



# THE TRYLON

SIERRA MADRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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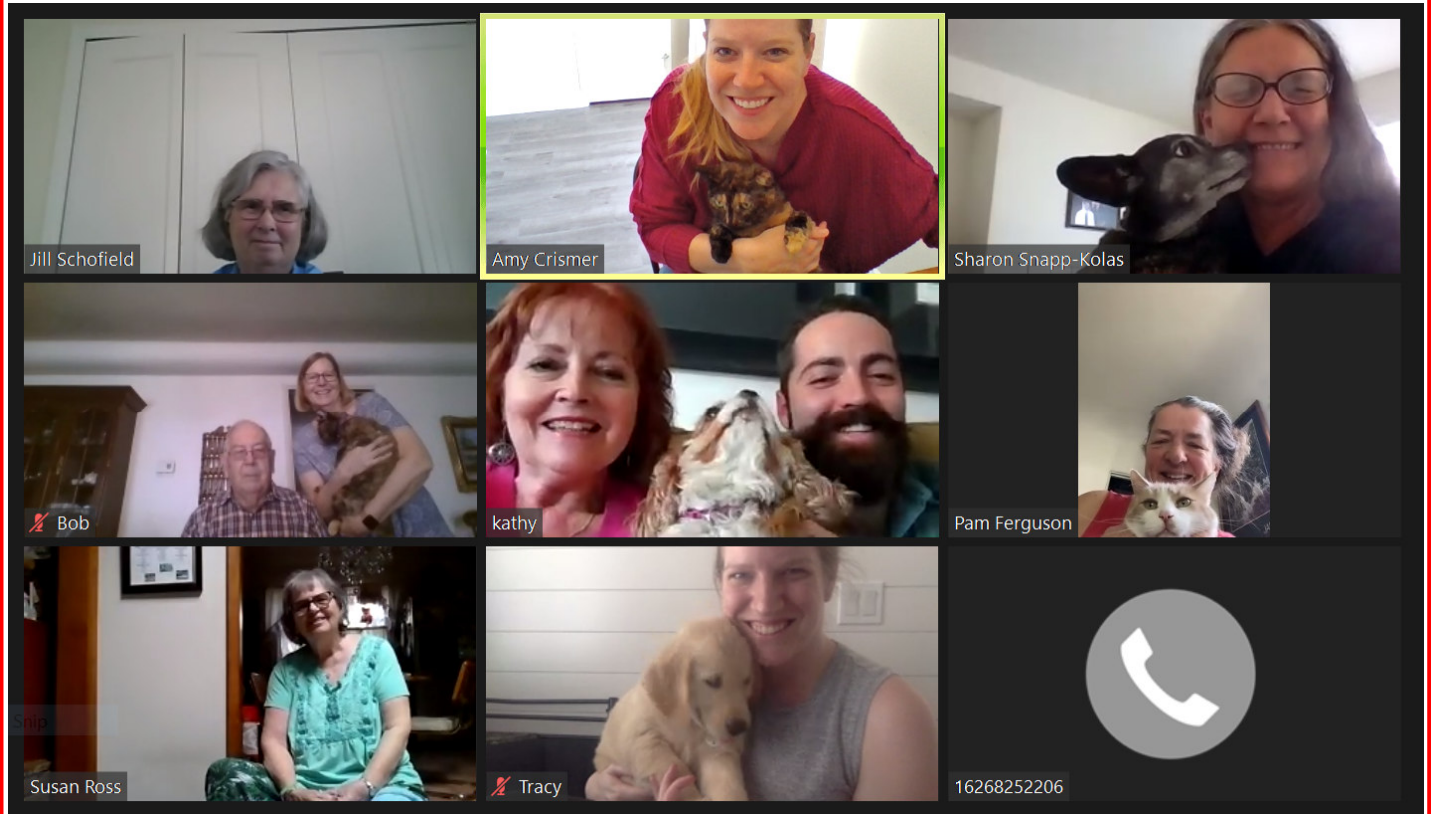
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## NOVEMBER 2020

### Blessing of the Animals 2020



AND WE HAVE SOME MORE PICTURES!

Go to Page Nine for additional photographs.

## **from Pastor Sharon**

*“Recently, hurricanes have destroyed thousands of homes and countless possessions in my state – North Carolina – and fires in California have ravaged thousands more. Natural disasters do not differentiate between good, faithful people and those who do not have faith in God. But those who trust in God’s loving-kindness have a perspective of hope.”*

*-- Elizabeth Canham, The Upper Room Disciplines, October 28, 2020 --*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Hallelujah! Charge Conference is over!

Thank you to all our church leaders who did reports – and are still doing follow-up and end-of-year reports. Special thanks to Pam Ferguson, church secretary/ administrative assistant, who did a number of the reports, put the booklet together in online and hard copy formats, and took minutes at the meeting. This to name only a few of the many ways Pam contributed to this yearly conference with the District Superintendent. Thank you, Pam, for all you do.

Now on to holidays in the year of COVID...

One of my favorite spiritual gurus, Diana Butler Bass, recently wrote:

“With the elections approaching here in the United States, fears of violence in upcoming weeks, COVID cases rising and a “dark winter” threatening, there is so much anxiety and uncertainty in these difficult days. The stress has been overwhelming for many...

“One of the practices that helps me is reading the Bible...

“But many of us don’t quite know how to approach the Bible. I want to share one of the ways I read scripture — something that is easy, accessible, and... meaningful.

“Every Sunday, millions of Christians – Protestant and Catholic – read and preach in their churches from a shared schedule of biblical texts. Although following a yearly reading calendar (called a “lectionary”) is ancient, the contemporary lectionary is a three-year cycle of stories from the Old and New Testaments. The current readings have remained largely unchanged for more than thirty years. Since the texts were organized decades ago, they don’t follow a pastor’s preferences or issues in the news. There’s a kind of timeless consistency to them.

“Each week, sometime in advance of the weekend, I read the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday...”

-- excerpt from, “The Cottage,” Diana Butler Bass, October 24, 2020.

It’s amazing how the lectionary readings, with their “timeless consistency,” so often speak to whatever joys, sorrows, triumphs and challenges we may be facing in a particular week.

Each month the lectionary readings are included in the Trylon.

If you are looking for a tether to weather the storms of these times, you are invited:

1. to read the monthly lectionary readings. Each week there is an Old Testament, a Gospel, an Epistle and a Psalm. Take a look at the November lectionary readings in this edition of the Trylon.
2. to hear or read the weekly sermon: a) by attending Zoom worship at 9:30am on Sundays, b) by listening to the sermon video on the church's website, or c) by reading the manuscript of the sermon, which is emailed each week. Contact Pam in the church office for more info.
3. to attend Zoom Bible study at 3:00pm on Tuesdays. The study is based on the sermon and the scripture from the previous Sunday. (A Wednesday evening topical study group, 7:00pm, is also open to all; on Zoom).

No one is alone this holiday season. No one is alone in this extended COVID season. We are here for each other. And God is present with us.

Reading scripture is one tried and true practice for reminding ourselves that God is here; God is with us.

*Oddly enough, in the last four years of political turmoil, I've found the Bible to be more powerful, more comforting, more relevant, and wiser than at any other time in my life*

*-- Diana Butler Bass --*

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sharon

[sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com)

661-810-3953, cell

### **November Lectionary Readings:**

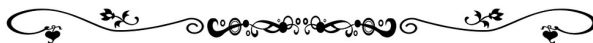
November 1 Rev. 7: 9-17; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matt. 5: 1-12  
November 8 Josh. 24: 1-3a;14-25; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18; Matt. 25: 1-13  
November 15 Judg. 4: 1-7; 1 Thess. 5: 1-11; Matt. 25: 14-30  
November 22 Ezek. 34: 11-16, 20-24; Eph. 1: 15-23; Matt. 25: 31-46  
November 29 Isa. 64: 1-9; 1 Cor. 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

### **November Psalms:**

November 1 Psalm 34: 1-10, 22  
November 8 Psalm 78: 1-7  
November 15 Psalm 123  
November 22 Psalm 100  
November 29 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

**Pastor Sharon's sermon titles and worship themes for November**  
**(9:30am Sunday unless otherwise indicated)**

November 1	22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – <i>Communion Service</i> All Saints Day <i>“Blessed”</i>
November 8	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <i>“Preparing and Anticipating”</i>
November 15	24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost <i>“Risking Everything”</i>
November 22	Christ the King Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday Commitment Sunday <i>“Seeing Jesus in Other Folks’ Faces”</i>
November 29	First Sunday of Advent <i>“Being Awake to God”</i>



**Special Offerings**

**UM Student Day, November 29:**

United Methodist Student Day furnishes scholarships and loans for students attending United Methodist-related and other accredited colleges and universities.

To give a special offering, make checks payable to SMUMC, and write “UM Student Day” in the memo line and on your offering envelope.

Pledges and special offerings can be mailed to or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for your continued support of your church’s ministry in the community and throughout the world.





## **ZOOM Studies and Small Groups**

November / December 2020

Tuesday afternoon Bible Study, 3:00pm  
Wednesday evening Faith Issues, 7:00pm

**Tuesday afternoon Bible Study** – The conversation in this group centers on encouraging one another in how to grow in our relationship with Christ. How can we apply the scriptures and the sermon to our daily lives in meaningful ways? We discuss questions from a Bible study handout that is emailed each week, on the theme of the previous Sunday's Bible passage. Come join the lively dialogue.

If you would like to be added to the study email/snail mail list, we would be happy to do so; simply contact the church office and Pam will cheerfully assist you.

**Wednesday evening Faith Issues** – the topics vary in this lively small group discussion. We are wrapping up a 5-week study of Adam Hamilton's Unafraid. Join the group for either or both of the last two sessions: Nov. 4, "Apocalypse, Change, Missing Out, and Finances," and Nov. 11, "Aging, Illness, Dying, and Fear of the Lord."

See also the article on the following page about The Book of Joy – an upcoming Advent study based on conversations between the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Newcomers always warmly welcomed. To begin November 18.

## **WHO ARE WE? -- update**

"Past, Present, Future; Passion, Need, Action"

Homework sucks! 😊

Just ask our church leaders who have recently been writing reports for our yearly Charge Conference. Whew! Glad that homework is done for another year! Thank you to D. S. Melissa for making it fun, with funny hats and "most Methodist" possessions and pets' names entered into the minutes.

Once again, a heartfelt "thank you!" to those who have already sent in responses to the "Who Are We?" article from previous Trylons.

You may continue to send responses to the church office by email or snail mail, or directly to me at [sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.snappkolas@gmail.com).

We will be planning a conversational Zoom gathering for sometime in 2021 to encourage more telling of Past-Present-Future stories, and more Passion-Need-Action hopes and dreams.

Thank you for participating in this SMUMC storytelling project.

# Advent Study

## The Book of Joy *Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama  
and Archbishop Desmond Tutu**  
with Douglas Abrams

“In April 2015, Archbishop Desmond Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama’s home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness’s eightieth birthday and to create what they hope would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life’s inevitable suffering?” – excerpt from book jacket

*“The ultimate source of happiness is within us.” – His Holiness the Dalai Lama*

*“We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested.” – Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

**When:** a 4-week small group study; Wednesdays - Nov. 18; Dec. 2, 9, 16

**What time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** on ZOOM, usual worship log-ins (*see page 11*)

**Who:** You. And a friend or two. Newcomers always warmly welcomed.

**What:**

1. Invitation/Introduction/Arrival  
Day 1: The Nature of True Joy
2. Days 2 & 3: The Obstacles to Joy
3. Days 4 & 5: The Eight Pillars of Joy  
Pillars 1-4: Perspective, Humility, Humor & Acceptance
4. Days 4 & 5: The Eight Pillars of Joy  
Pillars 5-8: Forgiveness, Gratitude, Compassion & Generosity

The study includes “joy practices” suggested by these two spiritual giants – the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Tutu – to help us in learning to find the joy that is available to us all.

**Do I need a book?:** No. You can join the conversation without having the book.

**What if I want a book?** If you would like to have your own copy of The Book of Joy, you may either order it yourself online from Cokesbury.com or the seller of your choice; or you may order a book through the church office; cost is \$23.49; checks made out to SMUMC. Please let Pastor Sharon know if cost is an issue for you; we want everyone to have a book who wants one.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Charmaine Robledo

Email: [crobledo@mtnskyumc.org](mailto:crobledo@mtnskyumc.org)

Phone: 303-325-7054

## **‘Where Love Lives, Creating a Fully Inclusive United Methodist Church’; Western Jurisdiction Beginning Year-long Campaign**

Campaign Encourages Congregational Engagement, Conversation

DENVER, Colo. (Oct. 7, 2020) – The Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church is beginning preparations for the next General Conference by recommitting itself to be a faithful, inviting, open, safe and loving place for all people.

As The United Methodist Church awaits a delayed decision on the proposed Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation, “Where Love Lives” is a nearly year-long campaign centering on the faith values that have undergirded the jurisdiction’s long-term commitment to a scripturally based fully inclusive ministry. It advocates approval of the Protocol by the General Conference.

“The Western Jurisdiction is committed to living out our belief that God’s church is open to all,” said Bishop Karen Oliveto, president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops. “The Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation offers a way forward to begin easing the five decades of pain created by the wounds inflicted on LGBTQ persons by the church.”

“Your home – our home – remains open,” the Jurisdiction declares. “The United Methodist Church is and will be safe, secure, open, and built on faith in God, trust in one another, and with love for all in all we do.”

Bishop Oliveto said the idea for the campaign came from conversations within the Western Jurisdiction leadership focused on the great divisions the church and nations around the world are experiencing. “We wanted to make sure there is an alternative vision for people to embrace, a vision that comes out of love that informs our actions as Christians.” She said.

The campaign comes in the midst of global uncertainty – heightened by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic – over the future of the denomination. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 General Conference, where the Protocol had been scheduled to be considered, was postponed and rescheduled for Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021 in Minneapolis, Minn.

“As we await the... General Conference and Protocol vote, let us recommit ourselves to creating, protecting, and sustaining a United Methodist Church that welcomes all, in Christ,” The jurisdiction said. Since 1982, two years before the denomination officially barred the practice, the Western Jurisdiction has ordained and assigned LGBTQ persons to be pastors. In 2016, the jurisdiction elected the denomination’s first openly lesbian bishop. And in 2019, the Jurisdiction committed itself to be a safe harbor for LGBTQ+ clergy from across the denomination.

*(Continued from Page Seven)*

The Protocol awaiting action in the postponed General Conference offers a path forward through the nearly 50-year-old dispute over the role of LGBTQ+ people in The United Methodist Church. Simply put, it would create a reshaped United Methodist denomination where LGBTQ+ persons could be ordained as pastors and churches could hold same sex weddings, while simultaneously allowing opponents of LGBTQ+ inclusion to leave and form a new, more conservative denomination. Those persons would retain their former United Methodist pension benefits and congregations would be able to keep their buildings to be part of the new denomination.

In addition to promoting the Protocol, Bishop Oliveto said, the campaign will create opportunities for United Methodists across the Jurisdiction to engage in conversation about what its adoption could mean for local congregations and their pastors. These could be gatherings in homes, Sunday School classes, other small group settings, and all church meetings.

Monthly themes from October through the convening of the postponed General Conference in 2021, will focus conversation and discussion on topics related to the Jurisdiction's commitment to inclusion, scriptural faithfulness, and the theological teachings of John Wesley, the denomination's founder.

Here are the opening themes of the campaign:

- Oct. 2020 – Strongly committed to radical inclusion of all people.
- Nov. 2020 – We will always keep scripture primary.
- Dec. 2020 – Grounded in social action.
- Jan. 2021 – We will ordain and consecrate LGBTQ+ people.

These themes, Western Jurisdiction leaders believe, build on the progress made across their jurisdiction over the past dozen years, and could provide a solid foundation for other conferences across the church after the completion of the postponed General Conference. It keeps the historic United Methodist name, and focuses on its commitment to Wesley's teachings on piety and social holiness.

This is planned as a multi-faceted campaign. It can be adapted for use in annual (regional) conferences and local congregations. The range of tools that can be created for the campaign include blogs, e-mail posts, Zoom calls, congregation-wide events, locally-generated articles on the importance of being an inclusive church, newsletter posts, prayers, short videos, calls to action, and the utilization of social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

About the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church: The Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church encompasses the eight westernmost regional conferences of the United States, including United Methodist churches in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Guam, and other territory in the Pacific region. The president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops for 2020-2023 is Denver-based Bishop Karen Oliveto of the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church, the region covering Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and a small portion of Idaho.



## More Blessed Animals!



From **Dee Suzuki**, this tortoise is **'Tank'** at left, at right are the little tanklets – his kids **'Frodo'**, **'Taz'** and **'TLC'**. I cannot tell you which is which!

Also from **Dee**, at left is her daughter **Dawn's** dog **'Gerald'**, at right is daughter **Diane's** guinea pig **'Eddie'**

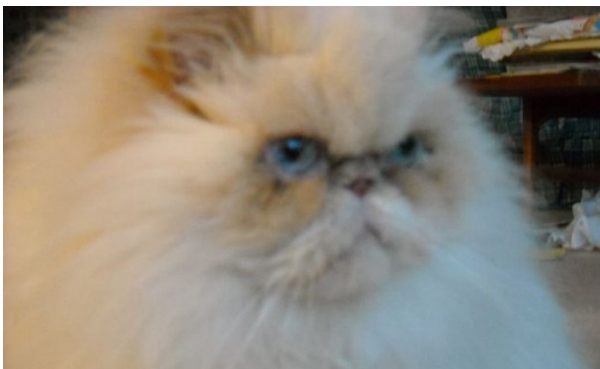


*(More – Next Page)*





At left,  
from **Sally Follett** –  
**'Muffin the Cat Queen'**



At left top, **'Percy'** and bottom, **'Gypsy'**  
belonging to my niece **Carol Eifert** but  
residing in the home of my sister **Wendy  
Miller**. Above, **Gypsy** the unhappy cone  
kitty, as you may better recognize her from our  
Sunday Zoom Worship!





## STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2020

November 22, Commitment Sunday

### *“More Than Enough”*

*“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

*2 Corinthians 9: 8*



### SMUMC MEETING ACCESS INFO:

#### **Option 1 – Phone**

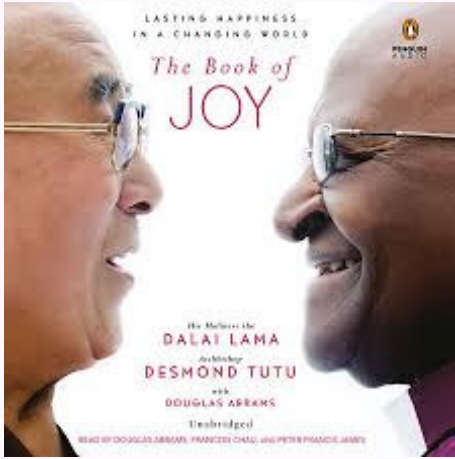
Dial **1 669 900 9128**. When prompted put in the meeting ID: **612 742 4604** followed by **#**

#### **OR**

For smart phones click on the following for One-Tap Mobile phone access **+16699009128,,6127424604#** (You may need to type the # at the end when prompted)

#### **Option 2 – Video**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6127424604?pwd=S3NHT3VUcWN0UWlnamNqeWRTVEVYUT09> Meeting ID: 612 742 4604 **Passcode: 695**



## Advent Study

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Beginning November 18<sup>th</sup>,  
through December 16<sup>th</sup>  
(excluding November 25<sup>th</sup>)



## SARAH CIRCLE

Meetings every  
Fourth Friday of the  
month

Connie Wortham's  
House

## GARD CREATION

meetings will be  
announced. Call  
Connie Wortham if  
you want to meet  
her individually to  
make cards.  
(626) 351-9260



- 7 Diane Searls
- 18 Diane Suzuki
- 20 Stephanie Lan
- 27 Joy Basinger
- 29 Sean Peterson



- 11 Paulianne and John  
Werthwein



The Church  
Office is open  
Monday through  
Friday from 9 am  
to 1 pm. You  
can also contact  
us at our email  
addresses:

[sm\\_umc@verizon.net](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net)  
[sierramadreumc@gmail.com](mailto:sierramadreumc@gmail.com)

Office Telephone:  
(626) 355-0629



**Sierra Madre  
United Methodist Church  
695 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard  
Sierra Madre, California 91024**



**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
And his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.”      Psalm 100: 4**



# November

## Sierra Madre United Methodist Church

695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

(626) 355-0629 \* E-mail: [sm\\_umc@verizon.net](mailto:sm_umc@verizon.net) \* [www.smumc.net](http://www.smumc.net) \* Follow us on TWITTER.com @SierraMadreUMC

2020

SUNDAY

MONDAY



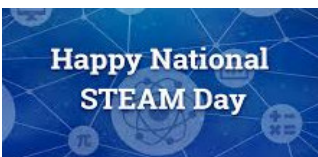








TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

<p><b>1</b> 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ALL SAINTS DAY 9:30 a.m. – Zoom Worship 10:00 a.m. – Board of Trustees **</p> <p>2:00 a.m. SET CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>ZOOM VIDEO SERIES 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Hug a Bear Day</p>
<p><b>8</b> 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. – Zoom Worship *</p>  <p>Happy National STEAM Day</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>  <p>TODAY IS WORLD FREEDOM DAY</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>  <p>VETERANS DAY REMEMBER ALL WHO SERVED</p> <p>ZOOM VIDEO SERIES 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>  <p>WORLD KINDNESS DAY</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b> 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 a.m. – Zoom Worship *</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Finance Committee SHCR **</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>ZOOM ADVENT STUDY 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>  <p>universal children's day</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> Christ the King Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday Commitment Sunday 9:30 a.m. – Zoom Worship *</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>  <p>National eat a cranberry day</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 3:00 p.m.</p> <p>Card Creation ** Connie Wortham's house</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>THANKSGIVING</p>	<p><b>27</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>BLACK FRIDAY</p> <p>SARAH CIRCLE ** Connie Wortham's house</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>  <p>SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY</p>
<p><b>29</b> First Sunday of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Zoom Worship *</p> <p>SPECIAL SUNDAY United Methodist Student Day</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>#GIVING TUESDAY™</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>* Worship by teleconferencing / video conferencing. Limited opening of Sanctuary to be announced.</p>	<p><b>3</b> ** All meetings to be verified</p>	<p><b>Abbreviations</b></p> <p>LL = Library Lounge SH = Sierra House SHCR = Sierra House Conference Room HH = Hartzell Fellowship Hall WC = Wesley Chapel</p>	