

## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	1-2
Birthdays, Anniversaries & Thank You	3
Bible Studies, & HC Book Club	4
Jessica's Confirmation & Kamryn's Sr. Project	5
Zone 7 Spring Event	6
Women of Holy Cross	7
Men's Mandatory Formation	8
Spring at Holy Cross	9
Colors of the Liturgical Seasons	10
March Calendar	11
Holy Cross Weekly Schedule	12

## I believe....in what?

### A look at The Nicene Creed—Part I By Pastor Munding

Every Sunday the church throughout the world confesses together before man and before God the words of the Nicene Creed. I would make a wager that most of you know the words of this creed by heart. If you were to put down your bulletin, I'm confident that you would be able to recite all the words with the congregation. After all you have been confessing it since you were old enough to read. It is part of your Lutheran and Christian DNA. This specific creed has existed for over 1600 years and it remains one of the greatest confessions that the church has concerning the nature of who God is. But how much do you know about the history behind this creed which we confess every Sunday and what do you know about the words that are in it? That is what I will be discussing over the next few months as we take a good look at both the history of the Nicene Creed as well as the words themselves that we so boldly confess.

Why are creeds so important in the first place? Why do we speak the same creed every Sunday? If you talk to some Christians in America, they will probably tell you that they do not have a creed that they follow. They instead will say that they follow Jesus and Scripture, that's it, no need for a man-made creed. But if you ask them what they believe they will tell you all about the story of Jesus and what he did through his death and resurrection to bring life to us. You know, everything you need to believe in order to be saved. That right there is a creed! Whether they know it or not every Christian has a creed, a declaration or a confession of the faith that speaks the truths about Scripture. Every church website that I have ever been to has had a tab you can click on which has information on what they believe. That is a creed!



Creeds are important because they help keep us from erring from one true faith. Think of the creeds as bumpers when you go bowling. Imagine that you are a terrible bowler (that is true for me) who always throws the ball into the gutter. When you add bumpers to the lane it becomes impossible to throw that ball in the gutter. The same goes for us Christians. We are terrible bowlers, that is, we are sinful human beings who tend to err quite often. Satan would love nothing more than for us to go off on our own to try and interpret the Scriptures. Without the faith and truths confessed in the creeds, chances are we will end up in the gutter sooner or later. The creeds help keep us in line with all that the church believes and confesses about the Christian faith. They are a buffer zone so we do not end up in the gutter of unfaithfulness.

The Lutheran Church has three such creeds that we confess throughout the church year; the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed. These are ancient creeds that were written for a specific purpose. In the early centuries of the Christian church, creeds (confessions of faith) were written to summarize the truth of Scripture in opposition to those who were distorting or misunderstanding Biblical truth. The Apostles creed, the Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds were developed for this purpose. These three creeds are also known as the Ecumenical creeds which were formed or put into place at different ecumenical councils. The word ecumenical simply means something that is made up of different churches. The councils that created these creeds were made up many different churches throughout Christendom in order to combat different heresies that had popped up and were perverting the church. Bishops from all over the world would be invited by the Emperor to discuss these matters at a central location. The council of Nicea was one such council that was tasked to refute heresies that spoke against the realities of Scripture. Arianism was the big heresy that the Council of Nicea was fighting against but we will talk more about that next month.

Councils are actually a very Biblical concept. Councils are called when there are issues dividing the church at large. In Acts 15 a council was called in Jerusalem to discuss whether or not gentile Christians had to be circumcised or not. The Apostolic Council of Jerusalem unanimously acknowledged that it was not necessary for Gentile believers to be circumcised or to keep the ceremonial Law of Moses in order to be saved. Many Church assemblies, or synods, were held after that whenever great issues would arise and divide the church. The goal was for there to be unity between the different regions of Christendom, but churches still needed to confess the true faith. These creeds laid out the foundation for what the confessing universal church believed.

Out of these councils we have been given a great confession of what the universal church believes in the three ecumenical creeds. They have been used by the church through the ages. These creeds are not just for one specific church body, they are meant for all Christians to confess and use for teaching the one true faith. If one is to disagree with what is said in the creeds, then they are erring from Scripture and must be brought back through repentance and faith. We as Lutherans, subscribe to these creeds because they are a faith exposition of the scriptures. In other words, they are good for our use because everything they say can be found in Scripture. Their words speak to the truth of Scripture and the truth of the Apostles teachings.

Next month we will discuss the reason why Emperor Constantine called the first council of Nicea.



Richard	4/2
Olivia	4/15
Ron	4/17
Elsa	4/19
Mike	4/20
Kaytlyn	4/23
Herb	4/26
Timothy	4/29



Eberhard & Anke	4/12
Mike & Joyce	4/16

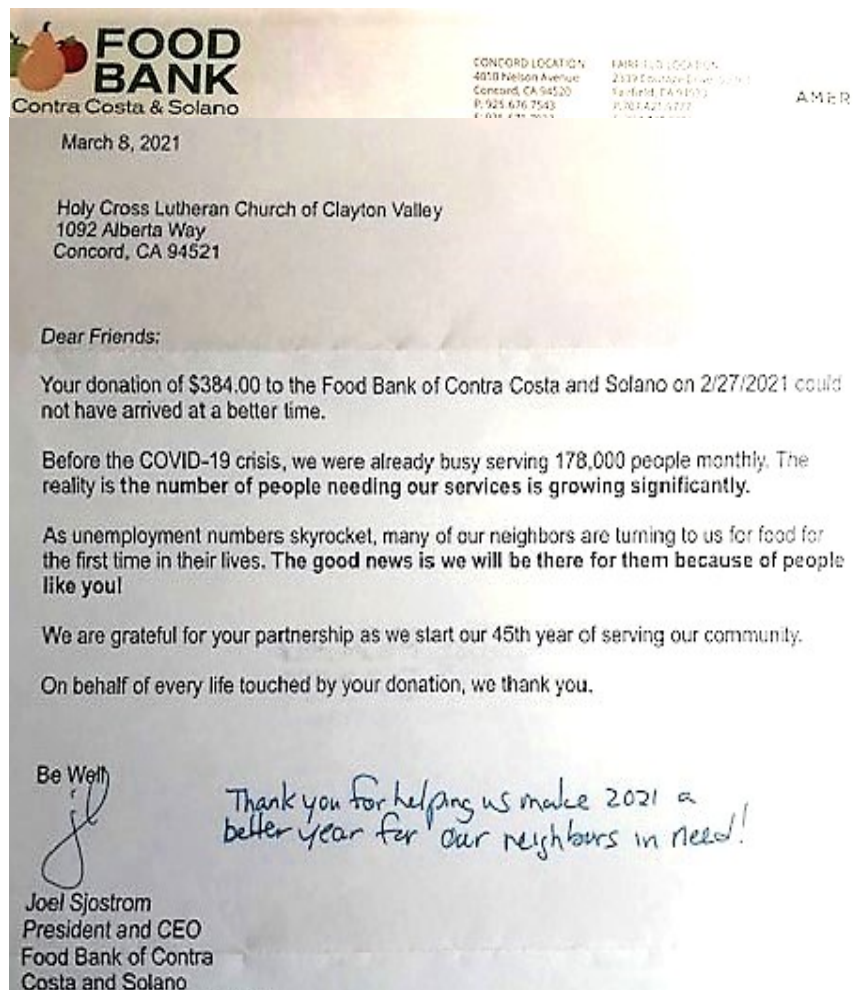
Dear Holy Cross Family,  
Thank you for all your prayers and concern over my mom Barbara Lee's recent hospitalization. She has since returned home and recovering remarkably well, praise God!"

—In Christ, Grace

Thank you for the prayers for my Mom Lilly Niemann. She was taken to the hospital March 15 and suffered two minor strokes. She's back home and is doing well. Her blood pressure is being controlled by new medications.

She keeps her positive attitude and continues to be an inspiration to all who know her. She will celebrate her 93rd birthday on Easter Sunday

Thanks again, Sue



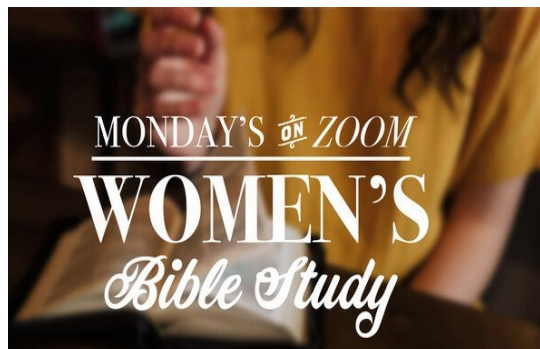
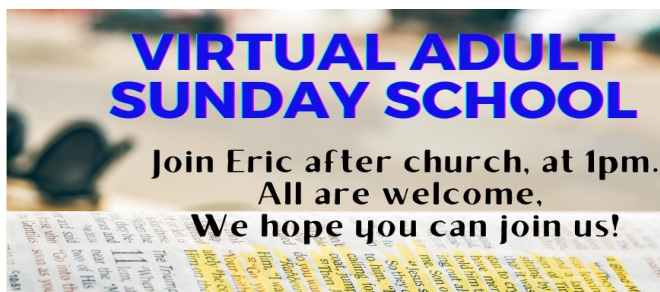


# **April Bible Studies**

## **Adult Sunday School, 1pm, Zoom**

**Join us for Sunday School with Eric!**

The link is the same &  
is in the Friday Announcements.  
(No class on Easter Sunday, 4/4)



## **Monday Women's Bible Study, 10am, Zoom**

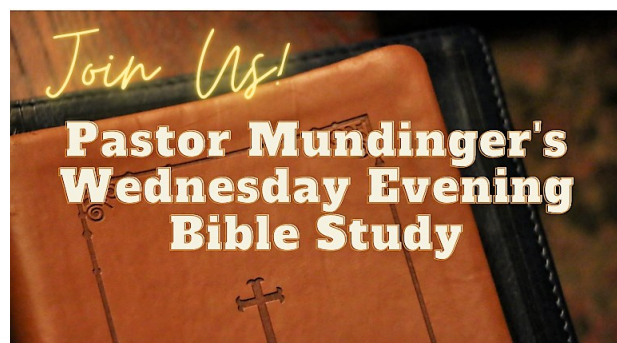
**Join us as Annaliesa leads us!**

The link is the same &  
is in the Friday Announcements.  
(On Easter break, resumes 4/12)

## **Pastor's Wed. Evening Bible Study, 7pm, Zoom**

**Pastor will resume his Bible Study on  
Wed., 4/21.**

The link is the same &  
is in the Friday Announcements.



## **Pastor Mundinger will re-start our Holy Cross Book Club on Monday\*\*, 4/12, 7pm, Zoom**

**Pastor will announce new book soon.**



**\*\*** we meet every 1st, 2nd, & 4th Monday of the month as  
well as the 3rd Tuesday of the month because there is a council meeting that week on Monday.





March 7 truly was a wonderful day! **Jessica was confirmed & welcomed into our Holy Cross family!** Then she participated in the Lord's Supper along with us & the church throughout the world. Praise God!



### Kamryn's Senior Project Recap

For my senior project at Clayton Valley Charter High School, I chose to partner with the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. Throughout the course of the project, I had to secure a mentor, conduct interviews, and write a research paper. In addition, I chose to organize a food drive. Monument was specifically in need of peanut butter, spaghetti, and cereal. Over the course of a two week collection period at Holy Cross, we were able to fill nearly two barrels! In addition, I received several monetary contributions, which allowed me to purchase additional items. Combined with what was donated by other friends and family, a total of 100 boxes of cereal,



100 packages of spaghetti, and 50 jars of peanut butter were collected! It was really nice to be able to deliver these donations to Monument and see their appreciation. I am so grateful for all the support I received from Holy



Cross, YVCS, and other friends and family. **Thanks to everyone for your help!**



# Young Women & the Young at Heart Sisters in Christ!

**Mt. Diablo Zone 7 Spring Event 2021**



- Fellowship
- Encouragement
- Re-connect

**Join us on ZOOM!**



**FRIDAY, APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM**

**VIRTUAL PAJAMA PARTY**

Fellowship • Beverage • Candlelight Devotion



**SATURDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 9:30 AM**

**THE MAIN EVENT . . .** In this ever-changing world,

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13.8

Bible Study • Exercise to God's Word • Fellowship • Devotion

Sisters in Christ . . . Ordinary women . . . Extraordinary God!

An agenda and the Zoom link will be sent to you the week before the event. **Watch your email!**

**Friday PM:** Relax in your PJ's with friends, a beverage and a candle.

**Saturday AM:** Bring your Bible, a beverage, and a snack.

**Hosted by: Women of Benicia Lutheran Church**

**\*\*\* REGISTRATION \*\*\* BEFORE April 14th \*\*\***

Email your registration information to Liz Barriga at: [bizilizi@pacbell.net](mailto:bizilizi@pacbell.net).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

I **will** attend: Fri. pm \_\_\_\_ Sat. am \_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_

I am sharing screen (Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_) with: \_\_\_\_\_

In lieu of a registration fee, we are having a MITE BOX CHALLENGE for LWML CNH Mission Grants! Send your check, payable to LWML, to Zone 7 Treasurer Diana Cuva: 2108 Dena Drive, Concord, CA 94519

# WoHC (Women of Holy Cross)



The WoHC held our first evening "**Keeping Connected**" Zoom call on 3/11. We had a topic "share a funny story from high school". We were encouraged to share a picture too. What a joy to learn & share with one another—see picture above! Our next call is on Thursday, 4/8, 7pm. Keeping the **theme of funny stories**, we will share one from your wedding or a wedding you attended. Pictures encouraged!



We also continue to meet every Monday (on Zoom) for **Coffee & Conversation**.

**JOIN US ANY MONDAY AT 9AM!**

Everyone is welcome, Zoom link is the same each week & in the Friday Announcements email.

*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25*



## MANDATORY MEN'S ZOOM FORMATION – 18 MARCH 2021

We're missing a couple of the attendees' pictures but had a successful formation. One of the missing pics was Scott all the way from Texas! I must admit to an amount of frustration because I made a special effort to email men that should and probably could join ZOOM formations (e.g., John, Kevin, Jack, Tim, Jaan, Bob, Doc, Howard, Eberhard, Dave & Dennis ). Kevin showed up on his way home from a 24-hour shift with the SFFD. None of the others reported in. It might be time to develop a listing of "unauthorized" excuses (e.g., no tech support, was not home, etc.) or maybe it is time for a sermon about setting priorities; you have heard it before. Anyway, here is a pic of most of the faithful...



### MAYBE NO ZOOM FORMATION IN APRIL!

I've been in contact with the Buttercup Pantry on Clayton Road, Concord, and stopped by after the Palm Sunday service. THEY ARE OPEN FOR INDOOR SEATING!

While they have space suitable for our formations, they do NOT accept reservations, but are willing to try to accommodate us if/when we show up. I have made a "command" decision to conduct a feasibility study. **I am calling for a MANDATORY FORMATION on 15 April at 10:00 AM.** This is a traditional 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, but the time has been changed to catch them when they are between breakfast and lunch (hopefully least busy). I will show up early and try to influence seating. We will NOT be able to sit at a long table as we are used to but should be near each other. There is some good news...they will honor separate checks and we would NOT (?) be charged the 18% tip. You can check out their menu at the link shown below. Breakfast and/or lunch are available all day. <https://www.buttercupdiner.com/locations>

As concerns COVID 19 stuff, the following comes from a reliable source:

The CDC has issued new information about the kinds of activities you can do **After you're fully vaccinated:**

- You can gather indoors *with fully vaccinated people* without wearing a mask, even if they are from another household
- You can gather indoors with other unvaccinated people from *one other household* without masks, as long as they are not at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- If you've been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
- As more people get the vaccine, we will be able to visit more friends and family safely and return to normal. The new [CDC guidelines](#) provide additional information about what you can do safely when you are fully vaccinated.

THAT IS ALL! THE COMMANDER



## Spring at Holy Cross!

It's spring in Contra Costa and at Holy Cross, and when you visit church there are many signs - blossoms and blooms, green growth everywhere, Anke's succulents blooming out at our corner sign, leaves budding out on our new crepe myrtles, and maybe even a glimpse of some quail chicks.

With all this "springing forward" there are lots of volunteer tasks out in the warming weather and fresh air, especially weed management and mowing, lots of mowing. Commander (Luker), Allen (Commodore?) and Mike L. met at Holy Cross Saturday morning, March 27, to do some spruce up tasks for Holy Week that included mowing (of course) and Commander firing up his super duper, industrial weed whacker. We also set some new posts for our aging perimeter fence. Allen provided the coffee to get things moving.

A highlight of the work party was Allen's tutorial to Mike on operating the Kubota to mow and mow and mow. After Allen's instruction, Mike was off to mow his heart out a la Forrest Gump...Having proven he could navigate an empty field without hitting anything big, Commander offered, "Maybe you can be promoted to a Trustee one of these days..."

As some other facilities updates: Two of the heater/air conditioners in the Ed Building have been replaced; YVCS replaced all the toilets in the Ed Building with updated, efficient models; and we have a proposal for some major and needed pruning throughout our church campus.

**As we proceed through the spring and into summer, we have lots of other activities in addition to the mowing and weeds for you painters out there. If you would like to join the fresh air fun, we would love to hear from you!**

Mike posing  
before starting to mow  
AND  
an action shot below.





# The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons

**Black** is seen very seldom during the year. The calendar calls for its use only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that this sober color gives. Black is the absence of light.

Good Friday, or Black Friday, along with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption.

Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

**White** is the color of purity and completeness. The theme for the "great fifty days" of Easter is supported by the use of white. This color, used primarily during these Sundays, assists in bearing the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection day is the cause for our rejoicing. His purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces the message of joy.

In addition to its use during Eastertide, white is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord; the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday; and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *Lutheran Service Book*. In all, white serves as the best festive color for the church year.

**Picture of our Cross with a white drape will be taken on Easter Sunday.**



**Our Cross with a black drape on Ash Wednesday. We will change from the current purple drape back to black on Good Friday.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 ♦ Psalm 1

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

## The Aging Christian

The outside of the rock appeared to be an ugly, gray circular formation and, in and of itself, possessed nothing of beauty. Yet once broken apart, it revealed beautiful crystals and colors that sparkled in the sunlight. To the human eye, this geode was dull and unsightly, yet inside it held treasures from minerals that were stored up over the years.



This is not dissimilar to Christians who are aging. They appear to be wasting away externally, yet they continue to be renewed over the years. Wrinkles appear, their eyes grow dim, their knees give out, and their hair turns gray, but if we take the time to listen to them, we see that the Lord has filled them inside with wisdom and spiritual beauty. We would do well to look beyond the outer, less-attractive appearances and see the beauty inside: tremendous knowledge and wisdom from God's Word and life itself, just waiting to be opened and shared. By listening carefully, we discover that they can continually be an inspiration to us as we learn of their abiding love for God in their journeys through life.

*Dear Lord, help us to consider the wisdom of those who are aging and show them the love and respect they deserve. In Jesus' name we ask this. Amen.*

Bill (Doc) shared this Portals of Prayer post during Sunday's 3/7, Bible Study. A good reminder. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5



# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>Easter Sunday</b></p> <p>9:30am Easter Worship Service</p> <p>11am Easter Brunch</p>				<p>1</p>  <p><i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> <p>6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>12pm Good Friday Worship Service</p> <p>6:30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Worship Service</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30pm Easter Vigil Service (Messiah)</p>
	<p>4</p> <p>5 OFC CLOSED</p> <p>9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7pm WoHC Keep Connected Zoom</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9am Vision Mtg, Zoom</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom</p>	<p>12 OFC CLOSED</p> <p>9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom</p> <p>10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom</p> <p>7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom</p>	<p>13</p> <p>11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10am HC Men's Kaffeeklatsch Buttercup Kitchen, Concord</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom</p>	<p>19 OFC CLOSED</p> <p>9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom</p> <p>10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom</p> <p>6:30pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>20</p> <p>11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary</p> <p>7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Worship Service</p> <p>1pm Adult Sunday School Zoom</p>	<p>26 OFC CLOSED</p> <p>9-9:45am Women's Coffee Zoom</p> <p>10-11:30am Ladies Bible Study Zoom</p> <p>7pm Pastor's Book Club Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>11a Prayer Group, Sanctuary</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm Pastor's Bible Study Zoom</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

cl=choir loft, C=Conference Room, E=Ed Bldg., PH=Parish Hall, L=Library, ws=wing room

## Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS

1092 Alberta Way

Concord, CA 94521

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, LCMS  
1092 Alberta Way  
Concord, CA 94521  
(925) 686-2000  
[www.holycrossconcord.org](http://www.holycrossconcord.org)  
[office@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:office@holycrossconcord.org)  
Find us on Facebook



**Pastor: Andrew Mundinger**  
[pastor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:pastor@holycrossconcord.org)  
(608) 797-9163

President: Mike Liebe

Vice President: Gregg Syrovatka

Council Secretary: Carrie Kroeger

Financial Secretary: Jan Walker

Treasurer: Cheryl Syrovatka

Trustees: Allen Brueckner, Bill Luker

Elders: Bill Riechmann, John Coyne,  
Eric Roman, Herb Neumann

Secretarial Staff: Joyce Liebe

**Office Hours:** Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Newsletter Editor: Joyce Liebe  
[editor@holycrossconcord.org](mailto:editor@holycrossconcord.org)

### **Sunday Worship Schedule:**

Sunday Service 9:30AM

Adult Sunday School 1PM Zoom

Youth Bible Study 11AM

Sunday School 11AM (on hold)

### **Week Day Bible Study Schedule:**

Monday (Ladies) 10AM Zoom

Wednesday (Adult) 7PM Zoom

### **Week Day Book Club Schedule:**

Monday (Adult) 7pm

**\*\*\*Above subject to change due to COVID\*\*\***

### **Bulletin & Cross Currents Publication Deadline:**

Bulletin: Noon, Tuesday

May 2021 Cross Currents: April 22, 2021