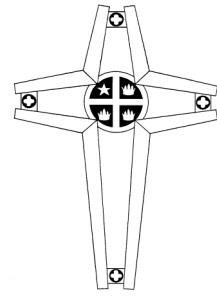


# The Star

The Monthly Newsletter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany  
An ELCA Congregation



Volume MMXXIII  
Number 8  
August 2023

God calls us to: "**Grow** our relationship with God,  
**connect** with each other, and **serve** the world."



Dear Epiphany Disciples,

Summer has been busy here at Epiphany. We've had our normal ministries. Every weekday I hear and see children learning and playing in our childcare center. Other groups, like our Widows Might group, meet to offer care and support for each other. Staff have been planning the fall season here at Epiphany and taking some time for a well-deserved rest.

We've also had a day camp with our friends at Augsburg, a night out at the ballpark with about 20 people from Epiphany, summer intergenerational VBS sessions, saying goodbye to and praying for God's blessings upon Vicar Christina, behind the scenes work on our upcoming capital campaign, and so much more. We're blessed to be an active community of faith and I'm thankful for the ways you've been a part of what God is doing at Epiphany!

As we head into August, I want to draw your attention to a couple of things:

-We'll be welcoming Liz Miller to Epiphany on Sunday, August 13. Liz is our new, half-time Director of Youth and Campus Ministries and comes to us after working at a local area non-profit for many years as a volunteer and operations manager. She has also worked with youth in other congregations and is excited to work on rebuilding our youth ministry at Epiphany and continuing to build our Lutheran college presence at Wake Forest.

In addition to her work with us, Liz is studying to be a pastor through Wartburg Seminary's distributed learning program. Several times during the year, she will be on campus in Iowa with her cohort for weeklong in-person learning. She'll also have online learning she's doing when she's in Winston-Salem.

I think she's exactly who this church needs. She brings a lot of experience, energy, passion, and care for youth and young adults. Everyone I've talked with who has worked with Liz has said how excited they are that she's coming here.

I want to invite you to send Liz an email ([lmiller@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lmiller@epiphanyws.org)), card, or introduce yourself (with your name tag!) on Sunday morning when you see her.

Most importantly, Liz is going to need others to help make things happen. She will need our prayers. She will need adults who can help re-establish our youth ministry, people who will continue to provide meals on Tuesday night for our Wake students, and others who will help grow our ministry with youth and college students. Expect her to reach out to you and prayerfully consider how you can help these ministries thrive in our congregation and community.

-August 27 is going to be a fun Sunday that you won't want to miss. We'll have the annual blessing of the backpacks during worship. After worship, we'll have an opportunity to gather for fun snacks and put together school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Those school supplies will be sent across the world to help children learn the ways of wisdom about God's wonderful world.

See you around! Thanks for the ways you help to grow, connect, and serve!

*Pastor Ruell*



Sunday, August 27th



Our Stephen Ministry program is continuing and our people are serving other congregations. The feedback we receive is

very positive and we are grateful that we have Stephen Ministers who can provide empathy and comfort to those who may need support and an ear or two to listen to them. Please know our folks are available to members of our congregation and will keep all communications confidential. There may be folks who would like more information about Stephen Ministry or who might consider taking the training (50 hours) to become a Stephen Minister. Please contact Pastor Russell, Jim Pierson, or Kathy Knecht if you have an interest in the Stephen Minister program or might consider talking with a Stephen Minister. We are here to provide empathy and support for a brief time or long-term need.

## Together in Education

It's time to re-link your Harris Teeter VIC card to Epiphany Early Childhood Center! All links expire in June and start again on August 1.

Epiphany and EECC had 13 supporters this past year. We are so grateful for the extra funds that this provides.

If you are a Harris Teeter shopper, please make sure you re-link!

The Epiphany Readers' next meeting by Zoom will be at 7pm on Thursday, August 24th. The book that will be discussed in August is *Dear America* by Jose Antonio Vargas. All are welcome to join in the discussion.



To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://bit.ly/EpiphanyReaders>

### For working towards perfection

God of the saints already gathered home,  
who leads us through trials dark and hidden snares:  
give us perseverance to work toward the perfect day  
here and now,  
rather than tolerating oppression  
until we reach the by and by;  
in the name of the Word, whom we trust, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

from *UMC Daily Prayers for Anti-Racism*



We are in the middle of summer, and WELCA members are busy planning lots of activities for the fall. Our executive board will meet on Sunday, August 20th in the fellowship hall following our 10am worship service. Our circles are also preparing to assemble either school kits or personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief in October.

One of the things that Epiphany is emphasizing this year is refugee resettlement. WELCA's General Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 24th in the fellowship hall after the 10am service. A light lunch will be served. We will have a speaker from Lutheran Services Carolinas who will give us information about their New Americans program. All women are invited to attend to learn about ways we can help with refugee resettlement. Each circle is making plans to assemble one or more Welcome Kits to be given to refugee families. The congregation will also be invited to participate in making Welcome Kits. More information will come later on this project.

### Dates:

*August 8- Mary Martha Circle- Birthday Luncheon @ Mayberry's-11am*

*August 8- Dorothy Circle- Campus Ministry Room- 6pm*

*August 10- Nora Deal Circle- The Sherwood for lunch- 11:30am*

*August 20- Executive Board- Fellowship Hall after worship*

*September 24- General Meeting- Fellowship Hall after worship*



**Next meeting: August 16, 2023, 1:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall**





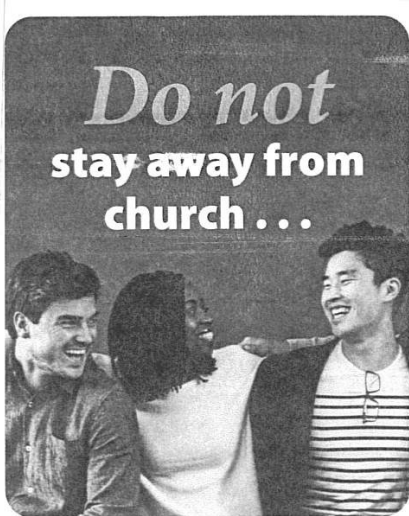
Greetings,

During July your Council had two working sessions with GSB Consulting Services as part of the many steps in preparation for the upcoming Capital Campaign. The campaign will gradually take shape with the help of many Epiphany members until the Capital Campaign's full introduction in early 2024.

Thank you for your faithful giving as the financial health of this church continues to remain strong.

Your Council is grateful for your support as we all continue to GROW, CONNECT and SERVE.

In His service,  
Your Epiphany Council



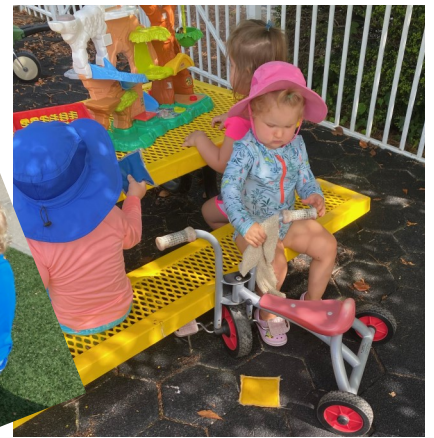
- ... because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
- ... because you are rich. Money is not everything.
- ... because it rains. We go to work and school in the rain.
- ... because it is cold. It is warm and friendly inside.
- ... because it is hot. So are fishing, attending ball games, and golfing.
- ... because no one invited you. People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. (Consider this your invitation!)
- ... because of hypocrites. We associate with them in the world every day.
- ... because of company. Bring them along; they will enjoy it and respect you for inviting them.



Dear Church Family,

The best of summer is coming to an end and school will begin for the 2023-24 school year for EECC on September 5th. It has been a great summer and the children and staff are excited about the new year to come! Thank you for your prayers and support of your high quality, faith-based, five-star rated child care facility.

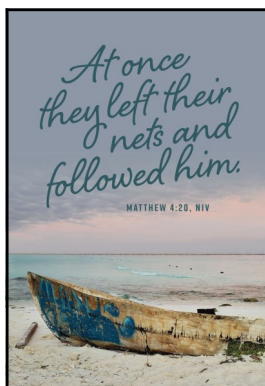
In His Service,  
Lisa Nichols, Director



- ... because you have little children. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them" (Matthew 19:14).
- ... because your clothes are not nice enough. God looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).
- ... because the church always wants money. That is not true here.
- ... because you have plenty of time in the future. Are you sure? (James 4:13-17).

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'"*

PSALM 122:1



Our summer Intergenerational VBS time is coming to a close. This has been a great opportunity for all ages to spend time together and learn more about water in the bible. For our last regular session, we will meet **after worship on August 6 in the fellowship hall.** Come ready to “travel” to the holy land! We will be visiting some of the amazing bodies of water found in the bible. We’ll take a tour of the Jordan River as well

as the Sea of Galilee. There will be refreshments and time for fellowship as well.

A Blessing of the Backpacks (and work bags, diaper bags, technology, etc.) will happen **during worship on Sunday, August 27th.** Please have your child bring their backpack, lunch box, or tech item that they will be using for the upcoming school year and a special blessing will be given. Adults are also welcome to bring their work bag or any other bag to be blessed. Everyone will receive a special tag to put on their bag as a reminder that they are a child of God. We invite you to then stay **after worship and help assemble Lutheran World Relief school kits in the fellowship hall.** This is a wonderful opportunity to help others and calm any back-to-school jitters. Refreshments will be served.



The end of summer is rapidly approaching and we are looking forward to starting a new year of Encounter: Faith. More details will be coming soon, but please save the dates below:

**Monday, August 28th** - First Day of School for WSFCS

**Sunday, September 3rd, after worship** - Child Protection Policy Training for volunteers - can be done over zoom or individually if you are out of town that Sunday.

**Sunday, September 10th 9:00** - First day of Encounter: Faith for the 2023-2024 Year

# WATER AND THE WORD

an intergenerational VBS series  
over 5 sessions this summer -  
Come to one or come to all!

4PM SUNDAY JUNE 25 - REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM  
AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY JULY 9 - COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY  
4 PM SUNDAY JULY 30 - A CLEAN HEART  
AFTER WORSHIP SUNDAY AUGUST 6 - WATER IN THE WILDERNESS  
SUNDAY AUGUST 13 - CELEBRATION OF LIFE-GIVING WATER  
TIME AND LOCATION TBD

CHECK WEEKLY STAR FOR TIMES/LOCATIONS



### Nursery Attendants Needed!

There has been an increased use in the nursery lately by visitors and members alike! We are in need of volunteers to be with children birth-5 years old in the nursery during the worship service. If young children bring a smile to your face and you are able to help out a couple of times a year, please call or email Lauren Saldana at [lsaldana@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) or (919) 218-4784.



Don't forget to come to our church picnic to celebrate the end of IVBS!

Everyone welcome!

# CHURCH picnic

Sunday, August 13th • 12:30-2:00PM

Come join us for an end of IVBS celebration! Even if you haven't been able to come to any of the sessions, we'd still love to have you. Bring your own picnic lunch and we'll have refreshments and desserts for all!

We'll be gathering at Shelter #8 at City Lake Park in Jamestown. City Lake Park has a great lake for paddle boating, canoeing, and there is even a cruise tour around the lake for all ages to enjoy! For a small fee you can also enjoy mini-golf, a carousel, and a pool next door with water slides!

Call or email Lauren Saldaña for more information  
[lsaldana@epiphanyws.org](mailto:lsaldana@epiphanyws.org) or (919) 218-4784

---

**Park Shelter #8**  
High Point City Lake Park  
**602 W. Main St.**  
**Jamestown, NC 27282**

If you have milestones to celebrate, please contact Mickey Miller.



**Our Epiphany Family**

Help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know if there are those who need to be included.



Sand art fun at Water & the Word Intergenerational VBS

Mica Bunjang is pictured here as Gov. Roy Cooper gives an award to the Director of an organization that assists Montagnard refugees as they settle in North Carolina. Mica volunteers with the youth. He also works with a Greensboro committee that brings together representatives from 10-12 different refugee communities in the city. This group works to be inclusive of these refugees in the Greensboro community. Mica's career is in real estate and he is living in Greensboro.

- GIFT OF THE MONTH ITEMS FOR AUGUST**
- CRISIS CONTROL MINISTRY** - Cooking oil, saltine crackers
  - SAMARITAN MINISTRIES** - Cold breakfast cereal, pasta (any type), toothpaste (sample size), socks, high efficiency laundry detergent packs/pods, ground beef (50 lbs.)
  - RONALD McDONALD HOUSE** - Paper towels; 13-gallon trash bags; individual snacks & drinks; <https://rmhcpt.org/make-a-difference/wish-list/>
  - TRINITY GLEN** - Kleenex, Puffs, etc.
  - TRINITY ELMS** - Fronts of greeting cards, baby lotion, body wash, bath items, deodorant, snacks, note cards
  - CBC FOOD PANTRY** - Volunteers to take food donations from church to CBC and to work stocking shelves/distributing food twice a month
  - EECC** - Cheerios, raisins, applesauce (individual, plain)
  - IBRAHAM FOOD PANTRY** - Diapers/pullups sizes 2-6

**Ministers, All the People of Epiphany**  
**Pastor,** Pastor Russell Peek  
 Email: pastorrussell@epiphanyws.org  
**Director of Music,** Patryck Nuss  
 E-mail: music@epiphanyws.org  
**Director of Children's Ministries,** Lauren Saldaña  
 E-mail: lsaldana@epiphanyws.org  
**Early Childhood Center Director,** Lisa Nichols  
 E-mail: lisanichols@epiphanyws.org, 336-768-2140  
**Office Manager & Financial Secretary,** Mickey Miller  
 E-mail: epiphanystaff@epiphanyws.org  
**Monthly STAR Newsletter Editor,**  
 E-mail: epiphanystaff@epiphanyws.org  
**Epiphany - Phone:** 336-765-6211 **Fax:** 336-765-1754  
**Epiphany E-mail:** epiphanystaff@epiphanyws.org  
**Web Site:** www.epiphanyws.org

**2023 Congregation Council**

**Officers:**  
 Chris Schultz, Pres.  
 Betty Benardo, VP  
 Terry Wiley, Treas.  
 Mark Tellefsen, Sec.

**Non-Council Officers:**  
 Mickey Miller, Fin. Sec.  
 Jackie Pierson, Asst. Tr. Payroll

**Members:**

Patti Deal	Dan Meckley
Matt Imboden	Diana Stindt
Sarah Lischer	Pastor Russell Peek





# MILES FOR MIGRAINE WALK • RUN • RELAX

2 Mile Walk | 5K Run | Virtual

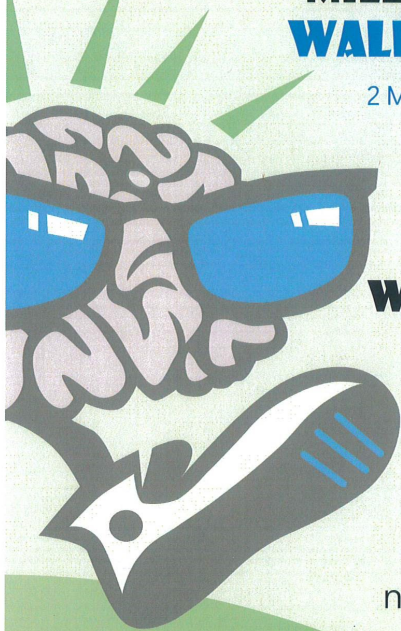
September 9, 2023

**WINSTON-SALEM, NC**

Jamison Park

8:30am

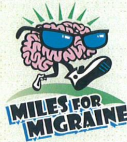
FREE Registration:  
[nc.milesformigraine.org](http://nc.milesformigraine.org)



Become an advocate and raise awareness and funds for migraine and headache research.

Proceeds will benefit:

**COMPREHENSIVE HEADACHE  
PROGRAM AT ATRIUM HEALTH  
WAKE FOREST BAPTIST**



**VICAR**  
APPRECIATION

**POTLUCK**





*"If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."*  
John 14:14, NRSV

**LET US PRAY FOR...**

**Leaders of church & state, especially**

<i>Our Congregation Council</i>	<i>Pastor Russell Peek</i>
<i>Christ's Beloved Community</i>	<i>President Joe Biden</i>
<i>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</i>	<i>Governor Roy Cooper</i>
<i>Bishop Timothy Smith</i>	<i>Mayor Allen Joines</i>

*All victims of war and any form of violence*

**Our sister congregations and our missionary in Mexico**

*Fr. Javier Arias and the people of Christ's Beloved Community*  
*Pr. David Brondos and the Theological Community of Mexico*  
*The people of Mupini Parish, Namibia*

**Active duty military personnel, especially**

*Travis Gerdes*  
*Randal Middleton*  
*David Schultz*

**Family & friends of the congregation in need, especially**

<i>Judy Allison</i>	<i>Pam Holcomb</i>	<i>Shelly Saldaña</i>
<i>Thomas &amp; Mary Cannon</i>	<i>Robin Hoots</i>	<i>Janie Saper</i>
<i>Clark Family</i>	<i>Jean Jarvis</i>	<i>Nora Schweitzer</i>
<i>Rose Debruhl</i>	<i>Katie Lippard</i>	<i>Liz Shumate</i>
<i>Ray L. Deal</i>	<i>Chad Marion</i>	<i>Sue Slezak</i>
<i>Sylvia Ann Derrick</i>	<i>Sue Mathis</i>	<i>Germaine Smith</i>
<i>AJ Devan</i>	<i>Linda McKenna</i>	<i>Michele Stanfield</i>
<i>Carl Dubose</i>	<i>Terry McKinney</i>	<i>Earl Taylor</i>
<i>Emily Ferriter</i>	<i>Kendra Miller</i>	<i>Laura Turlington</i>
<i>Howard Flichman</i>	<i>Stacey Morgan</i>	<i>Alan Vestal</i>
<i>Tara-Lynn Flick</i>	<i>Allison Morris</i>	<i>Ellie Wellborn</i>
<i>Pat &amp; Joanne Gill</i>	<i>Annette Pardue</i>	<i>Emma Wester</i>
<i>Jonathan Gomez</i>	<i>Robert &amp; Mary Peak</i>	<i>Nicole Williams</i>
<i>Carolyn Graham</i>	<i>Andy Powless</i>	<i>Ruochong Wong</i>
<i>Linda Grale</i>	<i>Karen Rose</i>	<i>John Wooding</i>

**Members in need, especially**

<i>The Rev. John Beeg</i>	<i>Chad Kraft</i>
<i>Sharen Bond</i>	<i>Jim Lippard</i>
<i>Ann Cannon</i>	<i>Ralph Pritts</i>
<i>Kay Conrad</i>	<i>Wanda Rabb</i>
<i>Jean Darstein</i>	

**Our Christian love and sympathy to the family and friends of**

*Jane Ritchie*  
*Ernie Lehman*



*Elizabeth Horton, Homestead Hills*  
*Bert Joines, Homestead Hills*  
*Doris Kent, Forsyth Court*  
*Sue Muhler, Brookdale Senior Living*  
*Carl Schlager, The Stratford, High Point*



*Bonnie Bryant*  
*Cole Lippard*  
*Polly Rector*

*Virginia Schmitz*  
*Robert Walker*

**August Birthdays**

Brady Artz	8/1
Clarence Peoples	8/2
Mary Jane Beeg	8/3
Mica Bunjang	8/3
Marty Wylie	8/3
Brad Davis	8/4
Andrew Finley	8/5
Ann Mohrmann	8/6
Carolyn Wiley	8/8
Sara Reich	8/9
Hudson Arens	8/10
Sandy Hunter	8/10
Sophie Spanos	8/10
Jim Lippard	8/11
Jessica Reich	8/11
Hayden Sloop	8/11
Janice Barnett	8/12
Mark Tonnesen	8/13
Judy Landis	8/14
Matthew Meckley	8/14
Guenter Pfitzner	8/15
Emily Phillips	8/18
Henry Royals	8/18
Emerson Caesar	8/19
Dorothy Hanson	8/19
Diana Stindt	8/19
Harold Landis	8/22
Evan Muday	8/22
Andrew Craft	8/23
Patryck Nuss	8/24
Jean Darstein	8/25
Lucie McCormick	8/27
Liz Tacik	8/28
Cathy Henricks	8/29

**August Baptisms**

Inez Eckard	8/1
Mica Bunjang	8/5
Henry Royals	8/5
Emily Toborg	8/8
Lois Clohessy	8/9
Jon Tucker	8/9
Bradley Davis	8/10
Emerson Caesar	8/17
Tyler Toborg	8/19
Sharen Bond	8/22
Shelley Hood	8/22
Lois Steichen	8/22
Billie Holbrook	8/29
Alice Harris	8/30
Guenter Pfitzner	8/30



<i>Rodger &amp; Inez Eckard</i>	<i>8/3</i>
<i>Schuyler &amp; Jean Darstein</i>	<i>8/4</i>
<i>Larry &amp; Nancy Grush</i>	<i>8/16</i>
<i>Jim &amp; Cathy Henricks</i>	<i>8/31</i>

We wish you many more years of happiness!



We received thanks from:

Crisis Control Ministries  
Habitat for Humanity  
Second Harvest Food Bank





## WHO IS A “REAL” AMERICAN?



My husband and I live in Skokie, Ill., a diverse community. Our neighbors to the west are an octogenarian Taiwanese Evangelical couple who regularly order meals from Kosher to Go. Our neighbors to the east are a Ukrainian and Russian multigenerational family. Our grocery stores have both kosher and halal departments. As I drive past the elementary school on my way to work, I see moms and dads in jeans along with women in saris or hijabs and men in thobes or yarmulkes. More than 90 languages are spoken in the homes of our school district. We pay our taxes, mow our (tiny) lawns, worship, raise our children and pretty much get along in our little village of Skokie.

Late one afternoon a few years ago I was finishing up yard work. I had been weeding and trimming all day. I was tired and grass-stained. Just one more pile of leaves needed to be swept up. I noticed a woman walking toward me so I hurried to get the sidewalk cleared. She stopped and told me that she had seen me working all day and thought I might be too tired to prepare supper. She had made a meal for me and my husband. It was during Ramadan—the month when Muslims fast from food and water during the day and engage in prayer and acts of charity. This was her act of charity and generosity. She smiled and walked away. I was stunned.

There has been an alarming rise in hate speech and violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this country. At the same time, we’ve seen an increased polarization among us, even in our dear church. There is a movement to define what it means to be a “real American.” Some would define this as white, Christian and native born. When Lutheran immigrants first came to this country in the 18th and 19th centuries, they weren’t considered real Americans. They didn’t speak English or fit in with the Deist, Calvinist religious majority. They were “other” and therefore suspect. German Lutheran immigrants weren’t considered white when they settled here. Neither were Irish, Italians or Poles. Catholics and Jews were considered an alien threat.

---

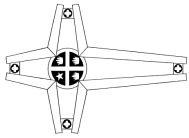
An element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic.

---

It’s ironic that the Puritans fled religious persecution and that the First Amendment states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof,” yet an element in our country wants to legislate that the United States is a Christian nation where Christianity should be privileged and only Christians should hold office. This is Christian Nationalism, which is neither Christian nor patriotic. There is no doubt that the Founders were Christian and that a majority of Americans identify as Christian. That is different from declaring Christianity as the established religion of the United States. And, dear church, let’s be clear, a Christian Nationalist does not define Lutherans as “Christian.”

God knows I love my country. This beautiful, fragile, yet surprisingly resilient experiment in democracy and nationhood that’s not predicated on shared ethnicity is unique among nations. My grandfather, father and uncles all served during World War I and World War II. I had the honor of placing a wreath on behalf of the ELCA at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. I won’t have my patriotism questioned. Christian Nationalism is a perversion of the gospel and a threat to our democracy. It’s precisely because I love my country that I warn against it.

Who is a “real American”? I say that my Muslim neighbor walking freely down the street in a hijab to offer a meal to her Christian neighbor during Ramadan is a real American. Motivated by her Muslim faith she acted as neighbor to me. She is not less American because she is Muslim. Because she is an American, she can be her authentic self and participate in building our community and country. What binds us together is not ethnicity but shared participation in our civic life springing out of our cultural heritages and working for the common good.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday <b>10am</b> Worship		1 Welcome Liz!	2 <b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel <b>3 pm</b> Staff	3	4	5
6 <b>After Worship</b> Water & the Word (Water in the Wilderness)	7	8 <b>11 am</b> Mary-Martha Circle Birthday Lunch <b>6 pm</b> Dorothy Circle	9 <b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel <b>3 pm</b> Staff	10 <b>11:30 am</b> Nora Deal Cir. (The Sherwood)	11	12 Sanctuary Unavailable
13 12:30-2 pm Church Picnic Water & the Word (Celebration of Life-Giving Water)	14 <b>7 pm</b> Executive Comm.	15	16 <b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel <b>1:30 pm</b> Widows Might (FH) <b>3 pm</b> Staff	17 <b>6 pm</b> Finance	18	19 <b>10 am</b> Epiphany Quilters
20	21 <b>7 pm</b> Congregation Council	22	23 <b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel <b>3 pm</b> Staff	24	25	26
27 Blessing of the Backpacks	28 School Starts	29	30 <b>10 am</b> EECC Chapel <b>3 pm</b> Staff	31 <b>7 pm</b> Epiphany Readers		