



THE MESSENGER

July/August 2025
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

PASTOR'S NOTE: Staying the Course

As we journey through the heart of summer, the rhythms of our worship life at SPC offer a gentle yet powerful invitation: to stay the course—not just in our activities as a congregation, but in the deeper sense of remaining faithful to the ongoing work of the Spirit among us.

July begins with reflections from our Deacon Shepherds on how their ministry has evolved in partnership with God and one another as we engage the Way and Spirit of Jesus in formation and practice.

Then, as I take some time for vacation and continuing education, “The Parents of SPC” will continue a tradition begun last summer by sharing stories of how they live their faith and practice with their families and in the workplace. Associate General Presbyter, Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao, will preach and administer the Sacrament of Communion the first Sunday of August.

I will return for the remaining Sundays in August to explore how the exhortation of the Book of Hebrews toward “movement discipline” in the first century Way of Jesus informs our current commitment to disrupting tyrannical power in the twenty-first century.

Even as I take time for rest and study, our collective ministry continues. This is not a time of pause, but a time of deepening. A time to deepen our practice of *refuge*, as we find shelter in one another and in God’s ongoing presence. A time to deepen our nurturing of *resilience*, in the quiet ways we keep showing up, tending to the soul of our community. A time to deepen our commitment to *resistance*, as we hold fast to justice and mercy in a time of increasing cruelty. A time to deepen our *reimagining*, as we explore together what the Spirit might be whispering next into our shared life.

Whether you spend this summer in the pews, online, or away for a while in your own rhythm of rest, I pray the Spirit will “Stay the Course” with you and with our entire community, traveling light, walking together, and trusting in the God who has already prepared for us the path ahead.

- Committed with you to “The Course”
Pastor Gusti

Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church: An Inclusive Spiritual Community. We welcome all who long for meaning, hope, and belonging. Our faith & practice are rooted in the way of Jesus and enriched by wisdom from all sources. We are committed to being and becoming people of radical compassion, working for justice and wholeness in ourselves and in the world.

The "core commitments" that guide us, and the underlying beliefs that support them are:

Radical Hospitality: We Choose Welcome

- Everyone and everything, and every part of ourselves, is included in the circle of God's love.
- Imperfections and suffering are integral to the spiritual path.

Holistic Spirituality: Everything Belongs

- The Way of Jesus is a path of transformation.
- Doubt and questions are essential to faith.
- We are connected in Love with all, including those who have gone before us, and all those yet to come.
- We value all sources of Wisdom.

Engaged Compassion: God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God

- The Way of Jesus is a way of being in this world, loving, serving and making things whole.
- Loving God means loving all of creation.

Church Staff

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist (she/her), Pastor

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce (she/her), Director of Children and Youth Formation

Sheila Melendez (she/her), Choir Director

Sam Jannotta (he/him), Accompanist

Mark Nutwell (he/him), Tech Support (Contract)

Olivia Gill (she/her), Nursery Lead

Lynn Dampman (she/her), Administrative Assistant

100 W. Washington Street

P.O. Box 268

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Church Office Hours: 8am – 2pm, Monday through Friday; 304-876-6466

office@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Contacting Pastor Gusti: Pastor Gusti makes every effort to respond to communications as soon as possible between the hours of 9am and 9pm Saturday through Thursday. Fridays are her Sabbath. If you are having a pastoral emergency, please call any time, day or night. 681-283-5314;

gusti@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org

Worship in July and August 2025

<u>Sunday, July 6</u> Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Communion Memorial Moment	Guest Reflections from Deacon Shepherds <i>Jesus ... sends them forth two by two.</i>	Mark 6:6-13
<u>Sunday, July 13</u> Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Guest Reflections from Parents of SPC	Lesson TBD
<u>Sunday, July 20</u> Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Guest Reflections from Parents of SPC	Lesson TBD
<u>Sunday, July 27</u> Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Guest Reflections from Parents of SPC	Lesson TBD
<u>Sunday, August 3</u> Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time Communion Memorial Moment	Guest Preacher Rev. Nancy Meehan-Yao	Lesson TBD
<u>Sunday, August 10</u> Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>As it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one.</i>	A Better Homeland	Hebrews 11:8-16
<u>Sunday, August 17</u> Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.</i>	The Race Set Before Us	Hebrews 11:29-12:2
<u>Sunday, August 24</u> Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>What cannot be shaken may remain.</i>	What Cannot Be Shaken	Hebrews 12:25-29
<u>Sunday, August 31</u> Twenty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>What can anyone do to me?</i>	Movement Discipline	Hebrews 13:1-6



CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

Christa Mastrangelo Joyce
Director of Children and Youth Formation

This month the focus is on our confirmands—Evelyn Bailey, Mileur Bailey, Joel Dillow, and Hazel Hitt. These young people have spent the past five months preparing to become members of the church through their confirmation journey.

The profession of faith (“membership confirmation”) activates full membership in the church itself. Missional confirmation inspires a missional identity and commissions young adults (13-16) to a missional vocation. Missional confirmation asks us to consider living as an instrument of renewal and restoration for the world. It prepares young people for the laying on of hands, prayer for strengthening the Spirit and for anointing into the priesthood of all believers.

From January to June, I worked alongside adult mentors, Sherry Sykes, Mary Ellen Lloyd, Natasha Baihly, Dave Smith, and the youths’ parents to strengthen confirmands:

- In their identities as God’s image-bearing stewards of the goodness and beauty of creation
- In the Spirit’s gifts of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord, and joy in God’s presence
- In their vocations as members of the priesthood of all believers, commissioned for missional engagement in the world.
- In their understanding of the importance of community relationships and the opportunity to be part of God’s mission through the community of SPC

Each of the adults shared their own faith journey and how this journey brought them to choose SPC as their faith community. Then, over the course of four 2-hour meetings, and one overnight retreat, the youth and I, along with Mary Anne Hitt, used Biblical foundation to consider the role of the Holy Spirit, the uniqueness of each person’s gifting to live into the mission of God and to serve others, and to contemplate what it means to be a “priest” in the “priesthood of all believers.”

What, according to our youth, does it mean to be a priest? In the resumé the four created together, those qualified are: anyone! (since everyone is a child of God), and the qualifications include: being kind, loyal, thoughtful, compassionate, hardworking, and devoted.

This was a deeply meaningful five months of consideration, contemplation, and conversation that encouraged these young adults to engage with one another, listen deeply, be open to getting to know themselves and their adult leaders. And, along the way, they each discerned on their own, that SPC is the kind of faith home where they want to live into the mission of God.

Our Confirmands



Evelyn Bailey, Hazel Hitt, Mileur Bailey, Joel Dillow





JUNE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session's June meeting was opened with a Loving-Kindness meditation led by Pastor Gusti.

Finance reported that we're now about 42% of the way through the year and our income (less special gifts) is at 48% of the plan and overall, our expenses are running about as expected. Operating expenses are on track for this time of year. However, we are entering a slow part of the year for giving.

Presbytery met in Woodstock, VA. Harry Daniel was accepted as a member of the Presbytery. The next General Assembly meeting will be in Milwaukee in 2026.

Pastor Gusti reported that she will be away on vacation/study leave between July 7 and August 3. She is continuing to work to arrange a meeting with Senator Capito and the 50 or so people that have signed up.

Deacons are continuing their work around the "Varieties of Gifts" passage from Corinthians. New members have been assigned a deacon. They are planning to have an updated Deacon brochure ready to hand out in July.

Matthew 25 hosted a panel discussion on the drastic impacts of the House budget reconciliation bill currently in the Senate. The panel consisted of Mary Anne Hitt (energy and climate impacts), Dr. Catherine Feaga (Medicaid and impacts on rural WV hospitals and nursing homes) and Pastor Gusti (primer on "Spirit-led Resistance"). Diane Blust briefly discussed cuts to food pantries. The discussion was recorded and will be available to those who are interested.

Property was happy to report that the A/C had been repaired and that they continue to research necessary projects for the future.

Session doesn't meet in July, so the next stated meeting will be August 14.

The SPC Session meets the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom. Meetings are open to any member of the congregation who wishes to attend. Contact Suellen Myers, Clerk of Session, to learn more.

DEACON TEAM UPDATE

Donna Dettling, Deacon Moderator

At our monthly deacon meeting on June 7, **Pastor Gusti led our development work around the 'Varieties of Gifts' passage** from 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. We learned that the Greek word for 'service' is 'deacon,' and discussed the gifts listed in these verses. **It was emphasized that we can bring our individual gifts into our deacon ministry; we don't all have to do it the same way or conform to a particular mold.** Each gift serves the same God.

We paired this with our deacon work, in which Jen Jones facilitated a discussion about what it might look like to live out the SPC Core Commitments through our deacon service, using our own gifts. We found many common threads in our paired conversations, and listed these for an expanded dialogue during our August meeting.

Deacons who haven't taken the **Presbytery's Boundary Training** were encouraged to sign up for one of the available Zoom sessions in June. **New members have been assigned a deacon**, and will be receiving an introductory communication from them. **Summer is a great time to set up a meeting with your deacon in person!** Making these connections is so important to the life and well-being of the congregation, and we highly recommend them. Watch for an updated Deacon brochure coming soon!

PrayerNet

Please send your prayer requests to prayernet@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org. You may also call the church office at 304-876-6466 during office hours (Monday - Friday, 8am - 2pm). A couple of practical reminders as you make your requests:

1. Please make sure the person for whom you are requesting prayer has given their permission. Due to privacy considerations, we are unable to share requests without that permission.
2. Please indicate whether or not you would like this request to be shared in worship.
3. You may also indicate that you prefer to keep this request confidential among the PrayerNet Team (currently Pastor Gusti, Lynn Dampman, Jen Jones, and Mica Martin.)

If you are having a pastoral emergency (death of a spouse or child, life-threatening medical emergency, etc.), please contact Pastor Gusti directly at 681-283-5314. If you would like to participate in our larger PrayerNet community (as one of the 90+ who have agreed to pray), or volunteer as one of the PrayerNet administrators, contact Lynn at the church office: lynn@shepherdstownpresbyterian.org.

Deacon Shepherd for Animals

Carol Wood was commissioned to remind us of the holiness pets add to our lives. This includes care to those who have lost a dear companion, assistance during final days with a pet, and support when bringing a new pet into the home. Contact Carol at cwood453@aol.com.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Donna Dettling, Co-Moderator

Fourteen women attended our **June 5 end-of-year picnic and meeting** at Morgan's Grove Park. Of course, the pot-luck style food was amazing, the weather nice, and the company even better! We celebrated a great year of meetings, book discussions on poverty, special collections, prayers, food, birthday cards, prayer shawls, and most of all, fellowship.

Lynne Wiseman let us know that **our collection for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering totaled \$452.** The funds are donated to two charities chosen by the national organization. Susan Lovell reported that we gave prayer shawls to Erin Snook after the death of her father, and Rev. Dwight McCormick on his departure from The Community Cup and More.



The first SPC Wednesday dinner at The Community Cup was held on June 18. Our Presbyterian Women's Group, the Eastern Panhandle Youth Alliance, and congregation members provided food, servers, and other volunteers to serve **a taco dinner, which was much appreciated by the 30 patrons who attended.** There was a nice variety of foods, and plenty to provide everyone with a good meal and some with to-go containers to take home. The remaining leftovers were taken to the Martinsburg Rescue Mission to enrich their food program. Season Jones led a devotional before the meal, and Susan Lovell provided all the

coordination for the event, thinking of every detail to make this first-time effort a success! We look forward to doing the dinners every two months or so, with **the next one scheduled for September 3.** The PW and EPYA groups will partner again, and the congregation will be invited to participate. **Many thanks to all who came together for this much needed and welcomed outreach program.**

Remember that there are two baskets under the communion table in the sanctuary, to collect non-perishable food for the Jefferson County Community Ministries and Shepherdstown Shares food pantries. Please leave contributions any time, and especially on communion Sundays as we are asked that as we are being fed, we share what we can with others who have less.

Beginning with our September meeting, we will be reading and discussing the book ***See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*, by Valarie Kaur.** We hope to learn ways we can strengthen ourselves and be beacons of hope for others during this turbulent and unprecedented time.

We do not have regular meetings in July or August, but will have an **informal get together at The Community Cup in Martinsburg on Thursday, August 7, at 10:00 am**, for anyone who would like to join us. **Our first meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, September 4, at 10:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. We always welcome you to join this great group of women, and invite you to visit with us at our August casual gathering, or come in September and dive in!

Have a wonderful summer!

PRIDE MARCH IN SHEPHERDSTOWN FOLLOWS SUNDAY PRIDE SERVICE

Continuing its tradition of a Pride service in June, SPC held its annual celebration of the gifts of all gender identities and sexual orientations on June 1. At 6 p.m., the first annual Pride march down German Street kicked off from Church Street to Princess Street, in front of what counts as a “throng” of cheering crowds in Shepherdstown. The streets were packed!

The march was a great addition to the previous Pride Days in Shepherdstown and Martinsburg and thanks to all the SPC-ers (lots of us, too!) who came out to march.



SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

THE “FINAL” SPC SUPPORT GROUP OF THE SEASON met Tuesday, June 3, at 5:00 p.m. The group will take a hiatus for the summer and return, as needed, in late August or September. In the meantime, you are always encouraged to contact your Deacon directly and/or make an appointment through the church office to meet with Pastor Gusti.



OLIVIA ELLEN LLOYD IN A FREE CONCERT!

Thursday July 3, 7:30 p.m., Sam Michael's Park, 235 Sam Michael's Lane, Harpers Ferry, WV. Olivia is on tour promoting her new album and this free concert is a special opportunity to see this now grown-up child of the church perform close to home. Olivia currently has three songs streaming on Sirius radio's Outlaw Country station, and you can find her two albums on all major streaming platforms. Gates open at 6 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy music under the stars. Feel free

to bring a picnic or visit on-site food and beverage vendors.



UPDATE ON 2ND ANNUAL BASEBALL OUTING

We currently have more than 50 people signed up to go to our 2nd Annual Baseball Outing at Meritus Park in Hagerstown on Friday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m. Your \$10 cost (per ticket) is due to Joyce Neumark by July 20. You will be contacted by her to arrange for payment. She will accept a check or cash. Please contact her at neumark@myactv.net if you have

any questions. We look forward to seeing our SPC family, friends, and neighbors at this game against the Long Island Ducks. This is also “Fireworks Friday.” Enjoy the fireworks following the game.

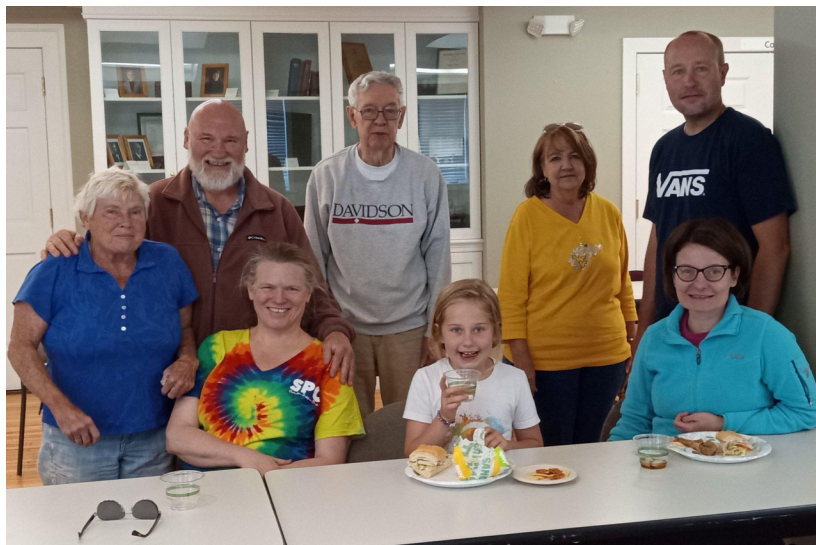
COMMUNITY WORK DAY

The SPC Property Committee hosted an opportunity in May for folks to help spruce up the church property outside the building. As important as the work was the building of community. There were folks from the 8:30 worship service, 11:00 worship service, and the online community.

Volunteers were: Dick & Kathy Klein, Christopher Beckley, Connie Ross, Daryl Kuster, Harry Daniel, Garrett Norman, Patty Hartman, Adalynn Norman, Joyce Neumark and Pastor Gusti.



We weeded, trimmed bushes, and collected lots of clippings!



After our hard work, we enjoyed pizza, subs, soda, and cookies!



INTERVIEW - JULIEANN (JULIE) GIBSON

Julie grew up in Rockford, Illinois. Her family was very active including her parents, grandparents, and aunts and uncles on both sides. They enjoyed reading, working jigsaw puzzles and playing cards. Julie says they had many conversations and she admits that these are conversations that she would like to have with them now that she is older. Her brother, Alan, and a nephew and his family currently live in the Shepherdstown area.

She graduated from East High School in Rockford in 1971. She notes that back then they had courses in shop, theater, orchestra, sewing, and cooking. She graduated from Woods College in Fulton, Missouri, in 1975, earning a BA in music, with minors in history and religion.

After a visit with a college roommate in Los Angeles and staying in LA for 13 years, Julie moved to Tucson, Arizona. While in LA, she was married and worked using machinery-prepared bank statements.

While growing up in State Street Baptist Church in Rockford, she began her church choir career. When she moved to Tucson, she attended Northminster Presbyterian Church. After moving to Shepherdstown, she found SPC was a good choice for her; she has been a member for five years. At SPC, Julie is a member of the choir, the handbell ensemble, and participates in the Sunday Seminars.

Outside of SPC, Julie sits in the alto section of the Masterworks Chorale and also plays the bass in the Charles Washington Symphony Orchestra. This orchestra was founded in 2012 and is based in Charles Town, WV. She has also taken numerous Lifelong Learning classes at Shepherd University.

She has traveled to Europe, the British Isles, and Hawaii (when Hawaii had just become a state). Her trip to England in 1972 added units to her history minor.

Julie admires her paternal grandmother who taught piano lessons and her maternal grandmother who was a woman Deacon, and who served the communion elements alongside the men. Julie is in possession of both of their Bibles.

Julie counts *Fantasia* (the 1940 animated musical film produced by Walt Disney) and *Fantasia 2000* (a sequel to the 1940 film) as her favorite films.

She says music used to be a hobby, but now considers it a career. She adds that she never expected to be using her music in Shepherdstown at the age of 72.

Finally, one of her guilty pleasures is eating pastries at The Sweet Shop!



NEW MEMBERS

These persons joined the church in May and June of this year. Please add them to your directory.

Carol Arnold
191 Reachcliff Drive
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-4003
(404) 433-4179

Jessica Brunk
207 Lyon Ridge Road
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(505) 398-3892

Jolene Jarrell
152 Twisted Oak Lane
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Tori Jones
202 Pintail Court
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
(304) 240-7754

Keith Loudermill
Tim Schaumburg
121 Glory Ridge Place
Kearneysville, WV 25430-2869
(720) 252-8486

Richard Kendall
424 Piedmont Way
Martinsburg, WV 25404
(202) 701-0046

Ryan McKinley
177 Meadowlark Lane
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
(304) 433-9520

Jennifer Merri
(Information not available)

Connie Ross
82 Beautiful Court
Martinsburg, WV 25404
(304) 860-5456

Erin Snook
Juan Rebollo
26 Powder Mill Court
Inwood, WV 25428
(717) 300-0598

Lynn Wagner
P O Box 1268
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-1268
(304) 876-7027

Sarah Wagner
P O Box 13
Keedysville, MD 21756
(512) 983-6444

July 2025

June 2025

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 5:00 pm Community Meal in Charles Town	7 6:15 pm Speak Story Series, Adam Booth - Sanctuary/Zoom	8 6:15 pm Speak Story Series, Adam Booth - Sanctuary/Zoom	9 6:15 pm Speak Story Series, Adam Booth - Sanctuary/Zoom	10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	12 9:00 am Sabbatical Planning Meeting with Lunch - Fellowship Hall
Communion Sunday						
13 Guest/Vacation	14 Guest/Vacation	15 5:00 pm IRSC Meeting via Zoom	16 Guest/Vacation	17 Guest/Vacation	18 Guest/Vacation	19 Guest/Vacation
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 12:30 pm Youth Group - Basement				6:00 pm Communications Team Meeting - Fellowship Hall	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED YOUTH ACTIVITY TBA	
20 Guest/Vacation	21 Guest/Vacation	22 Guest/Vacation	23 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	24 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	25 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	26 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2					CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	1:00 pm Yarns & Threads Group - Fellowship Hall
Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	27 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	28 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	29 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	30 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	31 Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 12:30 pm Youth Group - Basement						

August 2025

July 2025							August 2025							September 2025						
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27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		28	29	30		
								31												

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Guest Preacher, Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao on August 3.						
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 5:00 pm Community Meal in Charles Town	Guest/Continuing Ed Leave				Guest/Continuing Ed Leave	10:00 am Deacons Meeting - Fellowship Hall
3	4	5	6	7	8	2
CHURCH WIDE BASEBALL GAME						
Communion Sunday						
10	11	12	13	14		16
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 12:30 pm Youth Group - Basement	6:15 pm Speak Story Series, Adam Booth - Sanctuary/Zoom	7:00 pm Stated Session Meeting - Fellowship Hall & Zoom				
17				21	22	23
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2		6:00 pm Communications Team Meeting - Fellowship Hall				
24	25	26	27			30
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2						1:00 pm Yarns & Threads Group - Fellowship Hall
4 PM ANNUAL YOUTH POOL PARTY						
31						6
8:30 am Early Worship Service 11:00 am Worship/Hybrid 11:00 am Sunday Studio Classroom 2 12:30 pm Youth Group - Basement						