
WOODLAWN WINDOW

FEBRUARY 2026

Woodlawn Presbyterian Church
2612 12th Street North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704



John F. Underwood, Pastor
Telephone: 727-822-4477
Internet: www.woodlawnchurch.net
Email: office@woodlawnchurch.net

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the church of your childhood?

Was it the sanctuary in which you were baptized? Was it the church where you went to Sunday School? Was it the congregation that taught you to sing “Jesus Loves Me”?

My family moved when I was about two months old and Father became a church pastor (after completing his World War II service as a navy chaplain), so the church I remember from childhood was not my first church and was not the church in which I was baptized.

Likewise, our familiar sanctuary is not where the Woodlawn church began; it is actually our fourth site. Few people remember that it began with Sunday School classes on the second floor of 2629 11th Street North, a block east of the present sanctuary. That building is still there.

In this centennial year, I find myself reflecting on the ancestral beginnings that were the foundation for our faith and worship long before Woodlawn was imagined. Beginnings that are older than anything we remember. Things like the roots of national and denominational worship:

- **THE OLDEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN THE COUNTRY** were founded in 1640 in Southold and South Hampton, NY on Long Island. (Each believes it is the older).

- **THE OLDEST PRESBYTERIAN BUILDING** dates to 1698. It is just outside Philadelphia, PA.

- **THE FIRST PRACTICE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP IN WHAT IS NOW THE U.S.** was here in Florida, but San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe, NM is often considered the first church.

Several years ago I wrote about sites associated with even older and earlier places and

of worship in the world. They are part of any discussion of the early chapters of faith:

- **THE EARLIEST KNOWN WORSHIP SITE OF ANY PEOPLE TO ANY DIVINITY** is in Turkey. In the ruins of Göbekli

Tepe are the remains of the oldest temple ever discovered, at least 11,000 years old—more than twice as old as Stonehenge. It may have been a temple to Sirius, the brightest star in the sky.

- **THE EARLIEST RECORDED WORSHIP OF GOD IN THE BIBLE** was when “Noah built an altar to the Lord...and offered burnt offerings on the altar” after the flood (Gen 8:20), or maybe even earlier, when Cain and Abel “brought to the Lord an offering” (Gen 4:3-4).

- **THE FIRST WORSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE BIBLE** was in a house in Bethlehem. Matthew’s account of the Christmas story tells us that, “On coming to the house [the magi saw the baby Jesus and] bowed down and worshiped him” (Matthew 2:11, NIV).

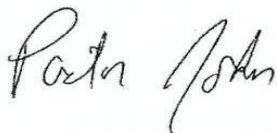
- **THE OLDEST CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION IN THE WORLD** is in Ethiopia. People still worship in the Church of Our Lady Mary of Zion, a congregation of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church established sometime between 320 and 360 AD, about the same time the Nicene Creed was being written and a hundred years before the final text of the Apostles’ Creed was established. That historic church says that the Ark of the Covenant, made at Mount Sinai, is not lost but still exists inside its walls!

- **THE OLDEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH BUILDING** is older still. In 241 a house was converted into a church beside the Euphrates River in Dura-Europos in what is now Syria. The city



was three hundred years old when Jesus was born. But in 256, shortly after the church opened, Dura-Europos was conquered. The site was abandoned. The ruins and wall-paintings of that ancient church are still well preserved in the Syrian desert.

On February 22—the first Sunday of Lent—Woodlawn will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of our church's Sunday worship. But remember an ancient saying: A dwarf, standing on the shoulders of a giant, can see farther than the giant can see. Our faith and our centennial stand on memorable ancient shoulders. As we look out at the world from the vantage of our centennial, let us never forget the great and profound history of the faith on which we stand.



CHOIR DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



**THE CHOIR IS
PRACTICING ON
THURSDAYS AT 6:00 PM AND ON
SUNDAYS AT 9:20 AM. IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CHOIR S,
PLEASE TALK TO KRIS RAGSDALE.**



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

**ZULEMA GROVES
FREDA MELODY
BARBARA ANN MUNROE
MARY NUTTING**

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Woodlawn Presbyterian Church those of us who have been members of the congregation for decades find ourselves looking back to the times when we were younger. At this time we have at least four members who have been at Woodlawn from the 1950's.



As one of those, I find myself thinking of my teenage years when there were 40 high schoolers who were together more at church than at school. We were best friends and some, as teenagers, were just beginning to date. Some of us even married the one we met at church!

We were fortunate to have outstanding teachers and, what at that time were called Advisors. The ones that stand out in my mind are a couple, Inez and Walter Hunt. They had no children of their own and adopted every one of us into the group. During the summer, Hutchinson Hall was open every night of the week. We played badminton on the parking lot and shuffle board on the porch. Inside, others were doing board games and someone would sit at the piano and play while the rest sang along. There were no recreation centers in St. Petersburg at that time, so when the lights came on in Hutchinson Hall many neighborhood kids joined us.

When we were lucky, Inez and Walter would rent a big truck, stack it with hay and we rode in the back - it was our hay ride! Then, there was no bridge across Tampa Bay. But there was a ferry that carried passengers and cars over to Manatee County. We left the truck and boarded the boat so that we could ride over and back. What a wonderful time we had!

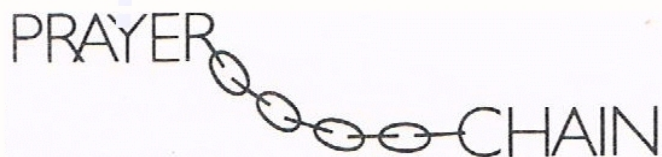
Our Sunday School teacher was Leora Lewis, who had lived a very interesting life. She had worked for the government for some years, she had traveled the world and she had even spent some time as a prison guard. She had a lot of interesting stories

and shared some of her more interesting ones with us as she taught her interpretation of the Bible. She was able to keep a room full of antsy teenagers hanging on her words.

You may wonder why I wrote this article under the Administration Committee title. It is because Woodlawn Church has been here for 100 years and during that time many people have come and gone, but they endure in our memories and more, they have left a legacy. Many have remembered the church in their estate planning. For many years we have been the recipient of funds from their planning. Now we are using some of those funds to keep the church operating at a time when many churches have had to close due to a lack of funds.

I am reminding you that you can do the same. You can name Woodlawn in your will and make it possible for Woodlawn to continue for years to come. I ask you to pray for Woodlawn and consider a gift to the church.

Mary Lee King
Administration Committee Member.



As soon as we receive the prayer request we will be praying for your need. When you have a request please contact the church office or Pastor John at 727-822-4477.

The request may be confidential and not detailed and you will know that your church family is lifting your concern up to our Heavenly Father.

GOD LOVES YOU!

“ Memories “ by Dan Schramek

How memories begin and how they end is important to understanding the significance of each memory. Our most notable memory began when our youngest daughter Julie started the process in 1998 buying her first house. A few years later, in 2001 our oldest daughter Melissa bought her house across the street from her sister's. Like many parents, we wanted to be close to our children and they wanted to be close to us. Then something amazing happened. The young couple, living next door to Melissa, had to relocate to a new Coast Guard base. Our daughters told them not to list their house, because our parents would buy it. This was in 2005 and this is where it all started. It became known as the Schramek's compound and this is where our most significant memories took its roots, but, recently we were thinking of selling our house and this is where my story begins.

For the next 20+ years, we've shared our lives together with our daughters next-door and across the street. Our oldest grandson

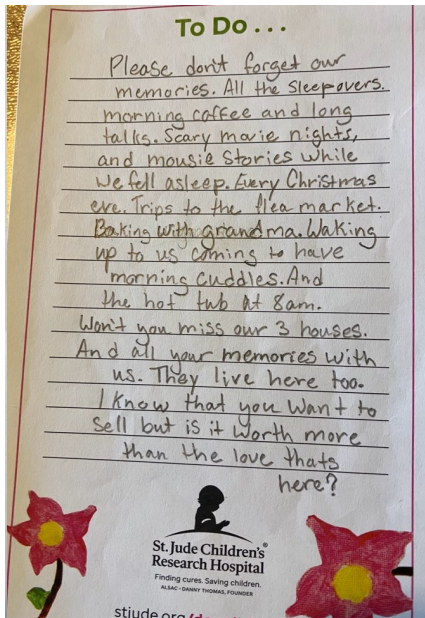


was Melissa's first son born in 1998. The rest were to follow, one at a time, for a total of four grandchildren with memories unfolding every day for the next 20 years, memories and experiences we would never forget.

Let's go back to our intentions of selling our house, out of the compound. We had a realtor come to give us a quote on the house. Our granddaughter Taylor saw the realtor and asked us what we were doing. Our response was that we were thinking of selling our house and moving to Brooksville and here's what happened. The next morning, we found a note on our dining room table from Taylor and it said it all.

These are the quotations, from her note.

“Please don’t forget our memories. All the sleepovers. Morning coffee and long talks. Scary movie nights and mouse stories while we fell asleep. Every Christmas Eve. Trips to the flea market. Baking with grandma. Waking up to us coming to have morning cuddles. And the hot tub at 8 am. Won’t you miss our three houses. And all the memories with us. They live here too. I know that you want to sell but is it worth more than the love that’s here?”



Needless to say, this was not where the memories ended, but where they continue to grow! We are not selling the house and it will remain as part of our family. Thank you

Taylor for reminding us of how important memories are. We’ve been blessed with our family, time and time again. We hope that there are significant memories of your family experiences and how important they can be.

May God bless all your families! Make your memories, share your memories and remember how wise your grandchildren can be, beyond their years. Until next time.

**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
THE CHURCH IN YOUR
ESTATE PLANNING?**

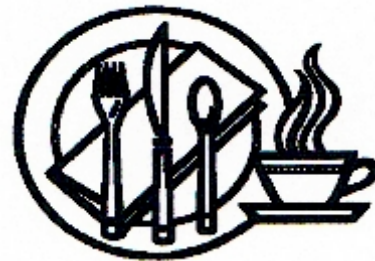
**WOODLAWN WINDOW
DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES
ARE DUE BY 4 PM**

**MARCH BY FEBRUARY 16TH
PLEASE SEND YOUR ITEM TO:
mlk140142@gmail.com**

LUNCH BUNCH

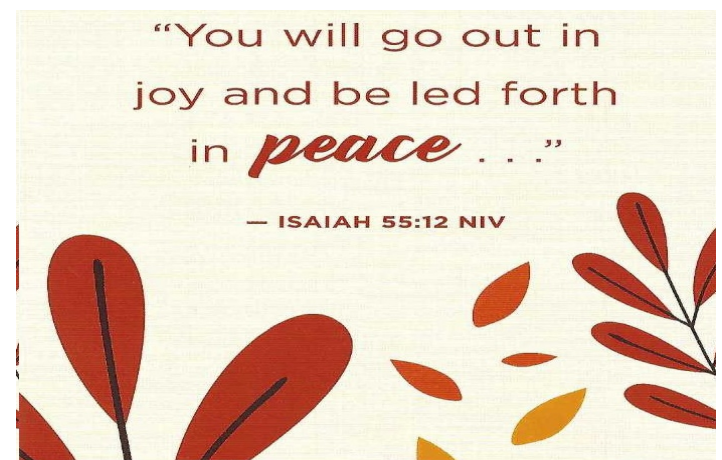
Carrabbas Italian Grill
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GOD’S FEBRUARY CHILDREN

- 1 Lydia Woodyer
- 4 Jim King
- 7 Betty Turini
- 8 Melina Dhim
- 13 Arnie Epperson
- 28 Richard Oster



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Souper Bowl Of Caring was started in 1990 by a Presbyterian pastor in Columbia, SC. He had gathered with his youth group to share a meal and watch the Super Bowl. To help them realize that not everyone was focused on the game and had other needs he prayed that everyone would have at least a bowl of soup to eat that day. From that prayer came the idea to collect food and money on Super Bowl Sunday for local food banks. The idea spread from South Carolina to across the nation. My parents lived in Columbia and knew this pastor and suggested Woodlawn might want to participate.

Our youth group became involved with the rest of the congregation. At one point a work day in the community the Sat before the Super Bowl was encouraged. For several years we practiced the biblical act of gleaning (picking what is leftover). We asked neighbors in Woodlawn if we could pick citrus fruit from their trees on that Sat.. Someone even donated a fruit picking pole to the church. The Free Clinic had arranged to accept fruit donations throughout St. Pete and had a processor who turned the fruit into juice for local day care centers. Today it would not be possible with the loss of citrus trees in our yards.

We continue with the Super Bowl of Caring, on Super Bowl Sunday, collecting canned goods and money, and sharing a simple meal of bread and soup after our worship service.

Wendy Siedlecki

GROUPS AT WOODLAWN

THERE ARE FOUR AA GROUPS MEETING IN HUTCHINSON HALL MONDAY - THURSDAY NIGHTS. ALSO, THE EATING DISORDER GROUP AND THE YOGA CLASSES MEET WEDNESDAY NIGHT EACH WEEK. RECENTLY, WE ADDED A NEW WOMEN'S SUBSTANCE ABUSE GROUP MEETING ON FRIDAY NIGHTS.

ALL THE GROUPS THAT MEET IN OUR FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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FREE BINGO

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GAMES AT 6:30 PM**

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50-50 DRAWING -**

BRING A FRIEND

FAITH COMMUNITY NEWS

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others..." Hebrews 13:16

What do you know about organ, eye and tissue donation? Life Link of west-central Florida is part of the LifeLink Foundation covering areas of Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico that helps facilitate the recovery of organs for transplantation within all hospitals in its donation service area. Doctors and nurses' main priority is to save your life if you are sick or hurt and go to the hospital. Doctors and other medical personnel have a moral and legal obligation to give their patients the best care possible. Donation is only considered after all efforts to save your life have been exhausted.



There is no age limit for organ, eye or tissue donation and even people with certain medical conditions. Medical professionals carefully determine which organs can be donated for transplant. Less than 1% of all patients die in a manner that allows for the possibility of lifesaving organ donation. That is why registering is so important. One organ donor can save up to eight lives. One tissue donor can restore health for up to 75 people. One cornea donor can return sight to someone with corneal blindness.

Across America more than 100,000 men, women and children are in need of a lifesaving organ transplant. Donor programs cover all costs related to the organ, eye and tissue donation process. Your insurance, family, or estate cover medical care until the donation process begins as well as funeral arrangements.

By joining the organ, tissue and eye registry while obtaining a driver license or online at <http://www.DonateLifeFlorida.org> you can improve someone's quality of life or give a person a future to live. Let your family know you have registered. Leaving a legacy isn't just about what we achieve in life but also the impact we have on others' lives.

Wendy Siedlecki RN, Faith Community Nurse

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2/1 **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM**
- 2/2 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/3 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/4 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM
- 2/5 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Choir Practice
- 2/8 **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM**
Souper Bowl
- 2/9 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/10 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/11 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Book Club
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM
- 2/12 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Choir Practice 6 PM
- 2/15 **SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**
- 2/16 Monday Women's AA Group
- 2/17 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/18 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Yoga 7 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Ash Wednesday 7 PM
- 2/19 Thursday
AA Meeting 7:30 pm 2/13
Choir Practice
Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM
- 2/20 Friday Bingo 6:00 PM
- 2/22 **Worship Service 10 AM**
Luncheon after Worship Service
- 2/23 Monday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/24 Tuesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
- 2/25 Wednesday AA Meeting 7:30 PM
Eating Disorder Group 7 PM
Yoga 7 PM
- 2/26 Thursday AA Meeting 7:30 PM

- **WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM EVERY SUNDAY**

- **BRING A FRIEND AND STAY FOR FELLOWSHIP**

- **IT'S A GREAT TIME TO VISIT AND GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER**

CHURCH MEMORIES

By Robert Malloy

I am extremely honored to be a part of the 100 year celebration and relate my memories of Woodlawn Presbyterian Church.

My first memory of visiting the church was at eleven years old. I was fortunate to go to a Sunday School Class taught by Walter and Inez Hunt. They used a puppet stage that could illustrate events of the Bible acted out. I worked the puppets and felt the stories.

As a teenage boy I played baseball on the field that the new church was built on. I hit a baseball on the field that the present sanctuary occupies and the ball broke the yellow stain glass window. I paid the \$27.50 to have it repaired, and it does not quite match.

The church gave Bibles to high school graduates on their birthday.

My father became treasurer of the church in 1952. He was at the church bell ceremony. (When we got the bell on the tower.) He played in a fund raiser, "Curse You Jack Dalton" in Hutchinson Hall.

The Hall was used for special events, not involving church members. The St. Petersburg Police Department held a shooting exhibition. When a policeman fired after saying a bullet could ricochet from the target on stage. A woman seated in the back said: "I got it". The policeman rushed back to see the person holding a chip that fell in her lap from the ceiling tiles. That was the last of those events.

I left the church when I joined the U.S. Air Force in 1960. Much has happened since, and I am ready for more of that "Old Time Religion" in a church 100 years old.

(Editor's note: Robert and I joined the church about the same time and were at different Junior High and High Schools, but in the same Sunday School classes at Woodlawn.)

WOODLAWN WINDOW DUE DATES FOR 2026

FOR	DATE
MARCH	FEB. 16
APRIL	MAR. 23
MAY	APR. 20
JUNE	MAY 18
JULY	JUNE 22
AUGUST	JULY 20
SEPTEMBER	AUG. 24
OCTOBER	SEPT 21
NOVEMBER	OCT. 19
DECEMBER	NOV. 23
JANUARY	DEC. 21

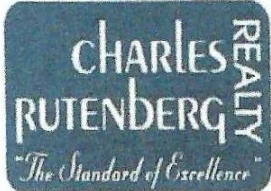


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BIBLE STUDY

Daily New Testament Readings

JANUARY

Matthew

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5:1-20
6. 5:21-48
7. 6:1-18
8. 6:19-34
9. 7
10. 8:1-17
11. 8:18-34
12. 9:1-17
13. 9:18-38
14. 10:1-25
15. 10:26-42
16. 11
17. 12:1-21
18. 12:22-50
19. 13:1-23
20. 13:24-58
21. 14:1-21
22. 14:22-36
23. 15:1-20
24. 15:21-39
25. 16
26. 17
27. 18:1-14
28. 18:15-35
29. 19
30. 20:1-16
31. 20:17-34

FEBRUARY

(Matthew)

1. 21:1-22
 2. 21:23-46
 3. 22:1-22
 4. 22:23-46
 5. 23:1-22
 6. 23:23-39
 7. 24:1-28
 8. 24:29-51
 9. 25:1-30
 10. 25:31-46
 11. 26:1-25
 12. 26:26-56
 13. 26:57-75
 14. 27:1-26
 15. 27:27-50
 16. 27:51-66
 17. 28
- #### *Mark*
18. 1:1-20
 19. 1:21-45
 20. 2
 21. 3:1-19
 22. 3:20-35
 23. 4:1-20
 24. 4:21-41
 25. 5:1-20
 26. 5:21-43
 27. 6:1-29
 28. 6:30-56

MARCH

(Mark)

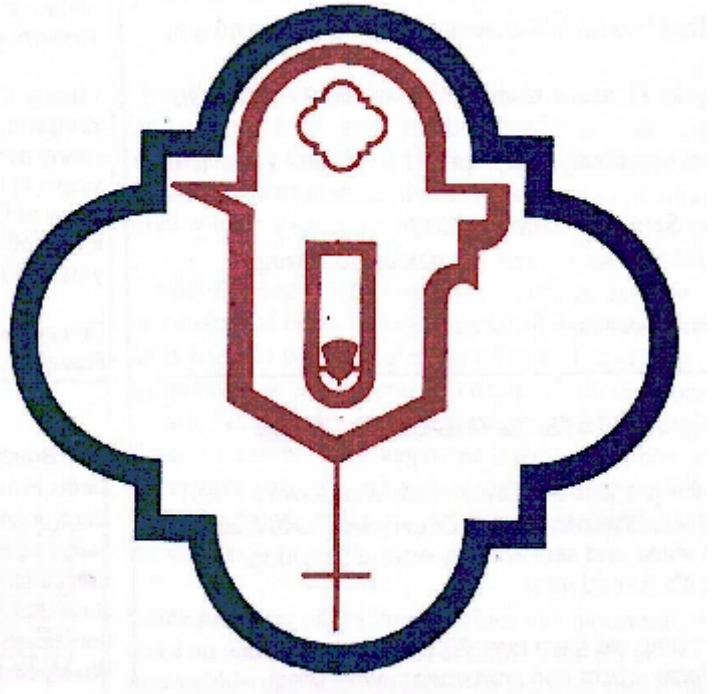
1. 7
 2. 8:1-21
 3. 8:22-38
 4. 9:1-29
 5. 9:30-50
 6. 10:1-31
 7. 10:32-52
 8. 11:1-18
 9. 11:19-33
 10. 12:1-27
 11. 12:28-44
 12. 13:1-23
 13. 13:24-37
 14. 14:1-26
 15. 14:27-52
 16. 14:53-72
 17. 15:1-24
 18. 15:25-47
 19. 16
- #### *Luke*
20. 1-20
 21. 1:21-38
 22. 1:39-56
 23. 1:57-80
 24. 2:1-24
 25. 2:25-52
 26. 3
 27. 4:1-30
 28. 4:31-44
 29. 5:1-16
 30. 5:17-39
 31. 6:1-26

FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY 1 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	MONDAY 2 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA MEETING	TUESDAY 3 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5PM AA MEETING	WEDNESDAY 4 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP	THURSDAY 5 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE 6 PM AA MEETING	FRIDAY 6 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	SATURDAY 7 OFFICE CLOSED
8 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	9 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON WOMEN'S AA	10 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	11 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP	12 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING CHOIR PRACTICE 6:00 PM	13 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	14 OFFICE CLOSED
15 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	16 OFFICE OPEN AA WOMEN'S MEETING WOODLAWN WINDOW DEADLINE 4 PM	17 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	18 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP AA MEETING	19 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON CHOIR PRACTICE LUNCH BUNCH AA MEETING	20 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON BINGO 6:30PM	21 OFFICE CLOSED
22 WORSHIP SERVICE 10 AM	23 OFFICE OPEN AA MEETING WOMEN'S	24 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON PASTOR HOURS 2-5 PM AA MEETING	25 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON YOGA EATING DISORDER GROUP AA MEETING	26 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON AA MEETING CHOIR PRACTICE AA MEETING	27 OFFICE OPEN 9-NOON	28 OFFICE CLOSED

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Vol. 2026 Issue 2



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