



Elktion United Methodist Church

The Beacon



From the Pastor

Rev. Karen Bunnell, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated our Joy of Faith weekend, and I don't think I'll ever forget entertainer Aaron Wilburn's words about our church. He was so complimentary. but the words that will really stay with me was when he said that we didn't need him to bring joy to our church, we already have it here! He felt it the whole time he was here – that we are a people of joy – that we love each other and we love the Lord!

He's absolutely right. We do love the Lord, and we do love each other, which is something I want us to think about as we journey through Lent together. For Lent is a time of prayer and discernment, a time to consider the state of our souls, a time to consider our relationship with the Lord. It is a serious, contemplative time, but the journey will be richer by far because we undertake it with our Elktion UMC brothers and sisters by our side. It might be their words in one of the daily devotions that moves us, or it might be their prayers by our side that sustain us, or it might be their talking with us in a Sunday School class or short-term study that makes us stronger.

So as all of us journey through Lent, may we lean on each other for joy and for strength, so that, though the journey might be hard, we will come out on the other side stronger, and rejoicing in the good news of Easter. May you have a holy and meaningful Lent!

March 2017

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A Quick Glance At Dates

March 1

Ash Wednesday Service

March 8

Youth Fundraiser at Nino's

March 11

Daylight Saving Time begins

March 15

UMW's Annual Thiokol Dinner Fundrasier

March 17

Classic Christians' Meeting

March 24

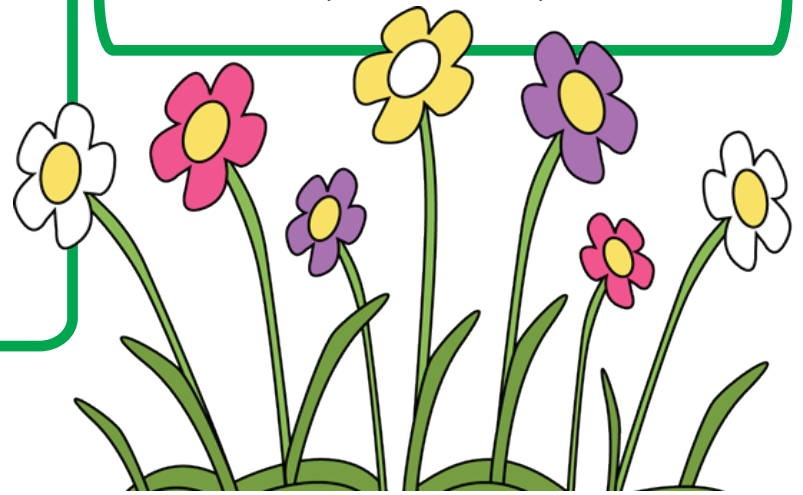
Game Night

March 26

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

March 28

Cecil County Choral Society Concert



Missions News

Submitted by Joe Tanner, Chair

Jesus said: “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples”

With spring approaching, EUMC missions are beginning to swing into high gear. March 6th through March 12th is our second week to serve at the Homeless Shelter. On April 22nd our walking team will walk in the Delaware Brain Tumor Walk to support brain tumor research, and on April 23rd we will hold our 4th Blood Drive in Weldin Hall. Also in April, we will have clean up and repair of the EUMC cabin at Camp Pecometh, and our Christmas in April team will work on another project in our community. Coming up later in the year are three travel missions that are in the planning stages: our annual trip to Kentucky, a possible mission to southern West Virginia to help repair damage done by last summer’s flooding, and a mission trip to Costa Rica in early August. We will be conducting a number of fundraisers to help provide financial support for these missions, and we hope we can count on your support. We have several other missions under consideration that I will report on in later articles.

Missions Finances:

Year to date at the end of December – Missions income was \$51,889 which was \$669 less than last year.

Mission expenses year to date at the end of December were \$44,165 which were \$7989 less than last year.

Did you know??

On Communion Sundays, nonperishable foods are collected for the Help Center. Donations can be placed in the Help Center collection box in the Welcome Center. The Ruth and Sarah Circle did an extraordinary job of collecting hats, mittens, etc., for the Help Center at Christmas time. Let’s keep up the good work for this exceptional organization that helps so many of our neighbors.

Program Alert!

The “Labels for Education” program for Red Bird Mission is being discontinued. If you have been collecting these Campbell Soup product labels, please bring them in immediately so they can be sent to Red Bird. They have almost enough labels for a new van. Please place the labels in the container in the Hospitality Area.

The “Box Tops for Education” program will continue; more information will be available soon.



Evangelism/Membership News

Submitted by Lorraine Jones, Chair

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 – I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone that made our Joy of Faith weekend fantastic. It was a great weekend featuring Aaron Wilburn comedian and singer playing to a packed house Saturday night and again at both Sunday services. Not only is he a great performer but a genuine southern gentlemen. It was great to see so many come out to see him. A big thank you to everyone on the Evangelism and Membership committee, you made this work and I appreciate all of you. A special thank you to the hosts of the prayer breakfasts – Ina & Don Andrews, Mabel Gary & Margie Jacobs, Linda Rittenhouse, and Sue Johnson – with a record number of people attending, to Jamie and Gerry Treese (and friends) who provided the great dinner and, again, with a record number of people enjoying the dinner, to Rich Juergens and his band of techies and last, but not least, to Mike Schmook for being a wonderful emcee. I must also say thank you to our choir members for their help moving everything off the pulpit area and putting everything back together again. I hope I didn’t forget anything or anyone, if so, I’ll just say a special thank you for everyone that helped to make this Joy of Faith the huge success it was.

EDUCATION AND EVENTS

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it.” PROVERBS 22:6

Sunday School and Education Events

Submitted by Katie Sparks, Director of Children and Education Ministries

Game Night

Do you like to play board games or card games? Do you want to interact with other families? If you answered yes to either of these questions, then bring your favorite game and join us for game night! Game night will be March 24, 2017 from 6:30-8pm in Weldin Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you and your family there for a fun time!



Red Stockings

Thank you to all who brought in their red stocking to donate to the Board of Childcare. The children raised \$65 which will go toward helping children in need across the state of Maryland.



Easter Candy

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 9, 2017, which means we are in need of candy to go inside the Easter eggs. We will be collecting donations of wrapped candy starting Sunday, March 5, 2017. All donations can be placed in the box next to the welcome center. Thank you in advance on behalf of all the children who will enjoy the delicious candy!

Additional Announcements

The education department is looking for help planning future family events. If your family has an idea for a fun monthly event that they would like to plan, please see Katie Sparks so that we can make it happen!

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt and Luncheon- April 9, 2017 at 12 pm

Bowling- May 7, 2017 from 1-3 pm

Promotion Ceremony- June 11, 2017 at 9:45am

Vacation Bible School- June 25, 2017- June 29, 2017

Daylight Saving Time Begins in March!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11th, because Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday morning!



Youth News

Submitted by Sandy Wherry, Director of Youth Ministries

The youth group will be doing some short segments on "Life Lessons", things like those that we learned from our moms, grandmothers and school in preparation for them to leave the 'nest' whether to go off on their own after graduation or to college. Linda Rittenhouse was our first volunteer to teach them about handling their money (balancing a checkbook, knowing how to check to make sure their accounts balance, etc.). We want to offer: changing the oil in their cars, checking the tire pressure and changing a tire; painting; using basic tools; sewing on a button; hemming a pair of pants; mending a seam; cooking some basic things that are fast and nutritious; etc. If you have any of the above skills or any others that you remember needing, would you please seriously consider helping us and volunteer during a youth meeting after the 11 a.m. church service? Bill and I will be there to help, and we'll even serve you lunch.

We need parents to volunteer to prepare and set lunch up after the 11 a.m. service. Thank you Susan Johnson for preparing lunch for us on February 12th. Ideas for volunteers: sandwiches, subs, bring pizza, taco's, soup, etc. Thank you goes out to the Stewardship committee for the wonderful sundaes on the 12th as well! We don't think you left any topping choices out!

The youth will be holding a fund-raiser at Nino's in Elkton
all day on Wednesday, March 8th.

It will go to help cover out of pocket expenses for activities.

We hope you will join us! We thank you in advance.



Please check your phones on Wednesday evenings for your Sunday youth meeting notice. If you don't receive one, please text me @ 443-309-0160 to make sure we have your correct phone information. These notices go out to youth and parents. March meetings will be held on: March 5, 12, 19 and 26th.

The Prom Boutique is open on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8 p.m. and
Saturdays from 10 a.m. - noon until the third week of May.

We have some new volunteers but could always use more help, especially from
the youth of the church.



Confirmation

The confirmation students will be confirmed on Pentecost, Sunday, June 4th. Rev. Bunnell will be meeting with the confirmation class after the 11 a.m. church service on March 26th to talk with our confirmation students about Worship. Please make sure you are there; she does an excellent class on Worship.

One Great Hour of Sharing

On Sunday, March 26th, you'll have an opportunity to make an offering to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through the One Great Hour of Sharing. This annual giving opportunity serves to fund the work of UMCOR throughout the year, so that when disasters strike anywhere around the world, they're ready to spring into action and provide relief. Our church has historically been one of the top giving churches in our conference for this offering. In past years, we have given around \$13,000, so let's equal that this year, or even top it! It seems like every day there is something in the news about disasters – tornados, floods, earthquakes – and UMCOR responds to them all – so the need is great. Please give as generously as you can – it's the one time of year we give intentionally to UMCOR to fund their outreach ministry. You'll receive an UMCOR envelope in your bulletin on March 19th. During that week, pray about your giving, then make your check out to Elkton UMC, mark “UMCOR” on the memo line, and bring it with you to worship on the 26th. Thanks, in advance, for your support of this vital ministry!

Finance News

Submitted by Bill Ferringer, Chair

	JANUARY MONTH
Income	
General Ministry & Trustees	
Operational	46,110
Non-Operational	-
Total Income	46,110
Expenses	
General Ministry & Trustees	
Operational	37,537
Non-Operational	-
Total Expenses	37,537
Net Income/(Loss)	
General Ministry & Trustees	
Operational	8,573
Non-Operational	-
Net Income/(Loss)	8,573

Church Website

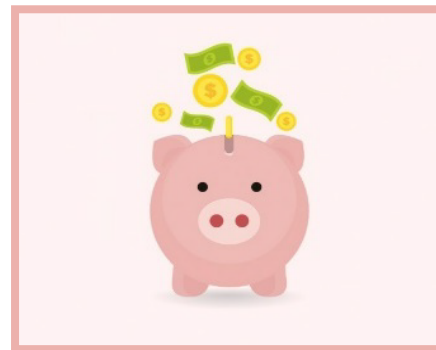
Don't forget to visit our church website – elktonumc.org. There you will find all sorts of information about our church, its ministries, and upcoming events. You can also go there to see the videos of each week's worship service, in case you have to miss a Sunday. Things change regularly on the site, so drop in there every once and a while!

UMW's Annual Thiokol Dinner fundraiser will be happening March 15th. We need cooks and servers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Faye Camors at 410-441-0994 or flyaway723@comcast.net.

New Members

We welcome the newest members into our church family!

Rebecca and Kent Gilliard
Teresa Grunert
Debbie and Tim Kain



Like us on Facebook

Music Ministries

Submitted by Sharon Williams

As I write this newsletter article, I am happy to say that the chancel choir has been busy rehearsing our cantata, "Hope in the Shadows," by Joel Raney and Lloyd Larson. This is definitely a cantata that you will love hearing on Palm Sunday, April 9th, at both the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services.

The 11:00 congregation is happy to have our children's choir singing for us once again. Not only do they bring smiles to our faces, but they are all about singing their praises to God!

Dates to mark on your calendar!!!

Cecil County Choral Society Concert on March 28th at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.
Wilmington Handbell Ensemble Concert on May 21st at 4:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Wednesday Night Communion

Holy Communion is offered every Wednesday night in the Chapel from 6:15-6:30 p.m.

The Road to our New Organ

We're getting ever closer to the purchase of our new organ. As of the middle of February, we only have just under \$16,000 to still raise (that's out of the total cost of \$104,500). So we're almost there! If you haven't had a chance to give, or wish to give more, please use the Organ Offering envelope you can find in the pew racks. Make your checks out to Elkton UMC and write "Organ" on the memo line. The organ is being built as we speak, and in no time, we'll be hearing its beautiful sound!

Altar Guild Ministry

Submitted by Judy Tanner, Worship Committee Chair

The Altar Guild is a ministry – a gift of time and talent to serve God in His house.

It is a very great privilege to serve God in this way. The altar guild takes care of the paraments and decorations in the church.

Paraments

Traditionally purple, representing both royalty and penitence, is used during Advent and Lent. White and gold are used at Christmas and Easter to symbolize joy and festivities.

Red symbolizes the color of fire to represent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. During Holy Week it represents the blood of Christ. Red is also used for ordinations, church anniversaries and civil observances such as Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.

Green represents growth and is used during Ordinary Time (the season after Epiphany and the season after Pentecost).

Decorations

Decorations are used for Advent at Christmas, poinsettias during Christmas and lilies during Easter.

If you feel that this new ministry is something you would like to do, please feel free to contact me at 443-604-1218 or tannerjudy31@gmail.com.



Lent at Elkton UMC

The season of Lent marks the 40 day (plus Sundays) journey of Jesus from the wilderness of temptation to the glorious event of Easter. It is a contemplative season, marked by times of quiet and reflection, during which we're invited to think on the state of our souls and our relationship with the Lord. To that end, Lent is filled with many spiritual opportunities in which you're invited to take part.

-Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, March 1st, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Mark the first day of Lent by attending this service of prayer, repentance, the imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.

-Make use of the Lenten Devotional. This devotional is filled with reflections written by members and friends of our church, and is a great way to spend intentional time each day with the Lord. Copies will be available in the Welcome Center area by Ash Wednesday.

-Lenten Lunch and Learn – Pastor Bunnell will lead this special study on the Wednesdays of Lent (beginning Wednesday, March 8th) at noon in Weldin Hall. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch (drinks and desserts will be provided) and join in a study of Adam Hamilton's new book entitled *Creed*, which studies the various parts of the Apostles Creed. To participate, fill in one of the bulletin inserts which will appear for several Sundays, or call the church office. Cost of the study book is \$13.00.

-Lenten Sermon Series – Beginning on Sunday, March 12th, Pastor Bunnell will be preaching a Lenten sermon series entitled, "Were You There?" focusing on the various characters of the passion story.



Classic Christians' March Meeting

The Classic Christians (age 50 & over) will meet on Friday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m. in Weldin Hall. The night will begin with a potluck dinner (bring a dish to share), and continue on in a fun-filled night of Bingo – featuring wonderful prizes! To take part, please sign up on the sheet across from the Welcome Center.

Spring Bus Trip to Annapolis

The Classic Christians will be hosting a one-day bus trip to Annapolis on Thursday, April 6th. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 7, arriving in Annapolis to do such things as tour the State House, the Governor's Mansion, see a presentation on how legislation is made, and sit in on sessions of the House and the Senate (where Pastor Bunnell will be offering the invocation that day). The morning will be scheduled, the afternoon will be free time for you to enjoy lunch on your own and see the sights or shop! The bus will leave Annapolis at 5 p.m. for the return trip home. Cost of the trip is \$40/person, plus the cost of your lunch. To go on the trip, sign up on the sheet across from the Welcome Center, and send your payment into the church office (checks made out to Elkton UMC with "Annapolis" on the memo line). Questions? Call the church office.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Just a reminder that all men of the church are invited to take part in the monthly Men's Breakfast, on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 a.m. It takes place at the Elkton Diner on Rt. 40, and each month the men discuss various topics in an informal setting. All men are welcome! The breakfast is over by 7:30 or so.

Classic Christians' 50's/60's Sock Hop



Men's Retreat 2017



Joy of Faith 2017



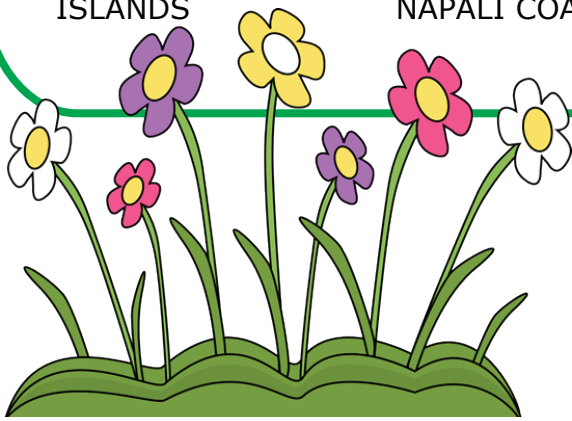
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 GRASS SKIRT
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 HUMPBACK
 WHALES
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KAHO'OLAWA
 KAUA'I
 KAYAKING
 KONA COAST
 LANA'I
 LUAU
 MACADAMIA
 NUTS
 MANTA RAYS
 MAUI
 MOLOKA'I
 NAPALI COAST

NI'ITHAU
 NORTH SHORE
 O'AHU
 PACIFIC
 OCEAN
 PEARL HARBOR
 PINEAPPLES
 RESORTS
 SAND
 SCUBA DIVING
 SNORKELING
 STATE

SUGARCANE
 SURFING
 TOURISTS
 TROPICAL
 UKELELE
 VACATION
 VOLCANOES
 WAIKIKI
 WAIMEA BAY
 WARM
 WHALE
 WATCHING



Crossword puzzle solution on page 12!

March Birthdays

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and ask to seek him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4 (NIV)

3/1	Virginia Barnes	3/8	Ray Whiteoak	3/22	Betty Craley
3/1	Bettie Murray	3/9	Todd Bjerke	3/23	Taylor Blackiston
3/2	Arion Dant	3/10	Katie Montgomery	3/23	James Casen
3/3	Shirley Clark	3/10	Carly Smith	3/23	Heidi Gaultney
3/3	Sienna Graham	3/11	Bethany Buckley	3/24	Charles Campbell
3/5	Vincent Dant	3/11	Alexis Calderon	3/26	Gregory Dant
3/5	Evan Sluder	3/11	Nathan Kovicak	3/26	Madison Olewine
3/6	Sandra Anderson	3/12	Ethan Henry	3/26	Mark Smith
3/6	Jacob Graham	3/13	Owen Veasey	3/27	Joshua Noll
3/6	Jeanette Perkins	3/14	Molly Stahl	3/28	Kristen Czarnecki
3/6	Sandy Wherry	3/16	Terry White	3/29	Jack Kovicak
3/7	Andrew Lee	3/20	Caroline Grablis	3/29	Mary Lou Parker
3/7	John Melvin	3/21	Christina Dant	3/30	Madison Cebula
3/8	Gabe Funke	3/21	William Vassalotti	3/30	David Sentman
3/8	Paul Schneider	3/22	Sarah Bjerke	3/30	Anna Smith

March Anniversaries



“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

3/1	William & Vanita Carroll
3/2	Emmitt & Loretta Brockell
3/21	Thomas & Teresa White

March

2017

Sunday **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

<p>5 Communion 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>6 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM Evangelism/ Membership Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 2:30 PM Elkton Rehab (Nancy McCardell's Team) 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM Worship Service</p>	<p>2 6:30 PM Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>3 <i>World Day of Prayer</i></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>12 Baptism Blood Pressure Screenings 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>13 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Communications Committee Meeting 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 April Newsletter Deadline 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 5:00 PM Thiokol-Elkton Credit Union Dinner 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16 7:00 PM Administrative Council Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>17 6:30 PM Classic Christians' Potluck Dinner and Bingo</p> 	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>20 First Day of Spring!! 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>21 7:00 PM CCCS Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>24 6:30 PM Sunday School Game Night</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30 AM Worship Service 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 5:30 PM Youth Group</p>	<p>27 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28 9:30 AM Staff Meeting 7:30 PM Cecil County Choral Society Spring Concert</p>	<p>29 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch 6:15 PM Communion 6:30 PM Men's Choir 7:00 PM Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30 6:30 PM Missions Committee Meeting 8:00 PM AA Meeting</p>	<p>31</p>	



“A place to know Jesus, be known by Jesus, and make Him known to others.”

Elkton United Methodist Church

219 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Staff

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Karen F. Bunnell
Associate Pastor of Visitation
Ministries.....Rev. Ray Graham
Children & Education
Ministries Director.....Katie Sparks
Youth Ministries Director....Sandy Wherry
Organist/Coordinator
of Music Ministries.....Sharon Williams
Adult Choir Director.....Steven Gilmore
Adult Handbell Director.....Paul Deemer
Children’s Choir Director....Susan Starrett
Nursery Care
Professional.....Yolanda Gomez
Treasurer.....Lee Collins
Secretary.....Kay Mortimer
Sextons.....Donald Ewing
Donna Horgan

Contact Information

219 East Main Street
Elkton, MD 21921
(410) 398-0933
Email: eumc@comcast.net
Web site: www.elktonumc.org

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. - Noon
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday School (All Ages)

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Youth Fellowship

Sunday afternoon
12:30-3:00 p.m.

