

Wesley United Methodist Church
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MARCH 2026	

Putting our *love* into action

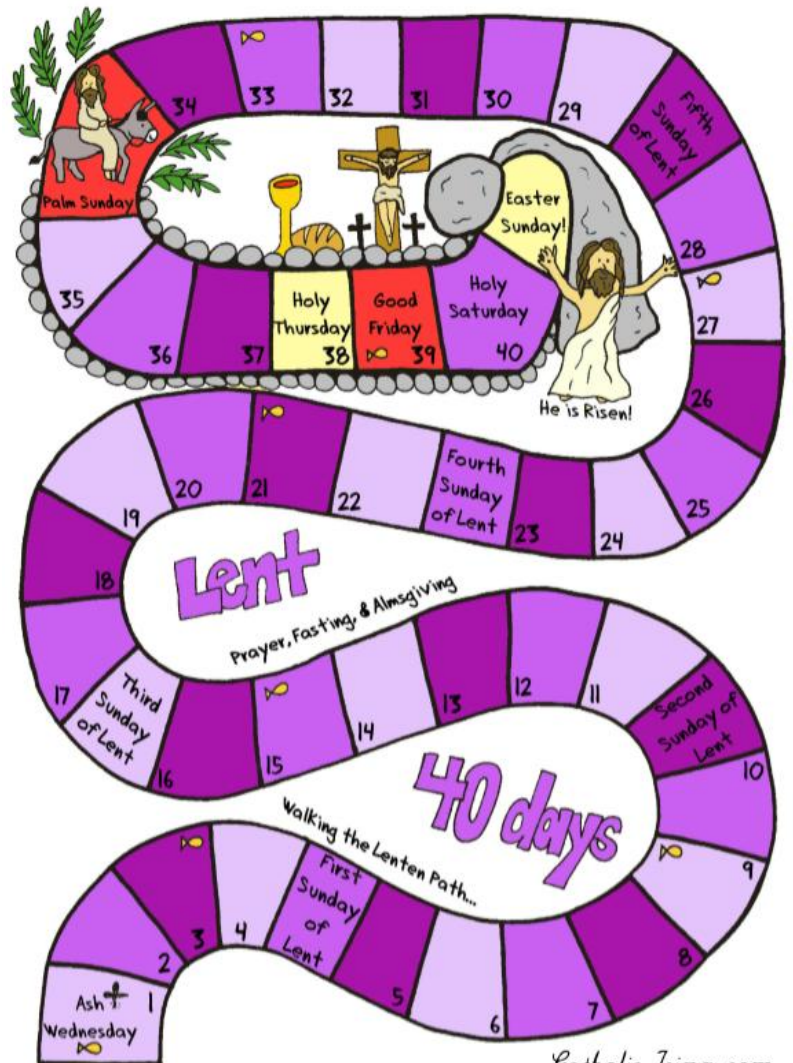


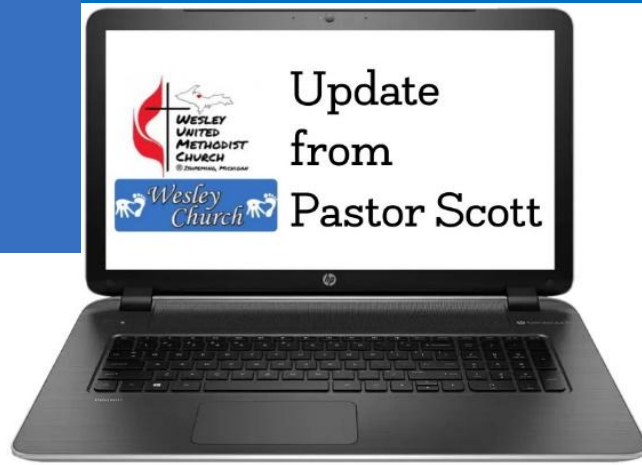
March Birthdays

- 2 Bonnie Howe
Abigail Johnson
- 4 John Soderberg
- 5 Gail Blanck
- 6 Gordon Grigg II
Robert Reno
- 7 Emmy Chapman (c)
- 8 Ruth Hendra
- 9 John Blanck
- 10 Joan Luoma
- 11 Reese Verville (c)
- 13 Nicole Stille
Linda Quayle
- 14 Bill Schrandt
- 17 Zach Quayle
- 18 Carl Crenshaw
- 19 Tyler Hintsala
- 20 Ellen Lundin
- 21 Charles Anderson
- 22 Adeline Solka (c)
- 24 Steph Johnson
- 25 Owen Morton
Norma Tibor
- 27 Bonnie Corkin
Louise Reynolds
- 28 Bill Mathias
- 29 Rachel Thomas
Louie Verville
- 30 Jon Bessolo
Ansley Kestila (c)

March Anniversaries

- 23 Peter & Debbie Goldsworthy





THE NARRATIVE BUDGET

Grace and peace my friend -

Normally I use my newsletter space for a lesson on faith and spiritual growth, but this month it will be a bit more about the administration of the church. Further on in the newsletter we have included our 2026 budget in a format called a Narrative budget. I hope you will read on to understand a bit more what the budget means and where it came from.

A Narrative budget tells the story of the church. We know that every dollar given to the church supports the programming, mission, and ministries of the church. But the reality is, to support the programming, mission and ministries of the church we need to pay insurance, and the electric bill and snow removal and salaries and more. You've likely seen the long list of accounts the church, or any organization has: office expenses, ministry shares and more line after line. Number after number.

What the Narrative budget does is simplify the budget. It tells the story of where each dollar goes. When you give a gift to the church, it supports multiple programs and focus areas all the while paying for the unglamorous things like insurance.

We, the leadership board, went through budget line item by budget line item and decided okay, the pastor's salary (*for example*) - what percent of my time supports the worship expressions of the church? What percent of my time helps develop and supports the education and discipleship programs of the church? We prayerfully considered each and every item on the full budget and decided how much of each line item supports each area of ministry by percentage. We did the math on every single item, added up all those fractions of each line item and that's how we got the total percentages we did.

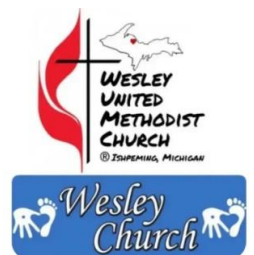
The four areas represented on the narrative budget (*Mission & Outreach, Community and Worship, Leadership, Education & Discipleship*) were determined by a working group of church members who met one Saturday last fall. We asked ourselves what are the core values of our church? What are the key areas we live out God's call on our church? The four areas came from that working group.

Over the next few newsletters I will explain deeper each of our core values, but for now, thank you.

Thank you because every gift you to make the church helps us build disciples. It helps us teach the good news of Jesus. It lets us reach out to our community, and build community inside the church. It provides worship space and opportunities weekly. It supports the empowerment of the next generation of leaders of the United Methodist Church and it of course does the mission and outreach work of the church: feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, comforting the lonely.

God bless you and thank you for your support, your prayers and your love as together we continue to put our love into action at Wesley Church.

Pastor Scott
Acts 2:43-47



Putting our *love* into action

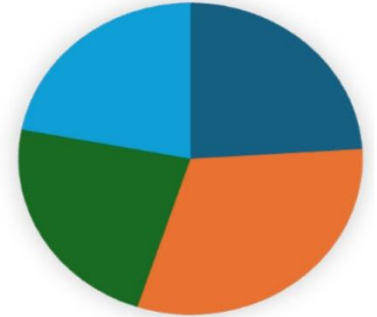


Wesley Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

March 2026



**2026
Ministry
Budget
\$315,769**

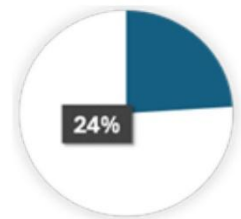


Putting our *love* into action

**Mission/Outreach:
\$75,638.55**



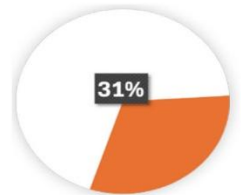
We believe faith comes alive when we serve our neighbors with open hands and open hearts. We help because Jesus calls us to love people freely, without expecting anything in return. Whether we are giving warm clothes, sharing a meal, or working with other churches, we want our community to feel God's care in real and practical ways.



**Community/Worship:
\$96,955.40**



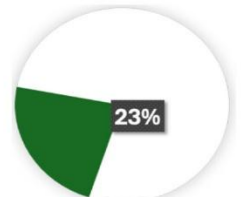
We want everyone who walks through our doors to feel like they belong. This is a place where people worship together, pray for each other, and support each other in hard times. We believe God builds strong communities when we choose kindness, honesty, and grace.



**Leadership:
\$73,805.50**



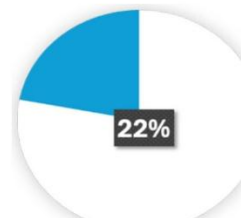
We believe leadership is something we share. God gives each person gifts, and the church becomes stronger when people use those gifts to help others. We want to create a place where people feel encouraged to step forward, serve with confidence, and learn along the way.



**Education/Discipleship:
\$69,369.55**



We grow as followers of Jesus when we learn together. Bible studies, sermons, small groups, and conversations help us know God better and live out our faith each day. Learning shapes us into people who reflect Jesus' love at home, at church, and in our community.





Wesley
Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

March 2026

March 2026: Fasting & Evangelism

Fast one day a week for a month.

(Work of Piety – Fasting as Spiritual Discipline)



Bring a friend to church.

(Work of Mercy – Evangelism)



Read the Gospel of Mark.

(Work of Piety – Scripture Study)



“tell me something good...”

Devotion: Daily Cards or Book.

(Work of Piety – Study and Learning)



Growing in Faith Together!



Joys & Concerns

Month Of Feb.2026

(2/1, 2/8, 2/15, & 2/22)

Joys

<i>Person to Pray for</i>	<i>Need</i>	<i>Person requesting</i>
1. Kris Culliton & Skip Anderson	Thanks for healing!	Dorothy Kuhn
2. Lee Woods	Probably coming home in a few wks. Doing well in rehab. He is alert & no longer confused	Cookie Holmgren
3. David McCartney	safe travel, ability to work, new & old friends (Hi guys!)	David McCartney
4. Thank God for goodness, mercy & grace	Open our eyes, ears & hearts to see good around us	Pam Olgren
5. Lee Woods	Got home from Mayo Clinic Thurs. Cancer is GONE!	Cookie Holmgren
6. Lee Woods	Finally home from Mayo-pray for continued healing	Cookie Holmgren
7. ?	Praise God for Unanswered Prayers	Patti Kainulainen
8. My husband Gordy	home from the hospital & doing well	Susan Grigg
9. My brother Eric	had surgery for pancreatic cancer- went well	Susan Grigg
10. Daphne Flack	she turned 3 on 2/2/26 Happy Birthday!	Patti Kainulainen
11. Ryan Hunt	graduated with Ph. D in Neuroscience	Paula Ross
12. Lee & Cindy Woods	Lee & Cindy are VERY grateful for the many prayers our Congregation prayed for them. They felt the power of those prayers. Lee is home cancer in 100% remission. Has some rehab scheduled to help. His mind and sense of humor are as sharp as ever.	David & Jacki Crimmins

Concerns

<i>Person to Pray for</i>	<i>Need</i>	<i>Person requesting</i>
1. 18 Yr. Old Tripp Stratton	cancer treatment for 6 th time-might be home for Valentine's Day.	Dorothy Kuhn
2. Ann Marie, Gail, Jason, Bruce & Tracy	healing from ongoing health problems	Dorothy Kuhn
3. David Culliton	healing from back, leg, & eye problems	Dorothy Kuhn
4. Andrea	suffering PTSD & other health problems	Dorothy Kuhn
5. Katie, Lindy, Vance, Morgan, Janet, Alan & Ruth	healing from health concerns	Barb Palomaki
6. Angie & Axyl	lost home in fire	Barb Palomaki
7. The Family of Alan Laakso	he passed away	Barb Palomaki
8. Caitlin	healing from severe depression	Dick Derby
9. Henry	needs miracle healing from seizures	Dick Derby
10. Jill Jean & Ann Marie	healing, patience & strength	Shirley Hicks
11. Kurt	healing from 2 heart attacks	Shirley Hicks
12. Roy Holbrook	healing from multiple health issues	Cookie Holmgren
13. Lee Woods	continued prayers for healing- in rehab-may come home in a couple of weeks.	Cookie Holmgren
14. Lee Woods	prayers for strength-prayers physical therapy will help him walk again	Cookie Holmgren
15. Bill Tibor (Norma's Husband)	continued healing	Cookie Holmgren
16. My cousin Dave	brain tumor- undergoing chemo & radiation in Duluth	Cookie Holmgren
17. Linda	complications with kidney cancer	Deb Sherrill
18. Vic	healing & relief from pain after back surgery	Deb Sherrill
19. Corrections Officers at our prison	Pray for them as they do difficult jobs to keep us safe	Susan Hill
All 1 st Responders in our area	Prayers for safety & good health & much needed rest	
20. My sister Helen & family in AZ	family in turmoil.....bring peace	Janice Moore
21. The Cook Family, God's People	health concerns	John Verran
22. Family Members	keep in prayer- they've had a loss	John Verran
23. Gordy (Gordon) Grigg	prayers for continued recovery from pneumonia	Susan Grigg
24. My brother Eric	prayers for continued recovery	Susan Grigg
25. Daphne Flack	continued prayers for vision & healing of eye	Patti Kainulainen
26. ?	Pray for PEACE- in our lives, in our communities, in our nation, in our world	Ann Yeager
27. Zack- my nephew	health issues	Ann Yeager
28. Paul- my brother	health issues	Ann Yeager
29. My granddaughter Brittany Demogola	has pituitary adenoma tumor. Having surgery. Dr. appts. starting tomorrow toward that goal	Paulette Kordish
	pray for her to stay safe in Texas	
30. Grandma Mary	having thyroid & lung issues- please pray	Brock Verville
31. My sister Elaine Priester	safe travels	David McCartney
32. David McCartney		David McCartney



March 2026

MISSIONS: The hands & feet of Jesus

Discipleship – A Call to Follow Jesus

The Discipleship messages leading us into the new year captured two themes – optimism and expectation. These are words that direct our focus inwardly to ourselves and our connection to God. We “grab optimism and hold onto it tightly,” knowing that God goes with us into each new day. And as we go forward day by day, often not knowing where our path will lead, as Abraham went, “going out without knowing”, we have great expectations because God goes with us. But now, from those foundations, let us change our focus outwardly.

Along the way of our own life journey, we know that we will constantly encounter other people, living, breathing, and being consumed with the events that surround their day. Suppose we could be part of that in a positive way. Suppose we could make a difference (with optimism and expectation) or just simple kindness and support. Better yet, love.

Bob Gass writes in **Word for You Today**: “Edify one another, (1Th 5:11).

“The word “edify” means to “build up, strengthen, encourage, and motivate.”

There are people in your life right now who need someone to speak blessings over them. It will mean much when you give them approval, tell them you are proud of them, and that they can do great things. Everyone

needs to be edified. So, what kind of seeds are you planting in your children, in your husband or wife, in your friends? Have you let them know they are important? Are you taking an interest in helping them improve their life? Have you listened to their dreams? Have you found out what they believe God has put in their heart? Have you let them know that you’re behind them? That’s what an edifier does! Henry Ford was introduced to Thomas Edison as ‘the man trying to build a car that runs on gasoline.’ When Edison heard it, he said, ‘A car that has its own power plant; that’s a brilliant idea.’ Until then, no one had encouraged Ford, and he had just about decided to quit. Then Edison stepped in and spoke faith into him. That was a decisive moment in Henry Ford’s life. He said, *‘I thought I had a good idea, but I started to doubt myself. Then along came one of the greatest minds ever and gave me his complete approval.’* Understand the power you hold and how much it means when you tell somebody, *‘I believe in you. You have what it takes.’*”

Joyce Meyers in **Quiet Times with God** adds to this message through Philippians 2:4: *“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

“Every person needs help. We all need to be encouraged, edified, and appreciated. God not only wants to bless your life, but He also wants you to be a blessing to those around you. Everyone grows weary at times and needs other people to say to them, *‘I just wanted you to know that I appreciate you and all you do.’* God blesses us so we can be a blessing, not only in a few places, but everywhere we go. Look for people in need and bless them. Share what you have with those less fortunate, give an encouraging word, and be kind. When you live to meet needs and encourage those around you, you will find ‘joy unspeakable’ in the process (see 1 Peter 1:8).”

When our goal is to look for people we can edify, we won’t have to search far and wide; we’ll find them standing right next to us.

God’s peace, every day.

Dick Derby
Missions





March 2026

MISSIONS: The hands & feet of Jesus

February Mission Project: Collecting snacks for Aspen Ridge & Birchview Schools- thank you for your donations.

March Mission Project: We will be collecting funds for **UMCOR- United Methodist Committee On Relief. UMCOR SUNDAY** falls at the end of the month, so we'd like to be able to send them some funds.

March Community Dinner: 3/12/26 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Salad & Dessert- we hope you'll join us and bring a friend.

Greeting Card Mission: Please visit the cards at the table in the narthex and feel free to write a short note to the recipients. Several have shared their appreciation for the cards and our thoughtfulness.

2025 Project: Keep Kids Warm Update: we had **383 requests** and filled those requests **providing 1700 items** which included jackets, snowpants, boots, mittens, gloves and hats. Thanks to all the volunteers for shopping and filling the requests. Thank you to all of our financial donors for your generosity!



2026 MINISTRY SHARES

Through Ministry Shares, our congregation's ministry extends beyond our local community to places where we may never physically go.

From providing disaster relief through UMCOR to supporting missionaries worldwide, Ministry Shares make it possible for Wesley Church to be the hands and feet of Christ on a global scale.

*Because of your efforts, Wesley will be an Engage Michigan Church for 2025
THANK YOU!!*

SCAN CODE
To go to our ONLINE GIVING WEBSITE!



MISSIONS 5TH SUNDAY

Food Pantry Collection *In cooperation with Hope Free Lutheran Church*
Sunday March 29th

- ✓ 4 Roll packs of Toilet Paper
- ✓ FAMILY Size Soup Cans (about 26 oz)



If possible, please bring your gifts with you to worship as the youth will collect them during the 3/29/2026 worship service.



March 2026

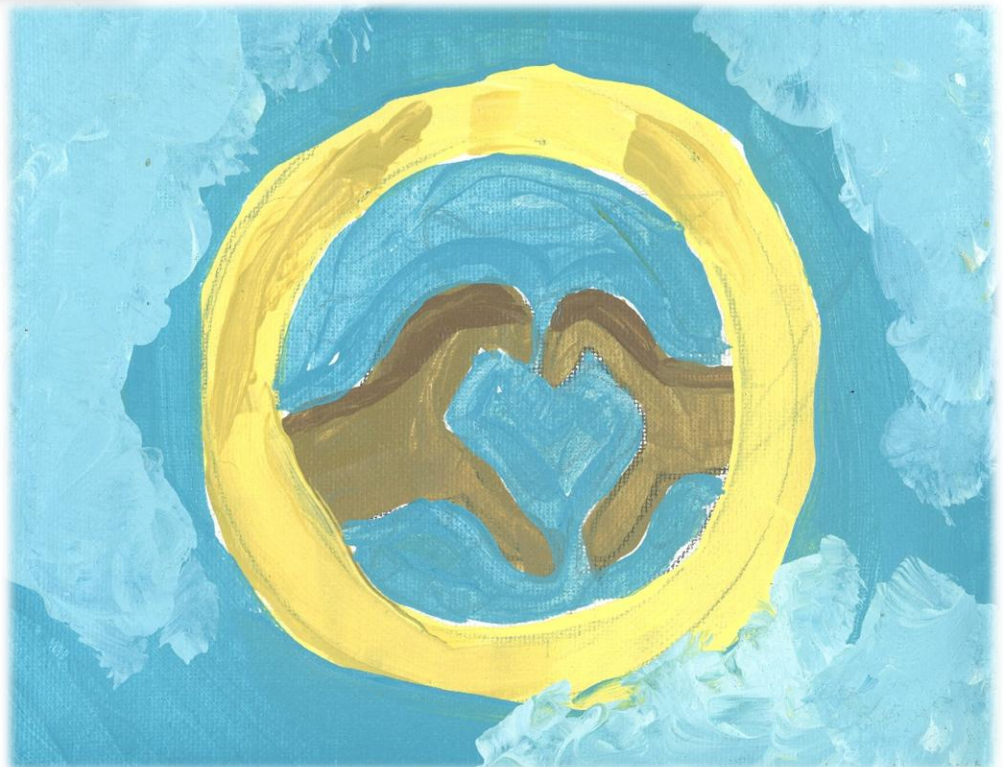


Isaac's Story

By Isaac Goodreau-Yeager

My Mom was crying because
my dog was closing his eyes.

He went to heaven.
He was floating in the sky.



Artwork by
Ellia Goodreau-Yeager



Wesley
Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

March 2026



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Bible Studies

Greetings!

Hard to believe we are already in the season of Lent which leads us to Easter! I am planning to do an Easter egg hunt again this year, but on a smaller scale. It will most likely be indoors as I am not confident the snow will be gone outside just yet.

As I did last year, I will put out a list of items to be donated to put inside of the eggs if you would like help provide some of these little goodies for the children. Keep your eyes on the welcome table for the signup sheet in the next few weeks!

Also during Lent; Our Sunday school lessons will coordinate weekly with Pastor's message in worship. This helps solidify the lessons and sometimes offers a different view or additional information. The Sunday School children are also getting a Lent mailing weekly with a children's bulletin and some small stickers/activities! If you have not received one yet, be sure to talk to me and make sure we have your correct address on file!

If you have a desire to share an Easter story, or craft with the kids please let me know. They love guests and doing different things.

God's Peace,
Pam Olgren





Wesley Church
Ishpeming, Michigan

March 2026

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Sign Up

TO OUR ALUMNI LIST



Stay up-to-date on all things that are happening with Camp Michigamme

Scan the QR Code to join



Please Take This 10 minute United Methodist Church Survey

2026 UMC Leadership Gathering:
Future of The United Methodist Church Survey

This survey is being conducted by United Methodist Communications on behalf of the 2026 UMC Leadership Gathering Design Team to inform their churchwide learning and discernment.

To take this survey (please try to do so!)
Use the QR CODE or go to:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/UMCLG2026

Survey QR code:





March 2026

Go to: www.ishpemingwesley.org/calendar to see on our website

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 2 ND Sunday of Lent SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	2 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	3 Nurtured Mama's MeetUP 5:30p.m. LEADERSHIP BOARD 5:15 p.m. MISSIONS TEAM (LOUNGE) 6:00p.m.	4 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	5	6	7
8 3 rd Sunday of Lent SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Meal 11:00 a.m.	9 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	10	11 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	12 Community Fellowship Dinner 5:00-6:30 p.m.	13	14
15 4 th Sunday of Lent SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	16 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22 5 th Sunday of Lent SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	23 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	24 LEADERSHIP BOARD 5:15p.m.	25 Lunch & Learn Bible Study 12:00 p.m. Wed. Night Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	26	27 APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE.	28
29 PALM SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR 9:00 a.m. WORSHIP 10:00 a.m.	30 TOPS 4:00 p.m. Al-Anon 6:00 p.m.	31 Teal Lake Assisted Living Worship 2:00 p.m.				