

SEPTEMBER 2024

#### THE COMPANION

ISSUE NO.

CUU'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

#### Minister's Message *Grace Notes*

Written by Reverend Kimberley Debus

One of the things I love about Facebook is the parade of 'first day of classes' photos – from the littlest children to the grown adults – the celebration of the first day is something special.

Similarly, I love the parade of Ingathering photos from our congregations – showing off the decorated tables and the joyful connections between people as they mark the first Sunday of the congregational year.

I haven't often participated in those Ingathering photo parades – my ministry has rarely sent me to a congregation on Ingathering Sunday. So when I get to lead an Ingathering, it's something quite special – and yes, it's a sure bet I'll be taking and posting photos.

This Ingathering, of course, is different for many of us. For some of you, this is the first time you've been to an Ingathering at CUU that isn't led by Rev. Amy. For others, this kind of transition has happened before, and it's always been a bit different, because the first one from a new minister is often the first time they are in your pulpit, so there's a fair bit of curiosity.



minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Office Hours:
Wednesday 4:00-7:00 pm
Zoom open office hours link:
<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9600">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9600</a>
148952

Now for many of you, this is not the first time I've led worship at CUU – you have a sense of me and my style.

And, this is our first Ingathering together. More, it's our first ingathering where I am not just a guest – I'm your minister.

I'm fairly certain it won't be like other Ingatherings you've experienced, although there will of course be wonderful music and of course a water ceremony. But there will also be differences – and maybe more differences than you're used to, from the way the room looks to the sequence of the service, to the message and meaning.

Our first year together is one of great excitement, a lot of work, and - I expect - some experimentation and curiosity; this year calls us to examine who we are now and who we want to be. Part of that exploration includes worship, the most visible place our curiosity and experimentation mode will play out. Because worship has been a significant focus of my ministry, you can expect that we'll try some new things - moving chairs, moving service elements, trying some new rituals, hearing new music, or whatever else it is we have yet to dream up.

We will also get curious and experimental with small groups, religious exploration, and our role in the community. We'll also have reason for curiosity as our renovations begin.

Yes, there will be some things that seem new – and those new things may seem strange at times. But I hope you will get curious and experiment with us.

It may not always be easy, but what I know is that we have a strong, compassionate container for our year together – this beloved congregation. We have an amazing opportunity to try some new things, and to try them together – and to make space for grace together. And we get to start that at our homecoming, our first service: our Ingathering.

See you on September 8th.

PS: I call my column "Grace Notes" for several reasons: first, I hope my words provide a bit of grace in the midst of the busy-ness of our days. Second, grace notes are musical – a lilting decoration, if you will, in songs that add a bit of character. But mostly, it is an homage: my grandmother's name was Grace, and my mother gave me her name as my middle name. And when Mom would find something that her mother had written (a recipe, or a letter, or a greeting card), Mom would call them 'Grace Notes'. It seems only appropriate that my short missives bear the same name.





# Spirit Circles: Connecting to Our Spirits and to One Another

#### **September - Belonging**

I am pleased to announce *Spirit Circles*, a new publication inviting you to go deeper with your spirit. Whether you are part of a small monthly group or more solitary in your spiritual practices, *Spirit Circles* will accompany you on the journey. The themes align with those we will be exploring in worship.

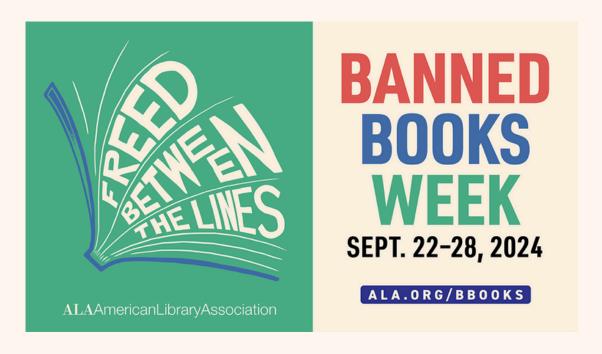
(For those wondering, we will no longer be using *Soul Matters* themes; rather, we will be following themes that make the most sense for CUU.)

The packet *(download here)* is organized in a typical covenant group format: a chalice lighting/opening words, a check-in question, some questions to help you think about the theme, quotations and poetry, then an article or essay. Following that are more questions to ponder, and suggestions of books, movies, and television shows that reflect our theme. Finally, there is a chalice extinguishing to send you on your way.

How you use this packet is up to you – you may find the poetry draws you in. Others may use it to guide what you watch this month. But whether you dip in or use it as a focused guide, my hope is that you find something each month that connects you to your spirit – and to others.

Blessings, Rev. Kimberley





Unitarian Universalists around the country are speaking out against the banning and censorship of books. We believe that the freedom to read increases a sense of belonging, broadens our understanding of the world, and strengthens our call to justice, equity, and compassion.

Having experienced book banning efforts in our own community, we will join in celebrating the freedom to read during the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, September 22-28.

We will kick off our celebration on Sunday morning with our service entitled "Freed Between the Lines."

We'll then host story hours Monday thru Friday from 3:30-5:30pm, where we'll read children's books that have been banned – to any and all who wish to attend.

That's where you come in. We seek the following:

- · Readers two per day! <u>Sign up here</u>.
- · Snacks for each day! Sign up here.
- Copies of books that have been banned this year or years past for display.
   <u>Sign up here</u> (lists will be available).
- Publicity help! We'll have flyers printed and available to put up starting September 8th. We will also have social media images and text for you to share widely.

For more information and questions, please email Rev. Kimberley at **minister@cedarhurstuu.org** 

#### President's Message

Written by Pres. Becky Zimmerman

September is one of those months that signals change. Schools are reopening, so we see those yellow buses everywhere (some of them have speed cameras attached now, FYI). Public & private swimming pools close for the season. For some, the travel window is closed for a while.

Here at Cedarhurst, this September marks the first Sunday morning appearance of our new minister, Rev. Kimberley Debus! [If this is news to you, go back and read the August Companion!] September 8, Water Communion Sunday, is Rev. Kimberley's first service with us, and there will be a world-famous potluck luncheon afterwards, so flex those cooking muscles (or let the grocery store deli do that for you...lol) and let's show her how we potluck at CUU!

She will most likely mention this in her column that you just read (you did read it, right?), but Monday is Rev. Kimberley's DAY OFF. If an emergency happens on a Monday, contact me at 443-789-1886. If a minister is needed, I will coordinate that. Her office hours – which will be on Zoom most weeks – are on Wednesdays from 4-7 pm. She very much wants to get to know all of us, and I know we want to get to know her, too.

Meanwhile, building repairs as well as preparations for Elevate Cedarhurst!, our renovation and addition project, are underway. [See report of anonymous donation for repairs elsewhere in this newsletter!] Some have asked "Will this construction project interfere with Sunday services and other events?" The short answer is "no" because we will be able to enter and exit the building during the entire process. Will there be occasional exceptions to this? My guess is "yes" but as far as possible not on Sundays. For now, other than a new well to be dug soon, no ground has been broken and we are open for business as usual.



boardpresident@cedarhurstuu.org 443-789-1886 9 am – 9 pm

On the horizon, CUU will be offering small groups for spiritual growth and connection this fall. Rich and Sherry Dean will facilitate at least one of these groups – others are encouraged to participate and/or facilitate a group of their own. Rev. Kimberley is creating small group packets based on the themes for each month, September-June, that some of us will use for these groups.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we are still looking for one more At-large Trustee for the Board, as well as two more members for the Nominating & Leadership Development Committee, currently consisting of one member. Both are great opportunities to get more involved at CUU, and especially to get to know people better.

As always, contact me at **boardpresident@cedarhurs tuu.org** or 443-789-1886 with comments, questions, to volunteer or to say, "I'm thinking about it – tell me more!" I'd love to hear from you.



#### **CLIMATE JUSTICE REVIVAL**

Are you concerned about climate change? Do you want to connect with other UUs who are too? The UUA is holding a Climate Justice Revival - a nationwide virtual event, with local in-person options - on Sept 28 & 29 (Sat-Sun), and I am looking for someone to represent Cedarhurst for this event. A group of representatives of central Maryland UU congregations are meeting weekly via Zoom. The organizer for central MD is Phil Webster, <a href="mailto:phil.webster@me.com">phil.webster@me.com</a>.



Here is the link with all the info you need: <a href="https://www.uuclimatejustice.org/">https://www.uuclimatejustice.org/</a>

Please give serious thought to this - I believe strongly that Cedarhurst should be represented, and all I'm asking right now is for you to step up and attend a Zoom on Monday.

Thank you for thinking this over.

Becky Zimmerman, CUU Board President

#### Worship Committee Message



As we move into the beginning of another 'church year' we also welcome our new minister Rev. Kimberley Debus. Many may recognize her name as she has joined us as a guest minister over the past few years. The Worship Committee has already had its first meeting with her present and I am looking forward to working with her in the coming year. As with any minister, Rev. Kimberley will bring her own personality and experiences to the services. One of her loves is music, so expect more music in at least some of the services. We will also likely return to having a Wisdom Story (also known as a Children's Story).

In order to have time for these and other possible additions to the service, we will be returning to the policy of not taking announcements from the floor, with very few exceptions. For now, it is requested that all announcements be written up and given to the lay leader prior to service. Ideally, they would be sent the day or two before; you can contact me to find out the lay leader for a given Sunday.

Announcements should be no more than three or four sentences and generally should apply to events happening in the coming week. For events further out, please send the information to our Administrative Assistant, Nalina, for inclusion in our Weekly Updates and Monthly *Companion*. Again, some exceptions may be made, for instance, some information about the upcoming Auction, even when weeks away. It is understood that it may take a few Sundays before everyone is aware of the policy. This policy was in place in years past and it's time to try it again! Thank you for your understanding.

The return to regular services means the return to the need for lay leaders, Zoom coordinators, hospitality volunteers, as well as this year, volunteers to help out downstairs with children as necessary. Please reach out to me for more information even if you only want to serve as backup or only once or twice during the year. Newcomers are also welcome on the Worship Committee. We are now meeting the third Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 PM on Zoom.

Lastly, thank you to all who led a service this summer. They were on a wide variety of topics and the full schedule made my job easy!

Maria Warburton, Worship Committee Chair mariawarburton@comcast.net

#### No-Fee Electronic Giving to CUU



First, let me be clear that the Board is grateful for all monetary contributions, regardless of amount or method. We thank you for your generosity.

Nevertheless, please be aware that PayPal retains a percentage of every contribution sent using that method, including whenever you access PayPal through CUU's website. The Treasurer will record the entire amount, and that's what will appear on any statement of your contributions. At the same time, she will record PayPal's fees as bank charges, which add up over time. For this fiscal year, CUU budgeted \$350 dollars for bank charges.

In contrast, there are no fees when contributions are sent using Zelle. Some CUU members have already started using Zelle for their Pledge donations.

If you're curious about Zelle, your first step should be to determine whether your bank offers Zelle. Most commercial banks offer Zelle. For example, Truist, Wells Fargo, and Alley Bank support Zelle through both their mobile apps and their websites. However, CapitalOne, Chase, Citibank, M&T, PNC and USAA Bank all support Zelle only through their mobile apps. If your bank offers Zelle, your next step would be to enroll in Zelle. How you accomplish that will depend on your bank, but it's always easy.

Having enrolled in Zelle, you can then use Zelle to send donations to <a href="mailto:treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org">treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org</a>. Each donation will be immediately deducted from your bank account and deposited into CUU's primary account at Truist, where it will be automatically tagged with your name. In the unlikely event that the purpose of your donation is unclear, the Treasurer may contact you for more information.

Cedarhurst is currently accepting donations via Zelle for both Pledge and Plate contributions. CUU has no plans to accept payments via Zelle for any other purpose, such as Auction purchases. Don't use Zelle to purchase Scrip from CUU, as our Scrip program uses a different bank account.

If you have any questions about using Zelle to send your Pledge or Plate donations, please contact Lisa Miller at **treasurer@cedarhurst.org** or call David Pittman at 301-801-8032.

Questions about enrolling in Zelle should be directed to your bank.

#### Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Curriculum to be offered by Sherry Dean



In 1977 the UUA General Assembly passed the Women & Religion Resolution. The impact of this resolution has been profound. Curricula celebrating the female as divine have been developed, including Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven is a woman-honoring adult RE curriculum developed by Dr. Shirley Ranck. It examines pre-Judeo Christian cultures that may have worshipped the female as the divine. The concepts of equality and reverence for the female in a religious setting are eye-opening to many participants.

The title for the curriculum comes from the book of Jeremiah in the Hebrew Bible wherein God speaks to Jeremiah, saying, "Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead the dough to make cakes to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out libations to other gods, in order to anger me!"

Who was the "Queen of Heaven?" Who were the people that worshiped her? What sort of society did they live in? How did that society change into today's society? These are questions explored in this workshop series.

I will be teaching this course starting October 6, 2024 as part of Adult Religious Exploration.



### **HELP NEEDED** for Loaves and **Fishes - September & October**

Please help us feed 80-100 people Saturday, September 7 and Saturday, October 5 at Westminster Church of the Brethren Loaves and Fishes Lunch at 11:30 am.

Please let Pamela Malkin know if you can contribute a large salad, vegetable soup or 10 sandwiches. Any help will be appreciated! Servers are also needed. Westminster Church of the Brethren is at 19 Bond St, Westminster. These meals are in addition to our regular third Friday dinners at the Night to Night Shelter in Westminster. Call 443-487-1299 if you can help.

#### **Birthday Card Distribution**

B. Como

For several years the Congregational Life Committee has had volunteers to send birthday cards through the US mail. It has hopefully been one way to help folks feel connected. Since the cost of stamps has been rising rapidly over the last couple of years, we have decided to discontinue sending birthday cards.

The committee is investigating other ways to acknowledge birthdays but there is no definite plan at this time. We will keep you posted. If anyone has a good idea, please contact Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 or other members of the committee: Barb Bradley, Sharon Kennedy, Pamela Malkin or June Clarke.

# SPECIAL NOTICES

# 2024 AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT





GATHER YOUR DONATIONS!!!





ANNOUNCING:

The Annual Cedarhurst Auction

Happening on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1014
Theme: Elevate Cedarhurst!

The Auction will again be hosted as a mid-day luncheon.
This treasured Cedarhurst event, an important fund-raiser, has continued through thick and thin, even online during a world-wide Pandemic. Our friends and members always count on good food and good fun. And we count on successful bidding to win seats at an assortment of opportunities to fill your social calendar throughout 2024 and 2025! And not to mention the wonderful goods and services also offered! Happy Bidding!





#### RE Volunteers Needed!



Our mission for life-long learning begins with RE-Religious Education.

We have a Nursery Aide and now are seeking Volunteers to work with our youngest participants.

Please consider volunteering in our RE program. Right now, we are looking for help on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month. Volunteers must have a "Background Check."



Interested in getting on the Schedule? Let Jan know by emailing Jan.Pennington@comcast.net. We Need You!!!

#### **HELP WANTED**

**Part-Time Companion for Roman** 

Our pianist Esther Shumatskaya is looking for a part-time companion for her son Roman who is 34 years old and autistic.

Possible activities could be to take him for a walk, to the movies, out for lunch, etc.

If anyone knows of such a person who might be able to help, Esther can be reached at (410) 790-0937 or by email

esthershum66@gmail.com



## ANONYMOUS DONATION!!!



THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO AN ANONYMOUS DONOR WHOSE GENEROSITY HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO RECONFIGURE THE HEATING & COOLING SYSTEM DOWNSTAIRS.



THE APPROXIMATE COST OF THIS PROJECT IS \$18,000, AND THIS WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY IN THE BUDGET WE ALL VOTED ON IN JUNE.

A CHANCE CONVERSATION AT COFFEE HOUR LED TO THIS UNEXPECTED, AND GREATLY APPRECIATED, DONATION.

#### ENJOYING COMMUNITY AT CUU



Photo and description by Terri Ebaugh

#### Lay-Led Service: Environmental Empathy

Holly Zimmerman gave a very informative lay-led service on Environmental Empathy. Holly is a staff member at Bear Branch Nature Center, and happens to be the daughter of our most excellent president, Becky Zimmerman.

In this photo Holly introduces a special guest, Ricky, a female box turtle. Some of us thought box turtles were so named because as kids we picked them up and put them in a box. But their name derives from a hinge in their under belly that allows their shell to close up completely, as if hidden inside a box.



#### **REOCCURRING:**

TOPIC: "Walk a Mile in My News"

Part 2: Sunday, September 8

2:00-4:00pm

#### Offered in Monthly Discussion Meeting by Braver Angels

"Walk a Mile in My News" is a unique Braver Angels program that pairs people with different viewing habits for honest discussions about current leading news stories. Too often, confusion and disagreements originate from differing news sources. The goal is to arrive at a personal list of useful "Best Practices" when consuming news sources, whether it be broadcast, cable, online or print. Braver Angels seeks to clarify those differences to bridge the divide.

Central Maryland Braver Angels topics are selected through a majority vote by participants in the discussions. Their past choices have focused on important topics like Books in Schools, Immigration, Election Security, Free Speech and Economic Equality. Each discussion has been informative, thoughtful and, occasionally, tense. All are welcome to attend, reconnect with one another, and discuss, in a structured format, the news and issues that are important to you.

COME AND BE HEARD! Braver Angels discussion groups encourage candor, civility and honest curiosity; the purpose is understanding the other person's views instead of intending to change those views.

The Second Sunday Discussion Meeting meets at Brightview Westminster Ridge, located at 505 High Acre Drive, Westminster, 21157. There is no charge to participate. All are welcome.

For more on topics and updated information, go to their website: <u>centralmaryland.braverangels.org</u>



Friday, September 13, 2024

7:00 to 8:30 P.M. In the Sanctuary of the First Unitarian Church of Baltimore.

This is your opportunity to see and hear the Maryland Music Awards 2024

Winner For Best Folk Band

The Celtic Music Club!

A performance of traditional Irish and Scottish folk music will make you want to sing and dance along.

Reception follows with a chance to meet the musicians.

Church member Cindy Swiss is one of the fiddle players.



# SEPTEMBER SPECIAL CUU EVENTS

#### LUNCH AT MEDITERRANEO Thursday, September 5th at noon

Join friends at Mediterraneo for lunch!

Location: 132 W. Main St in Westminster.

Reservations are not needed and we like the food!

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.



#### VISIT FREDERICK FOR SIGHTSEEING Thursday, September 26th at 9:30 am

Meet at CUU at 9:30 to carpool to Frederick for a day of sightseeing.

Some options could be Carroll Park Creek which has an interesting art place, the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, the many shops available, or whatever ideas you may have.

Frederick has a lot of restaurants so getting lunch will not be a problem.

Call Beth Schilpp with questions.





#### LADIES WHO LUNCH every Wednesday at noon on Zoom

LADIES WHO LUNCH is a social Zoom gathering that is open to ANY woman who is a member or friend of CUU. We invite you to drop in any Wednesday between 12:00-1:00 pm. Whether you have 10 minutes to spare, or the full hour, you are welcome here!



Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

#### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 2nd at 7:00 pm on Zoom

The Congregational Life Committee sponsors a variety of activities for friends and members of the congregation. Check the "CUUpdate" weekly announcements or the CUU website calendar for details. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.

#### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Tuesday, September 10th at 5:30 pm on Zoom

Please Zoom in if you are or have been the physical or emotional caretaker for a loved one. We have no experts – this is just a place to share your issues and experiences.

Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with any questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Board meeting will be on Zoom for all who wish to attend.

Board meetings are open to all unless otherwise noted.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join,



#### **CUU VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT**

Friday, September 13th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Zoom in to play games just for fun. We do not really keep score. The games we have usually played are Scattergories, Tribond or Taboo – mainly because the owner of the game can also play. However, if you have another game that you think will work on Zoom, please come and we can try it. Call Beth Schilpp at 443-904-1304 with questions.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



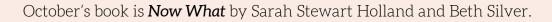


#### CUU BOOK CLUB Sunday, September 15th at noon on Zoom

August's book is *Tricks* by Ellen Hopkins.

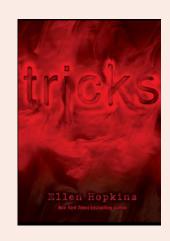
"Tricks is a young adult verse novel by Ellen Hopkins, released in August 2009. It tells the converging narratives of five troubled teenage protagonists. It is noted for its gritty realism in addressing issues of sexual activity and drug use for a young adult readership. It has been banned in some places due to its references to drug use, sexual themes and language." ~Wikipedia

We'd love to have new folks participating in this group. Call Beth Schilpp with questions.



November's book is **Death with Interruptions** by Jose Saramago.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.





#### MONDAY MUSINGS Monday, September 16th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

Monday Musings is facilitated by Beth Schilpp. Ideas from *Spirit Circle* are discussed, as they relate to the theme of the month.

Follow Zoom Link on CUU Calendar to join.





#### WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, September 18th at 7:30 pm on Zoom \_\_\_\_\_\_

Interested in helping to create the Sunday worship services? Then this is the committee for you! All are welcome.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



#### NIGHT-BY-NIGHT: FOOD PROGRAM

Friday, September 20th at 6:15 pm

Every third Friday of the month we provide dinner for approximately 40+ homeless in Carroll County, a community service CUU has provided for over ten years.

Mark your Calendar! In addition to the Friday dinners, on Saturday, September 7th and Saturday, October 5th at 12 noon we will serve 80-100 lunches at the Westminster Church of the Brethren. We often make about 10 sandwiches each and add salads, chips and dessert. Donations of food and money are both appreciated.



Contact Pamela Malkin at 410-857-5071 if you'd like to help.

#### DRINKS AND DESSERT Friday, September 27th at 7:00 pm on Zoom

This is our no agenda social time – come with or without drinks and dessert to chat and enjoy each other. Maybe share your summer stories or whatever you wish.

Follow Zoom link on CUU Calendar to join.



Telephone: 410-861-8820

Email: <u>Outreach@CedarhurstUU.org</u>

Web address: http://www.cedarhurstuu.org

President: Becky Zimmerman <u>BoardPresident@cedarhurstuu.org</u>

Vice President: Sherry Dean <a href="mailto:sherrydeann21@gmail.com">sherrydeann21@gmail.com</a>

At Large Board Members:

Steve Hirsch <u>steveh46@yahoo.com</u>

David Pittman <u>d.s.pittman@verizon.net</u>

Minister: Reverend Kimberley Debus minister@cedarhurstuu.org

Treasurer: Lisa Miller Treasurer@cedarhurstuu.org

Outreach Coordinator: Nalina White Outreach@cedarhurstuu.org

Header and calendar photos by Mark Pollitt

# CEDARHURST UU > SEPTEMBER 2024

	29 10:30am Sunday Service	22 10:30am Sunday Service	15 10:30am Sunday Service 12 pm Book Club	8 10:30am Sunday Service	10:30am Sunday Service 7 pm Congregational Life	SUNDAY
NOTES:	30	23	7 pm Monday Musings	9	2 7 pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting	MONDAY
		24	17	10 5:30 pm Caregivers Support Group	3	TUESDAY
		25  12pm Ladies  Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's  Office Hours	18 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7:30 pm Worship Committee Mtg	11 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours 7pm Board of Trustees Mtg	4 12pm Ladies Who Lunch 4 pm Rev. Kimberley's Office Hours	WEDNESDAY
		26 9:30 am Sightseeing at Frederick, MD	19	12	5 12 pm Lunch at Mediterraneo	THURSDAY
		27 7pm Drinks and Dessert	20 6:15pm Night-by-Night Shelter Dinner	7pm CUU Virtual Game Night	6	FRIDAY
		28	21	14	7	SATURDAY