

# THE SPIRE

LENT & EASTER 2025



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**CELEBRATING 175 YEARS**

*Evan Springer*

This year we celebrate 175 years of worship at Greenwood United Methodist Church. During our tenure, we have had 54 pastors and 16 associate pastors guide us in our missions and services. We plan on celebrating in various ways. We will have a wonderful Fall Festival filled with music, delicious food, and fellowship with our community. We will also be celebrating stories from GUMC over the past few decades with a video series.

The seeds of Methodism that were sown in a small village of Greenwood in 1850 sprouted, grew strong roots, flourished, produced other fine seeds, and multiplied.

One hundred and seventy-five years ago, a small number of devout Christians, who had come to this swampy wilderness community as pioneers, founded the Methodist Church. Now our church is a part of a heritage of many people in many places.

The history of Greenwood United Methodism dates back to an early period. Records of events, if any were recorded, have been lost but it is known that classes were held among the settlers, in their homes, as early as 1838.

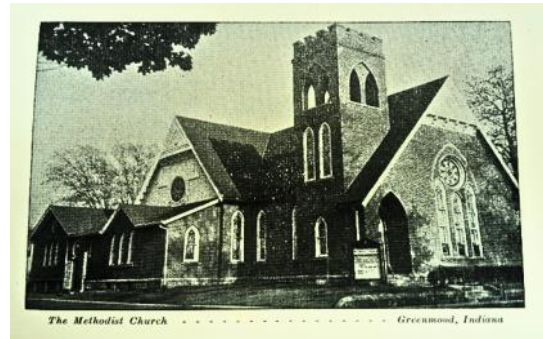
In 1849, the Rev. Mr. Schafer of Franklin circuit began to visit Greenwood, holding meetings with the settlers. The year following, the Rev. Elijah D. Long, pastor of Southport circuit, continued the services and organized a class, which constituted the membership of the first Methodist Episcopal Church of Greenwood. For several months, services were held in the First Baptist Church, which stood in the forest on the south side of (371) West Main Street.

In the fall of 1850, Greenwood was made the head of a circuit, and Rev. John A. Winchester was appointed pastor. It was on December 21, 1850, that the first quarterly meeting for the Greenwood circuit was held in Mt. Auburn Church (at Stone's Crossing). The first written record of the church was begun in 1859 in a book that bears on the inside front cover these words: "Bought by the classes on the Greenwood Circuit, Oct. 22, 1859"- Fairview, Pleasant Grove, Salem, Mt. Auburn, Glade, Vaught's, Clem's, and Greenwood.



The construction of the first church building was completed in the early part of 1851. The building was a one-room frame structure and stood on the southwest corner of Pearl and Meridian streets.

The second building—a Gothic style brick structure—was built on the southwest corner of Broadway and Brewer streets. The pastor at the time was the Rev. Alonzo Murphy.



The church was dedicated on December 11, 1887. The 1887 church was remodeled from time to time. During the pastorate of the Rev. C.C. Bonnell, the floor was inclined, electricity installed and stained glass memorial windows added. In 1922, while the Rev. H.H. Sheldon was pastor, an annex on the east was added. Extensive changes were made on both the interior and exterior in 1938 while Rev. Victor B. Hargitt was minister. An educational unit was added on the south in 1953 during the pastorate of the Rev. J.K. Forbes.

Property was purchased in 1957 to begin construction on a new building. In December of 1965, the congregation moved into the present building at 525 North Madison Avenue. This was accomplished during the pastorate of Rev. Robert Holmes. We have remodeled our current building a few times as well, adding Suter Hall, the music room, and the chapel.



On Sunday, October 19, Bishop Tracy Malone will be joining us in worship. This milestone is a testament to our enduring faith and community spirit. We invite everyone to join us for this special occasion, filled with heartfelt worship, inspiring messages, and a reflection on our rich history. After the service, there will be a fellowship gathering where we can share stories, enjoy refreshments, and celebrate the journey that has brought us here. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and welcoming new friends as we honor the past and look forward to a bright future together. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating everything GUMC has done and will continue to do in the future.

**GREENWOOD UMC INVITES YOU TO:**

**FALL FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, September 20**  
**3:00pm-6:00pm**  
**FREE Admission**

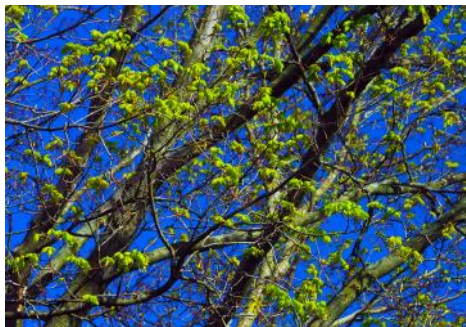
**LIVE Music!**  
**BBQ**  
**Yard Games and more!**

## PAINTING WITH THE WIND

*David Chandler*

Photography has been a life-long love, particularly beginning with the pandemic. It unexpectedly became a contemplative resource! How so? Lockdown, looking out of windows I have looked out of for 30 years, but now with fewer places to go—slowly a whole new world began to unfold. I noticed the wind! My expectation was to see bare trees (winter), budding trees (spring), trees full of leaves (summer), and wonderful autumn colors. But such assumptions all too easily obscure the present. One way to

stay in the present was to watch the wind “painting” the exact same scene in a time exposure. This enabled me to let go of expectations since the wind presented something quite unanticipated, constantly “painting”



branches, buds, leaves, colors in endlessly different ways entirely new to me, often quite stunning! Celtic tradition talks of “thin places,” where the sacred and the ordinary seem to merge at times. Or, to borrow from the Psalmist, “Be still and know....”



These “new” visual experiences began to dovetail with my interests in the world’s diverse contemplative traditions—east and west—which so often focus on the “sacrament of the present moment.” For example, Thomas Merton suggests that the present moment is deeply spiritual, deeply meaningful. The wind blowing in the trees, the car I am walking past, the splashing rain, the honking horn, the distorted reflection in a window, the smells right now—for the rich contemplative traditions, these are sacraments, holy, sacred.


To leave the present moment by way of my beliefs, my schedule, my thoughts, my expectations, hopes, fears—even my theology—these can precisely be ways of missing the sacred. Merton again: “Try to stop thinking and simply to be... totally present to what is reaching you through your senses.”

Or Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel suggests that to die is no longer to be surprised. So often I am too busy, too pre-occupied with worries, goals, hopes, anxieties—the appointment this afternoon, the deadline I just missed, what to prepare for dinner tonight—that I miss being surprised in seeing, hearing, feeling, touching, tasting what is all around me in the present moment. How can I “see” more often? Wonder? Be in awe? Be surprised?



Or put another way, Zen koans also nudge me to wonder, to let go of interpretations and expectations, to empty my mind—once again, to be fully present. Thich Nhat Hanh, the late Vietnamese Zen Master, suggests that mindfulness means keeping my consciousness alive to the present reality; to perceive without judgment; to redirect my action from achievement to non-achievement.

Over the past couple years, I have had several photo exhibits in Indianapolis and Bloomington, as well as in Germany, with “wind” photos, as I call them.




### PAINTING WITH THE WIND THE SACRAMENT OF THE PRESENT

David Chandler warmly invites you to explore his captivating art pieces!

- Exhibition Dates: March 24 - April 5
- Art Workshops: March 29 and April 5 from 11 AM to 1 PM

Discover how David viewed the world from a fresh perspective, resulting in stunning artwork!



Join us in welcoming David Chandler as he shares his art with us. The exhibit will be available to view in the sanctuary. Each piece is a journey into the heart of nature, capturing the ephemeral beauty of the moment. Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the vivid colors and dynamic forms that define David's unique style. The exhibit will be up March 24 through April 5, and David will be hosting workshops on March 29 and April 5 from 11am to 1pm.

These workshops offer a rare chance to learn from the artist himself, as he guides participants in exploring their own creative processes. Whether you're an experienced artist or just starting out, David's insights and techniques will inspire you to see the world through a new lens.

By attending, you'll not only gain artistic skills but also deepen your appreciation for the subtle interplay between light, color, and movement that David masterfully captures in his work. We invite you to come, be inspired, and perhaps even discover a hidden talent within yourself.



The history of Ash Wednesday is rooted in a few different practices. Encyclopedia Britannica tells us: "It was the practice in Rome for penitents and grievous sinners to begin their period of public penance on the first day of Lent in preparation for their restoration to the sacrament of the Eucharist. They were sprinkled with ashes, dressed in sackcloth, and obliged to remain apart until they were reconciled with the Christian community on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter. When these practices fell into disuse (8th–10th century), the beginning of the penitential season of Lent was symbolized by placing ashes on the heads of the entire congregation." Today, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and reminds us of our mortality, an opportunity to repent and draw near to God, and reflect on the state of our soul as we prepare for Easter.

We invite you join us for our Ash Wednesday service. It will be a meaningful evening of reflection and prayer as we embark on the Lenten journey together. Everyone is welcome, and we hope you will find solace and inspiration in this sacred tradition. Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, we look forward to sharing this special time with you.

Join us during Holy Week for a time of profound reflection and celebration in the Christian calendar. It begins with Palm Sunday, marking Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and continues through Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Last Supper. Good Friday follows, a solemn day recognizing the crucifixion. The week culminates in the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday, heralding the resurrection of Jesus. Each day offers unique opportunities for worship, community, and spiritual renewal.

Join us on Palm Sunday with a procession of palms, commemorating Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Join us in celebrating this meaningful occasion with joyful hymns and reflections on the significance of this day in our faith journey.

Join us on Maundy Thursday for a meaningful evening as we commemorate the Last Supper, reflecting on the themes of humility and service. The service will include a special foot washing ceremony and communion, inviting all to engage in this profound expression of faith and community.

Join us on Good Friday for a solemn and reflective gathering, inviting the community to come together in remembrance and contemplation. This service, held in the evening, provides a space to meditate on the profound significance of the day, honoring the events that shape the heart of the Easter story. Through prayer, readings, and hymns, attendees can connect with the deeper meanings of sacrifice and hope.

Join us on Easter Sunday. We have a variety of activities planned to make this day special for everyone. Start your morning with the serene and uplifting Sunrise Service at 7 am, followed by a delicious Easter Breakfast at 8 am, where you can enjoy fellowship and good food. The excitement continues with our Easter Egg Hunt at 9 am, a fun event for children and families to enjoy together. Finally, join us for our Worship Service at 10:15 am, where we will come together in praise and gratitude. We look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with you and your loved ones!

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

<p><b>SUNDAY APRIL 13</b> Palm Sunday service @ 10:15am</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY APRIL 20</b> Easter Sunday Sunrise Service @ 7am Easter Breakfast @ 8am Easter Egg Hunt @ 9am Worship Service @ 10:15am</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY APRIL 17</b> Maundy Thursday service @ 7pm</p>	
<p><b>FRIDAY APRIL 18</b> Good Friday service @ 7pm</p>	

The graphic features a purple silhouette of a hill with three crosses of varying heights on top, set against a yellow background. The text 'HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE' is written in large, bold, yellow letters across the middle of the hill. Below this, the schedule for Holy Week is listed in two columns, with dates and times for each day's service.

**LITURGY OF LENT & EASTER**

*Rev. Joshua Lemons*



I think it is important to remember that the liturgical year is not found in the Bible. Nowhere does it say: "Forty days before Easter there shall be an Ash Wednesday service, and the service shall be with ashes, on the Wednesday. No more, no less. Amen." It's just not there. Does this mean that the liturgical season shouldn't be followed? I don't think so.

You may have noticed by now that the publication of *The Spire* is tied to different seasons in the church (kind of). The schedule flows something like this: One is published around fall, then Advent and Christmas, followed by Lent and Easter, then summer, then again back to fall. Fall is ordinary time, but feels like the start of the year for many families who have school-age children, and Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter are all liturgical seasons.

These liturgical seasons come out of our Jewish roots and are, as Robin Wallace in *The Christian Year* writes, "shaped by political, psychological, theological, and geographical factors as the church developed." Lent is one of those seasons and lasts forty days before Easter. Why forty days? I'll have to quote from Rev. Dr. Laurence Stookey here to capture the essence:



"Why forty days? In Biblical terms forty is a round number symbolizing fullness – a span of time sufficient to accomplish what needs to take place; as such the number is used frequently and becomes a kind of shorthand for much of sacred history. Rain fell in Noah's time

for forty days and nights; for this same period of time Moses and Elijah (who represent respectively the Law and the Prophets) dwelt at Horeb; for forty days Jesus endured temptation in the wilderness and later of the same period was revealed to the disciples after the resurrection, Nineveh was given forty days in which to repent. For forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness prior to admission into the promised land. Eli was a judge over Israel for forty years, and Saul, David, and Solomon are reported to have had reigns of forty years each."

So, as you can see the number is significant in our memory. It calls forth all sorts of Biblical stories and meanings for us. Today, Lent stands as a period of time before Easter to prepare ourselves for the Easter season. Traditionally people have practiced Lenten disciplines. This can be as simple as praying more daily to the more complex, like reading and memorizing large portions of Scripture.

I wonder what Lenten disciplines you might consider picking up and applying to enrich your walk with God this season.

**RAISING THE ROOF**

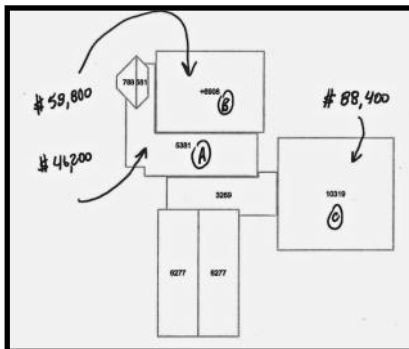
*David Penoff*



Think of our beautiful church building like a movie or a television show. When you look at the building, your eyes are drawn to the tall peaked roofs of the sanctuary and the chapel. They are the stars of the show. But behind the scenes you have the workhorses, the unsung flat roofs that you can't see. In our case, these flat roofs cover the two education wings, Old Fellowship Hall, Suter Hall, kitchen, office, narthex and choir room. This is the majority of the building and those areas that get used every day by the congregation, The Shepherd's Table, preschool and a variety of community groups.

It has been a challenge to determine exactly how long it has been since we replaced the entire flat roof area. I have talked to several people and heard dates anywhere from the late 1980s to late 1990s. Whenever it was, we are past the 20 year estimated life of a flat roof installation.

Thanks to a lot of effort from our Trustees, we have been patching problem areas in the flat roofs whenever there are leaks (and there have been many). We are now past the point where further patching is the answer, and we need to replace the entire flat roof area.



Knowing this significant expense was coming, last year the GUMC Leadership Team set aside funds from the sale of Lilly stock to cover a portion of this project. The total cost for the roof replacement will be \$193,400.00. We have set aside \$86,700.00 and are looking at options to cover the remaining \$106,700.00 required.

If you feel you can help with this project, we would welcome your gift in any amount. Simply write "roof" on your check or envelope, and it will be applied to this project. You can put your gift in the Sunday offering plate or drop it off at the office.

The work will take several weeks and is planned for March-April of this year.

Whether it be preschool, support groups, concerts, The Shepherd's Table, scouts or other groups, this building has served our community for many years! I thank you for helping make it possible for many more.

**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

**Church Camp Opportunities for GUMC Children and Families**

It might not seem possible, but summer is coming—REALLY, it is!! Summer brings with it outdoor activities and the opportunity for our children and youth to participate in one of the many IMPACT 2818 Outdoor Ministries camps. These camps are available in seven locations throughout the state. Camps are offered June through July, and options for camp are two nights for the youngest campers (Sunday—Tuesday), three nights (Sunday—Wednesday), or five nights (Sunday—Friday). There are also opportunities for families to attend camps together.



**MISSIONS SOUP LUNCHEON**

On Sunday, March 16, everyone is warmly invited to the Missions Committee's annual Soup Luncheon following worship service. Five delicious homemade soups will be served along with salads and desserts. A freewill offering will be collected to support The Shepherd's Table

**Missions Soup Luncheon**

On Sunday, March 16, everyone is cordially invited to the Missions Committee's annual Soup Luncheon, which will be held after the worship service. Guests can indulge in five delightful homemade soups, paired with a variety of salads and desserts. A freewill offering will be collected to benefit The Shepherd's Table. This event presents a fantastic opportunity for fellowship and community engagement, as well as a chance to support a meaningful cause. Whether you're a longtime member or a newcomer, your attendance will be truly valued. Bring your appetite and generosity, and join us for an afternoon filled with delicious food and warm camaraderie. We can't wait to see you there!



**BE A CAMPER!**  
impact2818.org

**WHY CAMP?**

- 96%** of parents said their child had fun at camp.
- 91%** of parents said it's clear their camp had an impact on their child.
- 89%** of parents said their child learned more about the Bible at camp.
- 86%** of parents said their child's faith grew at camp.

For camp this year, the theme is Make a Splash! and registration is open. Those who register by April 20 will receive an early bird discount. Through the Annual Conference, GUMC can provide scholarships. These scholarships will help off-set the cost of camp. (We can also explore opportunities with campers to help coordinate fund raisers). For information about camp, brochures will be available on the tables in the narthex. You can access information on the website at <https://impact2818.org/register/>, or feel free to speak with Betsy Loper.



**KIC-IT**

The Missions Committee has chosen March as our month to support KIC-IT. They are asking for shelf-stable meals such as Hormel's Chicken Alfredo or Chicken and Potatoes. Please bring the shelf-stable meals to the church throughout the month of March, and place them in the designated box in the narthex. If you have questions, check with Mary Kay Anthony.

**KIC-IT Collection**

The Missions Committee has chosen March as our month to support KIC-IT, a Johnson County non-profit organization that serves the needs of homeless teens and young adults.

After talking with their director, KIC-IT has some very specific and urgent needs that they hope we can fill. They are asking for shelf-stable meals such as Hormel's Chicken Alfredo or Chicken and Potatoes. The homeless teens can microwave these meals if they stay anywhere with a microwave.

Please bring the shelf-stable meals to the church throughout the month of March, and place them in the designated box in the narthex. If you have questions, check with Mary Kay Anthony.



**IMPACT 2818 Church Camp Unforgettable.**

## **WHAT IS IN THE MUSIC OF LENT AND EASTER?**

*Drew Worthen, Director of Music*

### **The History and Importance of Sacred Music During Lent and Easter**

Sacred music plays a central role in the worship and liturgical practices of Christian communities, especially during the seasons of Lent and Easter. These two periods in the liturgical calendar, marked by reflection, penitence, joy, and resurrection, are pivotal moments for spiritual renewal. Throughout history, sacred music has evolved to reflect the profound theological themes of Lent and Easter. From Gregorian chant to modern choral compositions, music has been instrumental in deepening the faithful's understanding of these seasons, drawing them into the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

#### **The Role of Sacred Music in Lent**

Lent is a season of penance, fasting, and spiritual preparation for Easter. Traditionally lasting forty days (excluding Sundays), it commemorates Christ's 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, as described in the Gospels. The liturgical tone of Lent is somber, reflective, and penitential, which is reflected in the music of the season. Early Christian music during Lent was characterized by its simplicity and austerity, a reflection of the season's focus on self-examination and repentance.

During the early centuries of Christianity, Gregorian chant became the dominant form of sacred music in the Western Church. This unaccompanied monophonic chant was designed to serve the liturgical needs of the community while evoking deep meditative prayer. In the Roman Catholic Church, the gradual and Kyrie chants were central to the Mass during Lent, emphasizing themes of penitence and pleading for God's mercy. These chants, with their slow and solemn tones, mirrored the introspective and fasting nature of the season.

By the Middle Ages, sacred music had evolved, with more elaborate polyphonic compositions emerging. Composers like Guillaume de Machaut and John Dunstable began to craft complex choral works for the liturgies of Lent, often incorporating biblical texts or prayers from the liturgy itself. Despite this complexity, the emphasis during Lent remained on the spiritual rather than the musical display, encouraging worshippers to focus on the themes of sin, repentance, and purification.

#### **Music During Holy Week and the Passion of Christ**



As Lent progresses toward Holy Week, the music becomes more intense and dramatic, reflecting the passion and death of Jesus Christ. The liturgies of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are filled with powerful sacred music designed to immerse the congregation in the narrative of Christ's suffering and death. The hymns and anthems sung during this time often depict the sorrow and grief associated with the crucifixion, such as the famous hymn "O Sacred Head", "Now

Wounded" or the haunting "Stabat Mater" (the "Mater Dolorosa" or "Sorrowful Mother" hymn). The Passion of Christ, as told in the Gospels, has inspired composers across the centuries to create deeply moving musical works. Perhaps the most famous

example is Johann Sebastian Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, composed in 1727. This monumental work narrates the Passion story through a combination of Biblical text, choral music, and instrumental interludes, immersing listeners in the agony of Christ's final days. Bach's work is often considered a spiritual masterpiece, and its role in the liturgical life during Holy Week is unparalleled in its depth of emotional and theological expression.

#### **Easter: The Celebration of Resurrection and Triumph**

While Lent focuses on penitence and preparation, Easter is a time of celebration and joy, marked by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter Sunday represents the ultimate victory over death and sin, a theme that is joyfully expressed in sacred music. The music of Easter is celebratory, triumphant, and filled with hope. During the Easter Vigil, which begins on Holy Saturday night and continues into Easter Sunday, the music shifts dramatically from the darkness of Good Friday to the brightness of Christ's resurrection.

Gregorian chants like the "Exultet", sung at the Easter Vigil, proclaim the joy of Christ's resurrection with soaring melodies. In the early centuries of Christianity, this chant marked the climax of the Vigil service, evoking the transition from darkness to light. The use of brass instruments, organ music, and powerful choral anthems further enhances the festive mood of Easter, with composers like Handel, Mozart, and Haydn creating works that celebrate the victory of life over death. Handel's *Messiah*, while often performed during Advent and Christmas, also contains the iconic "Hallelujah Chorus", a declaration of Christ's eternal kingship that resonates deeply with the themes of Easter.

The hymns sung on Easter Sunday, such as "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", are filled with triumphant energy. These hymns, often accompanied by organ and full congregational



participation, emphasize the joy of resurrection and invite the faithful to partake in the new life Christ offers. The music during Easter is a joyful expression of the renewal and redemption that Christ's resurrection brings to all believers.

#### **The Importance of Sacred Music During Lent and Easter**

During Lent, the music fosters an atmosphere of contemplation and introspection. It encourages the faithful to engage with the themes of sin, sacrifice, and repentance. Music helps create a contemplative space where individuals can reflect on their relationship with God, aligning their hearts with the themes of the season. It sets the tone for penance, urging believers to examine their lives and prepare for the joy of resurrection.

In contrast, Easter music serves to proclaim the joy and hope that come with Christ's resurrection. It helps believers to experience the joy of new life and victory over death, drawing them into a communal celebration of faith. Music serves to elevate the communal worship experience, strengthening the bond between individuals and the larger Church community. Through shared participation in sacred music, the faithful are reminded of their identity in Christ and their call to live out the resurrection in their daily lives.



**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:00 am ~ Sunday School for all ages  
 10:15 am ~ Worship Service  
 1:30 pm ~ Mizo/Burmese Service  
*All are welcome here! Please join us!*

**WEEKDAY SCHEDULE**

**Monday**  
 6:30 pm ~ Cub Scouts  
 7:30 pm ~ Boy Scouts

**Tuesday**  
 11:00 am ~ The Shepherd's Table

**Wednesday**  
 11:30 am ~ Bring It All AA  
 6:00 pm ~ AA Groups  
 6:30pm ~ Bible Study

**Thursday**  
 11:30am ~ AA Group  
 6:00pm ~ Girl Scouts  
 6:00 pm ~ Bell Practice  
 7:00 pm ~ Choir Practice

**Friday**  
 11:30 am~ GNBB AA Group

***March***

5 Ash Wednesday  
 16 Missions Soup Luncheon  
 17 St. Patrick's Day  
 24-31 Art Exhibit

***April***

1-5 Art Exhibit  
 9-12 Scrapbooking Crop  
 13 Palm Sunday  
 17 Maundy Thursday  
 18 Good Friday  
 20 Easter Sunday

***May***

26 Memorial Day– Office Closed

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