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Easter Worship

Sundays at 9:30am

PASSION SUNDAY

March 29 at 9:30am

will begin with a procession from the Fellowship Hall.

MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL and WORSHIP

April 2 at 6:30pm

Please sign-up so that we may plan for food for a light supper. Worship will begin at 7pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 worship at 7pm.

EASTER SUNDAY

April 5. 9:30am

Easter Fellowship will begin at 8:30am-9:15am In the Fellowship Hall Please sign-up on the bulletin board.

If you would like to attend one of the meals and have not signed up, please call the church office.

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵

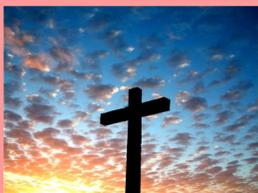
But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and Indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

Matthew 28:2-7



Looking ahead to April:

- Apr 2** **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
6:30pm Light Supper
7:00pm Worship
- Apr 3** **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00pm Worship
- Apr 4** **10am LifeGuide 101**
- Apr 5** **EASTER SUNDAY**
8:30-9:15am Fellowship
9:30am Worship
9:30am YouTube & FB
- Apr 9** **4-6pm Open Table**
- Apr 12** 9:30am Worship
9:30am YouTube & FB
10:35am Adult SS
10:35am Pathfinders Easter Party
- Apr 13** **9:00am JOY Breakfast**
- Apr 15** **10:00am JOY Trip**
- Apr 18** **10am LifeGuide 101**
- Apr 19** 9:30am Worship
9:30am YouTube & FB
10:35am Pathfinders
10:45am Council
- Apr 26** 9:30am Worship
9:30am YouTube & FB
10:35am Pathfinders





Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship



**Maundy Thursday
Reflective Meal &
Worship Service
April 2 6:30pm.**
Plan to attend a
reflective meal at
St. Stephen in the
Fellowship Hall followed
by a worship service and
Holy Communion.

At the end of the
service, the altar will
be stripped by the
members of the Altar
Guild. This moving
service will prepare
you for Good Friday.

Please **sign-up** on the
bulletin board to attend
the light supper, so we
may plan for food.



Good Friday Service



Good Friday Worship Service
Friday, April 3
7:00pm

Worship service on Good Friday will begin at St. Stephen beginning at 7pm.



Easter Fellowship and Worship

Sunday, April 5
Easter Fellowship
8:30 - 9:15am

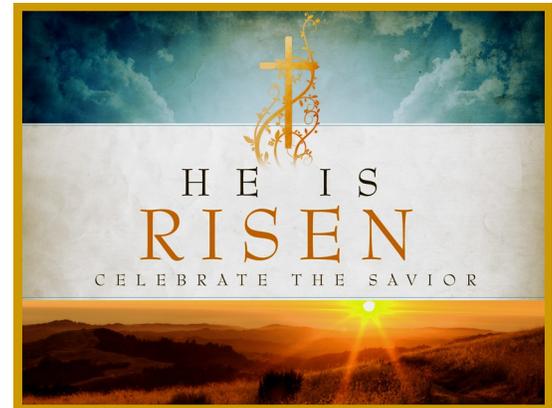
Easter Fellowship will begin in the Fellowship Hall between **8:30-9:15am**. Breakfast pizza, fruit, pastries, juice and coffee will also be available. The Easter sweets are provided by the choir.

Easter Worship
9:30am

Join us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

Hallelujah!

Special music is planned for the this Easter service.



Easter Flowers



Please plan to take your flower(s) home after the 9:30am Easter service.



Matthew, Mark, Luke, and (beers with) John

Thursday, MAY 7

6:00pm

Bell Tower Brewing

Join your St. Stephen friends and family on a Brewery Trail.

310 Park Ave

Kent, Ohio 44240

Order your favorite beverage (it doesn't have to be a beer) and snacks and catch up with friends.

MATTHEW · MARK · LUKE
& beers with
JOHN 



Matthew, Mark, Luke and (beers with) John

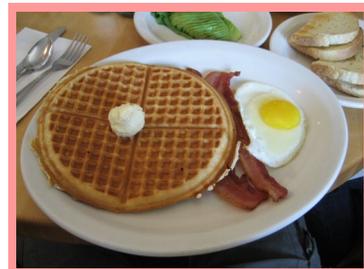
THURSDAY, MAY 7 at 6pm

Date	Location	Address	Food
No Meeting in April - since it's Maundy Thursday			
5/7	Bell Tower Brewing Company	310 Park Ave. Kent, OH 44240	V, GF, Vegan
6/5	Lock 15 Brewing Company	21 W. North St., Suite TL I Akron, OH 44304	V, GF

J.O.Y. Breakfast

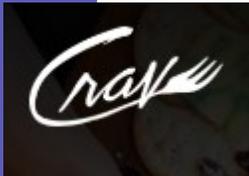
The J.O.Y. Group (Just Older Youth) meets for breakfast the 2nd Monday of each month at 9:00am at the Stow Café.

**See you on
April 13**





AKRON
HISTORY
CENTER



J.O.Y. Trip - April 15

Akron History Center
Wednesday, April 15
Meet at 10:15am

The J.O.Y. group will be exploring Akron's History at the Akron History Center on Wednesday, April 15. To carpool, please plan to meet at the church parking lot at 10:15am. We plan to begin at 10:00am. If you are driving separately, the address is 172 S. Main St., Akron, 44308

Parking is available on the street as well at nearby decks: Cascade Parking Deck (ramp up to Level 2 and exit onto Lock 4), Summit County Parking Deck, directly across the street.

Lunch will follow at Crave, 156 S. Main St., (on the corner).

Please sign up on the bulletin board. See Jane Koch with any questions.



10 - 11:30am
Saturdays,
April 4 and 18

LifeGuide 101

A new support group is scheduled on Saturdays, **March 4 & 18** from 10:00am - 11:30am in the Lounge led by our member, Isobel Faltisco, a past Harvest Home Case Manager. The group will meet **TWO** times in March.

LifeGuide 101 will discuss addiction issues, mental health issues, boundaries, entitlement, family issues, suicide support and anything people bring to the table. Share this opportunity with family and friends who might need support.

Having Trouble Reaching the Clothing Shed?

It's come to our attention that many of you have had a hard time reaching the window on the clothing shed to donate your clothing.

St. Pauly has placed the shed so that it doesn't become vandalized.

To help, there will be a space (or box) in the narthex where you may bring your closed bags (13 gallon) of clothing and we will take it to the shed for you.

Please leave them near the exit closest to the kitchenette.



Temporary Care Needed

Temporary help is needed for one of our members.

Help with getting a meal, prompt for bathroom trips and help getting dressed.

Breakfast is a 9:30am, lunch at 1:00pm and dinner at 6pm.

Just spend the day visiting.

Looking for help at her home in Kent on:

May 1 - 3

September 11 - 13

You will be compensated for your time.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the church office.



Area 5 Handbell Festival - April 25-26

Praying for safe travel for our Jubellation Handbell Choir as they travel to Columbus, Ohio on April 24-26 to the Area 5 Handbell **Spring Ring**.

We are so proud of your dedication to your music and hope you learn new skills at the workshops and enjoy the concert experience.



Choir is Welcoming New Members

St. Stephen's choir will practice on Sundays at **8:30am** in our choir room.

We rehearse Sunday mornings before our church service and sing twice a month. We have a strong core of wonderful, talented, music reading musicians. If you would love to join us, but you don't read music, you will have plenty of support from that group.

We laugh, sing and work hard.

If you love to sing, want to meet new people and want a morning filled with laughter and a sense of accomplishment, the choir is a place for you. See you on Sunday in the choir room.

Dawn Horner, Choir Director



Check Out Our Website

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Rooted in our tradition, Open to yours

Get In Touch

office.ststephenstow@gmail.com (330) 688-7213

About Weekly Bulletin SteepleViews Give

About - click here for a brief intro

SteepleViews- a complete SteepleViews here!

Weekly Bulletin- click here for each week's bulletin (for digital or in person)

Give - takes you to vanco where, once you sign up, online giving can be done

Email the office with these links

Call (from mobile site)

Get a map to St. Stephen

Direct link to our Facebook page for livestreams and updates

Direct link to Youtube for services and recorded content

St. Stephen Lutheran

Let's Chat!

<https://www.ststephen-stow.com/>

Look for your weekly bulletin on the site.



Sign-up to help at OPEN TABLE on the bulletin board **PIZZA NIGHT!**

St. Stephen offers a FREE community dinner on the second Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall.

OPEN TABLE DINNER is open to everyone. We invite St. Stephen members to join us for dinner with friends and family, as well as our Stow neighbors.

Everyone who uses the building has received an invitation. The meal is advertised by outdoor signage, in the pantry and word-of-mouth.

Plan to come and join us in this fellowship and service activity.

Want to help?

If you would like to help with the meal and become part of a meal team, there's a place for you.

On the day of the meal:

- ◆ 2:30 - 5pm Meal Prep Cook and Serve
- ◆ 5pm Deliver meals
- ◆ 5:00-6:30pm Serve and clean-up

Menus have been predetermined and food will be purchased in advance. Most of the cooking will be done in the St. Stephen kitchen.

Monthly sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board to volunteer for future dinners.

JOIN US on
Thursday,
April 9
4-6pm.

Future Open Table dates on the 2nd Thursday of each month:

- ◆ May 14
- ◆ June 11

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY



Have you checked out Pastor John's **PREPARING FOR SUNDAY** email? In case you may have missed it, or meant to open it, but never did, check it out!

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY comes in your email and is also available on YouTube.

Listen and watch this weekly Bible Study and text reference.



April Be the Change

SERVICE

New Hot Water Tank for Kitchen

\$1,000

Join Jubellation Handbells

Wednesdays
7-8:30 p.m.

Have you always wanted to play, but didn't know how to start?

The Jubellation Handbell Choir rehearses on

Wednesday
evenings from
7-8:30 p.m.

The bell choir typically plays once a month during worship.

Please see Jennifer Cupak and talk to her about joining.



St. Stephen Council Minutes February 22, 2026

Present: Larry Kribs, Mike Leffler, Dave Lang, Mark Stultz, Jane Koch

Absent: Michelle Rousseau, Kevin Strohl, Pastor John

Larry Kribs opened the meeting with prayer.

Jane Koch presented the amended minutes of the January Meeting which were approved as written.

The financial report submitted by Kevin Strohl was discussed:

- Expenditures were roughly \$10,000 more than expenditures for January. This is usually a difficult month for the church financially and the weather did not help the situation. There were no expenses over the budgeted amounts; however, there was not enough income to cover payroll, mortgage and insurance obligations.
- Money from savings will be needed to cover costs for February.
- Finance Team is currently exploring options in attempt to boost the General Fund income later this year.
- Endowment Committee minutes were presented for Council's review.

Endowment Minutes were reviewed:

- Monies available from interest is approximately \$15,000.
- Questions were asked about the purposes for the interest expenditures. Clarity will need to be obtained about the interest distribution.

Rejoice! Involvement was discussed:

- The newer members of council were asked to refer to the January 28, 2026 minutes for current updates.
- We are addressing information through the synod and the ELCA on the joining of churches.

New Business:

Mark Stulz moved and Mike Leffler second a motion to accept the Draft for the Comprehensive Assessment of the Church Building & Grounds submitted by Kevin Strohl. Motion passed.

Mike Leffler agreed to be the council representative on the committee and suggestions were made for the two other members to the ad hoc committee. A priority list was requested from the committee for the June 2026 Council Meeting

The Property Resource Hub for churches on the ELCA website will be researched for assistance in the needs of the ad hoc committee. Currently this hub is not up and running.

Meetings were established for the March/April Council Meeting and Bylaws Work Sessions:

- March Council Meeting will be Thursday, March 5 at 6 pm.
- April Council Meeting will be Sunday, April 19 at 10:45 am.
- Work Sessions to complete the Bylaws and Resolutions will be Thursday, February 26 at 6 pm and Tuesday, March 31 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully, Jane Koch, Recording Secretary.

Attachment: Ad hoc Building Assessment Committee

AD HOC BUILDING ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Whereas, the Church Council St. Stephen Lutheran Church recognizes its responsibility for the faithful stewardship, care, and maintenance of the church's buildings and grounds; and

Whereas, it is prudent and necessary to periodically assess the condition of the church property to ensure that it remains safe, functional, and in good and reasonable order;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Church Council hereby establishes a three-person Ad Hoc Building Assessment Committee; and

Be it further resolved that the Ad Hoc Building Assessment Committee shall be appointed by the Council President (or elected by the Council, if so determined), and shall consist of three members in good standing; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee is charged with the following duties:

1. To conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current condition of the church building and grounds;
2. To identify existing and potential issues related to repair, maintenance, safety, accessibility, and code compliance;
3. To obtain, where necessary, preliminary estimates or professional opinions regarding identified repairs or maintenance needs;
4. To prioritize the identified tasks based on urgency, safety considerations, cost implications, and the overall mission and resources of the church; and

To present a written report with findings and recommendations to the Church Council no later than [insert date].

Be it further resolved that this Ad Hoc Building Assessment Committee shall dissolve automatically upon submission and acceptance of its final report, unless extended by further action of the Council.

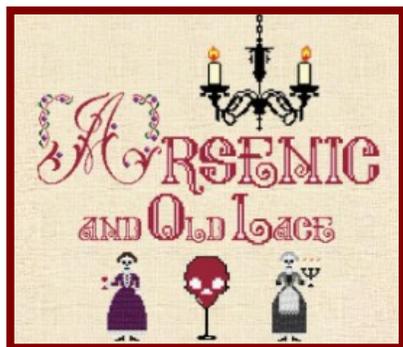


Upcoming Celebration of Life Luncheon

A celebration of life luncheon for former St. Stephen members, Raymond and Nancy Brislinger will be held on **Friday, May 1 at 12noon** in the Fellowship Hall following a graveside service at 11:00am. Nancy passed away on May 9, 2022 while Raymond recently passed in February 2026. They are Cathy Reynolds' parents. They leave Cathy (Gary) Reynolds, Julie (Kevin) Kelly, Christy (Robert) Barnhart and Amy (Mike) Erb; grandchildren, Erin, Carey, Amanda, Kyle, Katelyn, Cameron, Alex and Jason and 8 great grandchildren.



J.O.Y. Trip to Weathervane - May 3



Weathervane Playhouse
Sunday, May 3
2:30pm

May will be here before you know it, so please mark your calendar to join the J.O.Y. group at Weathervane Playhouse to see their production of **Arsenic and Old Lace** on Sunday, May 3 at 2:30pm.

Seats are limited to twelve (12) tickets. The cost is \$32.00 each payable to Jane Koch.

Dinner will follow at Little Joe's Pub located at 1561 Akron-Peninsula Road, in the valley.

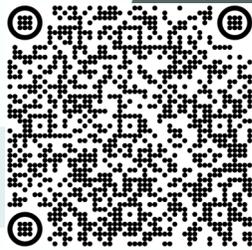
Please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Koch.



Servant Keeper Online Giving

01

SCAN



Scan QR Code

Our QR Code will take you directly to our custom giving page

02



Sign up/Sign in

If you haven't yet created a donor login, this is your chance! Login if you already have.

03



Donate!

You can now process a donation, and set up your recurring donation!

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/StStephenLutheranChurchStow>

St. Stephen has a New Online Giving Application

To use Servant Keeper Online Giving, scan the QR code or use the URL. (above). Sign-up. Follow the directions and enter your personal email. Update password of your choosing. (An email will be sent to verify). The new password will need to have 8 characters, one capital, one symbol. Add the payment method: credit card or bank account transfer. Schedule. Choose account. Enter amount. Cover Processing Fee to pay for it out of your personal account. Choose frequency. (Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Monthly, Annual) SAVE.

You can change your giving amount or frequency whenever you choose. Once complete, you will receive a confirming email from Servant Keeper.

Servant Keeper will automatically add an app to your device so that you can change your options easily. It will default to a St. Stephen screen when opened and can be used for **Give Now** occasions when you may want to additionally give for other instances, i.e. Mission Support, Be the Change, etc. You can access your scheduled giving by clicking the '3 lines' in the upper left corner.

Live-streamed Worship

www.ststephen-stow.com

If you haven't checked it out yet, give it a try. Go to Facebook on Sunday morning at 9:30am to watch Pastor John live-stream the Service of the Word. You can follow along in your bulletin for the worship and prayers. Bulletins are also available on our website.

The morning worship is available at 9:30am on YouTube. You can subscribe and your St. Stephen videos will be kept together on the site. Both Facebook and YouTube are now available on our website. By clicking in the upper right corner on their icon, you will be taken directly to the site.



2026 Flower Calendar

The 2026 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board.

If you would like to celebrate or recognize an occasion, please sign-up for your preferred date.

On the dates that are noted as holidays on the calendar, the church will supply the flowers. If you wish one of those dates, please contact the church office.

Please include your name and the reason for the remembrance.

You are welcome to bring your own flowers or order from a local florist.



Giving Envelopes



If you need Giving Envelopes, please contact the church office.

office.ststephenstow@gmail.com

or call 330-688-7213.

St. Stephen Nursery Open



The St. Stephen nursery is open from 9:15am - 10:45am. If you would like to attend worship and have your baby cared for during service, please come to the nursery. The nursery is available for the entire worship service or even a portion of it. We hope this will make it easier for new parents, but as always, children are welcome to remain with their parents during worship, if they wish.

Please bring
your finished
items to be
given in
Lydia's
Pantry

Crochet/Knit Needed Items

The Crochet/Knit Group no longer meets at the church.

However, if you enjoy making hats, scarves, afghans and lap

blankets at home, you can still share your items with people in need.

Items received will be placed in Lydia's Pantry for the taking.



Men in Mission Bible Study



MEN in Mission

**Saturdays
8:00-9:30 a.m.**

Men in Mission is a faith-based study group for men of all ages that meets every Saturday from 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. in-person.

Throughout the year, the path of study is chosen from books of the Bible or Christian-themed literature. The conversations each week are the best part of this group. You can attend any time.

In-Person



The Lydia's Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm.

If you would like to volunteer, a schedule is on the bulletin board.

If you would like to donate items to the pantry, please check out at the list of needed items.

Monetary donations are always welcome.

Collection for April

Items needed in the pantry now:

- [Dish soap](#)
- [Cereal](#)
- [Paper Towels](#)
- [Jelly](#)
- [Soup](#)
- [Sides](#)

Lydia's Pantry

Food Items

Hot Cereal: Oatmeal, Single Packs
Cold Cereal: Boxes, Single Packs
Breakfast/Cereal/ Granola Bars
Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup
Macaroni & Cheese Boxed, Single Cups
Hamburger Helper
Manwich Sauce
Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter & Jelly Grape, Strawberry
Boxed Potatoes, Boxed Stuffing Mix
Rice, Egg Noodles
Fruit, Applesauce, Jello, Pudding Cups
Crackers: Peanut Butter, Cheese Packs
Salad Dressing
Juice, Juice Boxes
Single Chip Snack Bags, Microwave Popcorn
Coffee/Filters/Tea Bags/ Hot Chocolate Packs
Canned Chili, Beef Stew, Pasta
Canned Soup
Canned Meats: Tuna, Chicken, Ham
Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Beans, Tomatoes

Hygiene Items

Soap/Shower Gel, Hand Soap
Shampoo
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
Feminine Products
Diapers & Baby Wipes

Paper & Cleaning Products

Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissue
Dish Detergent, Clothes Detergent
Liquid Multi-Purpose Cleaner

The pantry served 217 people in March including 11 NEW families.

April

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Pathfinders Sunday School

Parents:

Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for Pathfinders Sunday School.

Pre-K - 6th grade
If you have any questions or want to learn more, please contact Mary Appleby.



Easter Party and Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 12
10:30am - 12:30pm

There will be Bible stories, songs, games, lunch and an egg hunt for the Pre-K to high schoolers. Please join us with your easter basket! Contact Mary Appleby for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, April 5

EASTER SUNDAY

9:30am Worship
No Pathfinders

Sunday, April 12

9:30am Worship
10:30-12:30pm
EASTER PARTY

Sunday, April 19

9:30am Worship
10:35 Pathfinders

Sunday, April 26

9:30am Worship
10:35 Pathfinders



Birthdays & Anniversaries

April

Happy Anniversary!

4/25 JD & Joan Sanders



Special thanks to
**Great Harvest
Bread Company**

for donating our
communion bread
every week.

Please tell them
Thank You! when you
stop in their store.

- 4/1 Bob Dieter
- 4/1 Sara Holm
- 4/2 Eliza Goosby
- 4/5 Liam Slater
- 4/6 Corrie Benne
- 4/6 Mary Gleghorn
- 4/10 Shaun Liable
- 4/12 Grace Edmond
- 4/12 Missy Stultz
- 4/14 Andrea Edmond
- 4/16 Oliver Collins
- 4/16 Karen Leffler
- 4/17 Judy Prinz
- 4/20 Cindy Thompson
- 4/21 Logan Slater
- 4/22 Bobby Hoff
- 4/22 Sharon Ohnmeiss
- 4/23 JD Sanders
- 4/24 Ed Eiloo
- 4/24 Grace Williams
- 4/29 Elina Collins
- 4/29 Seth Kohut
- 4/30 Joan Sanders
- 4/30 Rachel Stultz

April Volunteers

Date	Asst. Minister	Lector	Usher
	9:30 am Worship		
	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
2	Deb Smetts	Fred Biondo	
	GOOD FRIDAY		
3	Kevin Strohl	Deb Smetts, Barb Reid, Connie Wilson	Jane Koch
	EASTER		
5	Fran & Bob Dieter	Sandee Davis	Ed Crabtree
12	Brady Pierce	Larry Tucker	Jim Karlson
19	Jane Hecht	Dave Renninger	Mary & Ray Appleby
26	Larry Kribs	Sara Holm	Gary Reynolds

Altar Guild	Care Team
Sherry Petrosky	Judy Prinz

Date	CPOD
5	Jane Koch
12	Larry Kribs
19	Michelle Rousseau
26	Mark Stultz

Date	Coffee
5	Easter Fellowship
12	Connie Wilson
19	Joan Conaway
26	Jane Koch

April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

HOLY WEEK

1
7pm Bells

2 Bible Study
 MAUNDY THURSDAY
6:30 Supper
7pm Worship

3 Good Friday
7pm Worship

4 MEN in Mission
8am
10am LifeGuide 101

5 **EASTER**
 He is Risen
Worship 9:30am
8:30 Fellowship

6
6:30 Cubs
7pm Scouts

7
6:30 Cubs
6:30 Border

8 Bible Baptist
7pm Bells

9 Bible Study
 OPEN Table
4-6pm

10

11 MEN in Mission
8am
9:30 am DAR
Eiloo Party

12
Worship 9:30am
 PATHFINDERS
10:30
Easter Party

13 JOY Breakfast
9am
7pm Scouts

14
6:30 Cubs
6:30 Border

15
9:15 JOY trip to Akron Museum
7pm Bells

16 Bible Study

17

18 MEN in Mission
8am
10am LifeGuide 101

19
Worship 9:30am
10:30
 PATHFINDERS
10:35 Council Mtg

20
7pm Scouts

21
6:30 Cubs
6:30 Border

22
7pm Bells

23 Bible Study

24
Handbell Festival - Columbus

25 MEN in Mission
8am
3-8PM BIESICKI BIRTHDAY PARTY

26
Worship 9:30am
10:30
 PATHFINDERS

27
7pm Scouts

28
6:30 Cubs
6:30 Border

29
7pm Bells

30 Bible Study