



LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER

*KEEPING THE CHURCH COMMUNITY INFORMED, INVESTED AND INVOLVED IN THE
MANY ACTIVITIES OF CHURCH LIFE*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 13

March/April 2020

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Joe Peabody, Jr - Pastor
 Darcy Whitfield - Administrator
 Angel Jones - Preschool Program Director
 Jenifer Polk and Meredith Daniel - Children's
 Directors
 Dana and Robert Murphy - Youth Directors
 David Williamson - Music Director
 Beth Massengale - Accompanist
 Darcy Whitfield - Nursery Director
 Jamie Mobley - Custodian



Inspiration From Our Pastor

Joe Peabody

Cell phone number 404-408-7422

email: joepeabody@yahoo.com

**Twitter Handle
[@elderpeabody](https://twitter.com/elderpeabody)**

Also on Facebook

Protocol/Grace/Separation?

A few Sunday nights ago, several of us gathered to talk about the proposal that will come (along with others) before the regularly scheduled General Conference, the quadrennial legislative assembly of the United Methodist



Church. On **Sunday, March 29**, the pastors and congregations of the Griffin and LaGrange Districts are – as we have been announcing – invited by the Bishop of the North Georgia Conference, the Rev. Sue Hauptert-Johnson, to attend a Town Hall meeting at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church at 3:30.

I plan to attend, but I will have to leave early to participate in the ordination service of a former intern of mine who is being ordained in the Baptist church where he now serves in Newnan. I also plan to attend the Town Hall that will be taking place on March 22 in Madison.

You may want to go, too. If so, I hope you will. If questions you bring with you are not answered, or if questions arise, please share them with me and I will do

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

“DID YOU KNOW?”

Dee Elkins

Essay on God

This “Essay on God” was written several years ago by Danny Duton of Chula Vista California. He was only 8 years old at the time it was written it was in response to an assignment by his Sunday School teacher. It has been in my files for a long time, but I think this is a good time to share it with you, for it is far, far better than anything that I could ever write. I would like to know when this kid’s adult life will (or rather has) led him. Enjoy!

One of God’s main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn’t make grown-ups. Just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn’t have to

(Continued on page 2, column 2)

Inspiration from Our Pastor (continued from page 1)

my best to be helpful. And be on the lookout for another gathering here at Locust Grove UMC to be scheduled in the weeks ahead.

Holy Week

On Palm Sunday we would love to have as many children as possible in both services to lead the congregation in the procession of the palms. And on Sunday evening we will have a special presentation entitled **“The Journey to the Cross.”** We hope you will come as we think and pry our way through the final week of Jesus’ life and ministry before the crucifixion and resurrection. **Alex McGinnis** will be our special musical guest on Palm Sunday night, and you won’t want to miss it!

We will have traditional **Maundy Thursday** and **Good Friday** worship services on Thursday and Friday evenings. We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday. And Easter morning will begin with our **Sunrise Service**, to be followed by breakfast and our regularly scheduled worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 AM.

Robes?

In the traditional service, members of the congregation have expressed strong preferences for a more formal service and for a more casual service. Back before Christmas, shortly before the arrival of the season of Advent, I made a decision. I decided to do here what I had done for the five years I was at Salem United Methodist Church. I will wear my robe during Advent and Lent, on the High Holy Days of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, and in the fall on World Communion Sunday. The rest of the year, I’ll dress as I generally have. If you have thoughts you feel I should hear (or that anyone should hear, please feel free to share them with me.



Special Requests for these Birthday Announcements

MARCH 6

DORIS FOWLER, ALLISON PEABODY

MARCH 7

BERT BANKS

“Did You Know?”(continued from page 1)

take up valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that up to mothers and fathers.

God’s second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on as some people, like preachers, pray other times besides bedtime. God doesn’t have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As he hears everything, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise going on in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn’t go wasting his time by going over your parents’ head and asking for something they said you couldn’t have.

Atheists are people who don’t believe in God. I don’t think there are any in Chula Vista - at least there aren’t who come to church.

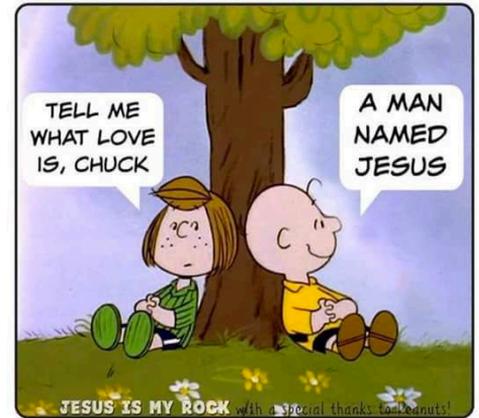
Jesus is God’s son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn’t want to learn. They finally got tired of his preaching to them and they crucified him.

But he was good and kind like His father, and he told his father they didn’t know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said OK. His father appreciated everything he had done and all his hard work on earth, so he told him he didn’t have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven -- so he did. And now he helps his father out by listening to prayers and seeing which things are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God...like a secretary, only more important, of course. You can pray any time you want and they are sure to hear you because they’ve got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to Sunday School because it makes God happy, and if there is anyone you want to make happy, it is God. Don’t skip Sunday School to do something you think will be more fun, like going to the beach. That is wrong, And besides the sun doesn’t come out at the beach until noon.

If you don’t believe in God, besides being an Atheist, you will be very lonely because your parents can’t go with you everywhere, like to camp, but God can. It’s good to know he is around when you are scared of the dark or when you can’t swim very well and you get thrown in real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn’t just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And that’s why I believe in God.



Cathy Gillespie, Sunday School Director

There is a Sunday School Class for everyone. Sunday School is at 10:00am and you are invited and encouraged to join one of these small groups. If you don’t know which class you belong in, visit each class and you will find one that works for you. See Cathy for more information.

Thanks again to everyone who contributes to our Sunday School programs, we couldn’t make it work without you.

Preschool News



Angel Jones, Program Director



March & April are quite busy.

Spring pictures were March 11th. **Preschool Sunday is March 15th** at the 11:00 service in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, **March 18th** is our donation dinner.

We have **Pastries for Parents** on Friday, **March 27th**.

In April we'll have our **Easter Egg Hunts**, **Spring Break**, **Pet Days**, with several field trips in the works, including our trip to **Kathy Engeman's Farm**.

Our registration began **February 3rd** for our current students and our church members. **March 2nd** began our open enrollment. If you or someone you know are looking for a great Christian based preschool, come see us. I don't think you'll be disappointed! Registration forms can be found on line or in the workroom of the church. Our 2's & 4 year old classes are just about full, but we've still got plenty of room in our 3's and MDO.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS*****

In case you didn't know, the preschool e-mail address was hacked several weeks ago. (My niece didn't really need gift cards, as the e-mail stated). At any rate, I've been locked out of my account; therefore I've changed it. The new address is:

lgumcpreschool@icloud.com.

As always, thanks for your support,

MUSIC NOTES



David Williamson
Music Director

A BIG THANK YOU to Carter, Kailee and Ryleigh for singing Majestic on March 1. Super job guys. I am looking forward to the next song. Big thank you to Kathy Gillespie for helping by letting me work with the children during Sunday School.

The Adult Choir continues to provide strong leadership at the 8:45 service. It is very important to have them leading on the congregation singing each week. We test new songs in rehearsal and learn them before using them in a worship service. Their work and commitment each week in rehearsal is a joy and blessing not only to me as a director but to other choir members. It is a family. Everyone doing their part to prepare music each week for worship that will be pleasing to our God. It is fun and also work.

It is not too late to participate in the Easter music. Rehearsal is at 6:45 pm each Wednesday. We always rehearse Easter music first. That way anyone just wanting to sing at Easter can leave after rehearsing the Easter music. Would love to have a few more singers. Hoping someone will make my Easter brighter by coming to sing with us!



Jenifer Polk and Meredith Daniels, Children's Directors

We are so excited for our families to learn what our **Kidz for Christ** group are doing in the life of our church.

What's happening in the Neighborhood?

March 13th 5:30pm – 8:00pm

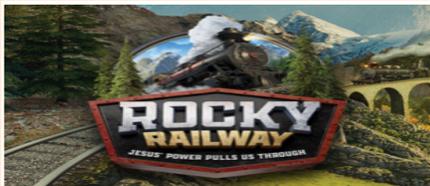


Kids grab your parents and challenge them to some fun. Who is the best game player in your family? There will be something for everyone.

***Dinner will be served: Sub Sandwiches, Chips and Desert**

April 11th Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am – 2:00pm

**Open to the Community. Come get your picture made with the Easter Bunny.
Free hot dogs, chips and Drinks.**



Save the Date!!!!!!!

**June 22nd – 26th 6:00pm – 8:30pm
VBS is Coming this Summer**

Parent Tips and Ideas Valentine Day Craft:

Easter Giveaway: Rolo-way Reminders

You'll need:

- Bible
- **Rollo** brand chocolates (as many packages as you'd like to distribute),
- ribbon
- unlined index cards
- scissors
- markers
- hole punch

To prepare in advance, print the following on mailing labels: **"The stone has rolled away! Jesus is risen!"**

Read Mark 16:3-6.

Say: The stone that rolled away was a heavy boulder, firmly set in place, moved because of a miracle. Jesus is alive!

To assemble the treats, have you child hole punch the corner of an index card. Then have kids each stick the labels on the cards and use markers to decorate the cards. Next kids can string some ribbon through the hole in the card and tie it around a pack of **Rolo** chocolates. Help younger children with tying as needed. Make as many treats as time allows. Then along with adults and older kids in your children's ministry, hand out to friends and family you know. As you hand out the candy, invite them to your church for Easter service.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



It is time to replace the playground equipment with new commercial grade fixtures, add mulch and a rubber curb around play area. Also upgrade or replace existing equipment.

This project has been broken down into individual items so that you can see exactly what the cost involves. This money is not in our budget; it must be donated by those who see the importance of having a safe and attractive playground that the preschoolers, children of our church and those of the community around us can enjoy.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - Phase I

Two-top Khamun Playground System

original price - \$14,150.00

Sale price	\$ 9,434.00	Kidsafe Playground Mulch - 6 inches	\$ 2,280.00
Shipping	971.00	Rubber Curb - 6 foot increments	1,170.00
Taxes	<u>728.35</u>	Approximate taxes	<u>241.50</u>
Total	\$ 11,133.35	Total	\$ 3,691.50

TOTAL FOR PHASE 1 - \$ 14,824.85

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - Phase II

Up-grade/replace existing equipment as needed

8	Plastic coated chains for little swings (66 inches)	@ 16.48	\$ 131.84
4	High back bucket swings for little swings	@ 66.67	266.68
12	Plastic coated chains for big swings (102 inches)	@ 10.01	120.12
5	Belt Swings	@ 23.00	115.00
1	Web Sauce Swing (40 inches - 3 children)	@ 75.99	75.99
1	Turbo Tube Spiral Slide	@ 368.99	368.99
	Approximate taxes	75.50	75.50
	Total		\$ 1,154.12

TOTAL FOR PHASE II - 1,154.12

TOTAL FOR PHASE I AND PHASE II - \$ 15,978.97

PLAYGROUND ACCOUNT	4,442.48
GIFTS AS OF FEBRUARY 23	<u>2,175.00</u>
BALANCE	\$ 9,361.49

MOTHER'S DAY



REMEMBER MOTHER WITH AN HONOR OR A MEMORIAL GIFT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Make a donation, give us an address and we will send a thank you note!!

FATHER'S DAY



REMEMBER FATHER WITH AN HONOR OR A MEMORIAL GIFT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Make a donation, give us an address and we will send a thank you note!!

BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY



REMEMBER LOVED ONES WITH AN HONOR OR A MEMORIAL GIFT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Make a donation, give us an address and we will send a thank

Editorial Page

My Father's Hands

I have always thought that our hands speak much about who we are and how we have lived our lives. My father's hands were a good example.

One of my earliest memories is of walking downtown in the small community of Woodstock, Illinois with my Dad. My hand was too small to hold his, so he had me hold on to his index finger. I don't remember what our errand was, but I will always remember how proud I felt walking with my Dad. He was my hero.

Just a few years later, my Mom received a phone call from my Dad's work, in the middle of the day. Dad worked for the power company. (I will probably not get the details right, but I will try.) They used huge coal-burning boilers to produce heat. Over time the coal would become encrusted on the walls and would need to be scraped off. A workman would have to crawl inside and scrape loose the burning crust with a large stick. On this particular day, the job had been put off for too long. My Dad volunteered to take care of it. He crawled inside and started scraping. The heat was even greater than usual. The encrustation started to come loose. Then a large area came down at once. It blocked the path to the opening which was the way out. The heat was incredible. Oxygen was being used up quickly. Dad dropped to his hands and knees and crawled over the hot coals to get to safety. God was with him.

When my Mom was called, he was already at the hospital, being treated for his burns. He was there for a few days. He had some scars after that. But it was his faith that stayed with him, not the scars.

One of his friends once said that my Dad was the strongest man he had ever met. And his hands showed his strength. But they were also the hands of a craftsman. He made furniture, helped build additions to our church. His hands were always in service to God. He helped those in need, comforted those in distress and bounced babies on his knee until they squealed with laughter.

But my favorite picture of my Dad shows him with his hands folded in prayer. He wasn't just strong, he was a prayer warrior.

Submitted by Lin Hicks - her and her husband, Ricky are a real blessing as new members of the Missions team.

RELEVANT BIBLE VERSES

[Psalm 63:4](#)

So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

[Mark 6:5](#)

And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.

[Psalm 88:9](#)

My eyes grow weak because of oppression. I call out to you, O Lord, all day long; I spread out my hands in prayer to you.



Share Our Church Story With Others

Please feel free to take a printed copy of the newsletter to give to someone who would benefit from knowing about our church - a potential member, a neighbor, a friend or someone you met recently who was looking for a new church home. It will give them information on the many activities and missions of our church as well as the service that we do for our Lord. If there are no printed copies available, let Darcy or Kathy know and we will get you what you need.

The Church Family

Prayer List

LGUMC FAITH FAMILY

Tom Nipper
Sarah Johns Smith & Hamm Family
Jerry Standard
Chris Evans
Janis Smith
Dan and Judy Varner
Angel Jones Family
Tim and Ardy Chase
Mary Jones

HOSPICE, HOMEBOUND OR ASSISTED LIVING

Roberta Simmons
Margaret Jones

MEN AND WOMEN IN SERVICE WHO FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOM

Steven Keister - Afghanistan
Christopher Buttemeier - Israel
Jake Dorris - Okinawa, Japan
Gray Gardner - Iraq
Justin Giannace - Cherry Point, N.C.
Philip Gibby - Tacoma, WA
Rachel & TJ Tiu - Alaska
Todd Wilkerson - Salt Lake City, Utah
Tech Sgt. Danny Purcell - USAF - Iraq

PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY WHO ARE FACING LIFE'S STRUGGLES IN THEIR FAMILIES AND IN THEIR OWN LIFE.



United Methodist Men

Helping Men Grow in Christ, So Others May Know Christ

The UMM would like to invite all the Men of the Church to attend our monthly meetings, to plan our events, and to assist other church ministries in making theirs as successful as possible.

We had an excellent Valentines Dinner back in February, thanks to our Youth group and their leaders Robert and Dana Murphy.

Supporting the Children's goal to raise funds for New Playground Equipment is something I feel that the UMM will help with in whatever way possible.

Coming within the next few months we will be planning the Kickin' Chicken Barbecue. Our Spring Clean-up for the Easter Celebration is March 21. People, talents and tools are needed.

Our meetings are the first Saturday each month with Breakfast at 7:30 AM. Come and check us out, as you are a member too. Hope to see you on April 4th.



Darcy's Notes

From the Administrator's Desk

Darcy Whitfield



2020 Church Directory Update!

The final steps are being accomplished on our new **2020 Church Directory**!! It has been a long process updating the addresses and phone numbers and making sure that everyone that wanted a picture included, had the chance to submit them...but the wait is almost over! We are currently waiting on a proof of the directory!! Once all information is confirmed and all necessary changes are made, I will send it back and the final Church Directories will be printed. I do not have an exact date, but the hardest & longest part is over! Look for an announcement in the Sunday bulletin on when you can pick up your copy. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call or send an email. Thank you all for your patience!

DATES TO REMEMBER

BE SURE TO CHECK THE CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FREQUENTLY

MARCH 16 - Monday, 5:30 pm Staff Meeting

7:30 pm Administrative Council Meeting

MARCH 18 - Wednesday, 5:30 pm Preschool Donation Dinner - Chicken Breast Supreme, Rice, Green Beans and Dessert

MARCH 20 - Friday, 5:30 pm Family Game Night

MARCH 29 - Sunday, 3:30 pm Town Hall meeting at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

APRIL 4 - Saturday, 7:00 am UMM Breakfast

APRIL 5 - Palm Sunday Special Evening Service

APRIL 6 - **SPRING BREAK FOR SCHOOLS**

APRIL 6 - Monday, 7:00 pm Missions Meeting

APRIL 9 - Maundy Thursday Service

APRIL 10 - Good Friday Service

APRIL 11 - Saturday, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 12 - Sunrise Service and Breakfast along with regular services

APRIL 18 - Booth at Locust Grove Day

APRIL 20 - 24 - Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm GCA Testing

APRIL 21 - Tuesday, Voting in Fellowship Hall

APRIL 22 - Wednesday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Preschool Pet Day

APRIL 25 - Saturday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm Kickin' Chicken BBQ in Pavillion

APRIL 27 - MAY 1 - Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm GCA Testing

Locust Grove United Methodist Church Administrative Council Meeting March 16, 2020 Proposed Agenda

The following are likely topics of discussion at the Administrative Council Meeting scheduled for 7:30 PM, March 16, 2020.

Pastor Peabody:

Opening Remarks.

Realignment of North Georgia UMC Districts.

Selection of a Church Lay Representative.

Current status of church security.

Trustee's Representative:

Announcement of the Trustee Chair.

Other items of significance.

Open for discussion.

Regular Meetings

Every Sunday

8:45 am Traditional Service

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Contemporary Service

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 4:12 Youth Games

Monday

6:30 pm Girl Scouts

Tuesday

11:00 am Saints Alive

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Wednesday

5:30 pm Dinner

6:30 pm 4:12 Youth

Kids for Christ

6:30 - 8:00 pm Praise Band Practice

6:45 - 8:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday

6:00 - 7:00pm Group Counseling

Friday

8:00 - 10:00 pm AA



John 14:27

**Peace I leave with you, my peace
I give unto you: not as the world
giveth, give I unto you. Let not
your heart be troubled, neither
let it be afraid.**

PSALMS 112:7

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.



Robert and Dana Murphy, Youth Directors

Each year, our youth group goes to local concerts and out-of-state trips like skiing in the Winter or visiting a beach in the Spring. We strive to ensure that every child has a chance to participate and we pray that our congregation will be encouraged to donate towards sponsoring one of our youth members.

If this is something that you feel led to do, you can make your donation to “LGUMC Youth” and designate your donation to “Sponsors”. Any amount is appreciated. If you have a question, please let one of our youth directors or Tammy Cook know and they would be happy to answer. Thank you for your continued support of the 4:12 Youth Group.



UNDIE SUNDAY

BEGINNING MARCH 1



KIDS IN SCHOOLS AND MOTELS AND MANY OTHER PLACES NEED THEM - SOCKS AND UNDIES!

We will be collecting these items throughout the school year.

We have two large boxes in both halls behind the Sanctuary for your donations - packages of socks or undies for kids. We are looking for a variety of sizes for children, small, medium or Large or even a little larger. Kids come bigger these days. Boys much prefer Boxer Briefs!!! We will take monetary donations - just make a note (Undie Sunday) on your check made out to LGUMC.



The Trustee Committee is asking for everyone’s help with a Church wide clean up day. The work day will take place on **Saturday, March 21st at 8:00 AM.**

If you have a talent you think could be helpful, or just have a calling to help - please contact Steve Rager or the church office. If you are unable to help, but can lend equipment like a pressure washer or other helpful items, please let us know!

If we are rained out, the reschedule date will be March 28th. All are welcome and encouraged to help, plan to get dirty!! Many hands make light work!!

Thank you all!

LGUMC IS AN ACTIVE CHURCH AND WE WANT FOLKS TO KNOW WE ARE WORSHIPPING AND SERVING THE LORD IN MANY WAYS

BE SURE TO KEEP UP WITH OUR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS ON OUR WEBPAGE WHERE YOU’LL FIND THIS NEWSLETTER AND A CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

WWW.locustgroveumc.org

MEMBERS BULLETIN BOARD

This is an area dedicated to allowing members to express their thoughts and ideas along with announcements of appropriate events of interest to the congregation. Please feel free to send in your information to KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com

Sunday Mornings

Nursery: We offer a nursery during our morning worship services. Our nursery is well supervised and offers a warm, nurturing atmosphere for babies & toddlers. The nursery is located on the Preschool Hall. Children 9 weeks - 5 years are accepted from 8:30 am to 12:15 pm on Sunday Mornings. Ask one of our Greeters and they would love to show you to our Nursery.

Children's Church: Every Sunday morning during the 8:45am and 11:00am services, we offer Children's Church for all children ages 5 to 5th grade. Children will attend the Children's sermon in church, and then be led to Children's Church by our ministry staff.

Wednesday Nights

Kidz for Christ: Join us on Wednesday nights after dinner from 6:30 - 7:45 pm where you learn how to navigate through the Bible, have lessons, fun and fellowship with your peers.

KEEP IN TOUCH

LOCUST GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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LOCUST GROVE, GA 30248

PHONE: 770-957-9605

FAX: 770-957-2470

www.locustgroveumc.org

lgumc@bellsouth.net



Food Pantry
Maryanne Morfoot
Susan Triggs



Everyone's support has repeatedly played a key role in the success of our LGUMC Food Pantry. Your commitment to the Mission Committee's work of feeding the hungry is most appreciated.

As of this date, March 5, 2020, there have been 11 bags and boxes of food given from the last time I reported, which was Feb. 5th.

Needed: 1 lb. boxes of spaghetti noodles, boxes of saltine crackers, boxes of breakfast cereal, and pudding cups.

Thanks for all you do!

Comments and Suggestions

Always welcome suggestions, concerns and comments about the newsletter. Address these to KathyEngeman@Protonmail.com or drop them by the church office in an envelope addressed to Kathy Engeman. **The deadline for the next month is the 15th of the current month.** Please make sure you include all dates and times.

Photos taken of church events and activities are very much appreciated.

