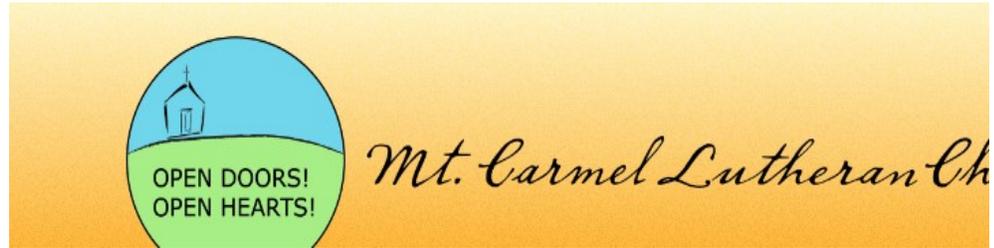


June 2020



THE CHALLENGE



An update from Bishop Laurie...

Dear friends in Christ,

As June approaches, it is time for us to check-in about in-person gatherings. The messages coming from our elected leaders can be contradictory and confusing.

- **Governor Brown** has allowed 31 of the 33 Oregon counties (not the Portland-metro area) to begin phase 1, which allows for groups of up to 25 people to gather with social distancing.
- **President Trump** has deemed churches and other houses of worship “essential” and has called on governors across the country to allow these places of worship to reopen.
- **Public health experts** warn us that the nature of the virus has not changed; it is still highly contagious and our communities are still vulnerable.

More troubling news comes from those churches that have already attempted to reopen.

- [At least 107 people became infected](#) after attending or coming into contact with someone who attended a service at a German baptist church, despite church officials insisting that social distancing and hygiene guidelines were upheld during the service.
- [A Baptist church in Georgia](#) stopped in-person services two weeks after reopening as several families came down with coronavirus. Again, the church states that all modes of social distancing were practiced and followed by the families attending.
- [A Catholic church in Texas](#) also closed after it was discovered multiple members had contracted the novel coronavirus and one leader had died. Again, the parish had followed cleaning, sanitation and social distancing guidelines prescribed by State health officials.

Here in Oregon, we are blessed with the opportunity to learn from these churches experience and protect our ministers, lay leaders, members and communities from risk. **In-person, indoor gatherings of people from different households are high risk** and they are a risk we do not have to take. We know we are essential, but it is not essential to gather in person at this time.

Our priority is protecting the well-being, health and safety of ALL members of the Oregon Synod: congregants and staff. Therefore, **we advise that church buildings remain closed to all but essential staff for as long as in-person, indoor gatherings remain high risk.**

Thank you all for taking care of each other during these troubling times. Let us continue to pray for those who are sick, those who have died, and for the good health and welfare of all members of our communities.

In Christ,

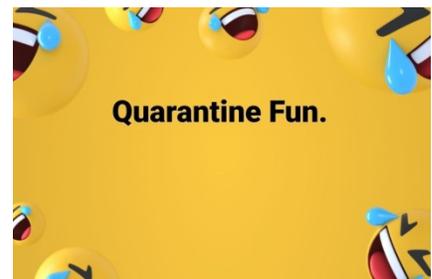


Bishop Laurie

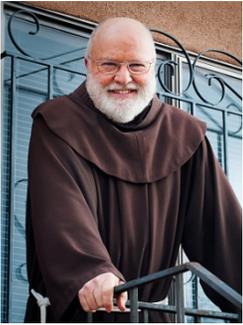
Highlights in this month's Challenge...a tribute to Palmer Norseth ... tributes to our extra special graduates ... fun photos of folks ... and more!



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Rev. Paul Teyler



Richard Rohr, a Franciscan theologian based in New Mexico, has an insightful perspective on the COVID pandemic. He begins his thoughts by stating his opinion that humans have a unique gift which we can call "restraint." He notes that no other creature can receive that gift. A beaver will build his dam even if he knows that it might cause the salmon some great difficulty. The beaver will build a dam because that is what beavers do. A turtle will eat the grass in front of it whenever it is hungry, even if it might be better to save some for other creatures, even if it might be best for itself in the long run to save some for another day or another creature. Turtles will eat whatever they need, whenever they are hungry, as long as there is a blade of grass in front of their nose. That is what turtles do.

But the gift which comes uniquely to humans is to be able restrain itself, when it understands that it might be for the greater good of other humans or other creatures, or the world itself. To not use everything that it might, to give up rights to certain things it has earned: these are signs that the human can think beyond its own limited needs for today. The human can act for the greater good of others and that act might be in the individual's long term good also. But most importantly, restraint is a GIFT.

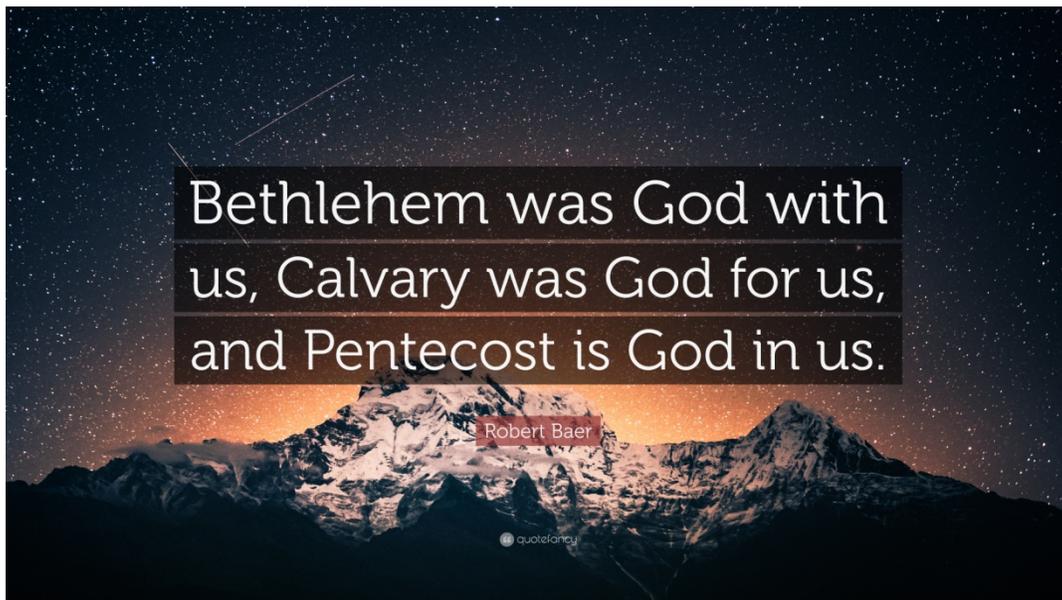
If we look at restraint as a gift, then the sacrifices that are made take on new meaning. Instead of seeing a sacrifice as my gift to others, we can see that restraint is God's gift to us. See how that can change so much? Instead of feeling hurt that we had to give up our rights, instead of feeling hurt when others don't recognize our sacrifice or demean it by not wearing a mask themselves...we can be glad that we have accepted God's gift and allowed it to change our behavior. If we accept God's gift of restraint, we are better people for it. If others refuse that gift, that is their choice. They are

missing something, but it is no reason to despise their actions. You can't despise a turtle for eating all the grass it wants, nor can you despise the beaver for making the dam that will cause harm to the salmon. We just await the day when God will find acceptance from all creatures for all the gifts God wants to give.

With that said, I should also share that restraint is not a gift to be used all the time. We are about to welcome a new pastor into our midst. My hope is that we will throw off every restraint when we welcome God's servant into our midst. Lutherans are known for their restraint in worship, but ... but ... but ... this might be a great time to do something completely un-Lutheran and dance in the aisles and shout for joy.

God's peace, Pastor Paul





The doors may be “closed” but the Church remains OPEN!!! Worship services are by Zoom, as are Tuesday night Centering Prayer and Bible Study. Even Council continues to meet! Don’t forget the Facebook page as well. Help our members stay connected through phone calls and cards!

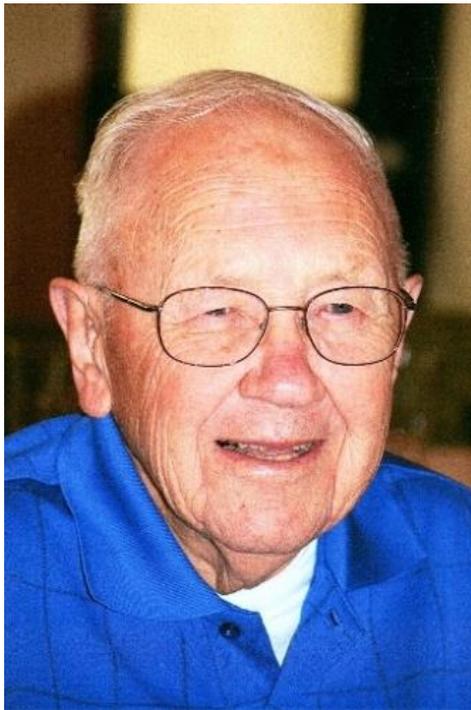


Due to the Coronavirus, Transition Projects is again cancelled for the month of June...Sharon says “hopefully, hopefully” July (praying!). The preschool will be opening up June 8th – with many restrictions. They had to get an emergency license to open and will have fewer children because of the coronavirus spacing restrictions. Be sure and keep the preschool, its staff and families in your prayers!

If you are looking for places to donate cold, hard cash please consider the Good Samaritan Fund (where we are able to provide emergency assistance to those requiring it).



Palmer "Paul" Norseth



April 10, 1923 – April 4, 2020

Palmer "Paul" Norseth passed away in the early morning of April 4, 2020 just six days prior to his 97th birthday, following a ground level fall.

He was born April 10, 1923 in Leavenworth, Wash., to Norwegian immigrants Paul Christian and Marie Johanna Norseth, joining his older brother Lloyd. In 1925 the family moved to Bend, Ore., for four years before finally settling in Klamath Falls in 1929. Paul graduated from Klamath Union High School in 1941 and, like most of his peers, the events of December 1941 changed his life. Paul (up to that time known as Harold because of confusion on his birth certificate) followed his brother into the armed services by enlisting in the Navy in 1942. There he joined the aviation program and eventually was assigned to a scout bomber squadron as a radio gunner in 1943.

After Paul's discharge from the Navy, he worked as an engineering aide for the Bureau of Reclamation. He entered Whitman College in 1947 with an engineering objective where, in his second-year chemistry class and thanks to alphabetization, he was partnered with the fetching Mary Elizabeth Newton, the daughter of Dr. Edwin and Dorothy E. Newton. This was in Paul's own words, a "most fortunate partnership": the young couple were married in 1952, a union which lasted 66 years until Mary's passing in 2018. He went on to graduate from OSC in Corvallis living on campus in his beloved Sigma Chi Fraternity.

In 1953 Paul and Mary settled in Portland where he accepted a job with the City of Portland Department of Public Works, coinciding with the birth of their first son, Douglas. In 1956 the same year son Mark was born, Paul was offered a position with the Portland Bureau of Water where he remained until his retirement, the last seven years serving Portland as Chief Engineer. Daughter Karen joined the family in 1959, and the Norseth family rooted itself in the Southwest Portland area for the next half century. He was professionally involved for many years in the American Water Works Association attending many national conventions and was an early and active member of Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church.

Paul's non-working life was full...he enjoyed fishing, bird hunting (both activities reflecting his rural upbringing), and light carpentry. He built a fishing boat in the garage early-on, and it saw the waters of East Lake over many summers on family camping trips. After the kids were grown, golf would eclipse hunting and fishing, and caring for the family home was always his high priority and a source of satisfaction. In his retirement years, dance activities with Mary at the Laurelhurst Club were a real pleasure for the couple, along with travel: Norway, England, France, Spain, the Canary Islands, Thailand, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand were among the many places they visited. Taking up residence in the Willamette View retirement community in 2009, Paul continued to golf, entertain friends and family, and live a very full and active life.

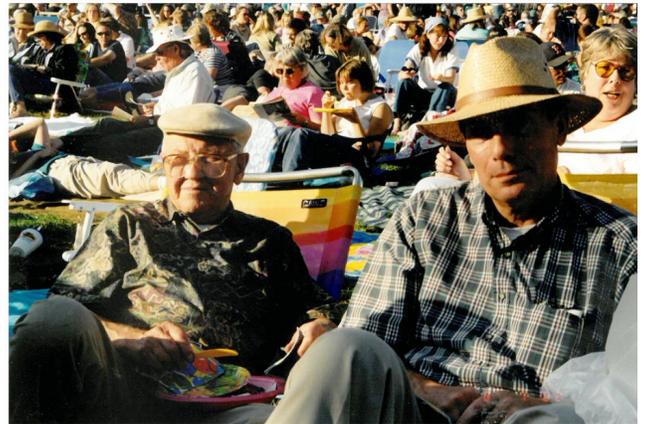
Paul was known to his family, friends and coworkers as highly ethical, very humble, generous with his time and resources, and ultimately quite grateful for the cards he had been dealt with in life. He was always kind to animals, concerned about working people, and worried about the environment and the world his grandchildren would inherit. Survivors include his sons, Doug (Bruce), Mark (Iris); and Karen; grandchildren, Halsey, Erik and Sarah; two nephews, Dan and Andrew; his niece, Beatrice and many cousins both in the United States and Norway. His ashes will be interred alongside his beloved Mary at Riverview Columbarium.

Published in The Oregonian from May 28 to Jun. 7, 2020.



Palmer was an engineer, so when the group decided to welcome Chuck (Vermillion) home from his Seattle to Portland 2-day bike ride, he would not allow the group to build a sloppy “Preparation H” box...NO! It must be perfect. Between Palmer and Grieg (Anderson), a refrigerator box became this magnificent decoration to welcome Chuck home! It was spectacular in Lake Oswego but had to be with artists like Palmer, Mary, Sharon, Barb, Pat, Clarice & Grieg. Submitted by Clarice.

The kidnapping of Palmer, by Chuck Vermillion... After Mary passed on, Palmer moved into the Medical Center complex at Willamette View Manor. I (Chuck) made arrangements for he and I to take our friend Norma to lunch on her birthday. She lived in the Calaroga Terrace senior living building near Lloyd Center. The attendants had him ready when I arrived to pick him up. One must sign in and out at the entrance but what I did not know was that you also needed to sign out from his section and also when you would return if you took a resident out of the complex. On our return from lunch my car blue tooth rang. I normally don't answer it or place a call while driving. When I saw it was Palmer's son calling, I did answer. He asked if I knew where his dad was. I told him his dad was in the passenger seat of my car at that very moment and we were on our way back to Willamette View. He



said "Thank God" and that he had to quickly call the police and Willamette View because they had looked everywhere for Palmer inside and out and also had reported to the police they had a missing resident. I was embarrassed and felt terrible for causing such a ruckus. Palmer just laughed and said, "Charles, you still are my good friend." Needless to say that was the last time I kidnapped my friend, Palmer.



A memory from Pastor Paul - Palmer was a careful and meticulous worker.

Many years ago he and I were caulking the new stained glass windows working from a ladder by the outside steps at Mt. Carmel. We would alternate between holding the ladder and applying the caulk. When I was finished with a section Palmer remarked that the same job would have taken him four times as long...he always erred on the side of doing a job better than was required. I've always believed that his work on that window was probably four times better than mine. I bet if I checked today his caulk would still be there.





Mary and Palmer (and Clarice and Grieg) were always very supportive of not only the King “kids” but their kids! Being a former Navy-man, Palmer always took special interest in Pat’s grandson, Matt, who is a Navy-man!

There have been so many good times together with Palmer and Mary—too many to name them all here. But I remember one story Palmer told when he was employed by the City of Portland. In his work he inspected many of the city’s projects; one was the Sellwood Bridge – not from the top, but from the large water/sewer pipe installed under the river. He’d lay on his stomach on a “dolly” and pulled/pushed himself through the pipes as he inspected to the other side of the river. He didn’t like feeling claustrophobic but he was never one to shirk in his job ... and also in his life! Submitted by Pat.



**Here’s to you, Palmer. We sure miss you ...
give a hug to Mary for us.**



HOW ABOUT THOSE GRADS???



Andrew Kristopher Pearson graduated from Willamette University on May 17th, after only three years. He earned a BA in English with an emphasis in creative writing. He also holds an AA in Spanish from Gavilan Jr College in Gilroy, Ca. He's very excited to beginning the next chapter of his life.



Andrew is the son of Kristopher Pearson, and grandson to Norm Pearson.

Congrats!! Sounds like a pretty amazing person 🎓😊

Madeline is the daughter of Kimber Anderson (and Steve Grossfeld), and granddaughter to Clarice Anderson. She often reads at our Christmas Eve service and is pretty awesome human being 🎓



Madeline Rachel Grossfeld
Boston University
Class of 2020



Graduating with Bachelors of Arts in Economics and Mathematics. She begins the doctoral program in Economics at Duke University this Fall.

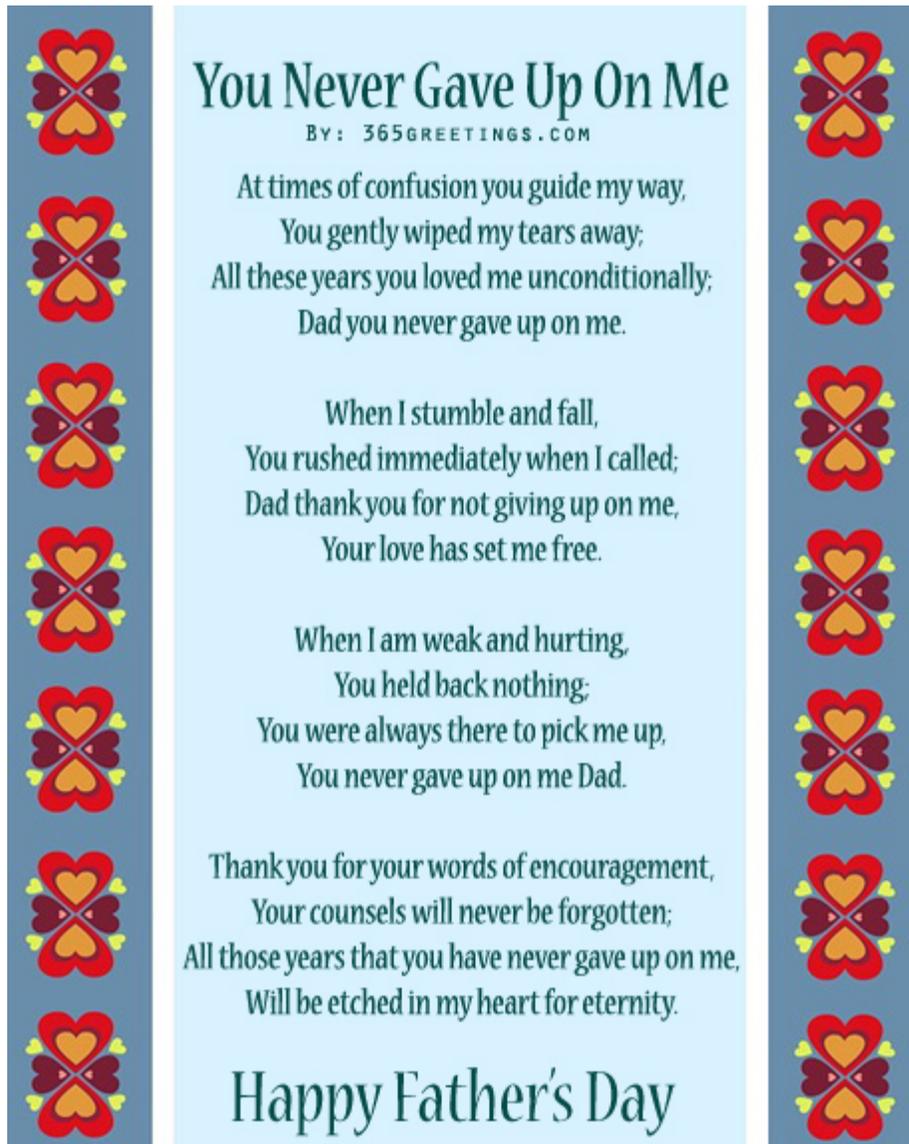


Hi everyone,

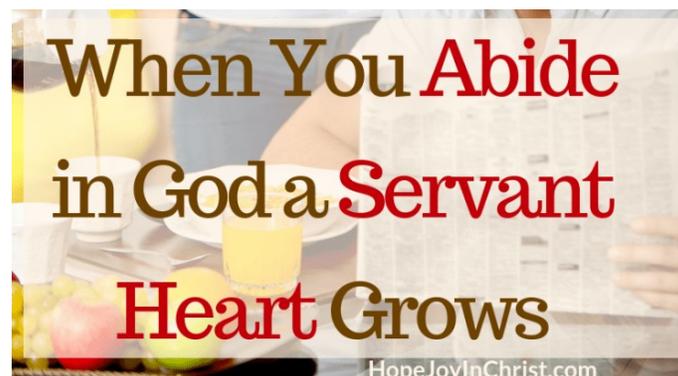
I hope everyone is well and healthy. Like most schools, Boston University didn't have a commencement ceremony in May as originally scheduled. They are still promising an in-person commencement, but we don't know when that will be. However, even without the commencement ceremony, Madeline has graduated college! (Yay!) She double majored in Economics and Mathematics and is graduating Magna Cum Laude, with honors in Economics. Madeline heads to Duke University this summer to start her PhD in Economics.

Be well,
Kimber and Steve





Happy Father's Day to our amazing fathers and father-figures on Sunday, June 21st!



WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO DURING QUARANTINE 2020?

~Courtney Hermann... Teaching remotely and riding my new ebike!

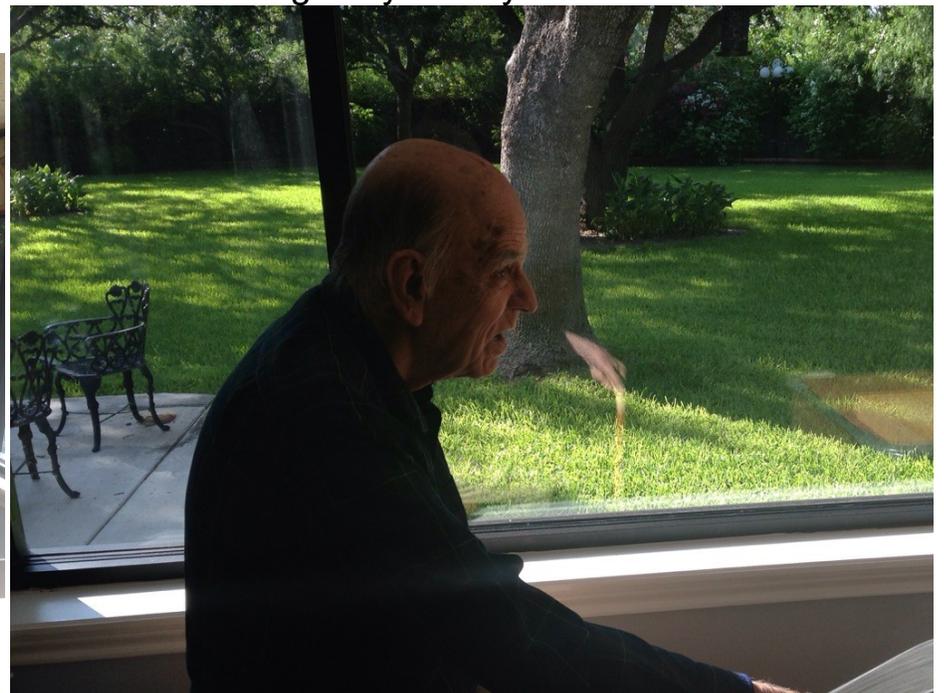


Logan Brandt...turned 1-year-old on April 29th! ...winning the award for cutest guy ever!!!! Proud grandparents David and Ann Brandt.

Steve Cleveland and his dad have been having quite an adventure as they travel to Ralph's new home in Texas. You may recall that they left by airplane but had to make an emergency stop to Salt Lake City due to a significant medical situation for Steve's dad. After recuperating several days with a nephew in SLC, they decided it was time for a road trip... They made it to Grand Junction, Colorado about May 23rd, staying the night there with another nephew. The below pictures reflect part of their journey...including Salt Lake City (below right), where their plane was diverted.



The below photographs reflect Steve's dad, Ralph, in his new home in McAllen, Texas...looks like he has a great view! Blessings to you as you become a Texan!





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31 10am Fellowship On Line Congregational meeting	June 1	2 7pm 	3	4	5	6
7 10am Fellowship On Line	8 Preschool Opens	9 7pm 	10	11	12	13
14 10am Fellowship On Line	15	16 7pm 	17	18	19	20
21 10am Fellowship On Line Father's Day! Council?	22	23 7pm 	24	25	26	27
28 10am Fellowship On Line	29	30 7pm 				

Not sure when Council is this month since it lands on Father's Day. Talk to Kelly Doyle if you have questions!!!



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.