St. Mark united Methodist Church 550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW Greenwood, SC 29649

http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com Church Phone: 864.229.5416 Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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2023 Panama
Mission Trip
Application Deadline
EXTENDED

Applications for the mission trip to Panama, September 16-24, 2023, are due February 24. Applications can be found at all campuses. Contact Cathy (cathyt24@yahoo.com 864-992-2228) or Christy (christystevens728@gmail.com 864-822-0033) for more information or to apply.

The Witness







Bypass Campus (BPC)

Rivers Street Campus (RSC)

The Coronaca Campus (TCC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com Volume 17 Issue 1 February 2023





January 26, 2023 The Witness page 2

Greetings to the Saints of St. Mark!

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)

Do you know that God likes to answer our prayers and give us the gifts we need? It is part of His love for us and flows out of who He is as our Heavenly Father. But in answering our prayers, God reserves the right to answer them according to what we need. Therefore, sometimes the results of our praying look far different than what we might expect or thought we were asking for.

Take for example the Lord's Prayer. We are told to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." It seems straightforward enough. But God has answered His people's prayer for bread

in at least three different ways in the Bible. Of course, most naturally, when someone asks for bread you can get them a loaf from the grocery store. This is the bread God mentioned in the book of Leviticus, chapter 2. It is bread, made from grain and cooked in ovens like most of us eat every day - whether we need the carbs are not. This is the bread we make and eat and can be offered to God with thanksgiving.

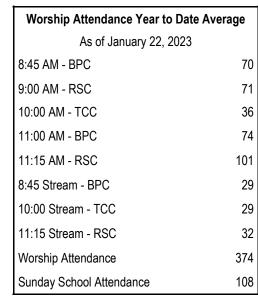
In the wilderness, as the people of God made their way to the Promised Land, they got hungry and thirsty. There they asked for food and God sent them bread from heaven (Deuteronomy 8). It didn't look like the bread they were used to and did not taste like it either. They called this bread "manna." Manna means "what is it?' and reflects the uncertainty as to what they thought they were getting and what God was giving. It was bread to eat but it was not the bread they were used to getting. They gathered it in the morning each day as it appeared on the bushes and ground but it wouldn't keep overnight. This was not bread that could be stored in the pantry in a plastic bag with a twist tie. Because it was a bread God made and they could not make, they were dependent on God for this daily bread. This was the bread that made them dependent on God and caused them to trust Him in deeper ways.

There was a third bread that God gives in answer to the prayer for daily bread. Even as Jesus has fed the multitude in John, chapter 6, He tells them "I am the Bread of Life." Suddenly, the bread God gives isn't about the loaf on a shelf or the miracle of manna but God giving Himself to us in Jesus. Now the bread we need is given in love and forgiveness, in grace and His presence with us. Now we understand God's answer and provision is greater than the prayer for daily bread that we are asking for.

A simple prayer is heard by God and is answered in unexpected ways. We get bread to eat and bread to share through the resources God gives. We get the bread of dependence and trust even though we are unsure as to "what it is." And our faithful God gives us of Himself, His life and love, that our hearts and souls may be satisfied beyond our stomachs and bodies. Such is the God who loves us and answers our prayers in bigger ways than we imagine.

So what are you praying for today? What do you need? Watch and wait and trust that God will give us what we need but it may not be in the way we expect. And remember, too, so often what we need is not something but Someone . . . Jesus.

With Joy, Steve January 26, 2023 The Witness page 15



KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average					
As of January 22, 2023					
KREW	66				
EPIC	79				
HSX	28				

The next copy of The Witness, the church's monthly newsletter, will be mailed on Thursday, February 23.

Deadline to submit information for the newsletter is Monday, February 13.

Copies of the February Birthdays list, February Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for January/February are located at the narthex/welcome area at each campus. You can find the birthday and anniversary list on the church mobile app as well.

IN MEMORIAM

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

John 11:25-26

- * Mary Jo Groomes
 - * February 10, 2023 January 10, 2023

The Pastors and congregation extend Christian sympathy to the following members of our church family.

- Tom Watkins and his family on the death of his sister, Jenny Kingman, on December 5.
- Tom Watkins and his family on the death of his brother in-law, Richard Kingman on December 5.
- Tom Watkins and his family on the death of his sister, Carolyn Hood, on January 1.

If you would like more information regarding the Bishop's Announcement for a Discernment Process that was included in the January newsletter, a meeting has been set for Sunday, Feb 5, at 3:00 PM in Founders Hall at the BPC.



Girl Scout Troop 3335,

that meets at Rivers Street and is sponsored by St. Mark, is selling cookies. Preorders are being taken

now. Cookies will be here around Valentine's Day. Boxes are \$5. We will be selling through March. St. Mark members of the troop are MacKenzie Cook, Caroline Farren, Abbey Lawrence, Addison Lybrand, and Lilly Johnson. You can contact them or Paige in the church office at 864.229.5416 or office@stmarkgreenwood.com to place your order. Available cookies are: Adventurefuls, Caramel deLites/Samoas, Peanut Butter Sandwich/Do-si-dos, Girl Scout S'mores, Lemon-up, Peanut Butter Patties/Tagalongs, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!, Toffee-tastic (Glunten free), and Shortbread/Trefoils.

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Young at Heart (ages 60 and up) will meet Monday, February 6, at 1 p.m. in Founders Hall at the Bypass Campus. Snacks will be furnished.

Upcoming Church Meetings

Finance - Sunday, February 19
Bypass Campus, Room 104 12:30 P.M.

Church Council - Sunday, February 26
Bypass Campus, Room 105/107 2:30 P.M.

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Greetings St. Mark,

The month of February is here. For me February is a month of celebration. I get to spend Valentine's Day with my valentine of 21 years and then we will celebrate my son's birthday. I can't believe that he will be 18. But during these times of celebration comes a series of new anniversaries for me and my family that we are not looking forward to. So, I find myself this February searching for understanding, a month of ups and downs, highs and lows, a month of different seasons. And I have a feeling that I am not the only one that has a month of ups and downs, highs and lows, a month of different seasons.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, an author known only by

the name Teacher, writes about the ups and downs of life in a way much like we would write in journals or diaries. In the third chapter of the book of Ecclesiastes, the Teacher writes "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This familiar passage is often recited when people are about to make a significant life change. But if you continue to read, the Teacher is speaking to life contradictions. Birth and death, dancing and mourning, embracing and refraining from embracing, love and hate, and war and peace. As he talks about these life contradictions, the Teacher focuses on God's presence and encourages the readers "that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil." (Ecclesiastes 3:13)

St. Mark, I don't think we are literally to take pleasure in toils, our downs, and our lows. God does not want us to toil. (Rev 22:1-5) What I do believe the Teacher wants us to do in different seasons of life is to move forward by seeing God's presence in all things. God's presence that has guided us through the different seasons of our life and calls us to seek and search for God in all things. St. Mark, if moving forward seems difficult, please know that you don't have to this alone. I encourage you to reach out to any one of us on the pastoral staff and we will walk with you with prayer, love, and grace while also connecting you with local support groups.

St Mark, you are not alone. God loves you and so do we.

Pastor Joey

Flower Calendar

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board by the senior pastor's office. Dates available are: Feb 12, Feb 19, Apr 16, Apr. 23, Apr. 30, May 21, Jul. 30, Sept. 4, Oct. 8, and Oct. 15. Make sure to include a phone number or email address. When it is your turn, you will be notified early that week as a reminder of the date you chose and will be asked for information for the bulletin.

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Hello St. Mark Family!

This past weekend, I accompanied the Senior High School students on their Senior Retreat in Copperhill, Tennessee. I have been on this trip for the past several years with Julie and Jennifer, as well as a few of our EPIC leaders that volunteer their time with a small group on Sunday nights. This is without a doubt one of my favorite trips that we go on each year, and as soon as it's over, I start looking forward to the following year. This year was different and something that impacted me in a very special way. About half a mile or so from the cabin where we stay, there is an overlook. You wander your way up the side of a mountain on a dirt path that has been worn away by people making that trek through the years, and all of the sudden you come to this lookout. There are benches that have been built into

the ground, and there is even a small platform that you stand on and either look out over the mountain or turn around and talk to the people sitting on the benches. It's

almost like this small little outdoor sanctuary high up on a mountain top.

This year Julie asked if I would have a communion service for the students up there on that lookout. So together, the whole group of us, even five-year-old Jack, made the trip up the mountain to this very special spot. As I stood there preparing the communion elements and getting ready to start the service, and also catching my breath from the hike, I couldn't help but think of the journey that we went on to be in that spot. Some of it is tough, some of it is pretty easy, there are steep hills, there are low valleys, and at the end was a view that will take your breath away. It can be a tough hike up to that spot but when you get there you can't help but be thankful that you made the journey.

I think our life is much like that journey up the mountain. There are steep hills, there are low valleys, there are moments that we want to give up and find an easier way, but if we are willing to stay on the path

and continue on the way we are being led, God has an amazing view for us at the top. Jesus's journey was much like this, too. Hard times, easy times, times when He asked why God had forsaken Him, and yet in the end. He had a view like nothing we could even imagine.

I think if I had a motto for 2023, it would be to just keep on the path. Keep moving forward. Through the good and the bad, the hard and the easy, keep going, because God has something amazing waiting at the end! I'll never forget those moments when we stood on a mountain top and shared communion together. It was an incredible experience. A sense of peace just washed over me and let me know that the journey was worth every step I took.

I hope this year and this journey is one that leads you to an amazing view that God has in store for you - one that will take your breath away! I hope to see YOU at CHURCH real soon! BRING A FRIEND!

Robby



An all new five week Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesdays at 6:00 pm beginning February 1st

Bypass Campus Meeting/Study Room 105/107

> Contact dena6895@gmail.com for more information.



Heroes of the Old Testament



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2023 is one month old and our hope is that the St. Mark UMC church family is doing well. We continue to press on in our calling to leave a mark of Christ wherever we go as we stay close, connected, and hopeful to God, one another and our communities. A vital part of our connection is through our missions and ministries that we are involved in. Like any family, it is what we go individually and collectively that makes the impact on one another and those around us. God has blessed us, and as we share these blessings with one another, the light and life of Christ is shared with many, many people in many, many places.

This is the second financial report of the new year but it comes almost as an end of year report of 2022. January figures are still being worked on as this newsletter is put together in January. All of December's bills, contributions, and final reconciliation are not quite finished but the information in this newsletter is pretty close. For example, persons had until mid-January to make 2022 donations and the church credit card bill doesn't come until mid-January as well.

The finances for 2022 are as follows:

\$205,239 General Fund

\$1,017,464 Budgeted Expenses \$1,102,315 **Actual Expenses Actual Income \$946,428** Anticipated Income \$1,100,690

We did our best to stay on top of spending and keep expenses down as much as possible while still maintaining the quality of the programs we offer, as well as sustaining our ministries and missions that form the life of our church. Last year our expenses were actually about \$84,851 less than what we had budgeted for 2022. On the other side of the balance sheet, we had anticipated that we might have received a little over a million dollars in gifts, but we have actually received about \$946,428. This is much better than 2021, but it is still a difference of about \$155,262 in contributions. However, God has been faithful, and gifts were given that allowed us to experience this shortfall without having to make major changes. At the end of 2021, this deficit was almost twice as much. We are still on the right track as we come further out of COVID-19's grip as well as the current economy in getting things in balance. It is good to know, though we are not where we want to be - and Lord willing we'll get there. At the beginning of COVID-19 in 2020, we had about \$250,000 in our General Fund. And now, after all the problems with COVID-19 and its impact over three years, our General Fund is at \$205,000.

Our faithful and generous giving allows St. Mark to carry out its calling to care for one another in our church, across the city and our state, and even touch the lives of persons across the globe that we may never meet. We strive to do our best to be faithful stewards of what we receive. It is still true that when we give the best each of us can - generously and faithfully as God has provided - great things happen, and all are blessed. Pray for St. Mark UMC as we trust our faithful God.



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FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE

The calendar page turns from January to February as the Church Year goes from one season to another. The Season of Epiphany ends as the Season of Lent begins. Lent is a special time of year, more than a countdown of days to Easter. It is a time of reflection, examination, and consideration of our life with God. Do we have room in our lives for God? Are there God-shaped spaces in our day and our hearts for God to fill, to speak to us and form us? Many create these God-spaces by fasting or giving something up for Lent. We create a need by what we fast from - food, chocolate, social media, television, etc. - in order to fill it with a greater desire for God. We hope you will seek out and enjoy a holy Lent this year.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 22. We will have a special service that day to remember that our humanity is subject to sin and death. But we remember, too, that these twin evils were conquered by Christ's forgiveness on the cross and His resurrection. The forty days of Lent exclude Sundays, because Sundays remind us of the resurrection, our forgiveness, and our life made new in Christ.

During these Sundays in Lent, we will seek to know Jesus better as we look at who He is in the light of the seven "I Am" sayings in the Gospel of John. We hope these services will encourage us to recognize Christ's love and compassion, His Mission, and His Message, through these seven sermons.

Please note that services from every campus are live-streamed each Sunday, beginning with our 8:45 AM Traditional Worship Service from the Bypass Campus, followed by our 10:00 AM Blended Worship Service from the Coronaca Campus, and lastly, our 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship Service from the Rivers Street Campus. You can watch these services on our Youtube channel at the time indicated for that service. All live-streamed services will be available online after they are completed.

February 5 - Forgiveness: The Christ-followers' Way of Life (Communion will be shared at all campuses) Pastor Steve at Bypass for 10:00 AM Worship Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 10:00 AM Worship

February 12 - Love is Bigger than a Valentine (Communion will be shared at Rivers Street) Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship Mr. Todd Philcox at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

February 19 - Preparing for Lent

(Communion will be shared at Rivers Street) Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

February 22 - Ash Wednesday

Drive-by Ashes and Communion at Coronaca 7:00 AM-8:30 AM & 12:00 PM-1:30 PM

Worship Service to begin the Season of Lent, including the imposition of ashes at 6:30 PM at Rivers Street Campus

February 26 - Encountering Jesus: "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (Communion will be shared at Rivers Street)

> Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

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St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

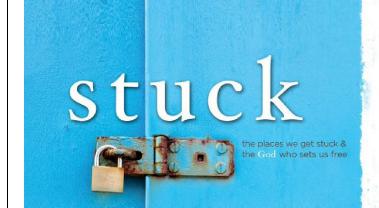
To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Jane West** by Bob and Mabel Templeton, Jean Deason, Ronnie and Brenda Millender, Tom and Betsy Watkins, Brenda Burdette, Martha Moore.

- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Tom Bickerton** by Bob and Mabel Templeton, Wanda Hill, Terry and Rite Bickerton, Candy and Ernie Gillian, James Hull, Wendy Hunter, Elwood and Tina Hocker, Betsy Talcott.
- To *The Back Pack Meal Fund* in loving memory of **Tom Bickerton** by Jim Wheeler, Janice McMahan.
- To The General Fund in loving memory of Chris Brown by Candy and Ernie Gillian.

Welcome to the St. Mark Family Join the staff of St. Mark in welcoming our new church members: Jason and Stephanie Turner.



Jason, Stephanie, and Jet Turner



Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study Beginning January 31st for 8 weeks

9:00 am. Room 105/107 Bypass Campus

Contact sharonmanning82@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

Prayers of the Church

Prayer requests will remain on this list for three weeks unless we are notified differently.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Emerald Gardens (201 Overland Drive, Greenwood, SC) Charlotte Kooné

National Healthcare (437 E Cambridge Ave, Greenwood, SC) Betty Lightsey

Shut-In/Homebound Mary Ellen Anderson (864.223.5275) 1830 Alexander Road W Greenwood, SC 29649

Danny Bearden c/o Khristy Lee 2419 Lafayette Street Winterville, NC 28590

Jean Bedenbaugh Lexington Medical Center Extended Care 815 Old Cherokee Road Lexington, SC 29072

James and Mary Anna Evans 5800 Old Providence Road Apt 4310

Charlotte, NC 28226

Charlie Helms (704.535.7848) c/o Teena Williams 4600 Crofton Ct. Charlotte, NC 28205

Verne Logan 228 Pump House Road Greenwood, SC 29649

Annell McManus (864.229.1596) 110 Northgate Greenwood, SC 29649

Gary Roper 301 Fairway Lakes Road Greenwood, SC 29649

Jenny Valkenburg (864-223-0987) 119 Creek Road East Greenwood, SC 29646

MEMBERS AND REGULAR **ATTENDEES**

Candace Christi Miriam Bickerton and family Emily Kneece and family Al West and family Julie McLaughlin and family Verne Logañ

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES CONT'D

Tommy Wilson John Clark Jim Conley Dodie Conley

MEMBERS' FAMILY

Candee Screiber Valerie Johnson Mike Bartley Margie Peeler Dennie Barden Agnes Campbell and family

MEMBERS' FRIENDS

Katie Bradley Jane McGee Cox Louise Robinson Riley Faith Patricia Laroche family Madyson Chadwick Heather Holden Cliff and Ellen Arnold Johnny Vickers Pat Vickers Shelia Brown and family Tyler Hellams Sandra Moser Meredith Ryan Rev. and Mrs Milton and Betty Moss McGuirt

MILITARY

Jack Bovd - Army Dr. JC Elmore - Ármy Brycen Fleming - Army Randall Geddings Joshua Goff - Marines Dr. Caity Jarrio-Army Mackenzie Latham - Áir Force Banner Peksa - Army Parker White - Army

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Clemson: Caleb McLaughlin, Caroline Addis, Clary Pederson, Conner Pederson, Dawson Hudson, Gloria Grace Murray, Jasmine Creswell, Josh Godwin, Kathryn Goff, Laila Monda, Patrick Smathers, Rebecca Bell, Savannah Farmer, Taylor Case, Trevor Brewington, Tyler McManus, Wyatt Prince, Will Godwin, and Zach Robinson.

Furman University: Annika Patterson

Georgia Southern: Mathis Brewington

Lander:

Caroline Alexander, Caroline Rhodes, Caroline Smith, Cole Ison, Dýlan DeLoach, Jéwel Malone Leopard, Kellynn Ashley, Kylie Gantt, Lowndes Still, Rhianna Philcox, Ryan Latham, and Zoë Moore.

Mars Hill University: Sarah Ellen Johnson

Midlands Technical College: Parker Boggs

Piedmont Technical College: Andrew Tripp, Ethan Long, Jeramiah Holmes, and Lauren Coker.

Southern Weslevan: Haley McLaughlin

The Medical University of South Carolina: Mae Furman

University of Kentucky: Julia Goff

University of South Carolina: Caroline Bell, Carter Rhodes, Harriet Ward, Jordan Mapes, Kynslea Philcox, Lauren Clamp, Meg McGovern, and Olivia DeTreville.

University of South Carolina, Sumter: Braeden McDonald

Winthrop: Carlie Pundt Wofford:

Olivia Murray

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STUDENT MINISTRY WWW.STMARKEPIC.COM



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EPIC IS A CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12. EPIC SUNDAY NIGHTS ARE FROM 6:30-8:00. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED! BRING A FRIEND!

HSX, our High School Extra Bible study, meets after EPIC. 9th-10th Graders are led by Haley McLaughlin in the Attic. 11th-12th graders are led by Julie McLaughlin in the High School Room.















Enjoy time with your family and friends!



NEVER GIVE UP







June 17-24, 2023 **Summerville Salkehatchie** is back!

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	2 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 West Side AA 7:00 Girl Scouts	3 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Founders Hall in use	4 Founders Hall in use all day
5 3:00 Discernment Process meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	6 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 1:00 Young at Heart 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	7 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	8 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 West Side AA	10 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	11
12	Information due for the church newsletter 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Parkinson Support Group 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	15 6:30 Men's Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men's Bible Study	16 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 West Side AA 7:00 Girl Scouts	17 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	18
19 12:30 Finance committee meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	20 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	21 9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	22 - Ash Wednesday 6:30 Men's Bible Study 7:00 Drive by Ashes and Communion at Coronaca 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 12:00 Drive by Ashes and Communion at Coronaca 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:00 Newsletter labeling in Founders Hall 5:30 West Side AA	24 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	25
26 2:30 Church Council 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	27 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH	9:00 Ladies Bible Study 6:00 Volleyball practice in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA				Worship Services are: Bypass Campus:8:45 am & 11:00 am Rivers Street Campus: 9:00 am & 11:15 am Coronaca Campus: 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am