# THE METHODIST CHURCH



#### PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

On an annual basis, the senior pastor is required to submit a written report to the Charge Conference. It has been my practice for the past several years to also

share the report with the congregation via the church newsletter. By doing so, it is my hope that a culture of transparency is encouraged within the faith community.

#### PASTOR'S REPORT TO THE 2017 CHARGE CONFERENCE

At the East Ohio Annual Conference in June, Bishop Tracy Malone charged each one of us to bear fruit that will last, and to be bold in our ministry. During this past charge conference year, Westlake UMC has been focused on bearing fruit that will last for many years to come. The impact of the ministries of this church extends well beyond our three worship services each Sunday. We continue to be focused on making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world as we boldly move into a new charge conference year.

In the fall of 2016, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, our District Superintendent, and I worked together through the consultation process to develop and approve the following goals for Westlake UMC: continue to strengthen our administrative foundation; maintain a focus on spiritual formation for the congregation with an emphasis on spirit-led leadership; and execute our missional strategy. The progress of each of these goals has been assessed in various committee settings and reported on at each Leadership Council meeting during this past charge conference year.

We have strengthened our administrative foundation by updating personnel related tools such as the finalization of job descriptions, the development of a staff performance review process, and addressing pension issues. The staff have been purposeful in growing as To live so that others will become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

disciples of Jesus Christ through their participation in a book study of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* and in participation in a day retreat that focused on prayer. In addition, two staff members joined me in participating in the North Coast District's Leadership Academy. A significant undertaking in strengthening our administrative foundation has been the work that I have done with the Finance Committee and the Staff Parish Relations Committee on completing a "Life Cycle of the Church" analysis utilizing an objective tool from the West Ohio Conference. This is an important assessment of where our church is focusing our financial resources. Through the use of this tool, we have been, and will continue to evaluate the use of the financial resources of this faith community.

Our second goal for this charge conference year was to maintain a focus on spiritual formation through spirit-led leadership. The Leadership Council completed its study of *Pursuing God's Will Together: A Discernment Practice for Leadership Groups* in early 2017. The practices learned through this study have been integrated into decisionmaking for all matters related to the church. These discernment practices have also been implemented in our key, decision-making committees within the church. In February 2017, Rev. Dr. Sue Nilson Kibbey came to Westlake UMC to lead a retreat on "Breakthrough Prayer." We have begun the implementation of our own Breakthrough Prayer Initiative. We look forward to the fruit that will come from our focus on prayer.

Lastly, during this past Charge Conference year, the Mission Team began the execution of the strategy that was developed last year for local, regional, national, and international mission. One key area of focus in 2017 was expanding our relationship with Simpson UMC. In the spring, Ellie Peiffer and I were invited by the Simpson UMC pastor to lead a faith formation class at their church, and Rachael Grech, our youth coordinator, led confirmation classes for Simpson UMC youth. During the summer, the newly appointed pastor at Simpson invited our pastoral intern, Mikayla Kovacik and I to lead

#### CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 -----

WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 27650 Center Ridge Road \* Westlake, Ohio 44145 \* (440) 871-3088 \* <u>westlakeumc.org</u> Sunday Worship Services at 8:15 AM, 10:00 AM and 11:28 AM



#### PASTORAL REFLECTIONS, CONTINUED ....

a faith formation study there. On October 11, Ellie and I began a new fall faith formation study on Wednesday mornings at Simpson. This study is open to parishioners from both Simpson UMC and Westlake UMC. In addition to our focus on growing our relationship with Simpson UMC, we have had dedicated Mission Sundays during which the missional strategy and its execution have been shared with our congregants. We have also expanded our work in international mission. Three individuals from our faith community traveled to Cambodia to be in mission with local clergy and laity in January. Additional international mission trips were made to Liberia and Ecuador. A joint mission trip between Berea UMC and Westlake UMC is being planned for March 2018.

In the upcoming charge conference year, our goals will be to focus on strengthening our administrative foundation, including working with and empowering staff as models of disciples of Christ. We will maintain a focus on spiritual formation for the congregation and broaden our missional strategy to include greater diversity while also expanding our outreach efforts.

It is hard for me to believe that we are in our third year of ministry together at Westlake United Methodist Church. It continues to be an honor to serve as your pastor. Together, I am confident that our work in ministry together will bear fruit for many years to come as we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and Peace,



United Methodist Women's General Meeting Thursday, November 9

Women of our church and their friends are all welcome to attend the general meeting of our friendly group. **Please arrive in Fellowship Hall by 10:30 AM for the business meeting.** Bring your lunch for our break at noon. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

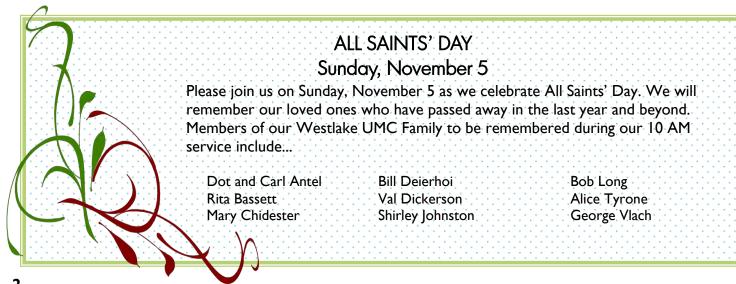
Our special speaker, Mr. Larry Smith of NASA Glenn Research Center, will provide us with a fascinating presentation at 1:00 PM entitled, "NASA Spin-offs: Benefits of Space Exploration." He will share research and information on these benefits that will directly affect us all. We look forward to seeing you!

#### WESTLAKE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA Thursday, December 7

Westlake United Methodist Women will give their Christmas Tea for all church members and their friends on Thursday, December 7. We will be entertained by the talented musical group, "Steppin' Out" and enjoy a delicious reception.

The tea will be a great way to begin the Christmas season for both men and women. *The event is free of charge*. All attendees are encouraged to bring their donations of youth and children's socks and underwear (all sizes) for our drive that will donate these needed items to economically disadvantaged children.

#### Pastor Mollie







### FLAT ROCK CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION

# Our Flat Rock Christmas Gift Collection is now underway until November 30.

The Monday Afternoon Christcare group is again sponsoring the Flat Rock Giving Tree located in the church lobby. The tree is "decorated" with tags that contain Christmas wish list items of Flat Rock residents. Please consider taking a tag, purchasing a gift, and returning it to Westlake United Methodist Church <u>unwrapped with the tag attached</u> by Thursday, November 30. When you take a tag, please fill out the form by the tree with your name, contact information and the tag number you took. This will help us ensure we meet wish list requests for all residents.

**About Flat Rock:** Flat Rock is a Christian-based residence providing care and community services to children and adults diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To learn more about Flat Rock visit <u>www.flatrockhomes.org</u>.

#### CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: CARDS FOR SHUT-INS

#### CARDS FOR SHUT-INS Please join in helping us create

beautiful, handmade Thanksgiving cards for our homebound Westlake United Methodist Church members and



friends. On Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM, we will meet in Room 107. For more information, please contact Jane Shami at 216.347.4499.

<u>November Monthly Mission Event</u> Please note: Due to an unexpected cancellation at the scheduled monthly mission site, we are currently looking for another project. Please look for an update in the weekly email blast, worship bulletin, and on the mission bulletin board in the lobby.

Want to read more? Go to www.westlakeumc.org

#### MEAL MINISTRY

As the season of Thanksgiving approaches, it is a time of gratitude for our many riches. We can be thankful for all God has provided in the fields and gardens that surround us, and also filled with thanksgiving for all that God nurtures and grows in our spirits.

Many people have been willing to provide an occasional meal to someone in our congregation who is in need of support and encouragement. Those meals are made with caring, loving hands and delivered and received in the name of Christ. These gifts of love, given in the spirit of community and generosity in a time of need, nourish the hearts, souls and bodies of those who receive them and those who give them. Thank you all for your faithfulness. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Kay Miller <u>kemiller74@hotmail.com</u>.

"Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully." Peter 4:10



**Rise Against Hunger**, formerly Stop Hunger Now, is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. **Our** mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and by creating a global commitment to mobilize the critical resources. We are committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of ending hunger by 2030.

Please mark your calendars for **February 18, 2018** for our next meal-packing event. Did you know that each meal we pack costs 29 cents? The challenge of meal packing is to include a minimum of 10,000 meals, but two years ago we packed almost 21,000!

To meet the same goal, we will need to cover \$6,100 in costs. You can help by participating in meal packing and also by donating your change. Please start saving your change now to help support this church-wide mission event. Look for the collection buckets in the church lobby where you can drop your spare change and contribute to ending hunger in a way that truly makes an impact.

# Spiritual Growth & Small Groups



#### Conversations On A Way Forward Register Online to Participate on February 5, 2018 at Lakewood UMC

The Commission on a Way Forward was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to undertake a complete examination, and possible revision, of every paragraph of *The Book of Discipline* concerning human sexuality, and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the church.

The East Ohio Conference is holding opportunities for clergy and lay people to participate in intentional, meaningful dialogue to discern together how we might strengthen and maintain the unity of The United Methodist Church and find a way forward through the present impasse related to human sexuality. These opportunities are called "Conversations On A Way Forward."

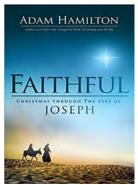
While there are six conversation groups being held, the nearest location will be at Lakewood UMC on Monday, Feb. 5, 2018 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Seating is limited and preregistration is required. Register online at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-way-forwardconversations-registration-38001533610.

For a week in early August, our congregation engaged in "Praying Our Way Forward." Now, we are invited and encouraged to continue the sacred work of opening ourselves to hear God and follow Jesus in these conversations. Please ensure your participation by registering today. Space is limited.



For more details about events and to view the church calendar, please visit <u>westlakeumc.org</u>.

Pastor's Advent Study Thursdays at 9 AM Beginning November 2 *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph* 

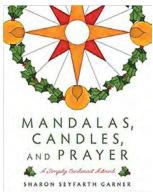


From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph's place in the nativity story is sometimes overlooked but contains valuable lessons for all of us. Author Adam Hamilton in this DVD study explains how Joseph's story is much like our own. In life, we encounter circumstances that we

would never have chosen for ourselves. At times it can be tempting just to walk away. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand and faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides. Exchange your doubt for courage this Advent and Christmas season as we learn more about the story of Joseph.

All Ages Advent Study on Sunday Mornings Mandalas, Candles and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent

Slow down, simplify, and add a burst of color to your Advent this year. All ages are invited to come together as we explore the spiritual practice of coloring mandalas, lighting Advent wreath candles and practicing simple prayer. This is a devotion you can do at home during the week with your family as well as joining us on Sunday morning for reflection and encouragement.



Sunday December 3 - Centered in Hope Sunday December 10 - Centered in Love Sunday December 17 - Centered in Joy Sunday December 24 - Centered in Peace

Color and pray and you will experience the most meaningful gift of all — a peace that passes all understanding as we journey toward the manger together. Join us in Fellowship Hall Sunday mornings from 9:15 AM to 9:45 AM.

# Family Events & Christian Education

### HANGING OF THE GREENS & JINGLEFEST POTLUCK NOVEMBER 26 FROM 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

The intergenerational church family will come together to prepare for Advent on Sunday, November 26. All are invited to join us in making an Advent Wreath from base to candles to use throughout this season of anticipation. We will craft up this centering piece versus centerpiece



to use year after year. While some craft, others will prepare our sanctuary, our halls, and any nook and cranny our trustees leave unguarded for Advent, for His coming, for Christmas. Debby Patterson and Louise Sevold will be directing the decorating of the building. Please bring your creativity, anyone who is taller than Mrs. Ryan (or all wreaths will hang from door knobs), and a side dish or dessert to share. Pizza and beverages will be provided.

But wait, there is more! As our fellowship time wraps up in the hall, we will be giving out *Mandalas, Candles, and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent* by Rev. Sharon Seyfarth Garner. This is our whole church Advent study and you get it free if you come to Hanging of the Greens. With a little instructional facilitation, together we will prayerfully color an Advent mandala before heading into the sanctuary to take in the wondrous transformation of our sanctuary in thanks to our greens hangers. Sing a song with us, and head into Advent joyful, and equipped to keep Christ as our focus. For questions, please contact Carol Ryan at <u>cryan@westlakeumc.org</u>.

## SEEDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM: POINSETTIA PLANTS



Please consider ordering a poinsettia plant and/or making a donation using church bulletin inserts that will be distributed at all worship services beginning in late November and running through early December.

You can also order plants by contacting the church office at 440.871.3088. Every year WUMC awards college scholarships to youth who have served and participated in our church. Wayne Asplin established the WUMC Scholarship program over 30 years ago, and the family and friends of Carl Zellers built upon this endowment in 1996. The number of active youth in our church is growing, and we want to continue to be able to nurture our youth as they go forth into the world.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

During this month of Thanksgiving, please share your gratitude with our faithful volunteer Sunday school teachers, acolytes and other volunteers who add to the richness of our worship services.



To volunteer as an acolyte or to

help in other ways, please contact Carol Ryan at <u>cryan@westlakeumc.org</u>. Also, please note that traditional grade level classes will not be held during worship services on Sunday, November 26 and on Sunday, December 24. All school children will be invited to worship at regular services on those Sundays. Our nursery and preschool classes will meet as usual.

### DONATIONS

This month we are collecting CLEAN, we mean REALLY, REALLY, CLEAN one-gallon, plastic milk jugs.





## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS

November 5	WUMC Community Meal Volunteers from Mike & Sue Clark					
November 12	Calvin & Sue Herrick					
November 19	Barbara Lachowicz					
November 26	Kubancik Family					



Save-the-Date: Christmas Eve is on a Sunday!

With December 24 being on a Sunday, it is both the observance of the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as

Christmas Eve Worship. Please make a note of the worship service schedule as it is different than in years past. The church will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent with one worship service on December 24 at 10 AM, where the focus will be on peace. The church will offer four Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services throughout the day at:

II:28 AM	3:00 PM
5:00 PM	9:00 PM

Compassion & Congregational Care



Individual Prayer Time & Communion with Prayer Partners SUNDAYS 9:00 AM TO 9:30 AM OR

11:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

Stephen Ministers are available every

**Sunday morning** in Room 203 from 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM and also 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM to offer a quiet, reflective time for individual prayer and communion. We also have sets of prayer beads available for you during this time. All are welcome.

Drop-In Times with Pastor Mollie

Mondays 8 AM to 10 AM at Panera, N. Olmsted Tuesdays 8 AM to 10 AM at Panera, Westlake

Do you have faith questions? Do you want to share a joy, concern or pray with the pastor? Do you have a friend that needs encouragement?

You are invited to drop-in and visit with Pastor Mollie during these times. You can feel free to just walk-in, no appointment is needed.

# Church Family Updates



#### **BIRTHS**

We celebrate with Debby Patterson on the birth of her grandson, Edison Layne Harris. Congratulations to the family!

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Our newest members joined our congregation on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Please welcome **Joan Garner** and **Marty Gross** into our church family!

#### **THANK YOUS**

Dear Westlake United Methodist Church Friends,

Thank you for the outpouring of love and support and sharing your memories of Bill with his family as we walk through this time of grief.

From the family of William (Bill) H. Deierhoi

# Financial Information

#### Would you like to contribute to the church but don't carry a checkbook or cash with you on Sunday? We can help! There are two options available for you to make your contributions to the General Operating Fund for Westlake UMC:

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Scheduled automatic transfers from your checking account to the WUMC account. Please contact Raphe Neapolitan, finance manager, for the form needed at <a href="mailto:rneapolitan@westlakeumc.org">rneapolitan@westlakeumc.org</a>

**ONLINE GIVING:** Use your credit card via our website at westlakeumc.org. In the lower left corner of the home page you will see a button for Online Giving (near "Live Streaming"— You do not have to login to contribute, but you can create a profile, if desired. One-time contributions or regularly scheduled contributions can be made.

Income Statement – August 2017								
	August 2017	YTD 2017	2016	YTD 2016	YTD Budget	Annual Budget 2017		
INCOME								
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$30,901.76	\$327,875.78	\$35,192.49	\$345,551.11	\$384,701.48	\$580,676.73		
TOTAL INCOME	\$30,901.76	\$327,875.78	\$35,192.49	\$345,551.11	\$384,701.48	\$580,676.73		
EXPENSES								
ADMINISTRATIVE EXP.								
STAFF PARISH EXP.	\$27,559.23	\$219,326.99	\$25,626.18	\$219,710.25	\$246,620.16	\$369,580.33		
OFFICE EXP.	1,058.85	6,888.22	1,649.17	15,863.22	11,133.24	16,317.40		
FINANCE TEAM EXP.	278.35	2,032.97	560.18	1,950.48	1,840.00	2,720.00		
FACILITIES EXP.	5,962.60	38,922.51	3,691.15	39,954.03	47,240.00	72,670.00		
Subtotal Expenses	34,859.03	267,170.69	31,526.68	277,477.98	306,833.40	461,287.73		
MINISTRY EXPENSE								
MUSIC EXP.	-44.25	2,182.65	0.00	711.33	1,690.00	2,700.00		
WORSHIP EXP.	196.00	2,388.07	922.53	4,655.83	5,901.25	8,525.00		
EDUCATION EXP.	701.38	8,780.09	3,092.27	9,503.96	14,487.97	20,640.00		
OUTREACH EXP.	81.59	١,547.3١	82.60	4,623.30	4,516.00	7,586.00		
CONNECTIONAL GIVING	6,902.08	57,138.89	5,642.67	54,367.36	54,553.28	81,830.00		
Subtotal Ministry Expense	7,836.80	72,037.01	9,740.07	73,861.78	81,148.50	121,281.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	42,695.83	339,207.70	41,266.75	351,339.76	387,981.90	582,568.73		
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	-\$11,794.07	-\$11,331.92	-\$6,074.26	-\$5,788.65	-\$3,280.42	-\$1,892.00		

#### YOU CAN JOIN WESTLAKE UMC AT THE 10:00 SERVICE WITH OUR LIVE STREAMING!\*\*

Traveling? Can't make it to church on a Sunday morning? Worship with us via our website: <u>westlakeumc.org</u> for the 10:00 service. You will see the link to the broadcast in the lower left corner of the home screen. You are also invited to register your attendance, send prayer requests, and/or make contributions online. \*\*Please note that due to copyright & licensing restrictions, not all music or multimedia presentations may be broadcast.

#### **BETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

www.westlakeumc.org (440) 871-3088 Westlake, Ohio 44145 27650 Center Ridge Road **METHODIST CHURCH MESTLAKE UNITED** 

westlakeumc@westlakeumc.org

11:28 a.m. (Contemporary) 10:00 a.m. (Traditional)\* 8:15 a.m. (Reflective) Sunday Worship at

Five-streamed via our website

DATED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY MAILED OCTOBER 27, 2017

## Messenger articles for December are due: Tuesday, November 14!

Rev. Don Lefelar

Rev. Diana Guyette

Rev. Tom Taylor

**Rev. Bob Remington** 

**OTHER PASTORS CONNECTED TO THIS CONGREGATION:** Rev. Judy Claycomb Rev. Ron Dietrich

**Rachael Haning Grech** 

WUMC Librarian: Katie Salis

**Raphe Neapolitan** 

Rev. Mollie Brown

Annie Kaschube

**Betsy Kaiser** 

Carol Ryan **Rev. Don Lefelar** 

**Ellie Peiffer** 

**Jill Farkas** 

**Gretty Myers** Jeanne Halaby

Kathy Tafuri

Lynne Wolf

Morgan Lux

Patti Barnes

**Rich Gallo** 

Dr. Richard Lehto

give to the Teisgood Psalm 118:1

## Westlake United Methodist Church Staff

Senior Pastor: mgbrown@westlakeumc.org

Organist, Children's Choir & Handbell Choir Director

Small Group & Welcoming Ministries Stephen Ministry Coordinator

Nursery Assistant

Visitation Pastor

Nursery Assistant

Office Coordinator

Nursery Assistant

Youth Coordinator Finance Manager

Nursery Coordinator

11:28 Worship Leader

Volunteer Parish Nurse

Custodian

Christian Education Director







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 I 2pm Purl Girls (205) I pm Parish Nurse Available I:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (107)	2 9am Bible Study (205) 10:00am UMW Board (105) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7 pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 Organ Tuming 3-6pm Theater Group (FH) & (105-107)	<i>4</i> 9:30 am Charge Conference Rocky River UMC
<sup>5</sup> All Saints Day Youth Group 5–8 p.m.	6 7pm Leadership Council (205) 7pm Caregivers Group (100 & 107) 5:45 pm Election Board Setup (105-6-7) 7:30pm ChristCare- G/J.L (205)	7 ELECTION DAY! 5a.m. Election Board 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (100 & FH)	8 11:30am Purl Girls (205) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 1:30am All Staff Mtg (205) 2pm ChristCare-JMc(205) 3pm Girl Scouts (FH) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (107)	9 9am Bible Study (205) 10:30am UMW Gen. Mtg (F.H.) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon(100) 7 pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 3-6pm Theater Group (FH)	11
12 Youth Spud / Paint Night 5-8 pm	13 12:30pm Games 'N Such (FH) 1—3pm Alzheimer's (105-7)?? 6 pm Trustees (105) 7 pm Stephen Ministry (107) 7:30pm ChristCare- G/J.L (205)	14 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (100 & FH) 7:00pm Mission Team (107) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal Messenger Deadline	15 12pm Purl Girls (205) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 5:30pm Community Meal 7 pm ChristCare-GM (107)	<i>16</i> 9 am Bible Study (205) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100) 7 pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 Waxing	18 6:30pm ChristCare—JK/LK (205)
19	20 7 pm Finance Cmmte (107)	21 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (100 & FH) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	22 12pm Purl Girls (205) 1 pm Parish Nurse Available 1:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 2 pm ChristCare-JMc (205) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (107)	23 Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 Hanging of the Greens & TingleFest & Potluck 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.	27	28 5:00 pm Oberlin Choristers (100 & FH) 7:30pm 11:28 Rehearsal	29 I2pm Purl Girls (205) I pm Parish Nurse Available I:30pm Arthritis Exer. (103) 7 pm ChristCare-GM (107)	30 9 am Bible Study (205) 5:30pm Marijuana Anon (100) 7 pm ChristCare-DL (205) 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		