



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOWELL FUMC SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear First UMC of Howell,

What a time for transition, 2020, it should naturally be the year of vision, right? Instead it's the year of uncertainty, wonder, worry, fear, unknown and not seeing anything ahead. What will happen in the world the rest of the year? What about next year? We all simply must wait and see (like waiting is ever simple and easy for any of us.)

First church has been through a roller-coaster this year. We are just over halfway through the year and I am the second Pastor to serve here. Rev. Lewis has retired, and he and Sherry are doing their best to grow into an amazing retirement. (Now would be a good time to pause and say a little prayer for them.) Now you get me, Pastor Scott. What an interesting introduction it has been, in the midst of the Corona Virus. Our first meetings have been online Zoom meetings, not face-to-face. Our first services have been on Facebook live and not together. Now we are trying to safely meet and worship in church together but doing things differently because we need to make changes for the sake of safety. We continue to work toward normal worship as safety restrictions allow, but each week is inevitably different than the week before.

Your first glimpse of me may have been on Facebook live daily at 8:00 am and 8:00 pm. The only problem with this format is that it's a one-way street. You get to learn a bit about me but I remain clueless about you. I long to connect with you in a more personal way. Over the next several weeks some of you are hosting "*listening sessions*" where I will be able to safely hear your stories. More information about this can be found later in this newsletter and on our website. Please sign up for a listening session.

What's next? I am very excited to be the Pastor of Howell First UMC! I have been welcomed so warmly by so many of you! (Thank you.) My wife, Carrie, and I are excited to follow the Holy Spirit with all of you into the future. What will that look like? Any ideas? We have no idea what or when "normal" will become. I hope and pray that during this time we all are looking to God for guidance in what First UMC will be in the community when we are able to fully open our doors again. I hope and pray that you all are personally following the Holy Spirit right now and watching for where you will be called when we fully open the doors again.

I look forward to getting to know all of you as your Pastor and friend and sharing the love of Christ with you. I am not sure how to get to know you during this time of shut down, but I think that together we will figure it out. The best way to reach me is to call or text my cell phone 616-307-9765 or email [pastorscott@howellfumc.com](mailto:pastorscott@howellfumc.com)

I look forward to our future and following God to wherever He leads us. Please call me anytime so that I can get to know you and help care for whatever needs you might have.

Your fellow servant,  
Pastor Scott

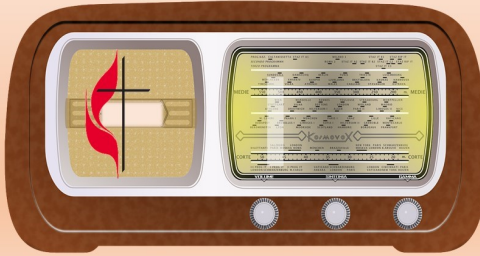




## Worship on the Radio

**TUNE IN  
SUNDAY  
87.9 FM**

\*Must be within a few blocks of the church building to receive signal.



Message Series

## Sheepish

LIFE LESSONS From Psalm 23

August 9 – Contentment Psalm 23:1

August 16 – Peace Psalm 23:2

August 23 – Purpose Psalm 23:3

August 30 – Confidence Psalm 23:4

September 6 – Abundance Psalm 23:5

September 13 – Expectation Psalm 23:6

## WAYS TO WORSHIP

WITH HOWELL FUMC

8 am Early Encounter  
in the Chapel  
After September 13<sup>th</sup>

9 am Band-led  
in the Fellowship hall



[www.howellfumc.com](http://www.howellfumc.com)  
FM 87.9 Sundays only

10<sup>30</sup> am Organ-led  
in the Sanctuary



[www.howellfumc.com](http://www.howellfumc.com)  
1-855-546-0735



**LISTENING  
SESSIONS**

**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**

Visit [howellfumc.com](http://howellfumc.com)  
or call 546-2730  
for details

Hope to be ringing with you real soon!

Watch for information updates via  
website, social media and emails!

~ Shaile



**Faithfully Fit**

Faithfully Fit Classes Offered  
Virtually or Outdoors  
Call 546-2730 for more information or  
visit [www.howellfumc.com/fitness](http://www.howellfumc.com/fitness)

## Good News!

Produce from the Giving Garden  
will be available outside pastor's office

**Saturday 9am-11am**

**Sunday 9am-12pm**

Enjoy our Bounty! No Payment!  
Donations to the Giving Garden  
will be collected in October.



## WELCOME

Lily Rain  
Burkhart

August 17, 2020

8.6 lbs 20.5 in

Parents Danielle & Nathan  
Brother Luke





## Howell FUMC Financial Summary

01-01-2020 thru 07-31-2020

## Income

	2020 Actual	2020 Target	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Target	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
General - pledged	210,525.48	350,616.00	(140,090.52)	60.04	58.20	1.85
General - non-pledged	63,456.49	199,835.18	(136,378.69)	31.75	58.20	(26.44)
Loose Plate	1,205.91	8,000.00	(6,794.09)	15.07	58.20	(43.12)
Other	76,316.22	9,327.00	66,989.22	818.23	58.20	760.03
Payroll Protection Loan	71,408.42					
Total	351,504.10	567,778.18	(216,274.08)	61.91	58.20	3.71

## Expenses

Budget split	Actual	Budget	Amt Over/ (Under)	Actual / Budget	Y-T-D expected	Actual to Expected Percentage Over/(Under)
18.26 1.0 Operating expenses	55,487.79	103,700.00	-48,212.21	53.51	58.20	(4.69)
9.22 2.0 Program expenses	18,184.18	52,325.00	-34,140.82	34.75	58.20	(23.44)
12.34 3.0 Ministry Shares	14,240.57	70,050.94	-55,810.37	20.33	58.20	(37.87)
60.09 4.0 Staff Salaries	211,562.08	341,202.24	-129,640.16	62.00	58.20	3.81
0.09 Payroll expenses	402.50	500.00	-97.50	80.50	58.20	22.30
100.00 Total	299,877.12	567,778.18	-267,901.06	52.82	58.20	(5.38)

Income Overage/(Shortfall) \$ 51,626.98

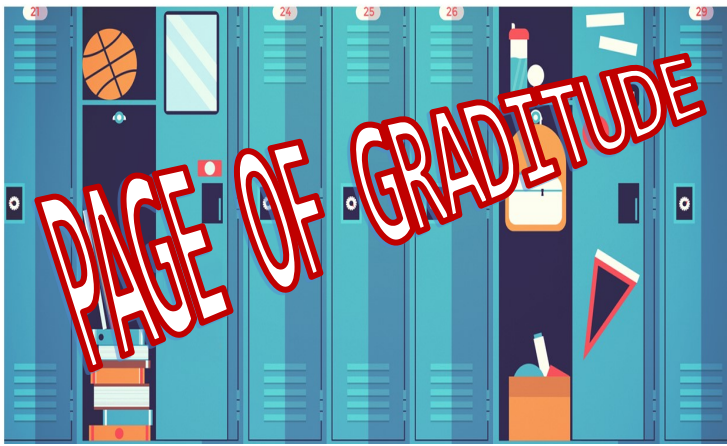
The church is still in decent financial shape due in large part to your continued support. Please keep up the faithful giving. \$71,408.42 of the Payroll Protection loan was applied to staff salaries and utility payments for May and June. The remainder of the \$79,100 was applied to mortgage interest for the same time period. The loan should be totally forgiven. The application for this will happen shortly.

The 51,626.58 overage is deceiving since without the Payroll Protection Loan we would have about a 20,000 Shortage and we have not been billed for Apportionments since March.

The special giving event for the Mortgage principle has resulted in \$21,658 being applied to the Mortgage principle thus far. Please keep up this special giving.

**\*NOTE: Finance committee decided to direct gifts designated to the building fund to directly to pay down the current mortgage principle.**





A big THANK YOU to our church family for all your prayers, cards and other expressions of support. Alan and I deeply appreciate you remembering us. It means a lot!

Blessings to all,  
Judy DeGraw



Dearest Family of Faith,

Many, many thanks for your prayers, thoughts, notes and cards during my convalescence from hip replacement surgery. In this time of isolation, it buoyed my spirits to know that you all were still caring for me. I miss you all so much, and I cannot wait until we are reunited in worship.

Love and blessings to you all,  
Olive



We are sending a  
Big Thank You to all the people that worked so hard in keeping the church active (virtually) during this Covid-19 pandemic.

Hugs (virtually),

Malcolm and Linda Steider



Dear Howell FUMC family and friends,

It has taken me a few weeks to realize I am retired. This new retired life is wonderful. Our move went very well, and we have settled in quite well in our new house. I am enjoying some hobbies I have not had time for in the past. My vegetable garden went in late, but it is doing well, and we have already enjoyed some of the harvest.

Please accept my sincerest thanks for everything you have done for me. My ten years of service at Howell FUMC was truly a blessing. I am a better person and a stronger disciple of Christ because of my time with all of you. Thanks for your loving and caring spirit during my days of ministry. Let me begin my thanks with a special thank you to Pastor Scott and Carrie. The transition this year has been unlike any pastoral transition I have ever experienced. I know you are all in good hands with your new pastoral leadership.

A special personal thanks to the staff of Howell FUMC. I know that this was not the easiest transition for all of you either, but your grace and professionalism made it a blessing. The staff of Howell FUMC has been a joy to work with but also a joy to get to know as friends. I appreciate each of your gifts and talents that you shared with God and the church. Many of you worked extra hard during these pandemic days to keep the church going strong. Keep up the good work.

I also want to thank the Staff Parish Relations Committee for all their hard work during this time. Thank you for the drive through party that you hosted for me. You thought of everything. It was a blessing to have a committee work so hard to honor my ministry. The special recognition by our congressperson was a highlight.

Thanks to everyone who drove through to say goodbye. Your words and gifts were very heartfelt. At times I felt tears come to my eyes. It was nice to hear that I had made a difference among you. It was also a blessing to recall the work we have all done together. I will miss all of you so much. Thank you also for the generous gift for my retirement. I was taken back a moment by your extreme generosity. Your gift is already being used. I purchased a much-needed new outdoor grill and I may consider getting a new set of golf clubs since mine are decades old. Maybe it will help my game.

Sherry and I go for a nice leisurely walk twice a day through our neighborhood. We often think of all of you fondly in our hearts. Please feel free to connect with us if you are in the area. Here is our new contact information.

[revgeorgelewis@gmail.com](mailto:revgeorgelewis@gmail.com)

231-268-9991

48710 Apple Lane, Mattawan, MI 49071



stephen  
MINISTRY.

What a world we live in!

I'm missing my church family. Never did I guess that when I last met with the Stephen Ministry team in February that I wouldn't be face to face again for possibly the rest of the year. The Stephen Ministry team continues to be active and are carrying on our ministry as best we can even in these difficult days. My daily devotions have helped to keep me focused on the blessings of knowing we are safe in God's arms. Jesus is so much more than what our minds can sometimes remember. He is ready to forgive, supplies our needs, is ready to give us more than what we deserve, and can provide heaven-hearted joy in serving Him here on earth.

Our Stephen Ministers who currently have care receivers are still doing their best to provide ministry despite the new rules due to the pandemic. We are available to provide care to some more who are currently going through a life struggle such as loss of employment, loss of a loved one, marriage difficulties, or facing life changing health issues.

One of our Stephen Ministers recently closed with their care receivers and asked for feedback on their relationship and what the Stephen Ministry experience meant to them. We were given permission to quote their response...

*"Thank you! We've had a great journey together. I appreciate having a safe place to discuss tough stuff, particularly when it pertains to church relationships. This has been an enormous blessing because it's helped me to find my voice. I'd spent far too long going with the flow and avoiding conflict, but now I feel that I can move beyond being a peacemaker. This is harder, but it feels more authentic, and I believe it is what God is calling me to do."*

We are grateful to God for those who have had a positive experience with having had a Stephen Minister and pray all feel a renewed closeness to their Lord and Savior through this ministry.

We have learned that our new pastor has also been through Stephen Ministry leadership training. Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Scott Otis or any of the Stephen Ministry team if you need our help in way of a caring, listening ear and a way to strengthen your relationship with God.

*Continued blessings to all,  
Patti Van Loo for the Stephen Ministry Team*

# Upcoming Excitement!

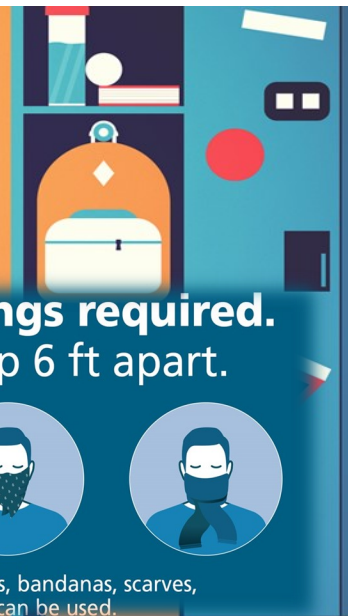
Welcoming the return of 8:00 AM Sunday Early Encounter!

Preschool will be opening in October! Safety plans are in place. Bible studies and classes will be opening and outside groups will also be opening again soon! Watch website, social media, emails and Sunday slides for more information.

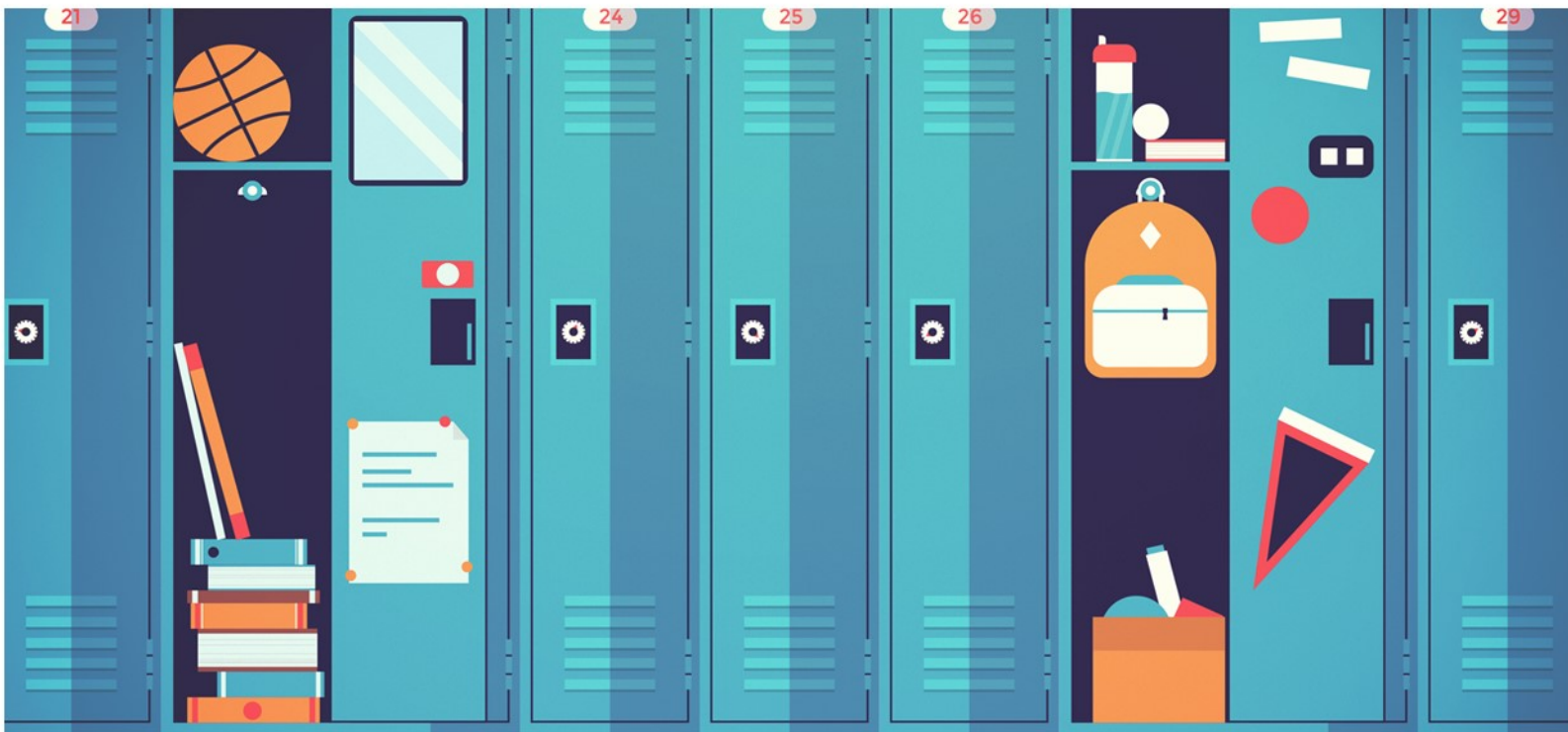
**Face coverings required.**  
Please keep 6 ft apart.



Non-medical masks, bandanas, scarves,  
and cloth can be used.







Because the church has been closed until very recently, our Gleaners food collections have been curtailed. The Missions Committee did approve using a third of the Lenten offering to provide a financial gift to Gleaners. A donation of just over \$2800 was sent including the Lent offering and members' gifts that had been earmarked for Gleaners. We hope to begin collections of food as the church continues its steps to reopening.

Four and a half pounds of food was delivered to Gleaners in July. With the pandemic, loss of jobs, closing of schools, etc., the need is very great. Please continue to remember the less fortunate by adding to your offering for Gleaners, or sending a contribution directly to Gleaners. Total deliveries in 2020 amount to 750 pounds. Thank you for your longstanding support of this mission work.

~ Basil Bloss



Look for food donations to resume soon!

The laundry ministry with Love INC has been able to continue so far through the pandemic. We have met clients from our vehicles while wearing masks in the church parking lot, and handing vouchers through the windows. To date, in 2020 we have served 35 families and 57 individuals. They have received a total of \$1,070.00 in vouchers to Wash Tubs laundromat. We are thankful for your continued support through your giving to the church budget.

Yours in Mission Service,  
Coralene Bloss



Love In The Name of Christ



## Faithfully Fit

Classes are alive and well and meeting in the church parking lot. Our largest class, *Cardio and Strength* - offered primarily for Seniors - continues virtually via Facebook Live. Here are some of our instructors in action! Schedule and pricing information are available on the church website or by calling Diane in the church office.



Kristie Brown



Marcie Mockbil



Diane Griffin



Renee Bonk



Sue Hansen

## Discipleship Ministries September, 2020

### Wednesday Weekly Ministries

Sadly, due to Covid-19 restrictions, Wednesday Weekly Meals and Studies are on hold for the month of September. Once it's determined that it is safe for us to gather again, these wonderful fellowship and learning opportunities will start back up. We hope to begin Adult Bible Studies using a hybrid format on Wednesday, October 7, whether meals resume or not. You can join in-person or online at home - stay tuned for details.

4:00 PM - Sue Rice plans to open with a new study from the first few chapters of Revelation.

6:00 PM - Jim Rutherford will lead a study using the book: *The Gospel of John: Believe and Live* by Elmer Towns.

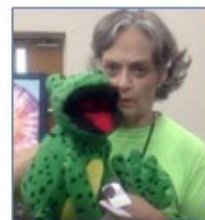
## Virtual Vacation Bible School

The Clay Pot Players were front and center, as well as daily messages from *Freckles the Frog* and Miss Olive. Our theme was "F.R.O.G - Fully Rely On God. Each of 9 days, children tuned in on Facebook and enjoyed music, videos, puppets, science experiments, dance, crafts and more. At least 50 children tuned in and received craft packets in the mail. If you or your child missed out, everything is still available on Facebook on the Howell FUMC Vacation Bible School page - you just need to request an invitation and you can join the fun! Oh yeah, and we even got some fan mail:

Our hope is to offer our original Summer VBS program, *Knights of North Castle* next summer (2021).

## Fall Children's Ministry

As with most Wednesday evening activities this fall, BLAST (**B**elievers **L**iving **A**nd **S**erving **T**ogether) and Wednesday and Sunday nursery are on hold until at least October. Sunday Morning **Faith Factory** will begin on September 13 using a virtual format. Videos containing Music, a Children's Message, Celebrate Wonder Videos, Crafts and a Bible Story will be posted on the church website and Facebook page each Sunday. You and your family can participate at any time throughout the week and beyond, as the videos can be accessed at any time. Please let us know if you plan to take part so that a materials packet can be sent or delivered to you prior to September 13.



thank you for VBS  
Love, Kaden





# United Methodist Women

September, 2020

Hi Everyone!

I pray everyone is doing well especially those who have had surgery and your healing is going well. It's been so long since we have had a UMW event. Due to COVID-19 we were in lockdown with everything being cancelled. This has been a hard time for all of us not seeing family or friends, not being able to do our normal activities.

It is with sadness that I have to report we are cancelling the majority of our fund raisers for the balance of the year. This is for our safety and those outside our church. Each individual circle will decide if they will meet in September and where to meet.

Our faith in God is going to get us all thru this time of need. If anyone is in need of anything please contact your circle chair, myself or the church office. The UMW is always there to help in any way we can even if it is just a phone call.

Blessings,

Janet Adams, President UMW

## Upcoming Events

### CIRCLES

**Dorcas/Mary Martha Circle:** Third Wednesday of the Month @ 10:00 am

**Faith Circle:** Fourth Monday of the Month @ 7:00 pm

**Grace Circle:** Thursday, September 10 @ 7:00 pm - poolside @ Jan Clay's house

**Mary-Elizabeth Circle:** Fourth Thursday of the Month @ 7:00 pm

**Ruth Circle:** Third Wednesday of the Month @ 1:00 pm.







MOPS and MOMSnext at Howell FUMC

# Decide To Rise



*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.* Psalm 139:14

**BE STRONG** : Arise as a mother. This is your year to get strong physically and mentally. To own the body you've been given and build muscle and stamina so you can do all the things that God is calling you to do; important things like chase your kids around the backyard, carry groceries for your elderly neighbor, or even build a mud house for a family in Rwanda. To embrace your own body's abilities and build it up – whatever your physical ability may be. It also means being strong mentally. Sometimes our thought life needs a little tightening up. It might mean seeing a therapist who can give you tools for dealing with anxiety, or maybe developing mental stamina so you can endure the daily toddler meltdowns. Often we wait for all the right details to come into place before we act, but maybe this is the year God is saying, "Stop waiting and get to it." Body and mind – this is the year we embrace the self that God gave us.

**DO YOUR WORK** : Doing your work happens in big and small, but *always* significant ways. It's about persevering through the daily grind of essential but mundane tasks; and it's also about making brave choices to do new things. Doing your work looks different for each of us, but everyone's work will require some grit and courage. Maybe it's choosing forgiveness, healing from past trauma, or making amends to those you've hurt. Maybe it's sharing the secret you've been carrying for years, or unlearning harmful patterns of behavior. And when it comes to mothering ... God gave those kids to you, Mama! You've been appointed and no one else can mother them like you. You are made of brave spirit. You'll figure it out because you always have, and you have God and your MOPS sisters by your side.

**CHASE JOY** : Actively seeking out joy is how we fight discouragement and fear. It's how we fight our tendency to complain, accuse or be offended. Joy is a decision, a really brave one, about how you will respond to life in all its circumstances. Joy is the most magnetic and contagious force in the universe, the type that people around you can't help but notice – especially those looking up toward their mom. It is a gladness that's not just reserved for happy moments, but particularly during the hardest days that come your way. Joy is the deep knowing that you were made for more than anxiety, depression and fear. This is your year to reclaim joy and share it with others!

## 2020/2021 Meeting Schedule

**Join Us!**  
First Thursday  
of Each Month  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

September 3, 2020  
Kick-Off

October 1, 2020

November 5, 2020

December 3, 2020

January 7, 2021

February 4, 2021

March 4, 2021

April 1, 2021

May 6, 2021

1230 Bower Street, Howell, MI 48843

Email: [mops@howellfumc.com](mailto:mops@howellfumc.com)

"Like" us on Facebook:

MOPS at First United Methodist Church (Howell)



# Youth Fall Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 No School	5
6	7 Labor Day No School	8	9 Spark Fall Kick-Off 6-7:30pm	10	11	12
13 Ignite Youth Meet & Greet Kick-Off @ Danielle's 5-7pm	14	15	16 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Devos	17	18	19
20 Ignite Youth 6-8pm Devos	21	22	23 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Devos	24	25 Half Day	26
27 Ignite Youth 6-8pm Devos	28	29	30 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Devos			

## OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Ignite Youth 6-8pm Devos	5	6	7 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Devos	8	9	10
11 Ignite Youth 6-8pm Devos	12	13	14 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Devos	15	16	17
18 Ignite Youth 6-8pm Youth Fellowship	19	20	21 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm Youth Fellowship	22	23	24
25 Trunk or Treat 4-5:30pm OR Ignite Halloween Party 6-8pm	26	27	28 Halloween Party 6-7:45pm	29	30	31 Halloween

## NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Ignite Youth 6-8pm True Story (Identity) wk 1	2	3	4 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm True Story (Identity) wk 1	5	6	7
8 Ignite Youth 6-8pm True Story (Identity) wk 2	9	10	11 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm True Story (Identity) wk 2	12	13 Devin's B'Day Half Day	14
15 Ignite Youth 6-8pm True Story (Identity) wk 3	16	17	18 Spark Youth 6-7:30pm True Story (Identity) wk 3	19	20	21
22 Ignite Youth 6-8pm True Story (Identity) wk 4	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Break, No Events	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Thanksgiving Break, No Events	30					



# September 2020

Please remember all scheduled activities and meetings are subject to change or cancellation.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	OFFICE CLOSED (remote office only)	Office Open 9am-1pm	10 <sup>30</sup> am Listening Session - ZOOM	Office Open 9am-1pm  6 <sup>30</sup> pm MOPS - ZOOM 7pm Trustees		
6	7 <b>Labor Day</b>	8	9	10	11	12
WORSHIP 9am Fellowship Hall Facebook Live 10 <sup>30</sup> am Sanctuary Facebook Live		Office Open 9am-1pm	10am Listening Session - Outdoors	Office Open 9am-1pm 1 <sup>30</sup> pm Listening Session - ZOOM 7pm Finance - ZOOM 7pm Grace Circle @ Clay's home		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
WORSHIP 8am Early Encounter 9am Fellowship Hall Facebook Live 10 <sup>30</sup> am Sanctuary Facebook Live	Office Open 9am-1pm	10 <sup>30</sup> am Listening Session - ZOOM  7pm S/PRC		Office Open 9am-1pm 7pm Council - ZOOM		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WORSHIP 8am Early Encounter 9am Fellowship Hall Facebook Live 10 <sup>30</sup> am Sanctuary Facebook Live	Office Open 9am-1pm  7pm Stephen Ministry	2pm Listening Session - Outdoors		Office Open 9am-1pm		
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
WORSHIP 8am Early Encounter 9am Fellowship Hall Facebook Live 10 <sup>30</sup> am Sanctuary Facebook Live	Office Open 9am-3pm	Office Open 9am-3pm	Office Open 9am-3pm 6pm Listening Session - Outdoors			