



The Messenger

United Methodist Church of Montague

January 2019

Volume 19, Issue 1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

The New Year is upon us. Once a year we hit this juncture, and once a year we vow to change something or some things in our lives. Sometimes we have some success. Often, we do not. As your pastor, I am all in on the idea of working to improve ourselves and our church. It is a very Wesleyan, Methodist thing to be consciously developing and growing and attempting to “move on to perfection.”

A thought has been needling me for quite a while. It has taken me awhile to figure out exactly what it is, and even longer to find an effective way to express it. Many of you heard me speak about this in church on December 30th, the final Sunday of a now bygone year. We work hard in our attempts to have a great church and do

things in a “right” manner. That is good. We should try to worship and love God and love others and do good works. Of course. However, once in a while, we get so engaged with procedures and policies and traditions and habits (we’ve always done it this way) that we will—consciously or not—allow relationships to suffer in the name of sticking to the right way.

This is a wonderful church family, and I am blessed to be a part of it. We could express our faith and love of God and others even better if we are careful to keep relationships ahead of our own assumed expectations. So, if someone shows up and offers a new idea, let’s listen and welcome the input, instead of responding immediately with “we don’t do it that way here.” If someone sits in the wrong spot, move over and celebrate that they are here.

If someone shows up to help, but doesn't do whatever it is in the same manner that it has always been done, celebrate that they "showed up" and they are "helping," and communicate your joy to them. Your love will make a huge difference.

I think I am having these thoughts more now than usual, in the anticipation of starting our new Contemporary Worship service at our Whitehall campus (Sundays at 11:00a.m. beginning on September 22, 2019). There will be lots of new people in our midst. Some will be a familiar type of person and others will be different in various ways. That's good! The whole idea is to make church attractive and accessible to new people. Even though there may be some differences, even though there will be new people coming in with new ideas and suggestions, even though they will be worshipping in a style most of us are not used to, and even though we aren't sure exactly what lies in store, let us be prepared to welcome and celebrate and support and love. Great things we already have, and more great things are coming in 2019.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Mike

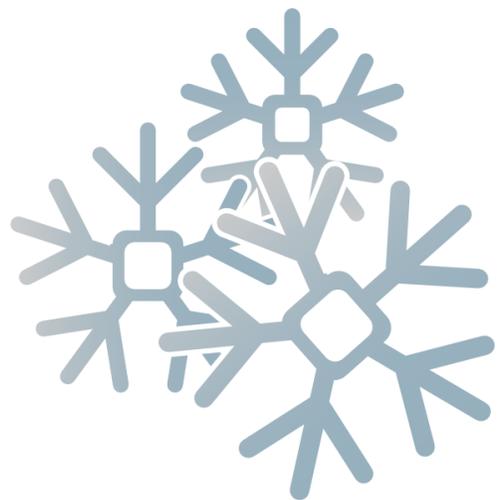
Sharing Circle/UMW Changes



This joint January meeting will be held on the 17th of January at 2:30. (Third Thursday instead of the second)

We will (are you ready?) decorate Valentine bags, conduct business and share devotions, fellowship and brownies!

Bring yourselves, ideas (and items if you wish) for decorating and open minds. This will be FUN.



Nurture Outreach Witness News for January 2019

As we begin a new calendar year the NOW Committee sends all members and friends of the United Methodist Church of Montague an invitation to participate in the meaningful and varied activities NOW sponsors through the year. NOW's efforts are magnified greatly by each person who assists in these projects. There are opportunities for all talents and abilities and interests....even for those introverts among us! Please share your ideas and time with us, contact any of the NOW Committee members, anytime: Ruth Grenell, Jim Brown, Pat Backman, Ted Boyden, Diane Kroll , Sue Lloyd & Pastor Mike.

We also can't start the new year until we give a shout of thanks to our 2018 volunteers: Dollar Dinner Cooks & Assistants, Muskegon Mission Dinners Cooks & Providers, Shut-In Gift Bag Donors & Deliverers, Card & Letter Writers, Food Bank & Love, Inc. Volunteers, Community Picnic Supper Workers Trick or Treat Party Helpers, Jesus' Birthday Pancake Breakfast with Santa Crews, Advent Lunch Providers & Promoters, Family Promise Volunteers

And to ALL who help make UMCM a source of discipleship in our community, serving God's love through YOU!

Now, onto the new year, pun intended.

Dollar Dinners Resume January 9.

We'll keep Dollar Dinners going as long as we have cooks & assistants to provide them so please contact Pat Backman at 231-893-1304 to enlist.

Family Promise of the Lakeshore
guests return in May...stay tuned for details.

Muskegon Women Rescue Mission Dinners
continue twice each month, contact Pat Backman to share in this experience.

*One of the NOW Committee's annual tasks is to propose the yearly schedule of special offerings during the 2nd and 4th worship services of each month. This schedule will be presented to the Administrative Council for adoption after this newsletter's deadline; however, I'm pretty sure these will be the **SPECIAL OFFERINGS for January 2019:***

January 13: Human Relations Day.

"One of six Churchwide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church, [Human Relations Day](#) calls United



**2019
Giving
Tree
(What?
Already?!)**

*In my short
time
chairing the
Giving Tree*

for our church, I have realized there are amazing people within the mission, but also some confusion! Our Giving Tree is a small part of the White Lake Giving Tree that is organized by St. James Catholic Church of Montague. Whitehall and Montague school district staff have needy families fill out applications in October. These are reviewed and split among various churches, organizations and families. The collection process is different for each organization.

Over the years, it has been different for the Methodist Church of Montague, due to membership changes, illness, etc. This year, we collected and wrapped gifts. We collected food. We gathered more food from St. James! We delivered A LOT of food and

gifts to our 10 families in Whitehall, Montague and Rothbury. It was amazing!!!

As the new chair, I want to ask questions and get opinions on what the church feels we can and can't do for this year's collection. Should we continue to collect food and household items? What are your feelings on assigning different items to different months (toothpaste & brushes in February, dish soap & sponges in April, canned vegetables in August)? Should we increase from 10 to 15 families? I will have slips of paper in the bulletins and welcome area over the year for suggestions. Feel free to email ideas to me as well! marikjehill@charter.net

Thank you to everyone who bought, prayed, supported, delivered, prayed, encouraged, and prayed for our collection this year!!

Much love to you all,

Marikje Hill

Trustees Update

Whitehall Campus:

- ✓ *Fire inspections are now complete.*
- ✓ *Continued increased occupancy of the Whitehall Campus. Tara is asking that all folks that need this facility communicate their needs, QUICKLY. Waiting may not allow for the use of that facility as you intend.*
- ✓ *We have made the down payment on the equipment we will need for the sanctuary. We will be needing help with moving of furniture and equipment in preparation for the new equipment. We will be helping with the wiring for the new equipment as well. More to come. Stay tuned. The organ will be disposed of if not claimed and moved before we start the major work on the sanctuary.*

Lots going on at our Whitehall Campus. Please communicate any concerns and or uses of this facility.

Montague Campus:

- ✓ *Fire inspections are now complete here too.*
- ✓ *Our welcome center has an incredible, new piece of furniture. Thanks so much Jim Tanis and a whole bunch of folks that worked their magic on that wonderful piece of furniture.*
- ✓ *We have started our new recycling process. Tonja Stembol, Laura Keil, Kris Hinken, Claire Schlaff and Kaye Schmidt met with an area professional Joan Scott for clearer direction for our recycling program. More to come from the wonderful group. Thanks. We will include our Whitehall Campus in the program too.*
- ✓ *Kitchen stove hood has new louvered filters. It was a part of the fire inspection for years. We finally got them in and installed. Check them out. Thanks Barb Sheren.*

General:

Budget process for 2019 is now complete. Projects will be brought forward as we have the need and or the funding. Thanks for all the input to the number.

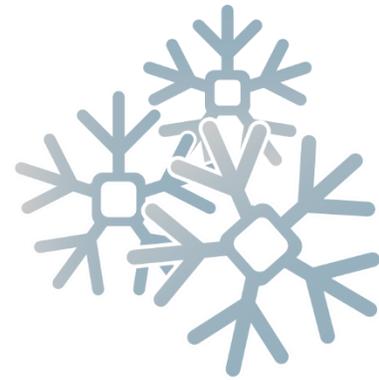
Thnaks to the entire Trustee Team. Great people do great things. We look forward to a new year and new challenges. I am proud to work with such an incredible bunch of people.

Our first meeting is Jan. 16, 2019 at our Montague Campus.

THANKS!!!

With respect:

Dick Baerman



Notes from Gwenneth 

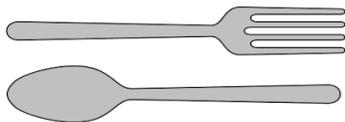
What a wonderful Advent and Christmas season we had here at Montague UMC! How blessed I am with all the talent here.

Now I look forward to 2019 with such Joy and excitement to get to know more of the wonderful church family that has welcomed me so warmly.

I will continue doing the love songs and growing in my faith. Thanks for the love. God bless you all!

In Christ and Music,
Gwenneth 

January Dollar Dinner Schedule



1/9- OPEN Call Pat to cook 893-1304
1/16- Jim & Pat
1/23- Domino Gang
1/30- Monica

Health & Wellness Corner

The Benefits of Having a Pet



Service dogs are specially trained to help people with visual and hearing impairments, seizures, diabetes, TSD, and other health conditions.

New research has shown that pets do not need special training, or service dog status, to improve the lives of their owners.

BMC Psychiatry explored the effects of companion animals on those living with mental health issues. The studies showed that pets provided emotional support, a sense of purpose and well-being and reduced stress.

Pets are constantly around, always close to their owners, not asking for much in return and provide unconditional love.

Of all the animals included in studies, dogs provided the greatest opportunities for

exercise and social connectedness thanks to their need for regular walks. Other pets, including cats, hamsters, rabbits, and even goldfish proved to be valuable companions to owners. Pets bring an important sense of humor, and people say their pets make them laugh just by doing silly things.

- *36.5% of U.S. households own dogs*
- *30.4% of U.S. households own cats*

6.5 Million Companion animal enter U.S animal shelters each year in need of a forever home.

Meals Available for Older Adults

By: Lisa Tyler

Communications Director, Senior Resources of West Michigan

Promoting independence and dignity of older adults, and keeping them in their own homes as long as possible are primary focuses of Senior Resources, and the Muskegon County senior millage. Sometimes as people age, cooking isn't as easy, or can

even be dangerous to someone with dementia or other ailments.

Perhaps you know someone who is unable to cook for him/herself, or isn't eating healthy. There are programs available that can help with that, with funding coming in part from the Muskegon County Millage.

Meals on Wheels is a program offered through AgeWell Services of West Michigan. Home deliveries of nutritious meals are available to anyone who needs them, for as long as needed. Meals can be delivered short-term, for example, if someone is recovering from surgery, or long-term. You must be 60 years or older and homebound to receive meals.

A hot noon meal may be available for delivery Monday-Friday. A sandwich supper sack for weekday nights and frozen meals for weekends or as a second meal may also be available, and salads are also offered. Donations are welcomed for those receiving meals. This donation helps preserve the dignity of older adults who may not wish to receive something free.

Another important aspect of the Meals on Wheels program is the delivery driver who checks in with the older adult

on a regular basis. This can help alleviate social isolation, and the drivers are trained to look for areas of concern and check on the well-being of the meal recipient. There have been stories of drivers who have found people in distress, and many times relationships are formed between the driver and the older adult.

Meals are delivered between 10:30 am and 1:00 pm. Monthly menus are available here:

<http://agewellservices.org/services-for-seniors/meals-on-wheels/>.

Another option for meals is a congregate meal site. AgeWell Services offers meals at sites throughout the county. This is a great way for older adults to get out and socialize while enjoying a healthy meal at a neighborhood center. The congregate meal sites are open to all ages. Fees apply to those under 60 (\$6); for those over 60, a donation is requested. Meals vary each week, and all menus are certified by AgeWell's registered dietician.

The senior millage has also helped expand this program in the county for those over 60. Reservations are encouraged by noon one day in advance; reservations are made by calling the neighborhood center.

You can find a map of the centers here:
<https://ageservices.org/services-for-seniors/meal-sites/#info>.

For more information about either of these meal programs through AgeWell Services, contact them at 231-755-0434, or 1-800-442-6769.

January's Healthy Recipe: Turkey-Lentil Chili

- 2 cups dry lentils
- 2 quarts vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 2 tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 pinch crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 (8 oz.) container plain low-fat yogurt
- Optional - ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley and 1 diced avocado

Bring lentils and vegetable broth to a boil in large pot over high heat. Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 10 minutes.

Heat olive oil in large skillet over medium heat. Stir in garlic, onion, celery, and turkey and stir and cook until turkey is no longer pink and crumbly, about 10 minutes.

Stir in tomatoes, turmeric, cumin, thyme and pepper flakes. Cook additional 5 minutes.

Stir turkey mixture into the simmering lentils. Continue simmering until lentils are tender, about 20-30 more minutes.

Garnish each serving with a dollop of yogurt, parsley and avocado.



Words of Thanks

To all at United Methodist Church of Montague:

Family Promise sends Christmas Thanks from the family that we recently helped to make Christmas a Blessing. We were able to help settle them into a home, provide transportation, and gather needs for the baby soon expected. They are most grateful for the support and love shown during an otherwise very stressful and trying time for their family. We are fortunate to have a church facility and members who provide opportunities to be a blessing to many via Family Promise! Thank you!



A HUGE THANK YOU for helping to keep everyone warm this winter!

For the 51st year in a row, gloves, scarves, and mitten donations were collected and given to the Community House. Betty Nafe extends her gratitude to all that contributed!

A Search for Helping Hands

Are you looking for a volunteer position to serve your church? Are you wanting to be more involved, but aren't sure how? Below are a few volunteer opportunities that may be just right for you!

Sunday School Aide: *This position would help with the arts and crafts and game portion of the weekly Sunday school class. Please contact Ruth Tuttle for more information!*

Dollar Dinner Raffle Assistant: *This position would assist with the weekly dollar dinner raffle. You would help those attending the dollar dinner fill out raffle tickets that will be used to raffle off an item during dinner. Please contact Barb Sheren for more information!*

Ushers, Greeters, Liturgists, Communion Servers & Parking Lot Greeters: *All of these positions are a great way to be more involved in your church. Contact Tara Eilers for more information!*

January Birthdays

January 1- Jessica Hall
January 3- Tom Hinken
January 4- Kris Hinken
January 7- Laura Hansen
January 7- Hugh Frye
January 9- Jennie VanHemert
January 9- Pat Slayton
January 11- Shirley Atchison
January 11- Krista Riehl
January 12- Cindy Erickson
January 12- Ron Farmer
January 14- Bob Tuttle
January 16- Laurie Gilbert
January 16- Kay Michael
January 18- Steve Hlady
January 20- Karen Smith
January 21- Orianna Bylsma
January 21- Pat Klotz
January 22- Jake Beaman
January 22- Sharon Johnsen
January 23- Pat Backman
January 27- Jack Lipka
January 30- Barb Waltrip
January 31- Elizabeth Hill

January Anniversaries

January 3- Bernie & Sarah Riehl
January 5- Joe & Martha Sadony
January 6- Eric & Karen Smith
January 24- Frank & Joy Ann Lehman



***Are we missing your
birthdate or anniversary?***

***Please contact the church
office at 231-894-5789 or at
montagueumc@gmail.com
to have this corrected!***

Please accept our apologies!

Serving the United Methodist Church of Montague

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Ushers	Parking Lot Greeter	Communion
January 6, 2018	Judy Cole	Barb & Ellei	Mary Smith & Martha Sadony		Bonnie & Al Cooper
January 13, 2019	Bob Tuttle	Jim & Martha Tanis	Denise & Tim Eilers		_____
January 20, 2019	Jim Tanis	Sue & Jeff Petersen			_____
January 27, 2019	Dave Allen	Bill & Jan Street			_____
February 3, 2018	Tonja Stembol	Barb & Ellei	Diane Kroll		Laura Kiel
February 10	Sandy Winger				_____
February 17	Bonnie Cooper				_____
February 24	Bonnie Cooper	Diane Kroll & Pete Hunt			_____
March 3, 2019	Linda Allen	Barb & Ellei			Diane Kroll

Coffee Hour:

January 6th:
Jeanne Yakes & Mary Beaune

January 13th:
Karen Welter & Sherry Kiel

January 20th:
Sandy Winger & Martha Tanis

January 27th:
Rachel Mitteer & Laura Kiel

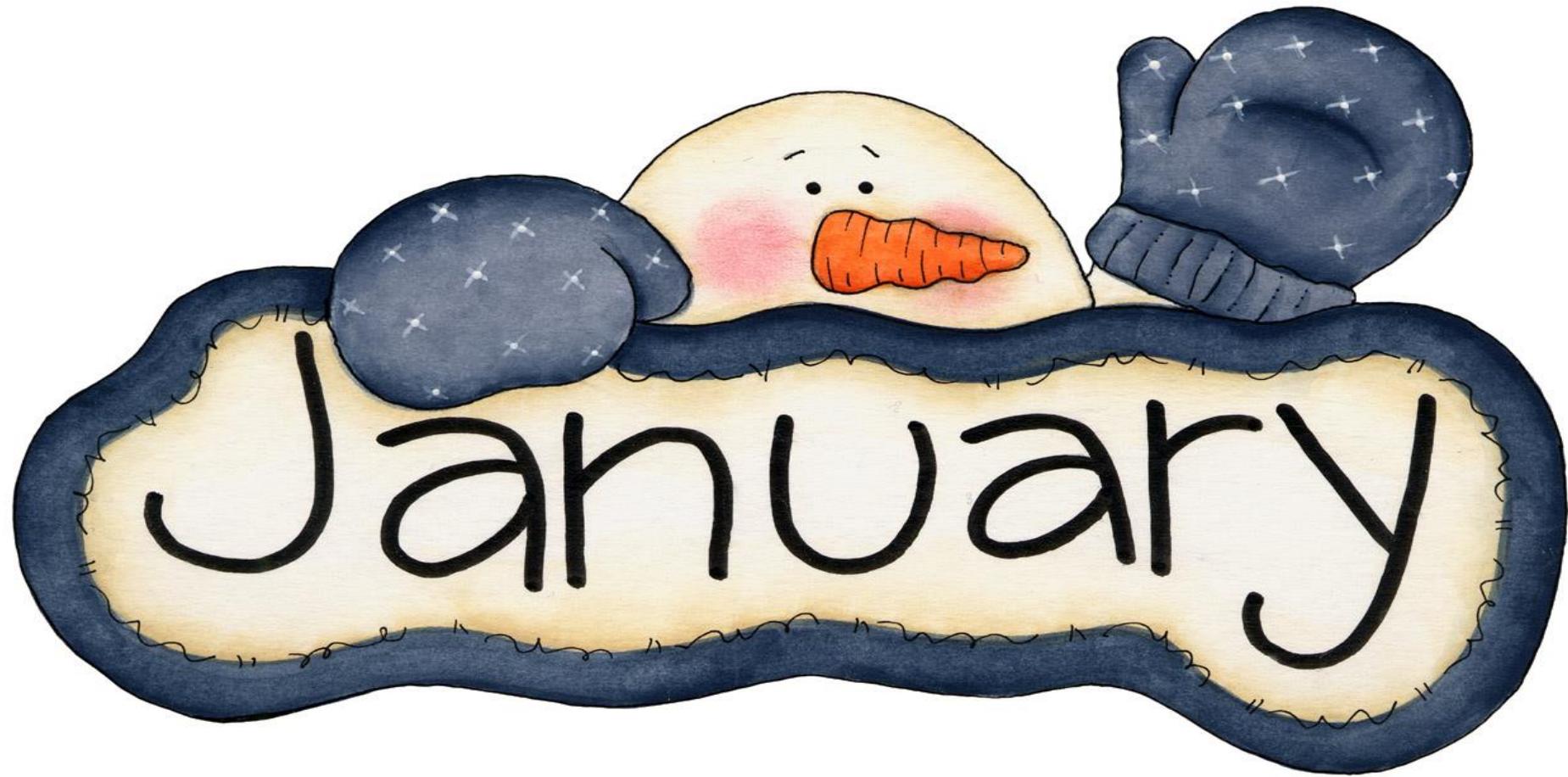
Altar Flowers:

January 6th:
Open

January 13th:
Open

January 20th:
Open

January 27th:
Open



Happenings at
Montague & Whitehall Campuses

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Montague Campus		1 Happy New Year! No Scheduled Activities	2 6:30 pm - SPRC Meeting	3 7pm - Bible Study	4	5
6 9:30 am - Worship 11 am - Adult Bible Studies 11 am - Christian Ed Class 11 am - Choir Practice 11:30 am - Ad Council Meeting	7 3:00 - 6:30 pm - Campus Life	8 10:00 am - Bible Study 1:00 pm - Worship Committee 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Piano Class 6 pm - NOW Committee 8 pm - Alanon	9 2:00 - 5:00 pm - After School Group 5:00 - 6:00 pm - Dollar Dinner 5:30 pm - Mom's Group	10 12 - 4 pm - Soup Kitchen 7 pm - Bible Study	11	12
13 9:30 am - Worship 11 am - Adult Bible Studies 11 am - Christian Ed Class 11 am - Choir Practice	14 3:00 - 6:30 pm - Campus Life	15 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Piano Class 6:30 pm - Finance Committee 8pm - Alanon	16 2:00 - 5:00 pm - After School Group 5:00 - 6:00 pm - Dollar Dinner 5:30 pm - Mom's Group 7:00 pm - Trustees Meeting	17 2:30 pm - Sharing Circle/UMW 7 pm - Bible Study	18	19
20 9:30 am - Worship 11 am - Adult Bible Studies 11 am - Christian Ed Class 11 am - Choir Practice	21 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Campus Life	22 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Piano Class 8pm - Alanon	23 2:00 - 5:00 pm - After School Group 5:00 - 6:00 pm - Dollar Dinner 5:30 pm - Mom's Group	24 12 - 4 pm - Soup Kitchen 7 pm - Bible Study	25	26
27 9:30 am - Worship 11 am - Adult Bible Studies 11 am - Christian Ed Class 11 am - Choir Practice	28 3:00 - 6:00 pm - Campus Life	29 10:00 am - Bible Study 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Piano Class 8pm - Alanon 6:30 pm - Ad Council Meeting	30 2:00 - 5:00 pm - After School Group 5:00 - 6:00 pm - Dollar Dinner 5:30 pm - Mom's Group	31 7 pm - Bible Study		

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
Whitehall Campus		1 Happy New Year! No Scheduled Activities	2	3	4 2:30 pm – Music Lessons 6:30 pm – Music Lessons	5
6 4 pm – Youth Group	7 3 pm – Music Lessons 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	8 4:30 – 5:30 pm – Men’s Yoga 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm – Women’s Yoga	9 9:15 am – 10:30 am – Yoga 11:00 am – 12:15 – Yoga 3:00 - 5:00 pm - Cooking Class 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	10 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	11 2:30 pm – Music Lessons 6:30 pm – Music Lessons	12
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20 4 pm – Youth Group	21 3 pm - Music Lessons 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	22 4:30 – 5:30 pm – Men’s Yoga 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm – Women’s Yoga	23 9:15 am – 10:30 am – Yoga 11:00 am – 12:15 – Yoga 3:00 - 5:00 pm - Cooking Class 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	24 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	25 2:30 pm – Music Lessons 6:30 pm – Music Lessons	26
27 4 pm – Youth Group	28 3 pm – Music Lessons 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	29 4:30 – 5:30 pm – Men’s Yoga 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm – Women’s Yoga	30 9:15 am – 10:30 am – Yoga 11:00 am – 12:15 – Yoga 3:00 - 5:00 pm - Cooking Class 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball	31 5:00 pm - 7:30pm - Mini Mites Basketball		