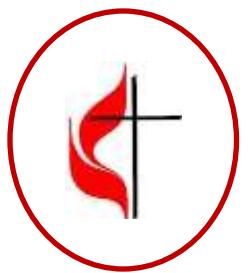


MINISTRY@DHUMC



“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.” ~Albert Camus

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A monthly newsletter for the membership of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.

June 2018

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Photographer

Everyone!

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Everyone!

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Flying Kisses

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice proclaiming from the throne: "Now at last God has his dwelling among people! He will dwell among them and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be an end to death and to mourning and to crying and to pain; for the old order has passed away! . . . Behold, I am making all things new." **Revelation 21:1-5***

I must confess that, over the course of the years, I have shied away from Revelation. For much of my life I have associated the complicated and riddle-laden language of John of Patmos with those who would use it to predict the imminent demise of the world, identify some Arab leader (or, in their turn, the Germans, the Russians, or the European Community) as the Anti-Christ, and who's ministry is to bully and threaten people with hellfire and damnation.

The lectionary we use to identify each worship service's scripture lessons has not helped me to mend my Revelation-averse ways – readings from Revelation are few, episodic, and repetitious.

Fortunately, I have had a blessing each time I have taken the first year of Disciple Bible Study because one week's study is spent considering this unique set of scriptures.



Pastor
Russell

To John on the isle of Patmos the risen Christ spoke in a revelation. John records being told that the Christ will wipe away every tear from the faithful's eyes. Then there shall be an end to death, mourning, crying, and pain.

Then there is this triumphant proclamation: "For the old order has passed away! . . . Behold, I am making all things new."

That is good news, is it not? Even for the likes of my suspicious ears that is good news. God makes all things new! We believe in a God who is not yet finished with creation, but is actively involved in our lives making all things new. As the old passes away, it will make room for the new.

Focusing on hellfire and damnation rather than pointing to hope in goodness is an unfortunate misunderstanding of the intention of the text. Revelation tells us to believe

in the God who is bringing something new into our lives every day and every hour.

Being receptive to all the newness God is sending our way requires a hearty amount of faithful flexibility. William Blake says in his poem "Eternity"

*He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy;
But he who kisses the joy as it
flies
Lives in eternity's sunrise.*

God's Revelation will not be nailed down! We cannot somehow sit on it and keep it tidy. We are the people who live always in the light of Easter. We are the ones who celebrate God's creative power. Even when life is most difficult and sad, we have trained our eyes to carefully watch - God is making all things new all the time.

As you and your loved ones set about your summer schedules, I pray you offer, receive, and behold many a flying kiss.

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WORSHIP NOTES

Take and Read

Though the sermons will all be based on the Gospels in June, following the Hebrew Scriptures over the summer will provide an opportunity to learn one of western civilizations most intriguing stories.

The Books of Samuel, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel are sections of the narrative history of Israel in the prophets portion of the Hebrew Scriptures and are generally considered to belong to the Deuteronomistic history (along with Joshua, Judges, Samuel and Kings).

The Deuteronomistic history is essentially the theological history of the Israelites and seeks to explain God's law for Israel under the guidance of the prophets.

According to Jewish tradition, the book was written by Samuel, with additions by the prophets Gad and Nathan; probably the entire Deuteronomistic history was composed in the period c. 630–540 BC.

The book begins with the Prophet Samuel's birth and God's call to him as a boy.

The story of the Ark of the Covenant that follows tells of Israel's oppression by the Philistines, which brought about Samuel's anointing of Saul as Israel's first king.

But Saul proved unworthy and God's choice turned to David, who defeated Israel's enemies and brought the Ark to Jerusalem.

God then promised David and his successors an everlasting dynasty.



Why not make a commitment this summer to read along in 1st and 2nd Samuel as our lay readers present this ancient story with a contemporary importance.



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**Women showered
with flowers at
Mother's Day
service**

The church kept an annual Mother's Day tradition going this year when the children of the congregation handed out flowers to the women in attendance during Mother's Day worship services May 13. This special tribute recognizes the sacrifices made by our mothers, but honors all women as well.

**Photos by
Alex Mullin**



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IN SERVICE



At left, Communion server Allie McPherson shares a special moment as she offers Communion to her dad, Walt McPherson, during a May Communion service. Below, Sophia serves as the Crucifer while Allie serves as Acolyte, both preparing to process out at the end of services. Thank you to all of our children volunteers for helping to make our weekly worships possible.



Photos by Linda Tripolitis

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Photos by David Bjorkgren



A Baptism!

Heiydan Gradel (left) receives the Baptismal blessing and waters from Pastor Russell Atkinson during a Baptism ceremony at the May 20 worship service. Immediately after the ceremony, Heiydan honored God, the church and his baptismal covenant by serenading the congregation with Johnny Cash's "Old Chunk of Coal". You can catch his performance [here](#), along with other church videos on our new YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/DrexelHillUnitedMethodistChurch), or by visiting the church's [Facebook](#) page.

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Thanks, Dan!



The Chanel Choir finished out its 2017-18 season at the church, performing its last service on Pentecost, May 20. During the service, the choir presented music director Dan Matarazzo with a gift of appreciation. Appropriately, the choir's last anthem before the summer break was, "With a Voice of Singing." The music won't come to an end, though, as Dan continues to offer music on piano and organ during summer services, with an occasional vocalist appearing on the scene. Meanwhile, the choir is already gearing up for Rally Day on Sept. 9 and looks forward to another great season. A very short video of the gift presentation can be found [here](#) at the church's YouTube channel, or on [Facebook](#).

Photo/video by David Bjorkgren

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Photos
by Alex
Mullin

Pentecost Picnic

Everyone saw red this past Sunday as we celebrated the church and each other's company with a special Pentecost service and picnic. Our traditional location on the front patio of the church was moved to the Rainbow Room because of rain, but weather did little to dampen spirits. A picnic of hot dogs, hamburgers with a variety of salads and desserts could only mean that summer is just around the corner.



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June Sunday services

Sunday, June 3, Second Sunday After Pentecost (Graduate Sunday) (Communion, Musical Setting C, Page 20)

1 Samuel 3:1-20; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6 Hymn 356 "Pues Si Vivimos"

Sermon: "What Do You Think? Good or Evil?" Pastor Atkinson Hymn 118 "The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young"
Hymn 454 "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

Sunday, June 10, Third Sunday After Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:14-15; Mark 3:20-35

Sermon: "Family Matters" Pastor Atkinson

Hymn 479 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"

Hymn 473 "Lead Me, Lord"

Hymn 512 "Stand by Me"

Sunday, June 17, 2018 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Mark 4:26-34

Sermon: "Sometimes All by Itself" Pastor Atkinson

Hymn 534 "Be Still, My Soul"

Hymn 400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Hymn 474 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Sunday, June 24, 2018 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49; Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: "Why Are You Afraid?" Pastor Atkinson

Hymn 629 "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Hymn 378 "Amazing Grace"

Hymn 568 "Christ for the World We Sing"

Coffee and conversation



Our after-service coffee and snack gathering in the Narthex continues to be a big success, giving all of us a chance to talk with new and returning visitors to the church in the hope of encouraging new friendships and encouraging them to make the church their home.

Volunteers continue to be needed to set up coffee, hot water and provide a simple snack 15 to 20 minutes before the service. All supplies and directions for making the coffee are kept handy in a closet in the Narthex.

Someone will be available to assist if it is your first time to help out.

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Thank you from the Membership Committee

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Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

Our congregation continues its Bible Study/Faith Formation Class in June led by Pastor Russell. The class meets on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., in the Pastor's Study. Please note that the Bible Study will meet as usual June 5 but will be "on vacation" in July and August and will not meet. The group will reconvene Tuesday, Sept. 11. This group is open to everyone, so please be liberal with your invitations. A vital congregation needs to ponder the scriptures.

Bacon, Toast, and the Heavenly Host!

If you've got an appetite for the Word of God and a good breakfast, come on out to the Perkins Restaurant, 706 N. Lansdowne Avenue in Drexel Hill (just a short hop from the high school) the first Thursday of each month. Led by Pastor Russell, you will eat eggs and hear about Ecclesiastes, partake of tea and the Pentateuch, bagels and Bible! The devotional breakfast begins at 9 a.m. The next breakfast meeting is Thursday, June 7. The breakfast group will not meet in July or August. The breakfasts will start again on Thursday, Sept. 6. Come out for breakfast, a short devotional, and fellowship.

Look, ma, we're on YouTube!

We're doing some pretty great things here at DHUMC and now everyone has a chance to know it. First there was our website, then Facebook. Now we've launched a YouTube channel for the church where you can see all of our videos. At last count, we have more than 25 videos of activities and events that have taken place in the past year and we're not stopping there. More videos will be added as opportunities arise. Check us out by going to www.youtube.com, then putting Drexel Hill United Methodist Church in the search. You can also get to the site by clicking on the YouTube link found on our website at www.dhum.org. While there, don't forget to click on the Playlist button to see related videos like our 2018 AIDS Benefit concert.

We welcome your contributions and participation. See or email David Bjorkgren or Pastor Russell if you have videos or photos you'd like to share. And don't forget to tell your friends. If you're a Facebook person, share our church page posts with your Facebook friends. If you're on NextDoor Drexel Hill, recommend the church to your friends and neighbors.

Next up on our agenda? Church photos for Instagram! Stay tuned.

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Get Involved!

Worship is a blessing. Our Drexel Hill United Methodist Church is so much more! Are you looking for a way to serve through our congregation? Here is a list you might consider:

Activity:

Delivering altar flowers
Helping with communion
Ushering
Singing in the choir
Community lunch (project RSC)
Prayer Chain
Hand out lunch on the Parkway
Addressing Gun Violence
Community Outreach
Helping in the Sunday school
Maintenance of the building
Gardening
Social media/web/newsletter
Prepare after-church refreshments
And anything else you can think of.

Contact:

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Alex Mullin	acmullinv@gmail.com
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David Bjorkgren	dbjorkgren50@gmail.com
Jane Todd	janedt@verizon.net
Russell Atkinson	pastor@dhumc.org

If you don't use email but would still like to reach out to serve in an activity, just contact Pastor Atkinson at [610.259.2104](tel:610.259.2104) and he will get you in touch with a leader in your interest area.

The following thank you note was received at Drexel Hill United Methodist Church:



To the Congregation,

Please let my Church family know how very much Pam and I do so appreciate all the prayers, cards, flowers, and the wonderful visits from Pastor Russell and Rev. Nancy. All are so important and have most certainly helped to bring us through a difficult time.

God bless each and every one,

Fran Roberts

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It's a magical Sanctuary Tour and you're invited

Is it time for a Sanctuary facelift? We will be painting and re-carpeting the Sanctuary next year, but does it have to stop there? We are asking the congregation to imagine the possibilities for our Sanctuary as we look ahead to the church's needs over the next 30 years.

Besides new paint and a new carpet, are there other modifications we could make to the Sanctuary to enhance its purpose, both as a place of worship and for outside use? Now is an ideal time to plan, before the new carpet is put down.

We are inviting all of you to envision what can be done. To get us started, a group will be visiting two nearby churches after worship on June 10 to see how they have imagined their Sanctuary space.

Anyone from the congregation is welcome to take the tour. The group will visit St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Bryn Mawr and Covenant United Methodist Church in Springfield.

Jim Mc Dermott or Jon Cumming will talk about recent renovations to St. Luke's UMC. Covenant UMC has made changes over the past 15 years and we'll be looking at their chancel renovation.

Anyone wishing to join the tour can meet in the Rainbow Room after worship at 11:15 a.m. A small lunch will be offered before we carpool to both church locations.

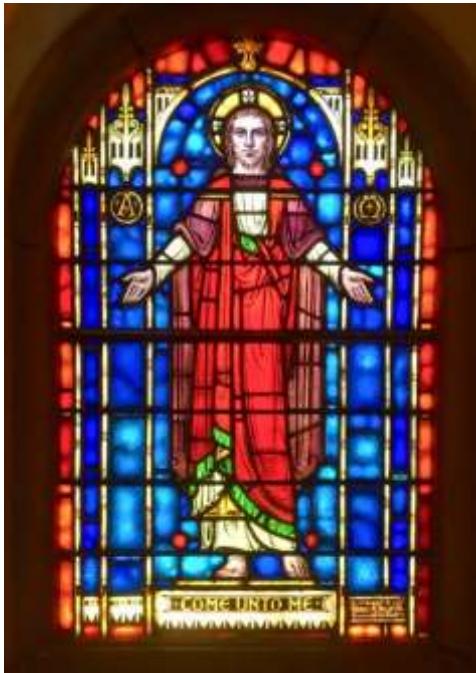
Following each tour, the group will be asked to note down their opinions of the Sanctuaries as part of our fact-gathering mission.

For more information, or to share your ideas about the décor, use, or the furnishings of our own Sanctuary, contact our Sanctuary Exploration Group:

Cindy Carper
crcarp@verizon.net
Dave Bjorkgren
dbjorkgren50@gmail.com
Barb O'Connell
texmomoc@verizon.net
Diane Whitehead
whitehead.diane@gmail.com
Alex Mullin
acmullinv@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing everyone's input and we hope you will all lend your imagination to this important project.

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HIDDEN TREASURES

We have a big and beautiful church and some of the best stuff is hidden from view.

As we travel the corridors of our place of worship, it's important that we pause here and there to remember the intent and creative energy of those who filled those nooks and crannies with beautiful images and art work.

In this limited series created by Alex Mullin and Dave Bjorkgren, we hope to show you some of the unique treasures often hidden from view.

Each month, we'll post a photo of something that is sometimes out of view but holds a place of beauty or interest nevertheless, then we'll invite you to email us (dbjorkgren50@gmail.com) if you think you know what the photo is showing and where it is located. We'll print the answer in the following month's newsletter.

So, does anyone recognize what and where this is?

IN THE COMMUNITY

An end to gun violence: Here's what DHUMC is doing

On May 21, 2018, at 7 p.m., Drexel Hill United Methodist Church hosted a "Sensible Gun Legislation Forum" sponsored by Delco PA Indivisible and Indivisible Upper Darby.

About 30 area residents learned about various sensible gun bills that are currently in the Pennsylvania legislature.

State Rep. Jamie Santora (R-163) talked about HB1400, of which

he is the prime sponsor, as well as other legislation that could help reduce gun violence.

Seventh District Upper Darby Township Councilwoman Sekela Coles discussed her draft resolution for Upper Darby Council calling for an assault weapons ban as well as the issues of gun violence that affects Upper Darby constituents.

Delco United for Sensible Gun Policy presented important information on pertinent state and federal gun bills and offered ways that constituents can be active on a local, state and national level to support sensible gun legislation.

To find out more, visit www.delcounited.net or view pending forum videos on the church YouTube channel.

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An end to gun violence: Here's what DHUMC is doing



Photos by David Bjorkgren



Pastor Russell Atkinson opens the May 21 sensible gun legislation forum (top photo). Church choir member Amy Connelly asks State Rep. Jamie Santora a question as church member Dave O'Connell studies gun legislation information. (top photo, right). Above, Rep. Santora (R-63) talks with audience members at the forum about pending gun legislation. At right, a representative from Delco United For Sensible Gun Policy reviews various legislation being worked on.



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An end to gun violence: Here's what DHUMC is doing



By David O'Connell

As I sit down to write this article, the law enforcement experts and newscasters are discussing another school shooting in Santa Fe, Texas.

This event has again underscored for me why Christians have to continue to raise our voices and demand that our politicians show some moral courage and outlaw assault-weapons.

On May 16, I represented Drexel Hill UMC at the "Demand the Ban" rally and march to Senator Toomey's office at the US Customs office at 2nd and Chestnut. The event began at the Old First Reformed Christ Church where an assault rifle was melted down

and turned into a garden tool by the peacemaking blacksmiths of RAW Tools. (Isaiah 2:4- "... they shall beat their swords into plowshares").

The group of over 300 people then walked to the Senator's office with hopes of delivering our plowshare to his office.

Chants of "United we stand; demand the ban" echoed throughout the Old City area. The group was addressed by ministers, people who lost loved ones to gun violence, and even a surgeon who is tired of operating on the numerous gunshot victims in our city.

One hundred or more federal and Philadelphia law enforcement officers were mobilized behind barricades to make sure

that non-violent constituents were blocked from visiting the taxpayer-funded office of their U.S. Senator. Thirty-three courageous non-violent activists (including Bryan Miller and several clergy) were arrested for attempting to visit Toomey's office and then refusing to leave until he would co-sponsor S. 2095 (Assault Weapons Ban 2017).

I was proud to be a Methodist because of talking with other activists, including persons and pastors from other Methodist churches including St. Luke's UMC, First UMC of Germantown and Calvary UMC. This issue will continue to be one that tests our beliefs.

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AIDS concert raises more than \$800 for local charity



Photos by Alex Mullin

More than \$800 was collected from patrons and concert-goers which are being donated to the Family and Community Service of Delaware County. This organization offers medical case management, transitional housing and prevention/counseling services to families and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS throughout Delaware County.

Our church continued a decades-long tradition May 4 by hosting its annual AIDS Benefit concert with this year's title, "True Colors."

In addition to music like Moses Hogan's "Hear My Prayer" and "Craig Courtney's "Here I Am, Lord" from the Chancel Choir, there was music from two barbershop groups, the DelChoridans and the all-women quartet, The Audacious Quartet.

Rounding it all out were solos from our staff musician, Linda Tripolitis; a piano, violin and viola trio by Jane Marchesano, Susie Huffnagle and music director Dan Matarazzo; a duet by David Bjorkgren and Chris Lenz and a quartet by David, Chris, Linda and Donna Pietropola. The program ended with a choral arrangement of Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors." You can see videos of the concert by clicking the Playlist on the church YouTube channel or by visiting the church Facebook page.



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FOOD BANK

Our Outreach Committee's food bank ministry continues to accept donations of nonperishable foods for the Upper Darby Food Cupboard. We have been very fortunate - the fortunes of needy families in our community could be uplifted by our pilgrimage to deeper faith. Please bring canned and boxed foods such as: cereal, tuna, Jell-O and pudding, pasta, soup and canned pasta meals. Our Drexel Hill United Methodist Church food chest is kept in the narthex.

OPEN CHURCH ON THE PARKWAY

Once a month, on a Sunday afternoon (usually the day after our monthly RSC luncheon on Saturday), sandwiches and snacks are collected for those in Philadelphia having a tough time and delivered to them at Aviator Park across from the Franklin Institute. The Open Church on the Parkway visit includes a small worship service. Volunteers are welcome to meet with Pastor Russell at 2 p.m. at the church to join him on the next visit, scheduled for June 24.



RSC LUNCHEON



The next RSC luncheon is scheduled for the fourth Saturday of June, on June 23, 2018, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Rainbow Room (Fellowship Hall). The Project Reach Serve Care program provides a free hot catered lunch and friendly fellowship, to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.

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(The following article comes from the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website)



Bishop Peggy A. Johnson signs during a May 18 session of the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. *Photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.*

United Methodist Women urged to boldly change world

By Kathy L. Gilbert
COLUMBUS, Ohio | UMNS

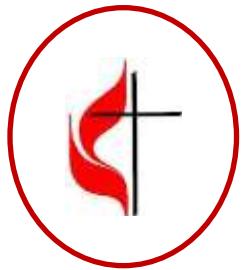
“Sisters, we are the bold energy of God,” Harriett Jane Olson said to more than 6,000 United Methodist Women who had spent three days listening and learning to harness the power of bold.

Olson, top executive of United Methodist Women, was speaking at the final session of the 2018 Assembly held May 18-20. “The Power of Bold” was the theme for gathering.

“I believe United Methodist Women is as needed today as it has ever been,” Olson said. “We are in a position to make a change; we are everywhere; and we are connected.”

[SEE MORE](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD

(The following article comes from the People of the United Methodist Church website)



Chase Crispin, a senior at Nebraska Wesleyan University, practices the organ at First United Methodist Church. He inspired the church's music director to start a scholarship at Wesleyan.

Student's interest spurs Lincoln church to help resurrect Wesleyan organ program

Chase Crispin sat in a pew at First United Methodist Church, anxiously waiting to play his first organ solo. He'd been a musician since he was 5 years old, but Crispin had never played the organ in front of an audience before that day in 2017. And he was playing the postlude, so he had to sit through the service while trying to cope with his nervousness.

"I've gotten used to it in other areas, but during the closing hymn, I started to panic a little bit," said the Blair native who studies music education at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

He'd been preparing the piece, Dietrich Buxtehude's Toccata in F major, for months. Crispin, who was born with Leber congenital amaurosis and is blind, uses braille music and must memorize everything he plays. So preparing for a performance often takes longer as a result. [SEE MORE](#)

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JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Graduation/ Children's Sunday	4 BOY SCOUTS, 7 SPR Committee, 7 p.m., Church office	5 BIBLE STUDY 9:30-11 a.m., Pastor's Study Last until Sept. 11	6 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	7 Breakfast Devotional 9 a.m., Perkins	8 Nursery school jamboree ends	9
10 Summer Hymn Sing CHURCH TOURS	11 BOY SCOUTS, 7	12	13 CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m. GIRL SCOUTS, 4-5:30	14	15	16
17	18 ?BOY SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	19	20 ?CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	21	22	23 RSC LUNCH 11:30a.m.-1 p.m.
24 Open Church on the Parkway, 2 p.m.	25 ?BOY SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	26 TRUSTEES, 7 p.m., Church office	27 ?CUB SCOUTS, 7 p.m.	28	29	30

