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Good Friday



Matthew 27:54 (KJV)

⁵⁴ Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

History has recorded the Friday that Jesus was crucified is called Good Friday. Why is that Friday called "Good Friday?" Have you

ever thought why that Friday is referred to as "good?" What happened on that "Friday" was not good.

What the Jewish and Roman authorities did to Jesus was definitely not good. Allow me to recount what happened on that "Friday."

Early Friday morning Judas led a crowd to a place called Gethsemane and betrayed Jesus with a kiss. Not good!

On Friday, Jesus was taken to the house of Caiaphas to be interrogated. Caiaphas was the Jewish high priest. He was the leader that plotted to have Jesus arrested and executed. On Friday, Jesus is again interrogated by the Sanhedrin council. Not good!

On Friday, Jesus was turned over to Pontius Pilate. On Friday, Pontius Pilate sent Jesus over to Herod and Herod sends Him back to Pilate. On Friday morning Jesus stands before Pilate who charged Him with claiming to be the king of the Jews. On Friday, Jesus is condemned to death. Not good!

On Friday about 9:00 am, Jesus is scourged and led to a place outside of Jerusalem called Golgotha and is crucified. At noon, darkness covered the land from the six to the ninth hour. And on Friday, Jesus cried out and gave up the ghost. Not good!

All this happened on "Good Friday." Can I tell you what makes "Good Friday," good? On Friday Jesus took the symbol of a cross and forever changed what it means. The cross is a symbol of capital punishment. No one takes an emblem or something used for capital punishment and wears it around your neck. You would think it very distasteful of me if I showed up with a chain of an electric chair, a guillotine or a gas chamber around my neck.

(Continued on Page 2)

But Jesus took that cross and forever changed it. Jesus was crucified on that cross from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. And from 12:00 noon to 3 p.m., there was darkness over all the land. Jesus spoke seven times during those six terrible hours:

1. "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34).
2. "Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).
3. "Woman, behold thy son" (John 19:25-27).
4. "Why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46)
5. "I thirst" (John 19:28).
6. "It is finished!" (John 19:30)
7. "Father, into Thy hands" (Luke 23:46).

Well, what makes that Friday, "Good Friday?" Jesus took a bad day and made it good.

He took a place of Disgrace and brought Grace

A place of Dishonor and brought Honor

A place of Distress and brought Rest

A place of Embarrassment and brought Empowerment

A place of Incarceration and brought Emancipation

A place of Gloom and He brought Glory

He took a place of Shame and made it a place of Salvation

Happy Resurrection day!

Pastor Robert and Lady Bessie Herring, Sr.

Prayer and Supplication for our Pastor

Almighty God, Ruler of the universe, we humbly approach the throne of Grace on behalf of our Pastor.

Oh, God, we pray now that You would release more of Your power into his life and ministry, constantly equipping him with everything good to do Your will. Lord we pray, and if it's Thy holy will, that You empower him, so that he can be more effective in your service, and so that You will be glorified and hoinored.

God, we pray that You bless his helpmeet and their offspring. We pray that they always learn the ways of Your wisdom, the pleasantness of Your path, and all the peace that You give.

Father, as we close this prayer, we admit that we don't always know what to pray for on his behalf, but You know his hopes and dreams, his needs and his desires. So we ask that You intercede with the power of Your Holy Spirit, translating this prayer into the words that I can't express.

Now God, I thank You in advance for filling in the gaps of this prayer. We pray it in the name of Jesus the Christ, and coiunt it as already done. Thank You, God, and we say Amen.

P. Cross

A New DEAL Diabetes Program

*Defeating Diabetes Through Education,
Awareness, and Leadership*



Walking Group



Join us as we walk our way to wellness!

A New DEAL team members will be gathering three days each month for approximately 60 minutes.

Sessions are **FREE!!**

When: The first Wednesday of every month from 12pm-1pm

December 2nd, January 6th, February 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th, March 4th, June 8th

Where: Florida Department of Health, Duval County, 900 University Blvd N, Jacksonville, FL 32211

When: The second Saturday of every month from 9am-10am

December 12th, January 9th, February 13th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th

Where: Legends Community Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32208

When: The third Thursday of every month from 11am-12pm

December 17th, January 21st, February 18th, March 17th, April 21st, May 19th, June 16th

Where: Legends Community Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32208

Florida Department of Health, Duval County
Nutrition and Chronic Disease Prevention
900 University Blvd N,
Jacksonville, FL 32211
PHONE: 904-253-1800
FAX: 904-253-2450



www.FloridasHealth.com
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YOUTUBE: fldoh



Reverend S.A. Thomas, Jr.

Rev. Saint Ambrose Thomas. Jr., was called on June 3, 1962 to serve as the eleventh Pastor of Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Dedicated and working alongside Rev. Thomas was his wife, Sis. Hattie Thomas, both working together as faithful servants of God and faithful members of Mt. Bethel. Sis. Hattie Thomas passed after an extended illness, after which Rev. Thomas married Sis. Betty Clark. Sis. Betty Thomas affectionately cared for him until he passed in 1995 after 32 ½ years of service to this great church.

Pastor and Sis. Thomas (having no children of their own) poured many blessings into the children of Mt. Bethel. Each summer children year ages 6-18 years old were given the opportunity to travel to Florida Memorial College in Miami to the Baptist Youth Summer Camp. Sis. Thomas always made sure there was an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and she coordinated Vacation Bible School each summer. Pastor Thomas was a well known professional Chef in Jacksonville, and shared his gift with the church through preparing breakfasts for fundraising endeavors.

God gave Pastor Thomas a vision to build a new sanctuary in the late 1960's and this vision was realized on September 17, 1978. On that day in time, all the members of this great church along with supporting pastors and friends marched as one body in Christ from the old sanctuary into the new edifice debt free. On February 28, 1993, the old sanctuary was renovated and dedicated as the B. W. Williams Education Building.

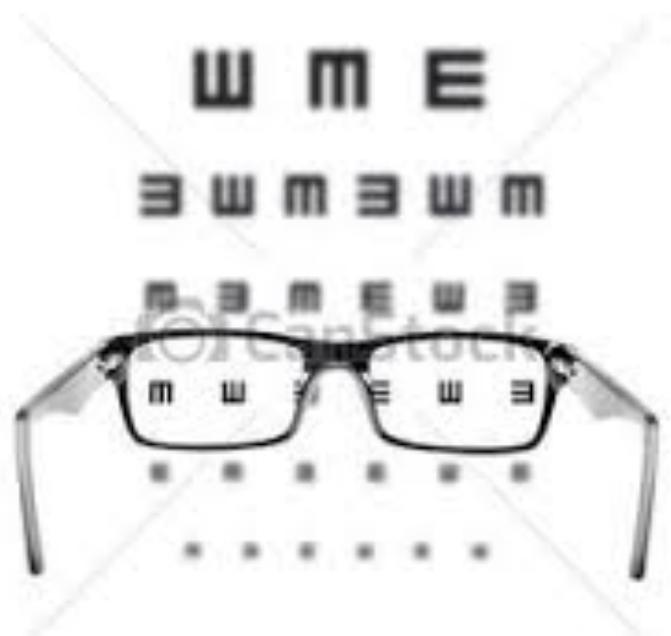
Rev. Thomas ordained into the ministry Walter H. Rosier Sr., Samuel Foster Jr., Jan Goodman Sr., and James Harvey. He also licensed Robert E. Telfair, Donnie Pierce, Steven P. Bellamy and Wilbur Bellamy, Jr. In addition, Rev. Thomas ordained twenty six deacons and accepted over 1000 soul to discipleship.

Looking back as I write this, Pastor and Sis. Hattie Thomas were both quiet individuals but had a profound presence when they entered a room or spoke.

M Taylor

Never Lose Sight Of The Promise

At some point in our lives we will endure some form of suffering whether it is sickness, death or trials and tribulations. During these dismal times in our lives we should not lose sight of God's promise. God promises to help us through our situations so we can see the light inside the darkness. Losing sight of this promise means you lose faith in God and James 2:26 states "for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead." When you are experiencing heartache, hardships and hurt, reflect on God's words, think about how He works in our lives, and let your faith, not your feelings, carry you. "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." (Hebrews 12:1-2)



T. Robinson

STRONG WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Throughout the Bible there are numerous strong women. Some are spoken of regularly, others we may not know. Here are three holy women whose selfless actions elevated them as strong women.

1 Samuel 1- Hannah was barren and she wanted a son. She begged the Lord and in return she promised to dedicate this child to His service. After her son was born, she took the child to Eli the priest and left him. Samuel was raised in the temple and later became one of the most influential and Godly men in the Bible. Hannah kept her promise to the Lord.

1 Samuel 25 – Abigail was married to a wicked, self-centered man name Nabal. David sent servants to Nabal asking him to show hospitality to him (David) and the servants. Nabal's response was that David was lazy and presumptuous. David was traveling after the burial of Samuel and was angered by Nabal's actions. David prepared his men to fight, but Abigail heard what happened, so she loaded up a feast and went to meet David along the way. Her actions calmed David and spared her family from death. So shocked by his wife's actions and learning his entire household could have been destroyed, Nabal's heart died within him and he became as stone. He died 10 days later. When David learned of his death, he sent for Abigail and she became his wife. David saw in her virtue, honesty and the desire to protect her family.

Esther 1 – Esther was a Jewish woman who was selected by King Ahasuerus to be his wife. He chose her after banishing his former wife, but didn't know Esther was a Jew. Haman (the king's right hand man) devised a plan to kill all Jews. Mordecai (Esther's uncle) found out the plan and shared the news with Esther. Knowing she could not just appear before the king if he had not called for her (It could mean death), Mordecai convinced Esther that her position was her purpose from God. Esther devised a way to tell the king of Haman's plan by inviting them both to her home for a meal. Haman grew ever more angry with Mordecai and the Jews, but when the king learned of Haman's plan, he had him hung on the gallows that he had built for Mordecai. Esther was a strong woman who saved her family and stayed in the king's favor.

L. Taylor

ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVE

... Andy Rooney

I've learned... That the best classroom is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned... That when you're in love it shows.

I've learned... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help them some other way.

I've learned... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, we all need a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned... That life is like a roll of toilet tissue. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned... That we should be glad God doesn't gie us everything we ask for.

I've learned... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned... That to ignore the facts does not change them.

I've learned... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occur while you're climbing it.

I've learned... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

P. Cross

MT BETHEL'S BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

Mt. Bethel Celebrates her Own

Third Sunday at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church this past month was awesome, for the church paid tribute to some very special Men of God.

First, the Male Chorus found it not robbery when they announced that from this day forward the Male Chorus will be recognized as the R.E. Herring, Sr. Male Chorus. Dea. Cherry and Bro. Bell presented a plaque to Pastor Herring in the form of an Proclamation before the church. Pastor stated that he was humbled by this honor and gave God all the Glory and Praise.

Next, the Academic Education Ministry (AEM) came before the congregation to honor the Men of God who served as shepard at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. The congregation was reminded that for the past ninety years the church has only known three pastors, Rev. BW Williams, Rev. SA Thomas, Rev. Dr. RE Herring, Sr. Each of them had a short bio read that outlined their years of service, achievements, and major milestones met during their tenures.

The presentation was concluded with the congregation rising and singing the Negro National Anthem.

J. Scott III





Easter Word Search

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ANGELS
 APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BLOOD
 CALVARY
 CROSS
 CROWN OF THORNS
 CRUCIFIXION
 DARKNESS
 DEATH
 EARTHQUAKE
 EASTER
 GOLGOTHA
 HIGH PRIEST
 JESUS CHRIST
 JOSEPH
 JUDAS ISCARIOT
 KING
 LAMB

MARY
 NAILS
 PASSOVER
 PIECES OF SILVER
 PIERCED
 PILATE
 RESURRECTION
 ROBE
 ROMANS
 SACRIFICE
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 SOLDIERS
 SON OF GOD
 SPEAR
 STONE
 TEMPLE
 THIEVES
 THREE DAYS
 TOMB

THE STRANGER

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, It will be because we destroyed ourselves" **Abraham Lincoln!**

We have become a world of GADGETS! Some of Our children are losing their NATURAL ABILITY TO THINK or they are not being taught/shown HOW to think for them selves!! Be careful "What you don't use you LOSE"!

The Stranger

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on.

As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche. My parents were complementary instructors: Mom taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, Mom would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home - not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush.

My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing..

I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... And NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' den today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?...We just call him 'TV.' (Note: This should be required reading for every household!) He has a wife now....we call her 'Computer.' Their first child is 'Cell Phone.' Second child, 'I Pod.'
And JUST BORN THIS YEAR WAS a Grandchild: 'IPAD.' OH, MY----HOW TRUE THIS IS!!!

W Cherry

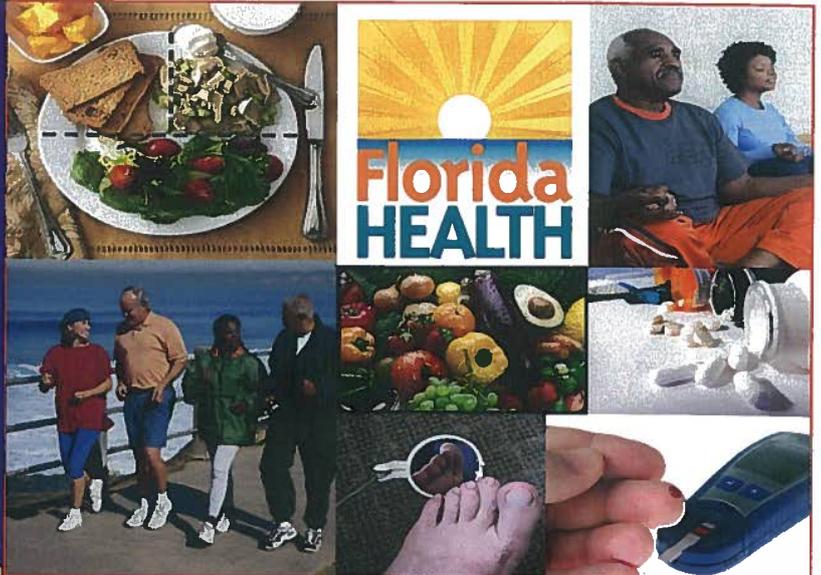
SOMETHING WITHIN

My family has a history of poor blood circulation, mainly in our legs. A few months ago I expressed to my primary doctor my concern that wounds had developed on both my legs and they were not improving. She referred me to a wound care specialist. The doctor examined my legs, took x-rays, and began a treatment plan that lasted for several months. Between visits, I was responsible for cleaning and dressing these wounds every other day. Pleased with the apparent healing that had taken place, I went for my weekly visit. What I thought was healing skin turned out to be only dead skin that had to be removed – this is called debriding. They scraped away all of the dead tissue to allow the healing to take place from the inside out. Had they allowed that tissue to remain, the wound would still be there but covered with a thin scab that made it look healed.

This can happen to us in our daily walk with God. We think an issue has been healed, but any little thing can remove that scab and open up that wound again. Unresolved issues need to be acknowledged and dealt with. If not, they can fester and poison. What do we do? We learn to work out our problems from the inside out rather than from the outside in. We take our burdens to the Lord and leave them there, and we stop picking them up again and again and again. "Something on the inside, working on the outside, O what a change in my life." So, as we continue into this new year, let our resolution be "Let Go, Let God."

Managing Life with Diabetes

Diabetes Self-Management Education (DSME) Workshop



This year, give yourself the gift of health! Come learn how to better control your diabetes and eat healthy but tasty!

When: Saturday
March 12, 2016
8:30 am to 4:30 pm



YOU MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND

DEAP
DIABETES EDUCATION ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

AADE American Association of Diabetes Educators

Seating Limited!

PLEASE CALL 904-253-1800



Raffle Prizes
Gift Bags
Breakfast and Lunch

WORKSHOP LOCATION:
To Be Determined



March 2016

- Dea. Randall Rodgers, Jr. 3-01
- Sis. Natasha Johnson 3-01
- Sis. Shaneika Wilson 3-02
- Sis. Danyelle Jones 3-03
- Sis. Carolyn Gamble 3-04
- Sis. Shelia Benton 3-05
- Bro. Romero A. Lee 3-06
- Sis. Mildred Dunbar 3-06
- Bro. Calvin Sinclair 3-06
- Dea. Jerome Haynes 3-08
- Sis. Tewannah Prince 3-08
- Sis. Gail Bennett 3-08
- Sis. Rosa Toussaint 3-09
- Bro. Marquis Johnson 3-09
- Sis. Yola Williams 3-10
- Sis. Luv Mobley 3-10
- Bro. Carl Blissitt 3-10
- Min. Harriett Fields 3-11
- Bro. Paul Jones 3-11
- Sis. Keyanna Gollman 3-12
- Sis. Sharita Rosemond 3-13
- Sis. Eriterea I. Thomas 3-13
- Sis. Janice Horne 3-13
- Sis. Charlotte Burrows 3-14
- Sis. Sabrina Williams 3-14
- Mo. Bennie R. King 3-15
- Bro. Gregory Jackson 3-16
- Sis. Chelsey Brown 3-18
- Sis. Iris R. Davis 3-19
- Bro. Kerry Robinson 3-19
- Dea. John Scott III 3-20
- Sis. Rachel Herring 3-22
- Bro. Antonio Thomas 3-22
- Sis. Ebony Jarrell 3-23
- Sis. Lynda Anderson 3-24
- Bro. Wallace Mitchell 3-24
- Sis. Paige Wiggins 3-25
- Bro. Robert Webb 3-26
- Mr. Louis Wright Jr 3-26
- Sis. Annie Turner 3-27
- Bro. Timothy Grant 3-27
- Min. Dorothy A Wright 3-27
- Dea. Richard Eady 3-27
- Bro. Anthony Garner 3-28
- Sis. Trijuana Rosier 3-28
- Sis. Tammi Jenkins 3-28

- Sis. Gloria Hubbard 3-28
- Dr. Robert E. Herring, Sr. 3-29
- Sis. Tiffany Salles 3-29
- Sis. Hope Moultrie 3-29
- Sis. Gwendolyn Corley 3-30
- Sis. Linda Jasmine Newson 3-30
- Sis. Kateashea Skinner 3-31



March 2016

- Henry & Mattie Dickens Brown 3-13
- Bernard & Rita Hall 3-17
- Bruce and Padricka Griffin 3-18
- Joe & Mattie Merritt 3-19
- Louis & Dorothy Wright Sr 3-21
- Louis and Robin Colvin 3-23
- Cornelius & Elouis Randall 3-24
- Andre & Bonita McBride 3-24
- Rodney & Shante McFadden 3-26

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOCUS

March 2016

THE GIFT OF FAITH

UNIT I: Tests of Faith

March 6th Powerful Faith

Mark 9:14-29

March 13th Simple Faith

Mark 10:17-31

March 20th Struggling Faith

Mark 14:26-31, 66-72

March 27th Resurrection Faith

(Easter)

Mark 16:1-8



MT. BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 2016

Emphasis: The Force of Faith-Past, Present and Future

Mark 11:22, Romans 4:13-16, Corinthians 4:13

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 150th Anniversary Celebration 1866-2016 Coming June 2016 | | 1 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study | 2 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30A Sunday School New Members Class 11A Morning Worship | 7 7:00P Empowered Brethren | 8 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study | 9 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir | 10 7:00P Male Chorus | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School New Members Class 11A Morning Worship Missionary Sunday 5P BTU Training Daylight Saving Time | 14 | 15 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study | 16 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir | 17 7:00P Male Chorus | 18 7:00P Men Conference | 19 Men Conference 8:00A Breakfast 9:00A Conference Begin 10A FGBC Congress of Christian Education Oratorical Contest |
| 20 8A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School New Members Class 11A Morning Worship Men Conference | 21 6:30P BTU Training | 22 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study | 23 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir | 24 | 25  | 26 9:A Deaconess Ministry |
| 27 8A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School New Members Class 11A Morning Worship  | 28 6:30P Trustee Ministry 6:30P Missionary Society 7:30P Deacons | 29 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study | 30 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir | 31 | Notes: | |