



# Beacon of Faith

Worship God. Grow in faith. Offer hope.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

July 2025



## Welcome Statement

In response to God's unconditional love and grace, the people of Faith Lutheran Church seek to follow Jesus' commandment to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We express that love in our commitment to racial equity, and in our welcome of people of all ages, races, economic status, intellectual and physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, along with their families and friends, to join with us as we worship God, grow in faith, and offer hope.



Altar Flowers are needed for July 13 and other dates throughout the year. Cost is \$60 payable to the church. Please sign up on the flower chart located across from the Meeting Room. You may pick up your flowers after the 10:30 a.m. Informal Service. They are yours to keep or to give to someone who would enjoy them.

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**Join Us!!**

**Sunday, July 27**

**10 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Combined Worship Service with  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Followed by the Church Picnic  
Dress Casually

- Join us for fun, fellowship, food, games and the Pav's ice cream truck!
- Hot dogs, sweet corn, watermelon and water are all provided!
- We ask you to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Please sign up to help us better accommodate all those attending! Come join the fun and fellowship! Hope to see you there!





**Pastor's Pondering**  
**Pastor Jean M. Hansen**



The past and the future crossed paths for me recently. I had just had the amazing experience of seeing, in person, the sculpture of “David”, a masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance created in marble from 1501 to 1504 by artist Michelangelo. To say it was breath-taking is an understatement. With that experience fresh in my mind, I watched an episode of 60 Minutes set in the very place north of Tuscany, Italy where Michelangelo found a perfect block of marble for his artistic efforts. But, times have changed. Now, the “artist” is Robo, a part of “a fleet of robots shaking up the art world, carving with pinpoint precision, and in record time.” No doubt what one artist said about this is true, Michelangelo would be rolling in his grave.

Instead of a hammer and chisel, a 13-foot zinc alloy arm and a spinning diamond-crusted finger do the sculpting in 10 times less time than using the old-fashioned way. Of course, artists are still needed to program the robot with the creative image and plan for a sculpture, which is brain-intensive work.

Still...as I consider the breath-taking 17-foot-high “David”, now in the Galleria dell’Accademia in Florence, Italy, and what it took to conceive and create it in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, I am unimpressed by technology, and in awe of 26 -year-old Michelangelo, gifted by God to create such an example of physical perfection.

I read that when sculpting, Michelangelo regarded a single block of stone as containing all the possible conceptions for a work of art and believed that the artist's task is sculpting the marble block to reveal the ideal form within. He contended that he was merely liberating figures that were already existent in the stone, and that he could see them in his mind's eye.

Still, lengthy preparatory work was done before the actual sculpting began; this included sketches, drawings and the making of small-scale terracotta or wax models. He made his steel chisels himself and worked on a scaffolding to reach every part of the massive sculpture.

There are, of course, books written on the artist and his masterpiece, so I'll pause in sharing those details, and stick to theology. God created human beings with the ability to do amazing things. This is particularly clear to me when I see centuries-old cathedrals, and the art in them, and reflect that they were built without the benefit of electricity, let alone technology.

Could 21<sup>st</sup> century people accomplish this, I often ask myself. The answer is that they probably could, but the world has changed, as have the ways people use the brains and hands that God has given them. I can't help but wonder, though, if, as was true of the artists and builders of earlier times, the motivator is to do that which will glorify God? That motivation is obvious in centuries-old art and churches, and perhaps, is what pushed their creators to do what we now find amazing. It's difficult for me to have that same sense of awe about Robo sculptor or other forms of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Perhaps that is because it's ... well ... artificial, while Michelangelo and God are the real deal.



## Collaboration with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Update

A meeting of representatives from Faith Lutheran and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (HTLC) was held on June 9 to discuss the future of the collaboration of the two congregations. It was led by Pastor Mitch Phillips, Assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod (NEOS). Earlier in the year, each congregation held “Listening Sessions” for its congregation members, the content of which was considered by the Councils and Collaborative Team leaders prior to the June 9 meeting.

Faith’s Collaborative Team met and made the following recommendations to the Church Council, based on the discussion on June 9.

1. To continue building a relationship with HTLC through collaborative efforts, but not to pursue a joint call of rostered leaders (clergy, deacon) at this time.
2. To develop a Team of individuals from each congregation to plan collaboration efforts that will strengthen relationships among the congregations’ members, encourage growth in faith and enhance the proclamation of the Gospel in the community (outreach).
3. Potentially share non-rostered staff, i.e., those who are not clergy or deacons, as opportunities arise or as is beneficial for ministry.
4. Consider inviting other congregations to join the collaborative effort, with guidance from the NEOS.

Faith’s Church Council met on June 16 and Holy Trinity’s Church Council met on June 17. Both groups approved this plan for future collaboration.



# Business

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## Congregation Council

Your Congregation Council members meet once a month to oversee and guide the church's mission and ministry. There are nine members who are serving 3-year elected terms. This month we introduce **Tom Peyton**.



### What is your role on Council:

I am a member of the Congregation Council and a liaison to the Outreach ministry.

### How long have you been a member of Faith Lutheran Church?

I joined Faith in February 2022.

### What occupies your time? (types of employment, volunteering, hobbies and/or other responsibilities)

My Portuguese Water Dog, Cassatt and I are a dock diving team. She runs about 40 feet on a dock toward the water; I throw a decoy out over the water and she dives as far as she can to retrieve it.

I also enjoy art history, listening to classical music, reading and riding motorcycles.

### What is one way Faith Lutheran Church impacts your life?

I have gained truly loving relationships, and the laundry program has touched my heart in so many ways.





## Business

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### Faith Lutheran Committee Spotlight



This month, we are highlighting our Synod Assembly Voting Members, who are elected at our annual meeting in November. This year's representatives were Pastor Tim and Martha Keeler who attended the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly, which was held virtually on Saturday, May 17, with many representatives attending at "watch parties."

The synod voted to change the requirement for representatives to next year's assembly. Each congregation may bring up to three voting members, "provided one of those members is a person who is: Black, Indigenous, or Person of Color (BIPOC); part of the Queer community; and/or under 30 years of age."

At the assembly, policies of the larger church are discussed and voted upon. There is usually some reading to do before the assembly and that takes less than five hours of time. The Synod Assembly will be held in person again in 2026.

## Key Dates

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**July 13**  
**Enjoy Kinship Café**  
**in the Celebration & Memorial**  
**Courtyard**  
**In between the services**

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**Join the "Hope for a Cure" Cancer Walk**  
**On July 19 at New Hope Baptist Church**



Faith members are invited to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Hope for a Cure Cancer Walk at New Hope Baptist Church, one of our Interfaith Justice Alliance collaborative partners. The walk begins **at 8 a.m. on July 19 at New Hope Baptist Church, 1706 S. Hawkins Ave., Akron**. T-shirts will be given to the first 50 who register. The registration fee is \$25, which will be paid by Faith Lutheran Church Outreach for those who contact David Simpson or Pastor Jean by **July 10**. More information is in the flyer posted to the Outreach bulletin board.

# Outreach

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**David Simpson**  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Outreach@faithlutheranchurch.org  
330-836-8811



## Loads of Faith (LoF)

As a supplemental service offering for LoF, David Johnson is organizing a collection and assembling of first aid and dental kits to be provided to families coming to the laundromat. You are welcome to participate in the kit assembling on July 6, during the Informal Service.

## ELCA DAY OF SERVICE



This year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual day of service which will take place on September 7. Thanks to Lorelee Daily for preparing the following message:

*The ELCA Day of Service is Sunday, **September 7, 2025**. One of the projects for this day will be assembling the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care (Health) Kits. In order to do this, members are asked to donate the items needed for the kits, beginning in August. There will be a display table and containers for the items set up in the Welcome Center, beginning on Sunday, August 3.*

### **LWR Personal Care Health Kits**

- One light-weight bath-size towel - dark color recommended (20" X 40" to 52" X 27")
- Two or three bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz) of soap, any brand, **in the original wrapping** (total of 8 to 9 oz of soap per kit)
- One adult size toothbrush **in its original wrapping**
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed combs) - remove packaging
- One metal nail clipper (attached file), remove packaging

Additionally, we will be looking to identify a project similar to last year's outdoor service work in which 13 members participated at Norma Setteur's home.

## INTERFAITH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

The planning committee met on June 2, to debrief on this year's program. The session was led by Father Steve and Pastor Jean. Although the compilation of the many feedback remarks is not yet complete, a partial summary follows on the next page.:

# Outreach

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## 1. General Feedback on the Series

- First four sessions had good flow
- Session needed more time
- Unevenness
- Not best year
- In week five - no one went ballistic - amazing

## 2. Attendance & Engagement

- People leaving 8:15 - 8:30 pm
- Saw people connecting more & more
- Smaller numbers were sharing
- Hold four sessions; churches share or take turns taking year off

## 3. Presenters & Presentation Style

- Loved topic, but not presenters
- Not 'good' information – some was wrong from two mediators
- Was rather left leaning
- If same presenter each week, not enough variety
- Disappointed in presentation – lecture more than engagement
- Impressed by ability to discuss topic about which there are great differences

## 4. Learning & Skill Development

- Learned a few things, worthwhile (repeated)
- Learning new skills was partially accomplished
- Learned techniques
- Able to put principles into practice
- Relevant

## 5. Topic People Worried About

- Safe environment
- Table facilitators
- Have clergy suggest topics, narrow it from there
- To appeal to those on fringe may have to do something different
- External or internal focus

## 6. Future Directions & Suggestions

- Utilize members of faith community
- Basics... air, water
- What's underlying 'problems' (i.e., economic disparity)
- Focus on Worship + Fellowship
- Just having congregations come together has value
- Learn about each other's faith
- Increase knowledge of other faiths
- Science & Faith?
- Technology, AI
- John Kasich book 'Heaven Help Us'
- Economics
- Combine congregations as hosts

Through the five weeks the participation averaged out to about 150 per session.



# Outreach

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our gardeners have been busy cultivating and planting once again this year and their progress is already quite visible. Volunteer opportunities are still available. For information, please contact Molly Donohue or Nicole Vincent. Based on feedback from previous years, we know that OPEN M greatly appreciates the harvest that we offer.



## GRACE HOUSE VISIT

On Sunday, May 18, in between the services, Grace House's Holly Klein, Executive Director and Terry Glidden, Board member shared information about the organization. They reviewed its mission which is to provide a residence for terminally ill homeless people and those who have no caregiver and no means to acquire such support. It is their belief that everyone deserves to die in the presence of care, compassion, and dignity, and that no one should die alone. They also shared stories about a few past residents. There were twelve participants in the meeting and five expressed interest in exploring volunteer service in the future.



# Outreach

## DLM – MITZVAH DAY PROJECT

Our participation in this event took place on Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. It was a spring cleaning and organizing project at DLM. About 15 Faith members were present as well as a few other volunteers. Thanks to Deb Gottas for organizing our group and for taking care of the lunch.



# Outreach

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## DLM SCHEDULE FOR 2025

July 12 – Christmas in July (Kids and Families)  
August 9  
September 13 – Resource Fair  
October 11 – Fall Fest (Kids and Families)  
November 22 – Harvest Fest (Kids and Families)  
December 13 – Breakfast with Santa (Kids and Families)

## LOADS OF FAITH DATES FOR 2025

July 30  
August 27  
September 24  
October 29  
November 19\*  
December 17\*

C-O-M-U-N-I-T-Y N-E-W-S F-R-O-M O-U-T-S-I-D-E O-U-R W-A-L-L-S

## LOVE AKRON

Love Akron will be celebrating **30 years of Loving Greater Akron** on September 30 at the John S. Knight Center. Nominations are open for recognizing those who live out faith in action in the community through two awards.

- **The Allies Award**  
Presented to *two or more faith leaders* who are building bridges together across racial, cultural, and church divides modeling the power of unity and collaboration.
- **The Servant Leader Award**  
Honoring individuals who quietly and courageously serve others with humility, integrity, and bold Christian witness and never seeking the spotlight, but always making a difference.

To nominate someone click here: **Nominate them today!** or go to the Love Akron website <https://www.loveakron.org>



**Department of  
Development**

**Development.Ohio.gov**

Mike DeWine, Governor   Jim Tressel, Lt. Governor   Lydia Mihalik, Director

## PRESS RELEASE ABOUT FAMILY PROMISE'S \$850,000 GRANT TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Family Promise of Summit County is one of four nonprofit organizations receiving state support to help create brighter futures for Ohioans experiencing homelessness. The Ohio Department of Development will provide Family Promise with \$850,000 in capital funding to purchase and renovate a four-unit apartment to allow the program to serve more families. This purchase will allow Family Promise to expand from serving 10 families at a time to 15.

## EXPLORE THE UPDATED FIRST SERVE WEBSITE

First Serve is proud to share the newest updates to the First Serve website! Its hope is to provide a web presence that tells the First Serve story of relationship building in the North Hill community through collaboration with Community and Faith Partners. ([joinfirstserve.org](http://joinfirstserve.org))



# FaithKids & Junior Youth Group

## VBS WAS WONDERFUL!



This year's Vacation Bible School was an Alaskan themed wilderness that had us navigating our way through the wild world trusting in Jesus, our True North! Thanks to the over 40 volunteers, we hosted over 62 children! They ate snacks shaped like campfires, learned how to use their new compasses, crafted igloos and painted the northern lights, had a "snowball" fight outside, sang songs about trusting God, and learned the Bible stories from delightfully engaging puppets! Each morning they learned an inspiring message from this year's mascot, Penny Pinecone! She was a TALL pine tree puppet that was both impressive and adorable, handmade by the Hyter siblings!

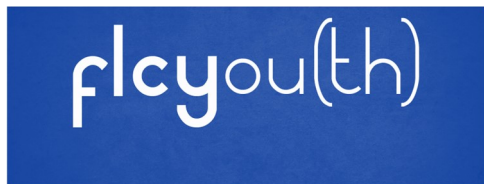
Thank you to all who helped make this year a success! To the many who donated camping, hiking, winter gear and supplies, THANK YOU! To the many who crafted and decorated the building to make it truly feel like we stepped into an Alaskan wilderness, THANK YOU! To the volunteers who greeted, shepherded, taught, and loved the children throughout the week, THANK YOU! And to Dineen Dowling and Amanda Hyter who helped me navigate leading this year's program for the first time, THANK YOU! This was truly a group effort! Our neighbors, once again, got to see how much we value God's children and how seriously we take our role in helping their faith grow through fun and engaging opportunities. Faith Lutheran is truly a compass in this community that points all towards Jesus, through our love, acceptance, and deep joy. May these feelings stay in the hearts of the VBS children long after they leave and remind them that within these walls and within God's Creation, they can trust in Jesus to help them through anything this world brings their way.

Pastor Sarah



## Growth & Learning

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**Eric & Abby Jezewski**  
Youth Leader & Co-leader  
330-836-8811/  
[faithlcyyouth@gmail.com](mailto:faithlcyyouth@gmail.com)



Thank you to everyone who attended the Rubber Ducks game on Tuesday, June 3. It was the perfect evening at the ballpark and the Ducks got a win! We really enjoyed hanging out with everyone!

Youth will again be making keychains as well as tie-dyed bandanas to support Faith's outreach for Akron PRIDE. Our goal is to have them completed by the beginning of August. Please check your inbox and the Band app for more details and an RSVP. Thanks!

Please remember that while we are technically on summer break, youth in grades 6-8 still have assigned acolyte and communion assistant duties. Please make sure that if your youth is unable to fulfill their scheduled duties that you are responsible for finding a replacement and communicating with Nancy. The deadline for the Weekly Beacon (green sheet) is the Monday prior. Thanks!



As a reminder, If you have a son or daughter going into the 6th grade, please let Eric and Abby know by sending an email to [faithlcyyouth@gmail.com](mailto:faithlcyyouth@gmail.com). We want to make sure that you will be included in communication for confirmation and events heading into the new school year!



We hope everyone has a fun and safe 4th of July!

# Growth & Learning

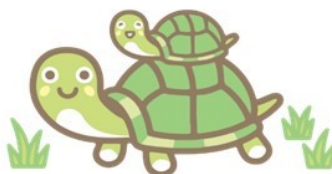


Over the summer months, the hallways and classrooms in the preschool may be quiet, but things are happening to prepare for another school year: scheduling a Fire Inspection, cleaning classrooms, updating the toys/supplies, mailing packets to incoming students, conducting tours for prospective students, teacher trainings, orientation and open house. We prepare for and look forward to a great 2025-2026 school year!

## Enrollment Availability

There are still spots available in a few of our preschool classes: the 3-day MWF Threes Class and the 4-day 4s/PreK. If you know anyone searching for a preschool for their child, please have them contact Dineen at [preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org) or 330-836-8827!

Our Mom, Dad, & Me Classes for 2-year olds and a caregiver have availability! We offer this 1.5 hour/ week intro to preschool Monday, Wednesday, or Friday, 9:15-10:45 a.m. Taught by Amanda Hyter, this sweet class is called the Turtles and is a great way for child and parent (or grandparent or nanny!) to see what preschool is all about: learning, playing, singing, snacking, painting, and having fun! If you or someone you know has a two year old, have them contact [preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org](mailto:preschool@faithlutheranchurch.org) or 330-836-8827



## Scholarship Funds Needed

We have several families who have requested financial assistance for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. If you would like to donate to the Faith Preschool Scholarship Fund, please speak with Dineen or find "Donate" on the Faith Lutheran Church website: [www.faithlutheranchurch.org](http://www.faithlutheranchurch.org) and indicate SCHOLARSHIP. You may also write a check to Faith Preschool and put "scholarship fund" on the Memo line.

Your generous gift will help a child learn by the best (our amazing staff!) and better prepare them for a successful start in Kindergarten! Thank you so much!

## Third Thursday Women's Bible Study Thursday, July 17 10 a.m. in the Youth Room



A new series which began in June will continue throughout the year using videos from the book entitled *A Study of Faith and Practice: Ephesians* by Jackie Hill Perry, Jasmine Holmes, and Melissa Kruger. Discussion will follow. Attendance is not contingent on previous session attendance

All women are welcome to attend on Thursday, July 17, at 10 a.m. in the Youth Room at Faith. For more information contact Bonnie at 330.606.3230 or [janellebonnie@gmail.com](mailto:janellebonnie@gmail.com). For a Zoom invitation contact Dana Singer at 330.697.8514, or [danasinger12@gmail.com](mailto:danasinger12@gmail.com).

## Men of Faith Bible Study and Discussion Group

9 a.m. - July 19

## Youth Room

Men of Faith, a Bible study and discussion group meets the third Saturday of each month in the Youth Room. For more information contact Geoff Whidden, [geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com](mailto:geoffrey.whidden@gmail.com) or Karl Demuth, [karldemuth@gmail.com](mailto:karldemuth@gmail.com).





## In Our Prayers:

### Health Concerns:

Tommy Gorman  
Faith member Bonnie Janelle  
Faith member Pastor Tim Keeler  
Faith member Betty Kesti  
Faith member Linda Lewis  
John Singer  
Faith member Lowell Unger  
Faith member Terry Vernon  
Faith member Darlene Weaver  
Faith member Geoff Whidden

For Faith members Marian, Liane, Shirley, JoAnn, Ann, Don, Heather and Dottie who are in assisted living facilities, or receiving nursing care.

### In Times of Loss:

For Sandy Dolan and family upon the death of her husband, Mike, on May 30, that they may be comforted.

For the family and friends of Myrna upon her death on June 15, that they may be comforted, especially her cousin, Sandy Dolan.

### Special Prayers:

For all whose lives have been impacted by weather-related disasters in recent months, that their needs will be met, and they are strengthened.

### With Thanksgiving:

For the growth that is occurring in the Community Garden, and for the gardeners' efforts, that people without access to fresh produce may receive it.

For Faith members Kirby Harder III, Daniel Hyter and Bella Wesley upon their high school graduations, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit each day of the years to come.

For the baptism of Benjamin John Fritzen, son of John and Christine Fritzen, on June 1. His sponsors are Shannon and Justin Miller.

For the birth of Waylon Gabriel Nicholas Oaks, grand-nephew of Faith members Gabe and Amanda Hyter.

### QR Code Prayer Requests:







## Schedule to Serve

Date	Service	Altar	Communion	Altar Flowers	Lay Reader	Ushers	Youth
6	9 a.m.	Sara Shook Polly Dobkin	Kit Scheetz - SE Loralee Daily - SE Deb Gottas -SP Corie Miller - B		Corie Miller	Greg Hackett John Knops	Acolyte: Treader Anderson Assistant: Matthew Bauer
	10:30 a.m.	Bonnie Janelle	Bonnie Janelle			Geoff Whidden	
13	9 a.m.	Sara Shook Polly Dobkin			Steve Thompson	Greg Hackett John Knops	
	10:30 a.m.	Nancy Hooper	Nancy Hooper			Becky Kuhar Alice Gilmore	
20	9 a.m.	Sara Shook Polly Dobkin	Corie Miller - SE Fedearia Sweval - SE Loralee Daily -SP Judy Harrison - B	Heather Popio	Judy Harrison	Greg Hackett John Knops	Acolyte: Crosby Jezewski Assistant: Cyrus Jezewski
	10:30 a.m.	Tana Fligor	Tana Fligor			Cathy Medlen	
27	10 a.m.	Sara Shook Polly Dobkin	Corie Miller - SE Dana Singer - SE Linda Weigand-SP Pastor Becki Verbridge - B	Eugenia Sefton	Kathryn Popio	Greg Hackett John Knops Nancy Hooper	Acolyte: Assistant:



## Calendar of Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>2</b> 5 p.m. RIC	<b>3</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Youth grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>7</b> 8 p.m. AA	<b>8</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 5 p.m. Outreach Advisory 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>9</b> 7 p.m. Scout Leaders	<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:30 a.m. DLM at Holy Trinity
<b>13</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Youth grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café (in Courtyrd) 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>14</b> 6 p.m. Preschool Board 8 p.m. AA	<b>15</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon SJ/SP Endowmt	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 3rd Thursday Bible Study 12 Noon FFF Team	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8 am. New Hope Baptist Church Cancer Walk 9 a.m. Men of Faith
<b>20 Newsletter            Deadline</b> 9 Traditional Svc. 9:50 Youth grades 6-12 10 Kinship Café 10:30 Informal Service 11:30 Bound 7:30 AA	<b>21</b> 7 p.m. Council 8 p.m. AA	<b>22</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl 6 p.m. Finance Committee	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10 a.m. One Service Sunday & Picnic 7:30 AA	<b>28</b> 7 p.m. Gardeners of Greater Akron 8 p.m. AA	<b>29</b> 9:30 a.m. Busy Fingers Yoga 7 p.m. Scouts Al-Anon	<b>30</b> 5 p.m. Laundry Ministry	<b>31</b> 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl		



Please visit our website.

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