

# Tower Times

St. John's United Church of Christ  
515 East Third Street



## July 2019

General Synod of the United Church of Christ, for 2019, is in the books and complete! Now, to work and grow until our next meeting, in Kansas City, in 2021! For those who weren't aware, St. John's was able to play a unique roll in this year's General Synod. Whereas most churches are lucky to send their pastor as a delegate for Synod, St. John's sent three (3) members to General Synod! Rev's Carl Robinson (our Association Minister for The Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky Conference) and Rev. Jeffrey Campbell (our Minister for Worship) served as voting delegates with The Ohio Conference of The United Church of Christ. I also was privileged to attend Synod in an "observer" capacity with The Next Generation Leadership Initiative of The United Church of Christ Pension Boards. As you might imagine, all three of us experienced Synod in ways that were very similar and yet also very unique. Over the next few weeks in our Sunday morning worship gatherings, Carl, Jeffrey, and myself will offer a brief report on what we saw at Synod, how we participated, and what it all meant for us and to us. As a generalization, however, I'll just go ahead and say that Synod is rarely a dull gathering!

The United Church of Christ is about as diverse a group of people as you can find in the United States. We have just about every ethnicity, age, background, and outlook reflected in our churches and that very much shows in the body that gathers for General Synod. Of particular note: I was distinctly impressed at how many youth and younger delegates were present at this year's gathering! (Or maybe I and all my friends are just finally getting older?) Now, that's not to say that General Synod is all sunshine, lollipops, and rainbows! With a diverse gathering deciding on the trajectory of the national offices of The United Church of Christ, there are, of course, many different and differing opinions. Certainly, there are things that virtually all of us could agree upon. (Care of creation, stewardship of resources, welcome of the refugee and immigrant, and the abolishment of private prisons and the culture that allows them were all rather unanimous items.) Still, there were some contentious issues on the docket that very much challenged us as to how we could or even would live out our founding motto: "That they may all be one." I look forward to sharing with you over the next few weeks how those items turned out and implementing some neat ideas as well. I also am distinctly grateful for the support of St. John's - in both spirit and finance- for those of us who attended.

My Best,  
ALW





**LOFTY WORDS**  
**Rev. Jeffrey Campbell**

July has several wonderful things in store for us at St. John's.

OUR CHURCH PICNIC! will be Sunday, July 21 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have our Sunday service there at 10:30 am followed by a carry-in picnic. Wear going-to-a-picnic clothes and bring a dish or two to share! The service will include Church Camp and Vacation Bible School songs. What a great Sunday to invite relatives and friends! Don't miss it!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! We will be celebrating Christmas in July on Sunday, July 28, at our 10:30 service. The themes and meaning of Christmas are often overshadowed by tiredness, a whirlwind of busy-ness, travel plans, and other things. So without all that we will rejoice in hearing the Good News of Jesus' birth and singing Christmas hymns and praying Christmas prayers. Leeann Harker will be playing the viola for us, in addition to other special music. Hopefully the Fellowship Hour will include Christmas treats! You DO NOT need to wear a Christmas sweater, however – it's July! What a great Sunday to invite relatives and friends! Don't miss it!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! A birthday party for the residents of Trinity will be sponsored by the Women of St. John's on Tuesday, July 30. You are invited to join us and help with refreshments and gifts. You also can help me and Raymonde Rougier as we lead a sing-along.



EVERY SUNDAY IS SPECIAL ST. JOHN'S! Don't miss any Sunday you are in town. God is still speaking. Be sure you're listening! And invite your neighbors and friends!

Grace and peace to all from our Lord Jesus Christ!

Finally, the PRAYER-GROUP had its initial meeting on June 8th. The group spent time sharing insights and experiences about prayer, and agreed to meet every third Thursday of the month. And on June 20<sup>th</sup> the group gathered again for the second time. We had a reflection on the passage from the Gospel of Luke 22:39-46 (Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives). Out from the reflection, we ascertained how important to have a personal prayer time with God. Thus, the group made a covenant together: each one will spend time in prayer and fellowship with God simultaneously every Thursday, 8:00 clock in the evening with a scheduled Bible verse being provided for meditation. This covenant seemingly aims to encourage each one to have a regular prayer time that would eventually develop into a spiritual discipline. I want to believe that corporate prayer will not be powerful if individuals are not spending quality time in prayer by themselves.

Whoever feels like joining the PRAYER-GROUP, please feel free to join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 3:30pm in the church office!

I am also grateful and humbled for the opportunity given to me last Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to preach during the worship. Since this was my first time to give a sermon at St, John's, I had this feeling of being the first timer in a new church assignment with excitement but anxious at the same time. Though there were some sort of technical problems but there worship must go on. Truly, we had a wonderful worship experience with the empowering presence of our Almighty God.

Thanks be to God!

Hector F. Guzman



## Tower Times – July, 2019 – VP Report

### Pentecost at St. John's (Picture)

The sanctuary was beautiful, as we celebrated Pentecost.

### World Refugee Day (2 Pictures)

ESOL & St. John's recognized World Refugee Day. It was a very large event in our Fellowship Hall. Guests included the Dayton Chief of Police, a Commissioner, our ESOL students & their guests.

### Dare to Defy Children's Theater (has been rehearsing at St. John's) Will Present:

#### Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Friday, July 12, Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 14

Dayton Convention Center

[Ticket Website](#) (If viewing electronic version)

Approximately \$27.00/ticket



### MINISTRY TEAMS:

We continue the process of re-structuring our Council/Committees into Ministry Teams.

### Please mark your calendar:

Wed., July 3 – 5-10:00 – Riverscape Fireworks

Fri-Sun- July 26-28 - Dayton Celtic Festival

GermanFest Aug. 9-11 – We are requesting the help of St. John's, just as last year.

St. John's members – please wear your t-shirts to help with St. John's publicity.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris van Breukelen, VP





## Budget & Finance Committee Tower Times

### June 10, 2019 Meetings

The Budget & Finance Committee met on Monday, June 10, 2019 with Patty Staley, Chair, Ron Duckson, Vice Chair, Nicholas Schumacher, Secretary, Isaiah Ashba, Treasurer, Norm Neubauer, Debbie Watts and Reverend Wirrig in attendance.

Minutes for the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

Isaiah Ashba presented the Treasurer's report for May. General Offerings were up over last year by \$1,808. It was noted that an incorrect entry to Wedding Deposits should have been to Facility Use Donations which caused an adjustment to Operating Income which after adjustment is \$16,166 and leaving a deficit for the month of (\$2,937). Year to date figures were also needed to be adjusted and Patty and Isaiah will make the adjustments and the reports will be rerun and submitted for approval at the July Meeting. The Checking Account balance is \$16,501.20 with total assets at \$215,633.71. Parking income for the month of \$872.67 – Rev. Wirrig noted that the calculations were not properly done so additional funds will be received with the next payment. The ESOL payment was received. Expenses included normal salary and health care. Utilities were reviewed and it was noted that we had been paying higher electric and gas than we should have we have made the necessary adjustments to new vendors to bring those costs back into more normal ranges. The only Committee expenses were for Building and Property at \$889.87 spending will be reviewed.

Parking was discussed in detail as to the current status including the recalculation of the payment received in May which will be increased and paid with the payment to be received in June. Parking is going well. It was noted that a couple of family members of one of the Committee has stated that someone was at the machine stating they were broken and to pay them. Rev. Wirrig will notify ABM and it will be looked into. If the machines are down for any

reason, and ABM staff person in ABM uniform would be the only one to whom funds should be paid but it would be a rare instance as the machines are solar and connected so that ABM is aware anytime there is an issue and is able to get them serviced fairly quickly.

Form 1023 status – is still in process but not as high a priority at the moment as we have the ability to use the UCC ID to apply for funds and grants until we are able to complete and finalize our process.

Construction Loan – has been approved. Paperwork was required within a 2 week turn around so Council did review and approve the terms which include a 5.5% interest rate on a 30 year loan. It will require a recorded Mortgage Lien and Assignment of Rents and Leases and a two-year payment deposit to be held in escrow for 2 years after which time it can be applied to the loan balance or returned depending the decision and needs of the Church at that time. Discussion included various methods of repayment and building up funds to cover the loan and the need to include this in the Stewardship including stressing the need for “Faithful Giving” . As Stewardship was the next topic, we continued directly into discussions of how it should be structured this year. Each member of the committee will submit a write up to be included. Patty will compile and present for revisions/comments at the July meeting with the goal to distribute and present in August.

The ESOL Contract is coming due for renewal. Discussion included whether or not to ask for an increase. Patty will submit to Council the Committee’s recommendation that the contract be prepared to include a \$2,000 increase based on their increased space use. Once we are able to get more ADA accessible, we could then renegotiate for a higher increase but not until we can provide the accessibility.

Credit Card Kiosk & Online Giving – Isaiah and Nick are working on it and it was stressed to them that this needs to be in place as soon as possible. It is taking time as there are steps that Isaiah has to complete before Nick can get more into the set up. We also need to purchase or acquire a Tablet, determine how and where it will be placed and secured.

Financial Controls are coming along. We are looking at new accounting software to replace Church Windows, cabinets have been keyed, items moved to more secure locations, etc. We will continue to put things into place to be more in line with the Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures as any business is required to be in compliance with.



Next Meeting: Monday, July 8, 2019 at 6:30 pm – If you want to know more about what the financial workings are, please feel free to sit in as a guest.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Staley, Chair,

Budget & Finance Committee



## **St. John's United Church of Christ**

### **Building and Property Committee Report     June Tower Times**

Members: Brian Dunkle, Ed Humphreys, Jill Johnson, Marlene Miller, Bill Smith (chair), Brian Thompson, Wilfred van Breukelen, Tim White (*In Memorial*). Support: Steve Boggs, Rev Dr. Adam Wurring

### **Renovation Work to Begin**

There are five contracts approved for building repairs:

Midwest Maintenance – exterior brick work will begin June

Korrek Plumbing – separation & repair of heating system – begin end of June

Sturgill Roofing – roof repair – Repairs completed at this time

Ornamental Iron – removal and re-install of fence will reinstall late summer

CertaPro Painting – exterior window painting – will begin June

Currently securing bids for interior repairs

### **Dishwasher Replacement**

Proposal will be presented to Women of John's (WOSJ) members in July Meeting. At the August meeting the WOSJ membership will make decision on direction for the Dishwasher project.

### **Parking Lot Repairs**

Houser Asphalt is contracted to repair drain and potholes in the west parking lot. The recent storm has changed plans for many companies. Funding for this project is from the Parking Lot Fund.

***SAVE THE DATE – August 25-***

### **Church Sanctuary Clean-up Sunday**

Sunday August 25 Immediately AFTER Service and BEFORE Fellowship hour, willing congregation members will participate in a Sanctuary Clean-up. Tasks will be available for all physical abilities.

The Building & Property committee will provide instructions for clean-up of different parts of



## the Sanctuary

Windowsills and wood trim

Pews

carpet

Choir loft

Altar area

Etc.

Clean-up tasks should be completed in about an hour

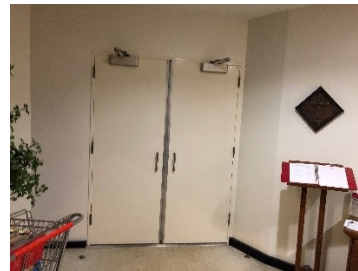
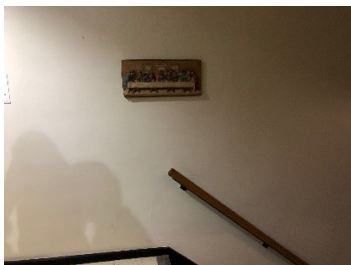
### NEED YOUR THOUGHTS AND CREATIVE IDEAS

#### Enhance the Entrance to the Sanctuary (hallway 1<sup>st</sup> floor between buildings)

Over 90% of Church Attendees enter through this hallway. It is clean and there is always a warm welcome by a member greeting people. However, it is a bit uneventful and aesthetically cold.

Think about what information, artwork, decorative materials, inspirational posters, or current events could be displayed in this area and how. Please send your ideas to Bill Smith ([wesjemail@gmail.com](mailto:wesjemail@gmail.com)) or give to any member of the Building and Property Committee.

Sometime in September or October we will gather with a volunteer group to start the planning and development of this area.



#### Parking Lot Repairs

In addition to other activities the Building and Property committee tries to protect your vehicles. Thanks to funds that were set aside during Parking Lot Ministry days we were able to meet the need to patch the parking lot holes and repair the drain break. Thank you all who gave welcome to visitors to the parking lot over the recent years.



## **WORSHIP REPORT**

Come join the fun at our **Summer Worship/Picnic Gathering** Sunday July 21. Our pastors will lead worship beginning at 10:30 in Fellowship Hall. A carry-in meal (picnic foods) will follow. Worship Committee is hosting and will provide the meat.

Just a word about our new **Prayer Group** led by Pastor Hector. We've had a second meeting and did a bit of organizing. We will meet every third Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the church for an hour. We've also covenanted to pray simultaneously the same evening, the same time with same Bible verse as a guide. At our meeting early June we centered on Luke 22:39-46 Jesus Prays on the Mt. Of Olives.

**GOOD GRIEF** Due to rough weather predictions for later that afternoon, we canceled our June meeting at Ray's Wine, Spirits and Grill, 8268 N. Main Street. We'll try again Saturday July 20 at 4:30 p.m. As always, we invite anyone interested to join us. Please give me a call (435-5515) by Friday so I can make reservations.

*Pat Kern*

Pat Kern

Worship Committee—Chair

small church  
**Bible**  
**WORSHIP**

## **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

### **TRINITY HOMES OF BEAVERCREEK**

### **RESIDENT'S JULY BIRTHDAY PARTY**

**TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

The Women of St. John's will be hosting the July Residents Birthday Party for the residents of Trinity Community Homes of Beaver Creek on Tuesday, July 30, at 6:30 P.M.

Rev. Jeff Campbell will be the Master of Ceremonies and also will provide the entertainment for the evening accompanied by Raymonde Rogier. Rose Papenbrock is making the centerpieces to decorate the tables. Sue Delaney is donating the ice cream. The Women of St. John's will provide filled birthday bags, punch and home-made and store bought cookies.

We are in need of volunteers to make/buy 2 dozen cookies to serve the residents. If you would like to provide 2 dozen cookies please bring them to the church's kitchen on or before July 28th<sup>h</sup> and mark them for Trinity and place them in the box marked Trinity Birthday Party.

We can also use assistance in set-up, serving and clean-up. If you can help with any of these tasks or need any further information please me at 836-8582.

Everyone from St. John's is invited to attend and enjoy the party. It is always nice to have people from St. John's visit with the residents.

Please plan to attend!

Janet Neubauer

President, Women of St. John's



## Minutes from June Church Council

13<sup>th</sup>/June/2019

The meeting was called to order by President Goudy at 18:02.

Monthly devotions were presented by Pat Kern, as Chairperson of Worship, with a focus on altruism, The Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the question of "Who is our neighbor?"

Secretary Ballard Yates was absent for the meeting, but President Goudy asked if there were any changes required for the minutes from the May meeting. As no changes were required, the minutes were approved as a consensus item.

Treasurer Isaiah Ashba was also absent for the meeting, but the May Treasurer's Report was presented by Patty Staley as Chairperson of Budget and Finance. All in all, the monthly report was trending in the right direction with a monthly deficit of \$2937. Our overall numbers would have been in the positive for May had we not been forced to catch up bills from the Pension Board that had not been sent in their transition to a different billing process. Monthly expenses were nominal for standing committees and overall costs were well within reasonable expectations. There were several items that were noted as being entered in the wrong area -due to confusion in the new bill filing process, etc.- that Isaiah was going to go back and correct for the July meeting of Budget and Finance. It was also noted that Church Windows was still causing considerable grief in our accounting process and that we are moving closer to choosing a new church management suite. Finally, Rev. Wirrig reported that we had investigated our Gas and Electric rates which were considerably higher than they should have been. The church had previously been registered for promotional rates with energy companies -in prior years- and those rates had expired as of this year. Thus, we were paying premium amounts when we did not have to. This has been rectified for the future with standard 12-month contracts, but it did cost us considerably more during the winter of 2019. As the Treasurer was still planning to change items on the May report for the July meeting, Budget and Finance had tabled approving the report until July and council followed suit.

As part of a monthly discussion, Rev. Wirrig and President Goudy updated the council as-to the status of teams for the implementation of the new constitution in 2020. As of the June meeting, all positions, except for Secretary, had been filled for 2020. Discussion was held around acceptable persons for the secretarial post with ideas being formulated and interest gauged at a future meeting. Rev. Wirrig indicated that he intended to contact the leads for the individual teams and hold a leader's meeting in July to acclimate the leaders to the realities of the new team structure.

Discussion was held around our percentage rates with ABM and the church parking lots. Rev. Wirrig reported that he had contacted ABM that our first check, from April, had been on the old rates from 2018 and did not reflect the re-negotiated contract. ABM checked, admitted error, and was working to rectify things for the May payment to be received in June. Rev. Wirrig will follow up further as necessary.

Chris van Breukelen reported that a church family was forced to make a very large purchase during the recent catastrophic storms with money they did not really have available. Discussion was held as to the best way to potentially support this family, with Rev. Wirrig volunteering to check further into the matter and report back to council as he heard more from the family.

Council was updated as to the status of the Cornerstone Loan application: we were approved for 100K in loan funds. As part of the loan terms, however, we will be required to place two year's worth of payments, \$13, 726, in an escrow account for two years. At the end of two years and with no payment issues the escrow account will be released to us to decide if we wish to recoup the funds or apply them to the loan balance. In addition, we are responsible for closing costs such as registration and lien search. None of these costs is outside of the norm for loan processes but do represent unexpected items that church leadership did not anticipate. Discussion was held as to the best way to meet the escrow requirements with several items to be further investigated prior to closing in July.

Patty Staley reported that it was time to renew the ESOL contract for the upcoming school year and that Budget and Finance recommended increasing the lease cost by 2K to reflect the wider use of the fellowship hall and custodian costs with increased activity. Council approved unanimously of the increase and the item passed as a consensus item. Rev. Wirrig will submit the revised lease to ESOL prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>.

President Goudy reported that he was planning to coordinate mid-year reviews with the Minister of Music, Director of Family Life, and custodian. These reviews will be informal but will help establish goals and help the church gauge what is best for its staff.

President Goudy also reported that he was looking into setting up a church outing in the fall with more information to come at future meetings.

Bill Smith, as Chairperson of Building and Property, reported that his committee was working to:

- 1.) Schedule an all-church cleanup day for the end of summer.
- 2.) Establish emergency training for the AED and, potentially, for CPR within the congregation.

3.) Implement solar panels on the roof of the education building.

4.) How to better present high-traffic areas of the church.

5.) Institute interior repairs around water damage and on the ESOL floor.

Chris van Breukelen reported that the Leiderkranz Turner Club would be looking for volunteers with the Annual German Picnic and she would be recruiting from the congregation.

With no further business reported, President Goudy asked for a motion to adjourn at 20:15. The motion was made by Patty Staley with Karen Clark seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Dr. Adam Wirrig (For Secretary Ballard Yates.)





# United Church of Christ **CORNERSTONE** FUND

As you will probably remember, St. John's membership voted, in March 2019, to pursue a construction loan with The Cornerstone Fund of The United Church of Christ. Church leadership hasn't mentioned much about this process since that decision as the application process has been both very daunting and very thorough. (ie: Developing an "officially" compiled financial report for years 2015-2018 from a CPA!) Thankfully, we can announce that we WERE APPROVED for a loan of \$100,000 from Cornerstone at an interest rate of 5.5%! We are currently in the process of closing the loan, which has presented several unexpected hurdles in its own right. Firstly, when your church has gone by three official names for over 175 years, a lien search can be a bit of a bugger. Secondly, as we do not have significant loan/credit history as a church, Cornerstone has required that we place two years worth of payments into an escrow account in advance. While this does not increase the overall cost of the loan, it does mean the church has to put up more money than we had planned to at this time. Thankfully, with the generosity of certain members, we are able to pursue potential alternatives with Cornerstone and hope to have decisions and a final closing in the near future.

As we proceed forward, please remember the covenant that we all made when we agreed on this loan: that we would all give a little something extra towards this expense. Whether you can give \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$50 a month, or even potentially help us fill the escrow account should we wind up needing to, please be faithful to the covenant we made before Almighty God!

Look to hear much more as we head through July and into our Aug/Sept. stewardship season!







United Church of Christ



**American  
Red Cross**

Remember! We are collecting special offerings to be split between UCC Disaster Ministries and The American Red Cross in their support for those affected by the Memorial Day Tornadoes! If you want to give, please make sure to use one of the specially marked envelopes, available in the narthex, or mark your offering appropriately! Any questions? See Rev. Adam!

Also, please don't forget that we are collecting resources to give directly to the Red Cross Distribution Center located at Shiloh UCC!

Let's show all those affected the love of God and the peace of Christ that we all share here at St. John's!



We are taking orders for St. John's t-shirts during the month of July! If you haven't ordered one in the last few years and/or need a new one, please see the sign-up sheet that will be available in the fellowship hall from July 7th!

Cost is:

S-XL = 10.00

XXL-XXXL = 12.50



Did you know that, since May, St. John's has played host for Dare 2 Defy Theater Company's youth theater troupe? These young folk will be presenting the classic: Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at The Dayton Convention Center on July 12th, 13th, and 14th!

They've left us a couple of cards expressing their gratitude for offering them space over the last two months and you can see them on the table as you enter!

NEXT SUNDAY, July 7th, Dare 2 Defy will join us in our worship service to present a brief bit of the music from the show as their way of saying "thank you!" You don't want to miss this!



## **Birthdays**

5—Patty Staley

19 - Steve Carroll

6 - Andrea Harker

23 - Lisa Robinson

9 - Tony Morrissey

27 - Helen Zappe

11 –Maria Guzman

13 - Annita Torgeson

15—Timothy Rhode and Jimmy Austin



## **Flowers & Fellowship**

Flowers for the altar in the sanctuary can be purchased each week to help beautify the worship service and then take and enjoy in your home. Sign ups for the flowers are on the corner by the coat rack beside Reverend Adam's office, and priced as follows: one bouquet is \$13.75 and two bouquets are \$27.50. Flowers can be dedicated in memory or in honor of a loved one or event. Checks can be made to the church with indication that they are for flowers. Thank you for participating in this tradition.

Fellowship hours are open for sign up as well. Please contact the church office if you can help supply snacks and refreshments for our weekly fellowship hour here at St. John's. A new sign up sheet is in the basement fellowship hall for your convenience.

### **Flowers**

7/7—Ann Morrissey

7/14—Steve Boggs

7/21—Open

7/28—Open

### **Fellowship Hour**

7/7—Jeff G., Ed H., Doug G.

7/14—Karen C. and Pat G.

7/21— Church Picnic

7/28—Open

# July 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship S</li> </ul>	Jul 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10pm Dayton Firew</li> </ul>	Church Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	
7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship S</li> </ul>	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Budget and</li> </ul>	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Church Cou</li> </ul>	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	13
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship S</li> </ul>	15	16	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3:30pm Prayer Groi</li> </ul>	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4:30pm Good Grief</li> </ul>
21 <div>Church Picnic</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Building and P</li> <li>10:30am Worship S</li> </ul>	22	23	24	25	26 <div>Celtic Fest</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	27 <div>Celtic Fest</div>
28 <div>Celtic Fest</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Worship S</li> </ul>	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Trinity Birth</li> </ul>	31	Aug 1	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11am Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	3