



## *December 2018 Bridge*

**Yreka United Methodist Church**

502 N. Fairchild St, Yreka CA 96097

*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

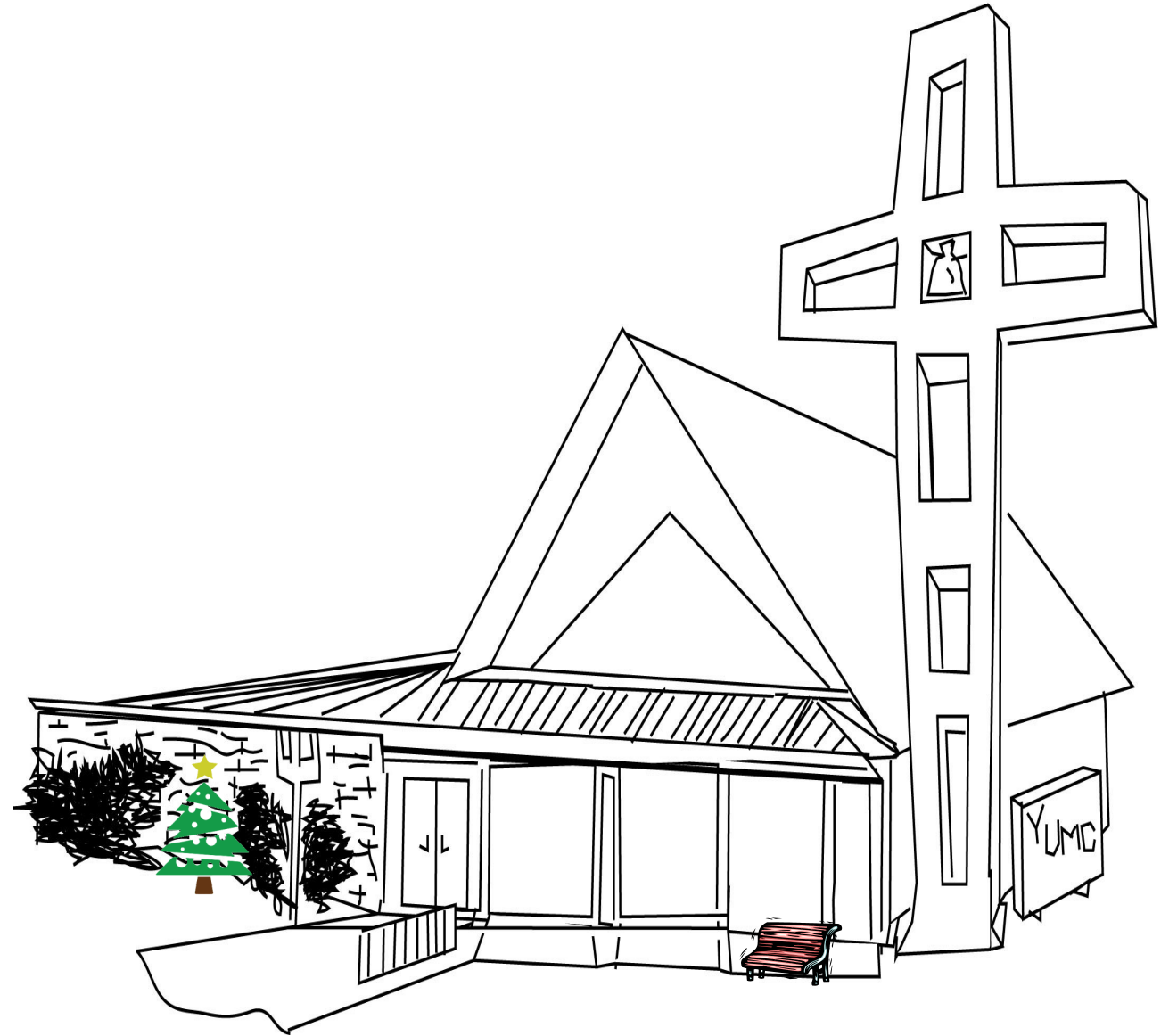
### **Office Hours**

**Monday thru Friday**

**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Office Manager**

**Michael Burleson-Raney**



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## A Note from Pastor Toni

YUMC's mission statement says the following: We are a church committed to *BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE TRANSFORMING POWER IN JESUS CHRIST*. One of the primary operative words in this statement is the word *BRING*!

The Christmas song tells us that: *It's the most wonderful time of the year!* It's Christmas—a time when most of us actually *choose* to enter into the crazy, frenetic, busyness of the holiday. Gift buying, wrapping, parties, food, drinks, and desserts; more food and drinks and desserts, travel, guests, family visits, cooking, cleaning... ***STOP!***

We're exhausted and quite done with Christmas when Christmas finally makes its arrival. But not before Christmas Eve, when we stop for a brief moment to ponder, reflect, listen, watch and rejoice. Jesus comes into our hearts and lives every Christmas Eve as He did over 2000 years ago, and for a brief, albeit welcomed moment in time, life is good and the world is peaceful. Silent Night...Holy Night...

SIGH...wouldn't it be grand if this year all of that changed, and we didn't wait until Christmas to stop and reflect and ponder? Wouldn't it be grand if this year we used the Advent season—the four weeks before Christmas of expectation and anticipation—to remember, listen and watched from the very beginning? Wouldn't it be grand if each day we stopped long enough to give thanks to

the God who gave up His Kingdom and came into our messiness? Wouldn't it?

The shepherds brought themselves and their flocks to pay homage to the infant King who came into their messiness that night. The Wise Men, traveled for three years to bring valuable gifts to the Baby born in Bethlehem that night.

When a baby is born today we give gifts to the new parents in honor of the child who is now a part of our world. There is celebration, joy, wonder and awe at the birth of an infant. The miracle of birth and rebirth can take place in all of now...again...as we remember and celebrate the gift of God who came to our sin-sick planet because of a love so great He would not be separated from His creation any longer.

What will you bring of yourself to this Advent—this time of expectation and anticipation? ***WHO*** will you bring to share in the wonder and the meaning of Christmas this month?

This is the greatest time of the year to reach out to friends and invite them into the true meaning of the season; to welcome them into a safe place where they will experience a Christmas that can change everything for them. That first Christmas changed everything in our world! It still can when we open our hearts to the love, peace, hope and joy promised by the God who wrapped Himself up in a tiny living package so that His creation would

really know Him. Who will you bring this Christmas season? There's not a person on earth who doesn't need Jesus. They just may not know it! You're the catalyst to them knowing the love of God. God picks you to invite friends and family to know the peace of Christ, the love of Christ, the hope of Christ!

That first Christmas changed everything we knew about the world at that time. This Christmas can change everything again!

*"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to me, I pray. Cast out my sin and enter in, be born in me today!"*

Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever... people need to know that He can be trusted to keep His promises!

Let this verse be your prayer everyday this month. Don't let this Christmas pass without sharing the promise of joy, hope and peace with others.

To my dear church family at YUMC:

May you experience a touch of Heaven this Christmas season as you enter into the Christ who enters into you!

A Blessed and very Merry Christmas.

**Pastor Toni**

**Sacred Space, Thursday Service,  
will be on hiatus during December.**

# November 2018

## *Birthdays*

Robin Watson	1
Ruth Boyd	2
Florence Wilkins	3
Marilyn Pope	5
Dave Gravenkamp	6
Steve Renner	10
Marvin Gould	13
Jeff Chitwood	16
Susan Gravenkamp	16
Paula Cook	23
Deborah Dickens	27
Dean Boyd	31

## *Anniversaries*

Jeff & Pam Chitwood	4
Jack & Mary Skeahan	10
Leon & Susan Pritchett	26
Milt & June DeBuhr	27
Mike & Christal Duncan	28

## YUMC December Events

<b>December 3</b>	COS Holiday Jazz Concert at YUMC 7:00 pm
<b>December 10</b>	COS Winter Band & Choral Concert at YUMC 7:00 pm
<b>December 16</b>	YUMC Choir Christmas Cantata at YUMC 3:00 pm
<b>December 23</b>	Christmas on the Streets Sunday Sermon at noon with the Tailgaters at 300 S. Main St, Yreka
<b>December 24</b>	YUMC Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm  YUMC Traditional Christmas Eve Service 9:00 pm
<b>December 25</b>	<b>Merry Christmas!</b> YUMC office is closed today!
<b>December 30</b>	Youth Sunday Service 10:00 Audrey Stott giving the sermon



## UMM BREAKFAST

**12/9/18 at 8am  
At Sidewinders  
All Methodist Men  
are welcome!**



## *Saints Alive!* *Dates to Remember*

**12/4/18 @ 5:00 pm  
Dream Team  
Planning Meeting  
Pizza in the  
Social Hall**

**12/11/18 @ 11:30 am  
Lunch a Bunch  
Strings**

**12/13/18 @ 12:00 pm  
Book Club  
At the home of  
Anita Lantz**

# Celebrate Recovery

**Happy December Everyone,**

We are in full swing with Celebrate Recovery and started with our first meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have had three meetings and have been growing each week. We did not have a meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> but are excited to have one this week and in the coming months.

John and I were featured in the Siskiyou Daily News on Monday November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and we are excited for others to hear about our program and hope to keep it flowing.

We have started our lessons with Step One in the Recovery process and continue to keep helping others with accountability people as well as prayer warriors. I want to Thank Year One for lending a helping hand with prayers, specifically for what we are doing and for the people we are working with also, Pastor Toni for the outreach help when needed.

We were excited to be able to feature our congregation in the Newspaper as a great help and who are also eager for us to make a difference within our community. We also want to thank the people who have helped with cookies for the November meetings and who continue to do so for the month of December.

The year is coming to a close and we want to make sure that we continue to strive to help people within Siskiyou County as well as John in his own personal recovery. We have small goals that we want to accomplish within the coming months. We will be working on getting our meeting out on the CR app so others can find us if they are online and looking. So we have teamed up with the Oregon CR groups to collaborate ideas and work with them to get this going.



Also John & I are going to a training that is in Sacramento, in February that will further our education so we know more and educate ourselves and the people who come to our meetings. These are just some small things to start out with and hopes for much bigger opportunities.

We are also always looking to grow our leaders, monetary donations, as well as any one who would like to become an Accountability partner or even a Sponsor for someone. There are some specifics in doing this but, if you are interested please talk with John or me. We hope you have a Safe and happy holiday Season and excited to see what 2019 brings.

With Love and Regards,

*John & Sadie Gorseth*



# Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

This Advent hymn was written  
by Charles Wesley in 1745

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set they people free;  
From our sins and fears release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation;  
Joy of every longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever;  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit;  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

*"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun  
has risen; not only because I see it, but because by  
it I see everything else."*  
C. S. Lewis



The Saints Alive! Parade entry went off without a hitch... er, there was hitch but it wasn't a problem. Cliff Lantz offered his services and use of his mare Kate and her wagon. Susan Erhardt did some fine decorating. Once again Steve Leal and Pete Bein took Susan's design and built a manger scene that rivaled anything anyone else had.

Anita Lantz and Susan handed out a packet with a cross, candy and the church service schedule for Christmas. A good time was had by all.

# The Book Club

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month presents



## Our December 13, 2018 Selection:

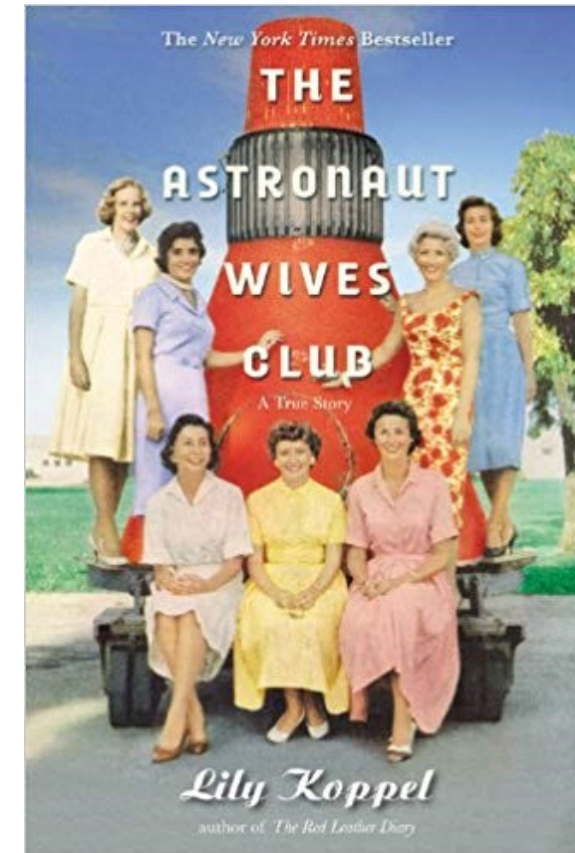
In this tightly wound, enthralling story reminiscent of Agatha Christie's works, Lo Blacklock, a journalist who writes for a travel magazine, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise with only a handful of cabins. The sky is clear, the waters calm, and the veneered, select guests jovial as the exclusive cruise ship, the Aurora, begins her voyage in the picturesque North Sea. At first, Lo's stay is nothing but pleasant: the cabins are plush, the dinner parties are sparkling, and the guests are elegant. But as the week wears on, frigid winds whip the deck, gray skies fall, and Lo witnesses what she can only describe as a dark and terrifying nightmare: a woman being thrown overboard. The problem? All passengers remain accounted for—and so, the ship sails on as if nothing has happened, despite Lo's desperate attempts to convey that something (or someone) has gone terribly, terribly wrong...

*Christmas Celebration at the Lantz home, 12:00 noon, Fort Jones*

# Welcome to The Book Club 2019

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month



## Our January 10, 2019 Selection

America's Mercury Seven astronauts were launched on death-defying missions, television cameras focused on the brave smiles of their young wives. Overnight, these women were transformed from military spouses into American royalty. They had tea with Jackie Kennedy, appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine, and quickly grew into fashion icons. As their celebrity rose--and as divorce and tragic death began to touch their lives--they continued to rally together, and forming bonds that would withstand the test of time, and they have stayed friends for over

## *Facilities December 2018*

The Tailgaters storage shed, purchased by a YUMC member, arrived November 7. We are very thankful. This will provide a permanent storage area for the Tailgaters equipment currently stored in the Education Building. The shed is 8x16 (128 sq ft) with a loft in each end.

Our facilities folks (Mike, Charles and Ed) were in awe over the \$70,000 trailer that delivered the shed. The driver backed up to the foundation we provided. He then dropped a set of wheels, perpendicular to the trailer, picked up the trailer with shed and finished aligning it with the foundation. Then, standing next to the shed, he remotely lifted the shed and extended supports from the trailer bed to the end of our foundation. He tilted the bed and moved it back towards the trailer while slowly placing the shed on the foundation. We placed a 4 ft level on the shed floor and it was level in both directions.

Final work to be completed includes installing skirting and construction of a loading dock with steps. The parking space in front of the door will marked out (no parking) and parking stops will be installed.



Our New Tailgaters Shed

# IMPACT

December is here! IMPACT Youth Team Leader, Sadie Gorseth, has organized us to deliver gifts through Head Start for Toys For Tots and The Salvation Army. Our Team enjoyed serving families in their homes last year and we look forward to serving again. IMPACT will be at Tailgaters Sunday Service on the Street, December 23 at noon greeting the beautiful folks of Yreka with hot chocolate and cookies. Our youth are looking forward to participating in the Christmas Eve Family Service at 5:30pm on December 24. We are currently, practicing for our December 30th worship service. IMPACT Youth are excited to lead Sunday morning, with Audrey Stott giving the sermon. A special thank you to Pastor Toni in guiding the youth with sermon preparation, also to John Villiani and Leah Loughlin leading our vocalist. Please, join us as the Youth look forward to serving YUMC.

As a Team this December we started to read into the Gospel of Matthew and Luke as we revisit the beginning of Jesus's birth. We had great discussion about Mary as she had favor with God. She was chosen as an ordinary teenager to be conceived by the Holy Spirit. Mary and Joseph faced many obstacles, even being judged by the Law. Scripture shows us automatic OBEDIENCE, and their FAITH to simply BELIEVE to carry out the BIRTH of Jesus. I believed that this is a season of OBEDIENCE and BIRTH. I challenged the youth that OBEDIENCE to God, could lead them to

BIRTH a ministry, a dream, a career, regardless of their age. This is a season that highlights, "Anything is possible with God."

As we come close to another year passing, I am reminded of the importance of relationship and progress. I have been highly honored to come along side of the IMPACT Team, to serve them, love them and lift them up to be all they can be in Jesus! It is my greatest hope and prayer is that each individual comes into the greatest love affair of their life, their relationship with God!



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year filled with love,

**Colleen Alvarez**



## Tailgaters

The Tailgater Ministry will shortly come to the end of its 5<sup>th</sup> year on the streets of Yreka. YUMC has served food to those in need consistently through rain, snow, smoke, and holidays.

We have served 36,327 lunches since 2014 and hundreds of coats, hats, gloves, blankets, and tarps have been handed out.

In the beginning it was the offer of food that brought people to us, but now many more come for the relationships, to talk and be listened to, to have a safe welcoming place to spend an hour on a Sunday afternoon, to have someone to pray with them and to care.

For the third year YUMC is offering “Christmas on the Street”. This special service is open to the community on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 in the parking lot behind the Chevron on Main Street.

I hope everyone will come and join us. Pastor Toni and the Worship Team will be leading the simple service of music, prayer, and the Christmas Story. IMPACT will be serving hot chocolate and cookies, and Tailgaters will pass out goodie bags, gifts, and lunches to our guests. It is a special day when we gather to celebrate Christmas, community, and love.

## Christmas on the Street. December 23<sup>rd</sup>

PS. This will be the only service on this Sunday



**Our Church Family getting ready for Worship.**

## The Tablecloth

(Submitted by Debby Whipple)

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on December 18th were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19th a terrible tempest, a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. He cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc. to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there... They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten "The Tablecloth". The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria ... When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home; that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike? He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

## Christmas Prayer from Space

Apollo Eight astronaut Frank Borman was scheduled as a reader for the Christmas Day service at his church, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in League City, Texas, when the launch time was changed and he found he would be in space on that day. He worked with fellow congregant Rod Rose on a new prayer that he could read to the world. Borman read the following prayer from space while circling the moon on Christmas Day, 1968.

Give us, O God, the vision which can see your love  
in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of  
our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to  
pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do to set  
forward the coming of the day of universal peace.



**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!**

**Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel!**

**It Came upon the Midnight Clear!**

**What Child Is This?**

**In the Bleak Midwinter.**

**Whatever makes you think of  
Advent and Christmas,  
sing it out and sing it loud!**

I'd like to take a moment to wish all of you a Merry Christmas!  
I love my job and I love each and everyone of you!  
It's a pleasure to write our Bridge Newsletter and  
see what all of you contribute to it. Remember,  
this is YOUR newsletter. I accept submissions up to the  
Friday, one week, before the last Friday of the month!

*Michael*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>December 2018</div>						1  9:00 am Tailgaters Private Party
2  9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Noon Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT Youth	3  2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW 6:00 pm Good News Club 7:00,pm COS Jazz Concert	4  9:00 am Quilting 5:00 pm SA Dream Team Pizza for everyone 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30 pm Choir	5  2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study Private Party	6  10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW	7  11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery Private Party	8  9:00 am Tailgaters
9  8:00 am UMM Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT Youth	10  2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW 6:00 pm Good News Club 7:00 pm COS Winter Concert	11  9:00 am Quilting 11:30 am Lunch a Bunch @ <i>Strings in Yreka</i> 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30 pm Choir	12  10:00 am Private Party 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study	13  10:00 am Work Study SA Book Club 12:00 pm The home of Anita Lantz 5:00 pm WOW  <i>Board Agenda Deadline</i>	14  11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	15  9:00 am Tailgaters
16  9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 3:00 pm Choir Cantata	17  2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW 6:00 pm Good News Club	18  9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:30 pm Choir	19  2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study	20  10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW 5:30 pm Leadership Board	21  11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery <i>January Bridge Articles Due</i>	22  9:00 am Tailgaters
23 12:00 pm Christmas on the Street       <hr/> 30 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT Youth	24 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:30 pm Christmas Eve 9:00 pm Christmas Eve  ----- 31 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26  2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study	27  10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW	28  11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	29  9:00 am Tailgaters