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# First Press

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The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church – Marshfield, WI

JANUARY 2012

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## PASTORAL PREFACE

Dear Friends,

I was looking at the daily lectionary for January 1, and I noticed that one of the evening psalms is Psalm 8. This psalm is one of my favorites.

The psalm begins as a creation psalm celebrating God's wondrous love in making the heavens and the earth. So great is the wonder of the creation that the psalmist asserts even babies and toddlers can silence God's foes.

But then the psalmist takes a new tack. I can imagine the psalmist standing under a night sky stretching toward the arc of the sky. The stars, the splash of the Milky Way, the planets moving in their erratic paths, and the streak of an occasional meteor across the deep dark blue of night creates the sense of infinitesimal smallness. Even so, the psalmist can then express the wonder that God notices him and that God has positioned human beings in a place of honor.

We have been created to walk with God and to participate in God's creative wonder. The psalmist echoes the Priestly writer of Genesis in saying that we have been assigned the care of God's beautiful creation. All creatures, both those we have domesticated and those who remain wild, fall under our care. While we may not be their creator, we are called to be their caretakers.

A new year reminds us that life is a series of endings and beginnings. The daily cycle of dark and light, stars and sun sometimes escapes our attention as a continual cycle of ending and beginning, but the annual cycle, especially based on a calendar reckoning, captures our attention more readily. We look at this annual cycle as an opportunity to re-create ourselves and restart what we may consider unfinished.

The psalmist, though, reminds us that we have been called into a constant cycle of the care and preservation of God's creation. The wonder of the creation is that God not only calls us to be creation's stewards but that God *notices* each one of us. Just as we are to care for the creation, God cares for us. For the psalmist, God's care of us should be reflected in our care of what God has made and is making.

I suppose that if we have but one task in making new resolutions for a new year, it would be to ask ourselves: How are we caring for all God's creation, which includes not only the creatures (and by implication the plants, soil and so on), but also us, as individuals and as a collective? We can be assured that God loves us. How are we doing in loving what God has

*Pastoral Preface continued*

created? The world is a wonderful and beautiful place; all creation reflects the glory of God. As a psalmist says in another psalm, even the sea roars out God's glory and the floods clap their hands in delight at God's supremacy.

In this new year, may we declare with the psalmist: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Yours in Christ's love,

Kevin



A great big THANK YOU to everyone that was involved in this year's Christmas program. The kids did a GREAT job, and we're grateful to them and to their parents for working on the songs and the lines in between rehearsals (even with last minute cast switches). Thanks to Madeline Lawler, Nick North, Craig Paulman, and Nick Stewart for being the junior high guides of the microphones and the children. Thanks to Carmen Lawler

and Patty Faber for providing musical accompaniment that really added to the program. And a special thanks to Amy Place, Dolores Aue, Danielle Brooks, Kristin Gerndt, and Scott Paulman, who stepped in whenever and wherever we asked them to. The end product is always the best reward.

Joshua and Tracy Olson

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## PLAN AHEAD, PLAN AHEAD, PLAN AHEAD

The Deacons are busy planning the 9th Annual Silent Auction and are counting on your support! Please be thinking about the kind of gift you and/or your family can donate to help support this important fund raiser.

In addition to raising funds for FPC, we will be donating 10 per cent of the monies raised to support mission/charity projects. Donated items in past years have included: services such as lawn mowing, scrap booking, music and racquetball lessons, dinners and wine tasting parties, homemade desserts, and babysitting. Handcrafted items have been very popular such as: quilts and quilted wall hangings, fine-art prints, jewelry, woodworking items, fishing lures, and hand-knit articles. Always popular for vacation lovers is the gift of the use of a personal cabin and condo for a weekend or a week. Tickets for a sporting event or concert are welcome. Antiques are accepted, but please no garage sale items.

Please be thinking ahead how your unique donation can make the Silent Auction of 2012 a success! Contact Kathy Phillips if you have questions at 715-387-0591 or pkphillips88@charter.net

## Adult Forum

After a hiatus for Christmas and New Years, Adult Forum will resume January 8, 2012 with a "Talk Back" session led by Pastor Kevin. You may remember this is the time set aside for participants to ask Pastor Kevin questions about the service to get a better understanding of the meaning behind some of the readings and the sermon, as well as share what the service has meant to you. Suggestions for future service content and much other discussion has occurred during these sessions.

January 15 we will pick up the lectures given by Professor Amy-Jill Levine discussing another of the subjects from the Old Testament. This discussion will be titled *The Jacob Saga*. These discussions, facilitated by Patty Faber, are not the usual Bible study format but a chance to hear a Bible story and offer your thoughts of the opinion offered by Professor Levine. It has been suggested by those in attendance at our other forums that we continue this series for the rest of the year. For more information and a listing of classes, please contact Patty Faber or Nadene Lautenschlager.

- Nadene Lautenschlager

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## Update: The Dark Side of Chocolate

On November 11, the FPC Green Team showed the documentary, *The Dark Side of Chocolate* at the Adult Forum. This film gave a graphic account of children (some as young as 7) who are victims of trafficking working on cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast. Most are promised payment but never receive any monetary compensation. Working conditions are terrible. Although the world's major chocolate makers signed an agreement a decade ago to rid their supply chains of child laborers, the practice exists today. On November 30, 2011 Nestle SA, the worlds biggest food company, announced it will work with a nonprofit group to investigate child labor on Ivory Coast farms. This is a step in the right direction, but it will take time. Be a savvy consumer. Consider buying the delicious, guilt-free fair trade chocolates offered by FPC.

Sarah Hanson  
Green Team member



## LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

**\*Indicates Scriptures that will most likely be preached on.**

### January 1

\*Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
\*Luke 2:22-40

### January 8

\*Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19:1-7  
\*Mark 1:4-11

### January 15

\*1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
\*John 1:43-51

### January 22

\*Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
\*Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### January 29

\*Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
\*Mark 1:21-28

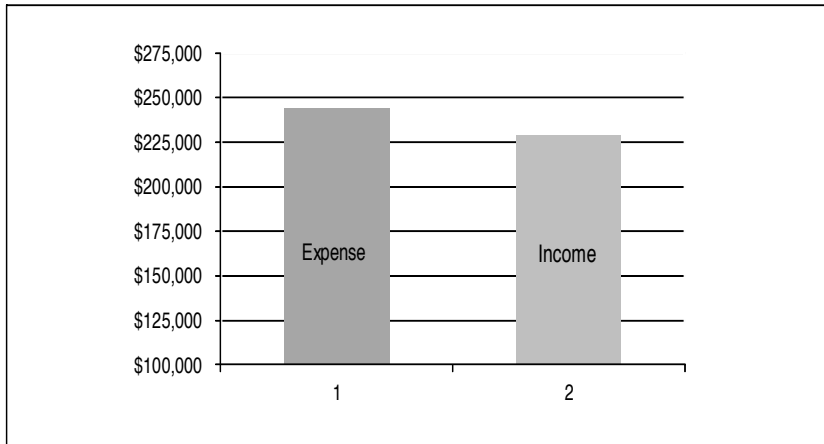
**Administrative News**

**Financial Report**

**General Fund as of November, 2011**

|                      | Nov<br>2011 | Nov<br>2010 | YTD<br>2011 | YTD<br>2010 | YTD<br>Difference |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Income               | 13,357      | 23,993      | 231,693     | 262,723     | -31,030           |
| Expenses             | 27,236      | 28,141      | 244,298     | 186,229     | 58,069            |
| Income Less Expenses | -13,879     | -4,147      | -12,605     | 76,494      | -89,099           |

YTD expenses \$244,298  
 YTD income received with prepaid pledges prorated \$229,050



**2011 Contribution Statements:** Just a reminder that if you are itemizing on your 2011 tax return, please make sure that you have picked up your 2011 contribution statement. The statements will be available here at the church by January 15.

**Festival Food Receipts:** Please make sure to drop off your Festival Food receipts for October through December by January 8, 2012.

Financial Report continued on page 5

**Serving Our Church  
2011-2012**

**✕ Session**

*Marilyn Graham, Josh Olson  
 Gayle Strand  
 Don Zais, Clerk of Session  
 Jim Aue, Patty Faber  
 Mary Miech, Carolyn Opitz  
 Bruce Lautenschlager  
 Phil Phillips, Nancy Popp  
 Dot Shields*

**✕ Deacons**

*Dolores Aue,  
 Clay & Terry Bernick  
 Adele Heller  
 Ron Rank, Janet Singer  
 Janet Crossley, Mary Mabeus  
 Tracy Olson, Chair  
 Kathy Phillips  
 Mary Jo Siebenaler  
 Beth Albee, Jan Clouse  
 Betty Pratt, Beth Walsh  
 Kerri Wichlacz, John Wing*

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 200 S Lincoln Ave  
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phone (715) 384-2484  
 fax (715) 387-3306  
 e-mail fpcm@frontier.com  
 website www.fpcmashfield.org  
 Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Kevin Buchanan  
 Parish Nurses.....Carolyn Opitz  
 .....Kerri Wichlacz  
 Confirmation Coordinator.....  
 Deb Murrell  
 Children's Ministries Coordinator .....  
 Denise Sonnemann  
 Youth Ministries Coordinator.....  
 Cornelia Krahn  
 Adult Forum Coordinator.....  
 Nadene Lautenschlager  
 Nursery Attendant.....Therese Brooks  
 Business Manager ..... Ellen Leick  
 Admin. Secretary.....Harriet Brandt  
 Custodian.....Mike Ress

*Financial Report continued*

**Memorial / Building Fund as of November 2011**

|                                |            |                   |        |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------|
| Cash and Investments           | 87,929     |                   |        |
| Designated Funds:              |            |                   |        |
| Bldg Items                     | 35,799     | Bldg Fund/Parking | 27,270 |
| Parish Nurse Program           | 202        | BF Mission        | 6,207  |
| Music/Worship                  | 1,276      | CE Prog./Library  | 15,603 |
| Youth Programs                 | 701        | Audio Tapes       | 155    |
| H. Scidmore Mem Garden         | 716        |                   |        |
| Line of Credit                 |            | 0                 |        |
| Notes Program Loan Payable     | 177,519.11 |                   |        |
| Notes Program Interest Payable | 52,792.69  |                   |        |
| Building Fund Total Debt       | 230,311.80 |                   |        |

- Current rates for the Notes are 2.00% for \$10,000 or more and 1.50% for under \$10,000.
- Please call or e-mail me (eleick@frontier.com) if you have any questions or comments ~ Ellen Leick, Business Manager

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**TO ALL MY FPC FRIENDS: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2012**

When the Holiday rush is over, and we can reflect on what the new year holds for us, we should all take a few minutes to thank our God for his blessings. We are all blessed to have the basics of food, clothing, and shelter available to us. Those of us who have loved ones in harms way, pray each day for their safety and return to us. To those of us in good health, thank God for the blessing of good health and for those who need the safety of his loving arms, we thank him. This is the season of our Lord's birth, let us rejoice in IT.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and A VERY HAPPY 2012.

YOUR CHURCH MOUSE

**WEDNESDAY NOON BIBLE STUDIES will begin on January 18, 2012. Our study will be on the book of Revelation. All are invited.**

**FRIDAY FISH FELLOWSHIP will be held on Friday, January 6, 2012 at 5:30 P.M. at Scotty's Pizza. Please call the church office by noon on the 6<sup>th</sup> to make your reservation.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**SYNOD SCHOOL 2012  
"Singing the Lord's Song  
in a Strange Land"**

**July 22-27, 2012  
Buena Vista University  
Storm Lake, Iowa**

## Christian Education News

After a number of weeks of much activity, the Sunday School children will have a break for Christmas and New Year. They will once again meet January 8, 2012. Hopefully you all got an opportunity to see the program given by the children on December 18, 2011. It was a wonderful performance that was appreciated by all in attendance. Many thanks go out to Josh Olson, Tracy Olson, Amy Place, and Danielle Brooks, as well as many parents and others who helped the children learn their lines and assisted with costumes and crowd control. Also, a special thanks goes out to Carmen Lawler for accompanying the children on the piano and Patty Faber for accompanying the children on the guitar. Without dedicated volunteers, our program would not be as successful as it is, for sure. We hope you also enjoyed the birthday cake for Jesus after the service.

The CE group will be taking a break from activities for a little while but be alert for the Souper Bowl of Caring in February, led by the youth groups.

It seems early (5+ months ahead), but if you are having an urge to purge things from your closet or basement after the holidays, set them aside for the rummage sale in June.

Please don't forget, we can use more volunteers for Sunday School teachers. The lesson plan is easy to follow, and the children do not expect professional teachers. They appreciate that someone will take time from their busy schedule to be with them. Contact Denise Sonnemann or Nadene Lautenschlager to learn more about this valuable volunteer opportunity.

Nadene Lautenschlager  
CE Committee

## VIOLIN/HARP RECITAL

You are invited to the ROS/CAR Duo recital on Saturday February 4th at 2 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church in Marshfield. The recital will include violin and harp music performed by violinist, Oscar Soler, and harpist, Rosalie Gilbert. Mr. Soler currently teaches at the Aber Suzuki Center at UWSP and teaches violin to students ages 4 through adult. He comes to Marshfield once a week. The recital is free and open to the public.





## Confirmation News

Remember to put Confirmation on your 2012 calendar! We meet the second and third Sundays of the month through April, from 10:45 (following worship) until noon. Students and mentors will attend the Annual Meeting together in February. Tenth graders (with the assistance of their mentors) will work on their faith statements on Sunday, April 29; present their statements to the Session, families, and mentors on May 6; and celebrate the Rite of Confirmation on May 13.

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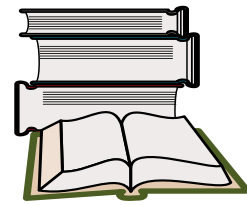
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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On December 14, twelve teenagers and several helpful elves (adults) decorated Christmas cookies for the bake sale held on Sunday, December 18. The camaraderie and cooperation in this group is a wonderful witness to the energy of teenagers. Many church members donated beautiful cookies to our cause, for which I am very thankful.

Please take note that in January we will be meeting from 7:00-8:00 P.M. to accommodate more youth. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, we will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring.

- Cornelia Krahn



## OPEN BOOK GROUP

Date:

Thursday, January 19,  
9 A.M. refreshments,  
9:30 discussion

Hostess: Sarah Hanson,  
1100 Fairview Dr.  
715-384-8870

Facilitator: Sarah Hanson  
Book: Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, Broadway Paperbacks, 2010.

"Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists knew her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer who suffered one of the most virulent cases of cervical cancer ever seen. Her cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951. They became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions--they reproduce extremely fast--yet she remains virtually unknown, and

*Open Book Group continued on page 8*

*Open Book Group continued*

her family can't afford health insurance, nor received any of the profits. They learned only gradually about the value of the cells. The book is factual but written like a novel, telling a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine, of scientific discovery and faith healing, and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew."

Rebecca Skloot is an award-winning science writer. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, on NPR, PBS *Nova*, *Science Now*, and many popular magazines. The book is being made into an HBO movie by Oprah Winfrey. Skloot has begun the Henrietta Lacks Foundation. She has degrees in biological science and creative nonfiction.

The theme for this year at UW Marshfield/Wood County is "Ethical and Social Responsibility." The recommended book is *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Retail price is \$16; Amazon \$8.24. The library has it.

—Janet Wolfe

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**HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?**



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeff Josephson, Christy Rens
- 2 Margaret Fornefelt
- 7 Clay Bernick, Jack Gellerman  
Carly Dean Schilling
- 9 Janet Wolfe
- 11 Ernie Lurvey  
Denise Sonnemann
- 12 Beth Albee, Kara Faciszewski  
Julie Horton, Travis Kunding  
Jordyn Wichlacz
- 13 Stephen Nordin
- 14 Valerie Kelsey  
Michael Schulein  
Zach Stanley, Jenny Urquhart  
Charlie Workinger
- 15 Luke Murrell
- 16 Alexia Daul, Joe Wagner
- 17 Wendy Dart, James Opitz  
Brady Zais
- 19 Marjorie Halle
- 20 David Sutterer, Lyn Zais
- 21 Kathy Phillips
- 22 Bruce Brink, Carlo Ferge
- 23 Nate Daniel, Peyton Daul
- 24 Tom Forbish, Courtney Miller  
Aurora Thorne
- 26 Sonya Ewert
- 27 Jake Hainzlsperger  
Charlie Place  
Maya Elizabeth Volenec
- 28 Chloe Howard
- 30 Ken Craft, Joanna Gellerman

First ✠ Press

**First Presbyterian Church**

200 S Lincoln Avenue

Marshfield, WI 54449

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*January***Our Mission**

“First Presbyterian Church, Marshfield, Wisconsin, seeks to welcome all to join us on our journey of faith, denying no one, based upon his or her particular human condition, participation in the life of the church. We want to be a safe place, a sanctuary where people are accepted, included, and cared for as they are. We will be agents of God’s transforming power, aligning ourselves with the Holy Spirit as we pray, worship, learn, share fellowship and serve together. By attending to the love of Jesus Christ in our midst, we discover a deepening faith that makes a difference in our lives. As a community based on God’s love, we strive to be of service to our neighbors and to the world.”

# Children's Ministry Update

**Happy New Year!!!!**

As we welcome 2012, we start to think about what we have all accomplished over the past year. We had another successful Sunday School program. Our attendance seems to be rising every year. We also had an awesome Vacation Bible School in August. The number of children that attended was amazing! Everyone had so much fun, both the children and the teachers. We also started the fall with a new Sunday School curriculum. We want to teachings to not only be beneficial to the children, but also user friendly to the teachers. We see new parents stepping up and helping with the program which shows a true commitment to our children. For as wonderful as 2011 was, I can't see what 2012 holds for us!

**Merci ☘ Thank You ☘ Gracias**

A special THANK YOU to:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Dolores Aue     | April Daul   |
| Kristin Gerndt  | Christy Rens |
| Danielle Brooks | Josh Olson   |
| Carmen Lawler   | Amy Place    |

We wouldn't be able to have Sunday School or the Christmas Program without your dedication and time! Thank you!

## HELP WANTED

Be an ACTIVE part of Children's Ministry at FPC! We are always looking for teachers for our kindergarten thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and also for our 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. If you are interested but still a little nervous about it, come and see what we are all about.

**We are in need of teachers for January and February!!!!  
If you are able to teach, please let Denise know!**



|      |                                                                        |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/1  | No Sunday School                                                       |
| 1/8  | Jesus Walks on Water/Joseph takes his family to safety in Egypt        |
| 1/15 | Jesus heals a blind man/Joseph, Mary and Jesus return to Nazareth      |
| 1/22 | Jesus raises Jairus' daughter/Jesus teaches in the temple of Jerusalem |
| 1/29 | Jesus feeds 5000/John prepares the way for Jesus near Bethany          |

# January

|                                                                                                                                      | <i>Mon</i>                                                                                                          | <i>Tue</i>                                                               | <i>Wed</i>                                                                                                                             | <i>Thu</i>                                                                                     | <i>Fri</i>                                                    | <i>Sat</i>                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br><br>NO SS/AF<br><br>Pastor Kevin in Arpin                                            | <b>2</b><br><br><b>CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</b><br>3:30 Music/Movement                                     | <b>3</b><br>10:00 Staff Mtg                                              | <b>4</b><br>9:00 M/M<br>4:15 Worship Cmt<br>6:00 Handbells<br>7:00 Chancel Choir<br>7:00 SH Youth Group                                | <b>5</b><br><br>7:00 Deacons Mtg                                                               | <b>6</b><br><br>5:30 Friday Fish Fellowship at Scotty's Pizza | <b>7</b><br>9-1 Special Olympics Training |
| <b>8</b><br>9:20 Worship/Comm<br>10:30 Fellowship/2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Breads<br>10:45 SS/AF/Confirmation Class<br>6:30 Boy Scouts | <b>9</b>                                                                                                            | <b>10</b><br>10:00 Staff Mtg                                             | <b>11</b><br>6:00 Handbells<br>7:00 Chancel Choir<br>7:00 MS Youth Group                                                               | <b>12</b>                                                                                      | <b>13</b>                                                     | <b>14</b>                                 |
| <b>15</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br>10:45 SS/AF/Confirmation Class                                                      | <b>16</b><br>3-9 Suzuki Lessons<br>4:00 Youth Basketball<br>5:30 M/M<br>5:30 B/G Cmt Mtg<br>6:30 Green Team Cmt Mtg | <b>17</b><br>10:00 Staff Mtg<br>1:00 Outreach Cmt Mtg<br>6:00 CE Cmt Mtg | <b>18</b><br>9:00 M/M<br>12:00 Bible Study<br>4:00 Youth Basketball<br>6:00 Handbells<br>7:00 Chancel Choir<br>7:00 Joint Youth Groups | <b>19</b><br>9:00 Open Book Group at Sarah Hanson's<br>5:45 Personnel Cmt Mtg<br>6:00 Pack 381 | <b>20</b>                                                     | <b>21</b>                                 |
| <b>22</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br>10:45 SS/AF                                                                         | <b>23</b><br>3-9 Suzuki Lessons<br>4:00 Youth Basketball<br>5:30 M/M                                                | <b>24</b><br>10:00 Staff Mtg<br><br>6:30 Session Mtg                     | <b>25</b><br>9:00 M/M<br>12:00 Bible Study<br>4:00 Youth Basketball<br>6:00 Handbells<br>7:00 Chancel Choir<br>No Youth Group Mtg      | <b>26</b><br><br>4:00 Silent Auction Set-up in the Narthex                                     | <b>27</b>                                                     | <b>28</b>                                 |
| <b>29</b><br>9:30 Worship<br>10:30 Fellowship<br>10:45 SS/AF<br><br>Silent Auction Begins                                            | <b>30</b><br>3-9 Suzuki Lessons<br><br>5:30 M/M                                                                     | <b>31</b><br>10:00 Staff Mtg                                             |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                                               |                                           |

2012