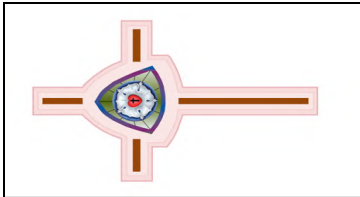


Christ's United Lutheran Church
437 Airport Road
Ashland, PA 17921
www.christsumited.org

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Life Together at Christ's United Lutheran Church



Join us

for Wor-

ship

Saturday 5:00 p.m. & Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School (September thru May) 10:45
& Fellowship 10:30

Life Together at Christ's United





Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

February 2020

In This Issue:

Pastors Message	3-4
Council Highlights	5
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Annual Meeting	7
Lenten Worship	8
Text alerts from CULC	10
Serving our Community	11
Calendar	12-13
Social Ministry	14
Souper Bowl Sunday	15
Prayer List	16
WELCA	18
Red Cross Blood Drive	21

The February Newsletter is sponsored in Honor of our 10th Wedding Anniversary by Angie & Nelson Berger



Status of Accounts as of December 31

Balance in Checking Account.....\$ 13,667.61

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2019 Annual Budget of \$203,448.31 was **\$16,954.03**

December income was \$24,246.34

Expenses for December were \$18,147.63

Benevolence Gifts through December\$12,611.00

(77% of our Benevolence goal of \$16,320.00 for 2019)



CHURCH COUNCIL 2019

council@christsunited.org

	Phone	Term Expires
Erik Tice President/VP	570-875-2681	Feb. 2020
Beth Andrews Secretary	570-874-2381	Feb. 2022
Ted Ambrose	570-449-2193	Feb. 2022
Dr. Kay Berner	570-875-1035	Feb. 2020
Jim Gruber	570-875-2805	Feb. 2021
Suzanne Peel	570-875-2218	Feb. 2021
Terry Shilling	570-875-0412	Feb. 2021
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2022
Steven Wolfgang	570-875-9660	Feb. 2020

PASTOR

Rev. Laura A. Csellak

570-652-1951

pastorlaura@christsunited.org

STAFF

Parish Administrator office@christsunited.org Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00	Deb Hall	570-875-1591 570-789-9722
Director of Music	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
Treasurer	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
Indoor Custodian	Susan Herb	
Outdoor Custodian	Bill Price	570-875-4272
Financial Secretary	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720



Life Together at Christ's United



Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education
Evangelism/Outreach
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)
Social Ministry
Stewardship
WELCA
Worship & Music
Multimedia Ministry
Security Team

Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees
Endowment Fund
Mutual Ministry
Nominating

Christ's United Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.



DO JUSTICE ...

love kindness ...

WALK HUMBLY

with our God.

MICAH 6:8



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A faithful member sent me a post on Facebook that was disturbing. I hesitate to share it with you since it can come off as very harsh and judgmental to parents and grandparents who are trying their very best to raise their children. However, it opened my eyes to how I get caught up in my own schedule and self-chosen priorities. So, here's the post:

How to raise secular kids in 3 easy steps...

- 1. Fit Church into you schedule whenever its convenient.*
- 2. Devalue the message by living a church life and a different home life.*
- 3. Give higher priority to school and sports activities than church involvement.*

Easy as 123.

Following Jesus has never been as easy as 123. This is well known to those who struggle to love their enemies, care for those most different from themselves, study Scriptures that can challenge and confuse, and sit through worship with music, actions and a message contrary to what is often heard in society and culture.

But Christ Jesus gives what the world cannot give: unconditional love, unending forgiveness, and a community of sinner-saints to embrace us with all our talents and wounds. Not even the finest



sports team, concert, or family gathering can offer all this.

Our celebration of the Presentation of our Lord will remember Simeon's Canticle thanking God that the Son Jesus dedicated in the temple is the salvation which God has prepared in the sight of every people...A light to reveal God to the nations". Some of you will recall Simeon's Canticle (the Nunc Dimittis) as the Post-Communion Canticle often sung near the end of worship. Yes, Jesus is our light in any darkness!

Jesus shines on your fast love, and guides setting priorities. Follow as 123. That's church. So come – or United Lutheran for you.



family with his steady you in scheduling and lowering Jesus is not why you need your return – to Christ's Church. We're here

Pastor Laura+

Thank You!



Thank you for all the prayers, cards and food from CULC that kept me in faith and fortitude through post-op recovery and therapy. And to worship leaders Erik Tice, Larry Wolfgang, pastor Hoenich, Pastor Mark Swanson, and Seminarian Luke Swanson. Also for those who drove me to PT sessions including Barb Liem, Peggy Dzikczek, Terry Ambrose, Carla Mae Carl and Deb Zaharick. Finally, to those who cared in ways unknown to me but which ripples through my life and that of our congregation and community. To God be the glory for your care and generosity!

Pastor Laura



4



Communities Coming Together



Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church

Community Room
437 Airport Road (Gordon)
Ashland, PA 17921

**Thursday, February 6, 2020
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Please contact Debbie Hall or call
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit
www.redcrossblood.org
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

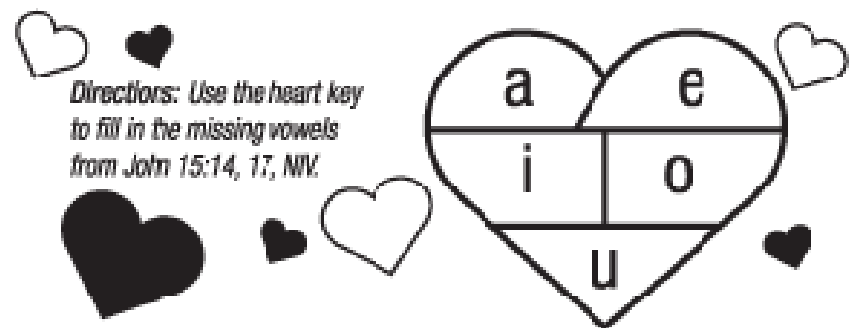
Life Together at Christ's United





A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.



Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f

y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. ...

Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:

L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. ... This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV



Church Council Highlights from January:

- We received a donation from a offering taken at the Ashland Community Choir concert for the Coward Family who were victims of a fire.
- Average weekly attendance for 2019 was 112.9.
- Endowment Fund Committee has contacted Charmaine White to audit at least three years of books (2016-2018).
- An accident occurred at the end of the driveway damaging a light and sign. Ken Dengler will get estimates on replacing the light and sign.
- Our new Pictorial Directory has been delivered and is being distributed to members who had their photo taken to be included.
- The Constitution is being reviewed by Beth Andrews, Terry Shilling and Erik Tice. Changes will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- A Safety Walk was done through the church. A laminated sign indicating the doorbell has been put in place if the front door is locked.
- A Security Team will be added as one of our Ministry Teams.
- An automatic blood pressure machine is now hanging in a bag in the Sacristy for quick access if needed. A shelf in the maintenance room will also be designated for first aid supplies.

February Council Contact of the month is Ann Marie Dillman

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to call if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building.



Life Together at Christ's United



FEBRUARY Birthdays

- 1 Ross Sterling
- Kim Walacavage
- Shelby Weikel
- 3 Stephen McGrath
- 4 Dennis Wolfe
- 5 Richard Weikel
- Kenneth Zweizig
- 6 Brian Bolich
- 8 Charlotte Schmidt
(Brandy Speer daugh)
- 9 Terry Kessler
- Allison Rusinko
- Kayla Werner
- 10 Rebecca Houser
- Jason Miller
- Mark Varndell
- 11 Vanessa Pirie
- Tanner Wilson
- Leo Young
- 12 Chantelle Klinger
- Edward Stepulitis
- 13 Rhonda Carl
- Barb Habowski
- Deana Leshner
- 14 Bobbi-Jo H

- 15 Alaina Lindenmuth
- Melissa Sisko
- Behret Steinbauer
- 16 Vicki Reeser
- Daniel Sisko
- Lois Sterling
- 17 Crystal Huber
- 18 Cyrus Clark
- Jacob Tice
- 19 Dean Leshner
- Pearl Lute
- Shaun McNally
- 20 Jim Chappell
- Cheryl Denchak
- Micah Hepler
- Mina Pennypacker
- Bill Price
- Jax Miller
- 21 Kylei Long
- 22 Teresa Ambrose
- Gavin Dwane
- Kolton Fetterolf
- Brielle Smith
- 23 Ricky Williard
- 24 Zalen Williard
- 25 Charlie Klauger
- 26 Geoffrey Dudick
- 27 Denise Hepler
- Nicole Steinbauer

FEBRUARY Anniversaries

- 02/13/93 Ron & Donna Wallace
- 02/14/10 Nelson & Angie Berger
- 02/16/95 Traci & Donald Smith Jr.
- 02/21/53 Cy & Joan Clark
- 02/23/85 David & Denise Hepler

In other words



We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from The Message Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the

Give Electronically

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As Christ's United prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.christsunited.org, locate the Online Giving button and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if it's easier, just scan this QR code to get started.



Get started at Christ's United



Women of the ELCA

All women of CULC are invited to attend the next WELCA meeting on **FEBRUARY 5th at 6:00 pm.**
Note this is at earlier 6:00pm time.

HELP WANTED for ANNUAL CANDY MAKING PROJECT



beginning Monday,
FEBRUARY 24th at 9:00 am.

Workdays will typically be Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9:00 -12:00 or whatever days/hours you can help.

Mixers, rollers, dippers, trimmers, packers, and inventory personnel are needed. On the job training is available! Come join in on the fun and support the “sweetest fundraiser “ at Christ’s United.

+Christian Symbol+



Shepherd's Crook

The shepherd’s crook is a symbol for Jesus, the Good Shepherd. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It’s also used in connection with King David, who worked as a shepherd when he was



**Sunday, February 16
11:00 a.m.**

Immediately after worship, on February 16. we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting. Followed by a covered dish Luncheon.

Please plan to attend and support our ministries

Recyclables Collection Reminder

Suzanne Peel is collecting and processing donations of items for repurposing.



Items being collected are:

- Unwanted eyeglasses - to be given to *Lions International*
- Used ink cartridges
- Used all-occasion greeting cards (*except Hallmark, American Greetings, Disney*) - **fronts only** - to be sent to St. Jude’s Ranch for children.
- Unused all-occasion greeting cards
- Cell phones

Baskets for the items are located on the front table in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about any of the items, please contact ~~Suzanne. Thank you.~~

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our recycling program. During 2019, 900 recycled greeting card fronts were sent to St. Jude’s Ranch for Children and 200 were distributed to the art department of several county schools. These card fronts will be used by children to create crafts to give and to sell to help them bring jobs to others. We also donated 57 pairs of glasses and 46 glass cases to the Lion’s Club for the visually needy, 11 used cell phones divided between Schuylkill

Remember....

That you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Such are the words of blessing offered on Ash Wednesday, as we remember our humanity and God's immortal love, shown to us in Jesus Christ. It is a time of somberness in recognition of the love so strong that death could not break its grasp on us, as Jesus carries us from death to life. Come and remember: Service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26.



PRAYER CHAIN



Each day members of Christ's United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need. For the past several years these Prayer Teams have been silently serving God, the world, and us.

If you are committed to the power of prayer, please join one of these teams. Prayer lists are available at worship services each weekend, and a phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. Please call the church office for more information.

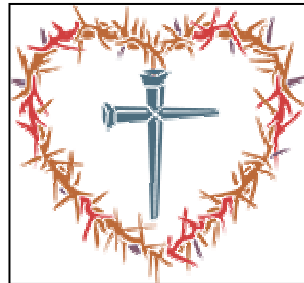


During Lent all are invited as in faith we gather each Wednesday night for a Soup Supper and Worship. The Social Ministry Team introduces the meal at 6:00 by sharing information on ministries around the world, telling us how our actions are affecting the lives of others (for good!). We then gather as light breaks the

darkness in Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. This is a special time of faith, the gathering together deepening our understanding of God's actions of love in Jesus Christ. Please plan to participate in this special

Our Lenten focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.



The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself.



2020 Sponsorships

The new sponsorship sign up sheets are now posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:

- Altar Flowers \$25.00
- Palms for Palm Sunday \$12.00
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Special service bulletins \$10.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00
- Monthly Newsletters \$40.00.

Payments for Altar flowers should be given to Cathy Troutman. All other payments should be made out to the church and given to

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, those who sent a card, and all who sent condolences for the passing of my mom. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.



The Horan / Wolfgang Family

Life Together at Christ's United



We Offer our Prayers to...



January 26 - Helen Wolfgang (D. Zaharick), Joanna Gruber (Grubers), Family of Kathleen Rafferty

January 19 – Richard Shoup (H. Brown), Nancy Harner (R Berner), Bob Yarnell (J Wolfgang), Julie Ann Armbush (J Pennypacker), Richard Dengler

January 12 – Carl (Mickey) Lute, Bill Green, Family of Michael Foley Sr.

January 5 – Jim Burger, Families of Mary Lute, Terry “Smoke” Fetterolf, Eileen Weikel

Please continue to pray for: Pastor Laura, Irene Morgan, Gail Lorady, Dan Grow, Minah Horan, Michelle Ambrose, Donald Bulla, Carol Stehr, Joe Ferraro Jr., Robert Beecher, Karyssa Wenrich, Elizabeth Brown & family, Judy Trautman (G. Marquardt), Doris McGurl (L. Lute), Lou Ann Olson (T. Shilling), Ron James (V. Brown), Pastor Bob Hughes (J. Gruber), Anna James (V. Brown), Jaden Leiby, Garth Swanson (Pr. Laura), Children of the Mission of the Good Shepherd (WELCA), Corrine & Josh Coward

*Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be kept on for one month and then taken off. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.** If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium.*

Praying Through the Directory

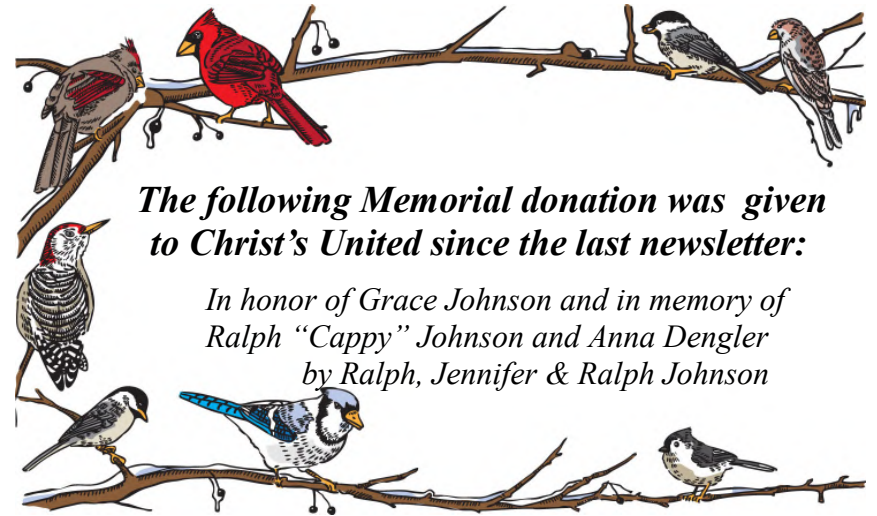
Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

This month we pray for:

The Krise Family - Amber & Jared Lower

The Sisko Family - Daniel & Bonnie

The Wagner Family - Stephen, Tami, Sierra & Lauren



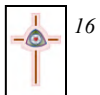
The very best valentine

Almost everyone — at least of the female persuasion — knows the romantic meaning of the phrase “hearts and flowers.” Valentine’s Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I’m hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn’t come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring — always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best “hearts and flowers” I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine’s Day and throughout eternity.

—Sandy Hyland

Life Together at Christ's United



Mark your calendars now for March 14, 2020. Our congregation will be attending a Hershey Bears Hockey game.

Cost is \$20.00

Please sign up on bulletin board for ticket count.

Fun for young and old!

Plan to attend!!

Deadline to sign up is February 2.

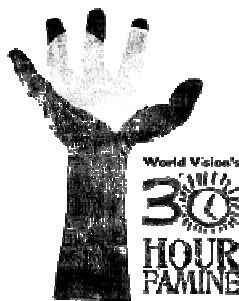


Lenten Soup Suppers



Wednesday's at 6:00
Sign up on the bulletin board to provide soup or bread for our meal.
Each week the Social Ministry Team will have a

30 Hour Famine Youth Event



The Youth Group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on February 28 - 29 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ashland. This event is an unforgettable day-and-a-half retreat of going without food to raise funds for the hungry...and learn and experience what hunger feels like.



Souper bowl of caring February 1 & 2, 2020

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."

Since then, more than \$150 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforming the time around the Big Game, into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn to make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God's love for our neighbors in need and give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. 100% of every dollar or food item collected will go directly to **Christ's Cupboard Food Pantry**. Please place all food donations on the table in the Narthex.

**Items most needed are Breakfast Items:
Cereal, Juice, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter**

Sign up for Text Alerts



You can receive mobile alerts from Christ's United!

We will send out text alerts during severe weather events to notify the congregation of cancellations/updates.

Simply text @culc123 to 81010 and enter your name when it asks.



SOCIAL MINISTRY



We will be collecting the following item for February:

Breakfast items

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is Thursday, February 13, 2020.



The month that your committee serves please help out in the kitchen before and after the service. Also, please bring in baked goods or other items for the snacks. Thank you.









Committee Schedule

- February—Social Ministry
- March— Church Council
- April—LCM
- May—WELCA
- June – Christian Education/Youth
- July—Choir/Worship & Music
- August—LCM
- September– WELCA
- October—Church Council
- November—Evangelism-Outreach/Endowment/Stewardship
- December—LCM
- January—WELCA

Serving Our Community of Faith in February:

Date	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte & Tag-a-long	Crucifer	Post Worship Greeter in Narthex	Post Worship Greeter at Door
February 2	Darcie Gruber	Robert Carl Jo-Ann Young Becky Spencer Ken Dengler	John Towe-AM Barb Stepanchick Dennis Wolfe	Kylie Mallams Joey McAndrew & Bianca McAndrew	Nathan Berger Nelson Berger	Beth Andrews Erik Tice	Darcie Gruber Deb Hubler
February 9	Deb Hubler			Blake Olayo & Ava Hernandez	Deidre Dengler	Ted Ambrose	Amy Johnson
February 16	Amy Johnson		Kay Berner-AM Jo-Ann Young Beth Andrews	David Cunningham	Ralph Johnson	Cheryl Denchak	Donna Lassen
February 23 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	Donna Lassen		Erik Tice - AM Barb Anczarski John Denchak	Amy Johnson	Ava Hubler		
February 26 <i>Ash Wed.</i>	Becky Spencer						

February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Groundhog Day 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Music 	3 7:00 Church Council	4	5 10:00 Seniors 6:00 WELCA	 1:00 - 6:00 P.M. Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30 Choir Practice	7	8  5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
9 Scout Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	10	11 9:00 Food Delivery & Set Up	12 10:00 Seniors	13 10:00 – 12:00 Christ's Cupboard 6:30 Choir Practice	14 Newsletter Deadline Happy Valentine's Day 	15 5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
16 9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	17  7:00 Social Ministry	18 7:00 Mutual Ministry	19 10:00 Seniors	20 6:30 Choir Practice	21	22 5:00 Worship with Holy Communion
23 Transfiguration Sunday 9:30 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 Fellowship 10:45 Sunday School	24 9:00 Easter Candy making begins 6:00 Grief Support	25	26 Ash Wednesday 9:00 Newsletter Assembly 10:00 Seniors  7:00 Worship with Holy Communion	27 6:30 Choir Practice	28  30 Hour Youth Famine Event @ Good Shepherd, Ashland	29 Leap Day  5:00 Worship with Holy Communion