

**DAVID'S DATLINE
APRIL 2016 Newsletter**

**Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 9:50 a.m.
Church School, 9:50 a.m.**

**Church Office
Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 937-434-2131, Fax: 937-434-1913
www.davidsucc.org**

Ministers of David's Church - All David's People
**Senior Pastor Brian Q. Newcomb
Associate Pastor Michelle Wilkey**

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2 – Family Fun Night at SkateWorld

April 3 – New Member Reception

April 8 – Parents Night Out/Game Night

April 10 – Youth Sunday w/Communion
(8:30 Service in the Chapel)

April 13 – Keenagers

April 14-16 – SIGNS Garage Sale at The Grove

April 16 – David's Dinners

April 17 – One Service Only at 9:50 AM
Guest Preacher – Rev. Beth Long-Higgins

April 22-23 – 30-Hour Famine at The Grove

April 24 – SIGNS Pancake Breakfast

From the Pastor's Desk...

It has come to my attention that there is an election happening all around us. Have you noticed? Not sure whether it was the 25 – 30 political emails I get everyday from the political party I've most consistently supported and the myriad of special interests that got my address because I signed a petition or donated to a cause I care about, or it's the 24 hour news coverage where pundits are content to blaviate on every aspect of the horse race, but with last week's state-wide primary we were election central, and God help us, it appears that there will be no end in sight until November.

And this week, as the primary votes were coming in and another candidate was suspending their campaign, the pundits began to suggest that he might be looking ahead to 2020. I found myself wondering if they're already going to start pontificating about the next Presidential election when this long nominating season that we seem to have already been in for a year is still 8 months from completion. There doesn't appear to be an end in sight.

Now, I don't say this to diminish the importance of our political process and the real implications it has on our lives. You don't have to be a political junkie to recognize that the person we elect to serve as our President will have a profound impact on our lives in the world. Our governmental leaders make decisions that affect our world, whether we continue in wars or are able to make peace. Their foreign policy decisions impact us here at home, but also have effects on far off parts of the world, whether poor families receive aid and medical care in parts of Africa, and so on.

Closer to home there are lots of other issues where the stakes are high, and in many different ways impact all our lives. A decision made by the Governor of Michigan left the people living in Flint drinking unsafe water for over two years before it was discovered by a pediatrician who found high lead levels in the blood of her child patients. Our President will make decisions about who will serve the interests of the people of our nation, whether the person who's the head of FEMA has any experience in disaster response administration, or if the person who will serve as the Attorney General will effectively try those cases where there has been misuse of power, either in the economic or legal systems that impact the lives of people in our communities.

Our President nominates judges to serve on the Supreme Court, and just last year the lives of many of our LGBT friends in long-term relationships found their lives dramatically improved when they were given the right to marry. The people they nominate and decisions they make touch our lives in many direct ways, from the way we are taxed to the way our taxes are allocated. Many issues facing our government are not abstract philosophical concerns but have real human consequences. Have we spent enough on infrastructure so that our roads and bridges are safe to drive on, is our electrical grid adequate for the way we will be using power over the next decade, are our plumbing and water dispersal systems adequate so that we don't face flooding? There are issues around National Safety from terrorism; immigration concerns, religious liberty, the economy, human rights, improvements of the justice system, and on and on it goes.

It's no wonder that many of us get highly invested in the political party that best represents our interests, the candidates we think would be best to address our concerns. But lately, I've noticed a growing hostility in the way we dialogue about politics and the coming election. And I don't just mean the protesters, who interrupt political rallies, or the pundits who shout over each other trying to make their political point on television news, or even the debates where candidates have been trading insults like fifth grade boys on the playground.

Just today, I got an email from a younger minister friend looking for advice. He had posted on Facebook that he had voted for a certain candidate in the primary, and had gotten some very difficult and nasty responses from people he was "friends" with on FB, but not people he knew very well personally. Some comments were so bad that he'd deleted them, and now he was being challenged for his censorship of their posts. What, he asked, would I recommend, would I have any advice to share?

Earlier that week, I had read an article that had been sent around to UCC pastors from the Office of General Council at our National Church headquarters about "Internal Revenue Code Prohibitions on Political Campaign Interventions." Since churches are registered as non-profit organizations, they are prohibited from participation in political campaign activities, and risk losing its tax-exempt status.

As such, church leaders and pastors "cannot make partisan comments in official organization publications or at official church functions." Thus, while the IRS recognizes that pastors and church leaders have a right to free expression on political matters as individuals, we should never endorse a candidate or political party when speaking in our official capacity at church functions or writing in church publications or newsletter, which would also include the congregation's Facebook page or website.

Of course, while preachers are free to take positions on public policy issues, and address issues of justice, public morality and the like from a faith perspective, as many of the Biblical writers and Jesus did, a church must not make statements that favor or oppose any specific candidate or party. That doesn't mean pastors and church leaders cannot express their own political values and even discuss their preferences when not acting in their official capacity, but they are encouraged to indicate that their comments are personal and not intended to represent the views of the church or organization.

Churches can conduct non-partisan voter education activities, and even encourage their members to participate faithfully in the political process and fulfill their civic responsibility in the electoral process by voting, and can even conduct get-out-the-vote drives, but never can tell people to vote for this or that candidate or party. Of course, if you're paying attention to the media, you'll see and hear lots of different preachers, churches and religious colleges and organizations that have endorsed or publicly stood with this candidate or that, those folk are playing with fire with regard to the IRS rules. Plus, there are many in our tradition associated with the United Church of Christ who stand firmly behind the principle of separation of church and state or, as a Rabbi friend once suggested, separation of religion and state.

So, as such, my young friend had not done anything wrong, had not stepped over the line. His post describing the candidate he'd supported was on his own personal page, and he was not speaking in his official capacity as the pastor of the congregation he serves. On the other hand, just because he'd done nothing illegal, doesn't mean it was the wise or right thing to do. And now, with so many angry responses, some so ugly they needed to be deleted, he was wondering if it was worth it. Given the caustic and angry tone that has washed over many political conversations, in my humble opinion it isn't worth it. But to each their own, as they say, I have a lot of clergy friends who seem to be very comfortable posting support for their candidate of choice on their personal FB pages. I've tried to avoid that myself, but sometimes I probably err and post something that is deemed as too political by some, but I do strive to be consistent even if I fail from time to time. I used to have a political bumper sticker, but I covered it up. I didn't want to find my ability to pastor someone in a time of need limited because they were angry that I supported this candidate while they supported another. Ultimately, I think we ought to respect one another no matter what differing ideas, political or otherwise, we might have, but one has to be realistic.

What I do find more and more disturbing in all of this, though, is the loud, angry and mean-spirited tone that takes over so many political conversations. I think we ought to be able to have a civil conversation between the two major parties without all the gridlock and animosity that we see in our public officials. And more often than not, that same tone and dismissive attitude can be found in our own daily conversations as well. I imagine it's hopelessly naïve to ask, "Can't we all just get along?"

As Christians, our scriptures encourage us to pray for our political leaders, whether we voted for them or not. And, I think it's not too much to expect a modicum of respect for the people who represent us from the highest levels of office to our local officials and public servants. While we can probably argue over what Jesus meant when he held up that coin and told us to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to give to God what belongs God, it seems to me that we ought to be able to disagree on a political issue without sliding into ad hominem attacks and name calling. Certainly, the command to love our neighbors (and even our enemies) would imply that Democrats and Republicans that are people of faith should at least be able to listen to one another, even if they decide to agree to disagree.

It is my hope that we who claim to be disciples of Jesus might learn to temper our remarks when we are discussing matters of import with one another. Whether its climate change, maintaining this government program or that, our role in the world as peacemakers or a military presence, or who should establish the curriculum for our children in local schools, it would seem quite important that we be able to have these conversations with a civil tongue in our mouths so that we're able to hear the best ideas from all the sides on any given issue.

After all, as important as all this is in many aspects of our lives, there is also the sense that its only politics. We are cutting off our noses to spite our faces when we let our differences come between us, and destroy the sense of trust that allows us to live together in a true spirit of respect and community. Let's all strive to listen better, to express our point of view in a way that's not combative, and try to get along with each other especially when we disagree. How we treat each other is sometimes even more important than the outcome of a given election. Let us commit to pray for our nation, for our local communities and the world at large, and for our leaders at every level of government. Let us pray for peace, and work for justice. Let us seek to be better informed and let each of us grow in our capacity to separate facts from fiction, truth from opinion. And, soon, I pray, we'll all get to other side of November's elections together and in one piece.

Your pastor and friend,

Brian Q. Newcomb

Notes from Rev. Michelle Wilkey

Do you believe in magic? If you have ever had the chance to go to Disney World, you might answer yes to this question. For my 27th birthday, Janelle and I went to Walt Disney World and had a vacation of a lifetime. One doesn't necessarily have to go to Orlando to experience the magic of Disney. If you want to see an elephant fly, watch toys come to life, or little boys fly, all you need to do is watch a Disney film. The very first movie I had the honor of seeing on the big screen involved seven dwarfs and a magic mirror on the wall. Walt Disney was someone who left quite a mark on the world. He once said, "That's the real problem with the world, too many people grow up." I believe there is some truth in that statement; I believe we all need to be child-like sometimes, even Bob Dylan tells us to remain "Forever Young."

In July, a few of our youth will have the magical opportunity to head down to Walt Disney World for the UCC National Youth Event. Here is some more information about the National Youth Event.

"The theme of NYE 2016 is "Believe." "In 2016, we are asking youth to believe, but it is not a query," said the Rev. Waltrina N. Middleton, associate for National Youth Event programming. "It is a responsibility, a call to action. We are asking our young people to see themselves as leaders, sharing in the work of God, boldly and with faith."

This will be a wonderful opportunity for our teens and for the adult chaperones who will be going. The adult chaperones will be myself and one of our SALT workers. In order to offset the costs for this trip, we will be taking up a special offering during our Youth Sunday service this year. This special service will take place on Sunday April 10.

Our youth have a very magical service planned. Walt Disney also said that we must "First, think. Second, believe. Third, dream. And finally, dare." So on Youth Sunday, the youth are inviting the congregation to believe and dream. Following the service, we will have a magical celebration in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see many in our church family present at this magical service.

Aside from Youth Sunday, April will also be filled with some family events. On Saturday, April 2 at 6:30 pm, David's will have a family night of roller skating at Skateworld in Kettering. Thanks to the silent auction at the Spaghetti Dinner, I have many free admission tickets to Skateworld and because of this, the event should be free to those who come. The only thing we will need money for is snacks and the video arcade room, if you want to play games.

On Friday April 8, we will have another Parent's Night Out. The event will take place from 6pm-9pm and it will be fun evening of pizza and a movie. During the event, we will show the Disney film "Good Dinosaur." This event is free but if parents would like to make a donation; all the money will go toward the 30 Hour Famine that the youth will be participating in at the end of the month. If you have any questions concerning either of these events, please let me know.

April is shaping up to be a very busy month for all ages at David's Church. I am thankful that I will have a week of vacation from April 11-17. This will be a perfect opportunity for me to recharge my batteries. During my time off, I will be attending a silent retreat at The Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky. This retreat will be a great way for me to intentionally slow down and just be in the moment and not worry about future events. I believe all of us need to practice just being present more often and finding ways to rest in our ever busy lives. I love the words of Maya Angelou, who had this to say about rest:

"Every person needs to take one day away. A day in which one consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist eternally in our absence. Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us."

As we enter into the Spring season, let us always find time to rest. Let us also take time to look at the world around us in child-like wonder and imagination because like Bob Dylan sings, "May you stay forever young."

Love and Blessings to all,
Pastor Michelle

Rev. Newcomb to Participate in Installation of John C. Dorhauer, UCC President and General Minister

On the weekend of April 15 -17, Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer will be installed as the President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, with three services spread out across the U.S. Pastor Brian has been invited to participate in the service on Saturday, April 16 at Trinity UCC in Chicago; he will offer the Call to Worship. All three services will be streamed online at the UCC website, and you can read more about this significant weekend in the life of our denomination here: http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_shares_open_invitation_to_dorhauer_installation_in_three_city_service_03152016.

Rev. Beth Long-Higgins of United Church Homes to preach on Sunday, April 17 (no early service that week)

With Rev. Newcomb in Chicago for the weekend to attend the installation of Rev. Dorhauer, and Pastor Michelle on vacation, we will have a guest preacher at the 9:50 am service on April 17. Rev. Beth Long-Higgins will be with us, representing her work with United Church Homes (which has Trinity Homes here in Dayton), and speaking on "Aging In Community," about valuing the role of senior citizens in the life and work of our church. Shirley Johnson will be our lay liturgist, and lead worship with Rev. Long-Higgins.

We apologize to those who regularly attend the 8:30 am service, which will be cancelled for this week only. With both Pastors Brian and Michelle away, it just made the most sense.



Youth Sunday April 10 – 9:50 a.m.

The 8:30 Service will be in the Chapel.

Family Fun Night at SkateWorld

Saturday, April 2 – 6:00 PM

People of all ages are invited for a fun night of roller-skating. We will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. and head to SkateWorld for an exciting night for all ages. *Pastor Michelle* has twenty coupons for free admission to skate and if there are more than twenty people, then the price to skate is \$6.50.

Serving at Gateway

The first Sunday of every month, David's Church is responsible for providing and serving a meal at the Gateway Shelter for Men. This meal, which consists of meat loaf, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls, salad, and lemonade, is one of the favorites served at the shelter. In the Narthex, you will find a sign-up sheet for food that is needed as well as an opportunity to be a server at the shelter. Our next serving is Sunday, April 3. Many items are still needed. Please take a moment to see where you can help!

Parent's Night Out Friday, April 8!

All children through 6th grade are invited to spend a fun evening at David's Church from 6-9 p.m. We will spend the evening eating pizza and watching a movie. Special thanks go out to the SIGNS group for volunteering to help at this event. For this special night, we are just asking for parents to consider donating toward the 30 Hour Famine. See *Pastor Michelle* if you would like to sign-up your child.



Peanut Butter Needed!

Thank you all for helping with the Kettering Backpack Program. This ensures that needy students will not go hungry over any given weekend. A backpack is sent home with the kids each week filled with several food items. Please remember to pick up a few extra jars of peanut butter (16 or 18 oz.) when you do your grocery shopping, and place them in the orange bucket in the Narthex. Thanks!

Experience David's Grove

David's Grove is now available for free rental to our members. Have that Family Reunion, Wedding Anniversary, Birthday Party, or anything else. Reservations **MUST** be made through the church office with Chris Wood, and a \$25.00, refundable deposit is required. See any Trustee for additional information.

Youth Sunday – We Need Your Disney

Our Youth Sunday service on April 10 will be a magical time! This year, our main theme will be centered around the magical world of Disney! In July, two of our youth and two adult chaperones will be heading to Orlando for the UCC National Youth Event. During our service, we will take up a special offering to help pay for our exciting trip to Disney-world.

Following the service at 9:50, we will have a celebration in the Fellowship Hall and during this special time, we will be showing a special slideshow featuring pictures from our own memories that we have made during vacations to the most magical place on earth, Disney-world!! I wanted to involve everyone in our celebration this year. We are asking our church family to share some pictures from their vacations to Disney-world to be featured in our slide show presentation.

If you have some pictures that you would like to share, please email Pastor Michelle at michelle@davidsucc.org by April 7. Thank you so much!!

Spring Lantern Fellowship Women's Retreat

Leaving a Legacy

April 15-17, 2016

Pilgrim Hills Camp – Brinkhaven, Ohio

www.JourneyTheHills.org to for more information and to register.

Questions? See Teddy Artz

David's Quilting Ministry

After serious discussion and research, David's Quilters began the new year dedicating their Tuesday quilting days to creating quilts for patients at Dayton Veteran's Administration Hospice.

It's been exciting to pool our resources and gifts to create patriotic quilts for people who have served and protected our country through military service.

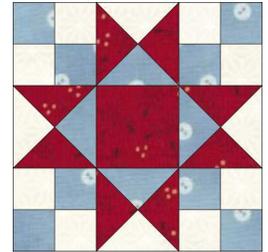
If you'd like to join the fun and fellowship of creating these quilts, we invite you to Tuesday quilting days which begin at 10 a.m. Some stay till noon while others bring a sack lunch and stay into the afternoon. If you have never quilted but are inspired by this project to learn, we're happy to have you join us and we'll share our knowledge.

If you quilt and would like to create quilts for this ministry but can't make Tuesdays, let us know of your interest and we'll make sure your contributions are included in dedication and distribution.

We welcome cash donations to purchase materials needed to continue this ministry. Checks can be made out to David's Church with "Quilting Ministry" in the memo line.

We're really excited about our new direction and the opportunity to combine all of our skills for such a worthy cause. Hope you'll want to join us, too!

Dotti Ankeney, Lynn Bender, Roselyn Faulkner, Anne Johnson, Debbie McCoy, Christy Mullin



Deacon's Fundraising With Kroger Plus Card

The Deacons are teaming up, once again, with the Kroger Community Rewards Program. To begin earning money for our church, each person needs to enroll/reenroll online at krogercommunityrewards.com and sign up with their Kroger Plus card number and the David's church Organization Number 78892. Questions? Contact Joyce Comer 278-3210.

DIRECTIONS TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

- Simply register online at krogercommunityrewards.com
- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number (78892) or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

David's Dinners

These dinners are a wonderful way for David's members to get to know one another. The remaining dates for this year's dinners are Saturday, April 16, and Saturday May 21 at The Grove (Pike Lake Weekend). Starting time is up to the host. Hosts will be sent a list of names and phone numbers, based on the number they have indicated they would like to entertain. If any guests on the list cannot make it, the host is welcome to invite others, provided that they are members of David's. Hosts cook the main course – other guests bring fill-ins, such as an appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert.



We encourage everyone to sign-up in the Narthex. When you do, please indicate which nights you would like to attend, which dates you'd like to host, if any, and how many people you would like to host.

Questions? Please contact *Steve Roark & Jeff Baldwin* at 643-9478 or s.roark@att.net.

April Birthdays

- 1 John Keyes
Jim Johnson
Andy Jones
Ellie Jones
- 3 Beth Dapp
Ron Slanker
- 4 Sue Walters
- 6 David Blum
- 7 Sue Krichbaum
Donna Runzo
- 9 Judi McCoy
- 14 Doris Lathrop
- 15 Karen Hendricks
Reid Schaeffer
Kaja Burke-Williams
- 16 T.R. Routsong
Cara Boothe
- 17 Vi Zimmerman
Carol Amon



- 18 JoAnn Bambauer
Keta Burke Williams
Jacob Morris
- 19 Bonnie Langdon
Emma Thompson
- 20 Eric Murphy
- 22 Barbara Ashbrook
- 23 Tim Andrews
Lee Richardson
- 24 Joyce Comer
- 25 Janette Richardson
Chris Schairbaum
- 26 Ethan Schoenlein
- 27 Dave Duell
David DeLon
Michelle Wilkey
- 30 Glenn Foster

Birth

Elizabeth Winter White was born on February 23, 2016 to *Brie & Andy White*.

Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, April 24



SIGNS Youth Group will be hosting a pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 24. With the help of the amazing *Jim Williams*, pancake maker extraordinaire, we will be serving pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee and juice at two seatings - one at 9:15 a.m. and another at 11:15 a.m. We will be accepting free-will offerings in return for this delicious food. All proceeds will help offset costs for SIGNS annual summer trip. Please plan on joining us for this tasty pancake fundraiser.

Pike Lake Cabin Available

We've just learned a Deluxe (2 Bedroom) Cabin has become available at Pike Lake State Park for our 50th Year Celebration the weekend of May 20-22.

If you're interested in joining in the celebration or would just like more information, please call or see *Kevin or Debbie McCoy* (689-4224 or 299-9218).

30 Hour Famine

This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000 and if we reach that goal *Pastor Michelle* will get a tattoo of a design of the teen's choosing. For every \$35 we raise, we will have enough to feed one hungry person for a whole month. Our goal of \$10,000, will give us enough to feed over 285 people for a whole month!! So if you would like to help us reach that goal, you can make your checks out to David's UCC and in the memo line write "30 Hour Famine." The youth experience their 30 Hour Famine April 22-23 at the Grove...

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY 1	SATURDAY 2 6:30 PM Family Outing at SkateWorld
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">APRIL 2016</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (937) 434-2131 WWW.DAVIDSUCC.ORG</p> 						
3 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship Reception of New Members Gateway 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	4 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 7:00 PM Pastor Brian's ACTS Study	5 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 & 7:30 PM Board Meetings	6 6:00 PM Yoga	7 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8 6:00-9:00 PM Parent's Night Out 7:00-10:00 PM Game Night at The Grove	9 8:30 AM Trustee Meeting 1:00 PM Youth Sunday Rehearsal
10 8:30 AM Worship in the Chapel 9:50 AM YOUTH SUNDAY Worship with Communion 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	11 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Pastor Brian's ACTS Study	12 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry	13 11:30 AM Keenagers 6:00 PM Yoga	14 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	DATELINE DEADLINE <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> SIGNS Garage Sale at The Grove </div>	
17 9:50 AM Worship with Rev. Beth Long- Higgins Food & Clothing Outreach 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/ SIGNS	18 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 7:00 PM Pastor Brian's ACTS Study	19 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Council Mtg.	20 6:00 PM Yoga	21 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> 30-Hour Famine at The Grove </div>	
24 8:30 & 9:50 AM Worship PANCAKE BREAKFAST 11:15 AM Second Hour 7:00 PM Book Study/SIGNS	25 9:30 AM Warm Wishes 10:30 AM Staff Mtg. 7:00 PM Pastor Brian's ACTS Study	26 10:00 AM Quilting Ministry 5:30 PM WHO Group	27 6:00 PM Yoga	28 11:00 AM-1:00 PM Knitters 6:00 PM Adult Bells 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29	30 Private Reception at The Grove