

United
Presbyterian
Church
of Peoria, Illinois

The Chimes



Volume.14 Issue.12 December 28, 2017



Saturday, Jan. 27

6-8 pm

CHRISTIAN CENTER

Mark your calendars for a fun night out with church family. We have the entire bowling facility reserved, so bring your friends and family for a night of fun. Cost is \$7/person or \$20/family.

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Session Shorts

Church Leadership**Session****Laurie Hartshorn, Clerk of Session****Class of 2017**

Mike Brown

Rich Helm

Betty Pugh

Colleen Rouzer

Jim Sullivan

Class of 2018

Jenna Hague

Mark Hanson

Linda Kelley

Ralph Krall

Cindy Shipley

Class of 2019

Charlotte Cronin

Mary Jo Mays

Alicia McKeighan

Megan McKeighan

Kathy Nordvall

Board of Deacons**Class of 2017**

Derrick Amanor

Brenda Barrett

Kay Covey

Debbie Hanson

Pam Harrison

Kathy Hasselberg

Jeri Maher

Jan Mooberry

Kathy Nixon

Class of 2018

Victoria Best

Marcia Boyer

Rose Dickerson

Vicki Ghidina

Angie Gross

Laurie Hartshorn

Michael Kelley

Ron Kirchgessner

Charlene Mousty

Sandy Nott

Rose Schmollinger

Trudy Sholtz

Class of 2019

Theresa Bender

Ken Krancher

Pam Madden

Sue McGill

Rick Noetzel

Deb Paul

Nancy Pogue

Bev Ranson

Myrna Schwarz

Session Committee Liaisons

Church Life

Hospitality & Growth

Christian Education

Human Resources

Member Care

Mission

Properties

Stewardship & Finance

Worship & the Arts

Preschool

Charlotte Cronin

Linda Kelley

Cindy Shipley

Colleen Rouzer & Alicia McKeighan

Mary Jo Mays & Jim Sullivan

Jenna Hague

Rich Helm

Mike Brown & Megan McKeighan

Mark Hanson & Christy Tharenos

Kathy Nordvall

Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower the church.

Interested in joining United Presbyterian Church?
Contact the pastor or visit our website at: www.unitedpc.org.

Letter From Laura

I grew up on Main Street in Urbana. Our father practiced internal medicine at Carle Hospital and would walk the few blocks to and from work. Our parents were in charge in our home, we were not. There was a place for everything, we had chores and there were high expectations. It was a happy home and childhood.

With structure comes routine and it never changed on Christmas mornings. Daddy would drink his coffee, read the paper and eat his breakfast v-e-r-y slowly. We were only allowed to get into our stockings. The timing of opening the presents waited on Daddy's schedule. After breakfast he would come down dressed in a suit to make his rounds at the hospital. He would be gone for at least two hours, sometimes more. When he got home, there would be fresh coffeecake and coffee waiting, a holiday treat. It was simply excruciating to watch him dawdle, listen to him talk to Mother, act like he couldn't see us. It never occurred to me that he might be teasing us! *Finally* he would call for his clipboard, paper, the ruler, pencils (which always needed more sharpening) and begin to draw his grid – the eight of us down the side, then eight of us across, with the names of assorted aunts and uncles added to the “across” line. This was for recording all gifts, which we opened one at a time and reported on. That way we could write all our thank you notes and check them off on the grid before we got to play with our new things. At *last* we got around to opening our presents! It was always worth the wait.

Christmas of 1995 we were at my Mother's. Every afternoon we would all leave the house so she would take a nap. Sam took the boys to the gym, and I put on my boots and followed my father's path over to Carle to call on a couple from Elwood, where I was the pastor of the only church in town. I always visited the whole town in the hospitals; someone knew I'd be in Urbana and asked me to stop by and visit these folks I hardly knew. Finding the wife in the cafeteria, we visited as she finished her rubbery turkey and then went up to ICU to see her husband. I stayed long enough that she eventually told me to get home, it was Christmas. The penny dropped. No wonder Daddy spent so long with his patients on Christmas day! He knew they wanted to be home, not in the hospital. What I had always thought of as a great disruption to our Christmas was him doing the right thing. He was being kind and taking time to bring a bit of cheer into someone's day. And then I thought back to the Christmas tables of our childhood, where we would have 20 or 24 for the meal. There would be servicemen from Chanute, our foreign students we always had from the university, and others invited for reasons known only to my parents. What lessons they taught us about hospitality and kindness and taking time to attend to others.

I am so thankful for these lessons caught, not taught, and for this behavior, which is exactly what we should do in church. Be hospitable and kind. Take time to attend to others. May it always be so for us in our life together.

New Year's blessings,
Rev. Laura

Worship & the Arts

Why We Didn't Sing Christmas Songs in Advent

Some of you may have been expecting nice renditions of *O Come All Ye Faithful* or *Joy to the World* during the services in early December this year. But as you may have noticed, those songs and songs like it were not sung until December 24th and the two Sundays following Christmas Eve. Let me tell you a little about why this happened.

The commercialization of Christmas has led to some confusion about how Christmas celebrations function within the church and outside of church. Outside of church it is clear how Christmas functions: you spend the most amount of money than any other month of the year, you decorate your house and tree, you listen to 24 hour non-stop Christmas music on the radio, you attend Christmas concerts, you watch movies like a "Christmas Story" and "It's a Wonderful Life", and you have family and work get-togethers. This may all be wonderful and fun, but it does not have much to do with how the church celebrates Christmas.

When the world amps up in the beginning of December with Amazon purchases, bright lights, and busy schedules, the church chooses to slow down and enters into a season of reflection and anticipation.

The way of the church is often not the way of the world.

Advent is the first season of the liturgical year, which is very significant because we start our year in a posture of openness to the revelation of Jesus Christ. This posture then sustains itself throughout the entirety of the liturgical year. Advent leads into the Christmas celebration and then continues into Christmastide. Christmas is not a day, it is a season! This year Sunday December 31st will be a Christmastide service (and Christmas songs will be sung) and then Epiphany begins January 6th (and Christmas songs are still sung in this service).

Our consumerist tendencies are exacerbated during the world's season of Christmas. We want what we want and we want it in two days or less thanks to the wonder of Prime. But Advent invites us into a different way of looking at the world. The world sings "*It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*" and the church sings "*O Come O Come Emmanuel*". Advent invites us to look deep within ourselves and ask difficult questions like... "am I ready for the coming of Christ?" "do my values align with my actions" "what does repentance look like in my life?" or "are my bank statements a testament to faith in God?"

Next year during Advent 2018 I urge you to not follow the consumerist path of the world's version of Christmas. Anchor yourself in the season of Advent and then allow yourself the anticipated pleasure of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ throughout the season of Christmastide.

Aaron Schultz
Director of Worship & the Arts

God's Natural World Photo Contest

Did you take some great photos on Monarch Day? Did you capture the beauty of God's natural world or people enjoying it on UPC campus? Dig out those photos or take new ones for **God's Natural World Photo Contest** jointly sponsored by Nature Connections and Worship and Arts committees. Photographs must capture God's Natural World or people connecting with God's Natural World and must be taken outdoors on our property between February 1, 2017 and February 25, 2018. New display boards have been purchased to provide a professional display. The photos may include people but must also include nature or wildlife. Prize categories include Preschool-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, high school/adult and the People's Choice. The exhibit will be on display March 11-25 in Fellowship Hall. You may have a photo right there on your phone or camera that will top Don Hartshorn's *Fungus Among Us*, last year's people's choice winner! For rules and submission requirements pick up a brochure or contact Nancy Jones 688-6271 or email njones58@sbcglobal.net.

Worship & the Arts



VIVID

Sunday, January 7, 4:00 pm

Join us as we welcome 2018 with some new ways to spend time with God this year. We will relax with some simple yoga moves for all ages set to a Bible story, meditate and walk through a prayer labyrinth, and mandala coloring. All wonderful ways to come close to God in the quiet. Dinner will be served.

News and Notes

We are going to skip a Fundraiser for the Youth in January.



Parent's Support Group

A new Parents' Support Group will start meeting on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 1:00 pm. This is sponsored by OSF Hospice and facilitated by Linda Evans. Parents that have lost children of any age will find this program helpful.

Deacon News

New Deacon Training will be held on Sunday, January 7 at 11:15 in room 100. This training will be for all Deacons elected to the class of 2020 and for any Deacon who has been elected to fill a vacancy in an existing term. The purpose of the training is to explain what is expected of a Deacon and to highlight what takes place during the quarterly Deacon meetings. The training also will review how parishes are structured and what is included in a parish list in preparation for receiving parish folders at the January Deacon quarterly meeting.

Visiting Deacon Training with Kirsten Tharp, parish nurse, will be held on Saturday, January 13 at 9:30 AM. The first **Deacon Quarterly Meeting** will be held on Saturday, January 13, at 10:00 AM. This meeting is for the entire Board of Deacons. Parish folders will be distributed at this time.

Reminder: All outgoing Deacons in the class of 2017 should give their final quarterly report to their Parish Coordinator or leave reports in the moderator's box.

Thank you

We are humbled and eternally grateful for your prayers, cards, meals, and acts of kindness for our daughter, Julie Mills, and her family during this very difficult stage in our lives. Surgery is now behind her and more chemo will follow. We praise the Lord Always in ALL WAYS and thank you for continual support.

Jack and Pat Bensing

Dear Staff of UPC,
You have been very gracious and accommodating to our homeowner's meeting every year and we thank you! Please use these funds where you have the greatest need. Thanks again,
Richwoods Knolls & Northmoor Estates Board

Dear Friends of UPC,
Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, flowers, and other acts of kindness in helping me celebrate my 20 year work anniversary. It truly has been my pleasure to work here and I look forward to our continued partnership in the ministry of UPC.

Blessings,
Trish Deppermann

Parish Nurse

NEW Medicare cards are coming!

Medicare will mail new Medicare cards between April 2018 and April 2019. Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security Number. This will help to protect your identity.

Things to know about your new Medicare card:

- * You don't need to take any action to get your new Medicare card.
- * The new card won't change your Medicare coverage or benefits.
- * Medicare will never ask you to give personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.
- * There's no charge for your new card.

Watch out for scams:

Scam artists may try to get your current Medicare Number and other personal information by contacting you about your new Medicare card. They often claim to be from Medicare and use various scams to get your Medicare Number including:

- * Asking you to confirm your Medicare or Social Security Number so they can send you a new card.
- * Telling you there's a charge for your new card and they need to verify your personal information.
- * Threatening to cancel your health benefits if you don't share your Medicare Number or other personal information. If someone calls you and asks for your Medicare Number or other personal information, hang up and call us at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

How can I replace my Medicare card?

If your Medicare card is lost, stolen or damaged, you can ask Social Security for a new one.

- * Your Medicare card will arrive in the mail in about 30 days.
- * Social Security will mail your card to the address they have on file for you.
- * If you need proof that you have Medicare sooner than 30 days, you can request a letter from Social Security. The letter will arrive in the mail in about 10 days.
- * If you need proof immediately for your doctor or for a prescription, visit your local Social Security office.

How do I change my name or address?

Medicare uses the name and address you have on file with Social Security. To change your name and/or address, visit your online my Social Security account.

Kirsten Tharp RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Member Care

Prayer List

Please lift these folks in prayer:

Jaxson Harper, Betty Keller, Julie Mills, Dave Nixon, Larry & Sara Stotts, Jack Umdenstock, the family of Jan Wagner, Scott Joplin, and Jon & Kim Wrigley.

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

This is the 7th year that United Presbyterian Church hosted a Christmas Party for the men and women of Trinity Services, Inc.; people with VERY significant disabilities, many of whom have no family and no friends outside of Trinity Services. Every year and again this year, many of you stepped up to be "Santa Claus", providing Christmas gifts to individuals who would have had none. Many members of our congregation came to serve supper in our Fellowship Hall and provide companionship and friendship. This year Ralph Krall was our Santa. He was SO wonderful. Thank you, Ralph! Our church is an amazing place; where everyone is welcome and everyone's hearts are big. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Charlotte, Mike, Anna, and Daniel Cronin

Church Life

Anna Circle

When: Thursday, January 11th, 6:00 pm

Where: WeaverRidge

Lesson: Chapter 4 , The Girl's Still Got It

Mission: Share the Warmth Blanket Ministry

The next workday will be Saturday, January 27th, 9:30 am

Christian Education

Women's Bible Study Mixer

Thursday, January 11 at 6:00 pm

Kirsten Tharp's Home: 207 Whistling Strait, Washington

We had a wonderful response to the idea of a women's book study so we are going to have a mixer to get to know everyone. All are welcome to bring their beverage of choice and a snack to share. We will get to know one another as well as identify what types of books/studies we are interested in and possibly group people according to interests. If you cannot make it, that is just fine. Contact Karen Miller and we will get a survey to you so we can make sure your interests are included.

Adult Sunday School

9:00 am Sunday Education Hour

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet Room (105)

Everyone is welcome as we explore Adam Hamilton's study that explores the sites of Moses' life from the Nile River to the Reed Sea, from Mr. Sinai to the wilderness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Hamilton will guide us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who blazed a trail of faith.

Children 3+ are welcome to join us upstairs in the Sunday school rooms for activities. The nursery will be available during the 9:00 am classes.

News and Notes

Name tags

I prefer to be able to call people by name. I have been so appreciative of your patience with me, especially your willingness to tell me your name more than once. I noticed through Advent that people made a big effort to get to church and how helpful it is to have folks whose faces are new to me also wearing their name tags. It has to be nice for visitors to be able to sneak a peek at our tags when they want to refresh themselves on our names. I wonder if we could make 2018 a year when we make it a practice to wear our name tags every Sunday?

Thanks for considering this. Rev. Laura

Children's Sunday School

Holy Baptism

After Time with Young Disciples in Worship

Upstairs Sunday school rooms

For January, we will be doing a Godly Play/Rotation Model Hybrid that the kids are going to love. We will combine worship, science, art and more as we explore Holy Baptism. Although the classes will be learning the same things each week, activities will be geared toward the specific age groups.

Note: On the 1st Sundays, 3rd – 6th grade will be in worship and the two younger classes will return for Communion at the end of the service. Parents can pick up children in the balcony. If you prefer your child not receive the Lord's Supper, please let us know.

There are 3 classes:

PreK – Kindergarten

1st -2nd grade

3rd -6th grade

January 7: We will hear the Holy Baptism story through Godly Play and hope to return to worship in time for Communion. (3rd – 6th grade will be in Worship)

January 14: We will experience Holy Baptism through prayer stations.

January 21: We will explore water and wind in the Baptism story.

January 28: We will create and share the story of Holy Baptism.

Stewardship Note

Great news!

We are just over 92% of our way to our goal for 2018 pledges. If you are planning to turn in a pledge card or commitment for 2018, could you send that information to Sabrina at finance@unitedpc.org or drop a pledge card in the offering plate or office? Thank you for your ongoing support of the ministries of UPC!

Youth Groups

JUMP START – a youth group for ages 8-11.

RUSH – a youth group for ages 12-15.

QUEST – a youth group for ages 16+.

JUMP START

Sunday, January 14

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Join us for devotion, games, and snack in Fellowship Hall.

RUSH/QUEST

Sunday, January 14

Youth Worship and Fellowship

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

RUSH /QUEST

Sunday, January 21

Service Project

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

News and Notes

Tai Chi Open House

You are invited to join The Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA on Wednesday evening January 10 from 6:15-7:30 pm for an open house in Room 100. We will have demonstrations of the tai chi set and serve tea. Come check out this graceful and gentle form of exercise with its series of slow movements. Tai chi has many health benefits -mind, body and spirit. The benefits include decreased stress and anxiety, improvement of energy and stamina, flexibility, balance and strength, concentration, circulation, posture, the central and nervous systems of the body, rhythm of movement, quality of sleep, and joint pain. It is low impact and appropriate for any age and fitness level.

TTCS is a non profit charitable organization. Guests are always welcome to observe classes held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in the atrium from 1:30-2:30 pm, or on Monday and Wednesday evenings in Room 100 from 6:00-7:30 pm.

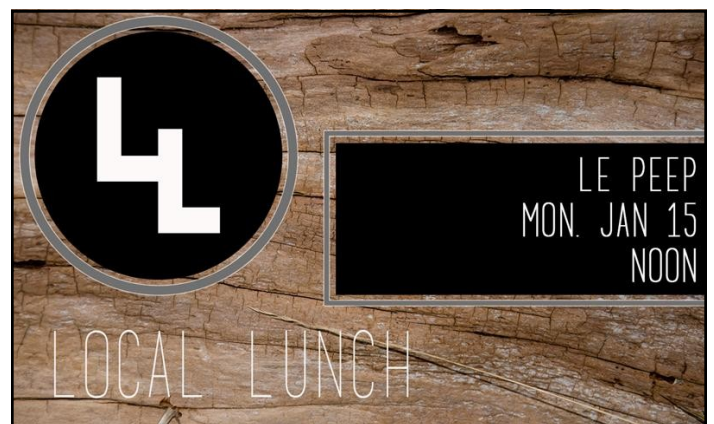
Continuing UPC participants are Deb and Monica Paul and Kathy Hasselberg. The instructors are Atsuko Cummins 309-691-7118, peoria.il@taoist.org, Deb Paul and Monica Paul. Please feel free to speak with them if you have any questions.

Church Life

Eating Together

Men's Breakfast: January 11, at Le Peep, 9:00 am

Ladies Night Out: January 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm at Perkins on War Memorial Drive. RSVP to Eunice at 688-8458 or Betty at 822-8500. Come early and visit.



Bowling Night

Saturday, January 27, 6:00-8:00 pm

Peoria Christian Center

Mark your calendars for a fun night out with church family. We have the entire bowling facility reserved, so bring your friends and family for a night of fun. The whole place is rented so enjoy pool and fellowship as well. Cost is \$7/person or \$20/family.

How To India Meal

Saturday, January 20, 4:00-7:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Charlotte Cronin will host her good friend, Jet Shah as she shares some background about the food and her homeland after which we will prepare and enjoy a meal. Space is limited to 8 and cost is \$10/person. Register with Trish in the church office.

Family Movie Afternoon: Moana

Saturday, February 10, 4:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome! Popcorn and water provided.

Session Shorts

The Session met on Tuesday, December 19th and conducted the following business:

Welcomed elders-elect Debbie Hanson and Don Hartshorn and Kathy Lonn on behalf of Stewardship and Finance. Having named these things that we like going on around the church: the response to and help with the Family Christmas Shop, a full parking lot, visitors in church each week and lifting up Don and Jan Wagner as she is in hospice. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The minutes of the 11/21/2017 Session meeting and 12/3/2017 Congregational meeting were approved. Under the Clerk's Report, we noted the form for nominating folks to serve on presbytery committees, reviewed and corrected the 2018 Session roster, transferred John Warning to FPC, Gordon NE, approved the use of the sanctuary on June 9, 2018 by Rev. Laura to conduct the wedding of Jennifer Jordan and Michael Kull and restored and transferred Debbie Chance to Westminster, Peoria. We also noted the death of Cyrene Eberle on 12/12, the baptisms of Lucas Harrison and Lorelai Cole and the public reception of Brian Holfelner as a new member (the shelving he built for the children's worship activity books can be seen in the narthex!).

The Session acted to adopt the 2018 Budget and delegated to Rev. Laura the drafting of some letters and a follow up report for COM for Session comment and approval. We also approved the purchase of two new armchairs for the Narthex (monies have been set aside for this already) and approved the use of funds from the Ida Peters Fund to install a new fire alarm panel over the preschool's break time (approved by Properties in October).

The Session unanimously approved a report from Rev. Laura, following her New Officer Orientation Seminars, recommending that the Session proceed to the ordination of Tim Cole as an elder and the ordination of Bill Barrett, Betty Downard, Megan March and Nancy Thompson as deacons, also installing them along with those previously ordained to office: Deb Hanson, Don Hartshorn, Pam Madden and Alexis Maloof as elders and John Madden, Judi Beck, Audrey Beeney, Pat Bensing, Theresa Buley and Ann Gropp as deacons. All of them are to be ordained and/or installed on Sunday January 7, 2018.

The Session also received a written report from Rev. Laura on her November activities and received all the committee minutes listed on the docket from those committees having December meetings. Thanking Mike Brown, Rich Helm, Betty Pugh, Colleen Rouzer and Jim Sullivan for their faithful years of service, the meeting was closed with prayer at 8:20 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Right After Church

If your reports are not currently in the church office
for the Annual Report,
please submit them by January 14th.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed Happy New Year	2 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 5:30 Lawyers Bas- ketball	3 8:30 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 Program Staff 1:00 Staff Meeting	4 8:30 Exercise 1:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Lawyers Basket Ball 6:00 Bereavement	5 6:30 Hand and Foot	6
7 Communion Ordination/ Installation Blood Pressures 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Newly elected Deacon Meeting 4:00 VIVID	8 Preschool Starts Back 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi 6:00 Foundation	9 9:30 PASG Board 10:00 Independ- ence Village Service 1:00 Parent's Sup- port Group 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:00 Human Re- sources 6:30 Stewardship 6:30 Den #233 6:30 Families Anonymous	10 8:30 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 Program Staff 11:30 PEO BX 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells 6:00 Nature Con- nections 6:00 Tai Chi Open House 6:15 Choir 7:00 Preschool 7:15 Worship Band	11 8:30 Exercise 9:00 Men's Break- fast @ LePeep 11:30 PASGDTS 1:30 Tai Chi 6:00 Anna Circle 6:00 Bereavement 6:00 Women's Bible Study Mixer	12 8:00 Session Packet Info Due in Office 7:00 BUNCO	13 9:30 Visiting Dea- con Training 10:00 Deacon Quarterly Meeting
14 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Mission/ Worship & Arts/ Christian Education 2:00 JUMP START 3:30 RUSH/QUEST 4:00 Sports Event Annual Reports Due in Office	15 No Preschool 8:30 Exercise 12:00 Local Lunch 6:00 Tai Chi 7:00 Troop #333	16 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:30 Den #233 6:30 Families Anonymous 7:00 Session	17 8:30 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 Program Staff 11:30 ANG 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15 Worship Band	18 8:30 Exercise 1:30 Tai Chi 6:00 Ladies Night Out 6:00 Bereavement	19 Evening- Pinewood Derby Set-up	20 8:00 Pinewood Derby 4:00 How to India Meal
21 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 Fellowship Annual Reports will be available 3:30 RUSH/QUEST Service Project	22 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi 7:00 Troop #333	23 10:00 Independ- ence Village Service 11:30 PASGNP 1:00 Parent's Sup- port Group 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement 6:30 Stephen Minis- try Supervision 6:30 Den #233 6:30 Families Anonymous	24 8:30 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 Program Staff 11:30 PASGSS 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15 Worship Band	25 8:30 Exercise 11:30 PASGK 1:30 Tai Chi 6:00 Bereavement	26 8:00 CHIMES Info due in office	27 9:30 Share the Warmth 6:00 Bowling @ Christian Center
28 9:00 Adult Ed 10:00 Worship/ Sunday School 11:00 Annual Meet- ing 11:00 Fellowship 4:00 Sports Event 7:00 Hymns & Hops	29 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Tai Chi 7:00 Troop #333	30 1:30 Tai Chi 3:00 Bereavement	31 8:30 Pastor's Bible Study 10:00 Program Staff 1:00 Collate CHIMES 1:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Bells 6:15 Choir 7:15 Worship Band	<div>January 2018</div>		