

WESTERN SPIRE SEPTEMBER 2023



The Christian Education Team would like to thank everyone who made the 2023 Everest Vacation Bible School such a success! We had an amazing group of volunteers and participants. Our theme this year had children exploring Mount Everest. We learned that we can conquer all challenges with God's mighty power.

Our first day we met Klymer, a snow leopard, who told us God has the power to provide. Children listened to 1 Kings 17 in our Bible story center and learned about God providing for Elijah. Our second day we met Cliff, a marmot, who reminded us that God has the power to comfort. In our Bible story center, we listened to 1 Kings 19 when God spoke to Elijah. Our third day we met Mallory, a bar-headed goose, who reminded us that God has the power to heal. Our Bible story was from 2 Kings 5 where God heals Naaman. Our fourth day we met Pike, a mountain goat, who reminded us that God has the power to forgive. Our Bible story was from Luke 22:31-24:12 Jesus dies for our sins and comes back. Finally on our fifth day we met Yeddy, a Himalayan brown bear, who reminded us that God has the power to love us forever. The children listened to John 14: 1-3. In the Bible story, Jesus promises us an eternal home.

Each day the children enjoyed playing Glacier Games, making arts and crafts, had a yummy snack and lunch. We had a morning and afternoon worship where we sang songs and talked about our God sightings. It was an absolutely fantastic week!

Thank you to the Palmyra Reformed Church for co-sponsoring. Thank you to our many amazing volunteers. Thank you to our participants and families. Thank you to Mr. Arthurton who provided pizza lunch on our last day. Thank you to Kathy in the office for all of her assistance. We are so grateful!



Save the Date

WPC Fall Rummage Sale Dates are set:

October 26, 27, 28

Fall
**RUMMAGE
SALE**



**Donation Drop-off
starting October 15th**

- * Time to clean out closets, garages, cupboards and all the rest of the house!
- * Please price Household Items, Toys, and such (we need your help)
- * Please No large appliances or furniture.

~ Thanks

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

Sign-ups coming October 8th - Thank You 

The THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at 1PM

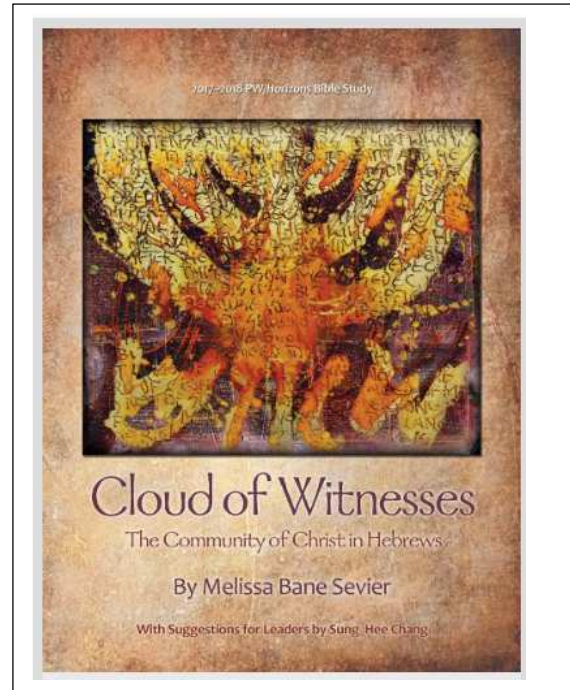
Starting with September 20th at 1 PM

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews

By Melissa Bane Sevier

Suggestions for Leaders by Sung Hee Chang

The Letter to the Hebrews is a significant book of the Bible and is also significantly different from every other book in the Bible. It consists of thirteen chapters, all of which are packed with theology, metaphor, comparisons, and spirituality. Therefore, I've decided to approach the letter thematically, not sequentially. We will explore nine major themes, relate those themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which the letter was written interacts, in a sense, with all the communities of which you are a part, because you bring those groups with you wherever you go—they have helped to form you into the person you are. The community in which you study and worship, your family and friends, social and therapy groups . . . all are part of you. Our prayer is that the study of community in Hebrews will help us strengthen our own communities.



Ladies,

Mark your calendars.....

We will begin to gather together in September in Fellowship Hall. Sure hope familiar faces and new faces join us for honest open discussions on life and how we wear our faith. We are excited to travel this journey with you as we learn more about the letter to Hebrews. See how this book in the Bible differs from others we have studied. How is it the same? We will find out together. The THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at 1PM - Starting with September 20th at 1PM

Women's Circle – Fellowship as we learn with Bible Study

Here is this year's schedule.....

Date - <u>Third</u> <u>Wednesdays</u>	Meeting Time	Focus of Circle gathering
September 20th	1PM	Lesson#1- In Community with Jesus Christ
October 18th	1PM	Lesson#2- In Community with the Living God
November 15th	1PM	Lesson#3- In Community with the Living Word
December 20th	11:30AM	Meet in church parking lot to carpool to Warfields
January 17th	1PM	Lesson#4- In Community with God's Messengers
February 21st	1PM	Lesson#5- In Community with the Tradition of the Past
March 20th	1PM	Lesson#6- In Community with the Reality of the Present
April 17th	1PM	Lesson#7- In Community with the Hope of the Future
May 15th	1PM	Lesson#8- In Community with the Household of Faith
June 19th	12 noon	Meet at Aquaduct Park for a Picnic

Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews

PW/Horizons Bible Study

Here are some pieces of information about Hebrews... I did not know this, perhaps you did. Together we will become knowledgeable:

Who's the Author of Hebrews?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Paul! • Anonymous, but probably someone who had heard Jesus • Author background is most likely Greek and Jewish • Probably a great teacher
Date of Hebrew Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probably 60–90 AD (though some scholars date it as late as AD 190) • Timing based on persecutions of Christians, after Nero (AD 64) and before Domitian (AD 85). • The audience is at risk of persecution (goods have been pillaged, 10:32–34), but have not yet shed blood (12:4) Destruction of the Temple is also a factor (AD 70)

This is where our journey will start... Come along



The American Heart Association's Adult Chain of Survival shows that the most important actions needed to treat cardiac arrest in adults outside of a hospital. The first link in the Chain of Survival is to recognize the emergency and phone for help (911). The second link is to provide compressions and the third link is to use an AED.

At Western Presbyterian Church, we have an Automated External Defibrillator in Fellowship Hall.

Would you like to learn Adult CPR and how to use the AED?

We are offering American Heart Association CPR For Family & Friends Hands Only CPR & use of AED on September 21st at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Space is limited so please register by contacting:

Pat Dlugosh at 315-945-2728 or pdlugosh2002@yahoo.com



LEARN HANDS ONLY CPR & HOW TO USE AN AED

THURSDAY – SEPTEMBER 21

6:00 p.m.

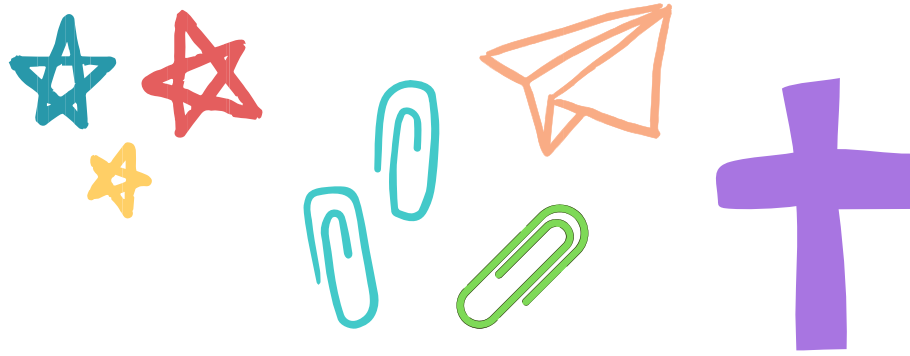
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Space is limited

Cost: \$3.50 if you would like to purchase the CPR For Family & Friends Book – if not free to register

Register by contacting Pat Dlugosh

315-945-2728 or pdlugosh2002@yahoo.com



WELCOME BACK to Sunday School Breakfast

To celebrate the new Sunday School year, please join us for
complimentary

BREAKFAST PIZZA, FRUIT,
MUFFINS, COFFEE & JUICE

where: Fellowship Hall

When: Sept 24, 2023

Time: 9-9:45 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME



SAVE THE DATE!



The Fellowship Team will be sponsoring a "Welcome Back" church picnic Sept. 24th after the church service.

A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall. Please sign up with the number of people and what dish you'd like to bring to share.

Meat, drinks, and dessert will be furnished.

Please bring your own table service.

CELEBRATE

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM AS WE HONOR
AND CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE
CHURCH FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

There will be a potluck lunch after church on Oct. 29th. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and table service.

Comments from our Pulpit Supply friends:

Once our congregation voted in Rev. Ho Dong Hwang as our new pastor, I sent emails to each of our Pulpit Supply friends, to inform them and to thank them for all they have done for us during this journey. Here are some of their comments. —Sue Leonard

Rev. Gail Conners:

I am grateful for the times I spent with all of you! Your congregation is special!!! I'm happy that you have your own pastor. God bless you all as you journey together.

Sister Barbara Moore:

I am delighted for all of you. I remain a friend who is there when you need me. With love.

Rev. Robin Lostetter:

I am almost excited as you are!! Yippee! And Hallelujah!! And I will always hold WPC and her members close to my heart. Love to you and all my WPC family.

Carleen Frost:

Praise God!!! It was a blessing at Western. I look forward to filling the pulpit in the future when your pastor goes on vacation. Peace and grace.

Rev. Steven Becker:

Very good news. I know it has been a long journey. Thank you for the invitation to be with you in worship. I have enjoyed those opportunities. Cathy and I will make it a point to come join you again someday. Peace.

John Gingerich:

I'm celebrating with you! I pray that this will be a fruitful relationship moving forward.

Cynthia Huling-Hummel:

What wonderful news. I pray God's blessings upon all of you as you begin this new chapter of ministry in service to God. Blessings.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 5	Bron Lawrence
September 8	Elaine Hassler
September 13	Morgan Budziszewski
September 18	Alicia Lynch
September 20	Patricia Pinkney
September 21	Esther Hargrave
September 23	Oliver Koeberle
September 28	David Koeberle

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September 3	David & Sheila Koeberle
September 5	Ray & Martha Beato
September 6	James & Susan Bush
September 21	Wes & Janet Barager

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 August include:

Deacons Team Meeting Minutes

August 8th, 2023

Present: Sandy McMenamin, Randy Kennard, Nancy Talma, Sylvia Lyon & Sara Bush

In Support: Linda Pulcini & Patti Dlugosh

Meeting opening with lighting of the Christ Candle

1. [1 Corinthians 13:7](#) Digging deeper with love - role of deacons.
2. **Approval of last month's minutes** *Motion:* Sandy M & *Second:* Sara B
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Current balance & expense/donation Status— Sandy M. – receipt in mailbox?
 - a. The team approved to pay for the expense of cupcakes and packaging to be delivered to shut ins.
 - b. Balances

	Deacons checking Account	WPC Budget Line Item
Initial balance	\$ 965.89	\$ 500.00
Additions	\$23.85 + \$28	
Deductions	\$66.00 (stamps)	
Ending balance	\$ 951.74	\$ 500.00

4. Sharing Correspondence: letter/cards – one electronically and one verbal
5. Volunteers to handle Communion on **8/13/2023** – 40th ordination – plan to prepare 100 sets of elements.
 - a. Who to acquire supplies: Sara to purchase grape juice & bread/ Sandy still has a roll for pastor plate.
 - b. Who is available to assist in set-up? Meet at 9 am on Sunday/ Sara, Scott, Nancy, Sandy, and Randy
 - c. Next Month – Communion is on 9/10
 - d. October communion comes 10/1, world communion Sunday – need a leader, Randy not here.
 - e. Heads up the team to be aware that for HoDong's installation Sunday we may need to prepare communion also – Kathy B. to let Randy know when the Sunday will be.
 - f. Nancy suggested trying Ezekiel bread for communion. It is the most similar to the kind of bread used at the last supper. She will bring in a sample for us to check out for the September meeting.
6. **Update of Prayer Concerns:** Adds, Removals and Status
 - a. Discussion around prayer list format:
 - i. Sandy addressed that new additions to the list are lost in the ever-growing lists – discussion reflected a suggestion that there be a category for names that are newly added.
 - ii. Discussion around keeping names on the list longer than 30 days. The team does not want to remove names when the crisis for that person may extend beyond the 30 days, even when we do not hear from the originator of the requests.
 - iii. Expressed happiness in the desire for the congregation to have prayers offered up to those not just from the church, but also from their circle of friends and family. It is impressive the importance the congregation has for the importance of prayer.
 - iv. Though the number is always changing, as of today, 23% of the names on the prayer list are church members, active and in-active. The remaining 77% are friends and families of WPC.
 - v. Make sure that issues that continue beyond the 30 days and are not actively concerning are moved to the 'Continued Prayers' listing section.
 - b. Discussion on how effective the Prayer liaison roles are – plus and minuses...
 - i. Liaisons liked doing a more personal engagement with church members that are on or have requested prayers for others.
 - ii. Sandy said it helped to not have to touch base with so many folks to update status'.

- c. Review and update liaison list and modify as needed per changing of pastoral care.
- d. As we go through the Prayer List, flag key points that can assist our new pastor – After meeting, Sandy will send a copy in “word” for Randy to code as a reference for new pastor.
- e. In the written report, add both first and last names of those that request the prayers. This will help HoDong to know the source and connection of the folks on the prayer list.

7. Group Prayer – Lord, hear our prayers.

2023 As of April, Counts taken from remaining elements during serving					
Month	Visits	Phone Calls	Cards sent and Email outreach	Communion Served	Communion Date
January	16	27	63	38	1/15/2023
February	7	19	68	42	19-Feb-23
March	6	20	64	39	12-Mar-23
April	6	11	56	57	9-Apr-23
May	13	10	41	48	15-May-23
June	9	10	55	45	11-Jun-23
July	7	14	69	35	9-Jul-23
August	10	19	74	64	13-Aug-23
Year to Date	74	130	490	368	

S.S. created cards

deliver 21 lilies / S.S. created cards

delivered 23 Cup Cakes [over 2 weeks]

* communions are now served with passing out the elements in a cup of juice and another for bread
 *As of August 13th, bread is served in platters

- 8. **Visit/Calls/Card Counts** - circulate sheet.
 - a. Sandy to share serving communion with Rev. Nancy.
 - b. Other visits with special meaningful moments of faith (d.c.)
 - c. Delivery of ordination celebration cupcakes

- 9. **Special Care mailings:** *removed 2 names and added another name.*
 Current Roster is confidential and is shared with deacon team only.

Monthly Notes: Bible

1 Corinthians 13:7- Love never stops being patient, never stops believing, never stops hoping, never gives up.

Old Business:

- 1. Reports of Prayer List contacts
- 2. Session updates
 - a. Communion modification authorized re. bread elements

New Business:

- 1. New Pastor, HoDong Hwang, to begin his call Aug 20th – wants to set a meeting date with the deacons for a Tuesday or Wednesday before the end of Aug. – Date set for August 30th at 11 am.
 - o Focus of sharing prayer list with HoDong –Highlight: year name was added to list, indicate if name was a member of WPC and indicate the need for pastoral care per each name.
 - o This is a setting for HoDong to know who the Deacons are.
 - o It is a forum to suggest possible future deacon’s roles that could occur.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting Tuesday 9/5/2023 @ 10:00am -- FIRST Tuesday – see you then.

Respectfully - Randy Kennard, Chairperson

The stated meeting of the session of Western Presbyterian Church & Society, Palmyra, NY was called to order by the moderator, Reverend Susan Frost at 7:00PM in Fellowship Hall. The meeting was opened with the Lighting of the Christ Candle and prayer.

9 Present: Norman Underwood, Alicia Lynch, Philip Opdycke, James McFarlane, Randy Kennard, Irene Fadden, Susan Leonard, Emily Hunt, Janet Manktelow

PNC Present: Sharon Marr, Courtney Marr, Carol Sloan (+ Norm and James listed above)

0 Absent

0 Excused

A quorum was present.

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the agenda.

The meeting started with information shared by the PNC. This part of the meeting is confidential.

- Motion made by Emily Hunt seconded and carried to approve the Terms of Call for the pastor candidate as presented. Terms of call will be included with minutes from congregational meeting when pastor candidate is voted in.

COM will hold a special meeting on July 11, 2023, to approve pastor candidate. If approved, we will hold a congregational meeting at the end of July. If we approve the candidate, the Presbytery will hold a special meeting in August. We wanted to give James McFarlane and Courtney Marr a special thank you for all the extra work they did on the PNC for the past 2 years.

We then discussed adding an addendum to our church by-laws which would allow active members to vote online at congregational meetings. We felt this move was needed to allow members who can't physically be present to still feel like they get to have a voice.

- Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to hold a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on July 23, 2023, to approve adding an addendum to the church by laws to allow members to be present and vote online at the congregational meetings. Reverend Susan Frost will moderate the congregational meeting.
- Motion made by Norman Underwood if the way be clear we will hold a congregational meeting for hearing the pastor candidate with voting to follow on July 30, 2023. The Pastor candidate is Reverend Ho Dong Wang. Reverend Susan Frost will moderate. Motion passed.

Clerks Report

- Motion made by Norman Underwood seconded and carried to approve the session minutes from May 2023.

Financial Secretary’s Report

		<u>May 2023</u>		
	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>YTD% of Budget</u>
Receipts	\$6,373	\$76,113	\$147,077	51.75%
Expenditures	\$6,228	\$37,006	\$140,046	26.42%
Net Receipts/Expenditures	\$145	\$39,107	\$ 7,031	

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to approve the above report.

Business of the Church

For the last 2+ years Courtney Marr has been preparing the slides for our worship service. She is going to step down from this job. Irene Fadden will take over with Randy Kennard as back up.

Devotions – Sue Leonard shared a devotion from Exodus 14.

Ministry Team Reports

Worship Ministry Team -pulpit supply is in good shape; we will change the Passing of the Peace back to the way we did it pre-covid.

- Motion made by Alicia Lynch seconded and carried to remove the Plexi-glass from the lecterns.

Fellowship Ministry Team -no meeting

Deacons Ministry Team -they want to acknowledge and celebrate everything that Sandy McMenamin does for our church.

Mission Ministry Team-they are very pleased with extra money they were given this year, looking for a community mission project.

Finance Ministry Team – no meeting

CE Ministry Team -working on VBS which will be held in our church July 31 – August 4th.

Property Ministry Team -the front driveway will be repaired July 3rd; they are looking into getting a camera for outside at the front of the church.

Next Meeting – August 22nd

- Motion made by Irene Fadden seconded and carried to adjourn with prayer at 9:00PM

Janet Manktelow
Clerk

Our Prayer Concerns (updated August 16, 2023)

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Linda Johnston (requested by Rev. Dr. Nancy J. Farrell)

Family & Friends of Cabel Pierce (requested by Edie Chapman)

Family & Friends of Janet Chriswell (requested by the Deacons)

Family & Friends of Richard Bruinsma (Nancy Talma's brother-in-law)

Family & Friends of Dolores Cromartie (requested by Sue Leonard)

Serving in the Armed Forces:

AJ Bliss, Adam Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Josh Polle

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All those affected by natural disasters, All those who have been affected by the Coronavirus, All those who have no one to pray for them, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Ellen Avery, Wes Barager, Jane Becker, Ed Cole, John Cook, Gary Culver, Tracy D'Arduini & Linda Pulcini, Graham DeMeyers, Jim DePoint, Ron Desassure, Irene Fadden, Jessica Fox, Jonathan Groff, Laurie Harvey, Pastor Ho Dong, Mary Kay Jones, Gary Lashway, Frank Lawrence, Tad Manske, Evelyn McDowell, Deb Merla, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer, Bob Pringle, David Sanford, Courtney Sears, Madalyn Rose Senn, Sister Barbara/Sisters of Mercy, Harvey Smeatin, Fran Storm, Joan Verstringhe

Please pray for those who wish to remain anonymous as they, too, need our prayers.

Others for whom we continue to pray:

Janet Hassler Costa, Kathleen Dougherty, Joan Durfey, Janet Haigh, Marge Harloff, Russell Harris, Bobby & Eileen Haurand, Dave Jankowski, Christine Stachecki Johanessen, Roger King, Jessica Locey Otto, Sue Luechauer, Cim McFarlane, Beverly Mikolon, Patrick Miller, Karley Mott, Tracy Murphy, Dawn VerStraete Nieskes, Wilma Redman, Kathy Rynders, Doug Sloan, David Squier, Marguerite Vizzini, Connie West

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Beverly Koeberle, Rochelle Morse, Bev Mouton, Dorothy Schlee

Prayers of Intercession 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. Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.



SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1	2
3 14 th Sunday after Pentecost	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 10 am Deacons 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	6 10 am Mission/Social Concerns	7	8	9
10 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Communion & Cereal Sunday	11	12 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	13 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	14	15	16
17 16 th Sunday after Pentecost	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	20 1 pm Women's Circle Bible Study FH 6:30 pm Property	21 6-8 pm FH CPR & AED Training	22	23
24 First day of Sunday School Welcome Back breakfast Church Picnic	25	26 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	27	28	29	30



OCTOBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 World Communion & Cereal Sunday 9 am Adult Bible Study FH 9 am Sunday School	2 7 pm Fellowship	3 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	4 10 am Mission/Social Concerns	5	6	7
8 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School	9	10 10 am Deacons 3:15 pm Worship 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	11 7 pm Boy Scouts FH	12	13	14
15 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School One Great Hour of Sharing	16	17 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room	18 1 pm Women's Circle Bible Study FH 6:30 pm Property	19	20 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal FH	21 1 pm Wedding Taylor Guerin & Michael Gonsenhauser
22 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Sunday School	23 6-8 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	24 Set Up 3-5 pm & 6-9 pm Rummage Sale 7 pm Boy Scouts Muscle Room 7 pm Session	25 Set Up 2-5 pm & 6-9 pm Rummage Sale	26 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	27 9 am to 3 pm Rummage Sale	28 9 am to 11 am Rummage Sale 11 am to 1 pm Tear Down
29 Western Horizons Sunday 9 am Sunday School Potluck Luncheon	30	31 Halloween				