



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER/JANUARY, 2022/23

What's inside?

1. "My Walk with Faith"
2. With Sympathy & Baptism
2. Minister Emeritus
2. Bake Sale
3. Christmas & Advent services
- 4 Card from Debra
4. Charitable Donations
7. Volunteer opportunities
8. Egadz Donations
9. McClure Place residents
9. Dinner Theatre

My walk with faith - Mya Linsley Kreutzwieser

Hello my name is Mya Linsley Kreutzwieser. I'm 15 years old and I have been coming to church since I was born. I was baptized by Ron McConnell when I was six months old.

We would come every Sunday with my grandma Evelyn and my grandpa Bill. About nine years ago my grandma passed away suddenly and devastated our whole family and then about four and a half years ago my grandpa passed away.

I questioned everything; I didn't even know if I believed in God anymore. I didn't know how he could take away both of my grandparents in such a short time. It almost felt like I was being punished. Without my grandparents with us church slowly fell out of our routine. It was sometimes just too hard to be there without them or we got busy with our other activities and God fell to the back of my mind. I felt alone and that's how I thought I was supposed to feel. I blamed that feeling on grief. I carried the burden of my grief by myself.

Flash forward to the beginning of this past summer and we found out grandpa (on the other side of the family) had cancer. I felt lost and scared and that everything in this world was out of my control. I didn't know how to keep going with all my worries and fears when I already knew how it felt to lose someone I loved so much.

The next day when I was confiding in one of my closest friends she asked if it would be ok if she prayed for my grandpa. I didn't know what to think, it was such a simple and kind act, so I said yes. I had not thought about God in so long but this thought brought so much comfort to me.

That night before I went to sleep, I decided to kneel down beside my bed and I prayed. I prayed for my loved ones who had passed, I prayed for my family, I prayed for my grandpa and I prayed for strength. This quickly became a habit. Every night I would pray for my family and friends and strength to carry on. It felt like all the burdens that I was carrying; God was helping me carry. I started to understand that God does not punish you, sometimes the bad things in your life are for you to grow from and they are just one stone in the path God has put you on. I am now trying to walk this path not alone but knowing that Jesus was there with me. In August this summer my other grandpa passed away. It broke me like it did years ago, but this time I came back to the surface instead of sinking down because God was there helping me carry the grief. I felt this shift in my life thanks to God so I felt like I wanted to get back to going to church. The only way to describe the feeling of warmth of going to church is like a hug from your grandma. No matter what age you are, it is still loving and welcoming. Sometimes it's hard to go to church every Sunday and sometimes it's hard to walk on the path God puts you on but God has a plan that I have to trust.

"I will walk with faith when I cannot see" 2 Corinthians 5:7

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Irene Bender on the death of her husband Irvin Henry Bender
Jay Lorman and family on the death of his wife Terri.



CELEBRATIONS

Minister Emeritus & Voluntary Associate Minister Celebration.



It was so good to welcome Ron and Michele to McClure on October 30th. We had a wonderful celebration making Rev. Ron McConnell **Minister Emeritus** of McClure United Church, which is a gift given to a minister of exceptional service.

Minister Emeritus is a title letting the receiver know that their past service has been blessing and to assure the receiver that they are invited to attend worship and special occasions of the church.

The **Voluntary Associate Minister (VAM)** acknowledgement is a requirement of the Living Sky Region of the United Church. A Voluntary Associate Minister is a United Church of Canada ordained, diaconal, or designated lay minister in who is retired or between calls or appointments, is in good standing within the regional council, and has a formal association with a community of faith, in this case, with McClure United Church.

The Voluntary Associate Minister designation is required for retired ministry personnel to continue to, **when invited**, to continue to participate in the functions of ministry. This designation opens the retired minister up for invitations to lead worship, preside at communion, read scripture, and other functions of ministry within McClure United Church and the whole Region. **Just to clarify, Ron is not on staff here at McClure but we are able to invite him to participate fully in the life and ministry of McClure and so too are other communities of faith.**

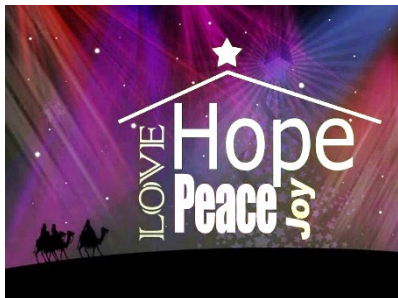
Confirmation/Membership and Reaffirmation of Faith gatherings.

I have two folks interested and we are looking for a larger group. Let Debra know if you are interested.

Contact Debra at debra.b@shaw.ca



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



Advent I HOPE Sunday November 27 - 10am

Advent II LOVE Sunday December 4 - 10am - **Communion**

Advent III JOY Sunday December 11 10am

Advent IV PEACE Sunday December 18- 10am –“Behold the Star”
Cantata Shirley Blackburn
conductor

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Sunday December 11 - 7pm –

CHRISTMAS EVE:

Saturday December 24 - 7pm

Saturday December 24 - 11pm - **Communion**

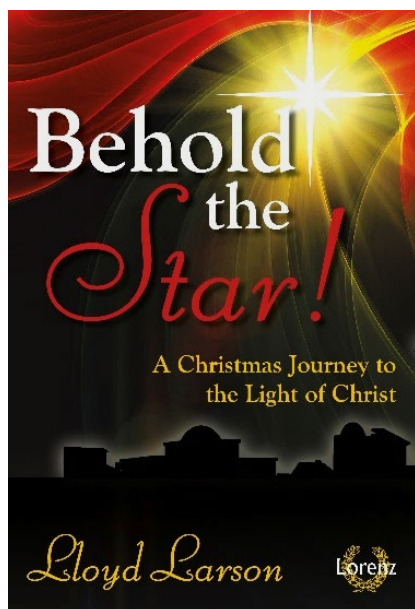


NO SERVICE Sunday December 25 -

JANUARY WORSHIP:

Sunday January 1 – 10am

Sunday January 8 – 10am



After a Covid absence
MCCLURE MUSIC MAKERS are excited to offer
the cantata “**Behold the Star**”
on December 18, 2022 at 10 am in the sanctuary.

What is a Cantata you ask?

A cantata is a musical composition for singers combined with narration (a re-telling of the scriptures) and orchestra bringing the light of the world through Jesus to us.

To quote the composer “Christmas reminds us that the star which once shone over Bethlehem still shines in the hearts of those who seek the warmth of God’s embrace.”

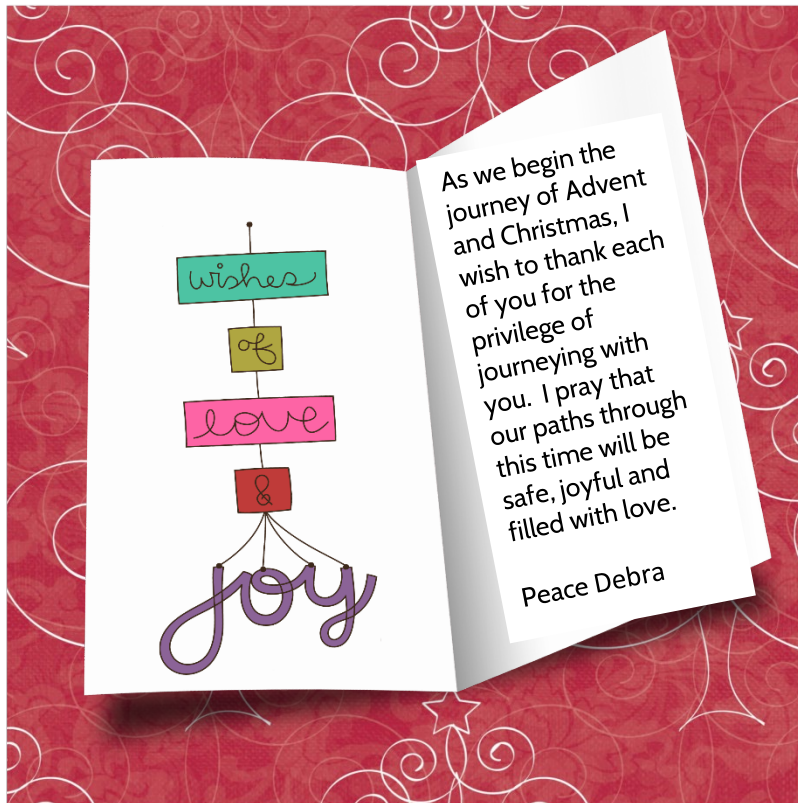
Please consider this your personal invitation to our McClure family and all others who are interested.

McClure Music Sunday
December 18
in the McClure Sanctuary at 10 am.
See You There!

A Huge McClure Thank you

A great , big, enormous thank you to Carol Claypool for once again leading us in the Socks for the Homeless project . This is a big commitment, and we thank Carol for helping us to help others.

THANKS



CHARITABLE DONATION INFORMATION FOR YEAR END

Charitable donations to the church or any outreach Christmas projects sponsored by the church need to arrive at the church by December 23rd, 2022 to be used as a tax receipt donation for 2022 with the exception of Christmas Eve donations which can be received on Christmas Eve.

all cheques need to be dated no later than December 28th, 2022 so they go through the bank before year end.

Donations received after December 23rd, 2022 will be considered a January donation and they will be credited to the 2023 tax receipt.

To support of the Life and Work of the Church financially:

- **Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR** can be set up by calling the office 306-373-1753.
- **E- transfers** are welcome by contacting Irene@mcclureunitedchurch.org. Irene is our finance staff person. Donations can be made through the website using
- Canada Help -go to the webpage and click on the donate button. (note: Canada Help takes a fee and therefore McClure does not get 100% of your donation if you use this method)

Envelopes are available through the Church office 306-373-1753



Recipe Prayer (Baking Edition)

Use this prayer card with your favourite recipe while baking this holiday.

Give Thanks

Gather and prepare your ingredients.

Thank you for these ingredients (*name each ingredient*) and for every being, every place, and every thing that has brought them here. Thank you, Creator of all things.

Bless and Break

Create your batter.

In the breaking, cracking, sifting, mixing, and kneading, we prepare each ingredient to work together to become something new. We give thanks for what the ingredients were, and ask your blessing on what new thing they will become. May it bring joy.

Bake

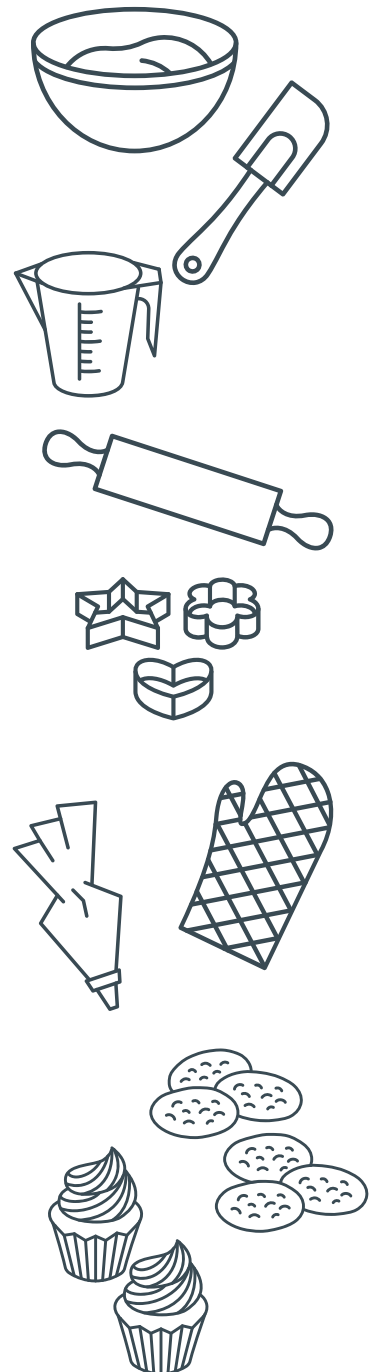
Prepare and bake your recipe.

After moulding, shaping, and preparing, we wait with hope, joy, and anticipation. Help us to be patient, giving our creations the time and space needed to be transformed. And help us to stay alert, trusting our instincts and senses.

Share

Decorate, package, and share your creations.

We marvel, celebrate, and give thanks for how ordinary ingredients from your Creation have lovingly been transformed into something extraordinary. We give thanks for the tradition and privilege of blessing, breaking, and sharing your gifts with your people. May the sharing of these treats be a blessing. Amen.



Women and Men's Gathering

For the past 2½ years many of us have been sustained by being together in community. A small group of men and a small group of women meet for connection and conversation. The men meet in the Craft Room and women meet in the Sanctuary, both spaces allow for good spacing and comfort. The two groups will gather on the **third Saturday of the month at 8am.**

Everyone is welcome.

NEXT GATHERING: January 21

Other dates: Feb 18, March 18, April 22 (fourth Sat), May 20

Youth and Young Adult

We are still figuring out how to connect with our youth and young adults. As things are sorted out our intention here at McClure is to have some special events. Stay tuned for more information and **please if you have any thoughts or ideas please send them along to the Faith Development Committee** or if you would like to plan something let Debra know – debra.b@shaw.ca

Nursery

If you are a parent with an infant or toddler, please know you are welcome in the worship space. A little noise is understood and just fine. If you need to use the nursery space, please make yourself at home and turn on the speaker so you can continue to hear the service. Please communicate your needs to Debra.

Rainbow Village: Eden Polischuk, a recent grad of the College of Education, and a longtime member of McClure is our Rainbow Village leader this year. **Eden is at the Church every Sunday at 10am.**

Children are welcome to join their families in the worship space for the first bit and then move to Rainbow Village.

If you have any questions, please call Debra.



Children and Youth Ministry

A very special Merry Christmas to our McClure families with children and youth.

I can only imagine the challenges that you have had to navigate these past 2 and ½ years. I have a hunch that times continue to be filled with challenges.

I hope you know that even though many of you have not found your way back to Sunday morning worship you are still part of the family and we love you and continue to pray for you.

It would be wonderful to see you again and perhaps Advent or the New Year will bring fresh energy and a desire to find your way back to the connection and to the community that comes with being in the building for Sunday morning worship.

Until then may God continue to ground you in love for one another and your neighbour.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Tech Team

Our team is fantastic! Our team is still learning and growing. If you would like to learn how to help with the Live Stream stuff that keeps us connected to about 120 folks; **there is room for you to lend a hand.**

Stop by the Tech Booth and say "Hi!"
We are looking particularly for folks who would like to learn the sound system part of the technology.

Jim Bugg, our current sound coordinator is willing to train you. We need two or three more volunteers so sound management will come around only once a month.

Breakfast at Amy's House Volunteers

More volunteers and welcome. If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, Carol will arrange for you to give it a try before you commit. Please Contact Carol if you are interested in participating in this ministry 306-664-2285.

Volunteers are needed for the ministry of serving **Funeral Lunch**

There are 3 "categories" of volunteers for each funeral: set-up, servers & dishwashers.

The food is bought by our convener. The lunches have been kept simple (due to covid) ie: fruit & dainties. Our convener & two volunteers will

SET-UP the food a few hours in advance of the funeral. They also prepare the coffee urn and have it ready to plug in, kettles of water ready to be plugged in to boil for tea. Juice available. Tables have been set up by Staff. Tablecloths & dishes are placed. Then their job is done.

The second group are **SERVERS**. When phoned, the volunteer **SERVERS** would be given a time to come into the serving area during the funeral service. They would serve the beverages & food, refilling as necessary.

The number of expected funeral guests is known before we start phoning for volunteers, because the bereaved family has given approximate numbers. Therefore we phone volunteers accordingly.

The 2 **DISHWASHERS** would come to the serving area, and start to pick up the used dishes when guests leave, taking them to the kitchen to be put through the dishwashing machines.

The time needed for **SET-UP** would be an hour & a half to two hours, depending on the number of guests expected.

The time needed for **SERVING** would be approximately two hours or more, this also depends on the number of guests; a larger crowd takes more time, and some families visit longer than others.

FOOD BANK CHALLENGE

I would like to challenge the congregation to bring one food item each Sunday of December to the barrel in the front lobby for each adult in the family. I was disappointed as I put an item in this Sunday to find the two cans of soup that I had put in the empty barrel last Sunday and that they had been joined by just two boxes of cookies. Surely a congregation of our size can fill that barrel every week if we just tried by bringing one item per adult. When we shop, we see several food items on sale: three cans of vegetables for \$5; a box of tea bags for \$4; a jar of jam \$3; a bag of sugar \$2.99, a box of juice \$1.35, etc. I would like to think that most of us could spare \$2-\$5 each week for the four Sundays of December to help lessen the hunger in our city. (Yes, we might have to forego a coffee and muffin once during the week, but I think that is so little to "sacrifice" for others in need this winter.)

Sheila Lavender

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Shopping for Toys this Christmas? White Gift Sunday is Back.

This year White Gift Sunday is Back.

The tradition began way back in 1904 in a small church in Ohio. Gifts were anonymously wrapped and placed under the church tree, so that all could share in the joy of giving to others.

Sunday, December 11, we will revisit this tradition at McClure.

Please bring a new, unwrapped toy to give away to a child in need. The toys will be gathered and delivered to the Secret Santa drop off center.

Secret Santa was founded by radio personality, Denny Carr, 38 years ago. His goal was that every child should have a toy at Christmas. It seems that White Gift Sunday and Secret Santa make a perfect match.

Hope to see you placing something under our McClure tree on Dec. 11.

EGADZ DONATIONS

Egadz is a non-profit community-based organization providing programming and services to children, youth and their families in making healthy choices which improve their quality of life.

This year the Outreach Committee will be accepting donations for the Egadz Outreach Program.

This program provides a variety of supports to the community, and is in desperate need of the items listed below:



Personal Hygiene

- family size containers of shampoos and lotions
 - travel size shampoo/conditioner
 - body wash
 - Brushes
 - Deodorant - male and female
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss

Winter Wear

- Winter coats (used but in good condition)
 - Toques, mitts, scarves/buffs (new)

As well, we are accepting monetary donations. Please make cheques out to McClure United Church.

Times to bring donations to church


Thursday, Dec. 1- Sunday, Dec. 11.

We will pack up on Monday. Come help us if you like.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity. Thank you very much.

Outreach Committee

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH IS PROUD
TO ANNOUNCE THE UPCOMING
PRODUCTION OF:



Anne of Green Gables
The Musical™
March 9-12, 2023
DIRECTED BY KRISTIE ELLIOTT
Information on tickets and how to get involved are coming soon!

Book by Donald Harron
Music by Norman Campbell
Adapted from the novel by L. M. Montgomery
ANNE OF GREEN GABLES - THE MUSICAL is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals.

Auditions

are December 3rd from 11:00 - 5:00
and are open to everyone ages 6 and older.

We are casting both adults and children in the show.

Please email Elliott.kristie@gmail.com
for audition information.

People interested in working
on sets, props, hair and makeup, choreography, or
stage management
should email Elaine at pmmccluremusical@gmail.ca.

McClure Place Happenings –

“To enrich the lives of McClure Place Residents by providing support and service”

Residents enjoyed a fun Halloween coffee morning; many wore delightful costumes. Prizes were given for the best costumes, and we could guess the weight of a pumpkin for twenty-five cents. The prize was a pumpkin pie made by Ebba. The preschool children showed off their costumes and sang for us. We appreciated the delicious cookies made by the kitchen, and the staff showing up as an 80's Rocker band.

A special service was held by the residents on Remembrance Day. We heard stories from Isobel Jones, Alice Gibson, and Dave Cross of their various family members who served in the wars. The Choristers under the direction of Shirly Blackburn, shared the music “On Eagles Wings”, and “Hallelujah”. We all joined in to sing a few familiar songs from the past wars. A video was watched from the University of Saskatchewan of Dean McNeil playing the last post, and we observed a two-minute silence.

We are pleased to welcome Holly Jacobson, who will join us for six weeks. Holly is a SaskPolytech Therapeutic Recreation Student doing a practicum with Olivia Crone, our Recreation Service Director. Holly joined us as we decorated the McClure Place common areas for Christmas. The Activity Committee served hot chocolate and cookies for all those who came to help with the decorating. A Sing-a-long at Amy's will happen on November 25 with Joyce Lenz leading the singing. A demonstration of the Phillips Lifeline gave residents information on this medical alert product that helps to make us feel safer.

It is a busy time of year! The Christmas Market of crafts, baking, and a silent auction will happen on November 23. Many folks will enjoy the Chinese supper on Grey Cup Sunday arranged by the residents. Trips to the Festival of Trees at the WDM, and tickets to the Joy of Vox can be purchased. The McClure Church Van will take residents to these events. The Van will also be available for Christmas shopping and listening to school choirs at the malls.

Our thoughts are with those residents who have been in hospital and trust their recovery is going well. May we all be safe from Covid and flu infections this holiday season.

Elaine Tall

BACK PAGE

Got important info for the McClure UC Newsletter? Feedback? Ideas?

Please e-mail any newsletter submissions, suggestions & feedback to

Sheila Krueger – Editor
eskrueger@sasktel.net

**February Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, January 22, 2023**

Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also e-mailed directly to everyone on the e-mail list. But, if you prefer to receive a paper copy **or** you need to update your e-mail/contact info, please contact the office at:

306-373-1753 or mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

Passionate about the work, ministry & mission of the wider
United Church of Canada?
Please check out these links for news & updates:

UCC National Newsletters:
<https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

UCC Mission & Service: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service>

Did you know?

All Worship services are available at McClure's YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNODhUdibWig5etzkMv8w

Printed copies of sermons are available at:

<http://mcclureunitedchurch.org/sermons>



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org
www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktN/



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Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Claudia Manning






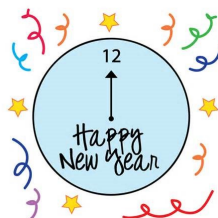
Data Entry Clerk


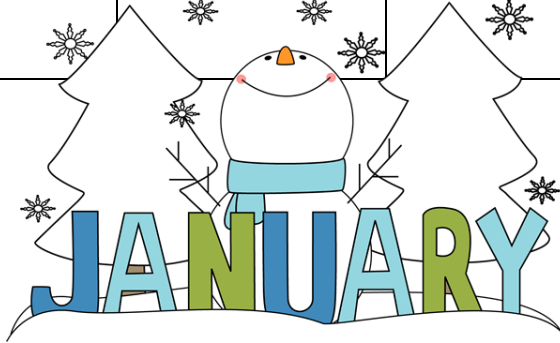
Pam Turner

Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|--|
|  | | | | 1 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Advent 2 10am Worship & Rainbow Village | 5 4pm Forever in Motion | 6 7pm Property Committee | 7 10am Congregational Care 7:30pm Choir Practice | 8 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Faith Dev Committee (Zoom) | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Advent 3 10am Worship & Rainbow Village 7pm Blue Christmas Service  | 12 4pm Forever in Motion | 13 | 14 7:30pm Choir Practice | 15 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Faith Dev Committee | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Advent 4 10am Cantata Worship And Rainbow Village  | 19 4pm Forever in Motion | 20 7:30pm Choir Practice | 21 7:30pm Senior Choir | 22 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion | 23 |  7pm Service 11pm Communion Service |
| 25 - NO SERVICES  Merry Christmas | 26 Church office closed | 27 Church office closed | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31  |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---|-----------|--|
| 1 10am Worship  | 2 | 3 | 4 9:30am Congreg. Care 7:30pm Senior Choir | 5 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Sacred Sounds | 6 | 7 |
| 8 10am Worship & Rainbow Village | 9 4pm Forever in Motion | 10 7pm Stewardship 7pm Outreach | 11 7:30pm Senior Choir | 12 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Sacred Sounds | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10am Worship & Rainbow Village | 16 4pm Forever in Motion | 17 7:00pm Worship Cmte | 18 7:30pm Senior Choir | 19 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Sacred Sounds | 20 | 21 8am Women's & Men's Gathering |
| 22 10am Worship & Rainbow Village Newsletter Submission Deadline! | 23 4pm Forever in Motion | 24 7:30pm Board Meeting | 25 7:30pm Senior Choir | 26 10:30am MP Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Group 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Sacred Sounds | 27 | 28 |
| 29 10am Worship & Rainbow Village | 30 4pm Forever in Motion | 31 |  | | | |