Good Soil Lutheran Ministries Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Sixth Sunday after Epiphany February 16th, 2025 9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd Rocky River, OH 44116 (440) 331-1773 | GoodSoilLutheran.org The Rev. Marissa Harrison pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

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Facebook/Instagram: goodsoillutheranministries YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

<u>Welcome</u>

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Ask an usher about hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Bulletin Key

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant † – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

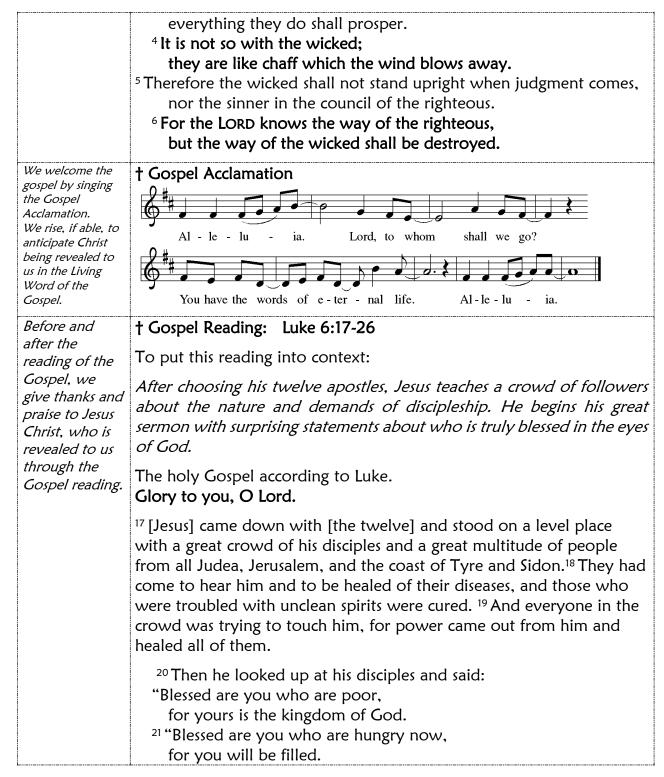
Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are's" and the "woe to's" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

power to hear	Gathering
	The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
	Prelude and Welcome
In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.	
	In 🕂 Christ, you are forgiven.

	In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. Amen.		
	† Gathering Hymn: Let Justice Flow Like Streams (ELW 717)		
	 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure, enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure. 		
	2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed, an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.		
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true, and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.			
Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster Johr			
The assembly and presiding minister greet each other (scripture ref. 2 Corinthians)	† Greeting The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.		
Kyrie Eleison means "Lord have mercy." Chanting is an ancient practice of the church.	† Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.		

	Ф ^р ю ю •					
	For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of					
	God, and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.					
	Lord, have mer - cy.					
	For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and					
	praise lat us pray to the Lord					
praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy. Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.						
						A - men.
					The Prayer of	† Prayer of the Day
					the Day highlights	Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty
					themes in the	of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our
scripture we	lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.					
will hear.	Amen.					
	The Word					
	God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.					
	First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10					
	To put this reading into context:					
These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God bri						

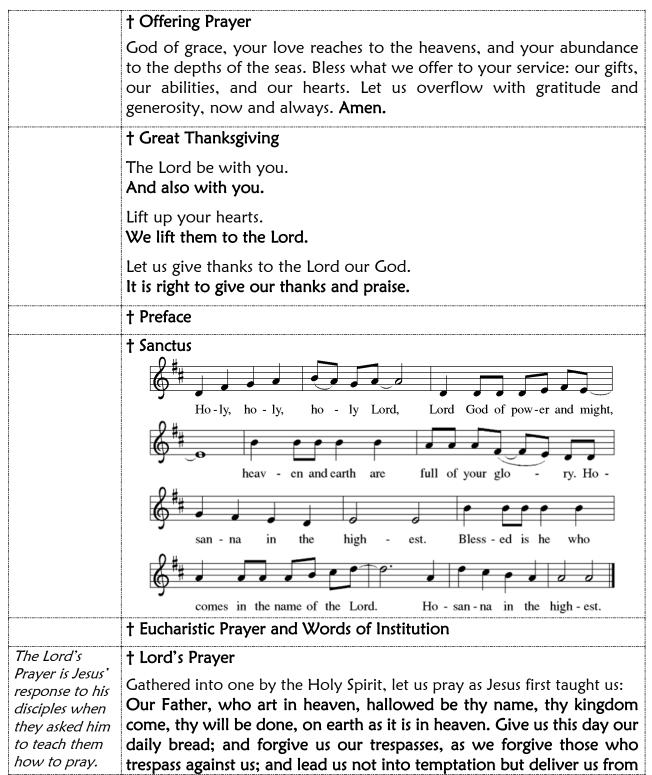
blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death. Hear now the reading. ⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD. whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes. and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD examine the mind and search the heart. to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings. Word of God. Word of Life. Thanks be to God. Psalm 1 ¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful! ² Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night. ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;



	 "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets."
	The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.
	Children's Sermon
	Sermon: Deaconess Anne Paine
	Silence for Reflection.
	Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice. You're invited to reflect on the following question:
	When have you felt marginalized or like an outsider? What was that like? What can you do to share God's love with those who are marginalized?
The Hymn of the Day is the	† Hymn of the Day: Light Dawns on a Weary World (ELW 726)
assembly's response to the sermon— making the sermon event a mutual faith	 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.
conversation.	<i>Refrain:</i> The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

	We shall go out in joy,			
	and be led forth in peace,			
	as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.			
	2 Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread			
	and children's dreams are fed.			
	Love grows in a weary world:			
	the promised feast of plenty comes. <i>Refrain</i>			
	3 Hope blooms in a weary world			
	when creatures, once forlorn,			
	find wilderness reborn.			
	Hope blooms in a weary world:			
	the promised green of Eden comes. <i>Refrain</i>			
	Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.			
As the church,	† Prayers of the Church			
we pray for those in our	With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us pray for the church,			
community and	the world, and all of creation. A brief silence.			
around the world. The prayers are also responsive,	Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace, receive our prayer.			
emphasizing	Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful			
our own	practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its			
participation.	restoration. Encourage those who work to be a voice for creation and			
Each petition	provide skills for its conservation. God of grace, receive our prayer.			
addresses a	Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and			
<i>different topic, often in the</i>	leaders of nations. Grant that their courage and compassion will not			
same pattern:	run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the			
	fountain of your righteousness. God of grace, receive our prayer.			
+ The Church + Creation	Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring			
+ Nations and leaders doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel you or who are suffering in any way. We especially pray for				
+ This faith community	Donna, family & friends of Madeline, Toni, Kate, Stan & Ann, Bill,			
commanity				

+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting	Susan, Sally, Ruth, Rich, Kristina, Jeanette, Vicar Scott, Khams and his community in Manipur, and those we name aloud or in our hearts. God of grace, receive our prayer.
with God	Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace, receive our prayer.
	Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace, including Carl. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace, receive our prayer .
	We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. Amen.
A practice of the	† Passing of the Peace
ancient church, we share in	The Peace of Christ be with you always.
Christ's peace &	And also with you.
recognize it in each other.	The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with
	you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or
	low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.
God entrusts us	The Meal
with everything we have. Our offering is one	God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ. Offering
way we give	God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, & your offering
thanks to God and support	makes that possible. Help Good Soil keep making an impact by giving today using the QR code or at <u>https://pushpay.com/g/goodsoillutheran</u>
the ministry of	Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link
the church.	will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.
The offering is	† Offering Hymn: One Bread, One Body (ELW 496) Refrain
brought forward to the	One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
altar to signify	one cup of blessing which we bless,
our gratitude	and we, though many throughout the earth,
for God's blessings.	we are one body in this one Lord.
0	Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939 Text © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



	evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.
<u> </u>	† Invitation to the Table
	The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
	Communion
	Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil.
	Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.
	When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."
	Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.
	Gluten-free bread is available on request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.
	Communion Hymn: Canticle of Turning (ELW 723)
	1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
	<i>Refrain:</i> My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.
	2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame,

	and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. <i>Refrain</i>
3	From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. <i>Refrain</i>
4	Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. <i>Refrain</i>
	t: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Masor ., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Cc	ommunion Hymn: Let Streams of Living Justice (ELW 710)
1	Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r; abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.
2	For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,

for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun; on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run. O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.	
 3 Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried; your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified. Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla. 	
 † Post-Communion Table Blessing	
Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.	
The SendingGod blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.† BlessingThe Spirit of the triune God+ bless you with joy,anoint you with compassion,and send you in love.Amen.	

Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	 † Sending Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign (ELW 434) v. 1, 2, 4, 5 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run; his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
	2 To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head; his name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
	4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the pris'ners leap to lose their chains, the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
	 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar honors to our king; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body: nourished, fed, & ready to serve. Worship has ended, & our service begins!	† Dismissal Go in peace. Live in hope. Thanks be to God.
	Postlude

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Please join us for a quick Coffee & Cookie Break after the service today, followed by a 45min Tower City Chorus concert in the sanctuary, open to the public!

Today's Worship Servants:		
Ushers: Taylor Nichols & Stan Zeager	Livestream: Sean Lanter	
Reader: Sharon Bechtel	Acolyte: TJ Lanter	
Counters: Joe Lanter & Barbara Munch	Altar Care: Paula Maeder Connor	
Online Usher: Karen Sperli	Communion Bread: Jessica Berkshire	
Cantor: William Eversole		



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Feb 16, 2025

Especially in our prayers: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Barbins of the NEO Synod, Helen Andrews, Fred Ayers, Jane Beese, Gail Boggs, family & friends

of Carl Bruns, Pam Bruns, Mary Lou Busby, Frank Dunaway, Sara Gresh, Donna Handy, family and friends of Madeline Kelly, Toni Kulma, Kate Labuda, Stan & Ann Layman, Bill Meyer, Susan Omerod, Sally Pate, Ruth Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Kristina Seeley, Jeanette Weidlich, Vicar Scott Wylie, and Khams Zotal and his people in Manipur.

For those celebrating birthdays this week: Vivienne Smith (2/18).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism this week: Sean Lanter (2/20) & Jeanette Weidlich (2/20).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God by the Wylie in honor of Allan's birthday.

California Wildfires Partner Church: As wildfires continue to devastate Southern California, the Northeastern Ohio Synod is inviting congregations to extend care and compassion to our neighbors in the Southwest California Synod. Through this effort, we hope to facilitate direct connections with congregations potentially affected by the wildfires, sharing messages of encouragement and support during this challenging time. <u>Congregations in our synod have each been paired with a congregation in the Southwest California Synod</u>. We encourage you to reach out with handwritten notes, cards, or creative gestures like artwork or messages from your church community. This is an opportunity to remind these congregations that they are being thought of and prayed for here in Ohio as they face the long journey of recovery. Good Soil's assigned Partner Congregation is:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church 117 North 7th Street Santa Paula, CA 93060-2615



Bethesda Staff Partnership- Scan the QR code to the left to learn more about how Good Soil and Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran are exploring a potential staff partnership!

Tower City Chorus Concert, TODAY - At 11 am on Sun, 2/16, Tower City Chorus (who rehearse weekly in the fellowship hall) will be having a barbershoppers concert here at Good Soil. Invite a friend & stay after worship that day for a fun time (concert is free & open to the public). A Quick Coffee & Cookie Break will follow the end of the service today, before the Tower City Chorus concert.

Remembering Carl Bruns- Long-time Good Soil member Carl Bruns passed peacefully in his sleep on 2/11/25. Please hold Carl and his family in your prayers. **Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2-5pm at Zeis-McGreevey Funeral Home in Lakewood. Carl's funeral will be held at Good Soil on Monday February 17, at 11 am.** Thank you, O God, for the life and light of Carl Bruns. In sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we commend him to you and your loving arms. Be with his family and help them (and us) to feel a tangible sense of your presence, strength, and comfort. We pray all this in Jesus' name, amen.

"Love in Action" Month w/ Bible Study, 2/23 - February has been designated as "Love in Action" month. Members are invited to bring in donations beginning Sunday February 2 thru February 22 for Trials for Hope. Suggested items: size 6 diapers, pull tab or easy open foods such as Ramen, tuna pouch or fruit cups, socks, multipurpose tarp, and travel size deodorant. Items will be collected in the coffee kitchen across from the lounge. Additionally, Pastor Marissa will be leading a <u>"Faith Active in Love" Bible study after church on 2/23 about our Lutheran Commitment to putting our faith in action with civic engagement and service to our neighbors.</u>



Sabbatical FAQ Sheet- Thank you for participating in the sabbatical questionnaire. The Renewal planning team along with Pastor Marissa has put together an FAQ sheet to summarize those responses and answer questions that were proposed. Scan the QR code to the left for that document and/or reference the bulletin board for a printed version.

Coffee Hour Fellowship- We need volunteer hosts to set-up, brew, and clean-up the coffee/tea service &/or bring snacks/baked goods. The Coffee Hour volunteer sign-up is on the bulletin board by the lounge. Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) w/ questions.

MOW looking for Drivers- West Shore Rocky River-Lakewood Meals on Wheels is in search of drivers to deliver meals to our recipients, especially Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please contact 440-333-6298 or rrlwcoordinator@westshoremow.org for further info.

Newsletter- Want to keep up with news at Good Soil or share the e-news with friends? Sign up or share our newsletter using the QR code or URL to the right: <u>https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp</u>



Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You

can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code. <u>Please note</u>: The physical flower list on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken



on the physical sheet, you will be contacted to reschedule. Each vase costs \$20. You may also bring your own flowers instead of buying them through Good Soil, but please do still sign up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL- Weekly Sunday faith formation for kids includes Learn & Grow and Experience & Grow opportunities during Sunday services. Additionally, kids will participate in special activities during planned monthly congregational events after worship. (Event updates will be announced, ongoing.) Contact JoAnne Wancata (cell: 440-655-3674) with questions OR to join the weekly rotation of Learn & Grow teachers/helpers.

<u>Learn & Grow time during the worship service</u>: Coloring, crafts, Bible stories, sharing, light snack, etc., in the classrooms on the first floor during the sermon & reflection time for adults in the sanctuary. For children in Preschool/Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Experience & Grow time participating in the worship service: Participating in the worship experience, including sermon & reflection time. Access to special materials on the "Experience & Grow" stand in the Prayground. For Grade 5 through Confirmation.

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Feb 16	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun Feb 16	Tower City Chorus Concert @ Good Soil	11:00 am
Sun, Feb 23	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Sun Feb 23	"Faith Active in Love" Bible Study	10:30 am
Sat, Mar 1	Ladies' Breakfast @ Gene's Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Mar 2	In-Person & Livestream Worship	9:30 am
Wed, Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Morning Service @ Bethesda on the Bay	11:00 am
Wed, Mar 5	Soup Supper @ Bethesda on The Bay	6:00 pm
Wed, Mar 5	Ash Wednesday Evening Service @ Bethesda on the Bay	7:00 pm