



PITTSBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

The Spiral - "Keeping the people informed"

"Being a Part of God's Family"

On July 14, 2025, the world lost an incredible servant, preacher, and pastor in Dr. John MacArthur. He was 86 years old. Dr. MacArthur was



widely known for his pastoral leadership (serving at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA since 1969 – that's over 55 years!); commitment to biblical and expositional preaching; the production of the MacArthur Study Bible; Grace to You Ministries; the Master's Seminary; and his

commitment to doctrinal integrity. I was first exposed to John MacArthur's ministry while a Bible college student as a teenager, and I have been deeply impacted by his commitment to Scripture; his devotedness to the body of Christ; and his strong, unwavering conviction for biblical preaching and living. One of the sermons that he preached that influenced my life and shaped my view of the local church was titled "Why Church Membership Matters." This message shaped my heart into understanding the importance of being a part of the body of Christ at the highest level possible. Jesus bought the church with His blood. He loved the church inasmuch that He gave His life for her (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:20). He gave us the fellowship of the church to fulfill the Great Commission; to house our community of faith; and to deepen our relationship with Him through discipleship. I do not know what I would do without the family of God.

Recently, PBC has been blessed to see several new families join our fellowship, visit our worship services, and be a part of what God is doing here. We rejoice in the Lord for adding to His church, but why is it so important that we are a part of the family of God? I want to share with you five reasons that Dr. MacArthur inspired many years ago that are still deeply relevant today. I write this article as a tribute to his life and ministry.

1. When you are a part of the local church, you are a visible witness of the Gospel at work in you and through you to the rest of the world.

Jesus has changed my life. My life is hidden in Him, therefore I identify with Him, I share in that fellowship, and I believe that He is worthy of not only my following, but also of my fellowshiping with like-minded believers (Colossians 3:3). Being a part of the church is a witness to the rest of the world that we are Jesus' disciples. Joining the local church is connecting yourself to His body & His blueprint for reaching the world. Jesus never instructed us to go solo with reaching the world for His glory. He has always done it through the vehicle of the local church (Matthew 16:18; Matthew 28:18-20).

(Continue on next page)

Encouragement From Pastor Peter (continued.....)

2. When you are a part of the local church, you get to serve the Lord together.

Every member of the church family matters. God has saved you, and His Spirit has gifted you and placed you to serve in this body, and you are needed, wanted, and appreciated (1 Corinthians 12). Every believer is gifted by God to serve others. We are without excuse to not be a part of this great work as we consider the infinite opportunities before us to serve the Lord at PBC. And when we do get to serve the Lord together, it's an incredible blessing. These experiences build your faith, your trust, friendship, and grows you from family member to family member.

John MacArthur stated, "Apart from ministering our gift in the service of the Lord, our life on earth is worthless. Our sole purpose as Christians is to obey and serve the Lord through the gift with which He has uniquely blessed each of us, so that the body may be built up to be effective in evangelism." (MacArthur, *2 Timothy*, Moody, 1995).

3. When you are a part of a local church, you can have the opportunity to grow spiritually with one another.

The early church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers" (Acts 2:41-42). Growth comes in many ways. For some, it comes by sitting still, listening to God's Truth, and truly being matured in the faith. For others, growth comes by being entrusted with leadership and service opportunities. For everyone, there are opportunities to invest time into one another, hearing one another's stories/testimonies, praying for each other, rejoicing and even weeping as another struggles. The ministry of presence is powerful. It takes devotion, desire, and a heart for a deeper walk with the Lord and with one another to see this kind of growth.

4. When you are a part of a local church, you can have the opportunity to preserve, protect, and pass on sound doctrine from one generation to the next.

I realize that this reason for the importance of being part of a church family could easily get left behind, but doctrinal purity and integrity matters deeply. Who we are is important as a church; what we mean to this community is important; what we focus on is important; who we reach is important, but I would argue that what we believe and what we proclaim is what holds all of the previously mentioned together. The Word of God is powerful. It's life changing. Its truth is eternal, edifying, and equipping. Let us not waver in our devotion to sound doctrine. The Gospel is the greatest message we could ever proclaim and everything that is taught beyond our salvation should be sound, structured, and Spirit-filled. We are living in a time when people will not endure sound teaching and will want to suit their own desires, hearing teachers who just want to make them feel good about themselves and stay away from the truth that they don't like or agree with (paraphrase of 2 Timothy 4). We have a charge to preach and teach the Word and to maintain doctrinal integrity. Let us not just hear the Word but do it. And let us be sure to make sure that our biblical foundation is never compromised. I have always appreciated Pittsboro Baptist's focus on sound doctrine. There are many things that could be said of our congregation, but I pray that we will always be a family of believers built on God's unchanging truth.

(continued on next page)

Encouragement From Pastor Peter (continued.....)

5. Last, when you are a part of the local church, you are giving the world a preview of heaven on earth.

When people think of our church family, do they think of us being a glimpse of heaven on earth? We should want to see God's kingdom advance. We should want to see His purposes flourish. We should want to see His people grow; we should want to see lives changed. We should rejoice when sinners come to repentance and when salvation is brought to lost hearts, and when the church is revived. We should want to see the sick healed, the home restored, and the broken mended. That's what Jesus did for me, for you, and for countless others who have been reached and who are to be reached. I love MacArthur wrote, "The church should be like a preview of heaven. The apostle Paul wrote of 'the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth' (1 Tim. 3:15). More than any other institution on earth, the church is where the truth of God is upheld. The church is called to lift up the truth and hold it high. Employing the truth as a weapon, we are to smash the ideological fortresses of Satan's lies (2 Cor. 10:3-5). And it is in the pursuit of that goal that the church will ultimately realize her greatest triumph. "All of that is why I love the church. And as long as the Lord gives me breath, I hope to invest my life and energies in the ministry and advancement of the church's mission" (MacArthur, *Why I Love the Church*, WordPress, 2016).

To that, I say "Amen!" I'm grateful for you, Church Family. I pray daily that we would be a church family that is built on God's unchanging Word who will effectively accomplish our mission of reaching the lost, making disciples, and loving others. I've never been more thankful for what we have together in the Lord. It is truly an exciting time to be a part of Pittsboro Baptist Church.

You are loved!



To Our Beloved Pittsboro Baptist Church Family,

We have never been more thankful, and we have never felt more supported and loved than we were during the passing of my mother. PBC members were literally of the first people we saw when we arrived for the family visitation, for the funeral, and when everything ended. "Thank you" does not seem to be the right words for what we should express to you. They lack the depth of gratitude we feel. You see and feel what your family is made of when you go through time of crisis and heartache. We already knew we were home at Pittsboro Baptist, but to see you and have your support during this time meant more than you will ever know. Thank you for everything: the calls, cards, generous gifts, kind words, and strengthening support. We love each of you. You're an incredible church, and we are grateful.

Pastor Peter, Tara, Micah, and Malachi McDonald.

Thank you

"Impact Pittsboro Recap"

On July 12th, PBC hosted *Impact Pittsboro*. We were able to serve and meet the needs of our community in many ways. We offered a large clothing closet and food pantry. We partnered with Lenexa Baptist out of Kansas City to provide eye exams and prescription eye glasses. We screened and helped 65 people who came through our event with free prescription eyeglasses. A big thank you to LBC for providing this service and the supplies. Altogether we had ~74 families come through that totaled ~200 people. Not only did we meet physical needs, we were also able to meet spiritual needs at *Impact*. There was a prayer room folks visited at the end of the event, where we had the opportunity to sit down with them and discuss what was going on in their lives and pray for them. We had a chance to present the gospel to most of them, and one person even came to faith in Christ! Praise the Lord for His mighty grace! The event as a whole was an excellent opportunity to share the love of Jesus with our surrounding community. A special thank you to all of the volunteers who made this happen. You made an eternal impact.



Are you single? Feeling like you're missing out on connecting with others in this season? Looking for fun things to do on the weekend in a safe and inviting atmosphere?

PBC's new ministry might be just the thing for you!



Who: Singles, ages 25+ (never married, divorced, with or without children, widowed)

What: B.L.A.S.T. (Building Lives Around Single Truth) was designed to find joy in the ebbs and flows of this season! It's a great opportunity to get together with like-minded people to laugh, connect, and have fun in a safe, Christian environment

When: August 9th & August 23rd @ 5:30 p.m.
Held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month

Where: The Fellowship hall @ PBC

Come check us out and invite your friends and neighbors!

I want to express my deepest thanks to each of you for your loving thoughts and heartfelt prayers during this difficult time. Since the passing of John, your kindness and compassion have meant so much to me and my family. The comfort you have shown us—through your words, your prayers, and your caring support—has truly helped us cope with our loss.

Thank you for surrounding us with your love, for your gentle encouragement, and for holding us close in your hearts. We are so grateful to be part of such a thoughtful and generous church as this one.

Connie Goin

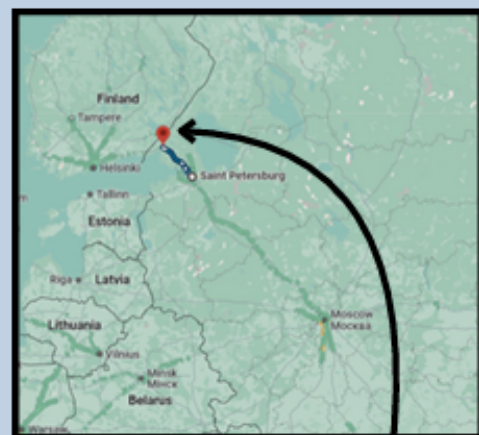
thank
you



All Youth and Parents are invited for worship, fellowship and God's Word on Wednesday nights, August 6th and 20th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. The summer can be busy, and we don't want to miss opportunities to spend time together in God's Word and with one another. Join us for food, some fun, and a great time of worship and Family time!

Join Us for an Evening of Faith, Music, and Fellowship!

- Meet Pastor Andre Furmanov & his Family from Vyborg, Russia!
- Hear the Furmanov family share their inspiring testimony of God's work in Russia amidst the ongoing war with Ukraine.
- Hear beautiful music, and taste Russian delicacies



Vyborg is closer to Finland
than to St. Petersburg!!

When: Sunday, September 7, 2025

- 6:00 PM: Food & Fellowship
- 7:00 PM: Testimony & Musical Performance

Where: Pittsboro Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

Pastor Andre currently serves as the senior pastor of the Vyborg Christian Church. He also serves on staff with NOVO, raising Christian leaders and equipping churches with transformational resources. Pastor Andre and his family have taken a clear and courageous stance against the war in Ukraine, speaking openly for truth, justice, and peace. Currently, the family is spending time in the United States, where they are enjoying fellowship with the broader body of Christ and continuing their ministry with passion and purpose.



Erika is a gifted classical pianist at the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory, studying under the Mariinsky Theatre headmaster. She began her music training at age five and has won numerous competitions, including first place at the "Classic Stories" competition in Finland. Despite challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, she thrived academically and gained recognition in St. Petersburg. Erika also explores jazz, teaches music, and participates in her church's worship ministry. Raised in a bilingual Christian homeschooling environment, she speaks Russian and English fluently, allowing her to connect with diverse audiences. As she prepares for upcoming engagements, Erika merges her classical training with a unique artistic voice.

Emily (age 25) is a graduate of the local Medical College and now serves as a paramedic, motivated by a heart to care for others.



The Furmanov sisters have all excelled academically and professionally.

Elsie attends the Rimsky-Korsakov Music College, known for its excellence in musical training. She majors in the viola.



PBC Youth News



“Move Up Sunday”

August 10th at 9:30am in the Youth Room

Our Youth Group welcomes new 6th graders into the family on “Move Up Sunday!”

Join us for breakfast and Bible study!



Sadly, the summer is ending, but there's lots to celebrate! Sunday, August 17th, we are saying "Goodbye" to Summer, but welcoming in a new season of school, ministry, and growing with God in the Fall! Our place of fun is still to be determined and will be shared very soon, but save the date and the afternoon (around 2:30pm until 6:30pm)

"Taste of Greece"

Sunday, July 27th, several people from PBC and other churches enjoyed "A Taste of Greece," hosted by the team that went on mission to Greece this past May. We experienced Greece in multiple ways. We tasted Greek food, heard many different testimonies from the team, saw pictures from their time in Greece, and had a time of Q&A with the team. The Q&A time spotlighted how this team has a heart for mission. Some questions included: Why Greece? What kind of ministry work were you involved in on this particular trip? Who were the people groups you ministered to? What existing needs or new needs were you made aware of on this trip? The team shared responses from their hearts. It is lovely to see what God is doing in Greece, and how He uses our church and others to fulfill His great plan. It was a great night to have our big God on display to see how He works His wonders in Greece as well as our little corner of the world.



*Pittsboro Baptist Church
invites kids 7-13 yrs old to*

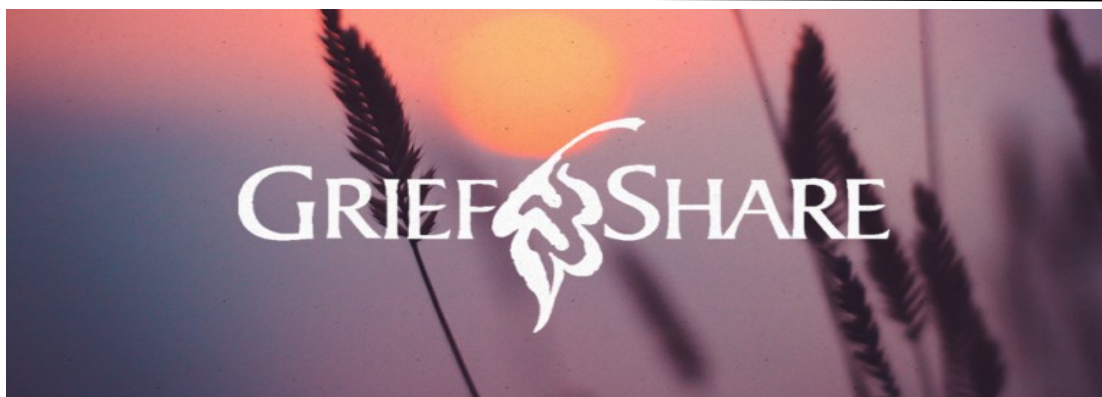


Saturday, August 9th (8:30am – 4pm)

**Location: McClenahan Basketball and Pickleball Courts
& East Chatham Little League Field**

Participants will have fun playing sports (basketball, pickleball, flag football) in a Christ-centered environment, receive quality instruction, and have a chance to show off their skills. Lunch will be provided.

Online registration opens July 16th at www.pittsborobaptistchurch.org



Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

What to Expect

GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly. You'll find a warm, caring environment and will come to see your group as an oasis on your long journey through grief. There are three key parts to your *GriefShare* experience:

Video seminar – Encouraging, information packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts.

Support group – Small group discussion about the weekly video content

Workbook – Journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

When & Where

GriefShare meets at Pittsboro Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Sunday afternoons, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cost

There is a \$25 fee to participate in a *GriefShare* cycle. Scholarships available.

Seminar Topics and Calendar

Is This Normal?	August 17
Your Grief Journey	August 24
Loneliness & Sadness	August 31
Self-Care	September 7
Fearful, Overwhelmed & Anger	September 14
Regrets	September 21
Grief & Your Household	September 28
Grief & Your Friendships	October 5
Questions for God	October 12
Stuck in Grief	October 19
Hope & Resilience	October 26
What Do I Live For Now?	November 2

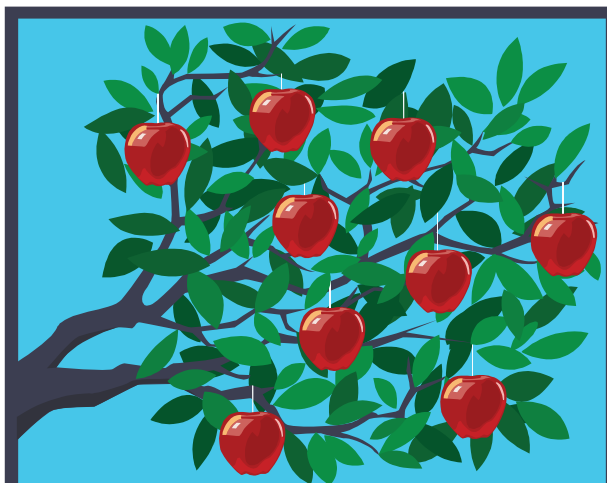


You are welcome to begin attending our *GriefShare* group at any point. Each session is “self-contained,” so you do not have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle.

How to Sign-up

Sign up at griefshare.org or call/text/email Julie LoRusso 336-202-7321 julie@jilcpa.com

AUGUST



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Trudy Sturdivant | 14 | Robert Johnson |
| | Carole Sanders | | Lincoln Skaggs |
| 2 | Maria Powers | 16 | Ken Haynes |
| | Ralph & Jenny Sears ♥ | 21 | Emerson Brown |
| | Don & Sherry Dodson ♥ | 23 | George Lisenbe |
| 3 | Janet Crutchfield | 24 | Tara McDonald |
| | Jennifer Davis | 25 | Hannah Brown |
| | Martha Brigman | | Jeremy Smith |
| | Dwight & Marilyn Tyndall ♥ | 27 | Ryan Dibb |
| 7 | Jay Weatherington | | Andrew Parker |
| 9 | Erica Melton | 28 | Ed & Rebecca Kelly ♥ |
| 10 | Amber Kilpatrick | 31 | Ed Kelly |
| 11 | Judy Beaver | | |
| 12 | Kuper Batcheller | | |
| | Jenny Sears | | |
| | Barrett Weatherington | | |



Ushers

*Frank Jurius, Don Dodson, Aaron Kivette,
and Percy Crutchfield*

Greeters

Jimmy & Susie Griffin



Infant

Nursery
ministry

August 3

Jessica Vrvilo

August 10

Ashley Batcheller & Sunny Allen

August 17

Jon & Melissa Harshman

August 24

Tara & Jenna Smith

August 31

Jessica Vrvilo

Toddler

Nursery
ministry

August 3

Tara, Micah & Mali McDonald

August 10

Kelly Smith & Karl Shaffer

August 17

Amber Kilpatrick & Brooke Smith

August 24

Hunter & Hannah Brown

August 31

Jennifer & Caroline Cashion



August 3

Jennifer Cashion & Cari Ann Walls

August 10

Jennifer Cashion & Cari Ann Walls

August 17

Jennifer Cashion & Cari Ann Walls

August 24

Jennifer Cashion & Cari Ann Walls

August 31

Jennifer Cashion & Cari Ann Walls

checkitout

News from the Pearle Johnson Memorial Library

Sunday Library Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.

It is still summer. You can probably tell by the stifling heat outdoors. Find a cozy chair in an air-conditioned room and relax by reading one of these very enjoyable books from the Pittsboro Baptist Church Pearle Johnson Memorial Library. *KTS* Those who enjoyed Grace Greene's Emerald Isle books, may like this book with a Virginia setting.

Kincaid's Hope by Grace Greene

Beth Kincaid left her hot temper and unhappy childhood behind and created a life in the city free from untidy emotionalism, but even a tidy life has danger, especially when it falls apart. In the midst of personal disasters, Beth is called back to her hometown of Preston, a small town in southwestern Virginia, to settle her guardian's estate. There, she

runs smack into the mess she'd left behind a decade earlier: her alcoholic father, the long-ago sweetheart, Michael, and the poor opinion of almost everyone in town. As she sorts through her guardian's possessions, Beth discovers that the woman who saved her and raised her had secrets, and the truths revealed begin to chip away at her self-imposed control. Michael is warmly attentive and Stephen, her ex-fiancé, follows her to Preston to win her back, but it is the man she doesn't know

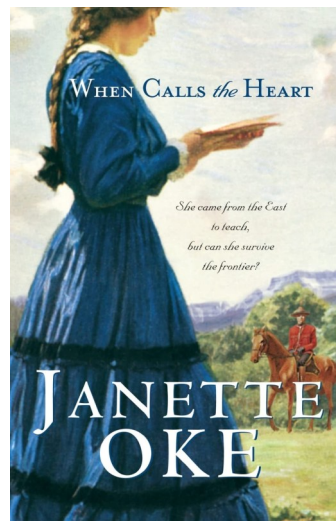
who could forever end Beth's chance to build a better, truer life. *(This book is in the Large Print section)*

This book inspired the long-running Hallmark television series with the same name. Though published years ago, the book is new to the PBC Library. Read it to determine if the book is better than the TV show.

When Calls the Heart by Janette Oke

Nothing in her privileged eastern upbringing has prepared Elizabeth for the challenges of frontier life...

Elizabeth Thatcher is young, pretty, cultured, and educated. But when she



journeys west to teach school in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, she's completely unprepared for the conditions she encounters. Still, she's determined to succeed at the formidable task of fitting in with the locals and shaping the hearts and minds of the

schoolchildren in her care.

She's just as determined not to give her heart to any of the local frontiersmen. Until she meets Wynn Delaney, a member the Royal Canadian Mounted Police...

(Continued on next page)



Sensible Shoes- A Story About the Spiritual Journey**by Sharon Garlough Brown***Four Strangers, One Retreat Center, A Story of Transformation*

Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation: Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is.

Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past.

Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage.

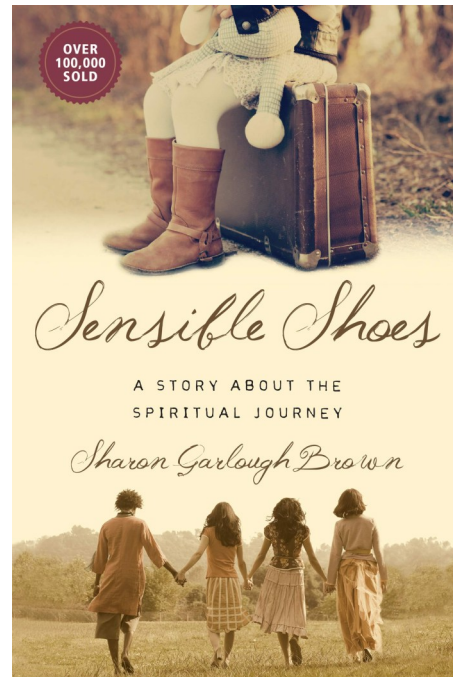
Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.

Along the way, readers will find:

- Key spiritual practices that they can take into their own lives,
- A cast of characters that any reader

can find themselves in, and Tangible support for the deeper life with God.



(summaries copied from amazon.com)

Library Schedule



9-9:30a.m.

10-10:30a.m.

August 3

Judy Beaver

Sue Devinney

August 10

Cindy Springle

Susie Griffin

August 17

Deborah Dismuke

Roderick Parker

August 24

Ann Mills

Kathy Shaffer

August 31

Kathy Shaffer

Kathy Shaffer

August 2025

Father God
Come be with us today.
Fill our hearts with joy.
Fill our minds with learning.
Fill our classrooms with peace.
Fill our lessons with fun.
Fill our friendships with kindness.
Fill our school with love. Amen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am—Sunday School (Move up Sunday) 10:30am –Worship Service	9:30am—Staff Meeting 10:00am—Monday School	10:30am—3L's meet at church and then out to eat 6:30pm—Women's Bible Study 7:00pm—Property Management Mtg	8:00am—Men's Bible Study @ Bojangles 10:00am—Prayer Quilters 5:00pm—The Table 6:30pm—Youth Worship & Family Time			8:30am—Play for purpose Day sports camp 5:30pm—BLAST
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am—Sunday School (Move up day) 10:30am –Worship Service (Communion) 2:30pm—Griefshare (Loss of a spouse) Noon—Ministry Fair	9:30am—Staff Meeting 10:00am—Monday School 7:00pm—Deacon's Mtg	6:30pm—Women's Bible Study 8:30pm—Finance Mtg (zoom)	8:00am—Men's Bible Study @ Bojangles 10:00am—Prayer Quilters		11:00am—Lunch Break Missions	9:30am—Guitar Workshop 10:45am—Vocal Workshop
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am—Sunday School 10:30am –Worship Service 2:30pm—Griefshare	9:30am—Staff Meeting 10:00am—Monday School	6:30pm—Women's Bible Study	8:00am—Men's Bible Study @ Bojangles 10:00am—Prayer Quilters 6:30pm—Youth Worship & Family Time	10:00am—Prayer Quilters		5:30pm—BLAST
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30am—Sunday School 10:30am –Worship Service (Wear school spirit day) 2:30pm—Griefshare	9:30am—Staff Meeting 10:00am—Monday School	6:30pm—Women's Bible Study	8:00am—Men's Bible Study @ Bojangles 10:00am—Prayer Quilters 7:00pm—Women's Bookclub			
31						
9:30am—Sunday School 10:30am –Worship Service 2:30pm—Griefshare						