Family of God on the Move...

December 2018/January 2019

Rockport United Methodist Church

Rockporter

3301 Wooster Road * Rocky River, OH 44116 * 440.331.9433 * Rockportumc.org * rockportumc@sbcglobal.net

Mary Christmas!!!

Over the past several years Rev. Davis and I have entered a discussion about the importance of Mary and Jesus in the life of the church. In fact, last year Rev. Davis lead a bible study on the life of Mary asking those who participated the following question: "Who is Mary?"

We think of Mary as a simple young woman laying her newborn child in a manger. But where the church took Mary afterward is fascinating. The scripture actually tells us precious little of Mary. The Gospel of Mark begins at Jesus's baptism, so nothing is said about Mary. Mathew's gospel makes a bit more of her. She is a character in the story of Jesus's birth, but Joseph is much more prominent. In the Gospel of John, she's never even called by name. Only the Gospel of Luke tells us much about her and includes her speech, the Magnificat, which begins with these immortal words, "My soul magnifies the Lord." The Magnificat has become the basis of beautiful and timeless music and art. In fact in the years during which the Gospels were completed and then transmitted to the early church, Mary's place of significance was already forged through art and music in church thought. She was called by many lofty titles, almost as many as you can find for Jesus. Her image found its way onto paintings, sculptures and numerous icons.

Eventually, it was said that more cathedrals were dedicated to her honor than anyone else, including Jesus. And perhaps more prayers were said to her than anyone else. The prayers of all the rosaries prayed over all the years have addressed her as, "Hail Mary."

She was no longer a young maiden at a manger, but an exalted figure. So exalted in fact that many in the 16th century church thought too much had been made of her. And so the Reformation smashed her images, whitewashed her face from the church walls and denounced prayer that honored or addressed her. And yet devotion to her and appreciation of her never really waned. Mary and her Magnificat are still important to us in the church today.

Mary's Magnificat is not a threat of judgement and it's not primarily about us. It is mostly about God, who calls for a reshuffling or resorting of our priorities with the hope that we move the focus off our lives and refocus them on God. If you carefully read the Magnificat you would discover that Mary leaves the vision of ourselves and our worth in God's hands.

I think that is why Mary has been adored for centuries. She has helped us focus on God and delivered God's love for all of us. As you approach Christmas find some time to read the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55) again. And approach the manger again as Mary did, expectant with God's love and a willingness for God to reshuffle our lives, resort our priorities, and refocus our faith if needed. May Christ continue to be born among us!!

Mary Christmas!!!

~ Rev. Dr. Gordon Myers

Serving the Family of **Rockport United Methodist Church**

Rev. Dr. Gordon Myers	- Pastor
Rev. Barbara Davis, BCC	- Associate Pastor
Sarah Paulson	- Lay Leader
Kira Cimino Holchin	- Director of Christian Education & Youth
Susan Shick	- Director of Music, Organist
Sara Chapman	- Office Administrator
Valerie Norris	- Director of Early Childhood Center
Tina Berardi	- Saturday Evening Worship Leader
Amanda Hover	- Saturday Evening Worship Leader

Month at a Glance

December

1,8,15,29	Sat. Evening Worship Rehearsal, 4pm Food & Fellowship, 5pm Saturday Evening Worship, 5:30pm
2,9,16,23,30	Early Morning Service, 8:30am 9:30am Invest in Your Faith for all Ages Blended Worship, 10:45am
4,11,18	Choir, 6:45pm
4,18	Boy Scouts
5,12,19	Pageant Rehearsal &Good News Kids, 6:15pm Sat. Evening Worship Rehearsal, 7pm
6,13,20,27	A.A.. 8:30pm
7,14,21,28	Al-Anon, 9:45am
8	UMKids' Club & UMYF babysitting for parents to run errands, 12pm
9	Pack Military Boxes, 12:15pm
13	All Women's Groups Christmas Party, 6:30pm Men's Group Christmas Celebration, 6:30pm
15	Breakfast & Flower Arranging, 9am
17	Caroling @RTA, 5:30pm
18	UMYF Youth & Alumni Christmas Gathering, 6:30pm
19	Mary Martha Circle, 12:30pm
21-22	UMYF & UMKids' Club Cookie Lock-In, 5pm to 12pm
24	Christmas Eve Services, Family: 3pm, Traditional, 9pm
25, 26, 27, 28, 31	Church Office Closed

January

1	Church Office Closed
9,16,23,30	Good News Kids, 6:30pm Sat. Evening Worship Rehearsal, 7pm
3	Women's Fellowship, 6pm
3,10,17,24,31	A.A., 8:30pm
4,11,18,25	Al-Anon, 9:45am
5,12,19,26	Sat. Evening Worship Rehearsal, 4pm Food & Fellowship, 5pm Saturday Evening Worship, 5:30pm
6,13,20,27	Early Morning Service, 8:30am Invest in Your Faith for all Ages, 9:30am Blended Worship, 10:45am
7	Trustees, 7pm
8,15,22,29	Choir, 6:45pm
12	Men's Group Breakfast, 9am
13	UMW Mission Action Meeting, 12pm
15	Boy Scouts, 7pm Feb. Rockporter Articles Due
16	Mary Martha Circle, 12:30pm
17	Finance, 6:30pm
28	Church Council, 7pm

Happy Birthday!

December		January	
12/7	Thomas Walkosak	1/3	Elise Newton
12/11	Faith & Grace Boyette	1/7	Hailey Weaver
12/23	Viviahn Kuehner	1/22	Griffin Cluts
		1/28	William Sinko

Anniversaries

December

12/28 Russ & Dianne Hall, 55 years

January

1/1 Jay & Pattie Sinnes, 61 years
Ralph & Dorothy Brane, 38 years

1/17 Todd & Jill Payne, 32 years

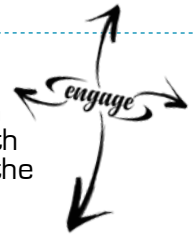
OFFICE HOUR CHANGES FOR THE HOLIDAYS:

Please note that the church office will be closed from Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1. Please call the church office for any pastoral concerns during the holiday season, as messages will be checked regularly. Happy Holidays to all!

FLOWER ARRANGING

Saturday, December 15th 9am in Wesley Hall.

Come and enjoy fellowship and some Christmas flower arranging techniques from our expert David Stephan. You will be leaving with a beautiful arrangement/centerpiece for your home, which you yourself created! Cost: $22 to cover all supplies.
A continental breakfast will be served!



Engage! Rockport has an opportunity to engage with families in need through the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation. Along with the friends of Rockport Early Childhood Center, you too, can support those who often find themselves hungry. Now through December 9th, you may drop off cans of soup in the narthex. The children of Rockport School will be dropping off their collections throughout the week. Lets consider the joy of the season by engaging in ministries that touch others with the love of God!

Boxed Offering Envelopes and 2019 Calendars

Boxed offering envelopes are available in the narthex. These boxed sets are ideal for those folks who contribute weekly. We also have 2019 calendars available from Zeis McGreevey Funeral Home for those who desire one.

Notice! During the past decade, it has been noted that our phone system is in desperate need of updating. Rockport trustees have purchased a new system that will meet our needs for years to come. Therefore, by the first of the year, all calls to Rockport will be answered and transferred to the appropriate church department. When the phone system is completely installed, each area of ministry will have a voice mail to receive your message. Thank you for your patience as we grow through this transition.

Any questions, please contact Dr. Myers.

Congratulations

On December 17th **Valerie Norris** will celebrate 32 years of service for the Childcare Center & 22 years of that service as the Director. We congratulate her and thank her for her dedication!

United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

DECEMBER:
No official meeting for December, however, all are invited to the Dec. 13 Holiday Party.

JANUARY:
Sunday, Jan. 13, following coffee hour, we will meet in the Choir Room to make a craft to give to those recouping from an illness or are homebound. Questions, please call Pam Faup @ 440-777-5256.

Men's Fellowship:

DECEMBER
The Annual Rockport Men's Group Christmas Celebration will be on Thursday, December 13th from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m. at Nick Berardi's home:

1377 Adelaide Street
Westlake, Ohio

Nick will provide pasta, meatballs and sausage. Bring a salad, a vegetable, side dish, or dessert, and your Christmas spirit! We always have a great time at this festive gathering.

JANUARY:
The Rockport Men's Group will meet for breakfast on Saturday, January 12th at 9:00 am at Café Stratos at 23642 Lorain Road in North Olmsted. Please come and enjoy breakfast with other Rockport men and help plan activities for 2019.

Women's Fellowship:

DECEMBER:
Joint Holiday party for all Women's groups of the church! We want "Wednesday Women's Group" to please join us at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 13th. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and an inexpensive gift to trade in a game we play called "This is Mrs. Wright". A sign up sheet is posted.

JANUARY:
On Thursday evening January 3rd @ 6pm, all women are invited for our annual dinner at King Wah Restaurant on Center Ridge in Rocky River. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Dec. 16th

Mary Martha Circle

DECEMBER:
Wed. December 19, 12:30 p.m. Luncheon in The Parlor. After dessert, the Rockport Early Childcare Center will perform a few holiday songs, followed by Pastor Gordon as our speaker.

JANUARY:
Wed. January 16, 12:30pm, Dianne Hall, will speak to us and have photos downloaded about her Fall vacation to Alpine Europe.

DANCE, EXERCISE & FUN:

Don't we need more exercise and fun in our life? Learn Cha-Cha, Fox –trot, Merengue, Mambo, Rhumba, Salsa, Swing, Tango, Waltz and more. At the beginning of each month on Thursdays from 6:45-7:30pm in Wesley Hall, Bev Cavanah will teach all these dances for $40/ person for 4 classes. Portion of this fee will go towards Rockport. Please call Bev at 440-333-5483 to sign-up. Move, Move, Move and laugh!

Youth & UMKids' Club Babysitting Christmas Errand DAY!

Calling all Parents in need of FREE BABYSITTING so that you can finish your Christmastime errands!

SATURDAY, Dec. 8th from 12 to 3:30 p.m. Drop your children off and we will provide Pizza lunch, crafts, games in Wesley Hall, and FUN!

The children can come for the entire 3 & 1/2 hours, or come any time that fits your schedule while we're open!

Please enter & exit through the Wesley Hall doors! Children must be signed in and out Thank you!

Orders are open now!

Preorder CHRISTMAS COOKIES! The Youth & UMKids' Club kids are currently taking orders through Tuesday, December 19th, and available for pick-up on Saturday, December 22nd after Saturday Night Worship, and Sunday, December 23rd after 10:45 a.m. Worship.

ALL Profits after ingredient costs go to the YAC Summer trip, and our mission projects.

THANK YOU!

Christmas Poinsettia Dedication: Christmas Poinsettias may be ordered to honor a special person in your life, or to remember a loved one. The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 24th. Following the Christmas Eve Service, **please take your plant with you!**

Please enclose $10. for each one. Deadline for order is Wednesday, Dec. 12th.

Circle One: In Memory Of / In Honor Of

Dedicate to: (Name) _____

Your Name _____

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities:

Monday, December 24

Join us for candlelight worship as we engage in the celebration of the birth of our Savior! We offer two different opportunities for this great celebration!

A more family, friendly and upbeat worship will be held at 5:00pm!

At 9:00pm we will offer a more traditional style service.

Both worship experiences will include a time of candlelight.

Time Machine Christmas

(A Sequel to "The Bible Travelers")

Don't miss the Children's Christmas Pageant!

EACH Sunday in Advent the kids will perform a small ongoing chapter in their story, TO BE Continued each week through the last Sunday in Advent!

We can't wait to see you!

Christmas mission

Christmas Caroling With A Purpose!

Monday, Dec. 17th at 5:30

This year we will sing carols at the local RTA station. This is a place where people come and go from all walks of life. Won't you join us in song and engage with these travelers? Sign up and details on the bulletin board!

Not able to attend Christmas Caroling?

Along with caroling, we will offer Ziplock bags filled with items that may come in handy as they go along in their travels. You can still engage in this ministry by supplying the needed items (see list below) to fill a quart sized Ziplock bag! Your contribution can be placed in the narthex now through December 16th.

Items needed:

- Granola/protein bars
- Trial size sanitizer
- Pocket size tissues
- Chap stick
- Trial size hand lotion
- Band-Aids
- Emery Boards
- Quart sized Ziplock bags
- Small pad of paper
- Ball point pen
- Deck of cards
- Pack of gum
- Mints

THOUGHT of the Month

What makes Christmas Happen: ~ Anonymous

What makes Christmas "happen" for you? Where does the joy of the season come alive in you? Is it in the carols? The celebrations? The candlelight services? The music of the Advent season? Perhaps you find it in the shopping and gift-giving. Maybe you see the love of the season in the sparkling eyes of a child or feel it in a loved one's hug.

Whatever it is, during this holiday season with all its frenzied festivities, stop and remember that night in the stable, those mingled smells of animals and hay, that pain and subsequent joy in the birth of one small child. Breathe deep and feel with Mary, with Joseph, the shepherds, the angels. Feel the birth of Jesus. What is it to experience such joy, such peace? Verbally express to someone close to you what the birth of Christ means to you at this point in your life. Be joyful! Experience God's love and peace.

UMYF

Faith FUN Youth Fellowship

Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth Youth

December:

Babysitting for Shoppers Mission!
Saturday, Dec.8th; 12 to 3:30 p.m.
We will be watching kids 3rd grade and under while their parents go out and run Christmas errands... we will provide pizza lunch, crafts, and playing in Wesley Hall. PLEASE sign up for the following:

Set-up and first shift: 11:30 to 2 p.m.
Second shift and Cleanup: 1:45 to 4 p.m.
OR - you may come for the **ENTIRE time** if you like!

There is only a 30 min setup and a 30 min cleanup time period, and if we all sign up for at least one of those, it won't be bad.

COOKIE LOCK-IN!
Friday, Dec.21st; 5 p.m. Friday, to 12 p.m. Saturday
*BAKING cookies all night to fill the orders! PLEASE bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and any personal items you will need for overnight. the parlor will be set up as our quiet time room - that way anyone who cannot stay up late has a place to go to sleep!
*SNACKS/PIZZA PROVIDED
*This is an important event and we need to work - but breaks & fun will be provided as well!
*phones/tablets are ok to bring - BUT when we're working they need to be put away.

*Friends welcome!

This is a fundraiser for YAC and our mission projects.

*Permission slips are needed if you are spending the night.

UMYF & Alumni Christmas Party!
TUESDAY, Dec. 18th, from 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Friends are always welcome - please try to give me a heads-up tho, so i can plan food!
ALUMNI VS. UMYF GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION, small Christmas devotions, fellowship, and games! WOOO! Happy Christmas!

January:

Please be watching for the fellowship, study, and mission opportunities that are coming up for the New Year! We have a lot planned, and will get the dates out as soon as we have them available!

PROJECT: FEED
Changing the world, one meal at a time.

Youth Conference Mission Trip in November to help pack a total of 75,000 Meals to stop Hunger around the World. We came, We wore Hairnets, we packed A TON of Food Bags!

CHILDREN OF ROCKPORT

Christian Education

December:

Wed. 12/5 - 6:45 to 8 p.m. - GNK's
Wed. 12/12 - 6:30 - 8 p.m. - GNK's
Wed. 12/19 - 6:30 - 8 p.m. CHRISTMAS PARTY! Party Food

NO GOOD NEWS KIDS on Wed. 12/26 OR Wed. 1/2/18!
We will kick off the NEW YEAR on Wed. January 9th!!!

Wed. 1/9 - 6:45 to 8 p.m. - GNK's
Wed. 1/16 - 6:45 to 8 p.m. - GNK's
Wed. 1/23 - 6:45 to 8 p.m. - GNK's
Wed. 1/30 - 6:45 to 8 p.m. - GNK's

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday, November 28th -
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
Friday, November 30th -
6 - 9 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal, Pizza Dinner, Games
Wednesday, December 5th -
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 12th -
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 19th -
6:15 - 6:45 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal

Christmas Pageant Performance Schedule

Performance ONE, Dec. 2nd
Report time: 10 a.m., Room 18

Performance TWO, Dec. 9th
Report time: 10 a.m., Room 18

Performance THREE, Dec. 16th
Report time: 10 a.m., Room 18

Performance FOUR, Dec. 23rd
Report time: 10 a.m., Room 18

DECEMBER UMKIDS' CLUB MISSION

Friday, Dec.14th; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m

We will be filling bags with small items for the Bus Stop Carolers Mission... The Carolers will hand the bags out to people at the Bus Stop who may have a need...
*Mac 'n Cheese for dinner.
IF we finish in a timely manner, we can play a game. See ya then!
WOO!

December:

Babysitting for Shoppers Mission!
Saturday, Dec.8th; 12 to 3:30 p.m.
We will be watching kids 3rd grade and under while their parents go out and run Christmas errands... we will provide pizza lunch, crafts, and playing in Wesley Hall. PLEASE sign up for the following:

Set-up and first shift: 11:30 to 2 p.m.
Second shift and Cleanup: 1:45 to 4 p.m.
OR - you may come for the **ENTIRE time** if you like!

There is only a 30 min setup and a 30 min cleanup time period, and if we all sign up for at least one of those, it won't be bad.

COOKIE LOCK-IN!
Friday, Dec.21st; 5 p.m. Friday, to 12 p.m. Saturday
*BAKING cookies all night to fill the orders! PLEASE bring a sleeping bag and pillow, and any personal items you will need for overnight. the parlor will be set up as our quiet time room - that way anyone who cannot stay up late has a place to go to sleep!
*SNACKS/PIZZA PROVIDED
*This is an important event and we need to work - but breaks & fun will be provided as well! *phones/tablets are ok to bring - BUT when we're working they need to be put away.
*Friends welcome!

January:

Please be watching for the January opportunities that are coming up! SO MUCH is coming up! Woo!!!!

Prayers

*Hospitalized

Ron	Continued prayers as he continues to adjust to daily life in the rehab facility & continued healing & care by staff. Brother of Debbie Bryant
Mark Arlia	Cancer. Requested by Beverly Cavanah
Matilda Arlia	Medical concerns. Requested by Beverly Cavanah
Elsie Gaewsky	Prayers for healing
Eric	Brain surgery in December. Requested by Elsie
Lucy Ponerantz	Prayers that her cancer will be cured. Requested by Mary
Ruth Morton	Recovering from knee surgery
Melba Crain	Prayers for her surgery. Requested by Pattie & Jay Sinnes
Pattie Sinnes	Health concerns
*Robert Ogle	Recovering from stent heart surgery. Requested by Debra Ogle
Dennis	Prayers for health, strength & healing. Nephew of Elsie Gaewsky
Helen Tank	Prayers for improved health
Jan Tietje	Medical concerns
Erna Guia	Health concerns
Gregory Schwind	Multiple system atrophy. Requested by Nancy Geyer
Joyce	Health concerns. Sister of Nancy Geyer
Norma Munro	Health concerns
Jacob Gasiewski	Grandson of Carole Heppner
Sarah Bungard	Serving our country, Chief Warrant Officer 2 USMC. Requested by the Kopko Family
Mariah White	Pray for safety for her and her unit who are in Kuwait for a nine-month tour of duty. Friend of Dan Newman

Lt. Chandler Freemanjust returned to Kuwait for 6 months. Grandson of Marge Freeman

In Sympathy

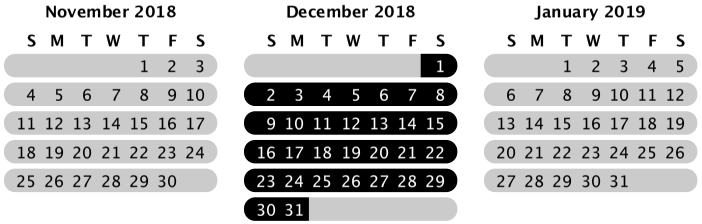
Family and friends of Nancy Straub, who passed into life eternal on Nov. 4th. Sister of Verna Ferrante & member of Rockport

Thanks and praise that Joe Casper is better and able to go back to work. Son-in-law of Nancy Geyer

To My Dear Friends & Members at Rockport,
Thank you so sincerely for the beautiful sympathy card. It truly meant a lot to me.
In Christian Love, Lois Ellibee

Thank you for the prayers for Marianne's successful procedure. Helen A. Tank

December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 8:30 AM EMS Worship 9:30 AM IIYF- All Ages (invest in your Faith) 10:45 AM Worship	26 7:00 PM Red Hackle Pipes & Drum Band Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	27 6:45 PM Choir	28 6:30 PM Good News Kids 7:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Worship Rehearsal	29 8:30 PM A.A.	30 9:45 AM Al-Anon 6:00 PM Pageant Rehearsal & Pizza	1 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Worship
2 8:30 AM EMS Worship 9:30 AM IIYF- All Ages (invest in your Faith) 10:45 AM Worship	3 Hanukkah 7:00 PM Red Hackle Pipes & Drum Band Practice	4 6:45 PM Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	5 6:15 PM Good News Kids 7:00 PM Worship Rehearsal	6 8:30 PM A.A.	7 9:45 AM Al-Anon	8 12:00 PM UMKids' Club & UMYF Babysitting so parents can run holiday er- 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Worship
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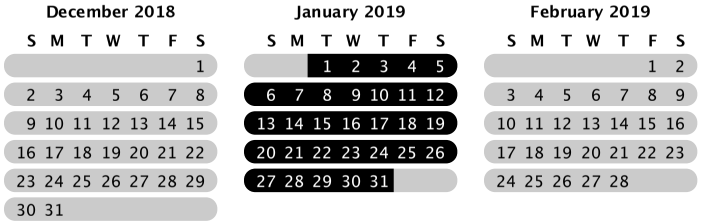
23 8:30 AM EMS Worship 9:30 AM IIYF- All Ages (invest in your Faith) 10:45 AM Worship	24 Christmas Eve 5:00 PM candlelight worship 7:00 PM Red Hackle Pipes & Drum Band Practice 9:00 PM candlelight worship	25 Church office Closed Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27 8:30 PM A.A.	28 9:45 AM Al-Anon	29 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Worship
30 Church office Closed 8:30 AM EMS Worship 9:30 AM IIYF- All Ages (invest in your Faith) 10:45 AM Worship	31 New Year's Eve 7:00 PM Red Hackle Pipes & Drum Band Practice	1 New Year's Day	2 7:00 PM Worship Rehearsal	3 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship 8:30 PM A.A.	4 9:45 AM Al-Anon	5 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Worship

January 2019



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27 8:30 AM EMS Worship 9:30 AM IIYF- All Ages (invest in your Faith) 10:45 AM Worship	28 7:00 PM Red Hackle Pipes & Drum Band Practice 7:00 PM Church Council	29 6:45 PM Choir	30 6:30 PM Good News Kids 7:00 PM Worship Rehearsal	31 8:30 PM A.A.	1 9:45 AM Al-Anon	2 Groundhog Day 4:00 PM Worship Rehearsal 5:00 PM Food & Fellowship 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Worship

Rockport UMC

Rockport United Methodist Church
3301 Wooster Road
Rocky River, OH 44116

Return Service Requested
Dated Material Do Not Delay

Rockporter

December 2018/
January 2019

Rockport UMC

Sunday Worship
Winter 10:45 a.m.
Summer; 10 a.m.

Early Morning Service
Sundays;
8:30 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship
@5:30 p.m.