

The Tower

June 2020

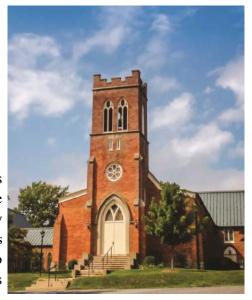
563 Bethel Green Road*Staunton, Virginia 24401*(540)886-6041 bethelpc@gmail.com*www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

As This Elder Sees It ...

I lift my eyes up to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 121: 1-2

Blue Ridge Mountains to the East and the Allegheny Mountains to the West, here in the Shenandoah Valley we only must raise our eyes to seek help from our Lord. These mountains not only serve to remind us of our Lord's presence but have offered us protection during this Coronavirus pandemic. Safer at home also means safer here in the valley, our numbers are not as high as Richmond, Hampton Roads nor Northern Virginia. None the less,



the virus is here. Following our governor's guidelines here are suggestions as to how Bethel can help make church a safe place for everyone to come and worship. We are planning to start with outdoor worship services at the Chapel in the Woods June 21st followed by services in the Sanctuary July 12th.

Keep in mind these guidelines were written May 24th (Phase 1) and some suggestions may not apply to our needs in late June. Although, I do feel face masks, social distancing and hand sanitizers will be around for a long time. More specific guidelines for our outdoor services will be available the closer we get June 21st.

Phase 1

General Guidelines:

- You are safer staying at home.
- If you feel sick, please do not come to church.
- There are no social gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Social distancing will be continued.
- Please pick-up your own bulletin. We will not have designated greeters.
- Pews will be roped off with every third pew available. Of course, family members may sit together.

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Specific Bethel Guidelines:

- The Fellowship Hall will be set-up with tables and chairs for meetings using the six feet distance rule.
- Offering plates will be placed on wooden stools at all entrances.
- The Worship Committee is rearranging the "Giving of Tithes & Offerings" during the worship service.
- The Bethel Choir and Handbell Choir will be on summer break.
- Hymns* will not be sung and only keyboard music will be used.

Guidelines regarding use of masks:

• Extra facemasks will be available in the vestibule, please use these masks while in the church building.

Additional information specific for places of worship:

- Limits on businesses and faith communities will be eased.
- Churches will be allowed to meet at 50% capacity.

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection at Bethel:

- Rooms that have not been used will be closed off. This includes rooms upstairs, downstairs, the Church Kitchen, Memorial Hall, the Choir Room and the Bumgardner Classroom.
- Jon & Donna Bush will focus on cleaning and disinfecting the rooms that are used so those are sanitized.
- Hand sanitizers will be placed at all outside door entrances and in rooms where meetings take place.

This phase could last for two to four weeks or even longer.

Phase 2

General Guidelines:

- The vulnerable population should continue to stay at home.
- If you feel sick or are concerned about being in public, please stay home.
- There will not be any social gatherings of more than 50 individuals.

Specific Bethel Guidelines:

• Bethel will be open with plans for using the Fellowship Hall to handle extra people over the 50 allowed in the Sanctuary.

Additional Guidelines

- Social distancing will continue using the same guidelines as in phase 1.
- Face coverings in public will still be recommended.

This phase could last for two to four weeks or even longer.

(continued)

^{*}Studies from Germany are showing singing to be as likely to spread contagions as coughing.

(continued)

Phase 3

To move to Phase 3, everyone will be checking for no evidence of a rebound for a sustained period of time.

General Guidelines:

- The vulnerable population will be safer at home.
- The ban on social gatherings will be removed.
- Capacity limits in establishments will be lifted.
- Heightened cleaning and disinfection will be continued.
- Additional measures are possible.

This phase could last ten to twelve weeks or even longer.

Please note that a lower percentage of positive test results will be needed to move on to the next phase.

He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you
will not slumber indeed,
he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121: 3-8

- Tammy Barbour, Elder

Information was obtained from The Richmond Times Dispatch when describing the phases and additional guidelines.

Please note that there has been a change since the "As This Elder Sees It" article was written. <u>Effective Friday, May 29th, Gov. Northam has announced that all people will need to wear face coverings inside public places or businesses</u>. This order is taking effect through Executive Order 63.

The new mask order applies to everyone 10 and over. For additional details and exemptions for this order go to https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/ and click on the link: "EO-63 and Order of Public Health Emergency Five - Requirement to Wear Face Covering While Inside Buildings".

Session News & Notes . . .

The Session met May 17th, 2020 with the Rev. Patrick Pettit as Moderator and nine Elders present. The Session used Zoom to meet virtually.

- The minutes of the last Session meetings were approved.
- The Session decided to continue using the Bethel Weekly News and also the June Tower for distributing information.
- The June Elder-on-Call will be Kathy Swisher. Kathy can be contacted by calling or texting at 540-885-7397 or email at kwswisher@gmail.com.
- The Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
- Brian Lee and the Youth Committee are inviting members to request yard and garden help from the Bethel Youth. Please contact Brian if you need help or need to set-up a schedule.
- The Session discussed reopening, and set-up a committee to fine tune the plans. More information from this special committee will follow in the coming weeks.
- The Personnel Committee will be advertising for the position of Music Director and Organist. Eli will be leaving August 1st, 2020 to pursue a master's degree. We also have the loss of Sara Ann.
- As we do not know when we will be able to resume our services the Worship Committee has supply pastors for June. The date of June 21st for resuming worship has been tentatively set.

The Session is praying for life to return to normal soon.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to keep you in ours.

David Schooley, Clerk of Session

Elder-on Call June 2020

If you have pastoral need during the month of June please contact Kathy Swisher.

(540) 885-7397 (call or text) kwswisher@gmail.com

If you need help, are feeling discouraged, or need someone to talk with during this difficult time please feel free to contact any of the Elders listed below.				
Derek Almarode	(540) 280-4940 (call or text)	almarodes@verizon.net		
Tammy Barbour	(540) 471-0450 (call or text)	barbour.tamara@yahoo.com		
Bill Brubeck	(540) 290-1172 (call or text)	brubeck@mgwnet.com		
Brian Lee	(540) 649-3020 (call or text)	grumpybrian1972@gmail.com		
David Schooley	(540) 255-6070 (call or text)	dschooley05@gmail.com		
Kathy Swisher	(540) 885-7397 (call or text)	kwswisher@gmail.com		
Tim Turner	(540) 448-1431 (call or text)	timturner@lumos.net		
Jill Webb	(540) 294-5770 (call or text)	jlwebb320@comcast.net		

Church Office News & Notes . . .



Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm (as circumstances allow) (Lunch usually taken

12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)

The July Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Don't Miss the Tuesday, June 23rd at noon. You may leave articles and announcements for the Tower in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 23rd! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Printed copies of the current Tower are always available in the vestibule and Memorial Hall.

When worship resumes "The Bethel Weekly News" will be discontinued. Until then please have all announcements and information for the Weekly News to Adrienne by 9:00 am on Wednesday morning.



Hand sanitizer and Lysol are available in the Church Office if needed. Please make sure you return them to the office so they are available for others to use. Thanks!



Music News & Notes . . .

- The Bethel Choir will be on vacation during June and July. The situation regarding the pandemic will be evaluated in August to see if a date can be set for resuming practice.
- JEli will be leaving as Bethel's Director of Music on August 1st, 2020. We wish Eli, Sarah and their super pup Petra, the best and God's blessings as they move to Colorado. Eli will begin working on his Master's of Voice at the University of Colorado.
- The Handbell Choir is on vacation until further notice. The situation regarding the pandemic will be evaluated periodically to determine when it will be safe to resume practices.

Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

The Bible Study & Prayer Group (aka The God Squad) will not meet again until the fall. Conditions will be evaluated and discussed in September when we hope a decision can be made about resuming. Currently all important Prayer Requests will be sent by email and/or the Prayer Train. Keep praying!

Fellowship Following Worship and Lemonade on the Lawn will not be held this summer. We hope to resume these fellowship activities in the fall.

Congregational Care News & Notes (continued) . . .

We still plan to have the Keurig available in Memorial Hall. Please wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer (provided) before using. When you are done please remove your k-cup from the machine. Then wipe down the Keurig and the coffee cart with a disinfecting wipe (also provided). Throw all trash in the can next to the cart. Thank you!



These instructions will be attached to the wall above the coffee cart.

Bethel Prayer List (updated May 28th, 2020)						
Congregation Members						
Jarod Davis & Family Evelyn LaPorte John Pilson	Dan Gano Kenneth LaPorte Allen Quick	Bobby Goodson Sam Leonard Doris True	Karen Koogler Margaret Liptrap Alice Wooddell			
Family & Friends of the	Church & Congregation	<u>on</u>				
Sarah Brownlee Paul Harper Mattie Marsh Van Pirkey Walter Wade	John Cordle Matt Koogler John Michael Lee & Katie Simon		Joe Fleming Cecil Layman Jamie Pirkey Linda True			
<u>Sympathies & Condolences</u> Family & Friends of Sara Ann Lamb <u>Community, Country, & World</u>						
Doctors, nurses, & those in healthcare including volunteers who are working with COVID-19 patients All Military Leaders & Personnel Police, Firemen, and EMS workers & volunteers Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia						

Continuing Education News & Notes . . .



The Bethel Presbyterian Church Continuing Education Loan Fund was established a number of years ago by the generosity of an anonymous donor to assist young people in furthering their education. Aid from this fund is available to church members for any post-high school education, including vocational schools, nursing, etc. Applications are available in the Church Office. If you have

any questions, please contact Continuing Education Loan Fund Committee members: Derek Almarode, Bill Brubeck or David Schooley. <u>The deadline for the return of the completed application together with attachments is June 15th</u>, <u>2020</u>. (Please note the new date!) Completed applications may be left in the Church Office or given to Derek, Bill, or David.

Mission Committee News & Notes . . .



Summerlee Mission Work

We have been participating in the Summerlee Mission organized by Westminster Presbyterian Church and this year it will take on a new look because of the pandemic. It is still planned for July 5-11 but will be called Summerlee at Home. There will be local construction projects carried out and individuals that would like

to participate will stay at home and travel each day to a site locally, for outdoor repairs on homes. Westminster is looking for local families with home repair needs. If you are interested in participating, please contact me and I will give you information.

Hope you are all staying safe and well.

Kathy Swisher, Mission Committee Chair

Kingsway Report - 2019

TO; FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF KINGSWAY HELP CENTER;

Greetings to all of you, our loyal dedicated donars in so many ways which keep the wheels rolling here at Kingsway Help Center. At this writing and for the record, our Staff here at the Center are meeting the challenge of the time..namely the Coronavirus that has swept through our world. In order to continue serving in a safe and yet servicable way, the building proper is open only to staff and volunteers. Our Food Distribution day is "Drive-through" only for the health and safety of our clients. But, I digress...

This report covers 2019 and, thanks to the generous continuance of the Churches, the Organizations and the personal giving, 2019 was a bountiful year.. We were able to distribute 153,478 Pounds of food - THAT averages 12,790 pounds per month - THAT averages over 6 tons per month !! What a blessing for the average of 146 families that we served - and that averages to some 424 individuals that we were able to give a "hand-up" to. Our numbers of families was a bit down in 2019 and we consider that a good thing. February, 2019 was our lightest month (120 families) and November. 2019 was our record month serving 181 families.

We feel very blessed that we are in a position to pass along the other various needs to those that pass through our doors, namely the number of items of clothing, kitchen wares, bedding, furniture and appliances. A note regarding the larger items, we gladly accept these, however, we are in no position to pick up OR deliver.

There are many churches, organizations, school departments and individuals who hold "drives" for designated items at special times of the year. Particular needs are met and soo much appreciated. We also salute and acknowledge the various Pastors who volunteer their time on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to bring devotions and encouragement to our Staff and volunteers on this our usually busiest day. Although, there are 25-30 volunteers that put in some approximately 30 hours a week sorting, sizing and storing all the clothing, foodstuffs, etc. Not all are there at the same time, but come gladly and happy to serve. Volunteers are always welcome - no experience necessary !!

We take this opportunity to especially thank the Spottswood-Raphine Ruritan Club for the use (rent free!) of the building in which we work. With all the continued prayers, and grateful support, we do the Lord's work with our hands. We appreciate all who make our mission of serving through Kingsway Help Center a success.

God bless all..!!

Judy/Norris, Secretary/Treasurer

Personnel Committee News & Notes . . .



Organist/Music Director Needed

Eli will be leaving us in August to continue his study of voice. We are actively searching for an organist/choir director. If you have suggestions, contact Bill Brubeck, Dale Thompson or Jill Webb.

Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Presbyterian Women June 2020 Emphasis - Christian Family Education

By order of the Bethel Session the Bethel Circles will not meet until further notice.



This includes any PWCT meetings scheduled for the next few months.



Ladies Night Out Dinner Canceled

CANCELED After speaking with several members of the PWCT, we feel it is best to cancel the Ladies Night Out Dinner scheduled in July. With the present concerns and social restrictions regarding COVID-19 it is difficult for us to plan catering and commit

to have the necessary number of people attend to break even on this event. We continue to pray for a quick end to this epidemic and return to normalcy when we can all meet again and return to worship. Until then, stay safe.

Blessings,

Cindy Almarode, Bethel PWCT Moderator

Stewardship & Finance News & Notes . . .

We so appreciate and are grateful for your continued giving, as it's more important now than ever. As time goes on with services and activities suspended, our bills continue to come in and must be paid. If you are able to continue to contribute to Bethel's budget in the coming weeks, please mail checks to:

Bethel Presbyterian Church Attn: Kay Thompson 563 Bethel Green Road Staunton, VA 24401

Please stay healthy!

- Bethel Stewardship & Finance Committee

Weekly Financial Reports

Estimated Weekly Budget \$4,317.00

Offerings Received

May 3rd \$1,525.00

May 10th \$3,490.00

May 17th \$935.00



BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JOIN US AS WORSHIP RESUMES

JUNE 21, 2020
THE CHAPEL IN THE WOODS
(WEATHER PERMITTING)

MORE DETAILS ANNOUNCED IN THE COMING WEEKS

*563 Bethel Green Road*Staunton, VA 24401*(540)886-6041*
*bethelpc@gmail.com*www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org*

Worship Committee News & Notes (continued) . . .

June Lectionary Schedule

June 7th, 2020 Trinity Sunday

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-4a; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20

June 14th, 2020 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21st, 2020 3rd Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day

Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Guest Minister: TBA

Worship tentatively scheduled to resume at the Chapel in the Woods (weather permitting).

June 28th, 2020 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Guest Minister: Rev. Malcolm Brownlee

Worship Location: The Chapel in the Woods (weather permitting)



In following with our governor's guidelines for churches, Bethel will postpone our 2020 Homecoming celebration in August. Hopefully, we can reschedule for later in the fall. The good news is: we have tentative plans to reopen "Outdoors" (weather permitting) June 21st, 28th and July 5th, in the Chapel in the Woods. Starting July 12th, we hope to move into the sanctuary for normal Sunday service.

Join us at the Chapel!

Bethel Youth & Youth Committee News & Notes . . .

The Youth Committee has come up with a proposal to serve the congregation. Our youth and young adults have shown an interest in you, our loved ones of Bethel. They have suggested and offered to help with weekend debris removal and yardwork at your home. All work will be outside only so we can maintain guidelines associated with the ongoing pandemic.

Tasks that will be offered but are not limited to include: leaf and grass raking, flower bed maintenance, removal of debris from storms, and mulching. (Cost of supplies and/or any other out-of-pocket expenditures will be the only cost for home jobs; i.e. mulch, flowers for planting, etc.) Hauling of any materials you need us to purchase will be done with care.

Please feel free to contact the Youth Committee with any interest or needs.

Brian or Penny Lee

Derek or Cindy Almarode



A Note From Bethel Youth & Young Life . . .

You may have noticed the Valley Young Life group meeting at Bethel. Especially if you are here on Monday or Wednesday evenings! If you don't know, *Young Life's mission* is to introduce adolescents to Jesus



Christ and help them grow in their faith. Bethel continues to support the Young Life ministry. Many Bethel youth have attended Young Life at some point. Our youth have said that Young Life continues to make a significant impact on their Christian faith journey.

Currently Young Life has a great need of monetary donations due to the fact they have had to cancel three out of four of their fundraisers this spring. If you feel called to donate you can do so on their website: giving.younglife.org/valley or you can mail the donation to:

Valley Young Life; PO Box 492; Staunton, VA 24402

All contributions to Valley Young Life are tax deductible. Young Life is a 501(c)3 organization.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



We wish all graduates God's blessings as they begin an exciting new chapter in their lives!

Graduating from High School:

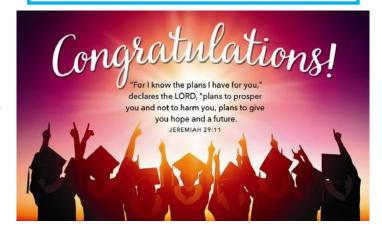
Bayleigh Lee - Daughter of Brian & Penny Lee; Granddaughter of Dale & Kay Thompson; Graduated from Riverheads High School; Attending Piedmont Virginia Community College in the fall; Plans on majoring in Nursing with the goal of being a NICU nurse.

Graduating from College:

Maggie Rivers - Daughter of Russ Rivers & Stephanie Rivers, Graduated from Blue Ridge Community College in May with a Career Studies Certificate in Art: Graphic Design; Currently works two part-time jobs while she pursues her hobby of Tae Kwon Do; Hopes to eventually obtain an entry level position in Graphic Design in the Shenandoah Valley or Charlottesville area; Would ultimately love to have a career in animation.

Class of 2020 Recognition

Do you know of any additional Class of 2020 graduates that you would like Bethel to recognize? If so, please contact Adrienne in the Church Office by <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>June 23rd at noon</u>. Sending the information by email is the easiest way but you are welcome to leave the information in her mailbox too. Please give the graduate's name, parents names, school name, name of the major (if applicable), what their future plans are and any other information you would like to include. Thanks!



Sympathies & Condolences . . .



We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Sara Ann Lamb. Sara Ann had been the organist (and

sometimes Choir Director!) at Bethel since she was a teenager. She rarely if ever took a Sunday off so you always saw her sitting behind the organ. She played music at numerous weddings, funerals, and other celebrations during the many years she was here. Words cannot describe how tremendously Sara Ann will be missed. There is no doubt she is now playing some wonderful music in heaven.

Thank You So Much...



I wanted to take a moment and thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all the prayers, phone calls, texts, emails, and cards when my grandmother

passed away at the end of April. Your show of support, love, and caring meant the world to me. I feel so blessed and privileged to be a part of the Bethel "family".

Love in Christ,

Adrienne Barker, Bethel Office Manager

June Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .



Moose Lee	June 1
Matthew Rivers	June 1
Jarod Davis	June 2
Susan Smith	June 2
Karen Koogler	June 4
Katie Wimer	June 4
Larry Damico	June 7
Ben Williams	June 9
Skyler Hill	June 10
Robyn Smith	June 10
Joe F. Williams	June 12
Sally Shafer	June 16
Cate Schooley	June 19

Myra Botkin	June 21
Stephanie Davis	June 21
Hannah Brubeck	June 25
Gloria Potter	June 25
Ronnie Liptrap	June 26
Marion Simmers	June 26
Alex Sproul	June 27
Laura Barmore	June 29
Bill Francisco	June 29
Robert Olson	June 29
Barbara Damico	June 30
Joyce Davis	June 30

	<u>July</u>	
	Faye Brown	July 7
	Bruce Lamond, IV	July 7
	Lindsey Lennon	July 7
)	Danny Morris	July 9



Leona & R. W. Ware, Jr. Brenda & Frank Shiflett Kay & Dale Thompson Betty & David Schooley Robin & Harry Moffett Kay & Warren Agee Katie & Wes McElveen Tabby & Joe Moore Sally & Joe F. Williams Valerie & Lee Deacon Julie & Tim Turner Evelyn & Kenneth LaPorte Joyce & Ronnie Liptrap

July
July 6, 1966
July 7, 1967
July 7, 1967
July 8, 1967
July 10, 1998

June 3, 1995 June 6, 2015 June 11, 1994 June 15, 1985 June 16, 1984 June 18, 2007 June 20, 1946 June 24, 1967

Massanetta Springs News & Notes . . .

• Middle School Conferences - We do not feel we can conduct on-site Middle School Conferences in June or July in a way that is consistent with the trust placed in us for the health and safety of our guests, staff, and local community, so it is with sadness we announce there will be no on-site Middle School Conferences in 2020.



- Netta Day Camp We are suspending the original 2020 Netta Day Camp Schedule. If circumstances change, and we are able to offer anything in person late in the summer, we will be happy to make that announcement and allow people to sign up.
- Mission @ Massanetta All groups through the end of June are canceled, and we will work on a case by case basis for groups later in the summer. We are not accepting new registrations for Mission @ Massanetta for 2020.
- Bible & Church Music Conference There will be no on-site Bible and Church Music Conference in 2020. Please keep looking for updates on how BCCMC will challenge, inspire, and educate people from a distance this summer.
- Guest Groups We have missed our spring groups and look forward to your return. At this point we do not anticipate being able to welcome guest groups back to campus before at least July 22
- If affected groups cannot be rescheduled within one calendar year, the group will have the option to donate any/all of their deposit to Massanetta or to be refunded.

Valley Pastoral Counseling Center . . .



Valley Pastoral Counseling Center

Providing spiritually sensitive psychotherapy to the Shenandoah Valley since 1980

The Valley Pastoral Counseling Center is still accepting new clients despite the pandemic. It's easy to schedule an appointment with them. Please contact Stephanie Sterling at (540) 932-9722 and leave your name and number. One of the associates at Valley Pastoral Counseling will return your call and discuss scheduling a teletherapy appointment.

Established in 1980, Valley Pastoral Counseling Center is a non-profit interfaith and interdenominational pastoral counseling center serving the mental health needs of the surrounding area. They are dedicated to providing counseling services to individuals of all ages, couples, families, and groups with a full range of emotional and spiritual concerns.

Beyond the religious community, we provide mental health services to the community at large. All will be warmly welcomed at VPCC which is an affiliated institution of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Pay is on a sliding scale.

If your insurance plan does not cover mental health services or if finances are an issue, please talk with a therapist to work out a fee that is affordable for you at this time.



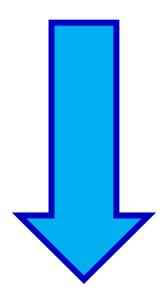
June 14th - Flag Day

June 20th - Summer Begins

June 21st - Father's Day







Keep scrolling down for the June 2020 calendar!



June 2020

SAT	9	13	20 Summer Begins 224th PCUSA General Assembly Convenes (meeting held online)	27 224th PCUSA General Assembly Ends	
FRI	5	12	61	26	
ТН	4	II	18	25	
WED	3 9:00 - Weekly Newsletter Deadline	I 0 9:00 - Weekly Newsletter Deadline	17 9:00 - Sunday Bulletin & Announcements Deadline	24 9:00 - Sunday Bulletin & Announcements Deadline	
TUE	7	6	91	23 12:00 - July Tower Deadline	30
MON	I	8	15	22	29
SUN		7 Trinity Sunday	14 Flag Day 3:00 - Session Meeting (Zoom) FLAG DAY	Z Happy Father's Day! Worship Resumes - The Chapel in the Woods (weather permitting)	28 Worship Service - The Chapel in the Woods (weather permitting)