next meeting: March 4, 2025

Devotions-Alicia

•Motion made by Randy Kennard seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 8:30PM.

Janet Manktelow Clerk

Our Prayer Concerns (updated March 19, 2025)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Steve Close (requested by Sue Leonard)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Josh Polle

Please pray for those of our congregation with immediate concerns:

Ellen Avery, Joan Barnard, Bob Dardenne, Lynn Elting, Gary Hughes, Lucy Lannon, Janet Manktelow, Bentley Matz, Tricia Owen, Jody Pruitt, Nancy Roets, Harry/Laurie Schraffenberger, Patti Squier

Congregation members needed continued prayers:

Scott Bush, Irene Fadden, Pam Gnagy & Family, Frank Lawrence, Cim McFarlane, Wilma Redman, Jan Semans, Fran Storm

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, David Squier

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

Doreen Alvito, Sarah Carone, Melissa Dantz, Daphne DeMeyers, Ted & Nancy Elsenheimer, Glenn Groff, Janet Haigh, Russell Harris, Jerry Locey, Jessica Locey, Iris McConnell, Luke Medina & family, Deb/Bruce Merla, Kate Pfaff, Tane Robinson, Jack Sweeney, Andy Umreiko, Vicki Wilkins

May your prayers go out to:

All caregivers; All those affected by natural disasters; All those who have no one to pray for them; All victims of violence, hatred and hunger; Please pray for those that wish to remain anonymous

Names will remain on the prayer list for 30 days unless renewal has been requested.

<u>Prayers of Intercession</u> are offered each day by our Deacons. To request prayer for yourself or another, please contact Randy Kennard, chair of Deacons, Sandy McMenamin, or Kathy in the Church office.



APRIL 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	2	3 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study	4	5
6 5 th Sunday in Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	7	8 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	9 7 pm FH Boy Scouts	10 11 am Bible Study	11 3:45 pm Set Up for Easter Bunny Breakfast	12 7 am to Noon FH Easter Bunny Breakfast
Palm/Passion Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Palm Sunday Parade 5-7 pm Youth Group	14	15 SPIRE DEADLINE 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	16 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	17 Maundy Thursday No Bible Study	Joint Good Friday service with Zion & Farmington Friends at Zion Episcopal Church at 7 pm	19
20 Easter Sunday Communion & Cereal Sunday No Sunday School 10 am worship service One Great Hour of Sharing	21	7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	23	24 11 am Bible Study	25	26
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	28	7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room Pastor Hodong is away until May 5 th .	30			



MAY 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
				1 National Day of Prayer 9:30 am Mission/ Social Concerns 11 am Bible Study	2	3 3 pm Finger Lakes Camerata Concert
4 3rd Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell preaching Church Picnic	5	6 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 10 am Deacons 1 pm Men's Group 3 pm Fellowship 4-6 pm Select Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Session 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	7 7 pm Select Choir Recital	8 11 am Bible Study	9	10
Communion & Cereal Sunday Mother's Day 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service 5-7 pm Youth Group	12 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale FH	2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale FH 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	14 2-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale FH 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	9 am to 3 pm FH Rummage Sale No Bible Study	16 9 am to 3 pm FH Rummage Sale	17 9 to 11 am FH Rummage Sale 11 am to 2 pm Tear Down
18 5th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service	19 Pastor Hodong is away until June 4 th .	20 SPIRE DEADLINE 9:30 to 11 am Toddler Time 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	21 1 pm FH Women's Circle Bible Study 6:30 pm Property	22	23	24
25 6 th Sunday of Easter 9 am Sunday School 10 am worship service Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell preaching	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	28	29	30	31