



MINISTRY@DHUMC



“We love because he first loved us.”

1 John 4:19



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

February 2019

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Everyone!

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Everyone!

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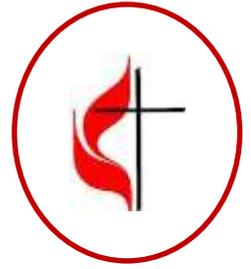
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Pastor
Russell

February's garden

*And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. **Genesis 2:8 (KJV)***

With all the fear and misunderstanding of Islam around these days, it might be a helpful corrective to remember that, just a generation or two ago, there was great distrust among Christians.

The coming of February causes me to remember one who worked on bringing down the barriers among Christians - Archie Craig. He was the first Church of Scotland Moderator to visit a Pope - John XXIII. I particularly value two of the many wise things Archie Craig said.

One has kind of a Valentine's Day connection. He was asked once, when he was in his 90s, how he coped with his wife who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. He always made sure that she had the dignity and pleasure of thinking she was still in charge. When asked how he coped he said, "I have had to relearn the alphabet of love."

Another February thing he said that sticks in my mind, "There is a time of the year in Scotland, it is about the middle of February, when you will see a dream in the eye of the garden-lover; a dream which is not the bastard of wishful thinking, but the lawful offspring of the

garden-lover's knowledge of sun and soil and seed."

I am fairly confident he didn't mean anything as prosaic as "after winter comes spring" - I think he meant that after winter had prevented him from enjoying the delight that the gardener knows, around about February the anticipation of gardening pleasure and satisfaction begins to take hold. And even more important is the unanticipated pleasure when what was a random placing of plants, bulbs, or shrubs creates an effect one did not plan but can certainly enjoy.

C. S. Lewis once said that there was something about longing and expectation which was like the scent of a flower we haven't found, the echo of a tune we haven't heard, news from a country we've never visited. That's the dream in the eye of the garden lover in mid-February; and what people of faith mean when we talk about encountering God: not always certainty, but often longing.

God, who created the garden, show us the longing for you that meets your longing for us. Amen. *Pastor Atkinson*

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WORSHIP NOTES

It's February with Luke

A full February awaits us as we continue through the lectionary cycle, but then we will change our focus a bit for the last two Sundays of the month.

As usual, the first Sunday of the month will have communion as part of the service.



On Feb. 3, we will be hearing Paul's amazing *1 Corinthians 13* passage on love. "Faith, hope and charity, abide these three." Prepare for this Sunday by testing your own understanding of this passage . . . read the passage and each time "love" appears substitute your name.



How many different ways does our faith invite us to go deeper? *Luke 5:1-11* certainly does just this as we hear on Feb. 10 about the fishermen, finished with their day of work and knowing the chances of a catch are slight-to-none, yet Jesus calls us to expect the unlikely-to-impossible.

On Scouting Sunday, Feb. 17, the Beatitudes will challenge us to discover our path to happiness. The Scouting organizations our congregation charters will be with us . . . we'll cheer as we hear from them and they will cheer as they hear from us.

God knows us each by name . . . but how many of us know each other's names? As we enjoy learning more on Feb. 24 we'll be invited to listen to the Shepherd who speaks and we recognize his voice. He calls us each by name.

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February Sunday services

Sunday, Feb. 3, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (*Communion*)

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Sermon: "Love in context" *Pastor Atkinson*

Sunday, Feb. 10, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:6-13; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Sermon: "Constant Biblical Patterns" *Pastor Atkinson*

Sunday, Feb. 17, Scouting Sunday

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

Sermon: "How to be happy" *Pastor Atkinson*

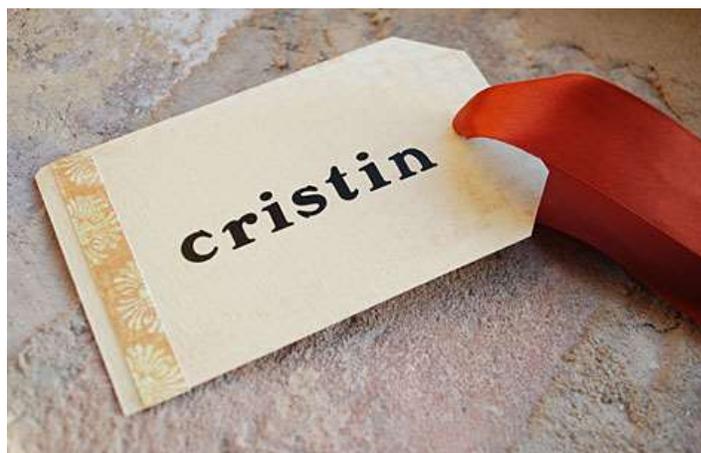
Sunday, Feb. 24 Name Game Sunday

Isaiah 43:1-28; John 10:1-6

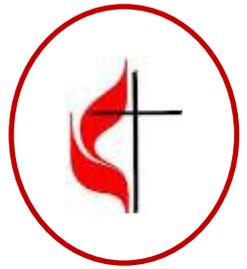
Sermon: "What's in a Name" *Pastor Atkinson*

What's In a Name?

Have you wanted to say 'hi' to the person in the pew behind you but you're embarrassed that you can't remember his/her name? On Feb. 24, the membership committee will be introducing new name tags for the congregation to wear as we all continue to get to know each other. Everyone will also have an opportunity that day to customize their own name tag.



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Acolyte News

Children invited for acolyte training Feb. 10

Our acolytes, by assisting the pastor, help to provide a worship service for the people of Drexel Hill United Methodist Church.

Learning all the skills of an acolyte is not difficult, but it does require some effort and attention.

On Sunday, Feb. 10th, following the worship service, children willing to serve as acolytes will meet with the pastor to learn about the candle lighter, the processional cross, and the offering plates and their proper uses.

Other exciting skills will be taught!

--How to check the lighter wicks before the service begins.

--How to arrive 15 minutes before the service.

-- How to do your work without calling attention to yourself.

Meet our members

Painting shows Sandy a new way to see the world



Sandy Dell'Arciprete is one of our newer church members. She started coming to DHUMC in the fall of 2017. She remembers in particular the Longest Night service in December as a significant event in which she participated.

Sandy joined our church in the spring of 2018. She appreciated from the start being warmly welcomed and felt the "spirit of acceptance" from Pastor Russell and the congregation.

Sandy has been married almost 33 years to the love of her life, Denis, and they have a son, Martin, a fine young man who lives in Philadelphia. Sandy and Denis have lived in Lansdowne for quite a while. In the past few years, Sandy has developed a love of painting, both watercolors and oils. For her painting has opened up "a new way of seeing the world."

Sandy enjoys helping with different projects throughout the church and plans to continue to be available when needed.

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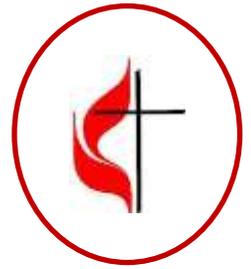
Photos by Alex Mullin



Standing with our Confirmands

At the Jan. 13 worship service, on Baptism Sunday, and the Jan. 27 service Pastor Atkinson invited the congregation to join in a spiritual blessing for the church's two Confirmands, Patrick Quinn (Jan. 13 service, top photo, front, third from left) and Mike Regan (Jan. 27 service, center). The two have joined several Confirmands from Covenant United Methodist Church on a journey that will lead them to become full members of the Methodist Church in May. Confirmation is an individual's first public affirmation of the grace of God in baptism and acceptance of that grace by faith. The Confirmands are taking classes with Pastor Atkinson on Christian doctrine, theology, Methodist history, stewardship and Bible study.

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Be an Altar Flower Angel

You can be an angel by delivering altar flowers to someone who could use some beauty in their day...

Annnnd...you can also provide those flowers. Ask Sally Mullin or Cindy Carper for an open week. The cost this year is \$30.

Be an Angel.

The Power of Prayer

Each week in our church bulletin, an insert provides the names of those for whom prayers have been requested.

Our church has a small group of individuals who choose to commit some time to pray for members, friends and others who want to be remembered in prayer or who have requested prayers because they are experiencing difficulties. When the church office is made aware of a need, or when someone we know requests prayer, prayer chain members are notified. Those on the prayer chain are contacted by phone or e-mail. As we go about our daily activities, each of us takes some time to think about and pray for those who need our prayers.

If there is someone or something you like to add to prayer requests, contact the church office at 610-259-2104, or email office@dhum.org. To be part of the prayer chain, notify the church office and provide an email address or a way to notify you when requests are made.



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PANCAKE SUPPER



The Administrative Council is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Rainbow Room. Come on out for good food and good company as we observe the beginning of the Lenten season the day before Ash Wednesday with this “feast” of pancakes. More details will be available soon in the church bulletin, in the March newsletter, on the church Facebook page and on the church website.

Coffee and conversation



Be part of the team that’s making our coffee and social time after church such a big hit. We’re looking for volunteers who can offer a few minutes now and then before and after church to help set up/clean up coffee and snacks.

Will train! No experience necessary! Benefits include: First dibs at fresh coffee and doughnuts, access to coffee klatch gossip and a chance to create a friendly, welcoming place for your fellow church-goers.

You’ll find a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and you can talk to Jane Todd (or email her at janedt@verizon.net) for more details.

We continue to welcome everyone to join us in the Narthex after service for a few minutes of coffee drinking, socializing and worship service critiquing.

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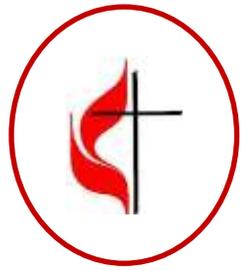


Photo by David Bjorkgren

One Church Plan

Following Jan. 13 services, congregants were invited to join Pastor Russell Atkinson in the Rainbow Room to discuss three plans on how to move forward as a denomination around the issue of human sexuality. A special session of the General Conference, made up of delegates world-wide, is meeting Feb. 23-26 to vote on one of the plans, a “One-Church Plan” recommended by the Council of Bishops, including our own Bishop, Peggy Johnson. Visit [the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference website for more.](#)

For two years, a 32-member “Commission on a Way Forward,” appointed by the Council of Bishops, looked at ways to address the denomination’s differences on human sexuality. The commission forwarded two plans to the Council of Bishops to consider—the One-Church Plan and the Connectional Conferences Plan. A third plan, a Traditionalist Model, was added recently.

You can review the three plans on the next two pages.



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The One-Church Plan is based on the belief that the Methodist Church is large enough for people to disagree about homosexuality and yet remain together as The United Methodist Church. The plan will:

1. Neither affirms nor condemns LGBTQ persons. It would remove the controversial statement in the Methodist Book of Discipline that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”
2. Clergy will decide which weddings to officiate and not officiate.
3. Clergy—through their normal Board of Ordained Ministry process—would discern who is fit for clergy service in their annual conference. This plan would remove the current prohibitions without creating new obligations or affirmation. It would also end clergy trials.
4. The plan respects local church wishes.
 - a. For weddings, no local church would be forced to vote. However, the church property would not be used in same-sex weddings unless the local church updates its local church policy to specifically allow it.
 - b. For clergy assignments, bishops would take local wishes into account concerning who is or is not a good fit for their appointment.
 - c. In practice, then, there would be gay weddings and gay ordination in some parts of the United Methodist world, but it would not be forced on local churches.
5. The plan protects clergy rights to individual conscience. The Book of Discipline would protect clergy who do not want to officiate same-sex weddings. Also, all would be allowed to follow their conscience in matters of ordination.



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The Connectional Conference Plan offers a unified core of shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops, while creating different branches that would have clearly defined values.

1. In the United States, the five geographically distinct jurisdictional conferences would be replaced by three overlapping conferences—

- a. Traditional Conference**
- b. Progressive Conference**
- c. Centrist “uniting” Conference.**

2. Each annual conference would choose to be a member of one of the three connectional conferences based on the conference’s theological stance on homosexuality.

3. Any local church that disagrees with the annual conference decision could vote to join a different branch conference.



The Traditionalist Model would affirm the current Book of Discipline statement that the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

1. The Boards of Ordained Ministry would still be prohibited from recommending LGBTQ candidates for ordination.

2. Officiating same-sex marriages would still be a chargeable offense.

3. Being a self-avowed and practicing gay clergy person would continue to be a chargeable offense.

4. The Traditionalist Model would demand increased accountability to the Book of Discipline—not only for individual pastors but also for churches, bishops and annual conferences, all of which could face punishment.

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There's always room in the choir!

Our choir, under the direction of music director Dan Matarazzo, is always happy to welcome new members. Our group of singers practice every Thursday evening at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Music brings much beauty and inspiration in our devotion to God. See Pastor Russell or Dan Matarazzo to find out more, or contact the church office at office@umc.org.

Tuesday Morning Faith Bible Study

Our congregation continues its Bible Study/Faith Formation Class in the new year.



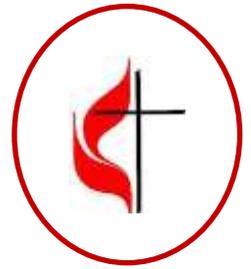
Led by Pastor Russell, the class meets on Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., in the Pastor's Study and is open to everyone.

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, the devotional breakfast begins at 9 a.m. The next breakfast takes place Thursday, Feb. 7



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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Resurrecting Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

(Excerpts of a mid-1980s letter from former pastor George S. Hewitt, from the history of DHUMC)

Dear Friends:

In 1958, the Protestant Church in America enjoyed its finest hour: largest Sunday Schools, highest church membership and attendance, greatest missionary endeavors, best financial base, etc., and Drexel Hill (then Broad Street) shared in the national phenomena. Then the '60s hit, and with that decade came a general rejection and rebellion of all establishments, including colleges, courts, churches and society in general.

In 1969, when I went to DHUMC, that glorious period was winding down with only remnants of it left: a shrinking Bohn Bible Class, a weak Adult Fellowship, a small Men's Bible Class. The "Kitchen" Class had disbanded and the Sunday School of over 800 members had diminished, as had church membership and attendance.

In fact, some theologians were saying that by the year 2000, the Christian Church would be underground or "home" churches, rather than structured as we know them.

What really happened at DHUMC and other churches was the rethinking of our purpose, mission and ministry. Out of real prayerful and soul-searching hours of meetings by concerned people, a new DHUMC began to emerge, serving the present age. It was not easy for some to realize the past and Dr. James were gone and that the golden era they had known could not fit into today's world.

Those who stayed and have faced the challenges of the new era have seen a "new" church emerge: filled again with vitality, enthusiasm and vision. (CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

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Resurrecting Drexel Hill United Methodist Church

(Excerpts of a letter from former pastor George S. Hewitt from the history of DHUMC)

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When I first went to DHUMC, the property was so protected from outsiders that the church building looked like a mausoleum at night and young couples could not get married without paying rental fees, etc., amounting to \$165 unless bona fide members of the church. We saw a ministry to the local community and local people, and opened the facilities to them as part of our outreach. During one year alone, over 30 different community groups used our facilities and many couples, seeking God's blessing upon their marriage, came to us.

Because of the dedication to this re-direction, the church passed through the crisis and we saw it turn the corner in various ways; membership started to increase, the Church School and Vacation Bible School took on new meaning, the expansion of choirs suggested renewed interest and the spirit of the congregation was upbeat.

In conclusion, I would like to note one other reflection of the 15 years I was pastor at DHUMC, which came because of the vision of the leadership, both cleric and lay. In 1969, the trustees were charged with caring for an Endowment Fund of \$7,000. The feeling that there would come a time when the cost of maintaining the large facility would be astronomical prompted the trustees to apprise the congregation of the opportunity of remembering DHUMC in their wills. The President of the Board, Elmer E. Snethen, wrote a pamphlet entitled, "Do You Have the Will to Perpetuate Your Faith?", and the people responded to the place where today those funds are around \$250,000, and the income is being used effectively to do numerous things around the property.

In many ways we could tell how well we, pastor and people, united to become the Church of Jesus Christ as it is today. God has richly blessed us as we have tried to be a blessing to others, and I was glad to be a part of it.



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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
 Media/digital/newsletter
 Prepare after-church refreshments
 And anything else you can think of.

Contact:

Cindy Carper
 Sally Mullin
 Charles Webb
 Dan Matarazzo
 Cindy Carper
 Jane Leggieri
 Russell Atkinson
 Dave O'Connell
 Helen Campbell
 Helen Campbell
 Alex Mullin
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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 and he will get you in touch with a leader in your interest area.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring will take place Sunday, Feb. 3, after our 10 a.m. worship service. The soup and sandwich luncheon will take place in the Rainbow Room.

Church attendees are encouraged to bring either foodstuffs or money to donate to the Upper Darby Food Bank.

They currently need macaroni and cheese, crackers, powdered milk, pancake mix, syrup, cereal toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, peanut butter, jelly, canned fruit, corned beef, canned stew and spam. Drop off the items in the Rainbow Room before church or as you come in for the luncheon.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national one-day effort to reach out and “love our neighbors” by contributing food or money to local food banks.

Volunteers work in the kitchen as guests sample the various soups offered at the 2017 Souper Bowl of Caring.



Click [HERE](#) to see a video of last year's DHUMC Souper Bowl of Caring when the church collected 428 pounds of food and \$100 in cash. For those a bit nostalgic about last year's Super Bowl win by the Eagles, click [HERE](#) to see guests of the 2018 luncheon singing a pre-game Eagles fight song.

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Turning 100!



Photo by Alex Mullin

Carmella, who regularly attends the RSC luncheon, is celebrating 100 years. The crowd at the Jan. 26 RSC luncheon serenaded Carmella with a rousing “Happy Birthday.”

Short term mission journeys

A small group gathered Jan. 27 after church at the parsonage with Pastor Atkinson to discuss possible short-term mission trips. The mission teams could work a day, a week or more locally, in the state, in the nation or abroad on activities as varied as a construction project, or teaching, or leading lessons. See Barbara O’Connell or Pastor Atkinson if you’d like to jump on board and would like more information.

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FOOD BANK

In winter's grip

Whether it's polar vortex's, raging snow storms or funky snowy rainy days, February offers up cold nights, more so for those needy families in our area trying to make ends meet this winter. Please bring canned and boxed nonperishable foods such as: hot chocolate mix, soup, tuna, dried beans, dried milk, and pasta. Other items always needed include canned and boxed nonperishable foods.

You can also make a monetary gift. Simply make your check out to "DHUMC" with the memo "Food Bank".

Our Drexel Hill UMC food collection is gathered in the narthex. You may bring a contribution at any time. *"For I was hungry and you gave me to eat."*

OPEN CHURCH ON THE PARKWAY

Once a month, on a Sunday afternoon, 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 join Pastor Russell for the next visit, scheduled for Feb. 24. If you'd like to make difference in the lives of others, please contact Pastor Atkinson.



RSC LUNCHEON



The next RSC Community Luncheon will be the fourth Saturday of February, 2019, on, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Rainbow Room. The Project Reach Serve Care program provides a free hot catered lunch and friendly fellowship, to anyone in the community who wishes to attend.



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



To know beyond the unknown

BY BISHOP PEGGY JOHNSON

NASA has sent a space craft far beyond Pluto that recently took pictures of a reddish rock that astronomers call “Ultima Thule” (which means “beyond the known world”). This hunk of rock and ice stretches about 20 miles across and is about 6.5 billion kilometers from the earth.

Ultima Thule is significant, according to NASA, because it could offer us insights about what the solar system was like at its first forming. It could help scientists understand how the building blocks of planets were made 4 billion years ago.

As Psalm 19 rejoices, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” How amazing is our God to have created so many vast planets and stars? [SEE MORE](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD

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



Ramiro Ramírez rings the bell at Jackson Chapel United Methodist Church in San Juan, Texas. Ramírez' family donated land for the church, which was established in 1874. President Trump's proposed border wall is slated to run through the church property, including its historic cemetery. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.

Border wall would cut off historic church

Story by Kathy L. Gilbert, photos by Mike DuBose

President Donald Trump's proposed border wall could destroy a piece of Methodist history and disturb sacred burial grounds in this small rural area just a mile or so from the Rio Grande. [SEE MORE](#)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		29	30	31	1 Pinewood Derby inspection	2 Pinewood Derby inspection
3 Souper Bowl of Caring	4 Boy Scouts 7 pm	5 Bible Study 9:30 am DH Cheerleading 6-	6 Cub Scouts 7 p.m. Choir 7:30	7 Cheerleading Devotional breakfast 9 am	8	9 Railroaders 9am to 3 p.m.
10	11 Boy Scouts 7 Sanctuary comm 7 pm	12 Bible Study 9:30 DH Cheerleading 6pm	13 Cub Den 7 pm	14 Choir reh. 7:30	15	16
17 Scout Sunday	18 Boy Scouts 7	19 Bible Study 9:30	20 Cub Scout 7 p.m.	21	22 Confirmation Class 6 p.m	23 RSC Lunch 11:30
24 Open church on Parkway 2	25 Boy Scouts 7	26 Bible Study 9:30-11 a.m. Trustees 7 pm	27 Cub Scout 7 p.m.	28		

FEBRUARY 2019