



ISSUE 7091—JUNE 2025

# The Herald

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

*United Church of Christ*

*"Making God the Foundation of Everyday Living"*

It's been quite a whirlwind since I returned from the Kirchentag in Hannover, Germany. As I wrote last month, this large church festival takes place every two years. It's very hard to describe. It is part worship, part bible study, with a lot of connection and relationship building. There are workshops, panel discussions, concerts, and formal and informal presentations throughout the entire five day festival.

These events take place not only at a large conference/convention center but throughout the entirety of the city in which it is held. The picture [right] is of the city center of Hannover. The many red map markers show locations where events were held. The Kirchentag quite literally takes over the host city.

Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag Hannover 30. April - 4. Mai 2025

Vorstellungsorte Innenstadt

1	St. Nikolai	10:00
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100	St. Nikolai	10:00



*UCC Delegation: (from left to right) David Charles Smith, pastor from PA; Helen Nwabara, UCC D.C. Office, Michael Blair, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada; Rev. Dan; Lillian Daniel, Conference Minister of the Michigan Conference, UCC; Rob Apgar-Taylor, UCC pastor serving in the United Church of Canada; Jest Kast, pastor from PA*

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

## This Issue:

Worship Schedule  
PAGE 2

Monthly Financials  
PAGE 3

Thank yous  
PAGE 3

Prayer Chain  
PAGE 4

VBS 2025  
PAGE 5

United Youth Ministry  
PAGE 6-7

2025 Graduates  
PAGE 8-9

Scholarships  
PAGE 9

Upcoming Sundays  
PAGE 10

June Calendar  
PAGE 11

**85 Heritage Dr.  
Tallmadge, OH 44278  
Phone: 330.633.4931  
website:  
[www.fcctallmadge.org](http://www.fcctallmadge.org)**

As I mentioned, I was a part of the UCC delegation that was invited from across the church to represent our beloved denomination. Our German partners, the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD), invited us to be a part of the experience and to be present in our joint booth in the exhibit hall. The picture at the bottom of the first page is of our UCC delegation after we led worship on Friday evening at St. Petri Kirche in Hannover!

Throughout the Kirchentag, we each signed up to work shifts in the exhibit booth. We had the blessing of meeting many people from many places in the world and to share information about our Kirchengemeinschaft (full church communion partnership) with visitors. The picture [top] is of a group of young people from Finland that stopped by our booth.



Kirchentag is an important festival across Germany. The then-current Chancellor, Olaf Schulz, came into the exhibit hall and to the booth just across the aisle from our booth [middle]. The previous Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, led bible study the first day. [bottom]



So you can get a sense that this festival was lively, busy and a blessing to all who attended. Again, my deepest thanks to you, my church family, for providing the space for me to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Grace for the journey,

*Daniel J Doty*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### MAY 25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Scripture:* Acts 1:1-11,  
Luke 24:44-53

*Message:* "Unexpected Ministry"

### JUNE 1 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Scripture:* Luke 7:36-8:3

*Message:* "Grace-Filled Hospitality"

### JUNE 8 PENTECOST SUNDAY

*Scripture:* Genesis 11:1-9,  
Acts 2:1-21

*Message:* "The Spirit Scale"

### JUNE 15 TRINITY SUNDAY

*Scripture:* Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31,  
John 16:12-15

*Message:* "The World's Beginning"

### JUNE 22 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Scripture:* 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a,  
Luke 8:26-39

*Message:* "Daring Compassion"

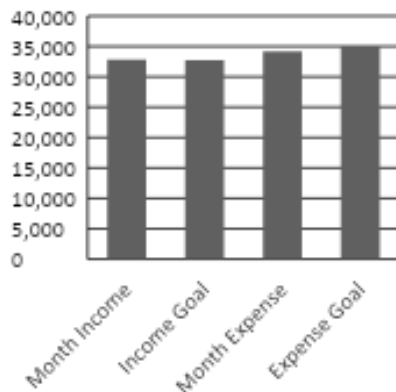
### JUNE 29 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Scripture:* 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14,  
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

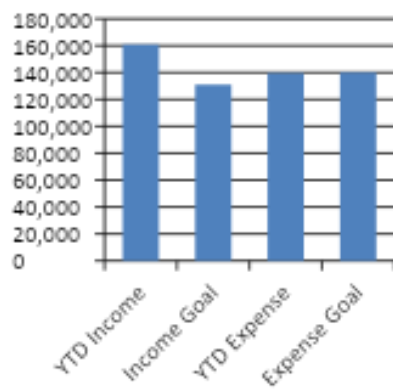
*Message:* "Take Up the Story"

## MONTHLY FINANCIALS

### April 2025



### April 2025 YTD



April 2025 operating income of \$32,550 was \$200 **below** the monthly income need. Operating expenses for the month were \$34,200 resulting in a **deficit** of (\$1,650) in April, and a YTD **surplus** of \$20,965. We are thankful for the early fulfillment of 2025 pledges and are hoping this bodes well for our ministries in 2025. We look forward in prayer to a theology of generosity and the ability to strengthen the growth of our ministries as we move through the year. Contact the Church office to find out how to sign up for automatic monthly giving. Offerings may also be made online through a link on our website, mailed to the Church or sent from your bank's online system.

## Strengthen the Church Special Offering

Through the Strengthen the Church Offering, people across the United Church of Christ support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church. This year, the Heartland Conference has decided that monies raised from this campaign will help defray the cost of our Heartland delegates who are representing us at the General Synod in Kansas City. Thank you for your generous support!

We will collect the Strengthen the Church Offering during the month of May and will dedicate the offering on June 8th.



## A WORD OF THANKS!

- \* *Dear Prayer Chain Family, Thank you all for your prayers and encouraging words these past few months. I cannot express how much they have meant to me. And Diane, for always remembering the day of every test (and that's been a lot!). I could count on a text from you with blessed thoughts. Sincerely, Anita Kelly-Lahrmer*
- \* *Diana, Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl for Andy.—Kim Klush and Family*
- \* *Spiritual and Pastoral Ministries, Thank you for the thoughts and messages sent throughout the year.—Carolyn Mackey*

## CONDOLENCES

*Our condolences to the family and friends of **Andy Klush**, brother of Suzy Klush, who died on April 7, 2025.*



## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for the individuals listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723.

David Arch  
 Brad, Noreen, and Tim Ashley  
 Sharon Bible  
 Jim Brown (Sandy Pressler's son-in-law)  
 Steve Burr  
 Patti Calvarese  
 Jim Caplinger  
 Scott & Connie Carter (relatives of Rev. Ed and Carol Carter)  
 Lyn Fendenheim (friend of Joe Labay)  
 Debbie Fickes  
 Eleanor Hall  
 Angela Hammelman (daughter of Wally & Donna Atwood)  
 Alleen Hilbish  
 Jim Jackson (Bonnie Fordham's son-in-law)  
 John James  
 George Kunzin (friend of Sandy Haydu)  
 Zell Lambert  
 Roberta Lewis  
 Michael Liggett (brother of Terri Poff)  
 Linda Moreland (Mike Cammel's cousin)  
 Lynn Norton  
 David and Jackie Parker  
 LTJG John Norton (Connie Stone's grandson)  
 Bonnie Rains  
 Matthew Rains  
 Heather Read (Ronda's daughter)  
 Roger Riddle (friend of Wally Atwood)  
 Darlene Ries (Donna Atwood's twin sister)  
 Sara Rooks  
 Eddie Showalter (Linda Kester's cousin)  
 Lt. Maxwell Spear (Connie Stone's grandson)  
 Sunny Speegle (friend of Linda Kester)  
 Jeff Sullivan  
 John Triola (friend of Joe Labay)  
 Richard Thomason  
 Anne Varian (friend of Barb Dolensky)  
 Kaitlyn Wetter (Kesters' granddaughter)  
 Don Woerz  
 Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

***Bless be God who did not refuse  
 me the kindness I sought in  
 prayer. Psalm 66:20***



Women's Fellowship is looking for volunteers to paint the kitchen. If you like to paint—or even if you don't, but you like pizza—please call me!

Barb Dolensky, 330-618-7859

Women's Fellowship  
**JUNE LUNCHEON**  
**La Mexicana**  
**Cantina & Grill**  
 Tallmadge

**Thursday, June 5th | 12 PM**



## YOUTH NEWS!

### Summer Children's programming

During the summer, we are planning on having WAMM on the following Sundays:

June 8	July 13	Aug 10
June 22	July 27	

As Faith in Action ended for the year on May 18. Please take time to appreciate your child's teacher. Roberta, Dianne, George, and Kyle certainly donate a lot of time to our children's and youth program.

*Thank  
 YOU*

## Maker Fun Factory Vacation Bible School

June 23– 26 from 6-8:15 PM

The Christian Education Board is hosting their annual VBS. This year's theme is **Maker Fun Factory; Created by God, Built for a Purpose**. We will be giving the children the opportunity to discover their God-given purpose through daily bible lessons, crafts, games, music, science, and snack. Our nightly lessons:



- Day 1: God made you; bible lesson: the creation of people
- Day 2: God is always with you; bible lesson: God is with Gideon
- Day 3: God will always love you; bible lesson: Jesus dies and comes back to life
- Day 4: God made you for a reason; bible lesson: Abigail brings peace

VBS is free, but a donation of \$10/family that would help cover the costs. To register your CHILD (age 4– 5th grade as of 5/1/25) or your youth HELPER (6th– 12th grader as of 5/1/25), please register them here: <https://forms.gle/TTuYRhKdDhTphr9v9>.



## Vacation Bible School Work Day

June 16 @ 10 AM

We will be gathering craft items, making name tags, creating the stage, prepping crafts, game items, etc.

### Vacation Bible School Donations

We could not run a successful program without this congregation and their generosity. If you would like to pick up items, please let Wendy know so we don't purchase too many of the same item.

#### **Craft items**

- Misc small nuts and bolts
- 4 bottles Tacky Glue (brown bottle)
- 80 toothbrushes (flat bristles)
- 2 rolls double sided foam tape
- 75 wooden crosses (2x4 inches on amazon)
- 75 wooden craft picture frame (4x6)
- 2 containers Mod Podge
- 12 foam paint brushes
- 10 bags mini marshmallows
- 4 boxes of toothpicks
- 10 bright colored foam board
- 2 NEW flat bottom plungers
- 80 straws
- 10 bottles bright acrylic paint

#### **Snack items**

- Large bag of animal crackers
- 4 small bags of gummy worms
- 2 small bags of Swedish fish
- 1 large box of goldfish/whales
- 1 large bag of pretzel sticks
- 200 sandwich Ziplocs
- 200 napkins
- 250 10–12 oz cups
- 1 bag of purple melting chocolate
- 1 bag of yellow melting chocolate
- 1 bag of blue melting chocolate
- 80 individually wrapped Rice Krispies Treats

#### **Fresh fruit delivered Tuesday**

- 4 lbs green grapes
- 4 pints of blueberries

# UNITED YOUTH MINISTRIES

## United Ministry

### Mission Team:

### A Week of Service in Cincinnati

From June 8–12, a team of 10 youth and 4 adults from United Ministry will travel to Cincinnati, Ohio, to serve with Washington UCC's Summer Immersion Program.

This mission experience offers our youth a chance to engage in hands-on service grounded in faith and community partnership.

Throughout the week, the team will lead enrichment activities for children in the urban core, assist with home repairs, support a global disaster relief project, and volunteer at a local emergency shelter. They are also organizing a food and hygiene drive to support Washington UCC's pantry and closet, which serves individuals experiencing homelessness. A highlight of the week will be preparing and serving a community meal.

In addition to their service, our youth will take part in faith-based programming that provides a biblical foundation for their mission work. We ask for your continued prayers as our team travels and seeks to be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing love in tangible ways and witnessing God's movement in the lives of those they serve—and within their own hearts.



### 2025 Mission Trip Team

#### Youth

Kaedra Davis  
Bobby Higham  
Katie Higham  
Marcus Hoffman  
Cadence Ickes  
Camryn Ickes  
Annabelle Powell  
Ryan Prior  
Lauren Scovern  
Meredith Treen

#### Adult Advisors

George Herron  
Kyle Herron  
Erin Hoffman  
Anne Pertick

## Hand to Hand Youth Mission Food and Hygiene Drive

This summer, the youth and leaders of United Ministry are heading to Cincinnati for a week of service with Washington United Church of Christ. Washington UCC is deeply involved in outreach throughout their neighborhood and the city, including their ministry, *Camp Cupboard and Closet*—a resource store that provides clothing, household items, hygiene kits, and food for those in need.

As part of our mission work, our team will be organizing a **Food & Hygiene Drive** to support *Camp Cupboard and Closet* and help provide lunches for those experiencing homelessness.

### How you can help:

Donated items can be dropped off at the church throughout the month of May and placed in the designated donation box located in the atrium. Monetary donations are also welcome—please mark the donation as *Youth Mission Drive*.

### Requested donation items include:

**Plastic grocery bags, Individually wrapped snacks:** peanut butter crackers, cookies, chips, fruit cups, cupcakes, juice boxes, etc., **Non-perishable food:** rice, noodles, boxed side dishes, canned goods, pasta and sauce, peanut butter, canned/pouched tuna, etc, **Full-size hygiene products:** soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion, moisturizer, lip balm, razors, shaving cream, etc.

**Thank you for supporting our youth as they serve and make a difference!**

# NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRY

## PARTNER FIRST SERVE

**Save the dates for these great opportunities to support First Serve!**

### **Giving Day | Sunday, June 1, 2025**

On this day, we invite you to be part of something bigger than yourself. Help First Serve raise \$20,000 to fund the materials and equipment needed for the annual day of service.

Each year, First Serve brings together over 500 volunteers to complete more than 55 service projects—all in the vibrant North Hill community of Akron. From home repairs to school beautifications, community gardens to neighborhood cleanups, our volunteers roll up their sleeves and make a real, visible difference in one incredible day.

Let's reach our goal of \$20,000 together! Watch how your gift transforms and impacts a community.

Use the QR code to make your donation or visit:  
[www.joinfirstserve.org/give/](http://www.joinfirstserve.org/give/)



### **Day of Service | Sunday, September 7, 2025**

Online registration begins on August 1, 2025

First Serve is looking for volunteers to be project leaders for the Day of Service. If interested, please contact Anne Pertick for more information at [anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org](mailto:anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org).

### **Race for First Serve 2025 | Sunday, September 27, 2025**

Calling all runners and volunteers! For the second year in a row, First Serve is proud to be a Blue Line Charity Partner for the Akron Marathon Races on September 27, 2025. Thanks to the incredible support from the First Serve community, last year's runner participation and fundraising event was a huge success! First Serve is eager to connect with runners of all levels to join forces for the incredible Race for First Serve during the Akron Marathon! Please help First Serve connect with runners in your congregation. There are also opportunities for non-running volunteers to help at fluid stations on race day! Please see Anne Pertick ([anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org](mailto:anne.pertick@fcctallmadge.org)) to see how you can help a great cause.

## SUMMER 2025 calendar

### JUNE 2025 calendar

**WED 4** SUMMER MISSION TEAM  
@ 12PM  
Packing Food & Hygiene Drive  
Items & Meal Shopping  
FCC

**JUNE 8-12** YOUTH MISSION TRIP  
Cincinnati

**JUNE 23-26** VBS-YOUTH HELPERS

**SUN 29** YOUTH FELLOWSHIP  
@ 6:30-8PM  
FCC

### JULY 2025 calendar

**SUN 20** SWIM DAY & PICNIC  
TIME-PLACE TBA

### AUG 2025 calendar

**SUN 10** OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT  
@ 8-10:30PM  
FCC

UNITED MINISTRY

## Prayerful Warriors for Mission Experience

On May 25 and June 1, we will be looking for prayer warriors to pray for our youth and adults attending the mission week in Cincinnati. We will have a bag for every person attending the work week, and we invite you to pick one up so you can pray for them during their week. We would also love for you to write them a note of encouragement for each day (5) so they can read those words each night during devotions. We also encourage you to put some goodies in their bag. Please plan to return the bags by Wednesday, June 4th at the latest. We will need 14 prayer partners.

# Congratulations GRADUATES



**Nola Marshall** is graduating from Western Reserve Academy. She is the daughter of Chris and Robin. Nola has held many leadership roles; Pioneer Leader, Chief Ambassador, Athletic Leadership Committee and also played on the softball and basketball teams. She was also part of National Society of High School Scholars and earned the MVP award in softball. She also volunteered at a local food bank and soup kitchen as well as part of the Reserve Christian Fellowship. She was even fortunate to be a part of a church camp trip to Kiawah, SC.

One of her favorite memories was when she and her mom were baptized together. Nola was four years old but still remembers being excited when Dr. John lifted her up and presented her to the congregation. She also remembers Mr. Bagnoli and Glenna Krietzburg taking the Sunday school class to McDonalds. In the fall, Nola will be attending the Ohio State University.

**Aidan Birch** is graduating from Tallmadge High School, where he was involved in both football and baseball. He is the son of Pamela Birch and grandson of Bob and Terri Poff. He plans to attend an Electrical JATC apprenticeship program in the fall. His favorite memory from First Congregational Church is attending Youth Lock-ins.

**Gabe Newcomer**, son of Scott and Missy Newcomer, is graduating from Stow High School. In high school, Gabe was active in the marching and concert bands as well as the Culinary career/technical education. In 10th grade, Gabe was asked to attend the school leadership retreat. Outside of school, Gabe was very involved in the Scouts of America.

One of Gabe's favorite memories at First Congregational Church was Breakfast with Santa. He enjoyed the experience, breakfast and, of course, asking Santa for special gifts for Christmas morning. Confirmation Day was one of his parents' favorite memories. The laying of hands was a moment that was quite special to them.

Gabe plans to work and focus on physical conditioning for a year and then enlist in the Army. He has ambitions to be a tank driver.

**Kaitlyn Poff** is graduating from Kent Roosevelt High School. She is the daughter of Brian and Carlene Poff and granddaughter of Bob and Terri Poff. She will be heading to Stark State in the fall.

One of her favorite memories at First Congregational Church is attending Vacation Bible School during the summers.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PG.

# Congratulations Graduates Continued...

**Sean Crighton** is the son of Renee and Stewart Crighton. Sean is graduating from Tallmadge High School, where he was an active and accomplished member of the Marching Band and Concert Band all four years, serving as Section Leader in his senior year. He also played in the Jazz Band for three years. Sean was proud to letter in band and was honored to receive both the Louis Armstrong Award for Musicianship and the THS Band Boosters Scholarship.

Sean plans to pursue a career in gemology, with the goal of starting his own business transforming rough stones from miners into beautiful gemstones for jewelers and collectors.

A lifelong member of FCC, Sean holds special memories of Vacation Bible School with Miss Wendy, the “baking hot hostel” in Boston, and running the soundboard alongside Mark Clark.

**Amelia Ross**, daughter of Ethan and Jennifer, will be graduating from Tallmadge High School. She has enjoyed many activities and accomplishments while at Tallmadge. She has run for the cross-country and track teams. The cross country teams qualified for state championships in 2023 and 2024. And her 4x800m relay qualified for State for Track last year. Amelia was also active in Student Senate, French Club, Respect Club, Yearbook, Leaders in Action, PTSA and Interact. When she is not at school or the activities listed, she enjoys making Pinterest boards, traveling, baking, concerts, and shopping!

Amelia has been attending FCC since a very young age. One of her favorite memories is participating in worship and doing readings with her sister, Tapanga. Her parents loved making memories with the Faith and Family ministry and watching their personal faith grow over the years.



## Scholarships 2025

Congratulations to our 2025 Memorial Scholarship winners:

### Cailey Bozic

Cailey is the daughter of Amy Floran. She currently attends graduate school at the Penn State College of Medicine and is pursuing a Doctorate of Medicine degree. Cailey is the 2025 recipient of the **Uli Boschert, Dr. Richard Neitz, Geneva Wright Atwood, and Stanley and Daisy Watts** scholarships.

### Allison Byron

Allison is the daughter of John and Karen Byron. She currently attends Kent State University as a Fashion Design major and will be a senior in the fall. Allison is the 2025 recipient of the **Melvin and Margaret Wilgoths and Heritage** scholarships.

### Amelia Ross

Amelia is the daughter of Jen and Ethan Ross. She will be attending Bowling Green State University as a Nursing major and will be a freshman in the fall. Amelia is the 2025 recipient of the **Kenneth and Ann Gilbert, Richard and JoAnn Wood, and Heritage** scholarships.



## Worship Attendance

April 17, Maundy Thursday	49	April 27, Youth Sunday	124
April 18, Good Friday	70	May 4	121
April 20, "Son"rise Service	50	May 11	152
April 20, Easter 10 AM	230	May 18	144



## UPCOMING SUNDAYS

### Greeters

May 25	Roy Martin and Dorothy Seal
June 1	Donna Marlow and Bill Westfall
June 8	Nan Nagel and Sue Canavan
June 15	The Johnson Clan
June 22	
June 29	

### Altar Flowers

May 25	The Scovern Family, Rebecca Moore
June 1	
June 8	Larry and Barb Dolensky
June 15	Cliff and Sue Yeager
June 22	
June 29	

Sign up in  
the hallway  
\$28 per  
arrangement

### Ushers



May 25	Larry Robinson, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Don Simmons
June 1	Larry Robinson, Dave Marconi, Al Lytle, Ken Caldwell
June 8	Sandy Haydu, Karen Huth, Kim Fulton, Jane Charles
June 15	Dave Marconi, Bonnie Fordham, Sandy Haydu, Gary Myers
June 22	Don Simmons, Joe Labay, Tom Labay, Larry Robinson
June 29	Jim and Dee West, Joe Labay, Tom Labay

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TALLMADGE

FCC Tallmadge  
**WORSHIP**  
Schedule

**SUNDAYS**

**@10:00 AM**

**ALL YEAR LONG!**

**"No matter who you are, or where you are on  
life's journey, you are welcome here."**

We are no longer  
changing our worship  
time during the summer  
months. Our worship  
service will remain at  
10:00 AM all year long!  
We will still have reduced  
office hours. During  
June, July, and August  
our office is open from  
9AM—12PM,  
Monday—Thursday.

# JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  10:00 AM—Worship/ Communion	2 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 5:00 PM—Social Action Meeting 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:30 PM —Trustees Meeting	3 10:00 AM—Bubble Lady (Treehouse) 6:00 PM—Naranon	4 9:00 AM—Quilters 12:00 PM—Mission Team supply packing	5 10:00 AM—WW 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 12:00 PM—WF Luncheon 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	6	7 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
8 MISSION TRIP  9:00 AM—EC Meeting 10:00 AM—Worship/ Strengthen the Church Dedication/WAMM	9 MISSION TRIP 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	10 MISSION TRIP 6:00 PM—Naranon	11 MISSION TRIP  9:00 AM—Quilters	12 MISSION TRIP HERALD DEADLINE 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	13	14 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
15 FATHER'S DAY 10:00 AM—Worship	16 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage	17 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—Card Mak- ing	18 9:00 AM—Quilters 10:00 AM—Herald Angels	19 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 4:30 PM—Spaghetti Dinner 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA	20	21 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
22  10:00 AM—Worship/ WAMM	23 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage 6:00 PM—8:15 PM—VBS	24 10:30 AM—ACSG 6:00 PM—Naranon 6:00 PM—8:15 PM— VBS	25 9:00 AM—Quilters 6:00 PM—8:15PM— VBS	26 10:00 AM—Staff Meeting 10:00 AM—WW 6:00 PM—WW 6:00 PM—NA 6:00 PM—8:15 PM— VBS	27	28 7:30/9:00 AM— WW
29  10:00 AM—Worship 6:00 PM—WJHM 6:30 PM—Youth Fellow- ship	30 1:00 PM—Ladies Study 2:125PM—Chair Yoga 6:00 PM—Heritage					

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**DATE: May 21, 2025**

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