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Redeeming Features

Volume 28

Issue 4

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Greetings from Rev. Kate Ekrem

Dear friends,

“Since you are eager for spiritual gifts, strive to excel in them for building up the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

Each year, your vestry thinks about what we need to do to live out our strategic plan and sets specific goals for the year. This year, we studied Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians and noticed that all our goals had to do with building up the church. The vestry realized we want to focus this year on building up our church community, building up leaders in our church, and building up the building itself (i.e. deciding if any renovations are needed). The vestry formed task groups to focus on each of these three areas. Over the next three issues of Redeeming Features, I’d like to share with you what the vestry is thinking about in each of these three areas, so you also can share your ideas, give us feedback and get involved.

The issue of church community seems to be bubbling up a lot at Redeemer these days. Why else do we come to church if not for a sense of belonging and community, to get the support we need to live out our Christian vocation and mission in the world? But in our sometimes overly-busy



Greetings from Kate (cont'd)

lives it's hard to find the time to come to a church supper or small group. Nevertheless, there seems to be growing interest – and opportunity – in doing just that.

The huge success of our EFM group this year is one example to me of the power of church community. That group has found such energy and life in coming together each week to share their lives and study the Bible. Small groups, where deep friendships can form, are a building-block of community. EFM will be open to new members in the fall, but not everyone can make a year-long commitment to that kind of study group. What other small groups might be possible? We already have the new Redeeming Knitters meeting regularly. Would a parenting group be helpful? Or other interest groups?

We know that Redeemerites love to eat together, and food is a great way to share fellowship. Some have expressed interest in creating parish dinners or other larger fellowship events. What about a Kitchen Crew with expertise and experience about how to feed a crowd —would that facilitate more parish fellowship events?

At the same time, we're wondering how we can use the ways we already communicate to build community. Would online community enhance our in-person relationships? What about Facebook? A communications subgroup is meeting soon to see how we can strengthen bonds (and reduce volunteer workloads) by communicating better and making better use of technology.

A vestry task group, including Sarah Neumann, James Surprenant, and Paula Antonevitch, will be working on ways to encourage and build a stronger sense of community in our parish life, to nurture and support new groups that are forming, and remove roadblocks to their success. If you'd like to be involved or have ideas you'd like to try out, talk to Sarah, James, and Paula, or any vestry member.

All people should feel welcome and at home at Redeemer, part of our community and part of God's family. Pray that we might build up our church community, our sense of belonging to and with each other, and the knowledge that we have the support of a caring community as we live out our mission as Christians in the world.

In Peace,



Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion ~ April 1

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

***No Christian Formation*

Maundy Thursday ~ April 5

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing, & Stripping of the Altars

9:00 pm start Overnight Vigil

Come wait with us in prayer and meditation as we remember the agonized night Jesus spent in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest.

Good Friday ~ April 6

10:00 am Stations of the Cross (appropriate for ages 5+) *(The Stations of the Cross depict Jesus' journey from his trial to his tomb.)*

7:30 pm Good Friday Liturgy with Solemn Collects & Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday ~ April 7

7:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter, with Holy Eucharist and Baptism
This dramatic service ends the season of Lent and begins the joy of Easter.

Easter Sunday ~ April 8 (We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!)

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Easter Egg Hunt to follow 10:00 am service (* Please bring your own Easter Basket! *)

** * No Christian Formation*



Little known facts about the light next to the altar

What is that light next to the altar?

It's a sanctuary lamp.

What's a sanctuary lamp?

A candle or light that burns to indicate that the Reserve Sacrament (leftover Communion) is present in the Tabernacle.

OK, what's a Tabernacle?

In the Temple in Jerusalem, the Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies, where the broken tablets of the 10 Commandment were kept. It symbolized God's presence with God's people. For Christians, God's presence with us is symbolized by the Body and Blood of Christ, i.e. the Bread and Wine of Communion. So in a Christian church, the Tabernacle is where the Reserve Sacrament is kept. At Redeemer, it's in the white cupboard to the right of the altar.

Do we keep it there all the time?

Yes, except on Good Friday when we don't have Communion.

Why?

The practical reason is so that we can bring it to those who are homebound or in the hospital during the week. The spiritual reason is as a reminder that Jesus is always present to us - -just as Jesus became a real person in the real world, Jesus is present in the physical, everyday elements of bread and wine. When we see the light burning, we can say "Jesus is here!" and remember that Jesus is, of course, everywhere.

Umm.. isn't that sort of Catholic?

Well, a lot of the things we do (sing hymns, baptize babies) are also things that the Roman Catholic church does. However, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Orthodox churches all use sanctuary lamps to indicate the Reserve Sacrament; it's not an exclusively Roman Catholic practice.



I know what a sanctuary lamp is, we had one in my former church. But it was a candle, not an electric light!

We are not sure why the builders of Redeemer chose to make it electric in the 1950's, and would be interested to learn from anyone who knows. It may be less traditional, but certainly is less of a fire hazard.

Why didn't we have the light before?

We did originally have a sanctuary light (it was obviously wired into the building when the church was built). Its practice may have been discontinued at some point for a number of reasons. First, it was broken and has recently been repaired. Second, the Reserve Sacrament was not kept in the Tabernacle at some points in time. Third, the symbolism has not always been meaningful to a majority of the congregation. In addition, it's possible using it was associated with the Roman Catholic Church, which was seen as exclusive. In fact, the sanctuary lamp has been on and off and on and off in Redeemer's last 50 years, as members debated how worship can best bring us closer to God and how we can be best welcoming to everyone. The debate continues, because those are good things to talk about! At this point in time, with many new Eucharistic Visitors bringing Communion to the homebound during the week, and with many new members from other Episcopal, Lutheran, and Catholic churches for whom it's a meaningful practice, it seemed like a good time to try it again. The worship committee has discussed this extensively and would love to talk about it more. If you have thoughts about it, please talk to any member of the worship committee: Kate Ekrem, Mary Ann Burnside, Susan Emanuel, Cara Kalf, Bob King, Sandy Keshishian, Eliza Koso, Linda Kukulich, and Mary Ucci.



Our acolytes need you!

Probably you've noticed what an amazing group of young people our acolytes are. They are here each and every Sunday to be visible worship leaders. Younger acolytes are just learning how to carry the torch and be part of the service. Older acolytes mentor the younger ones, carry the cross and Gospel book, and assist the clergy at Communion. Some of our young people have been acolytes for 7 or 8 years. They feel a sense of ownership and belonging to our worshiping community.

Sandy Keshishian and Jean Ricci have been co-leading our acolytes for (how many?) years. Sandy leads the trainings (with help from the clergy and older acolytes) and Jean organizes the schedule and roster. Both are looking to step down from their role this spring. We are looking for new acolyte leaders to replace them. Sandy and Jean are happy to work alongside new leaders to show them the ropes. To be an acolyte leader you need to 1) love working with young people, and enjoy their enthusiasm and gifts for leadership and 2) be willing to be a regular presence for them. You DON'T need to 1) be here every Sunday or 2) know anything about what acolytes do (we'll teach you!) or 3) do it alone (we'll help you!) . If you think the Holy Spirit may be calling you to this ministry, please speak to Sandy, Jean, or Kate.



Parish Yard Clean-up Day

Saturday, April 21 from 8:00am to noon (*rain date April 22*)
(some of us will arrive by 7:00 am)

Dress in your work clothes, and bring gloves, a rake, if you've got one, and energy to jump start the glorious days of summer!



Confirmation at the Cathedral – Saturday, April 28

Nine young people from Redeemer are preparing for Confirmation this spring. On Saturday, April 28, they will join confirmands from all over the diocese in a grand Confirmation service at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston. Bishop Tom Shaw, SSJE, will preside at the confirmations and Eucharist.

Elizabeth Coons, Adam DuFault, Eliza Koso, Peter Kukolich, Renee LeBlanc, Julia McLaughlin, Leah Mirani, Sarah Neumann and Monisha Reginald, all high school students and members of Redeemer, are preparing for Confirmation using the *My Faith, My Life* curriculum.

The confirmands will be joined by their parents and sponsors, Nancy Grayson (who has helped lead their preparation class) and the Rev. Kate Ekrem at the service as they take the adult step of claiming for themselves the baptismal promises made for them when they were babies. ***All members of Redeemer are welcome to join us at the Cathedral for this grand celebration!***

We will recognize the recently-confirmed during the 9:30am service on Sunday, April 29.



Farewell and Best Wishes to Sabeth, Julien, Esteban & Isabella



THROUGH THE YEARS....

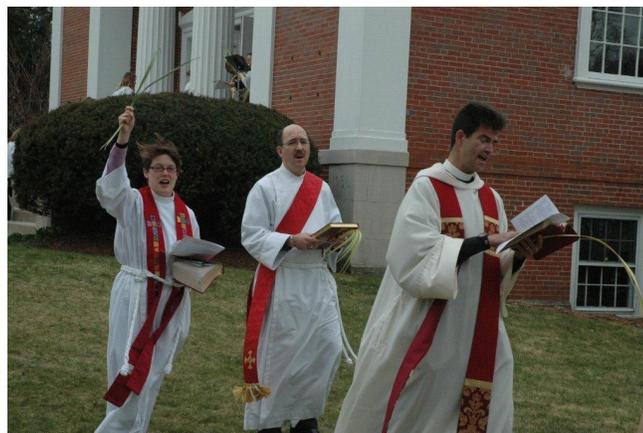


Parish Life



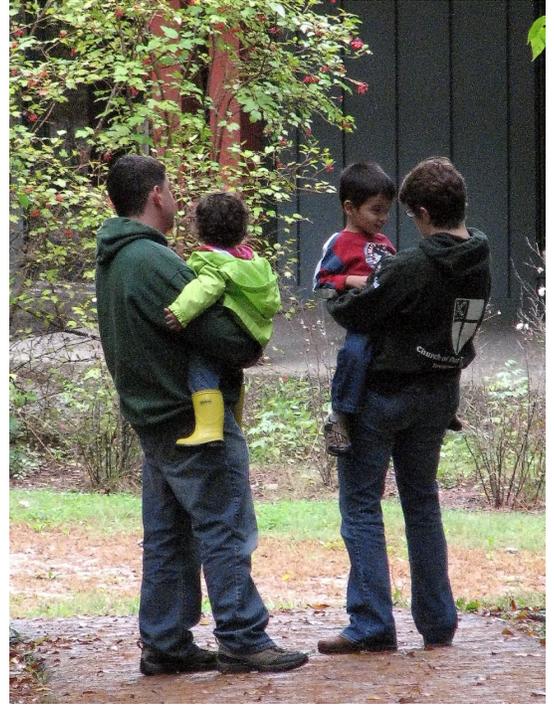


WE WILL MISS YOU!



Parish Life





Beautiful Family

Parish Life





Thank you for your service



Adult Christian Formation aka Adult Forum

Our Adult Christian Formation programs inform us about issues and concerns in our lives, our community and the world, AND help us consider how we respond to those issues and concerns as faith-filled Christians.

Adult Christian Formation meets Sundays from 10:50-11:50am, in the Great Hall or the Meeting Room on the lower level. We invite ages 13-113 to join us. Bring your coffee and a friend!

Upcoming Christian Formation Sessions

4/1 Palm Sunday – No Christian Formation

4/8 Easter Sunday – No Christian Formation

4/15 Patriot's Day Weekend – No Christian Formation

4/22 Fellowship and Farewell to Julien, Sabeth, Esteban and Isabella.

4/29 Mission Partner: The Giving Garden – How does our Redeemer garden help respond to the Gospel imperative to feed the hungry? How is it part of the larger Lexington Interfaith Garden? What does it take to tend our garden? All interested garden 'shepherds' (weekly volunteers to water, weed and harvest) strongly invited to attend. Presenters will be James Surprenant, Alan Kalf, and our farmer Donna Moulthrop.

Adult Christian Formation Contact Person: The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net).



Christian Formation – Children and Youth

Christian Formation for ages 3 through 12th grade is held on Sundays from 10:50-11:50am. Nursery care is available for infants and toddlers (through age 4) from 8:30am-12noon so that parents can attend worship, Adult Christian Formation and fellowship time.

Sunday Evening Youth Group meets in the Great Hall from 5:30-7:15pm. Youth in grades 8-12 are invited to join us for fellowship as we prepare and eat dinner together.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

*** We have Sunday School/Atrium every Sunday unless otherwise noted! ***

- April 1** **Palm Sunday – No Sunday AM Christian Formation**
All ages activity during Coffee Hour: Making Easter Gardens
- April 5** **Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Foot Washing, 7:30pm**
- April 6** **Good Friday – All ages Stations of the Cross, 10:00am**
Solemn Collects and Veneration of the Cross, 7:30pm
- April 7** **Great Vigil of Easter with Fire, Water of Baptism,**
Eucharist, 7:30pm
- April 8** **Easter Eucharist, 8:00am and 10:00am**
 Easter Egg Hunt follows 10:00am service – bring your own basket!
No AM or PM Christian Formation
- April 15** **No AM or PM Christian Formation – School Break**
- April 28** **Confirmation Service, St Paul's Cathedral, Boston, 10:30am**
- April 29** **Youth Sunday, 9:30am**

Permission Slips are on the Website

Need a permission slip for your youth to attend an off-site event? Check the Youth Ministry page of our website (www.our-redeemer.net/youth.html) for a PDF form to print and fill out.

Questions?

Age 3-5th grade – Evelyn Hausslein (ehausslein@rcn.com / 781-861-0378)

6th – 12th grade – the Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons (sabeth@our-redeemer.net)

Youth Group – Cathy Burns (hcburns@verizon.net / 978-663-5022)



Mission

“We each are part of something bigger than ourselves alone, a necessary part, and we accomplish more when we do it together.”

-Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts – Our Mission
<http://www.diomass.org/content/our-mission>

The Patriots’ Day Pancake Breakfast

Mark your calendar! A great event, serving a great cause, and the chance to build fellowship within the church awaits.

Redeemer looks forward to the Annual Patriots’ Day Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Lexington Interfaith Food Pantry on **April 16, 2012**. We need volunteers to work this event – from flipping pancakes to crowd control to set-up and clean-up – all opportunities available! Sign-up sheets requesting volunteers for specific tasks are posted around church. This is an open invitation to all in the Redeemer community. Don’t miss this great opportunity for service and fellowship!

If you have any questions, please call or email one of the organizers: Charlie Coons, [781.861.7067](tel:781.861.7067), coonsfamily224@yahoo.com; Hao Doan, [808.554.7940](tel:808.554.7940) marcia.hao@yahoo.com; Sam Stevens, [781.271.9029](tel:781.271.9029), yosemite-sam@version.net

Please join us!

In May we will be blessing our own Giving Garden and our Atrium children will be laying the first seeds. We are also beginning sign-up’s for volunteering in the Lexington Interfaith Garden. See page 17.

In anticipation of this year’s harvest and the work that precedes it, please join us on **Sunday, April 29** for the adult forum, “Gardening, Giving, Growing in Christ.”

A great way to help right now!

The Food Pantry’s “Item of the Month” for April is **15oz canned fruit** (peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, apricots). They ask for specific sizes so each family gets an equal share. Please check expiration dates! You may drop off your donations in the baskets at church entrances. Visit the website to learn more: www.lexingtonfoodpantry.wordpress.com.



Mission (cont'd)

Sharing Thanks...

From Deborah Frank, Director, Grow Clinic...

"Your congregation is incredible!...We have just learned of your most recent generous donation to the work of the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center. You have been some of our children's most faithful friends. You have opened your hearts so graciously to alleviate the suffering of the malnourished children and their families served in the Grow Clinic."

From El Hogar Ministries...

"On behalf of El Hogar, thank you for this gift. The children of El Hogar are very moved by the kindness of supporters who live so far away from them, yet extend this kindness across the distance. Knowing that someone cares builds self-respect, love, and hope in our boys and girls."

"You have made a difference! Darwin has graduated, due in no small measure to your generosity and interest in him. We hope you feel a deserved sense of accomplishment. You may be sure he does, now that his years of training are over and he faces the new challenges ahead...I have included some comments from him: *"Thank you for your help all these years; I have met my goal to graduate so I can continue seeking my career as a agricultural engineer."*

From Justin Pasquariello, Children's Health Watch...

"Thank you so much for bringing great representation from your church to the State House on Monday. I really appreciate your work to organize everyone to help show the importance of housing and hunger issues for the residents of Massachusetts."

If I had a hammer...

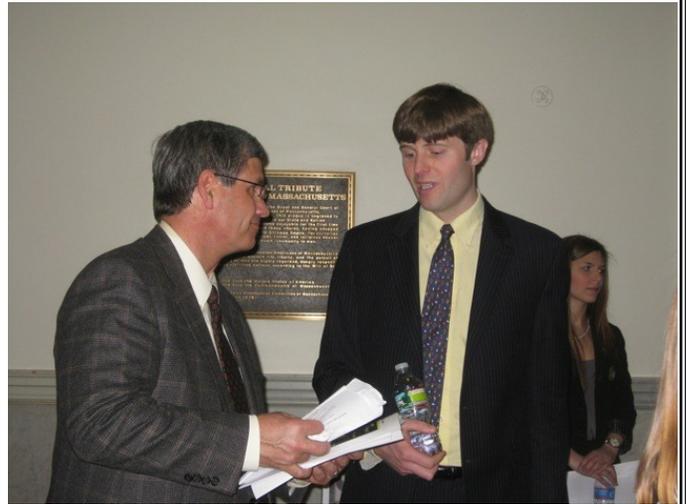


Join other Redeemer members for our spring Habitat Workday on Saturday, April 28. Another great opportunity to spend time with fellow parishioners and support families in need! We will be working with the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity. "Using donated supplies and volunteer labor, Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action." If you are interested, please contact Steve Burns, a65corvair@verizon.net.



Mission (cont'd)

On Monday, March 12, eleven members of the Redeemer community traveled to the State House to support families of the Grow Clinic and others and to advocate for the needs of the hungry and homeless. The group had the opportunity to meet with 2 state senators and 2 representatives. Special thanks to Evelyn Haussein and Chris Needham who led the charge, with Evelyn sharing her experience and scheduling the appointments with legislators and Chris for organizing the group! Thanks, also, to the other parishioners who attended: Bob King, Sheryll McKay, James Surprenant, Kate Ekrem, Marilyn Williamson, Hanna Boyle, Mary Ucci, Lance Conrad, and Susan Emanuel. We look forward to continuing to develop this relationship with Children's Health Watch!



Growing Good Food for Good Neighbors at Lexington's Interfaith Garden



In addition to Redeemer's Giving Garden that offers young children and their parents the opportunity to join together to grow food for the Food Pantry, the [Lexington Interfaith Garden](#) is starting its third year of bringing people together from more than 13 faith communities in Lexington. Together, on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings from April through October, volunteers do all the

work from building and mending fences to raking, planting, watering, weeding, harvesting, weighing, and delivering ... approximately 1000 pounds of vegetables each season to our Food Pantry located at Redeemer.

This year, we have committed that 2 - 3 people from Redeemer will be able to volunteer on our assigned dates. So far, the schedule has been set through May, and Redeemer's dates are:

Saturday, April 21:	9:00 – 10:30 am
Saturday, May 5:	9:00 – 10:30 am
Saturday, May 12:	8:30 – 10:00 am
Saturday, May 26:	8:30 – 10:00 am

There will be signup sheets at the church, or you can sign up online now here: http://bit.ly/IG_SignUp2

If you are interested in volunteering at the Interfaith Garden over the summer or in the fall, contact Janet Kern, janet@mackhillfarm.org, 781 861-7102



Music News

For the 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday, we welcome back trumpeters Jason Stein and Etyan Wurman. Also joining us is soprano soloist Lisa Correnti, and guest organ accompanist Geoffrey Whiting. The Easter service will feature works by Handel, including the soprano aria prelude "Let the Bright Seraphim," and as participatory postlude the "Hallelujah" chorus from Handel's Messiah. Our Atrium singers will contribute a setting of Psalm 47 "Clap Your Hands" by Owens and Larsen, and our adult choir will sing a pair of anthems by Carl Hirsch and Katherine Davis. Thanks to those members of the congregation who have stepped forward to swell the choirs ranks for the morning...it's not too late for others. Packets of music are available outside the Music room 208. Children singing on Easter Sunday should report no later than 9:20 to rehearse with trumpets.

As the music and worship committees look forward to fall and winter planning this spring, we ask for your feedback on a number of music-related initiatives in worship this past year, e.g.: the Special Service Sundays which departed from our regular weekly liturgy to observe a particular theme, feast day, or purpose (*Celtic Sunday, Mission Sunday, St. Nicholas, Social Justice Sunday, Camp Sunday, and the March Healing service*); our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, the prelude carol-sings before the Christmas Eve services, the occasional placement of the choir in and amongst the congregation, the change from "Youth Choir" to "Atrium Singers," which integrates singing into children's Christian formation classes and gives all children in the Grade 1-4 class opportunity to sing monthly in services. Representatives to your music and worship committees welcome your thoughts on these and other changes in the music program at Redeemer, and they are counting on you to share your reactions as we look forward to next year.

On Sunday, May 6th we observe *Music Appreciation Sunday*, a special Service Sunday in honor of music. The choir will be singing in Sunday services through June 3rd, after which they will take a well-deserved summer break. Once again, Bernadette will be looking to the Redeemer Roster of musicians with talents to share during summer services. If you are so inclined to share your vocal or instrumental skills, do let Bernadette know.



Kids Easter Jokes

1. What do you get if you pour boiling hot water down a rabbit hole?
2. What did the Easter Bunny say to the carrot?
3. What kind of music do bunnies like?
4. How can you tell where the Easter Bunny has been?
5. What's the best way to send a letter to the East Bunny?
6. Why was the Easter Bunny so upset?



- Answers**
1. Hot cross bunnies
 2. It's been nice gnawing you
 3. Hip Hop
 4. Eggs (x) marks the spot
 5. Hare mail
 6. He was having a bad hare day

The First Week of Easter: Creation

A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying him. It "consents," so to speak, to his creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God and which is not distinct from the essence of God, and therefore a tree imitates God by being a tree.

The more a tree is like itself, the more it is like him. If it tried to be like something else which it was never intended to be, it would be less like God and therefore it would give him less glory.

For me to be a saint means to be myself. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am and of discovering my true self. Trees and animals have no problem. God makes them what they are without consulting them, and they are perfectly satisfied.

With us it is different. God leaves us free to be whatever we like. We can be ourselves or not, as we please.

- - Thomas Merton



Calendar

April	Date	Event Details
Sunday	1	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I, Palm Sunday 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II, Palm Sunday 10:30am - All Parish Breakfast 12:00 noon - Executive Committee meeting No Christian Formation, making Easter Gardens
Monday	2	7:30pm - Property Committee meeting 7:30pm - Communications Committee meeting
Tuesday	3	7:30pm - Stewardship Committee meeting
Wednesday's	4, 11, 18, 25	7:30pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
Maundy Thursday	5	7:30pm - Holy Eucharist, Foot Washing & Solemn Stripping of the Altars 9:00pm start - Overnight Vigil Remembering Gethsemane
Good Friday	6	10:00am - Stations of the Cross 7:30pm - Good Friday Liturgy w/ Solemn Collects & Veneration of the Cross
Holy Saturday	7	7:30pm - The Great Vigil of Easter w/ Holy Eucharist
Easter Sunday	8	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I, w/ music 9:00 - 9:45 am - Choir Rehearsal 10:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite II, w/ guest musicians & choir No Christian Formation <i>Easter Egg hunt follows 10:00am service, bring your own basket</i>
Monday	9	Office Closed
Wednesday	11	7:30pm - Vestry meeting
Sunday	15	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II No Christian Formation 4:00pm - Family Circle Potluck dinner
Monday	16	Office Closed 9:00am—12noon - Patriot's Day Pancake Breakfast 7:30pm - Finance Committee meeting
Saturday	21	8:00am - Parish, Yard Clean-up Day 9:00am - Interfaith Garden Work day
Sunday	22	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II w/ Rite 13 Ceremony 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Fellowship & Farewell</i> 12:00noon - Search Committee meeting
Monday	23	1:30pm - Cook for Bristol Lodge 7:30pm - Mission Committee meeting
Thursday	26	4:00pm - Warden's meeting
Saturday	28	Confirmations at Cathedral
Sunday	29	8:00am - Holy Eucharist Rite I 8:30 - 9:15am - Choir Rehearsal 9:30am - Holy Eucharist Rite II: Youth Sunday 10:45am - Christian Formation for children and youth 10:50am - Adult Christian Formation: <i>Mission Partner: The Giving Garden</i> 12:00noon - <i>Worship Committee meeting</i>