

Acton in action

Newsletter of Acton UMC

LOVE – LEARN – SHARE – SERVE with eternal purpose through faith in Jesus Christ

APRIL 2023

Holy Week

3

Join us on April 6th for our Tenebrae service and on Easter for the Sunrise Service and Easter Worship.

Training

5

If you are 14+ years old and work with kids or youth at AUMC, please attend child protection training April 23rd.

Food Drive

9

We are collecting food for God's Bounty throughout the month of April in conjunction with Scouting for Food.

Eagle Scouts

14

We have some new Eagle Scouts among from Troop 104 and 219. Congrats!

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From the pastor's desk



FREEDOM

BY PASTOR MATTHEW STULTZ

*For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery
(Galatians 5:1)*

Throughout Lent we have been considering the ways that we are captive to fear. We've considered the fear of being alone, the fear of having done something that cannot be fixed, the fear of a meaningless life, the fear of not having enough, the fear that you'll be broken forever, the fear of the world, and the fear of death. These are not the fears that trap us all at once, but the fears that we all experience regardless of our station in life.

The apostle Paul encourages the church in Galatia to claim their freedom in Christ. He reminds them that the sin, the fear that had kept them from living a life of abundance, like Jesus promises, can no longer rule them.

So, I'm wondering how it is for you? Now that you've been reminded of the things we all fear and the ways Jesus and our faith community can help us see things in a more healthy, hopeful, and even joyful way, what will you do differently? Will you find the courage to love people that Jesus loves but that previously you struggled to care for? Will you spend more time loving God and learning how to connect with God on a deeper level? Will you be more gracious to yourself, knowing that God's grace given freely to you in Jesus Christ is a gift meant to re-engage you into your life, to love and to be loved?

As we wrap up this series and we celebrate the Easter feast, let's spend some time in the darkness of late Thursday and Good Friday to remember what we have been afraid of, to name it, to learn from it and to step boldly in a new life filled with love and freedom.

In Christ,

If you need to meet with Pastor Matthew, please call the office and schedule a time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WE NEED:
➤ CANDY
➤ CAKES
➤ SIDES

APRIL EVENTS

6thTenebrae Service
8thEaster Egg Hunt
9thEaster Sunday
13thGod's Bounty
16thSweet & Savory Bake Sale
19thFellowship Dinner
22ndSingles

MAY EVENTS

7thPack Away Hunger Event
11thGod's Bounty
17thFellowship Dinner
21stSweet & Savory Bake Sale

JUNE EVENTS

7thKids Klub starts
8thGod's Bounty
21stFellowship Dinner
18thSweet & Savory Bake Sale

TEAM MEETINGS

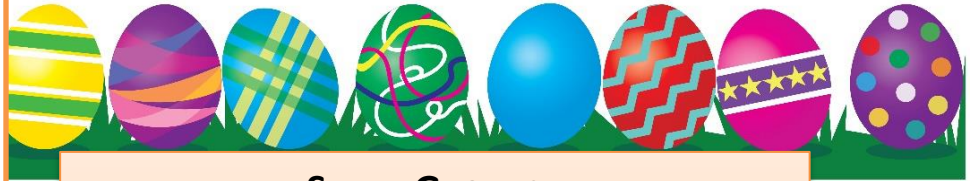
Staff Parish April 4th
Strategy Council April 13th
Trustees April 18th
Missions April 26th
UMW Board April 10th

See calendar for times and more events.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 8th ~ 12:00

There will be hot dogs, hunts for all ages including youth and adult seniors, Dake the dragon, crafts, and a cake walk.
If you can help with the event, see Dan Repass.



STUDY GROUPS

Sunday mornings @10:35 (The Kitchen)
Adult Class – *The Wired Word*

Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 (Church)
Women's – *Just Like Jesus*

Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 (Barb McCormack's home)
Women's – *Just Like Jesus*

Friday mornings @ 9:30 (Church kitchen)
Women's – *Forgiveness, A Lenten Study*

Saturday mornings @ 8:00 (Church kitchen)
Men's – *Book of Hebrews*

Checkout page 8 for more details

Holy Week SCHEDULE

Tenebrae Service
APRIL 6 ~ 7:00PM

Sunrise Service
APRIL 9 ~ 8:00AM

Easter Worship
APRIL 9 ~ 9:30AM

**FELLOWSHIP
DINNER**
ALL ARE WELCOME

**APRIL 19TH
6:00PM**

Missions is hosting an
Italian dinner to kick-off the
AMF Pledge Drive

GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

Church Bulletin Funnies



The eight-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

LUNCH AT THE LAKE

Put July 15th on your calendar! Bruce & Suzie McKay are hosting lunch at their lake home.



What Church Membership Means

The vows we make to participate in the ministries of the church are not multiple choice. Just as Jesus calls us to love God and neighbor through heart, soul, mind, and strength, so being a disciple involves the whole self, and we strive to commit our entire lives to God through our...

Prayers

Presence

Gifts

Service

Witness

Look at each of these in your life and see where you can make a few adjustments.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

Anyone that can take pictures at events for our newsletter, please see Felicia Crowel.



Every Wednesday in June and July from 10-12:00pm, we will be welcoming children from our community and sharing the love of Christ! Please spread the word and extend an invitation to family, friends, and neighbors.

Can we count on you?

- Create name tags.
- Prepare craft items.
- Plan the lunch menu.
- Buy food for lunches.
- Lead children in activities.
- Prepare or serve lunch.
- Greet families as they arrive.
- Clean up.
- Be a prayer warriors.

Please talk to Diane Crane if you can help!

GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

**WEAR RED
APRIL 16th****APRIL IS PARKINSON'S
DISEASE AWARENESS
MONTH**

Parkinson's Disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that affects certain neurons in your brain and is a disorder of the nervous system. Symptoms develop slowly over years and you may experience hand tremors, slow movement, stiffness in arms and legs and balance problems. It is possible to have a good quality of life with Parkinson's so work with your doctor.

Learn more about the 10 signs at www.fcneurology.net/parkinsons-disease-awareness-month/

If you have any questions please contact our Parish Nurse, Margie Townsend.

Pack Away Hunger

Sunday, May 7th
2:00pm

Pack Away Hunger
in Beech Grove



Join us for a hands-on mission project.
Mark it on your calendar. Signups out April 16th.

**CHILD
PROTECTION
TRAINING**

APRIL 23
after worship

Anyone 14+ who works with children or youth at the church should attend.



**PICK UP YOUR
KINDNESS SLIP**

**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**

Earlene Cougill – 1st
Terry Fansler – 24th
Gordon Fansler – 27th



Who's your beneficiary? If you have an insurance policy, IRA, 401K or 403b you can designate a portion of those to be passed down through a beneficiary designation. It is quick and simple to give your church a part of your benefit. The wonderful thing about naming a church or ministry as a beneficiary is that it does not involve changing your will or trust. Insurance and retirement benefits exist outside the provision of a will and are not subject to it. If you have any questions, please see our Finance Chair, Larry Suits.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS



HEALING AND STRENGTH: Family of Jerry Repass, Becky Carver, Suzie McKay, Chris Osbourn (Grubb's daughter), Theresa Birdwell, Kevin Hitt (Randolph's son-in-law), Greg McConaughy, Linda Hicks, Paula McIntosh

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alexandria Meyer, Maddie Woodrow, Amy Johnson, Nick Crane Olivia Woodrow, Cherilynn Spicer, Ruth Crowel, Will Tope

MILITARY PERSONNEL: Adam Walters, Joseph (Andy) Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Nick Crane, Travis Beasley

If you have a prayer request, please call the office, or fill out a prayer request card during Sunday worship so that we may pray for you and your loved ones. A request for prayer can also be sent out to other members on email or added to the prayer list but we know that details of prayer requests can be private so information and updates will only be shared if requested.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

SHARE THE BLESSINGS YOU HAVE RECEIVED

GOD'S BOUNTY MONTH

This month we are focused on God's Bounty and the important service that the food pantry provides to our community. Can we count on you?

- **Bring in extra food this month.** Food brought in by April 23rd will be included in our scout's Scouting for Food drive.
- **Volunteer to help.** See Mary Jo Ensich or Gayle Kerns to learn more about helping or to get a tour
- **Make a monetary donation.** All money collected will be sent directly to God's Bounty to help with bills and additional food purchases.

GOD'S BOUNTY HELP

WEDNESDAY, April 12th
6-7:00pm

THURSDAY, April 13th
10-11:00am & 1-6:30pm

If you can volunteer, see Mary Jo Ensich

Loose Change and \$1 Collection
April - Brightwood Community



DONATE TO GOD'S BOUNTY

Pick up a bag from the God's Bounty display and bring it back filled with nonperishable food. Someone from Missions will make sure it gets delivered to our local food pantry, God's Bounty.

BRING IN BY APRIL 23rd TO BE INCLUDED WITH OUR SCOUT TROOPS' SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

FROM THE PULPIT

April 2	Fear of the World.....	Luke 19:35-40; 1 John 5:3-6
April 9	Fear of Death	John 20:1-18: 15:1-7
April 16	Great Commission	Matthew 28:16-20
April 23	Peter's Vision	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48
April 30	Paul's Mission	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18

What does the bible say about hospitality?

Roman 12:13

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Timothy 5:10

and is well known for good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

Hebrew 13:2

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Peter 4:9

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.



BIBLICAL HOSPITALITY?

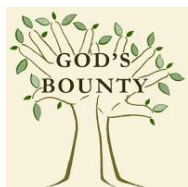
The word hospitality can be found in Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 5:10; Hebrews 13:2; and 1 Peter 4:9. Logan Murphy, in *The What and Why of Biblical Hospitality*, states that these verses show that hospitality is both action and affection, receiving and loving a stranger. Anyone can do acts of hospitality, the outward dimension. But there is an inner dimension of hospitality that requires a change of heart. 1 Peter 4:9 says we are to show hospitality to one another *without grumbling*. If we grumble or complain while doing acts of hospitality, we have not truly shown biblical hospitality.

From The What and Why of Biblical Hospitality by Logan Murphy. Openthebible.org

“ Hospitality is the *glad* reception of the stranger. Hospitality engages the stranger with both our hands *and* our hearts.

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



FOOD DRIVE FOR GOD'S BOUNTY

During the month of April, we will be collecting food for God's Bounty food pantry. Just grab a red food pantry bag from the display and bring it back. Any donations brought in by April 23rd will be given to our scout troops for Scouting for Food. Our scout troops 104 and 219 are participating in Scouting for Food in April and will also be collecting for God's Bounty in local neighborhoods. If you find a bag hanging off your door from one of our troops asking for a donation, please help them out.

YOUTH SERVING AT ROBERT'S PARK

Our youth will be preparing sack lunches and handing them out at Robert's Park UMC on April 16th. This is one of the four meals we cover for the year. If you are interested in helping, see Bruce McKay.

UMCOR SUNDAY

March 19th was UMCOR Sunday. UMCOR Sunday collections are used by UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for administrative costs which allows them to use 100% of donations for the specified cause. ***As of March 26th, we have collected \$1,184 which will be matched by Mission from our Amazing Mission Fund.*** If you would like to contribute and have not had an opportunity, please mark your donations UMCOR Sunday.



PACK AWAY HUNGER EVENT

Mark your calendars for May 7th at 2:00pm. We will be doing another Pack Away Hunger event. Sign-up sheets will be out after Easter.

MISSIONS HOSTING FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Missions is hosting this month's fellowship dinner. It will be an Italian feast. Come and enjoy a free-will offering meal and fellowship. This meal will be the kick-off for the 2023-34 Amazing Mission Fund pledge drive. Come and learn more about missions at Acton and how you can become involved.

AMAZING MISSION FUND

Thru February 28, 2023

Balance: \$9,706.14

OTHER MISSION OUTREACH

Thru February 28, 2023

Loose Change:

Brightwood Community: \$178.03

Fletcher Place: \$159.00

UMCOR International: \$100

WAYS TO GIVE

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

Amazing Mission Fund

Kroger Gift Card Rewards Programs

WAYS TO SERVE

God's Bounty – 2nd Thursday

Mission Team Meeting – April 26th

SAWS Builds – See Ken Grubb



If you are interested in participating or learning more about missions at Acton, please attend our next meeting or speak with Bruce McKay.

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

PROVIDING FOOD WITH COMPASSION AND RESPECT



If you live in Franklin Township, you have most likely heard of God's Bounty.

God's Bounty is a not-for-profit food pantry that provides food to families in need in Franklin Township and the surrounding area.

The Franklin Township Ministerial Association saw a need in their community and in the fall of 2010, the area churches came together and began work. The parsonage of New Bethel Baptist Church was the site chosen for the food pantry. A wall was taken down, shelves were built and stocked, furniture was donated, freezers and refrigerators were brought in and by February 3, 2011, the doors of God's Bounty were open and ready.

On Thursdays, the pantry serves about 75 families in Franklin Township and the surrounding area. Each involved church takes a week each month to supply volunteers that sort, pack, and hand out food. AUMC's week is the third Thursday. Last year, just on our weeks, we serviced over 900 families.

Scouting for Food is in April. If you get a bag hung on your door at home, please donate.

Can we count on you?

- Please **pray** for the work of God's Bounty and for the families they help.
- **Pick up a few items** when you go to the grocery. Leave them at the God's Bounty display in the Narthex and Missions will take them to the pantry. Red Food Pantry bags are available to help you remember.
- **Encourage a group** you are involved in to have a food drive for the pantry.
- **Volunteer at the pantry.** There are many jobs including stocking shelves, filling orders, serving as an advocate, and buying groceries.
- **Monetary donations** are greatly appreciated to help pay for utilities and to purchase items that are in short supply.
- **Sign up to participate in the Kroger Rewards** Program. It doesn't cost you anything and if you connect your Kroger Plus card to Acton UMC (#1011) on-line, the money raised goes to God's Bounty.

AUMC is collecting food for God's Bounty throughout April.

Any food donations brought in by April 23rd will be given to the scout troops for their Scouting for Food drive.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR FAITH — ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday School SCHEDULE

ADULT CURRENT EVENTS

The Wired Word

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Kitchen

Sandy G. & Charlie W.

YOUTH

Screwtape Letters

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Youth Room

Denise Gaunt

BIBLE GAMES (PreK-5th)

1st Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Children's Chapel upstairs

KID'S OWN WORSHIP (PreK-5th)

After children's message

9:45-11:15am

Children's Chapel upstairs

Everyone is welcome to drop in a class at any time. If you don't see anything that interests you, reach out to the church office or Pastor Matthew.

YOUTH GROUP

Join us for dinner, games, fun, fellowship, and faith building lessons

Sundays, 5:30-7:00pm, at Church.

See Andy or Diane Crane

Bring your friends!



THROUGH OUT THE WEEK

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN OF FAITH

Just Like Jesus

Wednesdays, 10:00am, Church

see Becky Repass

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Just Like Jesus

Wednesdays, 6:00pm, Barb McCormack's

see Gayle Kerns

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNINGS

Forgiveness, A Lenten Study

Fridays, 9:30-11:00am, Church Kitchen

see Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNINGS

Book of Hebrews

Saturdays, 8:00am, Church Kitchen

see Dan Repass



WOMEN OF ACTON

TOGETHER IN MISSION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

United Women in Faith?

The United Women in Faith and is the largest denominational faith organization for women in the world. We are focused on mission and providing opportunities for women to grow spiritually.

If you attend a United Methodist church, you are a member of the United Women of Faith.

At Acton there are opportunities for all women including helping with dinners, a reading circle, our blanket ministry and Acts of Kindness teams, fellowship events, our Craft Fair, and the annual Advent Tea.

Please, think how you may enjoy becoming a part of the Acton United Women of Faith.

If you have questions, please talk to one of the board members.

President: Felicia Crowel

Vice President: Margie Townsend

Secretary: Mary Ann Puckett

Treasurer: Connie Walters

Nominations: Linda Selke

At Large: Josette Randolph and Gayle Kerns



United
Women
in Faith



The Reading Circle is a great way to get to know the women at Acton. They get together about every other month to have a snack and a discussion on an agreed to book. You have plenty of time to read the book and discussions are always insightful and fun. If you are interested, see Audrey Robert's for more details. They are reading *The Shadow Box* by Luanne Rice and will be meeting next on Monday, May 15th at 6:30pm at Josette Randolph's home.

MINISTRIES

Prayer Blanket Ministry

- ~Make quilts for those needing comfort
- ~See Mary Ann Puckett to help
- ~Call the office for a blanket

Acts of Kindness *and beyond*

- ~Sweet & Savory sale – April 16th
- ~Passing on Kindness to others
- ~Third Sundays
- ~Call Audrey Roberts to help out

Reading Circle

- ~May 15th, 6:30pm @Josette Randolph's
- ~*The Shadow Box* by Luanne Rice
- ~See Audrey Roberts for more information

Hosting Fellowship Dinners

- ~May, July, September, & November
- ~See Felicia Crowel if you can help

Craft Fair

- ~October 21st
- ~Main mission fundraiser

Advent Tea

- ~December 1st
- ~Always a beautiful evening

BIBLE STUDIES

- ~Wednesday mornings at 10:00am
- ~Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm
- ~Friday mornings at 9:30am

READING CIRCLE

MAY 15th
6:30pm

@ Josette
Randolph's home

The Shadow Box
By Luanne Rice

KIDS KORNER

WELCOME TO KIDS KORNER, a page just for kids and their families.

Learn about what the children are studying on Sunday and see what fun events are upcoming for the kids and families. There's also a Bible story to help you dig into God's word. Enjoy!



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP & FUN

Our Kid's Own Worship includes kids PreK through 5th grade. They come upstairs to the Children's Chapel for fun and learning after the children's message. The kids have their own worship followed by snacks, games, crafts, science experiments and mission projects.

The first Sunday, kids stay in worship with their families so they can share the Lord's Supper with us – make sure to come to the Children's Chapel upstairs after worship for Bible Games. All ages welcome!

If you kids need to leave after worship, make sure to pick them up from the Children's Chapel at the top of the stairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSIONS IN APRIL

Food for God's Bounty

Coins for Brightwood Community

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

April 19th, 6:00pm

EGG HUNT

April 8th, 12:00pm

April Lessons

Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and people. Luke 2:52

April 2 Bible Games after worshipDiane C.

April 9 Easter Luke 24:1-12Dawn M.

April 16 Road to Emmaus..... Luke 24:13-25Connie W.

April 23 Peter's Declaration Matthew 16:13-20.....Chris C.

April 30 Mission Minded Kids



BIBLE STORY

EASTER

LUKE 24:1-12

What did the women find when they went to the tomb?

Who frightened the women?

What did the women remember?

Who were the women and who did they tell?

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 8th ~ 12:00



YOUTH GROUP

ACTON TEENS IN ACTION

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH GROUP

~April 2nd
~5:30-7:00pm, church

EASTER EGG HUNT

~April 8th
~12:00pm at church

NO YOUTH GROUP

~April 9th
~Happy Easter

PREP FOR ROBERT'S PARK

~April 15th
~Making sack lunches

ROBERT'S PARK

~April 16th
~Handing out sack lunches

NO YOUTH GROUP

~April 16th
~At Robert's Park

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

~April 19th
~6:00pm, church

YOUTH GROUP

~April 23rd
~5:30-7:00pm, church

YOUTH GROUP

~April 30th
~5:30-7:00pm, church

ROBERT'S PARK MEAL

Preparing sack lunches April 15th
Handing lunches out April 16th



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

APRIL 23rd

AFTER WORSHIP

If you work with kids here at Acton, please make sure to attend. This mean if you help in the toddler room, nursery, or with children's church or plan on helping with Kids Klub this summer, you must attend the training.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 8th ~ 12:00

There will be hot dogs, hunts for all ages



Please see Andy or Diane Crane if you have questions about the Youth Group. All youth ages 5th-12th grade are welcome!

Ministries for our Community



Eagle Scouts

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts – Rylan, Reese, and Brianna.



Preschool Fun

Always something fun happening upstairs at Preschool!



Enjoying God's Goodness

Nice Spring Evening



Anyone remember kick-the-can? The youth played on one of our nicer spring evenings.



Music Bingo

About 45 people came to play music bingo in March and had a fun evening of laughing and singing. The Crowel family had a lucky night along with Connie.

APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 9:30 Communion 3:00 Troop 104 PLC 5:30 Youth Group	3 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	4 6:00 Staff Parish 6:00 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens 6:30 Robotics	5 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 7:00 Choir Practice	6 6:30 Robotics 7:00 Tenebrae 8:00 AA	7 9:30 Women Study	8 8:00 Men Study EGG HUNT 12:00 
9 8:30 Sunrise Service 9:30 Easter Worship	10 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219 7:00 UMW Board	11 6:30 Robotics	12 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies	13 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Robotics 7:00 Strategy Council 8:00 AA GODS BOUNTY 	14 9:30 Women Study 7:00 104 Lock-in	15 8:00 Men Study
16 9:30 Worship 1:00 Pack 104 Roberts Park - Youth BAKE SALE	17 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	18 6:00 Trustees 6:00 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens 6:30 Robotics	19 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 6:30 GS Troop 817 FELLOWSHIP DINNER – 6:00pm	20 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	21 9:30 Women Study	22 8:00 Men Study Singles - TBD
23 9:30 Worship 1:00 GS Troop 200 5:30 Youth Group	24 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	25 6:30 Robotics	26 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 Missions 6:00 GS Brownies	27 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	28 9:30 Women Study	29 8:00 Men Study
30 9:30 Worship 5:30 Youth Group	1 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	2 6:00 Staff Parish 6:00 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens 6:30 Robotics	3 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies	4 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	5 9:30 Women Study 5:00 Private Event	6 8:00 Men Study