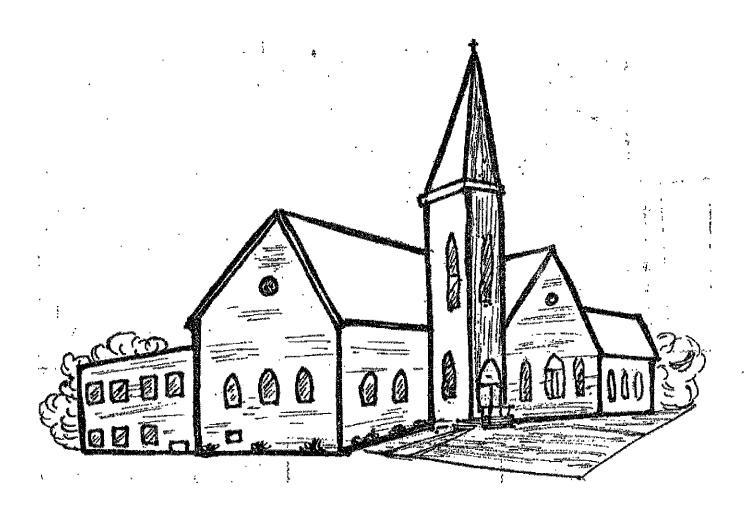
December 2025/January 2026 Newsletter



Bedington United Methodist Church 580 Bedington Road Martinsburg, WV 25404

<u>Church</u>-Bedingtonumc@gmail.com <u>Church Office Phone</u>- 304-274-2011 <u>Church Building</u>- 304-274-1900

Pastor Scott Summers- 240-625-0858- revscooter65@frontier.com
ON THE WEB: www.bedingtonumc.org



Needing Prayer



LONG-TERM

Janet George

Linda Kohler

Charlie Shade

Ronnie Talbot

SHORT-TERM

Phyllis Sperow

Gene and Lois Rippeon

David Marchette

Mike Green

GENERAL

Laura Roth

HOME

Happy Crim

Katherine Grove

Rachel Landis

Phillis Mummert

Sherry Sandy

Tom and Betty Spiker

Susie Smallwood

THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Steffen Werhoff - Air Force

Wyatt Stuckey – Army

Matthew Werhoff - Army Reserve

Rodger Ausherman - Marines

Brandon Combs - Marines

Rhiannon Turner - Navy

MEMBER INTERCESSION

Long-Term

Allie Jamison(W Bowers)

Ann Gift(M Green)

Mary Ann Cunningham (D Green)

Mike O'Brien(J Gruber)

Roger Byrd(N Deeds)

Penny Ours (Summers)

Jackie Crouse(Food Pantry)

Gary Leishman (J Leishman)

Sharron Reel (D Catlett)

Our Church-the Lawsuit

Pastor Scott and his family

USA, Israel, Ukraine, and Christians

around the world

Our Government Officials

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." -Benjamin Franklin

As we move toward the Advent and Christmas season, our hearts turn to preparation. We plan, decorate, & purchase to prepare for family gatherings and celebrations. At church we plan, decorate and hopefully seek out more of God's grace as we celebrate the birth of the One who brings light into our darkness. This season reminds us that preparation is major part of faith. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, so we prepare our hearts and homes to receive Christ, family, and friends.

But preparation is not only for the holidays - it is also for the work God is calling us to do as a church in the months and years to come. We may soon face a time when some of the resources we've relied on for ministry - physical space, finances, or familiar tools - may not be available. Yet Scripture reminds us that our strength and identity are not rooted in what we have, but in Whom we serve.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise...the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps." -Matthew 25:1–4

The wise bridesmaids kept their lamps filled and ready for the bridegroom's arrival. Their preparation allowed them to enter into the wedding party.

"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." -Ephesians 6:10–11

Paul urges believers to prepare for the spiritual battles we all face by putting on "the whole armor of God." Only through truth, righteousness, peace, faith and the word can we stand firm in our hope of salvation through Christ.

Now is a season for us to stock up on oil. Now is the time to become better equipped in prayer, unity, and faith in our Savior. If we prepare our hearts in this season, we will be ready to endure in Christ in the next season of ministry.

Let us enter this Advent with a deep trust that God is still mysteriously at work in our ordinary relationships and means of grace.

The same Lord who came in a humble stable continues to come among us in our worship, our fellowship, our prayers, our study, and our service to others.

Prepare your questions about the future of our ministries now and we can address them together. In January, prepare to hear God's guidance through deeper prayer. During Lenten season, prepare to deepen your commitment to Jesus Christ as King of everything you have and are. And through Pentecost, prepare to serve the body of Christ in some new way.

Christmas is coming. I know you are preparing for the holiday. Just remember, Christ is also coming! Are you also preparing for the day of the Lord.

> Be blessed and be a blessing, Pastor Scott



Christmas Eve Services Wednesday, December 24, 2025

5:00 PM- Kids Service - Christmas Quest: A Journey to Jesus 7:00 PM- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM- Candlelight Christmas Eve Service with Communion

A Wagging Hello from Ralph, America's VetDogs Puppy and Future Service Dog!

You may have spotted me wagging around church, so let me introduce myself! I may look like a classic black Labrador Retriever, but I'm actually part Golden Retriever. My smarts, obedience, and enthusiasm come from my Lab side, while my gentle spirit, compassion, and loyal nature are thanks to the Golden in me. A great combination for my future career as a service dog!

I was born in Smithtown, NY and spent my first 10 weeks with my littermates at the America's VetDogs puppy nursery. After that, I trotted off to Hagerstown's Maryland Correctional Institute for the Puppy Prison Program where inmates help raise pups like me. During the week, I'm learning basic obedience and service dog skills like fetching, opening doors, pressing buttons with my nose, and offering a steady paw for balance on stairs.

On Fridays, my Weekend Puppy Raisers, Tamara and Trey, pick me up and take me on great dogventures. They show me new places, people, and experiences so I can learn and be confident when I meet my future veteran or first responder partner. After a weekend of adventure, I return to the prison on Sunday night, happy to see my friends there.

One of my favorite places to visit is church. I get to meet new people, listen to music, and take a little nap under the pews. Your friendly "hellos" help me feel more comfortable around people. Thank you for being so pawsitive!

What exactly is America's VetDogs you ask? In 2003 the Guide Dog Foundation developed an assistance dog program for disabled veterans that would incorporate not only guide dogs, but other types of service dogs including hearing dogs, PTSD dogs, and mobility service dogs. This program evolved to become America's VetDogs and expanded to include disabled first responders.

When I'm about a year and a half old I'll return to New York and start my "college" training with professional trainers at the VetDogs campus. After a few more months of hard work, I'll meet my hero, my veteran or first responder. Then we'll graduate together and embark on our new pawtnership.

It's going to be hard for Tamara and Trey when I leave for college, but they know I'm destined to make a difference and change someone's life. I'll always remember them – for inside every service dog beats the heart of a puppy raiser. Stay pawsome!

Hose Family Foundation, Inc.

Hose Family Foundation, Inc. 319 Panorama Drive Martinsburg, WV 25403 301-992-1870 https://www.hosefamilyfoundation.org

Bedington United Methodist Church 580 Bedington Road Martinsburg, WV 25403

Dear BUMC Missions Committee:

I am writing you today to thank you for your generous donation of \$400.00 to Hose Family Foundation's Cash for Kids program. 100% of all proceeds will go to local children in need.

The timing of your donation is quite apropos. Lakyn and I were recently Child Passenger Safety Technician certified to inspect and install car seats for children. We will use this gift to purchase child car seats for children from working lower income families that cannot afford a safe car seat for their children.

- Our Mission is to demonstrate Christ's love in practical ways.
- > Our Vision is to change the community one child and family at a time.
- Our current Objectives are:
 - "Cash for Kids Christmas" (which provides clothing, toys, and family meals for local children in need during the holiday season.)
 - "Cash for Kids Back to School" (which provides back to school supplies, tolletries, and clothing to local children in need.)
 - "Car Seat for Kids" (we inspect, safely install child car seats, and provide a safe car seat for children from families that cannot afford one.)
- Our target demographic is children from A.L.I.C.E. (asset limited, income constrained, employed) families.

Thank you again for your financial support.

Warm regards,

= tw X

Steve W Hose President 13 November 2025



January 2026

Birthdays!

3 Rosie Davis 19 Shiloh Sheets

5 Tracy Summers 22 Billy Carter

8 Haley Hess 24 Peg Adams

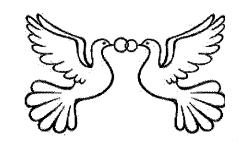
17 Lorraine Ausherman 26 Kathy Hendershot

17 Larry Landis 28 Gail Boarman

17 Tom Turner 28 James Weaver

Anniversaries!

20- Wayne & Toni Sigler



Youth Group Update: Winter

December

- <u>Light Of Christmas</u> --9:00AM- Sunday, December 7 –
 Youth Christmas Cantata
- Youth Wrap-A-Thon December 14 Fundraising event where the youth will wrap presents from the congregation to raise money for YG events.

January

• Polar Plunge – January 1 The YG will ring in the New Year together at the Williamsport Polar Plunge, helping to raise money for the Special Olympics

Food Pantry

1st and 3rd Thursdays 10:00AM-11:00AM

December Items: Canned or Dried Beans and Canned Fruit

January Items: Boxes of Cereal

Monetary Donations are always welcome

Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM Otterbein UMC Martinsburg

Various music by talented persons, hymns and faith songs.

Fund raiser for CCAP/Loaves and Fishes

A Few Good Men Group (AFGM)

Come celebrate Christmas at the Pill Memorial Annual Men's Breakfast on Saturday, December 13 at 8:00AM at Holiday Inn Martinsburg.

Pancake Breakfast

Held on the first Saturday of the month:

- December 6, 2025
- January 3, 2026

7:30AM- 10:30AM

Support our Missions by enjoying a delicious breakfast.



Bedington Christian Women

Monthly Meetings

Held on the first Tuesday of each month:

- No December Meeting –
- January 6 at 2:00 PM -- and No Quilting in the month of January

All are welcome—come connect, share, and grow together.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, December 9

Time: 12:00 PM (Noon)

Location: Hoss's Restaurant, Edwin Miller Blvd, Martinsburg

Sub and Soup Sale: February 1, 2026

February's Sub/Soup Sale fundraiser will benefit the replacement of the basketball goal for the youth. Some of the older youth will help with this project this year.

Subs will be either Ham or Turkey with American or Provolone Cheese with shredded lettuce and tomato.

Soups will be pints of vegetable or chicken noodle.

Order DEADLINE for soup and subs is January 18th!

Pick up date is Sunday, February 1, 2026 following the 9:00AM worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

The Mission committee thanks you for your support in the ongoing work for our church and others.

Sunday School Classes

Class: Wesley Sunshine Friends

Teacher: Cathy Humphrey

Participants: Mature Ladies

Area of Study:

Bible and Christian faith

Meeting Room: Parlor,

off the Narthex

Class: Anchors of Faith

Teacher: Rev Walter Bowers

Participants:

Mature Men and Women

Area of Study:

Wesley Bible Curriculum

Meeting Room: Classroom #1,

upstairs of Education Wing

Class: Faith Builders

Teacher: Denia Leishman

Participants: Men and Women

Area of Study: Biblical studies

related to growing in our faith and Christian walk in community with

one another

Meeting Room: Faith Builder

Classroom, downstairs of

Education Wing

Class: Foot Prints

Teacher: Members Rotate

Participants: Men and Women

Area of Study: Deep Dive into

scripture and Christian topics

Meeting Room: Fellowship Hall,

Basement

Class: **Teens**

Teacher: Rodger Ausherman

and Ashley Sandy

Participants: Grade 5th-12th

Area of Study: Teen problems,

Bible solutions: Understanding the

Bible to solve daily obstacles

Meeting Room: Education Wing

Class: Young Children

Teacher: Donna Rath

Participants: 4-10 year old

Area of Study: Bible Stories

and their Heroes

Meeting Room: Education Wing

Christmas Eve Offering - Knutzen Missionary Family in Russia

Back in 2014, our family was blessed with a large apartment, something we needed in order to raise 4 kids. But now, with 2 kids not at home, we began walking by the vacant room our boys left behind. As we pondered this, we weren't expecting that God had a plan to not leave that room empty for long. Just a couple weeks after returning from our summer mission trip, Elmira received a text from an old friend from church. She spoke of a family in needa mother and father with a special needs daughter who has been fighting stage 4 cancer for months now. They were now in a position to just focus on lifeending hospice care. They have been in Moscow for the last few months and are faced with returning to their home city in Siberia or staying in Moscow to continue to get hospice care, something not available in their home city, Kyzyl. So they were in need of finding an apartment in Moscow, near the hospice and affordable. Not an easy task in this expensive city. Our family decided to open our home to them. The very next day, Kristina and her family arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs and bunch of medical equipment and medicine.

Sasha and Tanya are church planter/missionaries and he is the current pastor of a small church in Kyzl (located in the east end of Russia among the Tuvan minority people group where Shamanism and Buddhism are the majority religion). As a result Sasha travels back and forth from us to Siberia. They have an older daughter who attends a Bible School and lives about 10 minutes away from us.

We share meals, stories, and even our struggles, creating an environment of support and love that I never anticipated. In some ways, we now feel a part of their church planting ministry in Tuva.

That brings me to a pause to say thank you to those who support us. Because supporting us, you are also supporting the Zamaldin's in their ministry. If it weren't for our supporters, we wouldn't have an apartment big enough to bring in this family for who knows how long. The Knutzen family

2025 DECEMBER MISSION BANK: Sunday, December 28, 2025 The Children's Home Society of West Virginia

"On any given day in West Virginia, nearly 6,000 children are in outof-home care."

"As many as 22,000 children in West Virginia live with a relative instead of their parents due to the impact of the opioid crisis and other unforeseen issues."

Not every child grows up wanted or loved. Some children are born to unfit parents. Some are affected by tragedy and have no one to turn to for help. It is hard to believe that in our modern society, thousands of children do not have a safe place to call Home.

CHS provides resources and services such as clothing, food, emergency shelter care, counseling, therapy, and education to help children and affected families in need. CHS offers adoption and foster care that become lifelines out of crisis and chaos. CHS helps children born into or are living in less than desirable conditions find a way to make it in this imperfect world. From infants born to addicts, to older children who have aged out of foster care, CHS offers an opportunity for them to have a chance at a good life.

Located at 100 S. Queen Street in Downtown Martinsburg, the Children's Home Society is a hub of hope and humanity for children in our community who need a helping hand, an open heart, and a loving home. Please join the Bedington Church Missions Committee in supporting this organization during December, the time we celebrate the birth of Christ and all He has done for us. Jesus tells us, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (Matt.25:40.")

2026 January Mission Bank: Sunday, January 25, 2026 CCAP/Loaves & Fishes

CCAP/Loaves & Fishes was founded 1982 by a group of churches as "The Church Visible in Berkeley County" It is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that serves low-income households in Berkeley County.

The physical location is 549 N. Queen St. – Lower Level, Otterbein United Methodist Church, Martinsburg, WV 25404. Phone: 304-263-3940. Hours are 10:00AM-1:00PM Monday-Friday.

With your ongoing support in 2026, CCAP/Loaves & Fishes will achieve its mission of providing emergency food and financial assistance to low-income and underserved residents of Berkeley County.

The organization provides financial help with past due rent, electric or water bills; assistance with prescription co-pays; bus ticket or gasoline vouchers for medical visits; emergency dental visits, referrals for eye exam and eyeglasses; propane for cooking; heating fuel.

Please join the Bedington Church Missions Committee in supporting this organization during January.

Bedington United Methodist Church Council Meeting

September 15, 2025

Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Present were Pastor Scott Summers, Gail Boarman, Jenny Hess, Libby Riley, Janet George, Daisy Green, Ellie Weakley, Lakyn Ausherman, Joe Gruber, Cindy Gruber and Gail Carter.

Joe opened the meeting with prayer.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Food Pantry/ Care Ministry: The team is currently planning for the
 Thanksgiving meal distribution- they hope to partner with the Bedlington Christian
 Women and A Few Good Men for assistance with this basket. It was also
 suggested that they contact the Care Ministry in this endeavor. The only food
 pick-up for the month of November will occur on the 20th. No report was
 available from the Care Ministry.
- AFGM/ A Few Good Men: A spaghetti supper will take place on September 26.
 A project planning breakfast is scheduled for October 11. The Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build is set for October 25- a link to register for this event has been posted on the church's FaceBook page.
- BCW/ Bedington Christian Women: The annual auction is set for Wednesday, October 1; the ladies will gather on September 23 to make apple pies for the auction. The Christmas party will be held at Hoss's on Tuesday, December 9.
- Youth: The Bible verse memorization challenge kicks off on September 21adults are encouraged to participate in this event alongside the youth. The
 harvest party is scheduled for November 2 from 4-6 pm. The youth cleaned out
 the OP and are considering improvements to the area. A Rent-a-Youth fundraiser
 is in the planning stages.
- **Missions**: The work team is in Oak Hill on the mission team's annual service project. The first pancake breakfast of the season is set for October 4.
- Lay Leader: Joe has submitted paperwork to become a certified lay speaker.
- Connections: No report
- Supplies: Daisy and Alfred continue to monitor stock of consumable materials.

Administrative Team Reports:

- SPRC: The team has suggested salary increases for the paid staff with the
 exception of Pastor Scott. There was discussion regarding this proposal and the
 church's current financial status. The proposal will be submitted to the Finance
 Committee for review.
- **Trustees:** The trustees are monitoring a possible issue with the hot water heater. Concern was expressed about the integrity of the latch on the exit door closest to the organ.
- Lay Leader to Annual Conference: Charge Conference is scheduled for November 1 at Otterbein Methodist Church in Martinsburg.
- Finance:No report
- Safety: No report

Separation/ Disaffiliation Report: The NCLL attorneys continue to wait for a court decision on the appeal- they are hoping it will be handed down by the end of the year. The separation committee will continue to meet and review options for the church once the court decision is given.

In tandem with this activity, Pastor Scott, Joe, Lakyn and Mike Lowry will be working on a Spring 2026 Commitment to Christ initiative that hopefully ensures the congregation is on the same spiritual 'page' regardless of the court's ruling. The initiative will include a focused commitment to prayer.

Open Discussion: Daisy shared a praise that her brother has completed his chemotherapy. Information regarding a possible donation from the church using the facilities on Sundays was not available.

Pastor Scott closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be October 20.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Carter

Bedington United Methodist Church Council Meeting

October 20, 2025

Mission Statement: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Present were Gail Boarman, Bonnie Joswick, Jenny Hess, Libby Riley, Janet George, Lori Turner, Lakyn Ausherman, Jerry Leishman, Denia Leishman, Joe Gruber, Cindy Gruber and Gail Carter. Incoming council chairman Steve Hose was also in attendance.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Food Pantry/ Care Ministry: There was no report from the Food Pantry. The
 Care Ministry is actively working on items to include with the Thanksgiving
 baskets. They will be providing lunch for those participating in the Sleep in
 Heavenly Peace bed build.
- AFGM/ A Few Good Men: The October spaghetti supper served 114 meals. The men will begin building a ramp this week and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build will be held on October 25. The next project planning breakfast is set for November 8 followed by a spaghetti supper on November 15. The Dick Pill Christmas breakfast will be held on December 13 at the Holiday Inn.
- BCW/ Bedington Christian Women: The annual auction was held on October 1 and netted approximately \$4,100. The Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at Hoss's.
- Youth: The youth traveled to the pumpkin patch on October 19 with more than 30 individuals attending. The Harvest Party is scheduled for November 2 from 4-6 pm and will include food, a soda truck and treat bags. The congregation is invited to participate in the trunk-or-treat event being held during the party- a prize will be awarded to the best decorated trunk. The youth recently had a cake decorating contest and youth birthdays are being celebrated when they occur. The Bible memorization challenge is continuing and the youth will be presenting the worship service on November 30. They will perform a Christmas cantata on December 7 and sponsor a Wrap-a-Thon on December 14. A Polar Plunge is on the calendar for January 1.
- Missions: The next Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for November 1; the team will meet on November 16 to plan their 2026 calendar. Thanksgiving meals will be delivered on November 22. The Missions group gave donations to the Food Pantry and to the supplies group.

- Lay Leader: Joe will lead worship on Hope, Healing and Love Sunday, October 26 and Walter Bowers will officiate on All Saints Day, November 2.
- Connections: The holiday meal is scheduled for December 14. A new chairperson for the group has not yet been chosen.
- Supplies: Consumable supplies have been ordered.

Administrative Team Reports:

- SPRC: The paperwork needed for Church Conference is nearly complete.
 Reinstituting a worship committee that would coordinate events with Pastor Scott was discussed; pastoral care needs versus prayer chain updates was also reviewed. An update to the shut-in list was suggested to specify which members wish to have in-person visits and which ones do not. Additional information was shared regarding the personnel matter discussed during the August meeting.
- Trustees: The hot water heater will likely need to be replaced soon- it has been suggested that the current 80-gallon heater be replaced with a 50-gallon unit. There was no update on replacing the playground equipment destroyed in July.
- Lay Leader to Annual Conference: Church Conference is scheduled for November 1 at Otterbein Methodist Church in Martinsburg.
- Finance: Budget requests for 2026 are requested prior to the November council meeting. There was discussion on whether to remove the budget line item for Junior Youth.
- Safety: A member of the congregation has indicated their willingness to serve as the committee chair. A request was made for safety support during Sunday evening youth group events.

Separation/ Disaffiliation Report: There has not yet been a decision on the appealthe attorneys from NCLL are hopeful it will be handed down by the end of the year. The separation committee will meet on October 22.

Open Discussion: Steve reported that he has been uploading services to Facebook and YouTube. However, because Facebook deletes our services after 30 days, he petitioned the council to support streaming to both Facebook and YouTube- the fee for the YouTube service is \$149/ year. Jerry presented a motion to support streaming to YouTube and Joe seconded it. The motion carried.

Joe closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be November 17.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Carter

■ November December 2025 January ▶										
Sun	Mon 1	Tue 2 6PM- Girl Scouts	3	Thu 4 9AM- Hanging the Greens 10AM- Food	5 4:00 PM- Pancake Set Up	Sat 6 7:30 AM- Pancake Breakfast				
				Pantry 6:30 PM- Phelps Home Meeting 6:30 PM- AA 6:30 PM- AI- Anon						
7 9AM- Worship 10:15 AM- Sunday School 12:30 PM- Providence Baptist 4PM- Youth Groups	8 6:30PM- Bedington Believrs	9 12PM- BCW Christmas Lunch 6:00PM- Leishman Home Meeting 6PM- Girl Scouts	10	11 6:30PM- Lowry Home Meeting 6:30 PM- AA 6:30 PM- AI- Anon	12	8AM-Pill Memorial Breakfast 12:30 PM- Bedington Believers Christmas Lunch				
9AM- Worship 10:15 AM- Sunday School 12PM- Christmas Meal 1PM- Youth Gift Wrap A-thon		16 6PM- Girl Scouts	17 6:30PM- Girl Scouts	18 10AM- Food Pantry 6:30 PM- AA 6:30 PM- AI- Anon	19	20				
21	6:30PM- Bedington	23	24 5PM- Family Service 7PM- Candlelight service 11PM- Candlelight and Communion Service	25 Christmas Day 6:30 PM- AA 6:30 PM- Al- Anon	26	27				
28 9AM- Worship 10:15 AM- Sunday School 12:30 PM- Providence Baptist	29	30	31							

✓ December January 2026 February ►									
Sun 4 9AM- Worship	Mon	6	Wed 7 6PM- GS Troop	Thu 1 Youth Polar Plunge 9:00AM 6:30PM- AA/Alanon 8 6:30PM-	Fri 2 4:00PM- Pancake Breakfast Set- UP	Sat 3 7:30AM- Pancake Breakfast			
10:15AM- Sunday School 12:30PM- Providence Baptist		Meeting 6PM- Girl Scouts		AA/Alanon					
11 9AM- Worship 10:15 AM- Sunday School 12:30 PM- Providence Baptist 4PM- Youth Groups	12 6:30PM- Bedington Believers	13 6PM- Girl Scouts	14	15 6:30PM- AA/Alanon	16	17			
Sunday School 12:30 PM- Providence Baptist 4PM- Youth Groups	Scouts 7PM- Church Council	20 6PM- Girl Scouts		AA/Alanon	23	24			
9AM- Worship 10:15 AM-		27 6PM- Girl Scouts	28	29 6:30PM- AA/Alanon	30	31 4:00 PM- Sub Making			