

**ST. PAUL
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**



**Newsletter Date:
December
2024**

Christmas MESSENGER

May God be with you all, the St. Paul UMC family and friends!

December has come, and we have this season of Advent that begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. It's a time of anticipation and spiritual reflection, where believers prepare for the coming of Christ. Advent is marked by the weekly lighting of Advent candles, with one candle lit on the first Sunday, two on the second, and so on. The color purple is traditionally used during Advent to represent royalty and penitence. Each Sunday, we light one candle. Each candle has a theme: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, in that order. Each theme is significant, but today, let's think about the third one, Joy.

On the third Sunday of Advent, we light pink candle. This pink candle has a special symbolic meaning that connects Advent, the season of waiting for the Lord's return, with Christmas, the celebration of the Lord's first coming. It is so that we may be assured that just as there was a Christmas when the Lord first came into the world, there will surely be a Christmas when Jesus comes again and that just as Christmas is a joyful and merry season, the day of our Lord's return will be even more joyous and merry. That "joy" is the real reason we wait for His return.

Christmas is the day our Lord was born into this world. He was sent by God Himself to give us true joy, the joy of salvation. This joy of salvation begins in the lives of those who receive and accept God's gift, and it will be complete when He returns. That's why we observe Advent now, waiting for Jesus's return. But instead of using Christmas as a time to look forward to this significant gift from God, people use it to look forward to what Santa Claus will bring them. They use it as an opportunity to pursue vain pleasures and...

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- December 5th— Open Our Doors / Sanctuary
- December 14th— Christmas Walk
- December 19th—Open Our Doors / Sanctuary
- December 21st—Longest Night Service
- December 22nd—Cantata
- December 24th— Christmas Eve Services
- December 25th— Christmas Day

ST. PAUL UMC VISION STATEMENT

"St. Paul United Methodist Church is a Christ-Centered family that offers H.O.P.E., by responding to God's love and grace as Christian disciples"



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... fun when they should be looking forward to choosing the Lord, accepting the Lord, and rejoicing in Him. But Santa Claus's gifts last only briefly - they'll be used once or twice and then forgotten. The fun of the world doesn't last long either - it happens only when we bring in the real special gift, Jesus, that we experience the absolute joy and satisfaction of a life that lasts forever.



Why do we remember and practice 'waiting' for the coming of the Lord? Only the Lord can complete the true joy of salvation because that is God's promise to us. May we be the ones who hold on to God's promise and wait with joy until our Lord comes again, tasting the true joy that our Lord gives, the kind of joy that the world can never take away.

May God bless you all and lead you to peace and comfort so that you can experience 'Joy' from above. Amen.

- From Rev. Myungha Baek



EVANGELISM COMMITTEE
MISSY LAUBER, CHAIR

Let's share the **Reason for the Season** at the **Solomons Christmas Walk!**
We're looking for cheerful volunteers to help spread Christmas joy by handing out hot chocolate, inviting our community to celebrate the season with us, and enjoying the festive atmosphere.

Saturday, December 14th
4:00–6:30 PM or 6:30–9:00 PM

This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and share the light of Christmas. For more details or to sign up, contact **Nerissa Curtin** in the church office.

Let's make this season bright together!



CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Saturday, December 21st
7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 22nd
9:15 am

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Family Service

Tuesday, December 24th
4:00 pm

Candlelight Services

Tuesday, December 24th
7:00 pm & 11:00 pm

2024

Year in Review

WORSHIP COMMITTEE BARB MILLER, CHAIR

January:

- * Covenant Renewal and Blessing of 2024 Leaders
- * Discipleship Sermons and Membership Vows

February:

- * Scout Sunday-11am service
- * Shrove Tuesday Pancakes and Ash Wednesday 7pm Service with ashes
- * Week 1 - 2 of Lent

March:

- * Weeks 3 - 5 of Lent
- * Rise Against Hunger
- * Palm Sunday
- * Maundy Thursday 7pm Communion Service
- * Good Friday SMILE Procession and Service at Olivet
- * Saturday Egg Hunt
- * Easter Sunday combined 10am service/5th Sunday/Butterflies and Tulips

April:

- * Guest Preachers and Lay Speakers during Pastor Baek's sabbatical: (Part 1) Rev. Trish Watson, Melvin Grover, & Everett Baker

May:

- * National Day of Prayer (Thursday)
- * Mother's Day
- * Spaghetti Dinner
- * Pentecost
- * Memorial Day

June:

- * Recognition of Graduates
- * Father's Day
- * VBS—Hero Hotline
- * Guest Speaker: Melvin Grover
- * 5th Sunday Combined Service

July:

- * Pastor's Sabbatical: (Part 2) Rev. Marianne Brown, Melvin Grover, Everett Baker
- * Special Musical Worship Service—Testimonies and Songs

August:

- * Pastor's Sabbatical: (Part 2, cont.) Rev. Trish Watson and Melvin Grover
- * Wind in our Sails
- * Backpack Blessing

September:

- * Church Yard/Rummage Sale
- * Grandparents' Day/Ice Cream Social
- * Back to Church Sunday
- * Welcome New Members
- * 5th Sunday Combined Service

October:

- * World Communion Sunday
- * Pastor Appreciation Sunday & Luncheon
- * Laity Sunday
- * Healing & Prayer Service
- * Children's Bible Presentations
- * Trunk or Treat

November:

- * Operation Shoebox Packing Party
- * All Saints Sunday
- * Veterans Day
- * Chili Cook-off



FINANCE
KAREN HILL, CHAIR

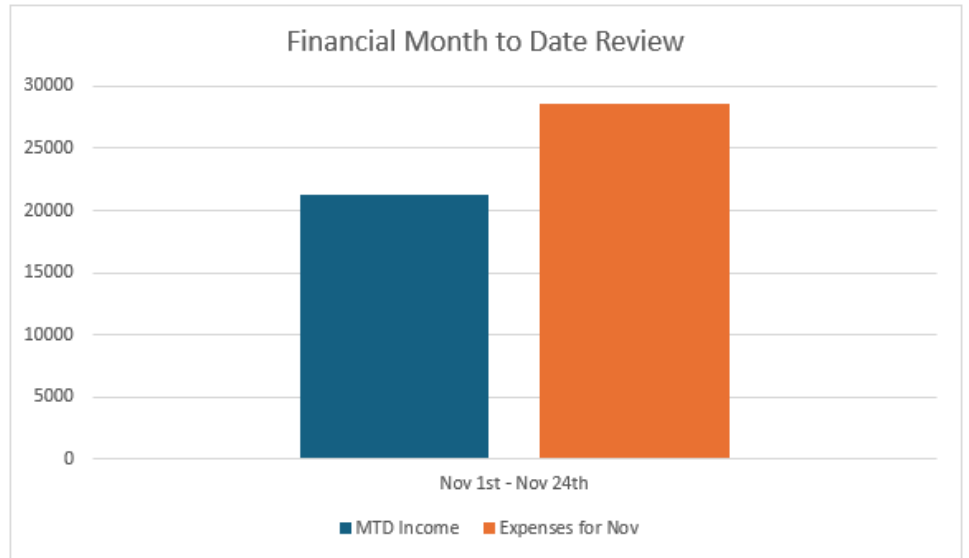
Income (w/Contributions)
\$21,282.68
Expenses
\$28,554.00
Attendance
61 (+6 online)

2024 Finance Summary by month will be available upon request.

2024 BUDGET = \$348,825

As a non-profit, the budget assumes unrestricted income and expenses are equal for a net income of \$0.

Expenses continue to be higher than income each month.



Year-End is not too far away.

Consider additional giving to St. Paul UMC General Fund or other Specific Mission planned event (such as Rise Against Hunger -2025).

We are grateful to everyone who turned in their

2025 Estimate of Giving Cards.

A total of **25 Giving Cards** were returned, and Pastor Baek consecrated them during the worship service on Sunday, November 24, 2024. Your continued faithfulness helps us plan for the year ahead as we continue to share God's love in our community. Thank you for being part of this vital work!

PRAYER COMMITTEE
BARB MACK, CHAIR

A special thank you to Elaine, Melvin, and Pastor Baek for all the care and attention they provided to share a wonderful Healing Service on October 24, 2024. For all those that came out and shared in this special event, thank you. May the Great Comforter our Healer of all Physicians bless and keep you in His loving care.

The first Open our Doors Thursday was on October 24, 2024, beginning at 6 am. The first opening shared the sanctuary with 5 members of St. Paul sharing time in prayer. The first two hours were spent with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in peace, prayer, and reflection. The next time the sanctuary was open November 7, 2024, 2 members of St. Paul shared time in prayer and celebration of our Lord and Savior. On the first and third Thursday of each month the sanctuary will be open for prayer, reflection, a chance to sit and simply relax uninterrupted with the Father. Give yourself the gift of moments to find peace in your heart so you can light your light and shine for the world to see this Christmas Season. Jack Greene is still seeking volunteers to be able to open different hours. Please contact Jack at 443-684-4568 or email jack.greene62@gmail.com. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Lights, verses, wooden creations, new items, last years items being pulled out of storage the Christmas Outdoor Presentation Committee is preparing to set the stage for the Christmas Walk at St. Paul -Lusby's campus. Anyone interested in sharing in the preparation please contact Steve Mack at mack2805170404@gmail.com. We hope you will walk the beginning days of Jesus' time here on Earth with us.

Christmas can be a very hectic time. A time that the Reason for the Season can get lost finding the perfect gifts and getting them wrapped, hosting and attending gatherings of family and friends, writing Christmas Cards, and a million other odds and ends. As you are doing all those wonderful things that make your Christmas Day special, please remember to pray over the gifts that you are so happy to share, as well as the family and friends you will be sharing them with, that God blesses each person that you are blessing. Please share time in prayer and celebration with our Lord that will give you peace to complete all your tasks. In thankfulness and celebration of the most wonderful gift of all, Jesus Christ our Lord, and Savior. We do not have Christmas without Christ. May you and yours have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

The Prayer Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Fellowship Hall (attached to the Church) at 12 noon, Please feel free to come and join us! Prayer is a gift freely shared and given.

***The Prayer Committee will meet again on
Wednesday, December 18th at noon in the Fellowship Hall.***





WHAT PRAYER CAN DO

Lelia's Elusive Request

THREE WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS, I took my four-year-old daughter, Lelia, to see Santa at the mall. Lelia and I lived with my mother, who was happy to look after her granddaughter while I was at my job. She even took her on little errands and outings. I was more fortunate than many single moms. We had everything we needed. Still, I was determined to get Lelia the one present she dreamed about. But what? She'd been keeping it a secret until she saw Santa.

Lelia climbed up into Santa's big, green velvet chair flanked by Christmas trees and super-size candy canes. "I know you've been good," Santa said, "What would you like for Christmas?"

Lelia didn't hesitate. "A big, fluffy bunny!" she said.

Aha! So that's what she wanted. How hard could it be to find a big, fluffy bunny?

Really hard, it turned out! Every day after work, I searched for store after store. I found plenty of stuffed animals, even a few rabbits, but none that said "big, fluffy bunny" to me. By the time I left work at 4:05 on Christmas Eve, I was desperate. On the drive over to a little Christmas store I'd heard about, I prayed, "Lord, I know there are so many needy kids this Christmas, but could you please help me find a big, fluffy bunny for my little girl?"

I left the store empty-handed and downhearted. Was a big, fluffy bunny a silly thing to bother God with on Christmas Eve?

I stopped off to see a friend for encouragement. She had an idea. "Try the Wicker Basket."

"My mother goes there all the time," I said. "I thought it was a craft store."

"They have some toys there too. In the back, I think. It's open till seven."

I glanced at the clock. It was after six. Luckily, the Wicker Basket was only a few blocks away.

I walked down aisles full of crafts, candles, knickknacks and toys, then took a left into an aisle crowded with stuffed animals. A veritable zoo of them. But no bunny. I was nearing the end of the aisle, my hopes fading. Where had my daughter gotten this crazy idea? Then, suddenly, there he was. At the back of the store, sitting in a toddler-size chair, too big to fit on shelf, was a huge fluffy bunny. *The bunny.*

I got home, excited, and motioned for Mom to come outside. "You can't believe what I found," I said, opening the trunk of the car.

"Oh, my goodness!" Mom gasped. Her hands flew to her mouth.

"What's wrong?" I said. "It's for Lelia. It's..."

"It's the bunny from the Wicker Basket!" Mom said. "Lelia saw it weeks ago and fell in love with it. She begged me to buy it for her. I told her to ask Santa-then forgot all about it."

So, Lelia got her bunny. I got my answer. No prayer is silly on Christmas Eve.



- SUSAN GREGORY, BUNNELL, FLORIDA

CARD MINISTRY
CAROL HOWARD, CHAIR



Thank you so much for the congregational support in preparing **288 cards** for the veterans at Charlotte Hall for **Veterans Day!** Now, we are looking for additional help to sign (and deliver, if interested) **300-320 holiday cards** for these men and women in time for **Christmas and Hanukkah** for our second annual “**Hands to Heart**” campaign. You will have a short amount of time but you will be given complete instructions in how to prepare them. Last year, they were met with great appreciation.

When the cards were delivered for Veterans Day, we were made aware of two additional programs the Veterans Home is conducting for the holidays: “Adopt a Resident” and a general collection of Wish List items. See more specific information about these two programs elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Card Ministry is looking for someone to join our committee and take over the veteran arm of our group. You would be responsible to plan and organize card distributions for the residents (this year we did 4). All materials would be provided. We are hoping to continue to be compassionate and responsive to our congregation by beginning the next phase of our mission which we envisioned last January. In order to do so, we will need additional hands so that we can continue to reach out beyond our church community. We rarely have in-person meetings and most of the work can be done at home on your own time. Please consider this opportunity to give back to the veterans who gave so much for us.

If you are interested in helping with the Christmas/Hanukkah cards, you have card or postage donations of any kind, or your heart is calling you to become a member of our committee, please text **Carol** at **301-672-5129** or see her after church. As always, thank you for the tremendous support you are giving this ministry. We will be providing a year-end report of our first year accomplishments (hopefully) in the February newsletter.



Thanks again for your support!



- 12/3 Kenzi Cornett
- 12/6 Ryan Weitzel
- 12/8 Donna Smith
- 12/10 Jesse Sampson
- 12/10 Michael Mulvey
- 12/15 Steve Mack
- 12/19 Sue Carver
- 12/19 Hoyt Ritter
- 12/20 Allison Pouncey
- 12/25 Jesus of Nazareth
- 12/29 Rick Miller
- 12/31 John Boyd



Adopt a Resident at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home

If you would like to adopt a resident and purchase them a special gift during this holiday season, don't hesitate to get in touch with Sade' Herbert at 301-884-8171 ext. 5143 or email Sade.herbert@pruitthealth.com



We are actively creating a personalized wish list for our residents here at CHVH. You will receive a number with their gender, likes, needs, and wants, but their names will remain anonymous. All gifts are due by December 15th, 2024.

Experience the most magical time of the year at Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Arts Center as the garden is transformed into a twinkling wonderland! Explore an enchanting world of glowing light sculptures, wondrous light installations, and fantastic photo ops around every corner.

Plus check out the Nightly Schedule to see the dates for fan favorites like the Holiday Train Display, Local Heroes Appreciation Nights, Santa Nights, the Lego Holiday Display and more!

Annmarie Garden in Lights opens Friday, Nov. 29th.

Tickets are on sale now! Learn more, see the full nightly schedule, and get your tickets here:

www.annmariegarden.org





Solomons Christmas Walk

DECEMBER 14, 2024
4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 4:00 PM | Christmas Caroling on Charles Street |
| 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Free professional pictures by 21FIVE Photography with the First State's Santa & letters to Santa at Solomons Mission Center |
| 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Free snow globe photo op & face painting at Solomons Mission Center. Vendor Village on the island & Princess appearances! |
| 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Hip Hop, Ballet & Tap Performances by Gracie's Guys and Gals Dance Studio, Elite Dance Company, LLC. MD & A Time to Dance |
| 6:30 PM | Solomons Christmas Walk Parade with Santa, Solomons VRSFD, Jeeps & local cheer squads! |
| 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM | Solomons Christmas Walk Boat Parade |




TUBA CHRISTMAS

A FREE CONCERT TO
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS
WITH YOUR FAVORITE
CAROLS PLAYED BY
MUSICIANS OF ALL AGES.

DECEMBER 14, 2024

PERFORMANCE STARTS AT 1 PM
OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA
225 ALEXANDER LANE
SOLOMONS, MD 20688



Let's celebrate together!

A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Hosted by
Lighthouse Fellowship Church

DECEMBER 14TH

St Leonard Volunteer Fire Department
1:00 - 5:00 PM
Christmas Play 1:30

200 Calvert Beach Rd., St. Leonard, MD
Parking in Field



WHY? STORYTIME

Where discovery begins—one story at a time!

Calvert Library Storytime is a fun way to help children prepare for kindergarten! It is also a place for caregivers to connect, share advice and be empowered with knowledge and skill to support your child's development.

KIDS:

- **Boost their language skills** with a splash of fun!
- **Expand their vocabulary** while sparking curiosity!
- **Dive into stories** that unlock imagination & understanding.
- **Discover** all kinds of tales and ideas to explore the world.
- **Build social skills** by joining in group adventures.
- **Sharpen listening and attention skills** that set them up for school success!

CAREGIVERS:

- **Find Just-Right Books:** Uncover stories that match your child's age, interests, and stage of wonder!
- **Make learning at home Exciting:** Learn playful read-aloud tricks to keep kids engaged and asking for more.
- **Boost Your Reading Superpowers:** Get fun, interactive reading tips to become an awesome reading mentor.
- **Librarian's help:** Explore recommended books and resources that align with your family's values and support your child's growth.

Find the day that works for you!

How can the Arc help you?

- * Advocacy * Autism Waiver * Behavioral Support Services
- * Case Management * Consistency and Coordination of Services
- * Day Program and Community Learning Services
- * Dedicated Transitioning Youth Specialist * Family Support Services
- * Personal Supports * People on the Go Southern Maryland
- * Residential Program * Vocational Support * Worships and Training

For more information, please contact:

Stacey Warner at swarner@arcsomd.org



GIFT CARDS

Every Sunday, food cards for Giant and Weis are available to purchase in the CLC. This assists in our operating budget.



LOST and FOUND

SPUMC has a "Lost and Found" basket stationed in the lobby of the Christian Life Center.

Contact the church office if you have any questions.

Food Drop Lusby is the 3rd Friday of every month at Middleham Parking lot by SMILE, starting at 9 AM. The Maryland Food Bank provides fresh food for packing and distribution. If you can grocery shop you can enjoy a morning making a difference. Distribution Drivers are also needed.

DONATIONS FOR "SMILE" FOOD PANTRY

Non-perishable grocery items are collected each month from our Christian Life Center (CLC).

Please place your donations in the box labeled for SMILE.

Project Echo and CareNet also have donation boxes to support the needs of those they serve.

More information is available in the Christian Life Center

Thank you for supporting our community missions.

Submissions for the January Messenger are due December 20th. Thank you.

St. Paul
United Methodist
Church

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410-326-4475

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Office Contacts & Information:

Senior Pastor.....Myungha Baek
PastorBaek@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Children and Youth Leader.....Sherry Mervine
cyleader@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Office Manager.....Nerissa Curtin
ncurtin@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Finance Manager.....Cindy Shippert
financemanager@stpaulumc-lusby.org

Church Custodian.....Missy Garber
missy.garber73@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3:15am - Worship (Service) @ Sanctuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classes/CLC</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:45pm - Women's Bible</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ Fellowship Hall 7pm - CS Committee Mtg/room 10 @</p>	<p>8am - Heartfelt/FH @ Fellowship Hall 6:15pm - Praise Band/room 15, CLC @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall 7:30pm - Scout Leaders Meeting/room. 10</p>	<p>8am - Open our Doors Thursday @ 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 7pm - Cub Scouts/room 10,11,12,13,14, 7pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8am - Trustees/FH @ Fellowship Hall 8am - Optimal Cub Bike Event/Pranking 10am - Girl Scouts Mtg/FH @ Fellowship</p>
<p>CUB SCOUTS CAMP TR/2CC @ ACTIVITY 3:15am - Worship (Service) @ Sanctuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classes/CLC</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:45pm - Women's Bible</p>	<p>10:30am - Faith Circle/Monthly/Library 4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8am - Heartfelt/FH @ Fellowship Hall 6:15pm - Praise Band/room 15, CLC @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:30pm - Finance Mtg/Library @ Library 6:30pm - Council Mtg/Library @ Library</p>	<p>8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>4pm - Christmas Walk</p>
<p>3:15am - Worship (Service) @ Sanctuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classes/CLC</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:45pm - Women's Bible</p>	<p>4:30pm - OLSS Basketball @ Activity 6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8am - Heartfelt/FH @ Fellowship Hall 12pm - Prayer Committee Mtg/FH @ 6:15pm - Praise Band/room 15, CLC @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8am - Open our Doors Thursday @ 7pm - CS Christmas Party/room</p>	<p>NEWS/STAFF Z/10/5 DUS 12pm - SPUMPS - Early Release & 5pm - SPUMPS Christmas Program/CLC 8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>7pm - Longest Night Service @</p>
<p>3:15am - CAINTATA - O Come, O Come, 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classes/CLC</p>	<p>10am - John Krause Christmas 6:45pm - Women's Bible</p>	<p>4pm - Christmas Eve Family Service @ 7pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT</p>	<p>8am - Heartfelt/FH @ Fellowship Hall 6:15pm - Praise Band/room 15, CLC @ 7pm - Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary @ 7:30pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8pm - AA/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>		
<p>SPUMPS CROSS - WINTER BREAK 3:15am - Worship (Service) @ Sanctuary 10:30am - Fellowship 10:45am - Sunday School Classes/CLC</p>	<p>6:45pm - Women's Bible</p>	<p>6:30pm - Bible Study/Library @ Library 7pm - BS Troop/FH @ Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>