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The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church

A Prayer for October

New Month, New Day, New Date, New Chapter, and New Life! May this month bring you happiness, satisfaction, peace, and victory. May the GOD of Joy fill your mind with true happiness beyond material possessions for the joy of the Lord is your strength. May all the desires of your heart be granted, stay strong, be positive and fulfill your dreams with courage, faith, and trust in GOD. You shall conquer everything you desire. May the Lord bring many blessings to you, your friends, and your loved ones. In Jesus Holy Name, AMEN.



The Lamplighter

The Newsletter of Emmanuel United Methodist Church!



OCTOBER 2023

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CAN YOU HELP?

Share your talents at Emmanuel by sharing the Word as a Scripture Reader during our Sunday Service! *Help for a single Sunday or choose several.* You choose how many Sundays you are able to help. Just email the office at office@eumcbeltsville.com and they will let you know which weeks are available! *No experience needed! We will train you on the job!*

Do you have something for our newsletter? Send items to the editor, Rick Bergmann at lamplighter@eumcbeltsville.com



A Call To Prayer and Fasting

At the beginning of the New Year, the congregation of Emmanuel UMC (Beltsville) participated in the Wesleyan Covenant Renewal service, which included this Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition:

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Although traditionally, this prayer has been used by the modern church in January, historically the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer was first used in the Summer. Methodist co-founder John Wesley held a covenant renewal service in London, England with approximately 1800 worshippers on Monday, August 11, 1755 (for the renewal of the believers' covenant with God). That original prayer from that first service was adapted for continual use in the lives of Methodists and even other Christian traditions.

The prayer is not simply powerful for our "annual renewal," but can serve as an anchor for our daily prayers and devotionals. In addition to prayer, Wesley practiced fasting weekly: *For a portion of John Wesley's ministry, he advocated fasting on both Wednesday and Friday each week as a regular spiritual discipline. Most Anglicans fasted on Fridays, and in 1739 John Wesley advocated Friday fasting for Methodists. He would begin fasting on Thursday night and ended the fast at 3 p.m. on Friday. Some have modified this fasting further to refrain from food from noon-3:00 p.m. Wednesdays and/or Fridays, which comes down to a personal choice.*

Continued on next page

A Call To Prayer and Fasting continued from previous page

Fasting is a personal matter of choosing to deliberately refrain from certain foods and activities. When we choose to fast and pray, we seek God's strength, wisdom, and direction.

In this season of transition in the life of the church, let us all commit to fast once a week (as we are able), uplifting prayers for our church, others, and ourselves.

Even if we all are not able to fast weekly, we all able to pray, and I invite each of us to pray daily:

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer for Today

I was once mine. From this point forward, I am Yours.

Make clear my purposes in life.

Place me among my loved ones and expand my heart to love all.

Help me to think the things You want me to think,

say the things You want me to say,

and do the things You want me to do,

even if it means I am belittled, ignored, or criticized.

Give me people to encourage, serve, and love.

Give me times of peace and rest so I can love and be loved by You.

Let me be a light to a dark world so people can see You working in me.

Make me humble and remind me that everything I have is because of You.

Thank You for times of happiness and prosperity; they are a gift.

Thank You for Your presence and promise in days of sadness and hardship.

I emerge stronger and wiser.

Let me discover, embrace, and fulfill Your will for my life.

With joy and in fullness, I give my possessions, my time, and my energy to You and to Your purposes.

Almighty, holy, and blessed God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are my true love and I am Yours.

And so it is. Let the covenant I am making here on earth be acceptable and pleasing to You. Amen.

Cooking with Pastor King: Sweet Potato Brownies



Ingredients:

1 large sweet potato (about 1 to 1-1/2 cups)

1/2 cup almond flour (NOTE: You can substitute all-purpose or GF flour; however, if you use self-rising flour, OMIT salt and baking powder)

1/2 cup cocoa powder

1/2 cup maple syrup (use honey, molasses, sugar, or regular syrup in a pinch) 1/4 cup melted coconut oil (butter, margarine, or vegetable oil)

1 tsp vanilla extract (almond, rum, mocha, or coffee)

1 tsp baking powder

1/4 tsp salt

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F and line a baking dish with parchment paper (wax paper or a plain brown paper bag will also do the trick).

2. Peel and chop the sweet potato into small pieces, then steam or boil until soft. NOTE: You can also microwave a WHOLE potato until soft.

3. Mash the sweet potato in a bowl until smooth.

4. Add the almond flour, cocoa powder, maple syrup, melted coconut oil, vanilla extract, baking powder, and salt to the bowl with the sweet potato. Mix well until smooth (use a hand mixer for best results)

5. Fold in the chocolate chips or chopped nuts, if using.

6. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish and smooth out the top with a spatula.

7. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until a toothpick or knife inserted into the center comes out clean.

Allow the brownies to cool in the pan for at least 10 minutes before cutting and serving.



Lay Servant Lectern: October 2023 Edition

By Ricky Whitecotton



Greetings Sisters and Brothers! Eighth in a series. In this edition, I will describe IFD-165 “Rediscovering Your Spiritual Gifts”, the instructor was Rev. Beth Perry whom I have mentioned in the past. This is the last class required for a Lay Speaker Certification. This was my goal; thus, this is the current end of my training and a return to learning by experience. There is a requirement, once certified, to take a refresher advanced course every three years. I find most people take them more often. There is a long list of possible courses that satisfy this requirement. It is extremely diverse and new offerings are brought in each year.

Here is the brief description of the course from the Be A Disciple website:

All participants in the Body of Christ depend on the spiritual gifts God has given them. Those gifts differ but they provide the foundation for whatever ministry we do. Learn more about your spiritual gifts – and how to help your congregation learn more about theirs – in this two-week course. Participants will interact via online discussions, journals, and videos throughout the two weeks. Participants are also expected to read the Discipleship Resources book, *Each One a Minister*, by William J. Carter. It is highly recommended that you acquire and read the book before the online course begins.

A description of the instructor from the website:

Rev. Beth Perry took her first Spiritual Gifts Inventory in the late 1980’s. Around the turn of the century, she taught her first group of clergy about spiritual gifts and led her first congregations to explore their gifts. Since 2013, she has brought those decades of experience to almost 2000 participants as the instructor for Rediscovering Our Spiritual Gifts with BeADisciple.com. Several of her courses are approved as advanced courses in Lay Servant Ministries and meet requirements towards lay speaker status. Rev. Perry came from the laity, and started as a Lay Speaker long ago, she has held various roles including ordained clergy and local church pastor.

There was, of course, an extensive self-inventory as a part of the training. I will comment (as I did to the instructor) that I seem to get different results, although similar, each time I take one of these inventories. I related it to the MMPI (Minnesota Multi-Phasic Inventory which I have taken several times and had identical results and the Meyers-Briggs which has shown very little differentiation across several times I have taken that inventory. My results THIS TIME were: Helps and Support tied for first spot, and Teaching as a second (or third) place. Teaching always seems to be near the top and something to denote helping also. So, this was not a surprise and is how I tend to approach interaction, work, volunteering, virtually everything. So, I am very much at peace all things considered.

My columns will be perhaps more sporadic, I await further requests. I will note that Rick Bergman and I are re-starting the Bible study on September 20. Rick intends to conduct both an online session and in person. I hope to find some of you in attendance. If you want more information on the Lay Servant program, please ask me! May God continue to richly bless you all!

Ricky



Join us on Sunday mornings in hybrid worship in person or through Zoom. Worship begins at 10 am.

Use this link if you wish to attend virtually:

<https://zoom.us/j/97839889289?pwd=YzUxZjJKTzUybTJnZEt4UC9qTkI4QT09> or go to zoom.us and click join a meeting.

The meeting number is 978 3988 9289. The Password is EUMC

You can call in on any telephone (cell or landline) at 1-301-715-8592

If you're calling on the telephone the information is

Meeting ID: 978 3988 9289 Passcode: 479360



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Mission Outreach Sunday, October 15, 2023

Your donations support the following organizations:

- Salvation Army
- Epworth House Mission project
- Pam Randall Memorial book program
- Scholarship Fund - BWC
- Fish of Laurel - Elizabeth House
- Emmanuel college student love offering

Donations should be made out to Emmanuel United Methodist Women (EUMW)
 Attention Jane Grays on envelope
 Please send your donation by November 15 to
 11416 Cedar Lane
 Beltsville, MD 20705

Worship Through Giving: How Can I Give?

Online: You can now give online through Emmanuel's website at www.eumcbeltsville.com/giving or scan the QR Code below. This is a great way to keep up with your giving if you are out of town, are sick or if you can't come to church.

Through the Mail: You can mail your offering to the church. The address is 11416 Cedar Lane, Beltsville, MD 20705.



Please pray for our homebound

Glen and Pauli Colburn
Bob Humphrey
Ernie Kilbourne
Out of state: Lil Mizzer

Christian Love and Sympathy to

The families of Gwendolyn Lyles (friend of Sonia Kassambara), Chuck Apugo (Husband of Ugo Apugo, proprietor of the day care at Emmanuel), and Peggy Owland friend of the Uricks) who lost her husband



1. Rose Johnson, Abraham Scotland
2. John Cavallo
4. Erica Belshay
5. Cale Fuller
8. Kathy Rodeffer
9. Elizabeth Galloway
13. Lauren Fadely, Alexandra Butcher, Michael Hatton
15. Magdalena Elliott, Elizabeth Elliott
16. Jonayn Hicks
17. Glendy Hernandez
18. Madison Cruz
19. Kathy Mellott, Tammy White
22. Kell Jones, Mary Plantholt
24. Patricia Embrey, Janet Jones, Ruth Vaye
25. Mabel Claye
26. Pauli Colburn
27. Joyce Yarwood
31. Ronald Midkiff



-
4. Sallie Rhodes and Norman Beaver
 7. Mary Jane and Dan Kenyon



August 4, 2023

Dear Friends of GYTTE:

We are always amazed how God uses your lives to support this ministry. We are very grateful for your donations, prayers, love and friendship. We have been quite busy since our last newsletter and we want to share our activities with you.

- We have been visited by 7 different schools from Huehuetlan, Chietla, Chiautla, Buena Vista de Juarez, Axochiapan and the University of Puebla; for day-long trainings at the "Tree of Life" Center.



- We had a Fuel efficient mud stove workshop at Papalotla, Tlaxcala. The Hernández Family was very excited to learn about this appropriate technology, so they can teach about it to their community.

- From March 12-18 we had an Intermediate Health Course. 21 women from different communities were trained.



- Our Health team, Betzy and Panchita, various health promoters and a Church and Faith team participated with two different Medical Teams. They went to Tochimizolco, Puebla and Ixtepec, Puebla - this is an indigenous community.



- From May to July we had four Regional Meetings in Puebla, Amaxac de Guerrero, Tlancualpicán, Zacapoaxtla; and one by zoom. They learned about Gender Equity.



- From July 19 to 21, we had a Dry Composting Toilet workshop. Our staff went to Tizostoc, Tlaxcala to teach people how to build this ecological toilet.



- From July 24 to 29 we had a group of 6 people from Chiapas, Virginia and Haiti. They learned how to build Dry Composting Toilets and Fuel Efficient Mud Stoves. This was an incredible team who are anxious to teach these appropriate technologies in their own communities.

We praise God for all the work we have

done but especially for your generosity which makes it all possible. Qué Dios los bendiga!!!

Nan, Miguel, Cata, Clara and our whole GYTTE team.



Clowns steal the show in UpStage Artists' 'The 39 Steps'

The play is two hours of silly, slapstick humor disguised as a murder mystery and international spy thriller.

By Andy Arnold (originally posted on DCTheaterarts.org)



Neil Swanson-Chrisman (Clown), Colleen Isaiah (Clown), Joey Rollandelli (Richard Hannay), Nancy Somers (Pamela/Annabella/Margaret), Om Vardhan (Stage Hand), and Jill Robinson (Stage Hand) in 'The 39 Steps.' Photo by Rick Bergmann.

If you are bored and need some excitement, Richard Hannay has your cure. Head out to one of the remaining UpStage Artists presentations of *The 39 Steps*. The play is two hours of silly, slapstick humor disguised as a murder mystery and international spy thriller.

Joey Rolandelli, Nancy Somers, Neil Swanson-Chrisman, and Colleen Isaiah are nearly flawless in 33 scenes, numerous set and costume changes — including some in front of the audience — 78 sound cues and multiple light changes — including in one scene strobe lighting.

“The biggest challenge in directing *The 39 Steps* is how to keep the comedy light, yet so broad, while not losing the mystery at the center of the story to the comedy,” Director Rick Bergmann said in his director’s note. “There is an adage that if a director casts the right people, his job is done for him. I am very blessed to have cast the right people.”

The script was adapted by Patrick Barlow from the 1915 novel by John Buchan and the 1935 Alfred Hitchcock film. One doesn’t need to have seen the movie to appreciate the accomplishment of this show. Some moments are laugh-out-loud funny.

One of the things that bore Hannay (Rolandelli) is the newspaper stories of “elections and wars and rumors of wars.” He wants to escape, so Hannay goes to the Palladium. A Mati Hari-type blonde bombshell (Somers) invites herself to his table during Mr.

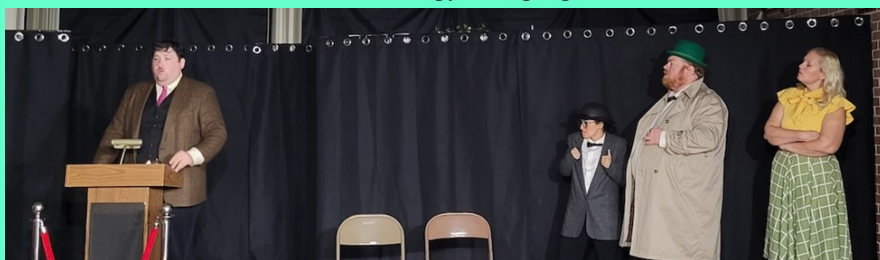
Memory’s (Isaiah) act.

Within a question or two, Annabella Schmidt (Somers) fires a pistol to scramble the room and asks Hannay to take her home with him. Somers plays three beautiful women who either use Hannay or fall for him. The play moved so fast that I couldn’t keep up with his love problems. He is also attempting to avoid arrest and save the world.

Rolandelli’s character is introduced in an undersized vest and tweed jacket that begs “go ahead and laugh.” As radio bulletins mention his “handsome” and later “rugged” mustache, he often gleams. He understands not all the bobbies after him — or them in the second act as he is helplessly paired with Margaret — are from Scotland Yard.

The “clowns” steal the show. Isaiah and Swanson-Chrisman are paired together in several roles and even share the role of Professor Jordan.

Isaiah is a beautiful ball of energy bringing welcome excitement to community theater.



Joey Rolandelli, Colleen Isaiah, Neil Swanson-Chrisman, and Nancy Somers in 'The 39 Steps.' Photo by Rick Bergmann.

As the evil professor, she shoots Hannay in the chest after moving from a wheelchair-bound Scot professor to a German-sounding disciple of a master race after a vain attempt to lure Hannay to the other side.

A Scot sheriff, from southern Scotland, holds Hannay for Scotland Yard. However, when the copper (Swanson-Chrisman) tries to handcuff Hannay, a scuffle ensues while the sheriff is on the phone with her bestest buddy in the county — the evil professor — and Hannay escapes. The hero

not only escapes, but he takes the window with him. Try following that.

Later, Jordan (now Swanson-Chrisman) shoots Mr. Memory before he can answer a question about *The 39 Steps*. The MC who introduced Mr. Memory (Swanson-Chrisman) carried his little buddy off stage, as he did when the shot rang out at the first performance.

Isaiah and Swanson-Chrisman also play elderly Scottish innkeepers who give Hannay and a plus-one a room thinking they are husband and wife. They are handcuffed together and on the run from the police and “the police.” When the innkeeper’s wife leads the couple to the room or brings room service, she shuffles in with a smile and sighs. She shuffles out stopping for another smile and sigh before exiting.

Bergmann and Stage Manager Joanne Breen morph chairs, a coat hanger, and curtains into the interior of a speeding train, or a cluster of folding chairs and a small podium into a getaway car. By the play’s end, you’ll have nearly forgotten the show’s set and spartan lighting by Harsha Vardhan. Bergmann handles the sound and includes some miscues for laughs.

History of Hymns: 'Open Our Eyes, Lord'

By Ryan Giraldi

“Open Our Eyes, Lord”

by Bob Cull

The Faith We Sing, 2086

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*Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.
Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.
Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus*

“They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request, ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we would like to see Jesus.’” (John 12:21, NIV)

Songwriter Robert Marcus Cull (b. 1949) was born in Los Angeles, California. His parents encouraged him to begin piano study at age six, and he soon began playing music in his church. Cull learned to play more than a dozen instruments. He attended Southern California College (now Vanguard University of Southern California), Costa Mesa, an Assemblies of God institution. During college, Cull attended campus concerts that included songwriters and performers from the emerging Jesus Movement— Andraé Crouch and Pat Boone. He also attended events at the nearby Calvary Chapel that featured this style of worship music.

Cull joined the Accents, a group dedicated to performing new Christian songs published Maranatha! Music. This publisher released Cull’s first two albums in the early 1970s. Cull was married to Joy Strange, a singer with Maranatha! Music and the Christian band, Parable. They recorded four albums together between 1979 and 1984 before their divorce.

Cull became the pastor of Midcoast Country Chapel, Wiscasset, Maine, from which he retired in September 2014. The congregation has since closed.

Maranatha! Music Publishing was founded in 1971 by Chuck Smith (1927–2013) as a nonprofit outreach of his church, the Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa (or CCCM). Today, Calvary Chapel is an association of autonomous non-denominational evangelical churches worldwide. Historically, Calvary Chapel became a spiritual home for members of the Jesus Movement or “Jesus Freaks” and the musical style they developed.

The Jesus Movement was a response to two groups: hippies and evangelicals. While these two groups might seem incompatible, both consisted of people who did not feel represented by the broader Christian community. Some who had embraced the hippie lifestyle felt their lives remained unfulfilled in some way. Congruently, some evangelicals felt the exclusionary attitudes of other Christians were not in the spirit of their faith. This sentiment resulted in a more inclusive evangelicalism. While CCCM adhered to most traditional evangelical doctrines, they saw no reason to exclude groups of people who felt rejected by the mainline church. They focused on growing their community and bringing more people to the faith. Music played a pivotal role in this message. Calvary Chapel adopted the musical styles and forms of their new congregants and, in the process, added to the canon of congregational song.

Cull describes the context for the composition of “Open Our Eyes, Lord”: I was touring in Hawaii as a soloist and had been invited to a parochial school to give a concert. I just assumed I would find a lot of Christians there since it was run by a religious organization. I arrived early for the concert, which was to be held for one hour in the middle of the day. I wanted to walk around and get acquainted with some of the people and talk about Jesus with them. I talked with every faculty member I could find, and none of them wanted to talk about Jesus. . .

About thirty minutes prior to the concert, I was sitting at the piano thinking, if nobody wants to hear about Jesus, then I will just bore them to death because that is all I am going to sing about. I’m going to sing love songs to him. I remember praying, “Lord, what we need to see is the real Jesus. There is this religious school, but nobody seems to know you.” Then suddenly, a simple little song fell into my head. I quickly put it on paper. It took about ten minutes to write it. I then sang [it] for that school gathering and for the very first time. (cited Terry, 2008, p. 197)

By the time Cull returned to his home church, Calvary Chapel, someone who had heard his song in Hawaii had brought it back and taught it to the California congregation. Maranatha! Music asked Cull to prepare orchestrations for a recording, Praise II (1976), and his song was on the list. (Cull, uncertain who introduced the song in California, had not given the publisher the song.) It has become his most widely sung and published composition.

Continued on the next page

History of Hymns continued from previous page



Bob Cull

“Open Our Eyes, Lord” grew in popularity through recordings and non-worship settings, slowly finding its way into the corpus of the wider church. It first appeared in *The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration* (1986), edited by Tom Fettke, and has been published in about twenty hymnals since then. Like most songs in the contemporary praise chorus model, “Open Our Eyes, Lord” is not a strophic hymn but a short refrain meant to be repeated. Its melodic stepwise motion and limited vocal range make it ideal for rote learning without using printed materials.

While the text of the hymn is quite simple, it connects the personal experience of faith with several biblical references, with the singers taking the roles of the blind man (Mark 8:23–26), the woman who touches the hem of Jesus’ robe (Luke 8:43–48), and the man who is deaf and mute (Mark 7:32–37). The use of blindness as a symbol for sin was likely a familiar theological metaphor for the song’s early listeners and performers. Musicians may want to use this metaphor more carefully in the twenty-first century due to its ableist implications. The Jesus Movement and the music it produced, such as the hymn “Open Our Eyes, Lord” and other praise songs, left a lasting impact on the development of music in

contemporary worship today.



THANK YOU!



Thank you to those who gave the message while Pastor was on Vacation in August!

Lynne Streeter Childress

Rev. Eva Clark

Ted Ladd

Ricky Whitecotton

Rev. Curtis King




Blessing of the Animals



Sunday October 1, 2023 at 11 am on the Front Lawn of Emmanuel!
Bring your dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, guinea pigs, snakes, lizards, fish, or any other pet you may have. **God says “For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine.” (Psalm 50)**

Be with us as we celebrate all God’s Creatures!

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Emmanuel is on Instagram! Follow @eumc_beltsville  Instagram</p> <p> Join us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/groups/EUMCBeltsville</p>			 <p>EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BELTSVILLE, MD <i>Life is a journey, don't travel it alone</i></p>			
<p>1 11am Blessing of The Animals 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>2 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p>	<p>3 Office closed</p>	<p>4 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>5 Office closed 7 pm ESL Classes (Virtual)</p>	<p>6 9:30-2:30 Office Hours</p>	<p>7 5 pm NA</p>
<p>8 10 am Worship 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>9 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 Office closed</p>	<p>11 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>12 Office closed 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 5 pm NA</p>
<p>15 10 am Worship 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>16 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 Office closed</p>	<p>18 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>19 Office closed 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 5 pm NA</p>
<p>22 10 am Worship 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>23 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 Office closed</p>	<p>25 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>26 Office closed 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 8 am Food Distribution 5 pm NA</p>
<p>29 10 am Worship 6 pm Boy Scouts in Chester Stewart Room</p>	<p>30 9:30-2:30 Office Hours 7 pm UpStage Artists Rehearsal</p>	<p>31 Office Closed Happy Halloween!</p>				