

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 4th, 2024
9:30 am



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Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/GoodSoilLutheranMinistries)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation
Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

5th Sunday after Epiphany

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

† Gathering Hymn: Creating God, Your Fingers Trace- ELW 684

- 1 Creating God, your fingers trace
 the bold designs of farthest space;
 let sun and moon and stars and light
 and what lies hidden praise your might.
- 2 Sustaining God, your hands uphold
 earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
 let water's fragile blend with air,
 enabling life, proclaim your care.
- 3 Redeeming God, your arms embrace
 all now despised for creed or race;
 let peace, descending like a dove,
 make known on earth your healing love.
- 4 Indwelling God, your gospel claims
 one fam'ly with a billion names;
 let ev'ry life be touched by grace
 until we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn b.1934 Text ©1979 The Hymn Society admin Hope Publishing Company.
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The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2 Corinth. to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality signifying trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-22, 25-31

To put this reading into context:

The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.

Hear now the reading.

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,
 “My way is hidden from the LORD,
 and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The LORD is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.
²⁹He gives power to the faint,
 and strengthens the powerless.
³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted;
³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
 they shall run and not be weary,
 they shall walk and not faint.

Word of God. Word of Life.
 Thanks be to God.

*We welcome the
 gospel by singing the
 Gospel Acclamation.
 We rise, if able, in
 anticipation of Christ
 being revealed to us
 through the Living
 Word of the Gospel.*

† **Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174**



*Before and after
 the reading of
 the Gospel, we
 give thanks and
 praise to Jesus
 Christ, who is
 revealed to us
 through the
 Gospel reading.*

† **Gospel: Mark 1:29-39**

To put this gospel reading into context:

Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.

The holy Gospel according to Mark.
 Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children grade 1 and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the "learn and grow in faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school – grade 6) meet after worship.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:

Our encounters with Jesus change us into people who want to serve God and share the healing, forgiveness, and grace we have experienced. How have your encounters with Jesus changed your life? How have you responded by serving God and sharing with

others about how your life has been impacted? How could you do this intentionally this week and/or month?

**† Hymn of the Day: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
ELW 843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children
with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons
with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community and
around the*

† Prayers of Intercession

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

world. The prayers are also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

Each petition addresses a different topic, often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

A brief silence.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**


God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. We pray especially for, Diane, Helen, Carl, Pam, Tanya, Joe, Frank & Vicki, Willie, Bill, Char, Rich, Jeanette, Archer, Ruth, Steve, family and friends of Tom, Dick, Jeanette, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Palestine... and all those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

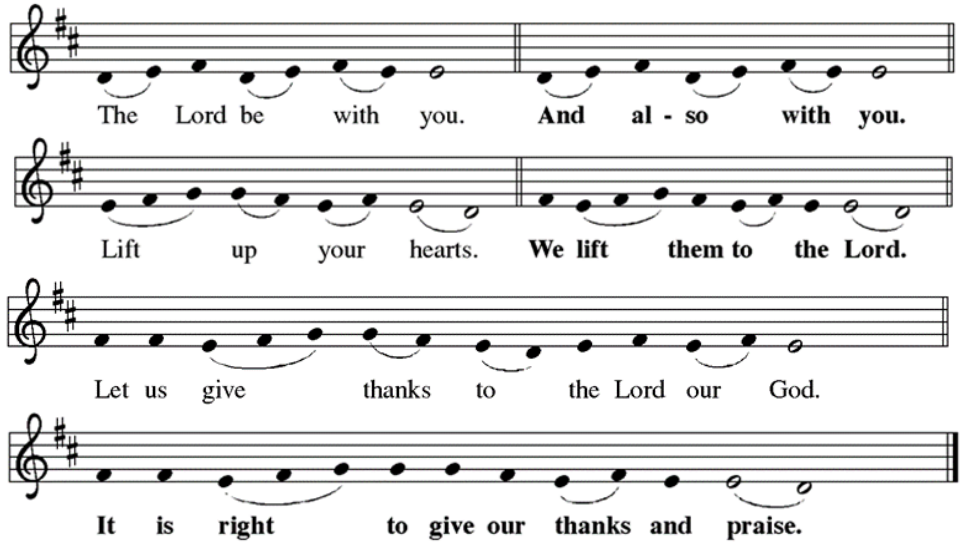
God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today by using the QR code to the right or at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support</p>  <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p>
	<p>Special Offertory Music: Handel Recorder Sonata in C Major, I. Larghetto Nancy Welliver, recorder</p>
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184</p> <p>Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.</p> <p><small>Text © 1978 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i>, admin. Augsburg Fortress.</small></p>
	<p>† Offering Prayer</p> <p>Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.</p>

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

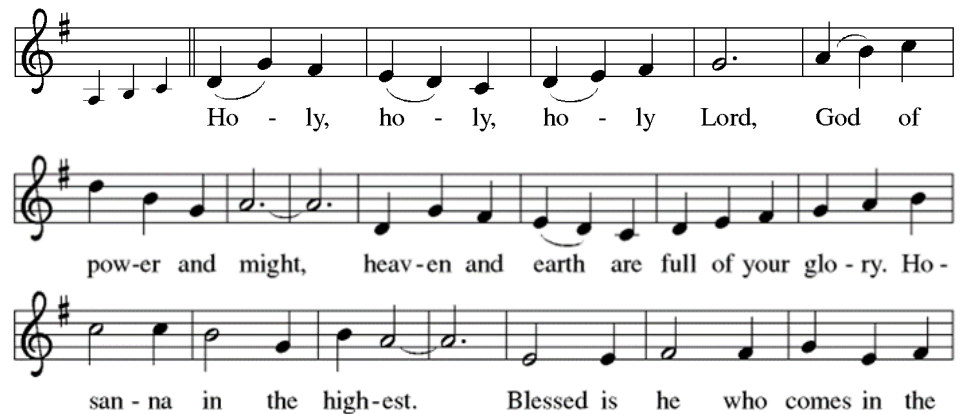
† Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

† Invitation to the Table

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are

welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center.

Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Praise the Lord, the Almighty- ELW 858

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Communion Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand – ELW 773

- 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:

Refrain

Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.

- 2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall: *Refrain*
- 3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,

And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand: *Refrain*

† **Post-Communion Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† **Blessing**

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world to
follow Jesus.*

† **Sending Hymn: Arise, Your Light Has Come- ELW 314**

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,

God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship and then down to the Fellowship Hall for our "Lunch and Learn" Movie Discussion on The Green Book

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Sean Lanter	Reader: Trey Harrison
Ushers: Anne Paine & Sharon Hollowell	Counters: Becky Williamson & Kirsten Reading
Online Usher: Ellen Young	Acolyte: Ryan Williamson



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Feb 4, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Diane Alusheff, Helen Andrews, Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Tanya Calcote, Joe Gray, Frank and Vicki, Willie Lee, Bill Leek, Char Mattson, Archer Oster, Ruth Patrick, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, family and friends of Tom Rospert, Dick Schlupe, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, and the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine.

For those celebrating their birthdays: Becky Williamson (2/6), Kim Wylie (2/6), and Joyce Miller (2/8).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Jovi Mitterhozer (2/10).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the glory of God in honor of Kim and Becky's birthdays.

Altar Care Rotations- We are working to set up two altar care rotations: 1) to prepare/provide communion bread (monthly), and 2) to set up the communion elements before worship each Sunday (weekly). Serving on the altar care team is a great way to serve God and help people encounter a tangible experience of God's love during worship through communion. If you'd like to participate, email admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. Please note: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule.



Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren't expected to provide snacks or baked goods but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.



Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this QR code to the right or this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp>



Save the Date: Centering Prayer Training, 2/17 9am-12pm at Good Soil: Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer in which we experience the gift of God's presence with us. It's a method of prayer that reaches back to the early days of Christianity. Centering prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with him. [Dee Willis](#) will lead a six-week introduction to this kind of prayer starting with a three-hour training on February 17, 9am-noon, followed by practice sessions on Wednesday evenings leading up to Easter week. This is an excellent opportunity to go

deeper spiritually, further develop your spiritual practice of prayer, and grow in your relationship with Christ this Lenten season. RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org.

TODAY: Good Soil's RIC Team Invites you to Celebrate Black History Month: Please Join Us for Our First Special Lunch & Learn Movie and Discussion Sunday, February 4, Immediately After Worship GREEN BOOK: INSPIRED BY A TRUE FRIENDSHIP Two men from polar opposite backgrounds with wildly contrasting personalities get thrown together under unusual circumstances. They learn from each other, change each other for the better and discover that they're not so different after all. Watch for our second special Lunch & Learn Movie and Discussion on Sunday, February 25. More information to come.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Feb 4	In-Person and Livestream Worship Lunch and Movie Discussion: Green Book	9:30 am 11:00 am
Sun, Feb 11	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday	9:30 am
Wed, Feb 14	Ash Wednesday Worship	6:30 pm
Sat, Feb 17	Centering Prayer Training	9:00 am
Sun, Feb 18	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Mon, Feb 19	<i>Presidents' Day (Church Office Closed)</i>	
Wed, Feb 21	Centering Prayer Practice in Sanctuary	6:30 pm
Sun, Feb 25	In-Person and Livestream Worship Lunch and Movie Discussion: Movie TBD	9:30 am 11:00 am
Sat, Mar 2	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Mar 3	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Wed, Mar 6	Centering Prayer Practice in Sanctuary	6:30 pm
Thurs, Mar 7	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda	5:45 pm
Sun, Mar 10	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 am

