



December 2019 Bridge

Yreka United Methodist Church

502 N. Fairchild St, Yreka CA 96097

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

**Pastor
Toni Hartman**

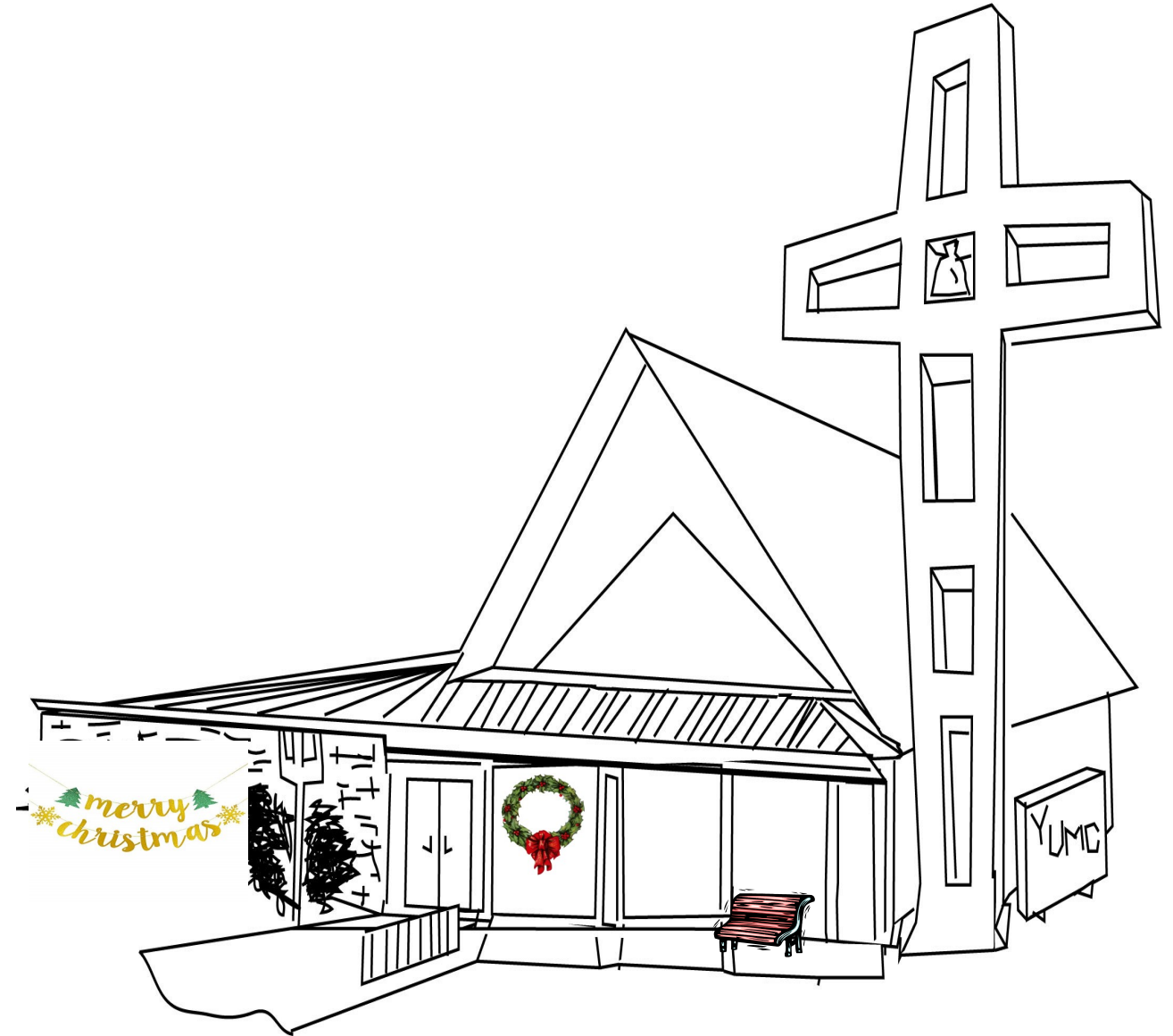
Office Hours

Monday thru Friday

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Office Manager

Michael Burleson-Raney



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A Note from Pastor Toni

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

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 then for a brief moment in time we STOP...we stop long enough to ponder and reflect and rejoice; long enough to remember and listen and watch.

And Jesus comes once again, 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 this 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 to ours? Wouldn't it?

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

When a baby is born today it's customary to bring a gift to the new parents in honor of the child who is now a part of our world. There is celebration and joy, wonder and awe at the birth of an infant. The miracle of birth and rebirth can take place in all of us now...again...as we prepare, remember and celebrate the gift of God come down to planet earth, because of a love so great He would not be separated from His creation.

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 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 be invited to 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. What will you bring this Christmas season? What will you allow Jesus to change in you this Christmas? 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 us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.”

The Carol reminds us that as we humble ourselves in meekness to the Infant Messiah, and receive Him as our Savior, He will change everything!

Don't let this Christmas pass without sharing the promise of the season with others. Let Jesus be the light, the laughter, the joy, the hope and the love that you share 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! Merry Christmas.

Pastor Toni



December 2019

Birthdays

Robin Watson	1
Florence Wilkins	3
Dave Gravenkamp	6
Steve Renner	10
Jennifer Embury	11
Jeff Chitwood	16
Paula Cook	23
Deborah Dickens	27



Anniversaries

Jack and Mary Skeahan	10
Milt and June DeBuhr	27



What's Happening with Saints Alive in December!

December 3

*Saint's Alive! Dream team meeting
and Open House 4:30 pm
Pizza Party!*

December 10

*Lunch-a-Bunch 11:30 am
Strings Restaurant
Annual Christmas Lunch
Free Dessert*

December 15

*Book Club 12:00 pm
At the home of Cliff and Anita Lantz
13211 Pine Tree Lane, Fort Jones, CA
I'm betting it will include a visit with Kate
the Draft Horse.*

*Saints Alive events are open to anyone 55
or older, or anyone who knows
someone 55 or older!
If you have questions or
comments please contact
Michael in the office.*



**UMM
BREAKFAST**
December 8, 2019 8:00 am
At Poor Georges
All Men are welcome!
This is a FREE Breakfast



NEWSFLASH!!!

Financial Fitness Class starting Wednesday,
January 8, 2020

The goal is to get financially fit which leads to financial
freedom! Learn how to control your money; don't let it
control you!

Call Jan or Nick Sinnott with questions or to register:
530-842-5794

The Book Club –Sunday, December 15, 2019

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

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month except for this month!

Our December Read will be:

THE SECRET DIARY OF
HENDRIK GROEN,
83 $\frac{1}{4}$ Years Old



Technically speaking, Hendrik Groen is...elderly. But at the age of 83 $\frac{1}{4}$, this feisty, indomitable curmudgeon has no plans to go out quietly. With an eccentric group of friends he founds the wickedly anarchic Old-But-Not-Dead Club—"Rule #3: No Whining Allowed"—turning himself into an unlikely hero. And when a sweet and sassy widow moves in next door, he polishes his shoes, grooms what's left of his hair, and determines to savor every ounce of joy in the time he has left, with hilarious and tender consequences.

The Book Club will meet at the home of Cliff and Anita Lantz, 13211 Pine Tree Lane, Fort Jones, CA after church, from whence we shall carpool.

The Book Club – Thursday, January 9, 2020

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

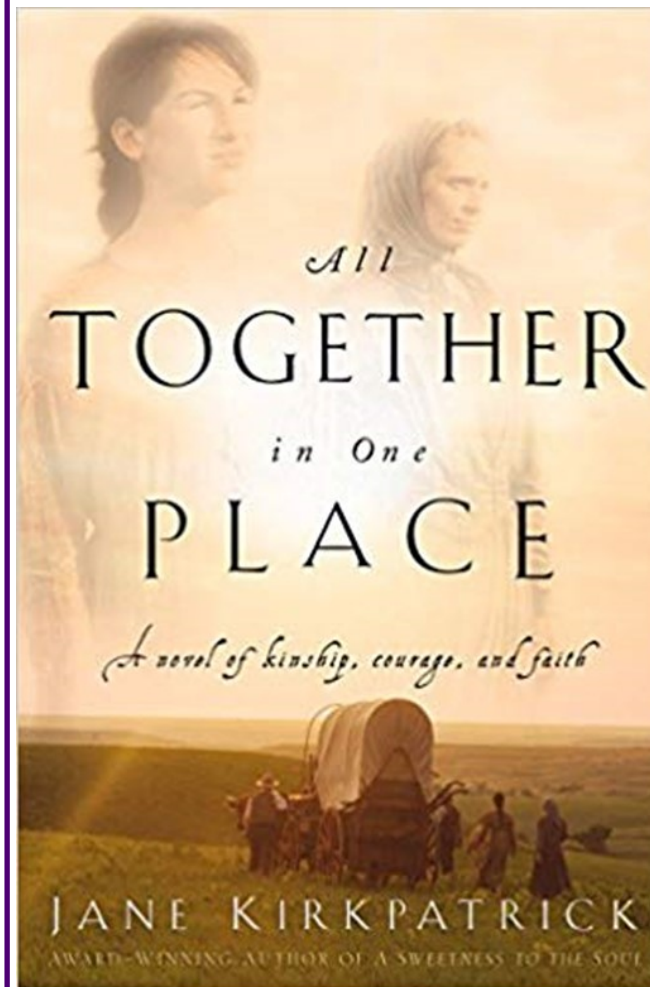
meeting on the second Thursday of each month,

kicks off its 2020 Reading Year with:

One reader's analysis:

This is a "must read" novel for anyone interested in the 1850's westward journey to reach California and Oregon over the historical Oregon Trail. The pioneers risked everything to make it there and the courage, strength and determination they had to have is an astonishing accomplishment.

Jane Kirkpatrick weaves a grand story based on a true accounting by Ezra Meeker in his 1852 journal. It notes his profound impression of a small group of covered wagons reaching their destination along the Trail. In disbelief, he observes that there were no men in this group of 11 women and children. All the men had died along the way, leaving the women to fend for themselves. Based on this recollection, Ms. Kirkpatrick reveals obvious historical research to enhance the story line and satisfy those historically hungry readers with accurate representations of life along the trail.



*The Book Club will meet at 4:30 p.m., hosted by Beverly Short at Poor George's Restaurant.
(100 N. Main Street, Yreka, CA)*



Save the date

Christmas on the street
Sunday, December 22nd at 12:30 pm

Please join us for a very special afternoon as we take our worship service to the streets of Yreka, joining with our less fortunate neighbors, and experiencing the true meaning of Christmas.

For some this will be the only Christmas they have so we want to make it special. In addition there will be music, the Christmas story, hot chocolate, candy canes with a message and cookies, Christmas goody bags, and gifts for the children, If you would like to help here is a list of the things we are collecting...

For the Goody bags

- New warm men's and women's gloves (\$9.00 at Walmart)
- New warm socks
- Christmas candy
- Chap Stick (any brand or flavor)
- Band Aids and Neosporin or other antibiotic cream or ointment

Children's Gifts

New, unwrapped gifts for children ages 3-12

Please remember the good times you had or always wanted, at your BIG family Christmas, that's the atmosphere we will be creating here. Join in the music, shake hands, welcome our guests, pray with a guest, hug somebody and have the best time EVER!

Church Family News

Soon there will be an addition to our Sunday bulletin called **Church Family News**. It will let us know who could use an encouraging note or card, what situations need prayer, who is celebrating, who has experienced an answer to prayer, why we miss seeing someone lately (did they go to Arizona?).... However, it will only be helpful if we all participate. Please pass along needs, situations, and reasons to celebrate to Sarah at 842-4980 or by email to sarahpaf@att.net to get them reported for the congregation.



I prayed for your future today. Then I remembered that your future is already secure. I hope you remember it, too!

Knowing that your future is absolutely assured can free you to live abundantly today.

~Sarah Young

IMPACT

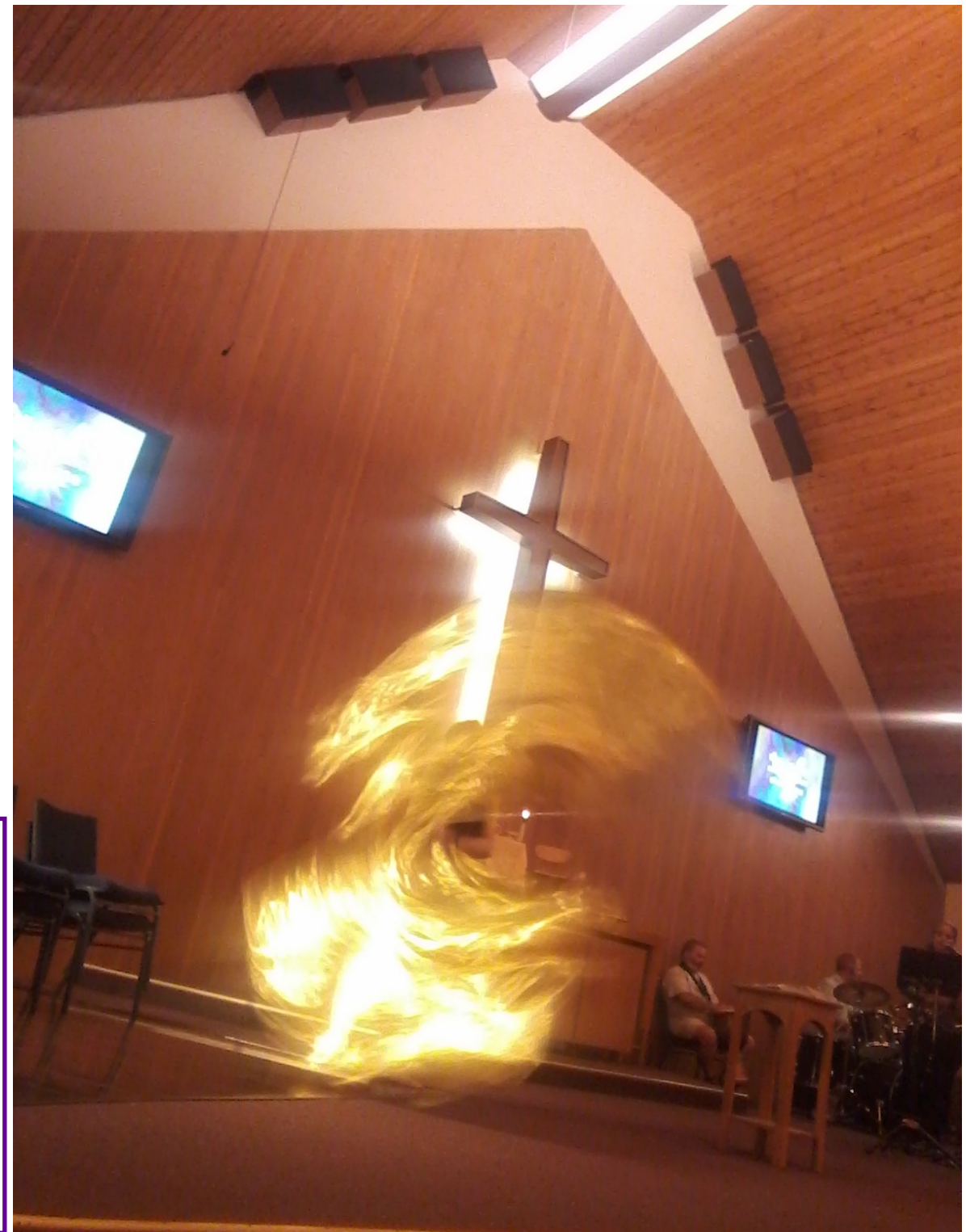
What can I say? I feel I have captured the Holy Spirit in this picture. This is Laraina Chitwood and her amazing flag work. I am so very appreciative of our youth when they participate in the worship service. Please thank them when they move you as much as they have moved me!



News Flash!!

Did you know that if you read one chapter of Luke, beginning December first, by Christmas Eve you will have read the whole book? That's a whole Gospel! That's one of the stories of Jesus life! What could be better reading than that? Why don't you give it a try?
I will if you will!

Join me in a good way to read the Bible at the end of 2019!!



From the Leadership Board for December 2019. . . .

Sunday worship services. We've noticed that the "vibe" on Sundays has been incredibly positive the last month since the Charge Conference. We hope you've felt it too. Keep it rolling !! Pastor Toni has made some changes which we hope you are enjoying. The Leadership Team (LT) has no direct influence on the services. We respect, and encourage you to respect, that Pastor Toni spends two days a week in preparation for what is her special time on Sunday mornings. If you like the service, let her know. Thank you also to our new Worship Team Leader Leah Young for her contributions. Human nature being what it is, come next July we may well be observing/complaining that "it's not like it used to be". So enjoy what each day brings.

Leadership Team changes. The LT has created a new position for Jennifer Villani: Adult Ministries. She'll be the direct liaison between all the adult ministries and the LT. Under the traditional style of church governance these ministries had a seat and vote on the LT which is not present in the streamlined system. The LT encourages all the participants in adult ministries to let Jennifer know what you think, feel and need.

The LT has also created a new position for Kelly Atchley: Children & Youth Ministries Liaison. Among her other responsibilities she'll be organizing a program for children grade 1 through 5 to supplement our outstanding IMPACT program for teenagers.

Church potluck and "Building" event February 2020. Instead of a Friday evening and Saturday day event the LT is changing it to a Saturday (only) event, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with food!! Some topics for our discussion include fundraising events for the whole church, joint activities with other churches in the area, reviving the Parents Night Out program, and whatever YOU want to talk about.

FY 2020 budget. The FY 2020 is currently being evaluated by the LT. It will be a six month budget because the salary and benefit package for the new minister may be different than our present costs.

Homeless. Deb and Pete Bein are leading a discussion with the Beacon of Hope program to use our facilities for two nights per week to provide a meal and shelter for the homeless.

Current budget shortfall. We are still running a deficit in excess of \$ 10,000. We are not exceeding our budgeted expenses but rather are "light" on giving. Help as you can.

Complaints and suggestions. Calling the church office Monday morning is not nearly as effective as writing a short/long note to the Leadership Team to be discussed by the whole team at their monthly meeting. Better yet, write the note then come in person; we have moved member comments to the start of the monthly meeting agenda. The Leadership Team works on your behalf but can't address problems that you keep to yourself.

In His service,
Joe Allison
Leadership Board Chair

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT	2 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	3 9:00 am Quilting 4:30 pm SA Dream Team 6:30 pm Choir	4 9:00 am Private Party 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study 6:00 pm Purely His Grp	5 10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:00 pm Men's Purely His Group	6 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	7 9:00 am Tailgaters
8 8:00 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT	9 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	10 9:00 am Quilting 11:30 am Lunch-a-bunch @ Strings 6:30 pm Choir	11 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study 6:00 pm Purely His Grp	12 10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW 5:30 pm Worship Team 5:30 pm Board Budget Meeting 6:00 pm Men's Purely His Group	13 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	14 9:00 am Tailgaters
15 8:00 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service Noon Book Club @ Anita's 12:30 pm Tailgaters	16 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	17 9:00 am Quilting at Studio 6:30 pm Choir	18 2:00 pm Strong Women 6:00 pm Sermon Study 6:00 pm Purely His Grp	19 10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:00 pm Men's Purely His Group	20 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	21 9:00 am Tailgaters
22 No Service in the church 12:30 pm Tailgaters Christmas on the Street Be there at 12:30 pm	23 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	24 9:00 am Quilting 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve	25 Office Closed Christmas Day	26 10:00 am Work Study 5:00 pm WOW 5:30 pm Worship Team 6:00 pm Men's Purely His Group	27 11:30 am Small Group 2:00 pm Strong Women	28 9:00 am Tailgaters
29 8:00 am Prayer 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 12:30 pm Tailgaters 4:00 pm IMPACT	30 2:00 pm Strong Women 5:00 pm WOW	31 New Years Eve	 <div>December 2019</div>			