# The EDISTIC

First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va.



From
Pastor
Walton's
Desk

Grace and Peace from God our Father,

all has arrived, and with it comes a season of change and renewal. The air is cooler, the days a little shorter, and yet the ministry of FBCV continues to move forward with energy, faith, and purpose. I am grateful to God that, even in challenging times, our church family remains steadfast, committed, and united.

One of the greatest joys this season brings is our upcoming Homecoming celebration on Sunday, September 21st at 10:00 AM. Homecoming is always a special time for us to reflect on our journey, to reconnect with one another, and to rejoice in how far the Lord has brought us. This year's theme is "The Return: God's Grace, Our RE-SET," and I believe this will be a time of refreshing for us all.

Leading us into Homecoming, we are engaging in our 21 Days of Prayer. This intentional time of seeking God together is the foundation for everything else we do. I invite you to join me every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning on our prayer call. These moments of prayer are more

PASTOR, continued on page 2



# Worship & Arts: Finishing the Year Strong

By Kwan McKnight, Director of Worship & Arts

amily, we have officially entered the last quarter of the year, the beginning of the end. This season is often filled with reflection, thanksgiving, and preparation, but it is also a great reminder that there is still time to finish strong and meet the goals we've set before us. In Worship & Arts, the Lord continues to open opportunities for us to grow, serve, and lift Him higher together.

Our ministry is more than singing, dancing, or operating a camera. It's about creating spaces where God's presence is felt, His people are encouraged, and His name is glorified. Here's how you can still be a part of what God is doing:

#### THE CHOIR

The choir is the heartbeat of our worship. They set the atmosphere and lead us into the presence of God. Whether through hymns, praise songs, or powerful anthems, the choir helps carry the voice of the church. There's still time to join us for upcoming services, especially Homecoming! Your voice matters and your presence makes us stronger.

#### DANCE AND FLAG MINISTRY

Dance and Flags bring a visual expression of worship that words cannot capture. Movement communicates joy, victory, and reverence, helping to make wor-

MUSIC MINISTRY, continued on page 7

#### **PASTOR**, cont. from page 1

than a routine—they are an opportunity for us to align our hearts with God's will and to strengthen the bonds of our community through shared intercession.

While we prepare with joy, we also acknowledge our grief. In recent weeks, we have had to say farewell to several beloved members of our FBCV family. Their absence is deeply felt, and we stand with their families in prayer and support. In moments of sorrow, I encourage you to lean on God's promises, for "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). May this Word be a comfort and reminder that even in loss, God's presence surrounds us.

We are also lifting in prayer our students, teachers, and school staff as they continue to settle into a new academic year. We ask God to cover them with wisdom, patience, protection, and encouragement each day. To our young people: know that your church family is proud of you and cheering you on. To our educators: thank you for the dedication and care you bring to your calling.

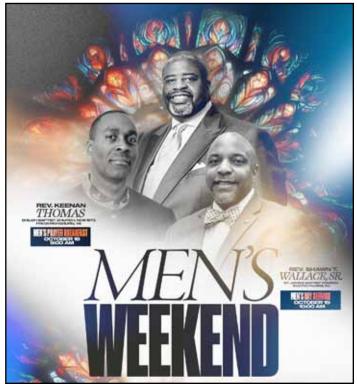
Family, let us continue to walk together in love, support, and prayer. I believe that God has much in store for us in the days ahead, and I am excited to see how He will continue to move in our midst.

With Love in Christ, Pas W.





#### See page 6 for details on Men's Ministry Activities



#### Be Ready So You Don't Have to Get Ready

any people are grieving the loss of loved ones. The sobering words of James 4:14 Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away, reminds us that human life is short and unpredictable.

There is an urgency in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with loved ones. God brings certain individuals and experiences into our lives as reminders that our existence exceeds our earthly journey. Because we know that physical death is not the final chapter, but a gateway to eternal life. The assurance of eternal life is a central aspect of our Christian faith, as highlighted in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.'

The death of Jesus Christ, Son of God, fulfills the promise of everlasting life for all believers. It is critical to share with those we love that their eternal destiny hinges on their response to Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." The choice to accept or reject Jesus Christ as Savior will determine whether they spend eternity in God's presence or face eternal separation and torment in Hell. This truth underscores the significance of encouraging others to seek God.

When Jesus returns, His arrival will not be a human planned event, a day of festivity, or a gathering at the Church to hear Him speak. Instead, it will be a day of judgment for those who rejected God—A period defined by individual accountability and lasting consequences. "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." (1 Corinthians 15:52-53).

Are you still preparing, or just a work in progress? Will you hear God's trumpet, or be left seeking mercy and forgiveness? Yes, it is better to be ready, so you don't have to get ready. Act ethically, communicate respectfully, and share your experiences to motivate others. Always stay ready!

Matthew 24:44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." When God calls, it will happen in the blink of an eye.

-Jacquelin Davis & Sylvia Taylor

#### A Marriage Ministry Moment

s we approach the Fall season, let's intentionally choose love daily. Love is more than a feeling---it's a choice. In marriage, choosing love daily means extending grace, forgiving quickly, and celebrating each other often. It's not always easy to do, but it's more than worth the effort. Take a few minutes to read Colossians 3:14, and over the next couple of weeks, commit to completing one intentional act of kindness for your spouse each day.

Please help us wish these couples a wonderful and blessed anniversary:

Donnie and Belinda McNealey - September 3rd

Charles and Armeata Basil- September 16th

If you would like to be added to the marriage ministry email list or have questions about the ministry, send an email to natm20@gmail.com.

-Natalie Ruffin



### **Fall Virtual Connection Groups**

#### Registration Now Open!

e're excited to announce that registration is now open for our Fall Virtual Connection Groups! These groups are a wonderful way to grow in faith, build community, and stay connected during the week.

To make room for everyone to participate, Pastor has canceled midweek service, encouraging us to join one or more groups that fit our schedules and interests. A limited number of group texts are available in the FBCV Marketplace.

There's a group for everyone—so don't miss this opportunity to grow spiritually and connect with others.

Register today and be part of what God is doing in our church family!

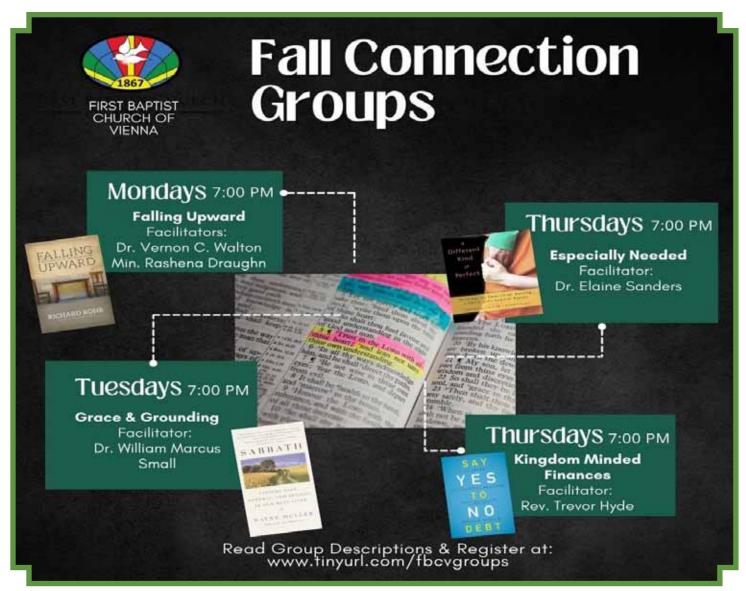
Registration Link: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvgroups

## **Especially Needed: A Different Kind of Perfect**

This supportive group is designed specifically for parents and caregivers of individuals with disabilities. Rooted in the belief that a team approach fosters transformation and growth, this group offers a safe and welcoming space to share experiences, receive encouragement, and find strength through faith and community. Together, we will explore practical and spiritual tools to navigate the challenges of caregiving, while building meaningful connections with others who understand the journey.

#### **Facilitator: Dr. Elaine Sanders**

No required text, Dr. Sanders will provide resources throughout the sessions. Meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.



#### **CONNECTION GROUPS CONTINUED**

#### **Falling Upward**

Let's explore the distinct two halves of life challenging the notion that the second half is filled with decline and loss.

- Gain a spiritual perspective on the "the common sequencing, staging, and direction of life's arc" and learn how to bring forth your gifts in the second half of life
- Grapple with difficult feelings, fears, and emotions associated with "great love and great suffering"
- Learn how we "grow spiritually much more by doing it wrong than by doing it right" Understand why so many of us resist falling into the second half of life

Facilitators: Dr. Vernon C. Walton and Min. Rashena Draughn

Book: Falling Upward, Revised and Updated: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life by Richard Rohr

Meets Mondays at 7 p.m.

# **Grace & Grounding: Spirit-led Emotional Regulation and Rest**

Millennia ago, the tradition of Sabbath created an oasis of sacred time within a life of unceasing labor. In today's world, with its relentless emphasis on success and productivity, we have lost the necessary rhythm of life, the balance between work and rest. Constantly striving, we feel exhausted and deprived in the midst of great abundance. We long for time with friends and family, we long for a moment to ourselves. Join us as we discover ways to foster a time for effortless, nourishing rest—a healing refuge for our souls.

Instructor: Dr. William Marcus Small

Book: Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives by Wayne Muller

Meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m/

#### Kingdom Minded Finances: Learning to Steward What God has Entrusted Us With

Join us as we explore a groundbreaking approach to financial literacy. This life-changing approach to financial wellness views financial bondage as an emotional, spiritual, and psychological problem. Together we will work through practical and attainable steps to help eliminate debt and become better stewards of all God has entrusted us with.

**Instructor: Pastor Trevor Hyde** 

Book: Say Yes to No Debt: 12 Steps to Financial Freedom

by Dr. DeForest Soaries

Meets Thursdays at 7 p.m.



# **Birth Month Celebration September 14**

oin us after worship on Sept. 14 for our Third Quarter Birth Month Celebration! We'll enjoy refreshments, games, and fellowship as we honor everyone with a birthday in July, August, or September.

As part of the celebration, we invite you to bring a Birth Month Celebration gift for missions—either in honor of your birthday or in honor of a loved one with a birthday this quarter.

#### **Mission Focus**

This quarter, all Birth Month gifts will support the Lott Carey Foreign Missions Gaza Fund, which is dedicated to alleviating suffering and starvation in Gaza as we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters there, praying and giving to bring hope and relief.

Let's celebrate life together while making a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to seeing you there!  $-Stacey\ Seay$ 

# A Prayer for Autumn's Arrival

Lord of all seasons,

As the leaves change and the days grow cooler, help me embrace the rhythm of your creation. Teach me to let go of what I no longer need and to trust your timing in every part of life.

Thank you for the beauty of autumn—
for crisp mornings, golden trees, and the promise of harvest.
May this season deepen my gratitude,
renew my spirit,

and draw me closer to your heart.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

-Newsletternewsletter.com

#### **Men's Ministry Update**

he summer is fast coming to an end but the Men's Ministry is just getting hot with many events in planning for the rest of the year along with our FBCV Church-Wide commitments. Here is a quick look at upcoming events:

- 1. **Men's Fishing Trip.** Be on the lookout for details on a day fishing with the brothers and friends on Miss Lizzy in Chesapeake Beach, MD.
- 2. Monday, Sept. 29: Wings and a Word at Glory Days. Location TBD.
- 3. Friday. Oct. 17 to Sunday, Oct. 19. Our Annual Men's Fellowship Weekend. Social event Friday, Prayer Breakfast Saturday and Men's Choir on Sunday.
- 4. Saturday, Nov. 15: Veterans Day Event. Black Veternality: Patriotism's Paradox. This will be for all our Veterans, Family and Friends not just the men.







To know more about these events and plans of the Men's Ministry please reach out to Brother Sinclair Harris, Deacon Andre Carpenter or Deacon Julian Purvis for more information.

Humbly yours, Brother Sinclair Harris, Men's Ministry Servant Leader



#### **SWAP News**

eniors With A Purpose Ministry (SWAP) have plans for the following activities and the members of FBCV are welcome to join.

A conversation with Dr. Victorie Kelley is a virtual experience titled "Good Health: Five Risks" See the flyer on the right for a link to the Zoom.

The Christmas Jazz Brunch is being planned for Friday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. at the Regency Country Club in Haymarket, Virginia.

-Esther McCu;;ough



The family of FBCV member James "Duke" Carter, Jr. The family of FBCV member Roger Akins

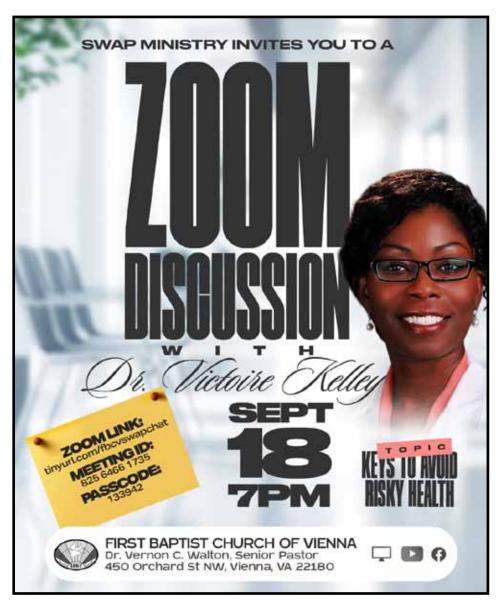


Deaconess Margie Duncan and daughters Linda, Adrian and Andrea to commemorate the 66th birthday of her son and their brother, Bryan Duncan.

Ceola Allen, Danny and Alfred Bunaugh and great-grand children in loving memory of their grandfather and great-grandfa-

ther, Charles Beneau.

-Compiled by Ceola Allen



#### MUSIC MINISTRY, cont. from page 1

ship alive and engaging. We've restarted rehearsals and are preparing for upcoming Sundays. If God has given you a passion for dance or the heart to wave a banner before Him, now is the perfect time to step forward.

#### **MEDIA TEAM**

The Media Team ensures that our worship reaches beyond the four walls of our church. From sound and cameras to livestream and social media, this team allows the Word and worship to touch lives near and far. If you have interest in technology, creativity, or storytelling, your gifts can make a major impact here.

As we move toward the close of this year, I encourage you to ask yourself: How can I give God my best in this season? There's still time to commit, to connect, and to contribute. Worship & Arts isn't just about talent—it's about heart, consistency, and a willingness to serve.

Contact me at Mcknightk@fbcv.org

Let's finish this year strong—together. If you'd like to join any of these ministries, please see me after service or reach out to the church office.

#### **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

# MINISTRY UPDATE

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." – Isaiah 43:19

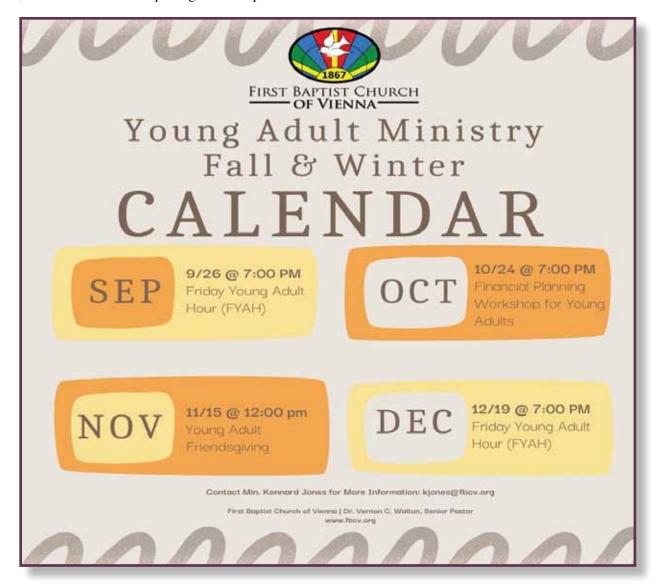
amily, the fall season of ministry is here! As we step into this new season, I want to remind you that God is always doing something fresh in our lives and in the life of His church. Fall is a time of harvest, a time of renewal, and a time of preparation for what God desires to accomplish through us.

We have amazing opportunities in the life of our church this season, especially for our youth and young adults. Our Fall Calendar is filled with intentional gatherings, moments of growth, and times of fellowship designed to help us draw closer to Christ and to one another. I encourage you to engage fully in what God is doing—don't just attend, but bring your gifts, your energy, and your prayers.

Please take a moment to look at these opportunities, but more importantly, I invite you to share them with someone else. You never know how one invitation could change the trajectory of someone's life.

Thank you for your continued commitment, your willingness to grow, and your desire to see God move. I believe with all my heart that the best is yet to come!

With gratitude and expectation, Minister Kennard "KJ" Jones Director of Youth and Young Adult Engagement





# YOUTH MINISTRY Upcoming Events

#### SEPT

#### SEPTEMBER

- · 8th: Youth Prayer Call Kick-off
- 14th: Youth Choir Rehearsal & Christmas Play Casting Call
- 25th: Excellence Academy Kick-of
- 27th: Faith and Fitness Hike
- 28th: Youth Church Kick-off & Casting Call

#### OCTOBER

- 12th (2nd Saturday): Youth Choir Rehearsal
- 31st: Trunk or Treat

#### Need info? Contact Min. Kennard Jones kjones@fbcv.org

#### DECEMBER

- 3-4th: Youth Lock-in
- · 8th: Youth Choir Rehearsal

NOVEMBER

- · 9th: Shining Scholars Spotlight
- 14th: GMU Women's Volleyball
- 27th: No Excellence Academy

- 6th: Cocoa with Santa
- 13th: Dress Rehearsal (IP)
- 20th: Dress Rehearsal (IP)
- 21st: Worship through Arts

DEC

#### NOV

#### RECURRING

- Every Monday at 7:00 PM Youth Call Out (Prayer Line: Phone Number: 605-313-5111 Access Code: 291598)
- Every 1st Thursday via Zoom Parent Nation Meeting
- Every Thursday at 5:30 Excellence Academy: weekly tutoring & enrichment
- Every 2nd Saturday of the month Youth Choir Rehearsal
- Every 1st and 4th Sunday Youth Church (ages 4 and up)
- Every 2nd through 5th Sunday during worship Nursery Open (ages 0-3)

First Baptist Church of Vienn Dr. Vernon C. Walton Senior Pastor www.fbcv.org

# Missions and Outreach

hank you again for your generous support of our Sneakers and Backpack Drive this summer and for volunteering your time at the Reston YMCA (in partnership with Reston Strong and the Remakery) and at The Lamb Center. We continue to receive positive feedback from the community about the impact of our reinvented version of our annual Christmas in July celebration!

As we look ahead to the fall and winter, our church remains committed to serving faithfully:

- Monthly Meals at both The Lamb Center and Embry Rucker Shelter
- **Trunk or Treat** A fun, faith-filled outreach for families
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner Sharing a meal and love with our neighbors
- Cocoa with Santa A joyful event for children and families

This season, our missions focus will be also include:

- 1. Thanksgiving Baskets Providing much-needed food for families in our community.
- 2. Christmas Blessing Boxes Brightening the lives of children and youth during the holidays.

As we continue to reset and reinvent, some opportunities may look a little different, but our mission remains the same: to use our resources wisely and to impact lives meaningfully with the love of Christ.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can get involved in these upcoming opportunities!

—Stacey Seay

# Trunk or Treat is Coming Soon!

ur annual Trunk or Treat is quickly approaching, and we want YOU to be part of it!

- Ministries: Each ministry is encouraged to host at least one decorated trunk.
- Not in a ministry? No problem—you can still sign up to host a trunk!
- Theme: This year's theme is Candy! Be creative, have fun, and most importantly, share the love of Jesus and the gospel message through your candy-themed trunk.
- Candy Donations: Ministries are asked to supply candy for their trunks. We will also begin accepting general candy donations at the church starting in October.

Sign up today using the link provided and help us make this a joyful outreach event for our community. Together, we can share Christ's love in a fun, welcoming way!

Sign up by using the QR code or by using this link: https://tinyurl.com/totsignup25

-Stacey Seay





#### Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

s autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God's faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God's ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

Let this autumn be a time to embrace God's steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.

-Newsletternewsletter.com

#### MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

All are welcome, join a new ministry today!

**Burden Bearers** 

Feed the Homeless Ministry

**HANDS Health & Wellness** 

Missionary

Nursery

Parking Lot

**Parent Nation** 

**Ushers** 

Women's Ministry

Worship & Arts (rehearsals)

Young Adults

**Youth Advisory Council** 

FOR MORE INFO CALL 703-938-8525 M-5pm; T,Th, F-6pm; Su-7:30pm (Conference Call Line)

4th Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 7pm (Virtual)

3rd Monday at 6:30pm (Hybrid)

1st Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Sunday at 8:30am (In-Person)

1st Thursday at 6:00 pm

2nd Thursday Time? (Virtual)

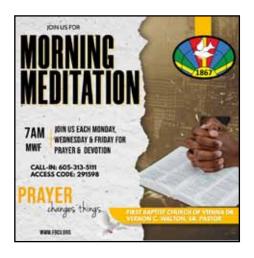
3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

Tuesday Weekly at 7pm (In-Person)

2/6 and 3/6 at 6:30pm; 1st Thursday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

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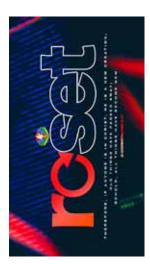




### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 Orchard St. N.W., Vienna, Virginia 22180 (703) 938-8525 • www.fbcv.org Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor





SATURDAY	9	13	20	27 9:00 am Youth Faith & Fitness	The nursery is open every Sunday except 1st Sunday.
FRIDAY	<b>5</b> 7:00 am Prayer Call	12 7:00 am Prayer Call	19 7:00 am Prayer Call	26 7:00 am Prayer Call	Connection Groups begin the week of September 21st.
THURSDAY	4	11	7:00 pm SWAP Zoom on Health	25 SWAP Apple Picking Trip	
WEDNESDAY	37:00 am Prayer Call	10 7:00 am Prayer Call	7.00 am Prayer Call 7:00 pm Prayer Encounter (in- person)	24	
TUESDAY	2	6	16	23	<b>30</b> 11:00 am Mid-Day Bible Study
MONDAY	7:00 am Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Cal 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer Call	7:00 am Prayer Call 7:00 p.m. Wings & a Word 7:30 pm The Call Out Family Prayer Call
SUNDAY		<b>COMMUNION</b> 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	BIRTH MONTH CELEBRATION 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	HOMECOMING 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	28 <b>YOUTH CHURCH</b> 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17