

*Bethany Lutheran Church
2900 Parkview Drive
Longview, WA 98632*

April 2026

God's Blessings to . . .



**April 2026
Newsletter**

Bethany Lutheran Church



Bethany Lutheran Church

Church: 360-577-8240

2900 Parkview Dr. Longview, WA 98632

Pastor Susan Dollinger

Church Musician: Dorothy McMillan

Admin. Asst: Ginger Garner

Bethany website: www.bethanylongview.org

Office Hours: Tuesday -Thursday 9:30am - 3pm

Office email: secretary@bethanylongview.org

Pastor email: pastor@bethanylongview.org

Sunday Morning Worship Time

9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour



So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today. Matthew 6:34

Dear Bethany, I am writing this from the sick bay. This has been a take-me-out, knock-down-illness. I opened my 6th full box of Kleenex today. The end of box five equaled over 1000 pieces of tissue, crumpled in various trash bags, filling up our entire trash can.

In the last 15 days, many things have occurred. I had the privilege of being in the room with our beloved Barb Bley as she transitioned to the Lord. The next day I found out a personal friend of mine passed away, I attended an installation of a pastor, saw my parents, attended a conference, some where in there I picked up this nasty virus, my husband left and came back from a trip, my father in law came home from rehab, and I found out a second friend, who had just turned 60 also died, and finally, a dear friend has received a devastating diagnosis, all that in two weeks' time, most of which I have been very sick. That is just my personal life, but Bethany's prayer chain has been hyper-active as well with many prayer needs.

As we struggle to stay civil because of politics, and it seems as though the world might actually fall apart any day now, the world is indeed still turning.

Away from the drama of TV and social media news bombs, our lives include their own dramas, tragedies, illnesses, celebrations, and victories. It just made me think, that right now, these two friends who have passed away, need at least some of my little energy to think about them and to grieve. And as my friend was diagnosed with another cancer, one she didn't know about and one that leaves her little time here with us, I felt that some of my energy needed to go to grieve that as well.

Our world is full of wars, and immigrants being taken, scary gas prices and so many awful things. But for these two weeks, I had the opportunity to just watch my little dot in the world get shaken. In my little dot there has been plenty of death, sickness and also celebrations. We all are dots in the world, and we are little dots that are a part of the bigger world.

And yet, and yet Jesus cares about your dot and my dot, and other people's dots. I am grateful for the Bethany dots. I am thankful for all your prayers for each other and for me. Our prayers connect our tiny worlds together.

So I pray that your worlds are doing okay. I pray for you all to have good health and joy and some beautiful spring days to chase away any gloom. And I pray for our world, the bigger one which has also been shaken. Dear God, we lift our worlds to you. We pray. We pray.

Warmly, *Pastor Susan*

Staff Report – Council Meeting Minutes Continued

Facility Use

- **Scheduled:** March 27 & 28, Ladies of the Lake quilting group. (The LOL group donated \$140 to the church for their use of the fellowship hall in January.) twenty women expected with their machines, etc.;
- **Scheduled: March 21,** Jeff Harris funeral in Fellowship Hall @ 1:00 pm; **Scheduled: May 21,** DKG Women Educators; **Request: April 18,** Bridal Shower, Joyce Croy hostess (forms received); **Request: June 12 & 13,** Bethany Rummage Sale (forms received) **Moved, seconded, and approved all requested use;**
- **Staff:** Dorothy McMillan has requested May 17th and May 24th off. Mary Clifton will play the 17th, and Patrick Murphy on the 24th. **moved, seconded and approved vacation with payment to Patrick Murphy.**

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 4:08

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Executive Committee Tuesday, April 1, 12:15 (Beth will be gone)

Council – Thursday, April 9–3:00 pm

ATTENDANCE	
March	TOTAL
1	47
8	48
15	49
22	40
29	52
Avg	47

Offering to date March	
2025	2026
\$26,171	\$38,566
Expenses to date March	
2025	2026
\$26,054	\$39,355

Name/Position/Term
1. John Pelster (2029)
2. Barbara Clausen (2027)
3. Susan Shiu (Treasurer)
4. Phyllis Cavens (2029)
5. George Obermeyer (2029)
6. Beth Grambo (2027)
7. Tori Gosch (2028)
8. P. Susan Dollinger(Pastor)

Minister's Report: Pastor Susan

- Lent services focusing on healing:
 - ◊ Healing of Nations, February 25; Healing of Nation March 4; Healing of Creation March 11; Healing of Body and Spirit (laying on of hands) March 18; and Healing of Neighbor (to-go bags) March 25
 - ◊ Offering from Lenten services will go to ELCA World Hunger. Pastor will attend the Bishops Convocation on May 3rd - 6th

Unfinished Business:

- **Lower Columbia Lutheran Conference** - Collecting supplies for Rainbow Cart at library. Next meeting date of the Lower Columbia Lutheran Conference is TBD.
- **Willet Stained Glass Studios Free Inspection**- To be scheduled March at their convenience.
- **Sound System company** - A technician from Design Sound worked with both John Pelster and Lee Limpach on February 25 to clean up some residual issues with our new sound system. New microphones and cords will need to be purchased for the praise team. Current equipment is not compatible with the new system. Worship and Music will explore replacement availability and costs.
- **Council Leadership Plan** – By consensus, Beth Grambo will serve as President pro-tem, Barbara Clausen will serve as Vice President pro-tem, John Pelster will serve as Secretary pro-tem. The official Executive Council remains unchanged with the Secretary of State.
- **Your Legacy** workshop has been advertised to the Kelso/Longview community via various social media outlets and with other churches. As of March 1, one person from the community has registered.
- **Estate Sale results:** Many thanks to Barbara Clausen for the donation of items from her home for the estate sale, which was held February 13 and 14. A total of over \$2000 was raised and will be donated to the purchase and installation of a sound system in the Fellowship Hall. Karen Langworthy headed the organization of the sale, and was assisted by Barb Wilson, Carol Lane, Tori Gosch, Nancy Skora, etc. Thanks also to the Bethany youth, Dan Lane, and others who helped move items from the portable to the fellowship hall and back.
- **Church Council Retreat:** The retreat was held on Saturday, March 7. A written report will be available in the next newsletter.

New Business:

- Funeral for former member Jeff Harris will be held in the Fellowship Hall on March 21 at 1 p.m. 100 expected.
- Approximately 20 members of Bethany attended the funeral for former member Marlene Rahn, which was held at St Paul's in Castle Rock.
- Proposed forming a new website subcommittee: John Pelster (Chair), Pastor Susan, Ginger, and Beth Grambo **moved, seconded and approved**

Bethany's Corner



Shelly Limpach is our prayer chain contact. You may contact her with your prayer concerns through email at BethanyPrayer247@gmail.com. If you have an urgent prayer request, please call the church office.

Continued Prayers & Healing

June White	Barb Clausen	Judy Bailey
John Mullaney	Kim Isakson	Barbara Price
Gail Obermeyer	Jennifer Nance	Takko family
Custer family	Gilchrist family	Bob Baldwin
Krista & John Croy	The Milhisers	Thibodeau family
The Milhisers	David & Dana Hughes	The Newtons



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02	Lynne Dalleck	08	Beth Grambo
03	Renee Pelster	25	Mirabella Murphy
07	Larry Jackson	30	Karen Gilchrist

ANNIVERSARIES

2	Dan & Martha Sharp
28	Russ & Karen Gilchrist

April Emergency Fund: Emergency Support Shelter

Our community is incredibly fortunate to have the Emergency Support Shelter for Abused Women and Men — a true lifeline for those in need. Beyond providing safe housing for survivors of abuse, the shelter offers a wealth of supportive services including counseling, job coaching, goal-setting, and valuable life skills training to help residents rebuild their lives. This shelter has a far-reaching impact on our community, and every contribution can make a real and meaningful difference in someone's life.

Ministry of the Month: Duct Tape, Altar care and Communion Team

There is so much love and dedication that goes into making each worship service the beautiful, spiritual experience it is, and much of it happens quietly behind the scenes! This month, we want to shine a spotlight on some of the incredible people who make it all possible. First, a huge thank you to the Duct Tape Crew, whose helping hands keep our building clean, set up for special services and events, and lovingly cared for throughout the year. We also want to recognize the wonderful work of our Altar Care person, a special thank you to the Carol Thompson, she tends the altar with great care, ensures the banners reflect the correct liturgical season, and keeps the sanctuary feeling fresh and welcoming. And let's not forget our amazing Communion Prep and Assistant team, who faithfully fill the communion cups, cut the wafers, and serve them to those at the rail — all while being mindful of everyone's individual needs and offering quiet, prayerful devotion as they distribute the bread and wine. To each and every one of you, thank you for your loving, prayerful service. Your dedication truly makes our worship come alive!

Youth/Service: Barb Clausen

- Next FISH- Monday, March 2 66 people served; (The county Fish organization is currently working on getting some kinks out during a staff change. The number of people served in May will likely return to our previous, larger number.) Set up May 14 & May 15 next distribution date.
- Small Seeds will meet March 14. February 14 meeting the topic was creation.
- Rainbow Cart / Homeless To-Go Bags – Collections until March 25th
- Water bottles were delivered to Columbia Heights Elementary students for state testing.

Duct Tape Crew: Pastor Susan Dollinger

- Watkins Tractor estimate to complete lawnmower repair to be approximately \$500, not including the repair of the starting issue. Cody Garner, from *Keep it Sharp*, did a service and tune up of the mower and charged \$200 to cover parts and labor instead. He diagnosed the starting issue as the cam shaft, but did not repair it, stating that the tractor can be run long-term with this issue. Repair of the cam shaft would be \$200 for the part and would require an engine tear down. Duct tape is aware that further repair will be required in the future. Thank you Cody!
- Spring clean-up on May 2, 9-12
- Heat is working but needs some fine-tuning regarding scheduling.
- Ring doorbell system needs attention. (Note: the panel was replaced.)
- Carol Thompson will be asked to write up directions for mopping and bathroom cleaning so the helper has a checklist to use weekly.

Stewardship: No report

Mutual Ministry: Next meeting date TBD after Easter

Education:

- Moments at the Lake cancelled during Lent, will resume late April
- Bible Study-Bible study on Matthew continues through April

Women's Bible Study:

- *Gather* magazine is focusing on prayer. Currently awaiting distribution of latest edition.
- Bible Study continues with the book *Taste and See*.
- Women's Bible Study is canceled March 17th

Women of Bethany

- Women of Bethany will meet every 5th Tuesday at 10:30. The next meeting is March 31.
- Coffee hour survey completed. Further discussion to be held in April.

February Council Minutes

Attendance – Present: Susan Dollinger, Phyllis Cavens, Barbara Clausen, Beth Grambo, Tori Gosch,

Susan Shiu, George Obermeyer, John Pelster **Absent:** None

Devotions and Prayer – Phyllis Cavens

Call to Order and President's Report – Beth Grambo called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

- Decisions made between Council Meetings: None
- Agenda Changes - Website discussion added
- Devotions for Thursday, April 9, 3:00 Council Meeting: Barb Clausen

Secretary's Report: John Pelster –

- Approval of Council Minutes: January 6, Annual Meeting January 25, and February 12 - **filed as corrected**

Treasurer's Report: Susan Shui

February		2026 YTD		February 2025		2025 YTD	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
\$11,030	\$12,396	\$26,171	\$26,055	\$10,230	\$12,114	\$19,700	\$24,580
Fell short by \$1,366		Exceeded by \$116		Fell short by \$5,791		Fell short by \$8,928	

- **Synod Remittance-** \$386.06
- **Emergency Fund Report -** \$264.80 to Community House “Beth’s Place”
- **Attendance for February -** 51
- **Financial Review:** No report. Team will meet in April for a two-month review.
- **Sound System -** \$11,649.80 raised, \$23,349 quote
- **CD -** Discussed the possibility of purchasing a short-term CD to generate interest/income. Susan researching.
- **Moved, seconded & approved to accept Treasurer’s report as printed.**

Ministry Reports:

Hospitality: Joyce Croy

Plans for Easter in the works with continental breakfast provided

- **Memorial:** Joyce Croy - no report

Worship/Music:

- Girl scouts came on March 11 to sell cookies during soup supper & did a creation skit.
- Coming up: meeting date TBD (after Easter)
- Lenten Services each Wednesday, Supper at 5:00, worship at 5:45
- Lay-led on April 19 instead of March 29 due to Palm Sunday. Beth Grambo delivering the message.
- Chris Cotton will deliver the message on March 22.
- Maundy Thursday April 2, Good Friday April 3, Easter April 5

Medical Teams International

Fundraising Gala, Saturday April 11, 2026

INVITATION

Join Medical Teams International for our annual fundraising gala. We will share exciting, behind-the-scenes updates from Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Ukraine where we serve refugees and displaced people who desperately need shelter, medicine, food and safety. You are invited to see how your generosity breaks down barriers to healing for those in desperate need of critical life-saving medical care. With more than 123 million people displaced worldwide, the need has never been greater.

Bethany Lutheran Church has free tickets for the Gala. We will Carpool from the church to AVENUE, 631 NE Grand Ave., Portland, Oregon to attend the Gala on Saturday April 11, 2026, 5:30-8:30pm.

RSVP to Phyllis Cavens at (360) 430-9652

or at snevac@comcast.net

Matthew 25:35-36, 40

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Upcoming Events

Council

Exec Meeting: Wednesday, April 1 at 12:15
Council Meeting: Thursday, April 9 at 3:00

Financial Review

April 8 at 11:15

Small Seeds and Sprouts

April 11 at 12:30


Columbia Heights Road Improvement Open House

April 14 at 4:00-7:00

Columbia Heights from Cascade to Fishers Ln.
City Hall—1525 Broadway St. 2nd floor, Training room
Drop in anytime

Barbara Bley Celebration of Life

Saturday April 25, at 1:00



HOLY WEEK
2026

March 29 - Palm Sunday Service at 9:30 am
April 2 - Maundy Thursday service at 6:00 pm
April 3 - Good Friday Service at 6:00 pm
April 5 - Easter Sunday Service at 9:30 am

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COFFEE HOUR GUIDANCE

Women of Bethany want to make coffee hour “doable” for everyone able so with the survey results and consulting with our kitchen angels, below please find the simple check list/directions. Everyone wants it simple but you are free to decide what you want to serve. *Cookies and a protein are recommended.* They will be posted in the kitchen for easy reference also. If you have questions, please talk to Karen Langworthy who will be the spokesperson to communicate with the Hospitality team & to answer your questions.

BEFORE COFFEE:

- _____ Turn on sanitizer following directions on the wall.
- _____ Set up food and cover it; prepare ice water in pitchers; check coffee/tea; & put out cold creamer, sugar, cups, glasses, napkins, & small plates.
- _____ Check crash bar on kitchen door entrance & use the allen wrench if not locked—or get help.

AFTER COFFEE:

- _____ Replenish food during service as needed.
- _____ Supervise collection of dirty dishes, wash in industrial sink in hot soapy water, rinse in hot water, and load into the sanitizer and run it. Dry and put away dishes, reload as needed to finish.
- _____ Turn off coffee pots, empty, wash, & put back in place.
- _____ Return liquid creamer to the fridge.
- _____ Use hot cloth & sanitizer spray (from under window sink) to spray wipe all tabletops, counters, etc.
- _____ Sweep the Fellowship Hall eating area.
- _____ Empty all garbage into outside garbage dumpster & replace sacks from the kitchen hall closet.
- _____ Take dirty towels home to wash and return.

*THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP BETHANY COFFEE FUN FOR ALL
& BURDEN FOR NONE!*

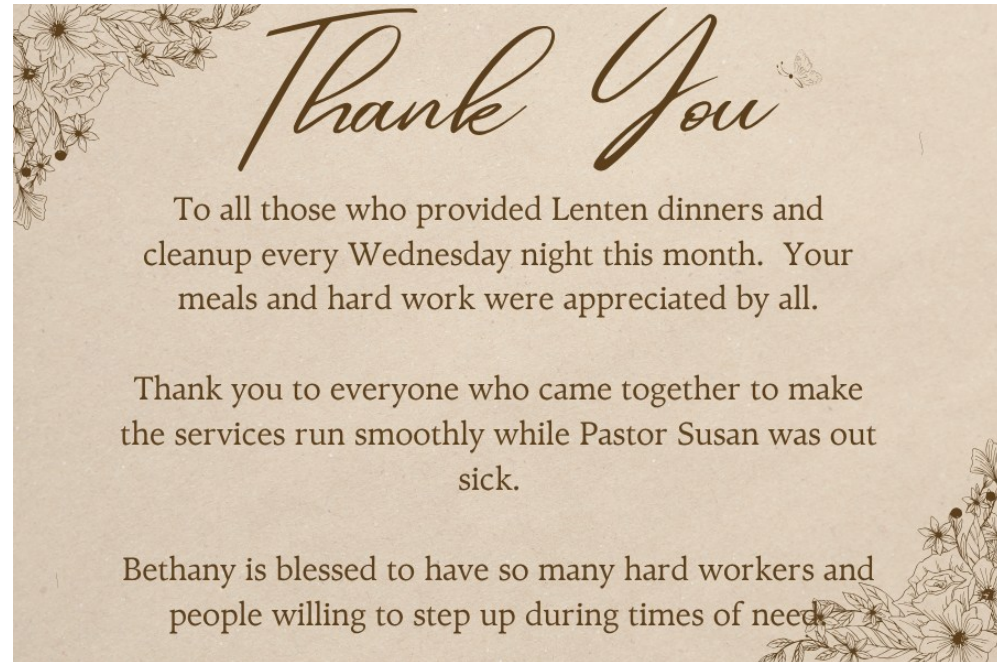
S _ L _ O _ W D _ E _ E _ P B _ R _ E _ A _ T _ H

Empty your thoughts . .
Wipe the slate of the day . .
Breathe in The Breath of God . .
 Breathe out the day . .
Breathe in The Breath of God . .
 Breathe out your cares . .
Breathe in the Breath of God . .
 Breathe out your fears . .
Breathe in the Breath of God . .
 Breathe out your tears . .
Breathe in the Breath of God . .
 Breathe out all your anxiety . .
Breathe in the Breath of God . .
 Quiet your mind . .
Breathe in the Breath of God . .
 Invite the Holy Spirit to enter
 So you may find
God's peace and slumber.
Breathe in the Breath of God.

By Susan Nance

Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

*Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*



Opportunities to Gather and Learn



Breakfast Group

Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am.

Corner Cafe

796 Commerce Ave. Suite 103 in Longview

What a great opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship!



Women's Bible Study

We gather for prayers, cares, concerns, challenges, and celebration in the Faith room & on Zoom



April 7, 14, 21, 28

Women's Bible Study is based through Gather Magazine, Gather Magazine is \$9.95 for new subscribers.

Moments at the Lake Bethany

Wednesdays @1:30

This is a wonderful opportunity for people to sit in the Word and have holy conversation while we discuss the scriptures for the following Sunday.

During the colder months and inclement weather, we meet in the faith room at Bethany

Your church council met on March 7 for the purpose of reviewing the activities and successes of the past year, and to brainstorm ideas for the coming year. The overwhelming consensus was that we had a very busy and successful year! Several of our activities were attended by people from outside the Bethany family. Our congregation officially grew by 6 new members, and we are all very excited about the celebration of new confirmands this spring for the first time in several years! Among ideas for summer activities are a “campfire”, complete with s’mores, a gospel sing-along, movie night with popcorn, and a class on how to avoid scams and learn to protect ourselves against cyber hacking. We will continue to look for outreach opportunities in the Kelso/Longview area and continue to support worldwide causes as needs arise. Our hope for the coming year is to continue to build on the momentum and sense of community that our wonderful congregation has already generated. Our goal is *“To Increase Our Visibility and Outreach in the Community, and Celebrate the Miracle of Bethany”*

Summary of Bethany's 2025 Goal & 2026 Goal

To strengthen our spiritual growth so that God's promises come alive & Christ's love is shared with others.

Call of Abraham

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not know where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

(re-state 2025 goal here)

2024-5 Progress Toward Goal:

Our average attendance at services from Jan. 2024 thru March 2025 was 45.6. With a high being 57 in November.

Many events brought guests for a total of 236 guests at church sponsored events.

Ministry Volunteers

Sunday, April 5 Easter Service/Communion

Greeter	Susan Shiu
Ushers	Harold Nunn/
Reader	Renee Pelster
Communion Setup	Nancy Skora
Communion Assist	Nancy Skora
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	Hospitality Brunch

Sunday, April 12 Small Seeds Sunday/ Communion

Greeter	Small Seeds
Usher	_____ / _____
Reader	Small Seeds
Communion Setup	Pat Reistroffer
Communion Assist	Pat Reistroffer
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Pam van den Driessche
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

Sunday, April 19

Greeter	_____
Usher	Pat Reistroffer/ Bob Reistroffer
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	_____
Communion Assist	_____
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	_____
Financial Secretary	Barb Wilson
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

Sunday, April 26 - Communion

Greeter	_____
Ushers	_____ / _____
Reader	_____
Communion Setup	Shelly Limpach
Communion Assist	Shelly Limpach
Powerpoint	_____
Live Service	Lee Limpach
Financial Secretary	Mary Storm
Coffee hour	_____ / _____

SMALL SEEDS and Sprouts

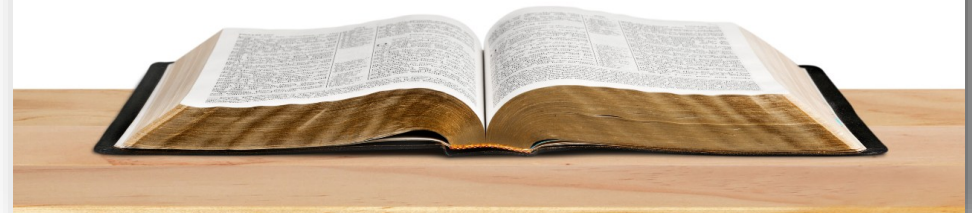
April 14 from 12:30-2:00



BIBLE STUDY

Will Resume on April 24 & 26

Online Fri @ 10:00 am/ in person Sun @ 11:15 am



FISH

MAY 14 SETUP

MAY 15 DISTRIBUTE


*Chili, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned
Tomatoes, Tomato Sauce*



Bethany Lutheran Church

APRIL 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 12:15 Exec Meeting 2:00 Tell Your Story	2 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	3	4
5 Easter Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Brunch <i>Easter</i>	6	7 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	8 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	6:00 Maundy Thurs 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT 3:00 Council Meet	6:00 Good Friday 10 6:00 Girl Scouts	11 12:30 Small Seeds & Sprouts 
12 Sunday Service Small Seeds/Sprouts 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	13	14 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	15 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	16 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT <i>Pr out of office</i>	17 6:00 Girl Scouts	18 12:00 Joyce Croy FH
19 Lay Sunday 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	20	21 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	22 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	23 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT	24 10:00 Bible Study Online 6:00 Girl Scouts	25 1:00 Barbara Bley Service
26 Sunday Service 9:30 Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:15 Bible Study	27	28 8:00 Breakfast Group 10:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Boy Scouts	29 1:30 Moments @ Bethany	30 9:00 Duct tape 10:00 Coffee w/ DT		