



RLC Newsletter

February
2024

A Message from Pastor Allman

Rev. John J. Bombaro writes, *“Lent is a gift to the Church from the Church. It belongs to all Christians who desire to be conformed to the likeness of our Lord.”* It is not unique to the Roman Catholic Church. Lutherans have observed Lent since the institution of the Lutheran Church. Martin Luther made an impact on traditions, especially during Lent, by transforming attitudes from doing penance (works of satisfaction) to absolution based on Grace (words of forgiveness).

This year, Lent feels like it comes immediately on the heels of Christmas; barely two months will have passed, and our Worship & Music Ministry Team, along with the Staff, began preparing for Lent on January 2nd. Lent tends to feel like a heavy, dark, and burdened season. The word Lent is derived from the Middle English word “lente,” meaning “springtime;” therefore, we can consider it a movement from dark (winter) to light (spring). Initially, the 40-days of Lent were used in preparation for Baptism, which means putting the old sinful self aside and transforming to new life in Christ.

In short, Lent can be considered a time for us to do a little spring-cleaning of our lifestyles. It is not a time for us to wander aimlessly in the dark and dreary burden of feeling guilt and shame. It is a time to lighten our burdens through focus on drawing closer to God/Christ, especially through prayer and devotions which lead to repentance (i.e., changed lives). Some churches emphasize “giving up” something for Lent (I give up Brussel Sprouts); although another option is to “take on” something: daily devotions/prayer, a service project, etc. One year I wrote notes of encouragement each day to colleagues in ministry.

In a commentary on Romans, Rev. Fred H. Lindemann wrote, *“All observances must aim at permanent improvement of the Christian life... (and) ...are to be permanent and habitual in the renewed life after Easter.”* Perhaps we can observe Lent this year as preparation for Easter and Resurrection Life, rather than a dark and dreary burden to suffer through. Perhaps we can focus less on putting on the sackcloth and ashes of mourning, and more on the anticipated robes of righteousness and victory over sin and death.

This year's midweek worship themes will be forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust, and perseverance. I hope you will join us as we live into these gifts of grace from God.

Pastor Allman



YouTube
7 New Subscribers
961 total views
13.7K minutes watched

News from the Office Administrator **February 2024**

There is a lot happening around here with the Rummage Sale coming up so soon. Thanks to all of our hard-working volunteers who have made this event happen. The parking lot is scheduled to be resealed and repainted February 5- February 8. They will not be able to complete the work if the weather does not cooperate, that aside keep in mind that there will be no parking here at Redeemer on those days.

As usual be sure you check the Welcome Table in the narthex for upcoming events. We post flyers and signup sheets there for many different activities so come and choose some fun and informative things to do!

Please know that if you are in need of financial assistance, we have funds available at the church to help. This remains confidential. Only Pastor will know that you received aid. We don't want anyone left in need, so please speak with Pastor Allman if we can be helpful.

Upcoming Events:

Friday & Saturday, February 2 & 3 Rummage Sale

Thursday, February 8- End of Life Issues

Wednesday, February 14- Ash Wednesday Service 3:00 PM, Meal to follow

Sunday, February 25- Blood Pressure checks

Monday, March 4 - LifeLine Screening-

**Thank you for donating items for the
food pantry in the narthex closet.
Please remember, NO open packages or
containers.**



FEBRUARY STEWARDSHIP

It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a village to survive. Many of us did not grow up in villages; although, some of us grew up with close neighborhood relationships. I did not participate in barn raising, sowing, and harvesting with neighbors, although we children played at community playgrounds, drank from community drinking fountains, and swam in community pools. We had front porches, from which we greeted people walking by, and often gathered with neighbors in the evenings.

Today, we live in a gated community and know very few of our neighbors. Instead of a front porch, we have a lanai in the back of the house, and hedges block the view of neighbors. We shop online, have grocery pick-up days, so do not even leave the car; and, many other items are purchased online and delivered to the house. We isolated completely during the 2020 pandemic, and I am not sure we ever recovered from that isolation.

Even though our societies are connected by technology, and a global network, our relationships are deeply rooted in the memory of local (community) spaces. During the pandemic, many in our congregation longed for the “community” experience of gathering again for worship and social time afterward. Quite a few continue to watch worship online via our live stream; some because they are unable to leave the house, and some who live in other states or even other countries. “Community” is being redefined in this electronic age, and community includes in-person gatherings, the south shore community, and a global network of online participation.

This redefined “community” provides space that we can return to, even virtually, when we need welcoming and familiar places – physical and emotional. What is a village/community other than folks who share experiences, values, and mutual support?

This redefined community can also test us. Will we love our neighbors as ourselves, whether inside the building, online, or residents of the south shore region, some of whom we may never meet? Or will we measure our responsibilities to one another in accordance with whomever we deem to be in or out of our religious, racial, cultural, ethnic, and social circles? What of those unexpected moments of crisis, those critical events that place an entire community at risk? How do we survive together? How do we respond to calamity, food insecurity, homelessness, poverty, and socio-economic hardships of our neighbors?



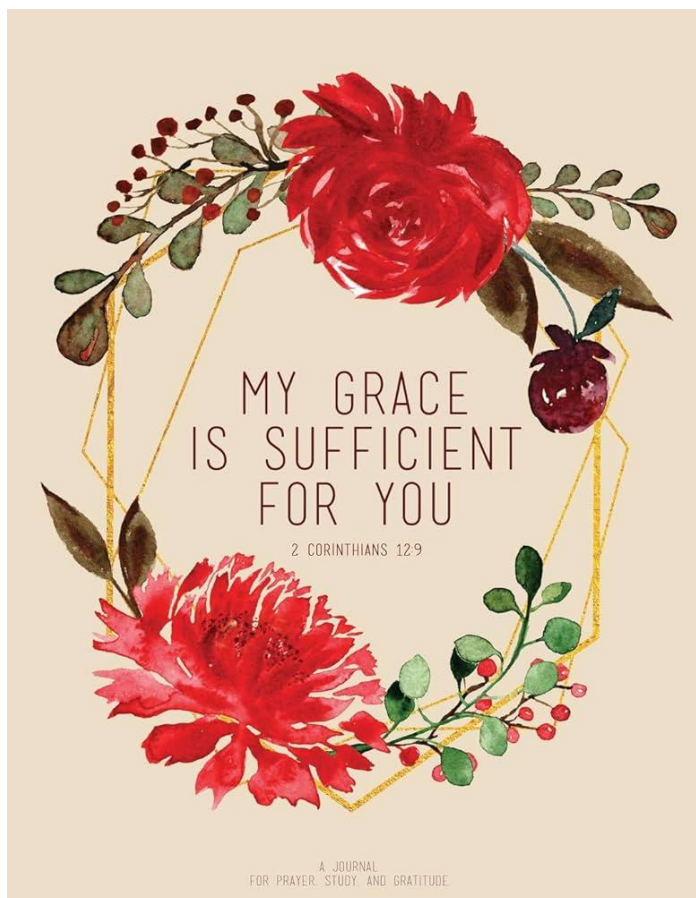
God calls us to come together as groups, as collectives, as individuals, and seek the highest good of all of us by using our gifts creatively. Romans 12:4-5 reads, *“As in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.”*

Let us discern: Where is our community hurting? How can we be of help to that community? What resources and gifts do we possess that will enhance the healing of our own body and of our community? And, so on...

As a village (body of Christ), we have a sacred duty to respond to crises. We have a responsibility to respond to the suffering of others around us. That requires us to figure out who we are, how we are going to show up, and how we are going to work with others, our neighbors, in a communal response to discerned needs. Start by praying to discern God's Will for how you can help. If you are here, God has something you can do.

GROWING IN FAITH

The Apostle Paul prayed to God to remove a burden he was experiencing, which he called a thorn in his flesh and a messenger from Satan to torment him. In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 he writes about God's response, "...*(God) said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'* So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me *...for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.*"



I imagine that most often we are like the Apostle Paul, and when something is bothering us – a thorn in our flesh – we would like God to remove the problem. When God does not remove the problem, and we suffer, we want to know “why.” How content would we be with a response like what God told Paul, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*”?

We do not normally consider weakness to be a sign of strength, as Paul wrote, “*...for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.*” IMHO the Church could learn something from a 12-step program that teaches the journey begins with an admission of powerlessness. Therapist Aundi Kolber talks about surrendering for the right reasons as a method of “trying softer” versus “trying harder” as society might recommend. I suspect from what I learned about the Apostle Paul that “surrender,” even for the right reasons, did not come easy for him.

Paradoxically, surrendering to God for the right reasons can empower us to ride the waves of pain and problems that come with living. We may not like it, and we may wish God would remove them, even while trusting that God's grace is sufficient for us. As we surrender to God for the right reasons, we Grow in Faith (aka trust). This kind of faith/trust cannot be known simply by going to church for an hour, reading Scripture, or listening to someone else talk about surrender. To experience how “*...power is made perfect in weakness,*” we must fully surrender to God.



This is an important message from the Parish Nurse Team

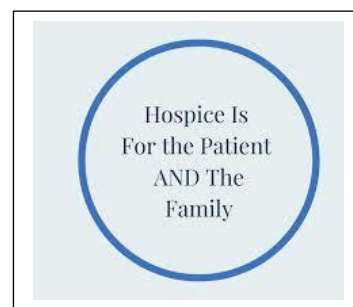
What Is Hospice Care?

- Hospice is supportive care that focuses on comfort and quality of life for patients with a terminal illness and a life expectancy of six months or less. This time frame may be longer if a physician certifies that the person is still eligible for Hospice. Many hospice patients have conditions such as heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), liver or renal failure, cancer, dementia, and stroke.
- Hospice also addresses the needs of families and caregivers.

Hospice services include nursing care, home health aides, bereavement support, and other types of care that are provided by a team of Nurses, Hospice Aides, Social Workers, Chaplains, and Physicians. Depending on the level of care needed, Hospice services can be provided in a private residence, skilled nursing facility, assisted living residence, or hospice center.

The purposes of Hospice include:

- Helping patients live as well as possible, for as long as possible.
- Keeping patients comfortable during the end-of-life stages.
- Maintaining the best quality of life possible for the patient.
- Guidance with end-of-life issues
- Bereavement support



Some examples of Hospice services include:

- Nursing care
- Help with bathing, dressing, and grooming from a Hospice Aide
- Medications, medical supplies including hospital style bed, and equipment related to the hospice diagnosis
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Companionship from a volunteer
- Short-term inpatient care to manage pain and symptoms, if needed
- Respite care
- Access to a member of the Hospice team at all times

What Hospice Care is Not:

- **Hospice is not giving up hope or hastening death.** Hospice restores hope for a peaceful and meaningful last few months of life. It is about making the most of the time the person has left and keeping them as comfortable as possible.
- **Hospice care is not only for people in their last few days of life.** Because people think Hospice is for the final days of life, they wait too long to start care and receive only a fraction of the benefits. When they see how life changes with added support, most families say they wish they had started Hospice earlier.

A patient does not have to remain on Hospice. Hospice Care can be stopped and restarted if desired.

Insurance coverage

Hospice care is covered under the Medicare hospice benefit, Medicaid, and most private insurance plans. Patients are not denied hospice care regardless of ability to pay.

Note: A representative from Hospice will be part of the panel discussion on End of Life Issues on February 8th. This time would be a chance to obtain more information and have your questions answered.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st – Dale Lyndahl
6th – Sam Thompson
7th – Janet Gehrke
8th– Nora Wilhide, Mary Ann Sigler
10th – Kathy Schwartz
16th– Marlyn Warren
17th – Myrna Strom, Karin Hagg
18th –Brigitte Austen, Greg Kiel
22nd – Patti Malamas, Kadie Dehne
26th – Ellen Kleis
28th –Janet Demellier, Chris McCann



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1st – Deb & Dan Pollert



We ask if you notice information is missing or incorrect, please let us know. Thank you!





Time	Acolyte	Communion Assistants	Lector
Sun. Feb. 4 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Mary Ann Sigler, Mike Corbett, Wendy Kitzman	Mike Corbett
Sun. Feb. 11 10:00 AM	Paul Ó Braonáin		Sherri Knaub
Wed. Feb. 14 3:00 PM	David Lickfeldt	David Lickfeldt, Paul Ó Braonáin Wendy Kitzman	Wendy Kitzman
Sun. Feb. 18 10:00 AM	Mike Corbett	Sharon Horinzsy, Mike Corbett, Arlene Hansen	Sharon Horinzsy
Sun. Feb. 25 10:00 AM	David Lickfeldt		Dan Pollert

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte, lector, or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.



February Usher Team	February Altar Guild	Sound & Camera
Dan Pollert Team	Doris Hahn and Judy Buskirk	Volunteers





Ash Wednesday Soup Meal

WELCA will be organizing a soup meal following the 3:00 pm service on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. We are looking for donations of a crockpot of soup, bread, and dessert. If you can provide any of those, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter. And if you are providing soup, please also bring a ladle. It is always a treat to sample many delicious homemade soups!!



Bake Sale

The Rummage Sale on February 2-3 will include a bake sale, and any help with baking items would be greatly appreciated. A sign-up sheet is on the welcome counter in the narthex. Baked goods drop off: Feb 1st Thursday, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM



Life Line Screening- March 4

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on **Monday, March 4th** at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Ultrasound screenings to Identify risk factors for cardiovascular disease include Carotid Artery (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), Peripheral Arterial Disease (hardening of the arteries in the legs), Heart Rhythm (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat). Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Call 1-800-679-5161 or register online at <https://llsa.social/HSC> and receive your "Community Circle" discount of \$149 and your Preferred Appointment!



"It's Time to Talk...About What Happens at the End of Life"

Redeemer church will be hosting a panel discussion on issues relating to end of life on Thursday, February 8th from 9:30 to 12 in Buhr Hall. During this discussion, you will learn what legal documents are of importance regarding end-of-life care and the disposition of your assets such as Advanced Directive, Last Will and Testament, and POA. We will have an overview of palliative care and hospice, and how these services are provided. We will also discuss end-of-life pre-arrangement planning such as cremation, Celebration of Life, and disposition of remains. An attorney from Legacy Law and representatives from Hospice and the National Cremation Society will share their knowledge. You will be encouraged to make your own decisions and not leave them to those you love the most. There is no better gift for your loved ones than leaving your estate in order. This is also an opportunity to have your questions answered.

Please sign the sheet on the welcome counter in the narthex as Continental Breakfast and Snacks will be provided.

Resetting Buhr Hall

Following Fellowship on February 4th, we will be changing the tables in Buhr Hall from the rectangular ones used for the Rummage Sale back to the round ones. Men are especially needed, but there is a job for everyone. If you can help, please sign the sheet on the welcome counter. Many hands make quick work.

Rummage Sale 2024

The church Rummage Sale is this week!

Friday, February 2 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday, February 3 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Workers are needed and there is a job for everyone. Friday workers need to wear a Red Redeemer shirt (or any red shirt if you don't have one), and Saturday workers a black Thrivent shirt. The black shirts in all sizes are free and available in the conference room.

On Friday workers should park on the east side of Buhr Hall or on the grass in the back of the parking lot. Please do not park at the funeral home on Friday, they have a service happening in the morning. On Saturday workers can park in the funeral home lot, but leave the section closest to the building open.

Bake sale items need to be delivered on Thursday, February 1st between 10:00 AM and 12:00 PM. If an item contains nuts, please be sure to note it.

Thursday is also our Friends and Family sale from 12:00 PM-3:00 PM, you must have a ticket from Tina Schwartz, Laura Akins, or Jenise German.

We will be selling hot dogs for lunch. We will have a drawing for a quilt on Saturday, February 3rd.

A special thanks to Tina Schwartz for leading the Rummage Sale this year and also to everyone who spent many hours sorting and pricing.

Everyone - Come shop and find a bargain.



Blood Pressure Check

The next blood pressure checks will be on February 25th and continue on the last Sunday of every month. Honey Ashley and Rosalie Kelleher will be in Buhr Hall following the worship service. This is a convenient opportunity to keep check on your numbers.

Property Team Members Needed

Redeemer is in need of some handymen. We are looking for men to help us assess work that needs to be done at the church. This may include some hands on work but often times you may just be writing up a contract for the scope of work that needs to be done & getting quotes for the work. There are no structured meeting schedules, the property team meets on an as needed basis. If you might be interested in lending a hand please contact the office.

Worship Assistants Needed

Please consider being an acolyte and/or communion assistant.

Please contact Carolyn Cole at 813-812-7527 if you have any questions about being an acolyte or communion assistant or if you would like to be added to the upcoming schedule.



Parking lot Resurfacing & Painting

Redeemer will be having some work done in the parking lot on **February 5th-February 7th**. During this time, you may notice that the parking lot will be blocked off to allow for resurfacing, sealing and painting. We ask that do not come to Redeemer on those days and to call the office if you need us.

Postponed



Service times during Lent

The Lenten worship theme this year will be *Guided to the Cross*. Wednesday service times will be at 10:00 AM. Except Ash Wednesday which will be at 3:00 PM.

February 14, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Ash Wednesday: Guided to Forgiveness

Join us for the Guided to the Cross special service for Ash Wednesday, as we are drawn to Calvary to receive forgiveness. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of forgiving one another as we have been forgiven by Christ through the cross.

February 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week One: Guided to Hope

During Week 1 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive hope. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of hope as we remember that Christ went to the cross to save us forevermore.

February 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Two: Guided to Love

In Week 2 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive love. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of love in response to the love Christ showed us on the cross.

March 6, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Three: Guided to Peace

In Week 3 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to receive peace. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of peace in our hearts, souls, and minds through Christ, who brought peace between us and God by the cross.

March 13, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Four: Guided to Trust

In Week 4 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to deepen our trust. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of trust in God, who entrusted his Son, Jesus, on the cross for our sake.

March 20, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Week Five: Guided to Perseverance

Week 5 of Lent, we are drawn to Calvary to grow in perseverance. In word and song, we contemplate how to live lives of perseverance in the midst of strife in the name of Jesus, who endured the cross to the very end for us all.

Visitation Volunteers Needed

You may not be aware that Redeemer has a bunch of homebound members and friends of the congregation. Prior to 2020 and the pandemic, we had two teams of members who would volunteer to visit and/or take Holy Communion to our members who cannot come to Sunday worship. For a variety of reasons, volunteerism has declined in many not-for-profit organizations around the country; which is also true for Redeemer. We have lost nearly everyone who served in this vital ministry. Please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to visit and/or provide Holy Communion to these homebound members and friends of Redeemer. Please contact the office or Greg Kiel if you are willing to help.



New Members Welcome

We would like all of our visitors to know that it is always a good time to join. If you would like to become a member, you can find a membership form on or sometimes behind the welcome counter. Forms can be returned to any member of the office staff. Our next new member Sunday celebration will be scheduled for later in the year.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

A Happy and Prosperous New Year from the Interfaith Social Action Council of SCC

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is a founding member of the Interfaith Social Action Council of SCC (ISAC). The organization has been in Sun City Center for over fifty years and is composed of the churches and synagogue in Sun City Center proper. Annually, ISAC distributes over \$200,000 in college scholarships to local high school seniors and \$160,000 in grants in our South Hillsborough area. Past grant recipients are SCC Security Squad, St. Vincent De Paul at POP and St. Anne, and Guadalupe's Food Pantry. All the funding for these scholarships and grants is derived from sales at the Nearly New Shop. The current president and vice president of the ISAC are Prince of Peace parishioners.

A new grant cycle will begin accepting applications for grant requests beginning on February 1, 2024, through March 1, 2024. If you are part of a 501c3 or c19 organization, or a member of a not for profit-for-profit school, you can visit our website at www.interfaithcouncilscc.com. All forms and instructions can be found on the site using the 'Grants' tab.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Nearly New Shop, you can also check out the website or stop by the shop for a volunteer application. And finally, we have an opportunity for two Prince of Peace parishioners to join the Council representing Prince of Peace. If you have any interest in joining the council, or if you have any other questions, you can contact Nick Caleca, Grants Committee Chair at 314-703-6789.

Or you can contact Barb Caleca, ISAC President at 314-703-0729.

Thank you!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are looking for individuals that enjoy knitting, crocheting, and getting to know others. Basic skills in both knitting and crocheting are helpful.

Come join us in the Conference Room at 10am on Fridays, starting February 9th.

Blessings....Wendy Kitzman

Breaking news from WELCA

What do Oprah, Reese, Jenna and Queen Camilla have in common? They all have created book clubs. And soon Redeemer will have one, too, as a new WELCA circle.

Whether a newbie or seasoned bibliophile, please join us for an inaugural meeting of the book club. Let's get to know more about each other's favorite genres, book recommendations, and ideas/expectations for growing this new group. We'll explore resources to make reading more accessible, such as e-books, audiobooks and using apps to curate reading lists and track our reading. We'll meet with others who enjoy reading to discuss selected books and share fellowship. We may even partake of a service project, book swap or try a reading challenge.

Our inaugural meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 1:00 PM. to 3:00 PM in the church's library. Future meetings will be held the third Thursday each month except June, July and August. If you have questions, special needs or suggestions, please contact Diane Brace at 703-517-6115 or Marion Giblin at 813-347-3066.

Please be sure to sign the contact list on the Welcome Table in the Narthex so we know who is planning to attend.

<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/6018580/join/326b32/>



February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	2 8-2-Rummage Sale	3 8-1 AM-Rummage Sale 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
4 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship Reset the Hall	5 Parking lot closed	6 Parking lot closed	7 Parking lot closed	8 9:30 AM-End of Life Issues 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	9 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	10 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
11 10:00 AM-Worship	12 10:30 AM-AI-Anon	13 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 1:00 PM-Finance Team Mtg 1:30 PM-Worship & Music 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	14 3:00 PM-Ash Wed Service Soup Supper	15 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	16 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	17 9:00 AM-Council Orientation 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
18 10:00 AM-Holy Communion Worship	19 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-Council Meeting	20 Altar Guild Luncheon 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	21 10:00 AM-Lenten Worship	22 1:00 PM-Fundraising Mtg 6:30 PM-Choir Practice	23 9:30 AM-Quilters 10:00 AM-Prayer Shawl Ministry	24 10:00 AM-RJSB Practice
25 10:00 AM-Worship 11:00 AM-BP Check	26 10:30 AM-AI-Anon 1:00 PM-WELCA Board	27 10:30 AM-Barbershop Quartet 1:00 PM-Barbershop 3:30 PM-AA Meeting	28 10:00 AM-Lenten Worship	29 6:30 PM-Choir Practice		

