

# ROOTED

An inclusive Community Rooted in God's Incredible Love

ST. ANDREW'S UCC, PERKASIE, PA

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September 2025



## SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS



### FALL BACK TO CHURCH UCC COLLABORATION SERVICE SEPTEMBER 7TH AT 10AM AT ST. STEPHEN'S UCC

Join the UCC Cooperative Ministries for Fall Back to Church Worship at 10am hosted at St. Stephen's UCC, Perkasia. There will be something for everyone! Traditional music, contemporary music, Sunday School songs, an interactive message, communion, and fellowship. Bring the whole family for a morning of fun and worship together. Lunch will be shared together following worship as a time of fellowship and thanksgiving.



### PICNIC IN THE PAVILION SEPTEMBER 14- FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Please sign up and indicate how many people and what you will bring to share. The main dish will be roasted turkey. You can contact Ken or Joyce for more details if needed.

### PIG ROAST SEPTEMBER 27 FROM 4-7PM

Join us for a delicious pig roast and fellowship. Meals will be dine in and take out from 4-7pm (or until sold out). Meals will include pork, baked potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, corn casserole, and many delicious desserts. We are looking for bakers to make dessert. If you have questions please see Herb Volk.



### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us following worship for an important congregational meeting to discuss our churches financial challenges and future. If you have questions or concerns prior to the meeting please contact someone on consistory or our finance team.



# PASTORS MESSAGE

**“AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN CHRIST JESUS.” - PHILIPPIANS 4:7**

As I sit here writing this missive, Hurricane Erin is moving up the East coast. I've seen many videos of high winds and waves tearing up the coast line. Beaches are being washed away as well as houses, businesses and roads. When the storm passes on, the coastline will be different.

When a hurricane swirls, two realities exist at once: the calm of the eye and the fierce energy of the winds. In the eye, there is a stillness, a strange and steady peace, even while the storm rages around. In the winds, there is power, movement, force, that reshapes whatever lies in its path.

Our life in Christ is much the same. In Christ, we are held in the peace of the center, rooted in God's presence, anchored in love that does not shift even when the world does. This is the “eye” of our faith, the place where we can rest in God and faithfully prepare for what is to come.

When people prepare for a hurricane, they make hard choices like boarding up, tying down and storing what is most essential. They let go of what cannot be protected. They shift their routines and adjust their lives because the storm requires it. In the church, we are facing something similar. Financial realities are changing; we no longer have the resources we once did. That means we must prepare, too, not with fear but with faith.

At our congregational meeting on September 28, we will discern what is essential to our mission, what needs to be released, and how we can live more simply yet more faithfully as the body of Christ. In the coming months changes will happen and we will not be the same. There will be grief as some beloved things are let go of or are reduced and there will be celebration as we live more authentically into who we're called to be as St. Andrew's UCC with the resources God has provided us with to be about the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Hurricanes are scary but they draw communities together, especially in the aftermath. We need both the eye and the wind. Without the peace and steadfastness of Christ, we would be swept away. Without the Spirit's force, we would never be transformed and renewed. As a church and as followers of Jesus, the eye of our faith, may we stay centered in the peace of Christ and may we be reshaped by the winds of the Spirit, even when it changes how we live as church. I have faith that together we can weather these winds of change and come out a resurrected community of Christ.

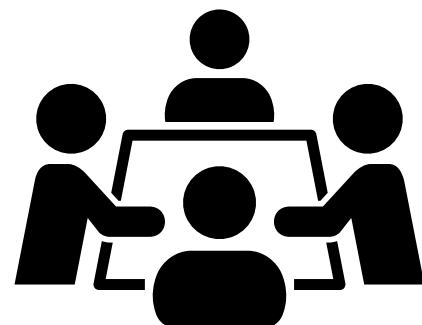
*Pastor Barb*





# AUGUST MEETING CONSISTORY REPORT

Consistory continued to discuss the status of the church financial position and reminds all members there will be a special congregational meeting on September 28 following the worship service. Consistory will also be meeting with Associate Conference Pastor Sean James to discuss a long-range plan for St. Andrews.



The fall season for St Andrews will be a busy one in 2025 with eleven events already scheduled between Labor Day and mid-December in addition to our ongoing mission work with Ram Packs. Check out the calendar and other articles in the newsletter for further details.

We were pleased to learn there will be a confirmation class this year with at least one student. In looking ahead to 2026, we reviewed the terms of the current consistory members and with the addition of two people who have committed to serve new terms or positions, there is just one open Deacon seat for 2026. Anyone interested in serving the church in this capacity should contact one of the current consistory members.



Anyone interested in attending consistory meetings is welcome. They are held on the 4th Thursday of the month. This year, the regular consistory meeting dates for November fall on Thanksgiving and Christmas, so consistory will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday in November and December.

## **Consistory Members 2025:**

Elders- Lee Metzger (President), Karen Peterson, Ron Grace, and Doris Lindmeier

Deacons- Tara Howell, Erin Rush, Robert Creager, Lance Ide, Herb Volk (Vice-President), and Cindy Grace.



# FALL BACK TO CURCH SUNDAY

Join St. Andrew's UCC,  
St. Luke's UCC Ottsville,  
St. Paul's UCC,  
St. Peter's UCC, and  
St. Stephen's UCC



**At St. Stephen's UCC**  
**110 N 6<sup>th</sup> St. Perkasié**  
**Sunday, September 7, 2025**  
**at 10:00am**

**UCC Cooperative Ministries**  
**Fall Back to Church/Rally Day**  
**Joint Worship Service**



There will be something for everyone!  
Traditional music, contemporary  
music, Sunday School songs,  
interactive message,  
communion, and fellowship. Offering in  
envelopes will go to the respective churches.  
Loose offering will be donated to RamPacks.  
We will share in lunch afterward.



# A REFLECTION ON BACK BAY MISSIONS

The week spent at Back Bay missions was my second great experience at Back Bay. Back Bay is a well-oiled machine that provides well-organized structure to provide services and love for the guests they serve through loving people, helping others and building partnerships. Even in these trying time of less resources and losing grants and funding to government cuts, Back Bay is still finding ways to help their guests and getting creative. When volunteering and working at the mission you can see in each person love and joy to help each guest that arrives there even if they are a guest coming for a long time or are brand new at the mission.



Back Bay missions' people served are referred to as guests. Hospitality is provided in ways I couldn't have imagined. Some of that hospitality comes in the form of tough love and expectations required of guests across the board by staff such as, guests respecting themselves, other guests and staff, listening to staff and following procedures for showering, laundry, and pantry needs. One of the tasks I helped with throughout the week was showering at the Micah center along with the clothing closet. It is amazing to see how someone's mood can change by having a shower along with having clean clothing or getting new clothing to wear from the clothes closet. With showers comes an expectation that guests will use their time allotted and not waste time so as many guests as possible can get a shower that day. I also helped to make a meal for lunch for the guests, something that Back Bay has just started doing. We made Spaghetti, put the meal in take-out containers, and distributed to guests. Guests appreciated the meals and it was clear how the guests help each other through watching their interactions. A man had come that had been bitten by a spider, we had seen him sleeping outside the night before and he asked us if anyone was there, but the center had closed already. We told him to come back the next day. When he arrived the staff immediately told him he need to go to Costal Doctors, who help guests from Back Bay with medical issues. One of the other guests immediately said he would show him where the doctor's office was. Guests helping guests, people helping people that is what God's love is all about. This year I also helped at the worksite cleaning an apartment for a veteran without housing. Our team helped paint, put new flooring in as well as clean the apartment so it would be ready for move in. Three of us had a great time getting to go to Wal-Mart to buy items needed in the apartment so it was ready to move in. With our teams hard work and working through our scheduled day off on Thursday we got to see a finished product which most times isn't the case. Having the apartment finished before we left would allow the new resident to move in within a week or two. God again working through us to help others.

Back Bay served as a great inspiration for each of St. Andrew's volunteers. We could see Jesus' walking with the Back Bay volunteers in all they do, the decisions they make and the way they interact with their guests helping us to see God in everything we did too. Back bay is a community-built mission both financially and with their personnel. We too are a community-built church and a gift that St. Andrew's has been given is community. How can we use the gift of community and camaraderie to further our missions in Perkasié and to serve our neighbors?



As a mission team we discussed ways we can bring back what we have learned to Perkasié. What resources we may have to get the word out about our Community meals, creating stronger relationships with those in our community, and educating ourselves more about homelessness in our area. Finding resource to possibly find a place for Code Blue/Code Red housing in Pennridge/Upper Bucks area, doing more mission closer to home, possibly a full week of different mission projects that encompasses the same ideals. The opportunities are endless and these opportunities are within a few miles. Ask yourself, how can I/we do mission and serve alongside the people in need in the community we worship and live in?

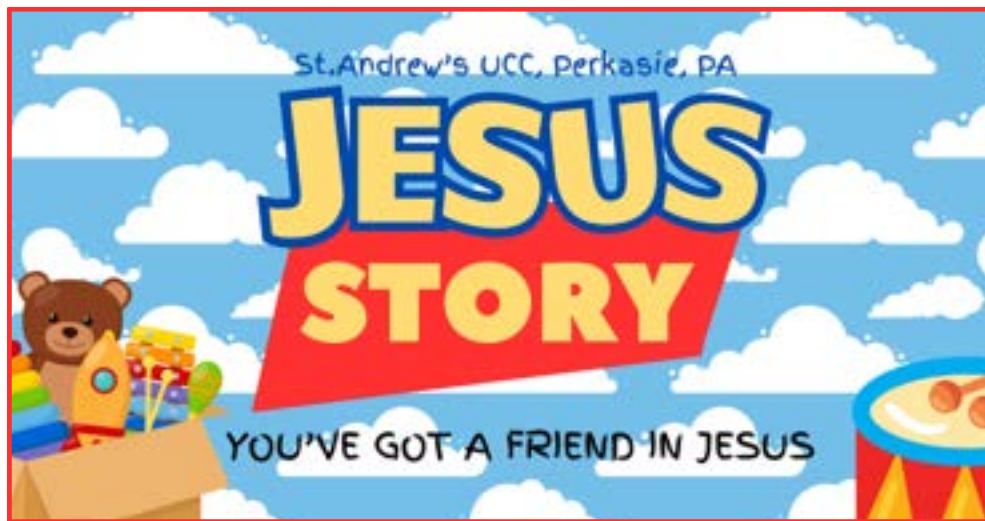
*Judy Koenig*



# FAITH FORMATION



All children 3 years old through 5th Grade are invited to our weekly faith formation hour from 9-10am. Each week children will be engaged in a lively lesson from the new testament scriptures through play, games, music, science, art, and more. We are excited to be sharing monthly themes this year and starting a weekly online message on our social media pages each Wednesday! We can't wait to explore the gospel with our young disciples!



Join us in September for Jesus Story: You've Got a Friend in Jesus during our faith formation hour for our young disciples. Lessons for this month are:

**Sept. 7- Many Parts, One Body - Joint Worship and Faith Formation with UCC Collaborative**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Sept. 21- Miss Bo Peep has Lost her Sheep**

Luke 15: 5-6

**Sept. 14- Mr. Potato Head has Many Parts and One Body**

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Sept. 28- You've Got a Friend in Jesus**

John 15:13



We start with a gathering time between 8:45 and 9:00. Adult Circle starts promptly at 9. If you are running late, we ask that you enter quietly and join the circle. Utilizing Circle Process we come together to share and listen to each other related to the book we are studying. We are currently studying the book *Fierce* by Alice Connor. Contact Karen Peterson at 267-664-0341 or [kapcharlkp@gmail.com](mailto:kapcharlkp@gmail.com)

# MISSION MOMENTS



Looking to clean out? Donate your items to our Rummage Sale! Place your donated items in the fellowship Hall. If you have further questions please contact Angela Stofflet.



## CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

We're participating in the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk on October 12<sup>th</sup> to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



NOVEMBER 15, 2025  
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW

## PIES! PIES! PIES!



Our remaining Farmer Market Date is September 6<sup>th</sup> with the addition of some Apple Crumb and Pumpkin Pies on this date. We are happy we can share this ministry with the community.

Pie baking will be Thurs, Sept 4, 8 AM begin and  
Friday, Sept 5, 8 AM begin

Friday will be apple crumb and pumpkin, packing etc.  
Sat. Sep 6 is the last Market Day. We are hoping to schedule one in  
November/more info to follow.



# DRIVE-THRU PET FOOD DRIVE

**SEPTEMBER  
27TH, 2025  
8:30AM - 10:30AM**



Please help support the efforts of St. Andrew's UCC in Perkasio to support Pennridge FISH by collecting pet (dog, cat, gerbil, etc.) food. St. Andrew's volunteers will be on-site to unload items from your car. Will also be accepting regular FISH items.

## **DROP-OFF LOCATION**



**St. Andrew's UCC**  
615 E Walnut St, Perkasio PA 18944

## **ITEMS NEEDED**

- ▶ Canned and dry cat or dog food
- ▶ Food for other household pets
- ▶ Other regular FISH items

**For More Information :**

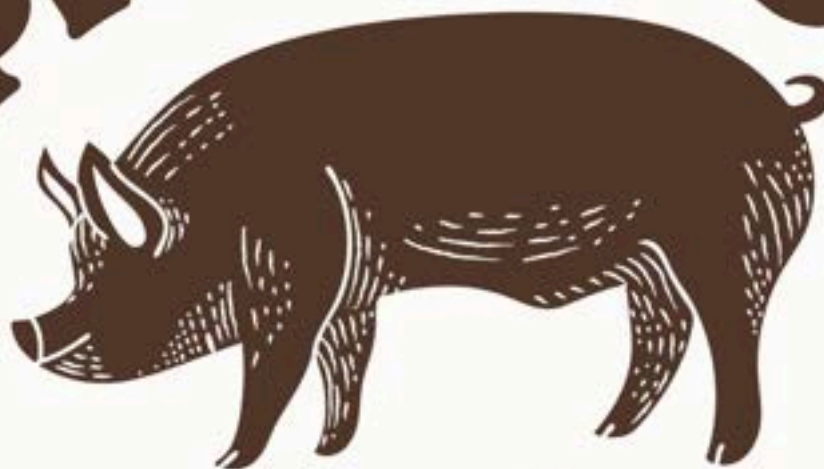
267-614-1453 (Kelly Finno)

[standrewsucc.org](http://standrewsucc.org)



**JOIN US FOR A**

# **PIG ROAST**



*Hosted by*

**ST. ANDREW'S UCC**

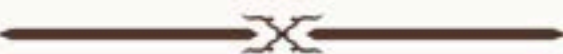
**SATURDAY  
SEPT. 27**

**ST. ANDREW'S UCC  
615 E. WALNUT ST.  
PERKASIE, PA 18944**

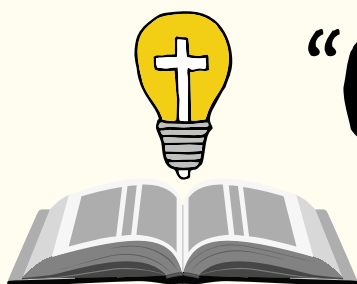
**4-7PM  
OR UNTIL FOOD RUNS OUT**

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**DELICIOUS ROAST PIG, BAKED POTATOES,  
BAKED BEANS, COLESLAW, CORN CASSEROLE,  
ROLLS AND BUTTER, AND VARIOUS DESSERTS.**



**COST BY DONATION  
[standrewsucc.org](http://standrewsucc.org)**



# “CLOBBER PASSAGES” BIBLE STUDY

with Pastor Barb

For many of us, Scripture is a foundational part of how we understand and live out our faith in the world. Just as there are many English translations, there are a variety of interpretations of the Scriptures, themselves. What we've learned about Scripture depends on the worldview, beliefs and mindsets of translators, interpreters, and the worldview, beliefs and mindsets of those teaching us as well as our own.

Some things I learned when I was young in Sunday school taught by very faithful and good teachers, I had to unlearn when I went to seminary. In seminary we did deeper dives into the Scripture taking into account the translations from Hebrew and Greek, the culture of the Biblical time, the motivations of the original writers, and changing interpretations due to how Scripture was used to address circumstances of the faithful in different time periods and the current time.

As we explore how we are being led to be an inclusive community and considering the LGBTQIA2S+ community as a place to start, you might be wondering what exactly does the Bible say about it? I'll be leading a series of Bible studies to engage Scripture on what is traditionally called “the clobber passages”, those passages used as “prooftext” to condemn homosexuality. Let's explore it together.

Join me on Wednesday, September 17 at 1:30pm and Tuesday, September 30 at 7pm.



## HEEDING GOD'S CALL TO END GUN VIOLENCE

**INSPIRING HOPE, RAISING VOICES, TAKING ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE.**

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence seeks to energize the American faith community and actively seek an end to gun violence through public witness and policy advocacy.

Heeding promotes public witness and call to action through Anti-Gun Violence Days, Murder Site Witness events, and Memorials to the Lost®. These engagements offer opportunities for education as well as for individual and community healing.

Heeding works through faithful public policy advocacy. Each engagement mobilizes people through voter guides, letter writing campaigns, and direct, in-person lobbying. We advocate for legislators to enact common sense gun laws like One Handgun a Month.

**Memorial to the lost is coming to St. Andrew's on Sept. 13th. We will need people to help set-up that morning. Please let Karen Peterson know if you are able to help.**

**There will be a dedication for the Memorial to the Lost on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am.**



## TRUNK OR TREAT IS BACK!

Trunk or Treat is back for another year! Mark your calendars for October 25<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to participate by having a trunk full of treats or helping in any way please see Karen Gossard! We can't wait for another year of Halloween fun for the entire community!



# ONA TEAM UPDATE

At our August meeting, the Open and Affirming Committee met with Priscilla Gray-Stoll, one of the founders of the Perkasio Pride Festival. Priscilla shared with us her story and her experience of working with her church at the time, a Unitarian Universalist church in Long Island, NY, guiding them through the process of becoming a "Welcoming" church, a similar process to the UCC's Open and Affirming process. She shared how her current church is living into being a Welcoming church here in the Bucks Montgomery County area. Priscilla also told us how the Perkasio Pride Festival began, how it has grown in the years since, and how the community of Perkasio has become more open and welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community that has always been here. We look forward to welcoming Priscilla back in November to share her experience and wisdom with our wider St. Andrew's Congregation.

You're invited to join us on a field trip on Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM to Zwingli UCC, 350 Wile Ave. Souderton. There we'll hear how Zwingli's congregation is living into their Open and Affirming Covenant and discussing what has changed since they've become an ONA congregation.

Pastor Barb is offering the Clobber Passage Bible study series again for those who missed it the first time. The first Bible study will be held on Wednesday, September 17 at 1:30 pm and will focus on Genesis 19. The second Bible study will be held on Tuesday, September 30 at 7 PM and will focus on Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13.

Stay tuned as our Open and Affirming Committee is working on a series of survey questions to get a better feel of where our congregation is at in the process and hear what still needs addressing.

ONA Team Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Meetings start at 6:30 PM. Upcoming dates are September 2, September 9 (at Zwingli UCC), October 21, November 18, and January 13.

If you have any questions about our work or have any ideas about what type of educational opportunities you would be interested in attending, please reach out to any member of our core team.

## ONA Team Meeting Dates:

Sept. 2, Sept. 9, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Jan. 13 - All are welcome to join!

If you have any questions about our work or have any ideas about what type of educational opportunities you would be interested in attending, please reach out to any member of our core team. Our members include Jessica Reese, Lee Metzger, Lance and Robin Ide, Karen Peterson, Tara Howell, Robert Creager, Debbie Kantner, Erin Rush, Doris Lindmeier, Angela Stofflet, and Evie Starkey.



**GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE**



# GIVE WITH A JOYFUL HEART

THANK YOU for your continued support of our beautiful church building and supporting the great missions in our community. Below is the link to our online giving platform:



Scan the qr code with your phone camera to give online!



**CLICK HERE TO GIVE ONLINE**

## Want to give via Check?

Mail your check or bring it with you the next time you come to St. Andrew's.

St. Andrew's UCC  
P.O. Box 69  
Perkasie, PA 18944

## Save THE Date



Oct. 5	Neighbors in Need Offering
Oct 6-19	Pastor Barb on Vacation
Oct. 12	Pennridge Crop Walk
Oct. 18	Rummage Sale 8am -1 pm
Oct. 25	Trunk or Treat
Nov. 15	Bingo Night at St. Andrew's
Dec. 7	A Concert with Robert
Dec. 14	Philadelphia Bronze Concert
March 7	Charlie Zahm Concert

## WE NEED SPONSORS!

Flower sponsors for September needed 7, 14, 21  
Bulletin sponsors needed September 14, 21, 28.  
Please sign up on the charts in the foyer.



## SERVING SCHEDULES

### USHERS

#### September

*Head Ushers:*

*Erin Rush & Doris Lindmeier*

*7- Lee Metzger & Ruth Yothers*

*14- Robin & Lance Ide*

*21- Brian & Karen Rush*

*28- Amy & Jim Smith*

*Oct. 5- Erin Rush & Karen Peterson*



### LITURGIST

#### September

7- Community Service

14- Ron Grace

21- Karen Petersen

28- Linda Brickajlik

Oct. 5- Jess Reese Wamsley

#### September Communion Servers

Lance Ide & Tara Howell

#### September Alter Guild

Karen Gossard, Lois-Ann Barndt & Barb Kieffer



# SEPTEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Office Closed <b>LABOR DAY</b> 	2 10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm ONA Meeting 	3  8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Joint Choir Rehearsal	4 Pastor's Sermon Prep 8am Pie Making	5 Pastor's Day off 8am Pie Making	6 9am- Noon Pies at Perkasia Farmers Market 
8:45 Adult Circle 10:00am Fall Back to Church Worship at St. Stephen's Perkasia 	7 7 pm Mission Resource Meeting	8 10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm ONA Field Trip to Zwingli UCC	9 8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal 	10 Pastor's Sermon Prep 7pm Elders Meeting	11 Pastor's Day off	12 8am Heeding God's Call Set up  Consistory Long Range Planing Retreat
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Heeding God's Call Dedication 9am Faith Formation: God's Story 10:15am Worship with Holy Communion Lunch in the Pavilion following worship 	13 15 10:15am Bible Study	14 16 10:15am Bible Study 8:30am Coffee & Conversations  1:30 pm "Clobber Passage" Bible Study with Pastor Barb 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 17 Pastor's Sermon Prep	16 18 Pastor's Day off	17 19 Pastor's Day off	18 20 8:30-10:30am Drive Thru Pet Drive for FISH  4-7pm Pig Roast 
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:15am Worship	21 22 <b>FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN</b>  7pm Altar Guild	22 23 10:15am Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts	23 24 8:30am Coffee & Conversations 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal  October Newsletter Deadline	24 25 Pastor's Sermon Prep 7pm Consistory Meeting	25 26 Pastor's Day off	26 27 8:30-10:30am Drive Thru Pet Drive for FISH  4-7pm Pig Roast 
8:45 Adult Circle 9am Faith Formation 10:30 am Worship  Congregational Meeting Following Worship	27 28 10:15am Bible Study  7 pm "Clobber Passage" Bible Study with Pastor Barb	28 29 10:15am Bible Study	29 30 10:15am Bible Study			