



GOD'S PEOPLE IN GOD'S HANDS

SIX STORIES THAT SHAPE OUR FAITH

As we begin a new year, we turn not to abstract ideas but to living stories. Scripture reminds us that faith is not formed in perfect people, but in ordinary people whose lives are held, steadily and faithfully, in God's hands. From Abraham's first step into the unknown to David's prayer of repentance and restoration, these six stories show us a God who calls, wrestles, sustains, hears, steadies, and restores His people. As we listen again to these familiar accounts, we discover that the same faithful God who shaped them is still at work shaping us today.

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From the Pastor's Desk

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Walking with you into the new year,
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A Publication of Marshall First United Methodist Church

702 Plum St, Marshall, IL 62441

Rev. Bill L. Wiggs, Jr. - Directing Pastor

Kelly Lindley - Director of Children and Youth Ministry



Kid's Korner

Happy New Year church family! December was a delightful whirlwind of Christmas joy. Our kids participated in lots of Christmas activities. They were elves on the Christmas float- thanks so much to Amy and Paul Cannady, Sarah Brannon, Shannon Snedeker, and Charlie Moore for helping with the float.

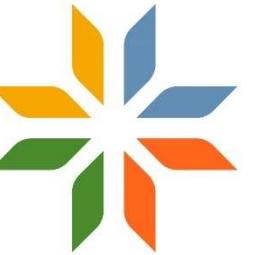
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Stay warm!

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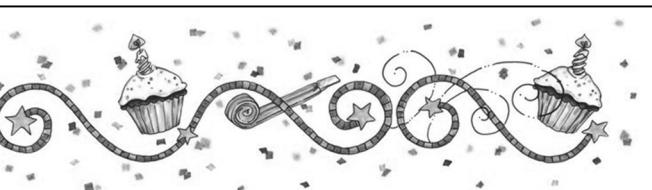
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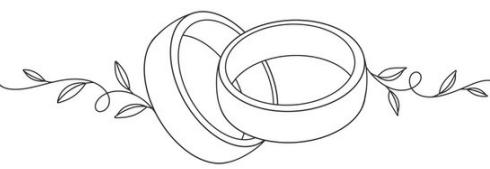
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11th Jim Arthur
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Nursery 4th Danielle & Liberty Cline
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Thank you, also, for the lovely gifts you shared with me. I look forward to another full season with you! Choir practice will stay on Wednesday evenings in the new year. If you would like to join us, there's always room for more people making a joyful noise together!

Becky



Mission of the Month for January - Church World Service Blankets

It is time for our annual CWS blanket mission giving. Remember those gray and yellow blankets that we display every year? Those blankets are distributed to displaced families worldwide by CWS, a unified inter-denominational organization. They provide warmth as well as shelter for many who are suffering from the effects of disasters such as fires, wind storms, floods, wars and other extreme events throughout the year.

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Sleeping Mat Update: We made 20 during 2025! Since beginning this project in November of 2023, our goal has been to finish 1 each month, and we almost doubled it this year! Join us to weave during 2026, and let's see how many we can do. Keep the bag donations coming, and if you'd like to help us add some color, Amazon does have colorful shopping bags in bulk that we can add to our regular grocery store bags.



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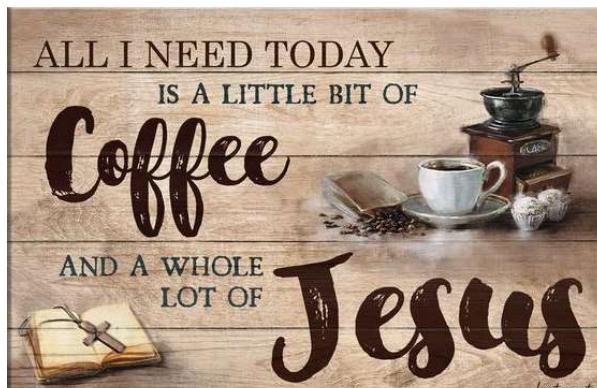


Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in January:

6th 9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
13th 2pm at Holly Brook
20th 9am at Gypsy Queen
27th 9am at Latte Dough

If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE (not just for Holy Grounds):
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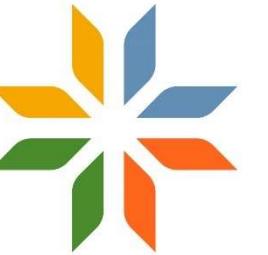
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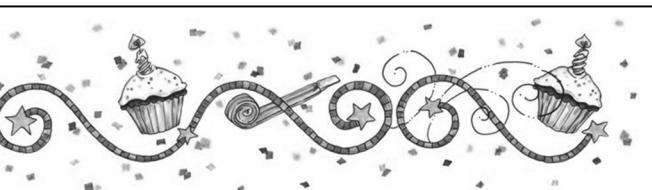
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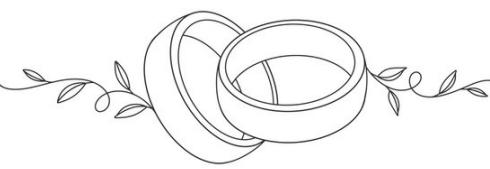
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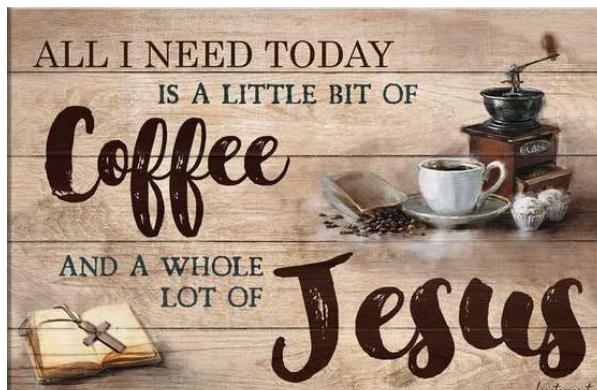
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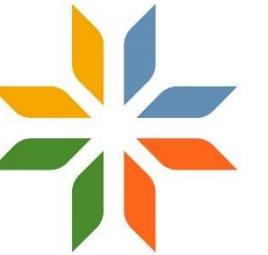
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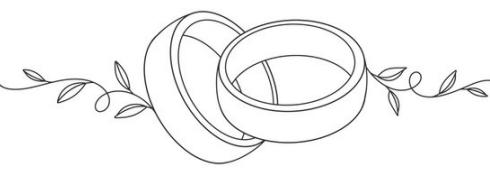
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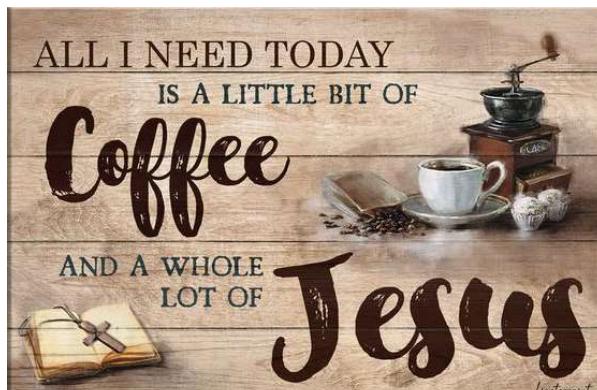
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From the Pastor's Desk

Grace, peace, and hope to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to follow Him and promises to walk with us every step of the way.

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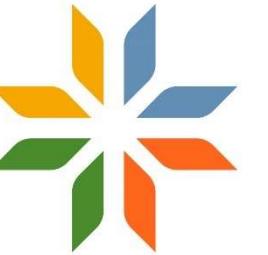
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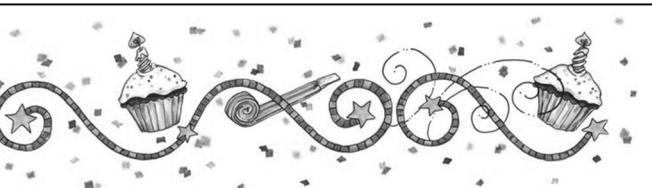
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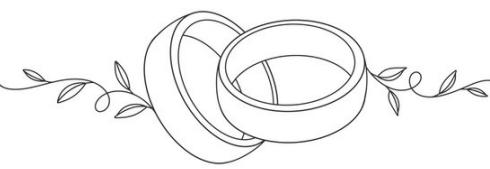
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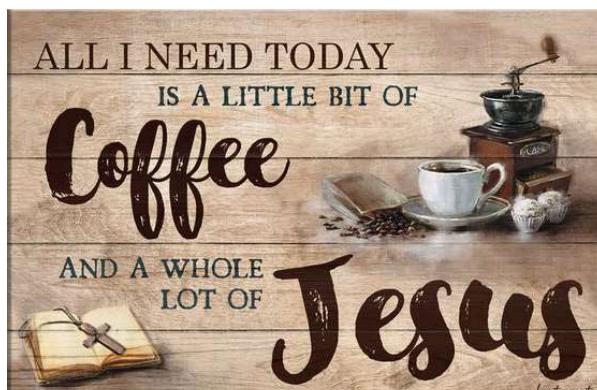


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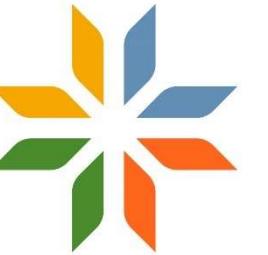
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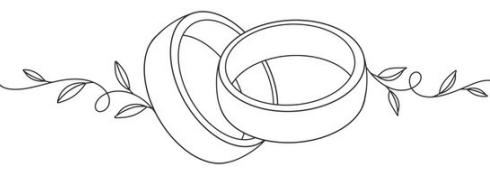
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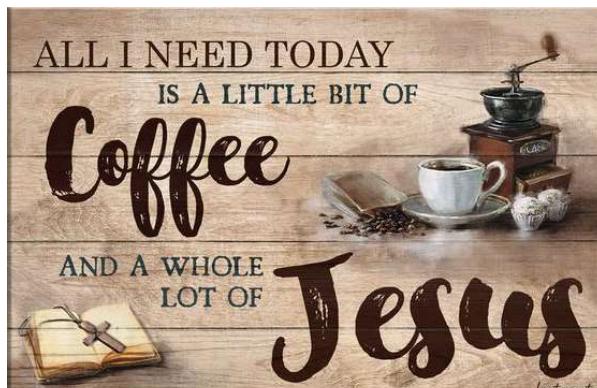


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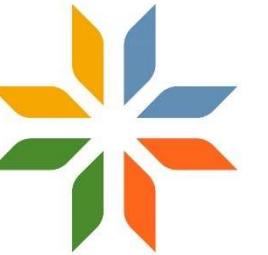
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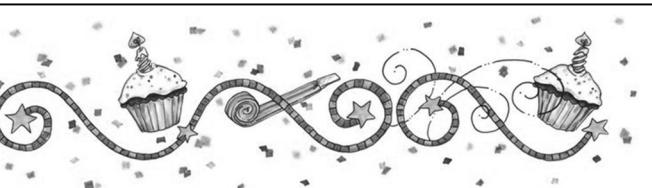
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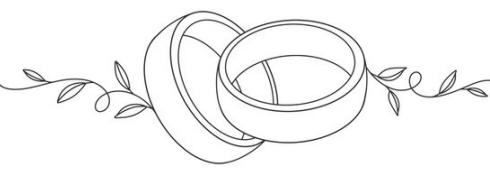
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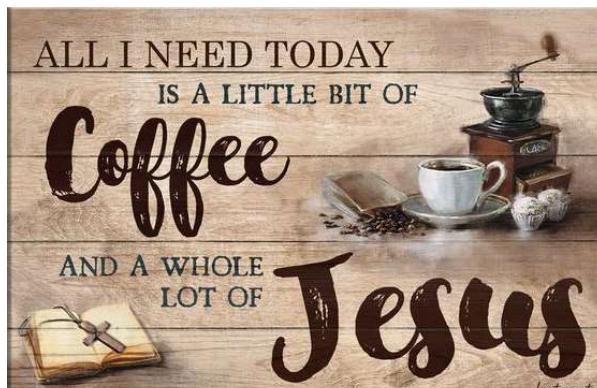


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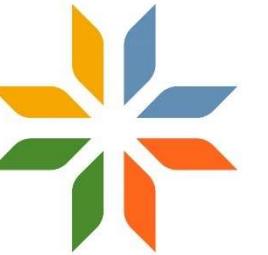
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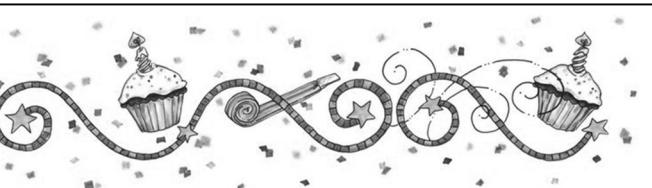
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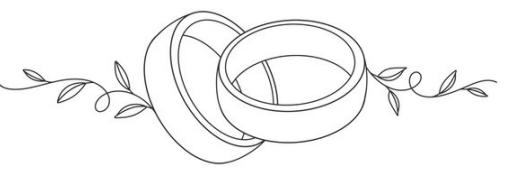
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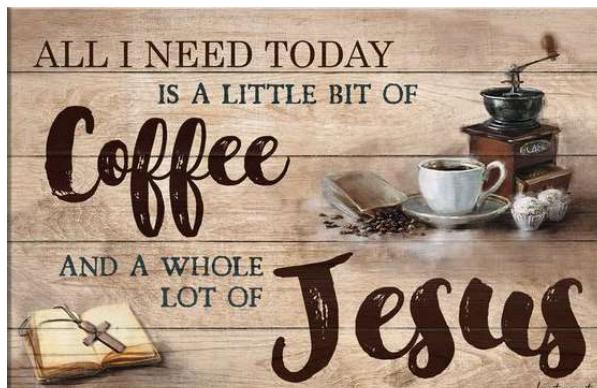


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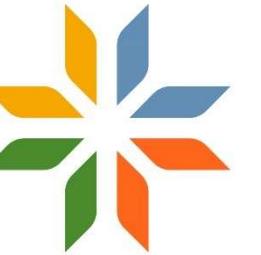
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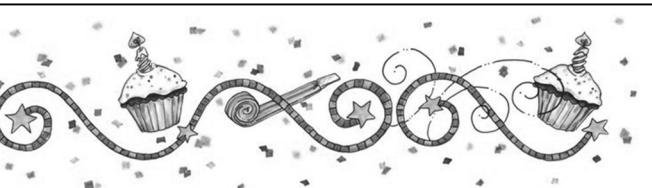
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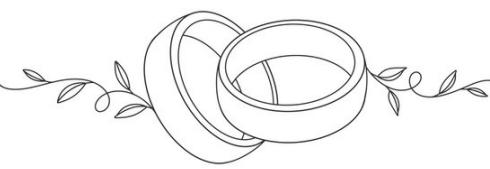
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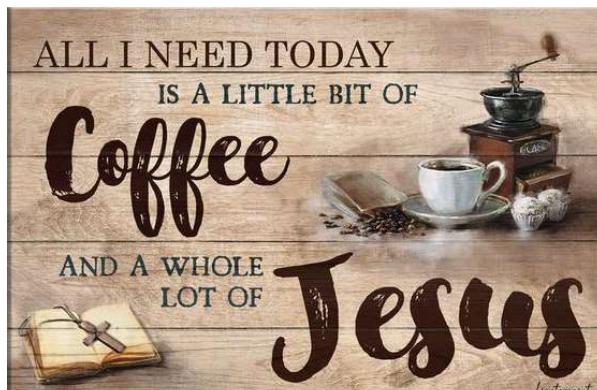


Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in January:

6th 9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
13th 2pm at Holly Brook
20th 9am at Gypsy Queen
27th 9am at Latte Dough

If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

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Grace, peace, and hope to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to follow Him and promises to walk with us every step of the way.

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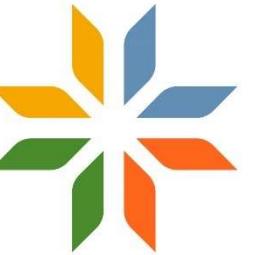
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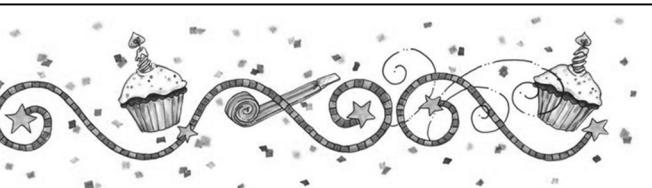
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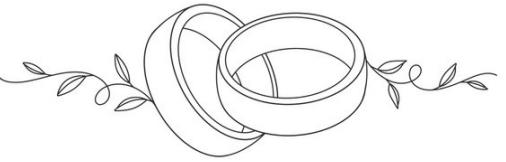
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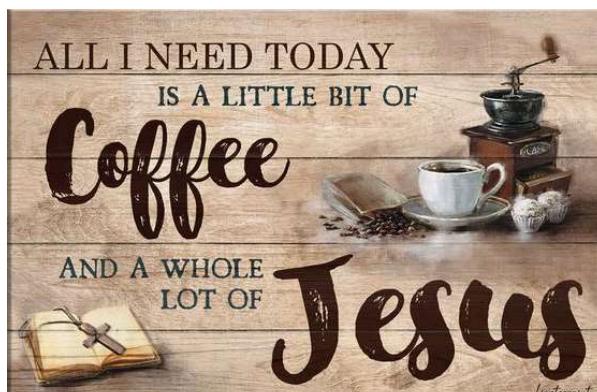
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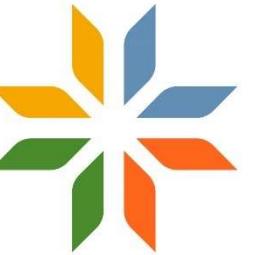
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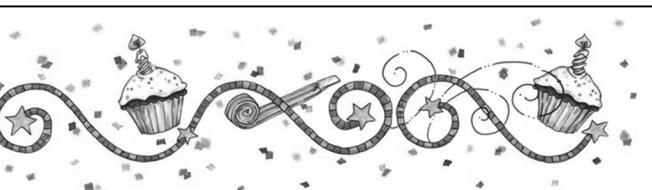
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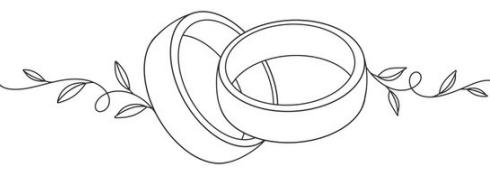
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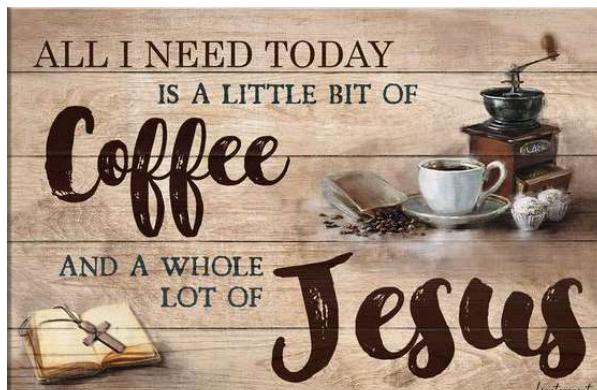
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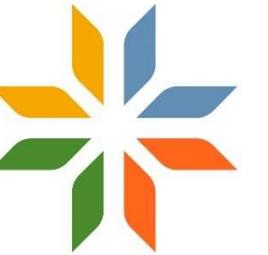
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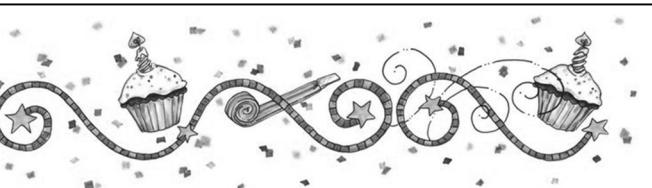
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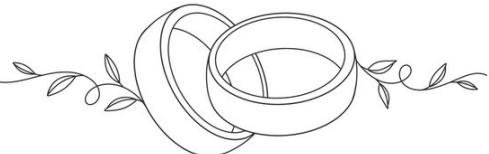
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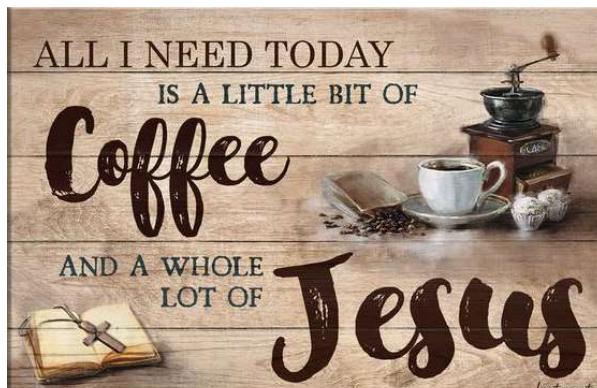


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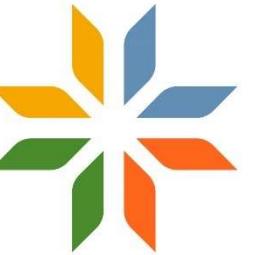
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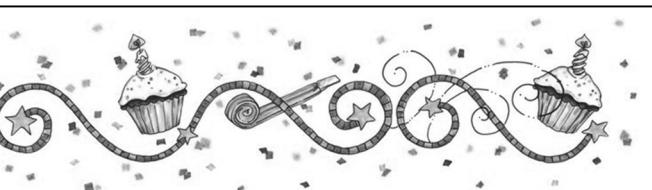
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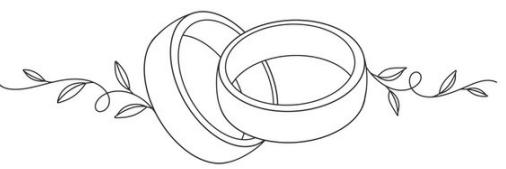
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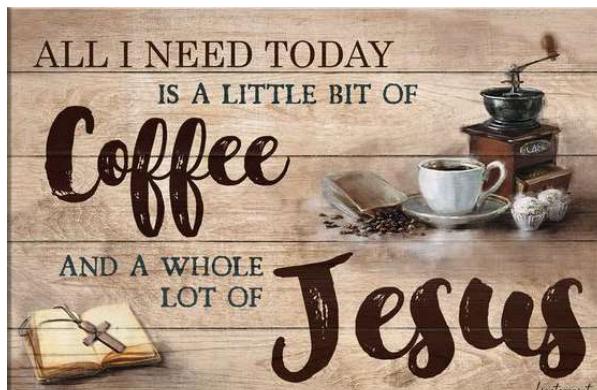


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As we begin a new year, we turn not to abstract ideas but to living stories. Scripture reminds us that faith is not formed in perfect people, but in ordinary people whose lives are held, steadily and faithfully, in God's hands. From Abraham's first step into the unknown to David's prayer of repentance and restoration, these six stories show us a God who calls, wrestles, sustains, hears, steadies, and restores His people. As we listen again to these familiar accounts, we discover that the same faithful God who shaped them is still at work shaping us today.

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Our Nation, Our Nation's Leaders, and our Armed Forces

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From the Pastor's Desk

Grace, peace, and hope to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to follow Him and promises to walk with us every step of the way.

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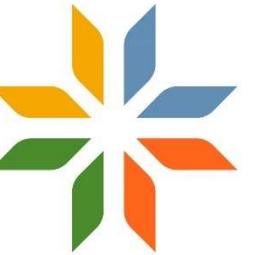
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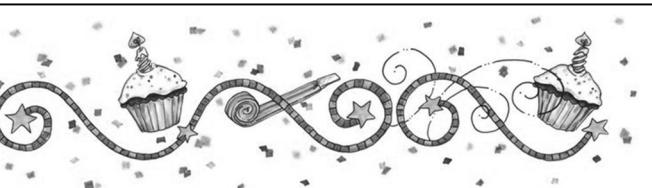
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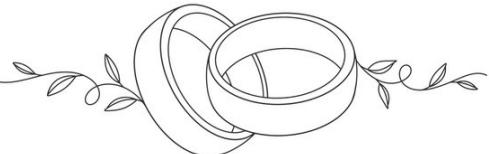
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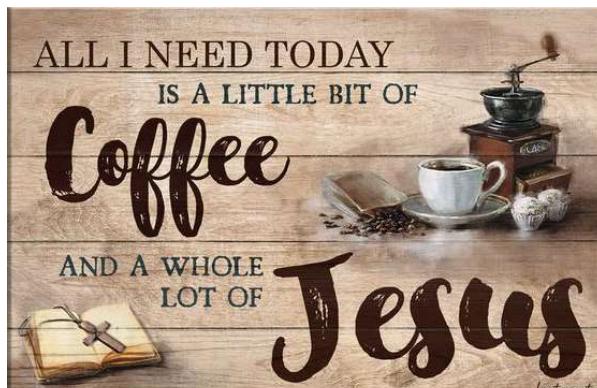


Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in January:

6th 9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
13th 2pm at Holly Brook
20th 9am at Gypsy Queen
27th 9am at Latte Dough

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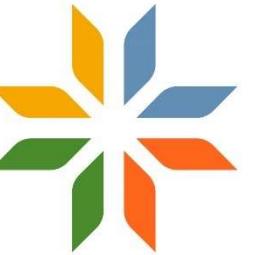
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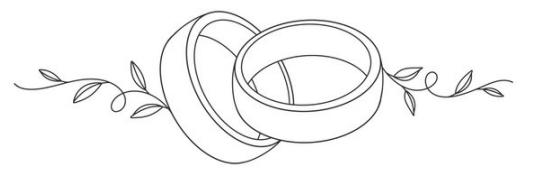
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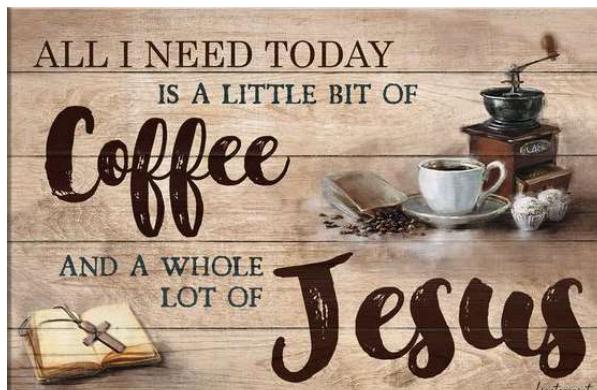
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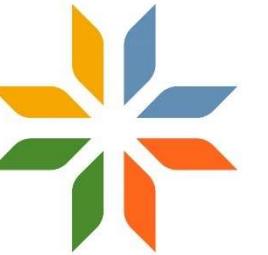
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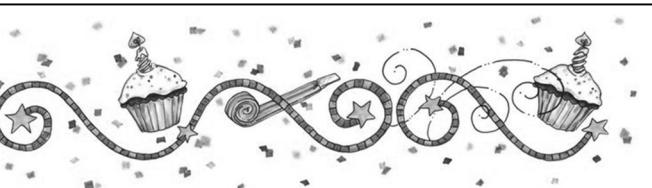
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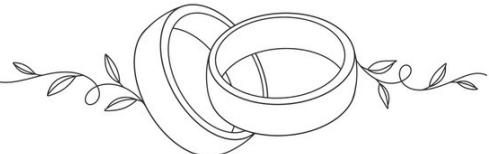
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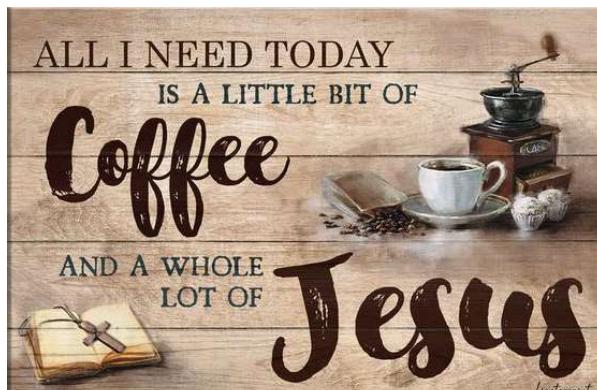
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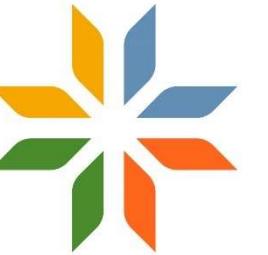
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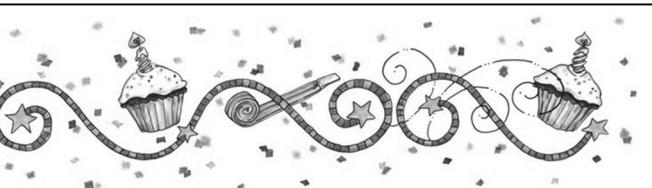
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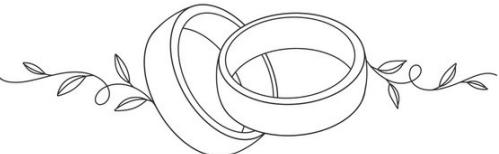
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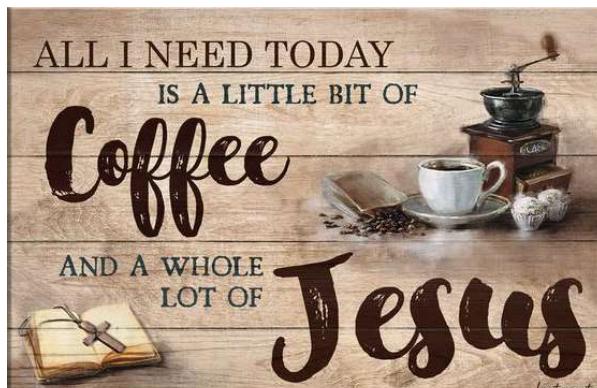


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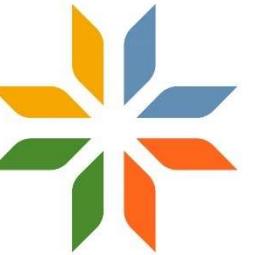
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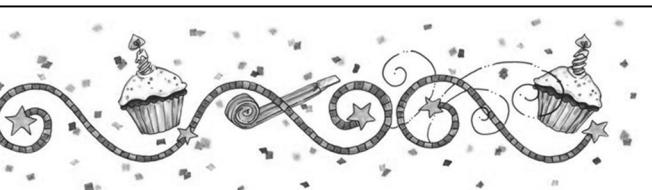
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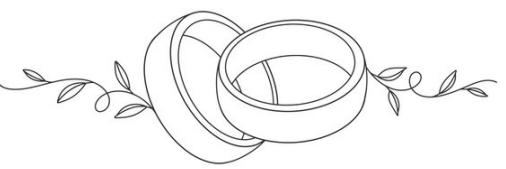
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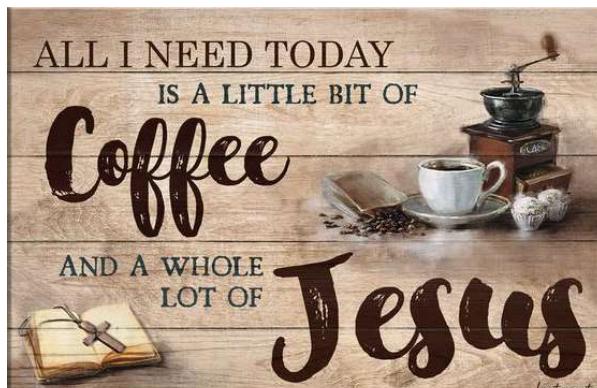


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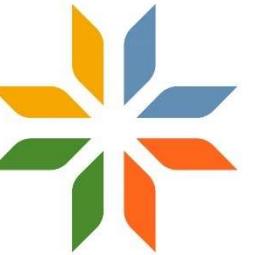
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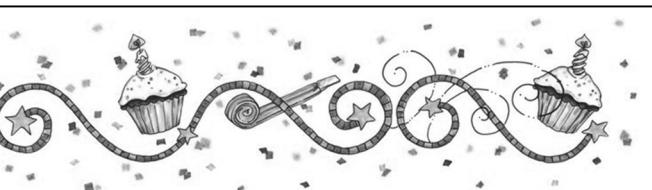
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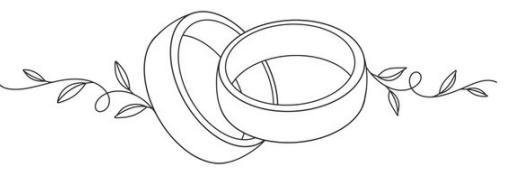
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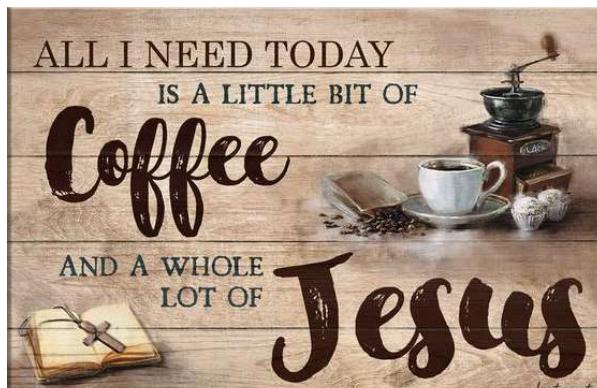


Holy Grounds Coffee Group meets every Tuesday! It is mostly Seniors, but you don't have to be over a certain age to join us! We'd even enjoy having others from our community join us. So invite a friend and pop in for coffee or breakfast and some good fellowship. Here's where you'll find us in January:

6th 9am at Marshall Family Restaurant
13th 2pm at Holly Brook
20th 9am at Gypsy Queen
27th 9am at Latte Dough

If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

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Grace, peace, and hope to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who calls us to follow Him and promises to walk with us every step of the way.

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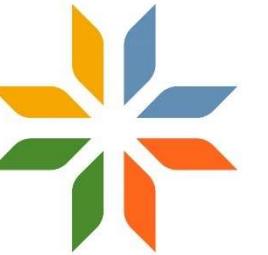
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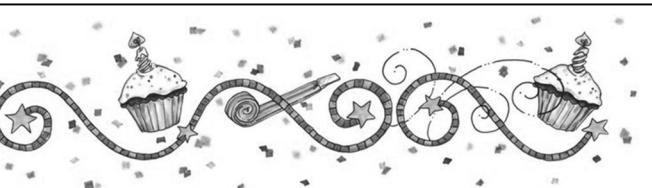
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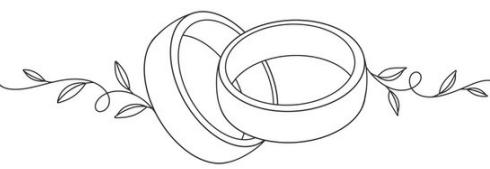
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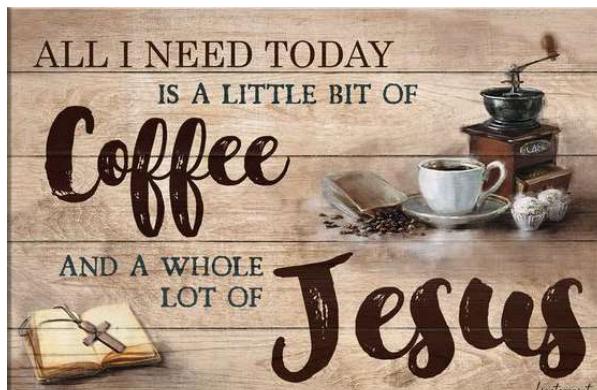
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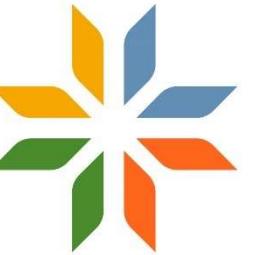
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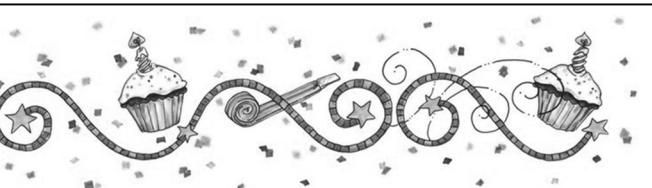
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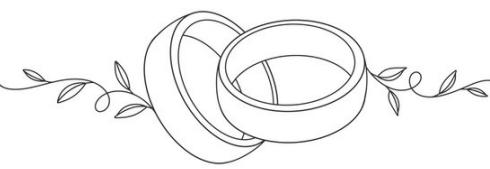
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Sleeping Mat Update: We made 20 during 2025! Since beginning this project in November of 2023, our goal has been to finish 1 each month, and we almost doubled it this year! Join us to weave during 2026, and let's see how many we can do. Keep the bag donations coming, and if you'd like to help us add some color, Amazon does have colorful shopping bags in bulk that we can add to our regular grocery store bags.



January Music Notes:

I'd like to thank those who joined us for our annual Christmas Cantata. It was truly a blessing for all of us to worship together on Christmas Eve. Special thanks to Russ Ross for being our narrator, and to the choir members from Zion who joined us!

Thank you, also, for the lovely gifts you shared with me. I look forward to another full season with you! Choir practice will stay on Wednesday evenings in the new year. If you would like to join us, there's always room for more people making a joyful noise together! 

Becky

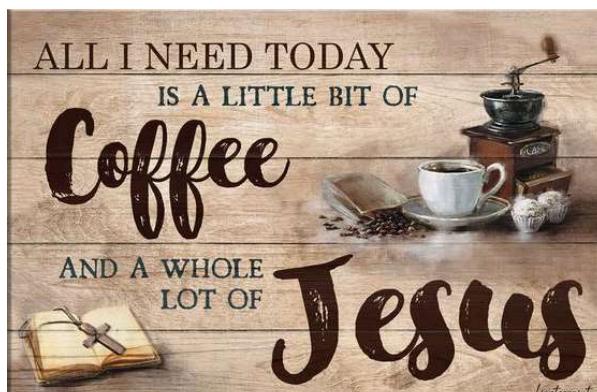
As we step into a new year, we want to say thank you for your faithful giving throughout 2025. Your generosity has helped us keep the lights on, support ministry, care for people in need, and continue sharing the love of Christ in our community. Because you gave, our church has been able to keep moving forward in worship, discipleship, and outreach, meeting our goal of \$41,000 with a bit left over to start the new year.

Thank you for partnering with the Lord's work through our church.



If you'd like to be on our regular text reminder list, contact MaryAnn Stepp or Becky Wiggs.

IMPORTANT NOTICE (not just for Holy Grounds):
Winter weather does tend to make a mess of our church schedules from time to time. IF there would be any cancellations, we will post on Facebook and send out a mass text from the Church Office. If you do not currently receive texts from the Church, but would like to have your phone number added, please let us know!



January, 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EVERY SUNDAY: 9AM Morning Worship with Family Fellowship after 10:15am Sunday School for all ages! Invite a friend!				1		2 Exercise 8:30am
4 Communion Sunday Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	5 Exercise 8:30am SPRC 4:30pm	6 9am – Holy Grounds at Marshall Family Restaurant	7 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	8 Nurture Committee 9am	9 Exercise 8:30am	10
11 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	12 Exercise 8:30am	13 2pm – Holy Grounds at Holly Brook	14 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	15	16 Exercise 8:30am	17 <i>Come volunteer at the Thrift Shop from 8:30-12</i>
18 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	19 Exercise 8:30am	20 9am – Holy Grounds at Gypsy Queen	21 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Family Dinner for all at 5pm! Choir 6:00pm	22	23 Exercise 8:30am	24
25 Youth Fellowship 5:00pm	26 Exercise 8:30am	27 9am - Holy Grounds at Latte Dough <i>Come volunteer @ the Food Disbursement Center from 12-4:30pm</i> Unified Leadership 6pm	28 Weave from 10am-Noon Power Lunch KFC 3:00 – 5:00pm Choir 5:30pm	29	30 Exercise 8:30am	31