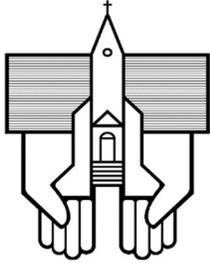


NOVEMBER/  
DECEMBER

2021



Reach Out

Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

## “Homeward Bound

Dear People of Faith,

For some reason, this time of year reminds me of my college days. The greying sky and scantily-clad trees bring me right back to Routes 22 and 78 in Pennsylvania, and to long rides back to New Jersey for the quick-turnaround of Thanksgiving, or a few weeks later to arrive just in time for my sister’s mid-December birthday and tree decorating. Those drives were true in-between spaces. In my mind and in my gut I was in flux, in transition between one home and another. I still thought of and referred to my parents’ house as “home,” and I was always happy to be back in my old room, with my old friends. But, truthfully, home had already become a bit of a moving target. There were comfortable surroundings and familiar faces on the New Jersey end of the trek. Yet, with each passing year, I was establishing real relationships and making meaningful memories on the Pennsylvania end. And to top off all of the shifting of home, the complete unknown of post-graduation life awaited, not far beyond the foggy fall horizon.

There is a deep longing to this season of gray and shorter days. I hear the refrain of Simon and Garfunkel in my head: **“Homeward bound./I wish I was, homeward bound.”** The approach of Christmas makes that longing all the more poignant. We long for the “home” that is behind us: the house of our childhood, the embrace of our spouse, the joy of now-grown children seeing the Christmas-morning tree at dawn. We also long for what we cannot yet see: the day when we all will be at home in God’s fully-realized kin-dom “when mourning and crying and death will be no more,” when justice and peace and God’s unmediated embrace holds us and all creation together. Yes, we are privileged to take part in God’s work with our hands in building that ultimate home; however, like kids in the backseat of the car, we impatiently cry, “Are we there yet?”

The Advent and Christmas seasons richly remind us through scripture and song, that God again and again comes close to us. We are not quite at home, and yet, God has chosen to “pitch God’s tent” among us (John 1:14), to be near to us and camp out with us on the Way. In Jesus, God’s life-giving and life-sustaining love have not merely come **close** to us—God’s Love has come among us, **become one of us**. We celebrate that while we were (and are) yet a ways away from home, from the fullness of God’s kin-dom of peace and life, God has made God’s home in our world, in our flesh. God is right there with us in every circumstance.

(Continued on next page)

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**“Homeward Bound”** (continued from previous page)

Whether we realize it or not, our hearts are longing to come home. Advent and Christmas ring out with the invitation to be at home in that Jesus:

- \* the invitation to recognize and welcome God's presence with us in God's broken and beautiful world, in our broken and beloved selves and neighbors.
- \* the invitation to hope that the day of fulfillment, when all will be made right in Love, is coming closer and closer to being our Home.
- \* the invitation to join the Magi in encountering Christ and then traveling home another Way, the Way of the One who changes everything.
- \* the invitation to intentionally join in the longing, in the Way, through additional worship services and activities, a daily devotional resource, ways of serving and sharing for the sake of neighbors God has given us.

Join with this family of Faith as we come **“Close to Home”**—close to the One who **is** our home.

Elsewhere in this issue of the **Reach Out**, you will find more about our seasonal theme, and details about worship, educational and fellowship opportunities for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Please keep this resource handy and be alert to additional announcements as the days draw closer.

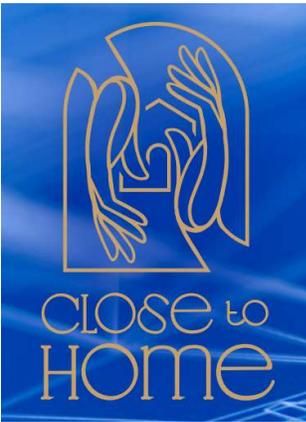
In Christ,  
Pastor Jill

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God's blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit upon Andrew Advani, Matthew Majewski, Brian Stampoulos, Nick Edolo and Simon Mizrachy who celebrated their Confirmation on October 31 (pictured with Carol Jones and Pastor Jill)

Congratulations to  
Molly Cowan and  
Zachary Elliott  
who were married  
October 23  
at the Radnor Valley  
Country Club



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## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS at FAITH

### “Close to Home”

About the theme, from the resources we will be using, developed by A Sanctified Art

“When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season, we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. We carry the memories and truths of this season close to our hearts. *Close to Home* acknowledges the ‘already but not yet’ tension of our

Faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us.

“The Advent and Christmas scriptures are rich with home metaphors and imagery. John the Baptist prophesies about the One who is to come, but reminds us that we are still wandering far from God’s promised day; his message hits close to home, especially for those experiencing inequity and oppression. After receiving the angel’s news, Mary retreats to Elizabeth’s home, seeking refuge and safety. Christ is born in the midst of a journey home, in a crowded dwelling space amidst livestock and shepherds alike. The Magi travel far from home to pay homage to Christ, and, having been warned in a dream, they avoid Herod by traveling home another way. In these scriptures, home is both physical and metaphorical, something we seek and something we are called to build. Ultimately, God is our home and resting place. God draws near and makes a home on earth—sacred ground is all around us.

“*Close to Home* also names the pain many of us will carry into this season. The holidays can poke at our grief. Many will be missing loved ones lost to sickness and tragedy. The traumas of the pandemic will still be with us. Many will have lost homes—due to natural disasters, economic hardship and unjust policies. Many do not feel safe in their own homes due to poor living conditions or harmful family dynamics. Many feel alone and isolated at home. Churches are discerning transitions with their physical buildings; many of our spiritual homes are changing.

“This Advent, may we be comforted by the One who dwells intimately with us. May we expand safety and sanctuary for everyone wandering far from home. May we come home—wherever home is found—to live fully with joy, hope and courage.”

—A Sanctified Art ©A SANCTIFIED ART sanctified art.org



Join us for our Fall Work Day  
Saturday, November 13 at 9:00 AM



“Making Sense of Scripture”  
Sundays at 10:30 AM in the rear narthex



Outdoor worship provided an open space for large gatherings like baptisms, Rally Day, and Pastor's installation. We worshiped in the shade, the sun, and even the rain.

However, as the cold weather approaches, we're preparing to move all worship indoors beginning November 7. Services will continue to be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM. Please see the Re-Entry Committee's revised guidelines for safe indoor worship.

While the average indoor attendance has been about 40 people, the Worship & Music Committee anticipates more visitors during the Advent and Christmas season.

Re-Entry will monitor weekly attendance. Once we have two consecutive weeks of 70 people or more attending worship, we will move to two services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. We want to welcome ALL into our building, but we need your help for two services. Please consider serving as a worship assistant: Altar guild, usher, lector, Assisting Minister, sound/video, and counting. Contact the office if you can help.

Joyfully we gather as singers and ringers this advent season to fellowship and prepare for special music in worship. If you are interested in joining a choir, please email [becky@majewski.com](mailto:becky@majewski.com) or speak with Becky any Sunday.



#### **BELL CHOIR**

Rehearses Sundays 5:00 PM  
November 7, 21, 28; December 5, 19

#### **SENIOR CHOIR**

Rehearses Wednesdays 7:00 PM  
November 10, 17; December 1, 15



#### **ADDITIONAL ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Hi All. You might be like me and wonder **“what does an Altar Guild volunteer do?”** Well good news, Pastor Jill will be hosting two Altar Guild training sessions: Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM and Saturday, November 6 at 10:00 AM.

In the past, we have had 5 teams of two or three people each, who were assigned to volunteer every 5 or so weeks. Currently we have only 5 people on the volunteer list. We would love for you to join us in this important worship volunteering opportunity. If you would like to volunteer, and cannot make either session, please just reach out to me, the newest volunteer. 😊 I'll be happy to pass on what I learn. ~ Susan Flynn



## NEWS FROM THE RE-ENTRY COMMITTEE

We are grateful to be able to share that the Somerset County Department of Health's Covid-19 Weekly Report continues to show a CALI score of "2" (Moderate). Recently our committee, in conjunction with Council, has agreed we should continue indoor services even in the event the CALI score moves to a "3" (High). However, if this happens, we will return to some past procedures we originally implemented when services were first brought indoors. This recommendation was based on the recent Covid-19 survey that showed more than 90% of those who replied had been vaccinated. We will send a note to the congregation, if we need to return to some prior procedures in the case of a CALI score of 3.

### Current Procedures for Gathering for Indoor Worship

In order to remain inclusive of all members of our community, services will continue to be live-streamed. With safety in mind, the Re-entry Committee along with Worship and Music Committee has implemented the following procedures:

**Mask-wearing:** All people entering and present in the building will be required to wear masks that cover their nose and mouth at all times.

**Hand sanitizer:** Hand sanitizers are available in the Narthex.

**Socially distanced seating:** Pews will be marked with an "X" to allow for social distancing. Pews towards the front will be blocked off every other row with an "X", while pews near the back will be open seating. Those that wish to ensure a 6 foot distance from others should sit in the front. Once seated, worshippers will refrain from leaving their seats except for the purpose of using the restroom. If the current CALI score is a 3, then a larger portion of the pews will be marked with an "X".

**Restroom:** In the event that a trip to the restroom becomes necessary, worshippers are directed to use the door closest to the entrance to exit the sanctuary. Following the proper hand-washing technique (20 seconds or more) is required before returning to worship. Social distancing must be maintained while traveling to and from the restroom.

**Worship:** Worshippers will remain in their seats, with masks on, during the worship service.

**Exiting the Sanctuary:** If the current CALI score is a 3, then at the end of the service, worshippers will exit the sanctuary by turning to the left and walking all the way across the row to the wall and then walking forward toward the pulpit, exiting through the door by the pulpit. Worshippers are asked to take all items (bulletins, masks, etc.) home with them.

**Coats:** If the current CALI score is a 3, then worshippers should keep their coats with them during worship. Coat racks will be unavailable for use.

**Fellowship:** If the current CALI score is a 3, then any fellowship time after or between services will be conducted outside.

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## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES



### THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

**Wednesday, November 24 at 7:30 PM (Facebook only)**

Find a cozy chair and join Pastor Jill and Becky from their homes for a liturgy of gratitude and praise to God our Creator and Provider of all good things.

### ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

**Wednesdays at 7:30 PM – December 1, 8, 15 (Sanctuary and Facebook)**

Journey through scripture, prayer, art and music with our Advent theme *Close to Home*. Worship will include *Holden Evening Prayer* – a contemplative vesper service of prayer and song that gathers around the light of Christ. These services acknowledge the “already but not yet” tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God’s promised day—our everlasting home—is not fully realized.

### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

**Wednesday, December 22 at 7:30 PM (Sanctuary and Facebook)**

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, loneliness, depression, unemployment, and loss are magnified. A Longest Night service provides a time and place to name these feelings and hear words of comfort and hope. In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope that comes from our Savior, the Light of the World. Please join us in the sanctuary for a candlelit service with music, prayer and meditation.



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF THE WORD & SACRAMENT

5:00 PM – Family friendly worship with a Children’s Message and youth centered scripture and liturgy

7:00 PM & 9:00 PM – Traditional worship in celebration of the Nativity of our Lord with special music offerings

All services will be held in the sanctuary. The 7:00 PM service will also be live streamed on Facebook. As we plan for Christmas Eve, we need to have some sense of the balance among our services so that we can provide a safe and comfortable environment for everyone. Beginning in mid-November, there will be several ways for you to let us know which Christmas Eve service you are planning to attend (watch your bulletin for details).

The numbers will be included in the bulletin each week in case anyone would like to change their planned worship time.

**A Service of Lessons & Carols**  
Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 AM





## THANKSGIVING TREATS FOR LOCAL SENIORS

It is time for our annual project of providing fruit for Seniors that live in the Hillsborough area. We will be providing single serve items and fresh fruit this year. If you would like to participate, we are asking for donations of any of the following items:

- Snack Pack sugar free juicy gels (4 3.25 oz cups per package)
- Snack Pack sugar free pudding (4 3.25 oz cups per package)
- Dole 100% fruit any variety (4 4oz cups per package)
- Motts applesauce any variety (6 4oz cups per package)

Please place your donations in the bin marked "Donations for SENIOR THANKSGIVING BASKETS" in the narthex prior to Monday, November 15th. The committee will be purchasing the fresh fruit and assembling the bags for delivery through the Meal on Wheels organization. If you cannot make a purchase, but would like to donate towards the fruit and supplies, please provide your donation prior to Monday, November 15th. If you write a check or provide cash, please include "fruit for seniors" on the note line or envelope which you can place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. You can also donate online through the church webpage "Giving" or by using the Vanco Mobile app and select the "Fruit for Seniors" fund. Thank you in advance for help with this Thanksgiving project.

YOUTH GROUP

**Christmas**  
EXTRAVAGANZA

**Saturday, December 11**

The Youth Group will hold their annual shopping trip to purchase gifts for the families involved with Steps Together. More details will follow!

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND DECORATIONS

If you would like to purchase poinsettias or donate towards holiday decorations for our worship space, please use the insert that will be in our weekly bulletin beginning Sunday, November 21 or contact the church office. Deadline for ordering is December 5.

The cost for a double 7" red poinsettia is \$19



## YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Help the youth group raise money for Christmas gifts for Steps Together Families by purchasing a Christmas wreath! Orders for the 24" wreaths can be placed online November 14-28. The cost is \$25 and wreaths can be picked up on Saturday, December 4 or Sunday, December 5. Watch the weekly email for a link to place your order!

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## Hospital Stays/Prayer List Updates

Please notify the church office with any additions, deletions or changes to our prayer concerns or when you or someone you love is hospitalized (also when you or your loved one is released from the hospital).

## Need or want to talk with the Pastor?

Please call the church office at (908) 369-3201 or you may email Pastor Jill at [pastorcollict@verizon.net](mailto:pastorcollict@verizon.net).



*Please keep in your prayers...*

+ Martin Boer	+ Lorraine Capobianco	+ Betty Hannum
+ Rudy Harding	+ Tara Joswick	+ Christine Kennette
+ Jonathan Stein	+ Andrew Wishnow	+ Pastor Zimmermann



*Our sympathies and prayers are offered  
for the family and friends of:*

Charles and Maureen Knutson (parents of Diane Bianchini)  
Russ Johnson (friend of Pastor Jill)  
John Mangini (requested by Barbara Turck)  
Carol Suiter

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We want to make sure that Faith folks who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend worship are included in the meal. We ask you to inform the church office of your desire to have Communion brought to you, as well as the number of people in your household who would like to receive. We will strive to bring Holy Communion to you as frequently as we can, ideally not less than once per month. Please reach out to Pastor Jill ([pastorcollict@verizon.net](mailto:pastorcollict@verizon.net)) with any questions or concerns about this or any other pastoral matter. Also, if you know of someone who might need home communion or other outreach, let Pastor Jill know.



If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please see the Flower Chart available at both indoor and outdoor worship services or you can contact the church office to reserve a date. The cost is \$20 per arrangement and you may place your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you pay by check, please write "altar flowers" on the memo line. If paying with cash, please write your name and "altar flowers" on the outside of your envelope. **If taking the flowers home after worship, please return the vase to the church after use.**



# November

BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Mike Fanizzi	11/13 Nick Silady Kristin Wishnow	11/23 Andrew Sproul
11/2 Jeremy Shannon Beryl Van Arsdale	11/15 Shaun Hixson	11/24 Simon Mizrachy
11/3 Catie Hawkes Anthony Patane	11/16 Chuck Redmond	11/25 Jack Dankers
11/4 Dylan Adamo Lynelle Giammanco Matthew Ludwig Caitlyn Staszcyk	11/18 Lucas Bourey	11/26 Lynn DeLozier
11/6 Mike Volpe	11/19 Owen Gardner David Kandell	11/27 Zack More William Murray
11/8 Brian Wendrzycki	11/20 Christina Adelman Nathan Haase Bob Hawkes Jerry Sproul	11/28 Katie More Karli Villano
11/11 William Nilsen Joel Puskas	11/22 Christina Satanik	11/29 Madison Campbell
		11/30 Nicholas Edolo David Stampoulos



# December

BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Cheryle Ludwig Laurel Sproul Ken Van Dongen	12/9 Jodi Devchand	12/20 Adam Blumenthal
12/2 Tony Adamo	12/10 Alyssa Christopulos Tom Marvits	12/23 Sharon Lindstrom Donna Massa Michelle Watts
12/3 Stacy Christopulos Abby Mastakas Cynthia Pedersen	12/11 Logan Lindstrom Carolyn Seppelt	12/24 Jim Silady
12/4 Connor Advani Kevin Haynes	12/12 David Haase	12/25 Nicole Muller
12/7 Ben Haase Paul Ludwig	12/14 Brandon Campbell Anthony Gerbino	12/26 Judy Hatke
12/8 Gillian Westhusin	12/16 Andrew Lindstrom Carter Rutherford	12/27 Jenna Patane
	12/18 Faley Crow	12/31 Carol Reimann



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Operating Fund  
Statement of Revenues and Expenses  
For the four months ending September 30, 2021**

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Envelopes	\$ 239,049	78,534	80,423
Other	<u>37,145<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>3,014</u>	<u>4,956<sup>2</sup></u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>276,194</u></b>	<b><u>81,548</u></b>	<b><u>85,379</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total Mutual Ministry	209,898	71,819	69,453
Total Worship & Music	4,460	1,684	1,594
Total Property Maintenance	54,827	19,123	16,315
Total Christian Education	3,050	1,800	913
Total Youth	1,200	167	167
Total Evangelism	1,985	347	70
Total Social Ministry	25,410	8,470	8,444
Total Finance	41,989	13,820	13,820
Total Stewardship	200	--	--
Capital Improvement Fund	5,000	--	--
Equipment Fund	<u>    --</u>	<u>    --</u>	<u>    --</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>348,019</u></b>	<b><u>117,230</u></b>	<b><u>114,257</u></b>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Budget Gap</b>	<b><u>(71,825)</u></b>	<b><u>(35,683)</u></b>	<b><u>(28,877)</u></b>
<b>Budget Gap</b>	<b>71,825</b>	<b>35,583</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ <u>    0</u></b>	<b><u>    0</u></b>	<b><u>(28,877)</u></b>

<sup>1</sup>PPP/ERC of \$24,673 included

<sup>2</sup>Special Benevolence of \$3,500 included

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:15 Evangelism Committee Meeting	<b>2</b> 6:30 Altar Guild Training	<b>3</b> 7:15 Christian Ed Committee Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 Silver Foxes 10:00 SHIP	<b>6</b> 10:00 Altar Guild Training
<b>7</b> <b>All Saints</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) Sporn Baptism 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Sunday School 5:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:00 Property Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 4:30 Girl Scout Troop 60529 Meeting 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 Fall Work Day
<b>14</b> <b>25th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Confirmation Class / Sunday School 3:30 Youth Group	<b>15</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting	<b>16</b> 1:00 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:15 Congregation Council Meeting	<b>17</b> 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> NJ Synod Youth Retreat
<b>21</b> <b>26th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Confirmation Class / Sunday School 5:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:30 Worship	<b>25</b>  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Confirmation Class / Sunday School 5:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting	<b>30</b>	 <p><b>All worship services will be live-streamed on Faith's Facebook page</b>  <b>Green</b> = Held via Faith's Zoom account  <b>Blue</b> = Facebook  <b>Purple</b> = Other Zoom</p>			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>All worship services will be live-streamed on Faith's Facebook page</b></p> <p><b>Green</b> = Held via Faith's Zoom account  <b>Blue</b> = Facebook  <b>Purple</b> = Other Zoom</p>			<p><b>1</b> 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 Meeting</p>	<p><b>3</b> SHIP's Galley 9:00 Silver Foxes</p>	<p><b>4</b> Williams / Duncanson Wedding</p>
<p><b>5</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Confirmation Class / Sunday School 5:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:15 Evangelism Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:15 Christian Ed Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:30 Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p><b>9</b> 4:30 Girl Scout Troop 60529 Meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 2:00 Youth Group Christmas Extravaganza</p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Sunday School</p>	<p><b>13</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:00 Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>15</b> 7:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Holden Evening Prayer</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:15 Congregation Council Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b> <i>Articles for January Reach Out Due</i></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor) 10:15 Fellowship 10:30 Adult Forum / Confirmation Class / Sunday School 5:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 7:30 Longest Night Service</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126</p>	<p><b>24</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> 
<p><b>26</b> <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b> 9:30 Worship (Indoor)</p>	<p><b>27</b> <i>Church Office Closed</i></p>	<p><b>28</b> 10:30 Staff Meeting</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	