

CHAPEL CHATTER

Open Hearts/Open Minds/Wide Open Doors



Pastor's Note (April 2024)

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Easter message of hope echoes through the whole world proclaiming Christ's ultimate victory of light over darkness, grace over sin, and life over death. It is the message upon which we build our lives and to which we anchor our own hope of victory with Him.

Now that Easter Sunday is behind us, it is easy to set aside the message of Christ's resurrection until next spring. There's a tendency to view Easter as a one-time special event that occurs once a year, a commemorative anniversary of a past event. As one preacher says, *"the resurrection will fade into the white noise of our lives, making no discernible impact."*

Make no mistake! Easter is not something we remember as a one-time event. It is not even a commemorative anniversary of a past event. Rather, Easter must be an ongoing experience through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ's resurrection must impact and redeem our behavior, our attitudes, our finance, our priorities and every aspect of our lives.

As one theologian says, “Easter is something we live and breathe.” That is why in the Christian calendar, Easter is a season and not a one-time event. It is known as the “Great Fifty Days” that begins at sunset Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost.

Therefore, the central question for us today is not “What happened to Jesus Christ way back then two thousand years ago?” but rather “Where is Christ’s resurrection present in our lives today?” How can we practice resurrection today? And what difference does it make to you or to me that Christ is risen?

The truth is that, for many people, it can make absolutely no difference whatsoever. Now there are a whole lot of people who will tell you that the important thing about resurrection is that you believe it. I think the trouble with just believing in the resurrection story is that belief can make absolutely no difference whatsoever. We can believe in justice for all, but unless we are prepared to seek justice, to resist evil and injustice, it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever. We can shout, “Christ is risen!” all we want but unless we are willing to live it, to live and breathe it, the resurrection means very little at all.

Therefore, in order to embrace the true meaning of Christ’s resurrection, we have to practice resurrection in our everyday life. We have to know what it looks like, what it sounds like, or what it feels like. That is why throughout the Easter season, I will be preaching the “Practicing Resurrection” sermon series based from the lectionary.

Finally, I would like to share with y’all that I will be away on April 2nd-5th World Methodist Council Meeting in Atlanta and April 22nd-28th General Conference 2024 in Charlotte. During the time that I will be away, Rev. Carol Dean will graciously serve as Pastor-on-Call during emergency situations. Her contact number: 919-801-7181. On April 28th, Garry Dickerson will preach at Bethel UMC while the United Women in Faith will be in-charge of worship and preaching at Plank Chapel UMC.

Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia!

PASTOR EDGAR GOING TO WMC & GC 2024

Pastor Edgar will be away [on April 2nd-5th](#) attending the World Methodist Council Meeting in Atlanta and [April 22nd-28th](#) to General Conference 2024 in Charlotte.

During those dates that Pastor will be away, Rev. Carol Dean will graciously serve as Pastor-on-Call during emergency situations. Her contact number: [919-801-7181](tel:919-801-7181).

Also [on April 28th](#), Garry Dickerson will preach at Bethel UMC while the United Women in Faith will be in-charge of worship & preaching at **Plank Chapel UMC**.

Prayer Requests

Patricia Rogers, Freddie Oettinger, Thomas Beckham, Dennis Wilson, Tim Smith, Angie Rowland, Mary Holmes, Corbitt Cash, Debbie Sherrin, Tonja Tooley, Jordan Bobbitt, Joni Ayers, Wayne Young, Tilley Hughes, Bobby & Rose Marshall, David & Karin Driver & Evie Odom. Shut-Ins: Kay Deans, Ben & Jackie Brown, Virgie Eaves, Freddie McGhee, Faye Young & Frances Roberts. (For prayer request, please call [919-418-0682](tel:919-418-0682) or email Pastor Edgar @ edejesus@nccumc.org.)



WEDNESDAY ONLINE PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Warriors are invited to join the Wednesday Online Prayer Meeting every week [from 7:00-7:30pm](#). This month of April, we will meet [on April 3rd, April 10th, April 17th](#). We will not have Online Prayer Meeting [on April 24th](#). Please see the Zoom link below.

Edgar Raymund A. DeJesus is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Prayer Group Zoom Meeting (Bethel UMC & Plank Chapel UMC)

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?](https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?pwd=TVRTTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFaZmxhdz09)

[pwd=TVRTTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFaZmxhdz09](https://nccumc.zoom.us/j/98771477114?pwd=TVRTTVHcwWWU0UytHOGhTYXFaZmxhdz09)

Meeting ID: 987 7147 7114

Passcode: 288519

"KOFFEE CORNER"
WOMEN'S GROUP

Plank Chapel UMC is birthing the "Koffee Korner"-- a Fresh Expressions women's group that meets every first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Our next meeting is April 3rd @ 10:00am. For more information, please contact Jan Hicks @ [919-525-4778](tel:919-525-4778).



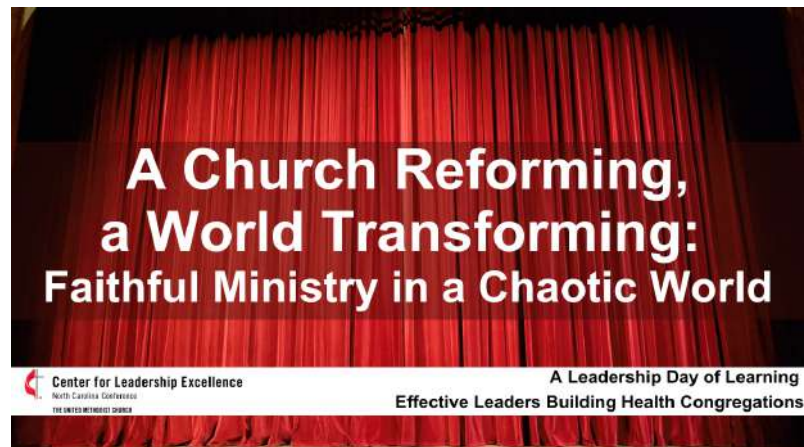
"STRONGER TOGETHER"

EXERCISE CLASS

We are starting a new exercise class named "Stronger Together" that meets every week. Please contact Debra Newman @ 252-915-7005.



A Church Reforming, a World Transforming: Faithful Ministry in a Chaotic World



The Center for Leadership Excellence presents a Day of Learning with MaryAnn McKibben Dana...

May 21 @ 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

(Doors open at 9am)

NC Conference Building, Dixon Chapel

700 Waterfield Ridge Place

Garner, 27529

Bring Your Team! We believe this Day of Learning, like most of our events, will have the biggest impact when clergy and laity attend together. Bring a group of 3 or more from your church and receive a 20% discount on your total registration. *You must register by May 8th to receive this discount!*

About the Day:

Life is full of the unexpected, both positive and not so positive. What if, instead of fighting it when things don't go as planned, we leaned into the change and improvised? Improv offers an invigorating approach to life as individuals and as spiritual communities. From Moses to Ruth to Jesus, scripture is full of people boldly saying "yes, and..." as they receive what life throws their way and build upon it.

Join pastor and author MaryAnn McKibben Dana for a spirited exploration of "yes, and..." and other tools for faithful improvisation. We are all improvisers, often without realizing it. The focus of our time together will not be on acting or comedy skills, but on practices for thriving in the midst of chaotic, often unpredictable lives.

Come for a tasty blend of scripture, theology, psychology, literature, pop culture, music, and more, as we dream, discuss, and play together.

The Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana is a writer, pastor, speaker, and ministry coach living in the Virginia suburbs of DC. She is author of three books, *Hope: A User's Manual*, *God, Improv, and the Art of Living*, and *Sabbath in the Suburbs*, and writes a weekly newsletter for thousands of subscribers called **The Blue Room**. Her writing has also appeared in TIME.com, The Washington Post, Huffington Post, Religion Dispatches, Journal for Preachers, the Christian Century, and Presbyterians Today. She was featured on PBS's Religion and Ethics Newsweekly for her work on Sabbath and was recognized by the Presbyterian Writers Guild with the 2015-2016 David Steele Distinguished Writer Award.

She is a sought-after speaker, preacher, conference leader and writer around issues of leadership, faith formation, and congregational transformation. She currently serves as associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Herndon, VA. MaryAnn is a graduate of Rice University in Houston, Texas and received her M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is a mother of three, an imperfect knitter, and an occasional ultramarathoner. Connect with her at her **website**.



Change Bucket

The April Change Bucket is ACTS or Area Christians Together in Service based in Henderson. The goal of ACTS is to provide a warm meal to those who may otherwise go without. ACTS also offers a food donation program to help with soup kitchen warehouse and to help with other community food supplies. ACTS serves meals every weekday from Monday-Friday. Soup Kitchen Hours: Monday through Friday, **11:00am-12noon; Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30am-9:30am;** Address: 210 South William Street, Henderson, NC 27536.



**"STRONGER
TOGETHER" EXERCISE
CLASS**



PLANK CHAPEL UMC CHOIR

Plank Chapel UMC Choir is back again! Praise the Lord! The Choir Practice is held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, [3:00pm](#). Here are the practice dates: [April 10th](#), [April 24th](#), [May 8th](#), [May 22nd](#), [June 12th](#), [June 26th](#).

There will be a Choir Re-Dedication during the [11am Sunday](#) Worship Service [on April 7th](#). After the service, all choir members are invited for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

AWAKENINGS

Renew, fresh *and* revive your spirit as we worship our Awesome God at "Awakenings" every [Sunday 8:00am](#) (except third Sunday of the month).

"Awakenings" offers contemporary music, come-as-you-are setting, relevant Bible-based conversation and a good cup of coffee!

Here are the following Awakenings worship dates for the month of April 2024-- [April 7th](#), 14th & 28th.



Come join the "Dinner Church" [on April 13th](#) & [May 11th](#), both [Saturday, 6:00pm](#) @ Bethel UMC (4193 Fairport Road, Kittrell, NC 27544).

"Dinner Church" is a gathering of people during the week or the month for a meal and conversation around

faith. The movement gets its inspiration from the early church and Jesus' ministry through meals. An

invitation to eat was an invitation to faith. Similarly, the "Dinner Church" movement centers on breaking bread

and sharing the word with conversation.



2024 Connect Church

The Connect Church Cohort had Session 2 last March 18th at Bethel UMC and attended by Larraine Abbott, Mike Ranes, Jan Hicks, Debra Newman, Frank Winn, Wayne & Lora Young, Abner & Pam Cobb, Susan & Martha Sears, Scott Ritchey, Debbie Englebright, Sylvia Cates, Tina Lane & Pastor Edgar.

What a life-giving and Spirit-filled journey! Thank you to all who came and we also thank Coach John Parker for his inspiring leadership.

Our next meeting dates: [April 9th, 6pm-7:30pm](#) @ Plank Chapel UMC and [April 30th, 6pm-7:30pm](#) @ Bethel UMC.

The cohort will accomplish answering page 21 (Individual Assets) and pages 22-23 (Congregational Assets). [On April 9th](#) meeting, (1) we will share our answers, (2) provide ways on how to share the questions to the congregation, (3) list the people in the community that you will contact, (4) formulate 3 questions to ask, and (5) identify assignment/homework to give to Coach John.

Thank you for your commitment and please keep the entire process of the 2024 Connect Church in your prayers.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Edgar



UNITED METHODIST MEN

All men are invited to our monthly United Methodist Men Breakfast Fellowship every third Sunday of the month [from 8:00am until 9:00am](#). Our next breakfast fellowship is [April 21st](#).

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The United Women in Faith are composed of women who are "powerful, fearless force" driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities. Our next regular meeting of the United Women in Faith will be [on](#) Sunday, April 21st, @ 3:00pm. All women are invited!



SENIOR CIRCLE

Senior Circle is a wonderful way to meet new friends, build relationships and have fun among fellow Christians! We meet every third Wednesday of the month with a program and light lunch @ Plank Chapel UMC Fellowship Hall. We will meet again [on Wednesday, April 17th, 10:00am](#) and every third Wednesday of the month. Bring your family and friends!

BLESSING BOX MINISTRY

In 2022, Plank Chapel UMC saw a great need in the community for those vulnerable to have access to the food they cannot always afford. And so, we birthed the Blessing Box Ministry and encouraged church members as well as the community to help keep the box stocked with non-perishable food items for those in need. We give thanks to God for your generous gifts and support for this outreach ministry.



Many NC Conference church leaders recently attended the first Fresh Expressions United Methodist National Gathering in Charlotte, NC. Fresh Expressions is an ecumenical movement that helps churches reach new disciples for Christ.

“Fresh expressions are about getting creative in your church’s reach. A group starts when a Christian sees those already in his or her circles with a spiritual lens. It’s asking the simple question, ‘How can I help my friends connect with God?’ Fresh expressions form where mutual interests meet hearts open to opportunities to connect on faith matters.”

Fresh Expressions United Methodist: A Distinctly Wesleyan Spirit-Led Movement of New Christian Communities that Serve the Present Age. John Wesley famously exclaimed, “The world is my parish.” But have we, the people called Methodists, made the parish our world? This book is a practical guide to help United Methodists put the “go” back in our mission statement through cultivating Fresh Expressions of Church.

Fresh Expressions Books

The NC Conference Media Center has several books on the Fresh Expressions movement that are available to borrow. These are all published by United Methodist publishers. Additional titles can be purchased directly from the Fresh Expressions [online store](#).

General Conference Prayer Vigil [on April 21](#)



North Carolina Conference, we need your help! We invite you to participate in a Prayer Vigil on April 21 as we turn our hearts and minds toward the upcoming General Conference in Charlotte.

Laity and clergy across North Carolina will be praying for 24 hours for God to guide the delegates' work at this global gathering of United Methodists from around the world.

You are encouraged to sign up for a 15-minute prayer time.

You can also download a sample prayer and prayer guide written by Rev. Carl Fraizer to help you focus your prayer time.

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[View the Prayer Resources](#)

Share this:

Lake Junaluska



Lake Junaluska is committed to connecting youth to Christ through meaningful ministry, recreation and education. Youth groups that participate in Lake Junaluska's retreats enjoy not only the on-site programming but also opportunities for mission work and mountain adventures from skiing to whitewater rafting.

Groups choose their [accommodations](#) and gather for meals at [York Dining Commons](#), which offers a lakeside deck perfect for fellowship. We offer programmed youth retreats each winter, and we also welcome youth groups to Lake Junaluska who wish to [plan their own retreats!](#)

[Subscribe to Youth Ministry](#)
[Updates](#)[Contact Us](#)

Chestnut Ridge

Camp and Retreat Center

Join us for a FREE afternoon of fun for the whole family!

Activities include:

- Canoes
- Zipline
- Pony Rides
- Campfire and S'mores
- Self guided tour of camp
- Archery
- Meet the Director
- Hayride to the Farm
- Food available for purchase

Come get a small taste of what camp is all about!

Where Campers and Counselors
play outside in a place
where safety comes first,
silliness is encouraged,
discovery is inevitable,
friendships grow,
and faith becomes real.

Open House
Sunday, April 14, 2024
1:00 - 5:00 pm

info@campchestnutridge.org

919-304-2178

Address
4300 Camp Chestnut Ridge Rd
Efland, NC 27243



2024 Summer Youth Retreats PACKAGE RATE PLANNING SHEET

Lodging

Lake Junaluska's Summer Youth Retreat group packages come with lodging and meals. Lodging options are below. You will be able to select your group's top three lodging preferences during registration.

[Lake Junaluska Apartments](#) | 2-6 people/room
Apartment style, kitchenette, twin and double beds,
roll away
Starting at \$110/room/night

[Mountainview Lodge](#) | 2-6 people/room
Dorm style with bunk beds and double-twin beds
Starting at \$100/room/night

[Hillside Lodge](#) | 2-4 people/room
Hotel style with two double beds
Starting at \$100/room/night

[Lambuth Inn](#) | 2-4 people/room
Historic hotel, king-twin beds
Starting at \$130/room/night

[The Terrace Hotel](#) | 2-4 people/room
Modern hotel, king-double beds
Starting at \$150/room/night

Meals

Please note breakfast is served from 7:00 am., a packed lunch will be ready for pick up at breakfast and dinner is served from 5:30-7pm. Meal prices are Breakfast: \$13.50, Lunch: \$16, Dinner: \$19.50. Rates per person noted below include tax and 10 % service charge.

4 MEALS

Day 1 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 2 – Breakfast
\$73.75/person

5 MEALS

Day 1 - Dinner | Day 2 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 3 – Breakfast
\$96.76/person

6 MEALS

Day 1 - Dinner | Day 2 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 3 - Breakfast & Boxed Lunch
\$115.64/person

7 MEALS (w/Day 1 Dinner)

Day 1 - Dinner | Day 2 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 3 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner
\$138.65/person

Meals (continued)

7 MEALS (w/Day 4 Breakfast)

Day 2 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 3 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 4 – Breakfast
\$131.57/person

8 MEALS

Day 1 - Dinner | Day 2 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner | Day 3 - Breakfast, Boxed Lunch & Dinner |
Day 4 Breakfast - \$138.65/person

Mission Work

(Optional Add-On \$15/person)

Lake Junaluska coordinates mission work projects with nonprofit organizations in our community on Saturdays and Sundays during retreat weekends for interested youth groups. The cost is \$15/person.

Mission work projects can be added up to 30 days before your retreat. Details including number of participants and schedule are finalized 30 days before your retreat. If your group is coming for a mid-week retreat, mission work projects can also be included in your package.

Meeting Room

Rates for meeting rooms for your group vary based on the space your group selects. An event coordinator will be in touch to discuss options if you included a meeting room in your Winter Youth Retreat registration.

Asheville Treetops Adventure Park (Optional. Prices range from \$30 - \$95)

Groups can book a day trip directly with The Adventure Center of Asheville (5 minutes from downtown Asheville and approximately 30 minutes from Lake Junaluska) to enjoy during their Lake Junaluska Winter Youth Retreat. The Asheville Treetops Adventure Park is the largest WNC aerial challenge course in the trees with 77 unique climbing, rolling and swinging elements in a wooded park with smart clips. There are multiple levels to choose from which create a fun team bonding activity for all ages and athletic abilities (weight limit of 265 pounds).

Wildwater Ltd. Nantahala River (Optional. Prices range from \$44 - \$100)

Eight miles of clear water, constant waves and swift currents make the Nantahala River a delight for all age. Groups can enjoy an exhilarating introduction to whitewater rafting. Numerous class I and II rapids and a class III at the end, you can expect the trip to take about 3 hours. Since the Nantahala River is a dam-controlled river, one can expect good water flows at all times of the year.

Please note this information is for planning purposes and does not serve as a contract.

Deposits, Payment Deadlines, Rooming Lists, Cancellation and Force Majeure

Deposit & Payment Policy:

*A \$750 deposit is due within 7 days of registering your event. *Rooming list due 14 days prior to arrival.

Group Rooming List Policy:

Please fill out the Group Rooming List that will be sent to you upon the payment of a deposit. Group Rooming Lists are due a minimum of 2 weeks (14 days) prior to arrival. Final rooming lists received between 0 and 14 days prior to arrival are subject to a \$10 per person Housing Fee. Final Rooming Lists that are not received more than 14 days prior to arrival are subject to cancellation and will forfeit 75% of their package price.

*7 Days prior to Arrival -

Any remaining balance is due. A final balance cannot be issued by Lake Junaluska without the submission of a rooming list which may take up to 5 business days to process. Lake Junaluska requires a credit card at check-in to cover damage/excessive cleaning/guest dissatisfaction. The authorization of funds will be released within 3 to 10 business days depending on your bank if there are no damages/excessive cleaning/guest dissatisfaction (due to noise) charges. Credit cards are preferred. Please call 828-454-6728 with your credit card number and security code to make a payment by card.

Rooming list changes are subject to availability.

Cancellation Policy:

*Package cancellations made 30 days or greater from the first night of the event receive a full refund minus a \$40 per person processing fee.

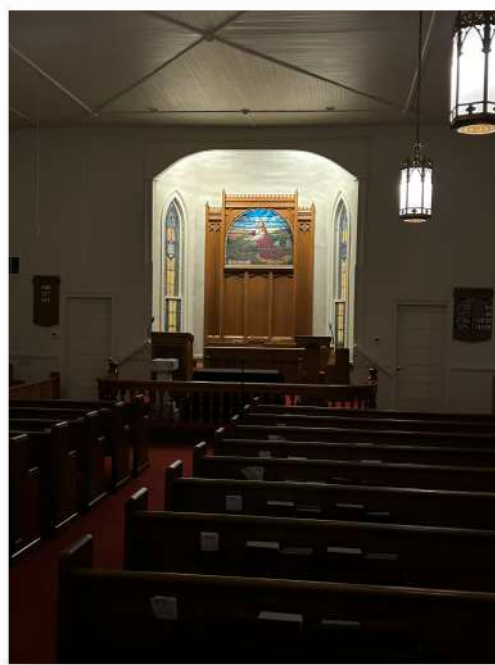
*Cancellations made 30 to 16 days prior to the first night of the event will forfeit 50% of their package price.

*Cancellations made 15 to 0 days before the first night of the event will not receive a refund.

Force Majeure:

Execution of all Lake Junaluska Winter Youth Retreats are subject to acts of God, government authority, disasters, war and acts of terrorism. Lake Junaluska is not liable for failure to execute Winter Youth Retreats for these or any other causes that are beyond Lake Junaluska's control which make it commercially impracticable, illegal, or impossible to perform the retreats. Cancellations made by groups due to force majeure are not liable to the Lake Junaluska cancellation policy and can be rescheduled for another time. Lake Junaluska will apply any deposits made by the group to the rescheduled dates.

By submitting this form and a deposit to Lake Junaluska, I understand the policies outlined above and agree to the form submission and payment deadlines listed under each policy.







Flowering of

Easter Cross

Easter Sunday's Reception of New Members



Easter Sunday's Baptism by Immersion



8:57 AM Tue Apr 2

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday		Prayer Group Zoom Meeting	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Sunrise Service	Stronger Together-Exercises		Prayer Group Zoom Meeting	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Sunrise Service	Stronger Together-Exercises					
Sunday School						
3 more						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises	Connect Church Cohort Meeting	Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises	Connect Church Cohort Meeting	Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Sunday School			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
Sunday School			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
2 more						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Awakenings	Tax Day	Strategic Planning	Senior Circle	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises	Strategic Planning	Senior Circle	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Sunday School	Stronger Together-Exercises		Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
Sunday School			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
2 more						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
UMM Breakfast Fellowship	Pastor: General Conference					
UMM Breakfast Fellowship	Pastor: General Conference					
Sunday School	Stronger Together-Exercises		Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		Free Market Saturdays
Sunday School	Stronger Together-Exercises		Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		Free Market Saturdays
4 more			2 more			
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Pastor: General Conference			First Day of Asian Pacific Heritage Month	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Pastor: General Conference			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises	Connect Church Cohort Meeting	Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises	Connect Church Cohort Meeting				
4 more						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cinco de Mayo	Stronger Together-Exercises		Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Awakenings	Stronger Together-Exercises		Choir Rehearsal	Stronger Together-Exercises		
Awakenings			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
Sunday School			Prayer Group Zoom Meeting			
3 more						