



FRUCC October 2026

Newsletter

Join Sunday Worship on
YouTube:

http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHfZFOjObXH_br8E-UG_gTA

Welcoming Statement

If you are searching for a place to experience God's wonderful and inclusive love, we invite you to join us at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC.

Following the example of Jesus, we believe that God's love, Christ's church, and the power of the Holy Spirit are for all people.

We believe our unity as one body in Christ transcends worldly differences. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

First Reformed United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation. This means we welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people, regardless of ability, age, education, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, income, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, or any other distinction. At the baptismal font and at the communion table, from the nursery cribs to the church leadership, whether you were raised in a church or have never before attended one, you are welcome here.

We affirm and celebrate the diversity of God's children as a blessing. We welcome you to First Reformed United Church of Christ.

Dear First Reformed Family,

The first Sunday in October marks **11 years we've been in ministry together!!** I began in 2015 in the role of part-time Designated Pastor, and we have grown from there in worship, laughter, tears, growth, and countless sacred moments.

Eleven years ago, I could not have known all these years would hold. I certainly couldn't have imagined all the people I would come to love, the stories I would be privileged to hear, or the ways this congregation would shape me as a pastor, a person, and a member of this community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Thank you for your trust, your humor, your honesty, your patience, your generosity, and your willingness to keep asking what God is calling us to do next.

I am deeply grateful for these 11 years, and I am excited about what's next for us!

With love and appreciation,
Elizabeth

October Sermon Series: **Living a Legacy**

What will we leave behind?

We often think of a legacy as something we leave after we're gone—a name, a family tradition, a ministry, a building, or a collection of memories. But Scripture invites us to see legacy differently.

We are living our legacy right now.

Every day, we are handing something to the people who come after us. The way we love. The way we forgive. The things we stand for. The stories we tell. The courage we show. Even the things

we choose to change or discontinue.

This month, we will walk with Moses as his journey ends ask **what it means to live a legacy of faith.**

In **Exodus 20**, the Ten Commandments, God gives Israel a way of life rooted in love, faithfulness, and community. Our legacy begins with the **values** we choose and pass on.

In **Exodus 32**, at the golden calf, God's people lose their way. Their story reminds us that faithfulness isn't about pretending we are perfect. Sometimes our most faithful act is recognizing what has gone wrong and choosing a different path. A legacy of faith includes knowing **what should end with us.**

In **Exodus 33**, when Moses asks God to go with the people, he reveals what matters most: God's presence. Our legacy isn't only what we accomplish. It is also the presence we bring into the lives of others—the love, grace, courage, and faith they experience through us.

In **Deuteronomy 34**, Moses reaches the end of his life without seeing everything he hoped for. He doesn't enter the Promised Land. But his faithfulness becomes part of a story that continues long after him. And perhaps that is the invitation for us, too.

We don't have to do everything. We simply have to ask what God is calling us to faithfully carry, faithfully change, and faithfully pass on.

Over the 4 Sundays of October, together, we'll explore what it means to **live a legacy of faith**—not someday, but today. Because the question isn't only, "What will we leave behind?"

The question is: **"What are we leaving in the lives of the people who come after us?"**

The Month Ahead – October 2026

- 10-2 FRUCC Game Night, 6pm – Fellowship Hall
- 10-4 Youth Group, 5:30pm – EDU Building
- 10-6 Men's Brotherhood, 6:30pm - Yarborough's
- 10-11 Consistory, *following Worship* – Parlor
- 10-13 Board of Worship, 6:00pm – Parlor
- 10-14 Board of Evangelism, 5:30pm – Parlor
- 10-18 Congregational Meal and Budget Meeting,
Following Service in Fellowship Hall
- 10-18 Youth Group, 5:30pm – EDU Building
- 10-21 NAMI Support Group, 1:00pm – Room 13
- 10-22 JV Football Team Meal, Fellowship Hall
- 10-2 LGBTQIA+ Bible Study, 4:00pm - Parlor
- 10-28 Women's Fellowship, 11:30am – Yarborough's
- 10-28 Executive Board Meeting, 3:00pm - Parlor

Fellowship Hall Scheduled Events

- 10-17** Set-up for Congregational Meal – Fellowship Hall

Sunday Gathering and Practice Times to Remember

- *Sunday Worship: *Begins at 10:30am in Sanctuary*
- *Choir Practice: *9:30am in Choir Room of Sanctuary*
- ***10/11 Pick-up Choir:** *practice 10am/designated, Sanctuary*



LGBTQIA+ Intersections of Faith Bible Study 4th Sunday of the Month in the Parlor - 4PM

In the last several months, the Intersections of LGBTQIA+ Identity and Faith Group has been exploring the women listed in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. This exploration of the stories of the "foremothers" of Jesus led us to conversations about gender and sexuality, but also about the essentially human themes of love, forgiveness, and resilience.

This in-depth look at scriptures (and the often-overlooked characters in the Bible), has prompted us to continue to review how queer identity shows up in various places throughout God's word. For the autumn months, we are going to be basing our discussions around *Queers The Word: a 40-day Devotional for LGBTQ+ Christians* by Brian Murphy and Shannon Kearns. This queer and trans-affirming devotional will lead us through looking at scripture and applying it to our own identities. Story-telling is a core component of building community--especially queer community--so the reflection questions in the devotional will prompt us to share stories with each other. There will even be journal prompts for those interested in journaling!

As an outreach endeavor, our group is going to provide the meal for the Davidson County Homeless Shelter Nov. 7.

If you are interested in coming to the group meetings or being involved in any way, contact Chase Hanes at Chaseart68@gmail.com. You are welcome with us!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets in the FRUCC Parlor - 9:30am

Finishing - GENESIS: A Beginner's Guide (through 10/11)

Starting – Breaking The Code on Oct. 18th

The Book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. Regrettably, there are those who have misinterpreted a 1st century message, written for a believer's movement in crisis, as a vengeful prophecy for the 21st century, where God and Jesus are violently involved with the destruction of the world, as we know it. There are those who have been duped by a bad End Times theology, and it's time to fix that! Join us for a 6-session study of **BREAKING THE CODE** by Bruce Metzger & David deSilva. Join us as we reclaim a vision of God's healing love for our world, where we don't seek to revenge it or escape it, but seek to change it for the better. The Adult Bible Study group invites you to join us on Sundays at 9:30 am, October 18th - November 22nd. (Participant guides for the study will be made available for \$10. We will be using a dvd-prompted resource for our sessions, as well.)

FRUCC MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

All men of the church are invited!

FRUCC Men's Brotherhood meet the first Tuesday of each month at Yarborough's. They enjoy a wonderful meal, review their last meeting, have a devotion and enjoy good fellowship! Next Meeting Oct. 6th Yarborough's Restaurant.

Women's Fellowship Group

All women of the church are invited!

Each month Women's Fellowship meet on the fourth Wednesday at 11:30am for lunch, devotions, and fellowship at Yarborough's Restaurant. All women of the church are invited! Come join in on the fun! Next meeting Oct. 28th – Yarborough's Restaurant.



Youth Group

First Reformed UCC Youth Group

October 4 & 18 at 5:30pm

Meet in the Education Building.

Inquirer's Class

Visiting and want to learn more about the church? Come learn about life at First Reformed UCC. On **Sunday October 25, after worship** join Rev. Horton in the Parlor. We'll discuss ways to get involved in ministry and join the church. **Please let Rev. Horton know if you are interested.** (336-972-8895 or elizabeth@frucc.org)

MUSIC AT FIRST REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY – Oct. 11, 2026 Pick-up Choir

ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

Participants meet in the Sanctuary at 10am for a brief practice session.

If you would like to join the Sunday morning choir, or you play an instrument and would like to share your talent during worship service, please contact our Choir Director, Ellen Peterson.



**Come join us Friday,
October 2nd**

from 6-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for

GAME NIGHT!

Engage in fun games and fellowship!
Bring Board Games to Share



Get Involved in Sunday Worship Ministries

Sunday Greeters: Be that smiling face that welcomes our members and visitors to First Reformed on Sunday mornings.

To Volunteer Contact:

Rev. Elizabeth Horton: Elizabeth@frucc.org

Ushers: Ushers are an important component to our Sunday services. They give out bulletins, help visitors with questions, assist those in need, and take up offering.

To Volunteer Contact:

Eddie Yates: bbqman46@gmail.com

DJ Huffman: [see on Sunday mornings](#)

Liturgists: At FRUCC, our liturgists lead various aspects of our Sunday services. Please consider serving as liturgist.

To Volunteer contact:

Rita Lohr: rlahr@triad.rr.com

Choir: Bring your beautiful voice to our sanctuary and join the choir.

To be a part of the choir contact:

Ellen Peterson: ellenrpeterson@gmail.com

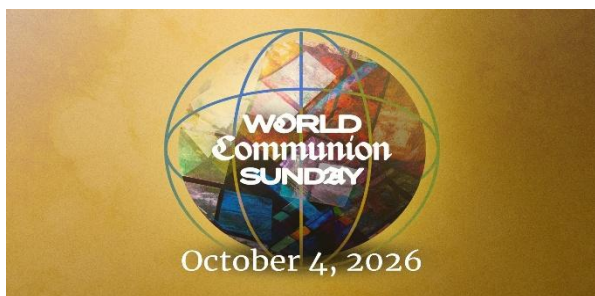
New-to-Us Bibles

Have you noticed the pew racks have a new Bible? The church I served in Winston Salem, First UCC, sold its building along with its contents this spring. From this First Reformed was able to receive 42 Large Print NRSV Bibles.

Would You Like to Help with Communion?

We are looking to expand our Communion Prep Team! Please scan the QR code to learn more about how you can get involved.





Book of Life – 2026

First Reformed UCC Book of Life will be available in the sanctuary **Oct 4th** through November 1st. We began the Book of Life two years ago to remember loved ones who have passed away. Again, this year we have the opportunity to remember and add loved ones to the Book of Life.

Neighbors In Need Special Offering

Donations accepted during the month of October 2026

Gifts to Neighbors in Need support the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.



Join us as we gather to hear about the work God is doing through First Reformed and the vision our church leadership is shaping for the years ahead.

We'll explore the **proposed 2027 budget**, new opportunities for our endowments, and exciting plans to strengthen our ministry, welcome our neighbors, and grow together in faith and service. As Lexington continues to grow and change, we'll consider how First Reformed can faithfully respond to where God is leading us.

Come hear the vision, share in the conversation, and imagine with us what God has in store for First Reformed.



Pastor's Pantry Holiday Boxes

Canned Corn Drive from Oct. 4 - Nov. 8

First Reformed UCC will again be collaborating with other churches and organizations to provide canned goods for Pastor's Pantry for their Holiday Boxes. These boxes provide a meal for seniors in our community that are food insecure.

Our church will be collecting 500 cans of corn. This will be collected between October 4th thru November 8th. Please bring on Sundays to the Sanctuary or drop off at the church office on Thursdays and Fridays.

Our Church has always met the 500 cans needed - let's do it again this year!



Enjoy this one-day street festival celebrating & serving barbecue...Lexington Style! The festival will feature six entertainment stages, 250+ art & craft vendors, special attractions, and MORE! Have a fun filled day in Lexington, NC, on Saturday, October 24, 2026.

Parking Cars at

FRUCC for the Lexington BBQ Festival

Men's Brotherhood will be parking cars again this year for the Lexington Barbeque Festival, **Saturday, October 24th**. This is an annual FRUCC fundraiser.

Please speak with Eddie Yates to confirm your time slot/s for helping with this event.



Lexington BooBash

Friday, Oct. 30, 6-9:00PM

First Reformed is again participating in the Lexington BooBash! We will be set up in front of the church sanctuary giving out Halloween goodies. In the past years this has been a fun evening and enables FRUCC to reach out and be a part of the surrounding community. Come have fun with us!

A Weekend at Blowing Rock Conference Center

Sixteen members of our FRUCC family headed to the Blowing Rock UCC Conference Center for a weekend of fellowship, fun, worship, and renewal.

The mountains provided a beautiful backdrop. We watched sunsets from the deck with Grandfather Mountain in the distance, enjoyed a brilliant full moon and even spotted a shooting star. A few early risers reportedly caught the sunrise! There were deer sightings—and even a bear on the grounds.

Saturday offered something for everyone: shopping and exploring Blowing Rock, discovering a Prayer Tree outside a little shop, cruising the Blue Ridge Parkway, hiking the conference center grounds with Christy, playing cards and board games, and gathering for a lively round of Family Feud—FRUCC style. We also shared delicious meals, including some pretty good BBQ—even if it wasn't Lexington BBQ!

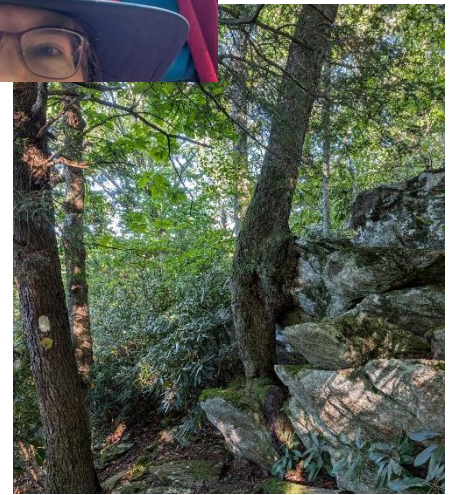
Saturday evening brought us together around the campfire for vespers, with a poem, scripture, hymns, and, naturally, s'mores. Sunday morning we joined our FRUCC family through the livestreamed worship service before heading home.

We returned refreshed and renewed, a little closer

after time spent laughing, talking, playing, exploring, and worshipping together.

Special thanks to June Grubb for planting the seed for the retreat; to Glenyce and Jackie for organizing and keeping everything straight; and to everyone who helped with activities and made the weekend so memorable.





First Reformed UCC Saturday Lunch Ministry

Submitted by Bob Saylor

We need bottled water to help keep our guests hydrated. If anyone is able to donate a case or more of bottled water, it would be greatly appreciated.



First Reformed UCC Charles England Ministry

Submitted by Patti Lovell

The Food Backpack Ministry has begun! CEES is receiving boxes of food from Second Harvest for the time being, under the direction of School Counselor, Hannah Lohr...no relation to our Lohrs. Volunteers will **continue to pack bags for about 50 students** to take home on Fridays. Because of nasty weather last week and a delay in delivery, we had to pivot; First Reformed is good at "pivot-ing". Judy Heffner, Cathy Browder, and Brodie Brown came to the rescue and packed fifty bags to go home that day and 32 more for use going forward

The CEES Leadership Team has requested folks to work with students in reading. Details about this Volunteer Opportunity are being finalized. When I get that information, I will share it. Please let me know if you would be interested in receiving more details.

I heard a minister say last night that we need to "live in the love". I teetotally believe that First Reformed is living our love in our community ministries. I personally see, And feel, the love that our partnership with CEES brings to the students, faculty, and staff. God is good!



First Reformed UCC Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Heaven Zagura

We have had quite a few children and teenagers come through this month for back to school clothes!

We are really in need of men's clothes (especially smaller sizes). Shirts, pants, shorts, hoodies, and jackets are all in high demand. Also, we need toiletries for people coming through.



Join us for a 10 day cultural immersion trip exploring Cuban history, culture, struggles, and joys of Cuban society and its' people. Trip highlights include visits to the Moncada Elementary School, San Juan Hill, a local hospital, a performance by the famous Orfeon Choir. We will meet with Cuban doctors to learn about their health care system, representatives from the CCP Religious Affairs Department, visit Santa Ifigenia Cemetery where Fidel Castro is buried, enjoy local restaurants, a Spanish castle, and Sunday worship at a local Cuban church.



Schedule at a Glance:

Thursday, January 21st - Meet in Miami for Group Dinner/Orientation

Friday, January 22nd-Fly to Santiago de Cuba to Begin Tour

Sunday, January 31st-Fly to Miami and Return Home

Trip costs (TBD) include roundtrip airfare from Miami, all lodging, meals, bus transportation, bi-lingual tour guide, bus driver, and programming.



Trip Leaders are Kimberly G. Miller and Rev. Tom Warren

For more Information:

Email: uccubastudy@gmail.com

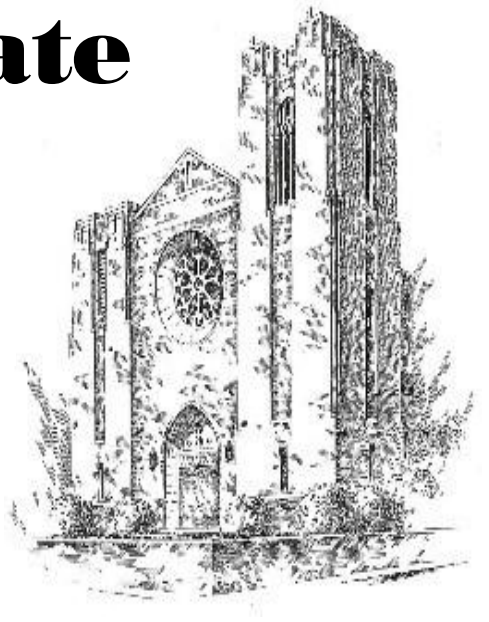
Call Rev. Tom Warren at 931-267-2836

All planning to go on this trip need to get your \$100 deposit in by Oct. 15th

Save The Date

125th HOMECOMING SUNDAY CELEBRATION NOVEMBER, 1, 2026

Join the in celebration of this very special 125th Anniversary Homecoming! We will have special music and quest speaker Rev. Ray Nance Howell III. Our 10:30 service will also be a Memorial Service for members who have died during the past year. Please invite family and friends to enjoy this day of music, food, and fellowship! Watch our weekly email announcements and bulletin for more details as we get closer to the date.



COMING UP



TIME CHANGE NOVEMBER 1st

Sunsets are earlier, the nights are getting longer and the leaves are turning — signs that the clocks are about to fall back for the time change. On November 1st at 2am in the morning clocks will be set an hour back (1am). Please make note and remember to set your clocks.

Davidson County First Hope Ministry

The Intersections of Faith Bible Study class will provide the meal for First Hope Ministry (Davidson County's Homeless Shelter) on Monday, Nov. 9th. Many thanks to those helping with delivery and monetary funds for 62 people.

If you would like to sponsor meals for First Hope Ministry in 2027, please **contact Camille Morgan** for information on the process and/or to let her know the sponsorship will be filled.



GRACE EPISCOPLE CHURCH

November is approaching and we need volunteers.

Each year First Reformed does a spectacular job helping Grace Episcopal serve meals to people in need. We are one of the trusted churches to show up in November, our designated month to help serve. The team at Grace appreciates knowing they can rely on us and we hope you will volunteer for one or more of the Sunday's listed below. Your kindness is greatly appreciated. **Contact: Camille Morgan**

Save the Date!

North Carolina A&T State University Choir
Maestro Travis Alexander, Conductor



November 8, 2026, 4:00 pm

First Reformed UCC
104 E. Center Street, Lexington



**On the 3rd Wednesday of each month
from 1:00-2:30pm
NAMI IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUP
MEETINGS**

Family Support Group meetings at First Reformed UCC in Lexington, NC. Meetings will be held in the Education Building located at

75 N. Salisbury Street, Lexington NC

NAMI Connection is a support group for adults diagnosed with mental health conditions. Facilitated by trained peers, it encourages safe, confidential sharing in a flexible group setting.

These meetings are via Zoom. To register, visit our Calendar;

<https://naminwpiedmontnc.org/calendar/>,

and click on a Connection meeting of your choice. Use the "Register" link to enter your information. This will get you to all scheduled meetings for that entry. Email: ncpsstraining@gmail.com opm

- Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
- Every Sunday 6:30- 8:00pm Young Adult Connection (18-40 years of age)
- 3rd Wednesday monthly from 6:00 to 7:30pm
- Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



Prayer Concerns

Lee Bouchard, Christie Plummer, Aurelia Smith, June Grubb, Susan Odom, MeLinda Mikaelson

AT HOME

Marge Doty, Lib Hinkle, Carolyn Spivey, Deanna Michael, Pattie Everhart

IN CARE FACILITIES

Peggy Bates –Grayson Creek, Welcome
Gennie Lou Byerly – Abernethy Laurels, Newton
Myrtle Latimer – Countryside Village, Stokesdale
Eulene Shepherd – Piedmont Crossing, Thomasville

FRIENDS

Linda Flowers (Aunt of Elizabeth Horton)
Gary Peterson (Father of Jeremy Peterson),
Our Saturday Lunch Guests



In Memory of Gary Wayne Bates

John & Kathy Rollins
John & Vicky Gray
Jerry & Aurelia Smith

In Memory of Lib Hinkle

Steve & Linda Shoaf
John & Kathy Rollins
John Potts & Jeanette Neal
Steve & Charlotte Smith
Jerry & Aurelia Smith

In Honor of Alice Gray on her birthday

John & Vicky Gray

October Birthday

10-1 Stacey Potts
10-3 Bob Saylor
10-6 Joy Walser
10-7 Kelsey Johnson
10-9 Griff Smith
10-10 Lisa Michael
10-20 Lee Ann Peele
10-21 Mark Loper
10-22 Molly Robertson
10-25 Jamie Link
10-26 MeLinda Mikaelson
10-28 Nicole Smith



October Anniversaries

10-23 Jeremy & Keri Lovell
10-25 Henry & Kay Crouse
10-30 Albert & Melody Evans

Pastor: Rev. Elizabeth Horton

elizabeth@frucc.org 336-972-8895

Minister of Congregational Care

Rev. June Grubb 336-248-5668

Choir Director

Ellen Peterson ellen@frucc.org

Pianist/Organist

Bruce Trippette bruce@frucc.org

Church Administrator

Jackie Mock jackie@frucc.org

Church Office Hours

Office Closed to public Monday – Tuesday

Wednesday - Friday

9:00am-1pm Walk-in's Welcome

1-2pm Lunch

2 – 5pm *Please call ahead or
make an appointment*

Phone: 336-248-2617

104 East Center St., Lexington, NC 27292

Join us for worship Sunday's at 10:30am

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2  6pm Fellowship Hall	3 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
4 World Communion Holy Communion 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Chapel Youth Group 5:30pm	5 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry NO Open Hands Meal	6 Men's Brotherhood Meeting 6:30pm Yarborough's Restaurant	7 Board of Evangelism 5:30pm Parlor	8	9 Office Closed Jackie on Vacation 9 th -18 th	10 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
11 Pick-up Choir 9:30am Adult Bible Study 10am Pick-up Choir Practice Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Consistory Meeting following Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church – Chapel	12 Office Closed 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	13 Office Closed Board of Worship 6pm Parlor	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed	16 Office Closed	17 Saturday Lunch Ministry 
18 Congregational Meal and Budget Review 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church – FH Youth Group 5:30pm	19 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	20	21	22	23	24 Lexington BBQ Festival FRUCC Fundraiser Parking Cars
25 9:30am Adult Bible Study & Choir Practice 10:30am Worship Faith Forward Bapt. Church - Chapel LGBTQIA Intersections of Faith Bible Study 4pm	26 4-6pm FRUCC Clothing Ministry 5pm Open Hands Meal	27	28 Executive Committee Meeting 3PM Women's Fellowship 11:30am Yarborough's Restaurant	29	30 BooBash 6-9pm	31 Saturday Lunch Ministry 