

**AUGUST 2018**

Volume 32.8

**St. John's  
United Church  
of Christ**

*St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!*

**An Open and  
Affirming  
Congregation**

503 Stuart Circle  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

**Telephone:**  
**804.358.9291**

**Rev. Linda Higgins**  
**Pastor**

**Email:**  
office@stjohnsrichmond.org



**Web Site:**



stjohnsrichmond.org

# THE *Messenger*



Change, even when it's desired, can come with misgivings, fear and some discomfort. This week I was visiting my daughter who was going through her own wanted change. She was struggling with feeling that she was not in control. Like with all change it came with some set backs and struggles that meant it was not going as smoothly as she had planned and imagined. Even though

she knew that the outcome would be what she wanted the process was feeling uncomfortable giving her misgivings about her decisions and making her second guess her plan.

This week St John's will be moving forward with our plan to develop the parking lot and begin on the very needed renovations (HVAC first of all) to the building. I am sure as we all get use to not being able to park where we are used to parking, must think twice about some of our usual ways of doing things and then walk through the discomfort of renovations we will all share my daughters feeling of misgivings about the path we have chosen. All plans tend to hit snags and it is how as a community we walk through those difficulties that has the greatest potential to help us grow and become stronger.

One way as individuals we are often tempted to deal with change and discomfort is to just not bother. Here that might mean thinking that you just won't bother to come to worship till the renovations are over and we have the parking garage. That may be tempting but it is not healthy for the church as a community any more than if you pulled out of your family because someone was ill or going through a major change would be healthy. And it would be hard to have missed that part of the family's life. You are a vital part of the St John's family and we need you during this time more than ever.

Will there be weeks in the next couple of years you feel like you are worshipping in a construction zone? Probably and we will have stories to tell about the journey we are embarking on. This has been a long time in coming and the day is finally here to step into seeing these changes come to life. This is all happening as we also enter an anniversary year. A time to always look back and set our course for the next period ahead. The physical changes we will go through will be one part of the journey, but we also need to plan for our future financially and in terms of ministry. The building is not the future of the church the community is which brings us back to saying again you are needed.

So here we go. It all starts on August first.

***Pastor Linda***



# COUNCIL MINUTES

Church Council met for the monthly meeting on July 9, 2018.

The Trustees gave an update on the parking lot sale and immediate repair needs. The proposed motions for the Congregational Meeting were presented. In order to receive tax credit, the work has to be 50% of the current appraised value. We may need to obtain a current appraisal. The proceeds from the parking lot sale will be deposited in an account at Union or SunTrust. A list of necessary work on the building was presented. HVAC work is at the top of the list and additional items are subject to be completed at different times. During the Congregational Meeting, a list of the work items will be offered to the Congregation to rank in order of importance as a means to open conversation. \$850,000 is the beginning amount we will spend on the building.

Beginning August 5, parking will be available at the Broad and Harrison deck. A van service will provide shuttles for an hour before the service and then an hour after the service. Three handicap spaces will remain available by the Parlor door during construction.

## **Motion to Authorize up to \$850,000 in Infrastructure-Related Expenditures:**

Dreama entertained the motion that Council approve and recommend that the Congregation approve the expenditure of up to \$850,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the church parking lot for the following improvements:

- Replace HVAC in Sanctuary, Parlor, Fellowship Hall and Office/Education Wing
- Lavatory improvements
- Current Elevator lift upgrade/motor
- Replacement or repair of windows in Office/Education Wing
- Repair attic ceiling in Office/Education Wing
- Electrical improvements previously approved and funds advanced by church, to be reimbursed from proceeds of sale as soon as practicable after closing
- Related legal, architectural, engineering, consulting, general contracting and subcontracting services and materials

David Agee made the motion, Betsy Bighinatti seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **Motion to Approve Establishment and Operation of LLC:**

Dreama entertained the motion that Council authorize the Board of Trustees establish a for-profit limited liability company affiliated with the church for the purpose of receiving the proceeds of the parking lot sale, obtaining a federal tax I.D. number for the LLC, depositing the proceeds from the parking lot sale in an interest-bearing account at a bank, and disbursing the proceeds as needed for renovations, infrastructure improvements and other purposes as approved by Church Council, applying for, obtaining and monetizing state historic tax credits, and performing such other acts as may be needed in furtherance of the foregoing, including the retention of legal, architectural, engineering, consulting and related services.

Jeff Hetzer made the motion, Johanna Gilbert seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## **Announcements:**

Sunday morning childcare provider, Mark, announced his resignation. Linda will seek his replacement. Sanya will be out of the office August 29 – 30. Due date for the August newsletter is August 15. Linda will be away August 10 – 21.

**Finance Report** – It is noted that the report was just received and had not yet been reviewed by the Finance Committee. Committee Chairs should review to make sure expenditures are correct. The checking account was recently low until receiving the quarterly check from Endowment. Jeff moved \$10,000 to the Vanco account. We will need to reestablish account at SunTrust to accept stock certificates to meet a parishioner's pledge. The Budget document has been sent to committees for review. Finance requests first draft budgets from committees before the August meeting. We received a letter from Potomac Association stating our dues are a percentage of expenditures for the budgeted year rather than a set amount. We need to account for extra expenditures and refund the church once we receive the parking lot proceeds (facility oriented items: electrical work, security, etc.) Pledges are less for 2018 so there may be a larger deficit for the 2019 budget.

175th Anniversary – October 5-8, 2018– Nothing new to report.

## **Committees:**

Mission and Outreach – Monthly Missions

- July – Grace Inside
- August – FeedMore
- September – Side by Side

The Committee recommended motion to accept proposal from SJCP for a Holiday Cabaret Fundraiser for Saturday, December 8, offering a hor d'oeuvres buffet dinner, open bar and show. Tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$18 for students. Rehearsals will be on Saturdays from 2 – 4 from October 27 – November 17 and December 1 and 7. The motion was seconded and carried.

**PrideFest** is September 22nd and we will share a booth with First Congo and Reconciliation Fellowship.

**Congregational Life and Care** – Faith night at the Diamond is August 9. See Betsy Bighinatti for tickets. The summer suppers started on July 14. Other dinners will be August 12 and August 25. Signup sheets are in the Parlor.

**Music and Worship** – Meeting the upcoming week. Suggested the Welcome Team start offering nametags on Sunday mornings and the Music and Worship committee consider reinstating paid singers.

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## **Congregational Meeting:**

The Congregation met on July 15, 2018 for a called meeting. Rob Osborn presented the Renovation Plans Report to the congregation on behalf of the Trustees.

Answers to questions during the meeting:

- The \$50,000 cost for window repair and replacement does not include the coverings over the stained glass windows.
- The Trustees are currently working with an engineer to have requests for proposal with scope of work ready for bids in the next few weeks.
- The current elevator cannot be enlarged. The work noted in the renovation plans is just to make the current elevator safe and efficient. The Trustees are looking into installing a one level lift at the parlor entrance and are looking for ways to improve accessibility to Fellowship Hall at Franklin Street entrance.

A survey was handed out requesting members rank the list of work items in order of importance. (Completed surveys were collected at the end of the meeting.) Dreama presented the motion on behalf of Council and the Trustees:

On July 9, 2018, the Church Council approved and recommended that the Congregation approve the expenditure of up to \$850,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the church parking lot for the following improvements:

- Replacement of HVAC in Sanctuary, Parlor, Fellowship Hall and Office/Education Wing
- Lavatory improvements
- Current elevator lift upgrade/motor
- Replacement or repair of windows in Office/Education wing
- Repair attic ceiling in Office/Education wing
- Electrical improvements previously approved and funds advanced by church, to be reimbursed from proceeds of sale as soon as practicable after closing
- Related legal, architectural, engineering, consulting, general contracting and subcontracting services and materials

\*The line item "Coverings over stained glass windows" was struck from the motion presented to the congregation. Jeff Hetzer seconded the motion. Motion carried: 1 no, 0 abstentions.

Jeff Jacobs discussed interim parking instructions and provided a handout. Regular church time pick-up will be adjusted to include Adult Education.





### **Richmond PrideFest September 22nd**

St. John's Church will have a booth at the annual Richmond PrideFest event on September 22nd, a celebration of the area's LGBT community, which it will share with the other two local UCC congregations. Volunteers are needed to help staff the table from 12-6 pm. If you are able to take a shift, please contact Marcie Agee at [Marcie.Agee@gmail.com](mailto:Marcie.Agee@gmail.com) or (516) 425-0465.

### **175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

St. John's will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the first weekend in October. Planned activities include a "Reunion" happy hour on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>; a GermanFest bratwurst dinner with all the fixing and the usual oom-pah band on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>; and a special anniversary worship service on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. A silent auction is also under consideration, so please start thinking about whether you have appropriate items, services or expertise to donate or share (such as special breads, cakes or pies; weekends or weeks at a vacation home; catered meals; historical tours; painting, woodworking or DIY lessons or services; etc.). We need someone to help coordinate member donations and solicit local businesses, so if you are able to help with the auction, the dinner or other anniversary activities, please contact Jeff Jacobs at [jwjacobs9@gmail.com](mailto:jwjacobs9@gmail.com) or (202) 361-9887.

### **Stewardship Reminder and In-Kind Contributions**

With summer vacations coming to an end, now is a good time to bring your outstanding pledge contributions up to date. This may also be a good time to consider switching to the convenience of electronic giving, either through automatic checking account debit or credit card payment. In addition, we would like to keep better track of the tremendous generosity of our members in providing in-kind contributions of food, supplies and services to support various church ministries and activities. This will help us in budgeting and also enable you to have such contributions included on your annual church donation tax statement. In-kind contribution forms are available from the church office or in the adjacent copy room. If you have any questions, please contact Finance Chair Jeff Hetzer or Stewardship Chair Jeff Jacobs.

### **Parking Lot Sale Update**

The permitting process for construction of a new apartment building in the church parking lot is nearly complete and closing on the sale of the parking lot is expected in the next several weeks. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Congregation heard a report from the Trustees on the pending transaction and voted to approve construction of an initial \$850,000 worth of church improvements, to be paid for out of the parking lot sale proceeds. Those present showed in a survey a clear desire to prioritize replacement of the church's HVAC system and upgrade the current lift/elevator, with additional but lesser support for repair/replacement of the education wing windows, electrical improvements, and lavatory upgrades. Details on the interim parking arrangements, which go into effect this Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

# New Parking Plan Begins August 5<sup>th</sup>



Sunday parking is available at the VCU deck located at Broad and Hamilton Streets. You will receive a ticket to access parking. Shuttle service will be available 1 hour before service to transport members

and guests from the parking lot to church and at the church following service and coffee hour. At church you will be given a bar code to use as you exit the parking lot, so you do not pay for parking. Parking is also available on Sundays from 7 am to 2 pm on the island side of Monument Avenue.

**Until the fence is put up, if you park in the lot for service, you will not be towed.**

For more information, please call the church office at  
(804) 358-9291



Expiration Date: 06/30/2019 11:59:59 PM

Validation Number: WB-603

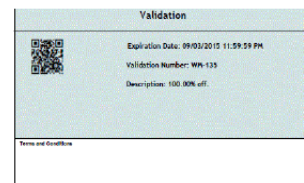
Description: 100.00% off.

### Steps to Using a QR Code:

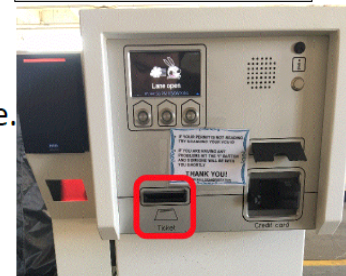
1. When coming into the deck press the button on the machine to receive an entry ticket.



2. Obtain a copy of the QR Code while at the church.



3. When exiting the deck reinsert the entry ticket into the machine so it can calculate time spent and the associated fee.



4. Scan your QR Code on the scanner just left of the machine.



5. If you are experiencing problems and there is no attendant nearby, please hit the "I" button and someone from our 24/7 Command Center will be with you shortly.











Lawns and gardens are getting a good soaking this week. The rain may dampen some summer plans but we should be grateful that the earth is being watered in our area. Would that rainfall would be more evenly distributed around the globe. For that matter, would that wealth would be more evenly distributed, too. (sigh!) Our summer worship continues rain or shine, parking lot or no parking lot - and also when our Pastor is on vacation.

While Pastor Linda is enjoying a change of scenery and a break from us, she has left our worship in good hands. **On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Lana Heath de Martinez will be our guest preacher.** Lana received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary where her studies focused on Theology, Ethics, Social Justice and Community Organizing. She was on the board and staff of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. She served as VICPP's first "Welcoming All" coordinator. In this role, Lana promoted public policies in Virginia that welcome immigrants and people of various faiths. She has been engaged in "organizing faith communities to support sanctuary policies in localities, congregations and schools statewide while pushing back against hate crimes and discriminatory rhetoric." Her presence in our pulpit could not be timelier! You won't want to miss her important message for the church in these soul-trying times.

**On August 19<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Beverly Lindsey will preach and lead worship and her husband, Charlie will be our guest soloist.** Focusing on Solomon's gift of wisdom, Beverly's sermon topic will be "Leadership by listening." An ordained UCC Pastor, Beverly felt called to leave a 17-year career in banking and follow in the footsteps of her father and grandfather who were both Pastors. She served as Pastor of the Congregational and Baptist Church (UCC & ABC) of Chester, NH for 20 years until retiring in 2014. She has been active in denominational, ecumenical and interfaith associations and served as Moderator for 2 different UCC Associations. Beverly holds a Bachelor degree in Music Education from Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC and a MDiv degree from Andover Newton Theological School. In our church, she serves on the Worship and Music Committee, sings in the choir, volunteers as a teller, liturgist, CROP Walk recruiter and with CARITAS intake.

*Come, receive refreshment for your souls! Come and worship!*



# Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for August is Feedmore, Inc.

Feedmore is the core hunger relief organization for Central Virginia serving children, families and seniors. They have a regional Food Bank, Community Kitchen and Meals on Wheels all under one organization. This makes them very unique. Most hunger organizations do not provide such a variety of services.

## **Feeding Children**

Kids Café supplies nutritious snacks and evening meals to existing after school and summer programs. They work with organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, the Salvation Army, YMCA. The summer food program insures that children do not go hungry when school is not in session. Along with this is the Back Pack Program, which covers low income kids on weekends.

## **Feeding Families**

The distribution center collects and distributes food and grocery products across 29 counties and 5 cities in Central VA. The more than 300 partner agencies include emergency shelters, rehab and senior centers, soup kitchens, food pantries and child care centers.

## **Feeding Seniors**

Feedmore's Meals on Wheels program delivers up to 3 meals each day to homebound elderly and disabled adults. They serve 10 counties and 4 cities. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program supports seniors' nutritional needs by providing wholesome food to low income seniors who are at risk of malnutrition due to their inability to pay for quality food.

Please support Feedmore in this vital mission. Checks should be made out to St. John's UCC, indicate Feedmore on the memo line.

# SUMMERTIME

@ St. John's

## Summer Suppers with Friends

**UPDATE!!!** The Summer Party hosted by Jeff Jacobs and Carter Doswell is at full capacity. If you have signed up and do not plan on attending, please contact Jeff as

soon as possible. The Summer Party will be held on Sunday, August 12th at 5:00 p.m. at Jeff and Carter's home located at 3 Calycanthus Road, Richmond, Virginia 23221, 202-361-9887. If you missed this one, you can sign up for the next Summer Party on **Saturday, August 25th at 5 pm, at the home of Richard and Betsy Bighinatti** (12612 Lakestone Drive, Midlothian, VA 23114) Please check with each host to see what they would like you to bring for the dinner at least a week before! I hope you can join us. There are sign-up sheets in the parlor or you can call the host directly to sign-up. Please check with each host as to what they would like you to bring for the dinner to share at least a week before! There are many different activities in Richmond during the summer. If you see events or activities that others may be interested in attending, please contact Betsy and we will get the word out.

**"The Fellowship"** will meet for lunch on Thursday, August 9th, 1 pm, at Terraza Restaurant located at 6115 Staples Mill Road, Richmond, VA 23228. You are invited to join us. For more information contact Dorothy Cook at 675-9269 or Lynda Merry at 756-0270.

## Faith Night at the Diamond

Faith Night at the Diamond will be held **Thursday, August 9th at 6:15 PM**. Tickets are \$11.00 per person and we will be in a reserved section so we can all be together. Our name will be on the large board at the Diamond. If you are interested, Betsy Bighinatti will be taking orders for tickets and you must pay in advance. There are many different activities going on all around Richmond this summer. If you see any that you think might be of interest, please let us know and we will get the word out! Congregational Life & Care meets on the second Tuesday of the month and you are invited to join you as we continue to care for the needs our Congregation.



This Year's CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **September 16th**. Now is the time for walkers to begin signing up. To register go to:

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/richmondva>

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world!



**AN EARLY REMINDER!!!**  
*11:00 AM Worship Service will  
resume on September 9th*





LIVE PREGAME  
MUSIC PROVIDED BY A  
FAITH BASED BAND

PLAYER TESTIMONIALS

POST-GAME  
FIREWORKS!

GROUP  
TICKET PRICES:

FIELD LEVEL: \$11

TERRACE LEVEL: \$8

GENERAL ADMISSION:  
\$5.50

\*PRICING IS FOR  
GROUPS OF 20  
PEOPLE OR MORE

# 2018

## FAITH NIGHT

### AT THE DIAMOND

3001 N. BOULEVARD  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230

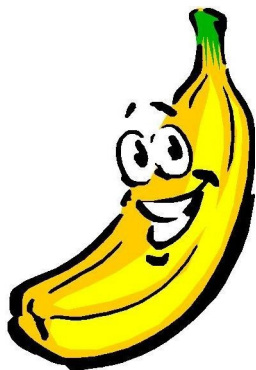
THURSDAY, AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>

GATES OPEN: 5:30PM

GAME TIME: 6:35PM

[WWW.SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM](http://WWW.SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP, CONTACT GARRETT ERWIN  
804.359.3866 X 327 OR [GARRETT.ERWIN@SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM](mailto:GARRETT.ERWIN@SQUIRRELSBASEBALL.COM)



## The Banana Returns...

We need volunteers for liturgist on August 19 and 26 and Fellowship Hosts for August 5, 12, and 26! Remember- we have the plates, napkins, cups, lemonade mix, coffee/sugar/creamer, and cookies- all you need to provide is a fruit or vegetable. Please e-mail me if you can fill in any of these positions. Thank you in advance! Kate Schaefer, Head Banana  
Contact me @ [kate.m.schaefer@gmail.com](mailto:kate.m.schaefer@gmail.com)



**SAVE THE DATE!! October 19-21, 2018** St. John's will have its Women's Retreat at Kiptopeke State Park. More details will be forthcoming. If you would like more information and to indicate your interest in participating contact **Helena DeLigt @ [hdeligt@comcast.net](mailto:hdeligt@comcast.net)**. Please let us know as soon as possible of your intent to participate so enough space can be reserved.

**In honor of the men and women  
who have served in the U.S. military...**

Co-hosted by the Richmond VA Medical Center and the City of Richmond

### Veterans & Family Resource and Employment Fair



at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center  
1201 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond, VA 23249

- Job recruiters from corporate and community based organizations will be onsite.
- Check status of claims and file service connection claims
- Learn about resources for Veterans and their families.
- Speak with representatives from federal, state & local government.
- Family oriented event with Car Show, Food, and Entertainment!!!



**Saturday, August 18, 2018**  
**rain or shine** 10 am to 2 pm

free and open to the public

Contact Tina Brown at 804-675-6342, Yvette Jones at 804-646-3054 or John Korusek 804-385-4850 for more information



Office of the Deputy Chief  
Administrative Officer for Human  
Services

Office on Aging & Persons with  
Disabilities and the Office of  
Community Wealth Building



**VA**  
**HEALTH**  
**CARE**

Defining  
**EXCELLENCE**  
in the 21st Century

**If you have served in the U.S. military, please plan to attend.**  
**Job Seekers – Bring your resume!!!**

# Come see *Free to Ride*

1-3 p.m. Tuesday, August 21

Mt. Gilead Full Gospel International Ministries

2501 Mt. Gilead Blvd., 23235

It is a critical and powerful time for enhancing public transportation in metro Richmond. To help keep this momentum rolling, [The Isaiah Project](#) is holding a screening and discussion of *Free to Ride*, a documentary about faith communities working to enhance public transportation in Dayton, Ohio, as a civil rights issue. You can [see the trailer here](#). During the discussion, we will also have an update on public transit in metro Richmond today and ways we can help bring the benefits of regional transit to fruition so that people can reach what they need to thrive.

Please [RSVP for this event here](#), and invite others you think might be interested.

Grace and Peace!



- Isaiah 58:12

[The Isaiah Project](#) is an initiative of clergy and faith communities across metro Richmond to pray, educate, organize, and advocate for regional public transportation.

For more info, please email:

[isaiahproject@richmondhillva.org](mailto:isaiahproject@richmondhillva.org).



# Free To Ride

A Kirwan Institute Documentary Film



The Fight for a Route Across the  
Hidden Boundaries of Privilege



[Instagram.com/FreeToRideFilm](https://www.instagram.com/FreeToRideFilm)

[Twitter.com/FreeToRideFilm](https://twitter.com/FreeToRideFilm)

[Vimeo.com/KirwanInstitute](https://vimeo.com/KirwanInstitute)



[dciff-indie.org](http://dciff-indie.org)



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

KIRWAN INSTITUTE FOR THE  
STUDY OF RACE AND ETHNICITY

[KirwanInstitute.osu.edu/FreeToRide](http://KirwanInstitute.osu.edu/FreeToRide)

# August Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	August 5 Team 1	August 12 Team 2	August 19 Team 2	August 26 Team 3
<b>Welcome Team Leader</b>	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder	Bill Watson
<b>Sound System</b>	David Pittman	Will Atkinson	Will Atkinson	Bruce Miller
<b>Tellers</b>				
<b>Liturgist</b>	Dreama Terrill	Sarah Allen		
<b>Facilities</b>	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer	Bill Watson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Dorothy Cook Helen Bunch
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>			Laura Totty	
<b>Altar Flowers</b>				

**Teller Coordinator:**

Bud Higgins  
804-301-5059

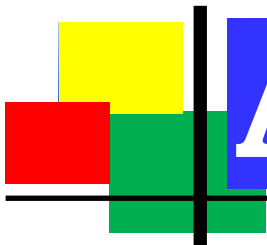
**Fellowship Host Coordinator:**

Kate Schaefer  
804-239-2871

Celebrating a special occasion?  
Honoring a loved one?



*Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!*



# AUGUST 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 1	3	4
5 10 am Worship	6	7 5:30 pm <i>Finance Meeting</i>	8 6:30 pm <i>Mission &amp; Outreach Meeting</i>	9 1 pm The Fellowship @ Terraza Restaurant 6:15 pm <i>Faith Night @ The Diamond</i>	10 Pastor Linda begins Vacation through August 21st	11 .
12 10 am Worship Lana Heath de Martinez Guest Preacher  5 pm <i>Summer Party home of Jeff &amp; Carter</i>	13 6:30 pm <i>Church Council Meeting</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship The Rev. Beverly Lindsey Guest Preacher	20	21	22	23	24	25 5 pm <i>Summer Party home of Richard &amp; Betsy Bighinatti</i>
26 10 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

**August**  
*Birthdays*

9	Deniz Michel	22	James Cook
9	Vivian White	22	Don Warren
13	Ginna M. Dalton	23	Josh Lyle
16	Dreama Terrill	23	Jennifer Martin
16	Lydia Woods	26	Jeff Michel
20	Ray Pollard		
22	Adrianne Dery		