

COME HOME TO FAMILY

A Monthly Publication of the Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

Volume 15, Issue 1



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Opportunities

We serve a giving, generous, gracious God. No one can deny the truth of this statement. You and I have been the recipients of so much. Everything we have received from God can be summed up with one word: opportunity. I believe that every time God gives us something, that something is really an opportunity. The word opportunity has a fascinating etymology. Originally the word "opportunity" was a nautical term. Sailors used it to describe the suitable time to bring a ship into the harbor. The right time was a combination of the wind and the tide. Early ships depended primarily on the wind to fill their sails, providing the power to move. Ships also depended on the changing of the tide to determine the right time to move toward the port. If the tide was low, a ship attempting to move into the harbor would run the risk of grounding on sand bars. Therefore, a captain would wait for the high tide to come in, which would give him the right time to come into port. Hence the word "opportune", which is a compound word "ob" (towards) + "portus" (port), meaning toward the port.

Every blessing we receive can be seen as the wind of grace and the high tide of mercy granting us a divine opportunity. We have received the blessing of being forgiven. God has taken the weight of the guilt-burden of our offenses toward Him by forgiving us. The blessing of forgiveness gives us the opportunity to forgive those who have offended us. If God has forgiven you of anything, He has provided for you the high tide of His mercy so that you would do the same for someone else. God has given you the blessing of His unconditional love. He has loved you proactively and unqualifiedly. He did not wait for you to love Him, and He has held nothing back in loving you. Having the

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Come Home to Family

Publisher

Tabernacle Missionary
Baptist Church

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It is the mission of Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church to: Exalt the Savior through worship and praise, expound the scripture through biblical preaching and teaching, embrace the saved through membership and fellowship, equip the saints through Christian education and discipleship for the work of the ministry, encourage the struggling through ministries for the whole person and evangelize the sinner through the sharing of the Good News, all empowered by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, all done to the glory of God.

Come Home to Family is a monthly publication created to inform and encourage Tabernacle friends and family. Material must be submitted before the 15th of the month preceding each issue.

**Tabernacle Missionary
Baptist Church**
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Pastor's Schedule

JANUARY 26, 2023 - 7:00PM

Huron Valley District Association Inspirational Meeting

New Hope Baptist Church, 218 Chapin St., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Make sure your email is on file with the church. Email us - contact@tmbcdetroit.org - to sign up for the email distribution list.

Sermon Topics

December 4
TRUE WISDOM
Job 28:20-28, NLT

December 11
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD
Job 36:26; 37:5, NLT

December 18
MUCH MORE THAN A RUMOR
Job 42:1-6, NLT

December 25
THE DAY GOD MOVED IN
John 1:14, NKJV

(all sermons by Pastor Johnson unless otherwise noted)

Have You Ever Been Accused of Being a Follower of Jesus Christ?

"Then Jesus told His disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me'" (Matthew 16:24, ESV)

Peter, a fisherman and the first disciple of Jesus Christ, responded immediately to the call of Jesus "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Mark 1:17, NIV). Peter had a close intimate relationship with Jesus. He ate, prayed, and traveled with Jesus. He loved Jesus and was charged by Jesus to "Feed my lambs" and "Take care of my sheep" (John 21:15-17, NIV). God the Father revealed to Peter that "Jesus was the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the Living God" (Matt 16:16, NIV) and upon this truth the church was built (Matt.16:18). Jesus promised Peter the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 16:19, NIV). Having faith in Jesus, Peter left the boat and walked on the water like Jesus but when he took his eyes off Jesus his faith weakened and he started to sink (Matt. 14:28-29 NIV). It was Peter who sought to protect Jesus and cut a man's ear off with his sword; Jesus put the ear back on (John 18:10-11, NIV). Peter was an eyewitness to the miracles, wonders, and historical events of Jesus. After the "Last Supper", Peter boldly declared "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death" (Luke 22:33, NIV). Surely, Peter was a true follower of Jesus.

Although Peter had a very close loving intimate relationship with Jesus, I am reminded of the time when Jesus was apprehended by the soldiers, Peter followed Him from a distance and the bystanders noticed him and accused him of being a follower of Jesus. The Bible states, that Peter denied being a follower of Jesus three times in Matthew 26:69-75.

Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times" (Matt. 26:75, NIV), he went out and wept bitterly. Peter was restored and forgiven by the Lord. This final incident is known as the "Repentance of Peter." Peter allowed his fear of death to overpower his faith in Jesus. Likewise, we too allow our fears to overpower our faith in Jesus. When you and I fail, we must repent and confess our failure so that God will be faithful and just to cleanse us of all unrighteousness (John 1:9, NIV); so that we too can be restored by the grace of God and follow Jesus (see Hebrews 12:2a, NIV).

Afterward, Peter through the power of the Holy Spirit was used mightily by God. His faith increased and he led thousands of souls to Christ (Acts 2, NIV). He became the spokesman for the Apostles and was used greatly by God in the foundation of the church (Mark 16:18, NIV) to spread the gospel of Jesus throughout the land (Acts). Jesus said, 'My sheep listen to my voice, I know them, and they follow me (John 10:27, NIV). Have you ever been accused of being a follower of Jesus? If so, how did you respond?

Writer's Ministry: A Biblical View of Church Membership

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:15–16).

Over the past months, we have been studying the church and what it means to belong to a church. Last month, we learned that our Christian identity is influenced by who God says we are as a church. John McArthur stated that "we are the body of Christ. We are a *koinōnia*; we are a communion; we are a fellowship of one body: the body of Christ" (The Body of Christ, gty.org). At the moment of salvation, we were uniquely placed into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13). In Ephesians 5:23, we find that Christ is the head of the church, which is His body, and He is its Savior.

Pertaining to our Christian identity, regardless of status, importance, titles, and roles in the church, everyone who joined the church upon receiving Christ as their Lord and Savior, can declare, "I am a church member." We will begin to explore the implications of this statement. In his book, *I Am a Church Member*, Thomas Rainer speaks of a beautiful diversity in the midst of unity in church membership (pgs.12-13) referring to 1 Corinthians 12:14-26. Rainer stated that church membership means that we are all different but everyone has a necessary role or a function in the church (Rainer, pg.12). This is based upon the 1 Corinthians 12 passage where Paul's metaphor illustrates that one may function in the church body like the hand, foot, eye, or ear does in a human body. The church has to function, but it cannot function if everyone wants to hear or see. Then, no work of the hands would be accomplished or any movement would take place by the feet in the church.

In order to function in a way pleasing to God as a church, everything we do or say must be based on love as the Bible describes in 1 Corinthians 13, "Love is patient, kind, rejoices in truth, bears all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Rainer rightly states that "Church membership is founded on love; authentic, biblical, unconditional love" (pg.14). This is in contrast to various unfriendly, divisive, and angry antics displayed publicly by various political, civic, or social group members. Rainer adds, to the contrary, that the church is to be unified in its mission, purposes, ministries, and activities (pg.15). The church cannot advance if the feet refuse to move in the right direction, or the hands are slapping the feet or the ears are blinding the eyes, or if the ears refuse to hear at all. Each member must be concerned about accomplishing the mission and purposes of the church in a unified manner in a spirit of love.

As a church member, you will find that some decisions must be made along the way, such as to serve or not serve, to tithe or just donate, to read the bible during church service or attend bible study, etc. Each decision requires a commitment. One such decision is to be active or as Rainer says a functioning church member. We who are church members are all supposed to function in the church. Biblical church membership is functioning membership (Rainer, pg.15) To function is to work, operate, or have a level of activity. In the church, it entails giving, serving, and ministering in the way our spiritual giftedness enables us to do. Every one of us were given one or more spiritual gifts for the edification of the church. We are exhorted to know our gifts and abilities, so we can use them best to serve the church for the glory of God (Rainer, pg.16).

Rainer suggested that we make the following pledge, (Rainer, pg.18): As a functioning member, I will give. I will serve. I will minister. I will evangelize. I will study. I will seek to be a blessing to others. In order to live up to this pledge biblically, we will need to study and know what God's Word says about giving, serving, ministering, evangelizing, studying, and being a blessing to others.

Opportunities Continued from page 1

blessing of God's love provides you with the perfect opportunity to love people the way He has loved you. The tide is high; take the advantage and love today.

The talents we have and the skills we have are all blessings from God. These talents and skills, whether developed by formal or informal training, are all opportunities. God has given us various favorable winds and unique high tides to make a difference in the world in which we live. The difference we are to make is ultimately for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Whatever God has blessed you to become in life is your unique opportunity to be used by Him. Many people miss the privilege of making a special contribution toward kingdom expansion. This is due to their failure to see their skills as a positive wind and a beneficial high tide to move their life into the harbor of kingdom usefulness. In other words, your expertise is an opportunity. Your total life is one big opportunity.

The problem with opportunities is that we cannot control when they present themselves. We also do not have power over how long they stay around. When the sailors missed entering port during high tide, they would have to wait for the next high tide. They missed not only the opportunity to get into the harbor but the blessings of the harbor. The crisis of missed opportunities is other missed opportunities. When we let pass God-given opportunities, we miss the chance to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. When we neglect the high tide of God's blessings, we shortchange ourselves of a sense of purpose. When we overlook the opportunities to use our abilities for God, we exclude ourselves from experiencing a sense of fulfillment that can only come from being used by God. When we miss the opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ with someone and lead them into a relationship with him, we miss the peace of mind of knowing that they will spend eternity with him. Each day that the Lord wakes you up is a new opportunity. Each stage of your career brings forth fresh opportunities to advance God's purpose. The giving, generous, gracious God, our Father, is right now causing the wind of grace and the high tide mercy to be experienced in your life; what will you do with this fresh opportunity? I hope your reply will in unison with the words of this great hymn of Charles Wesley: "A Charge to Keep I Have."

*A charge to keep I have—a God to glorify,
who gave His Son my soul to save and fit it for the sky.*

*To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill—
O may it all my pow'rs engage to do my Master's will!*

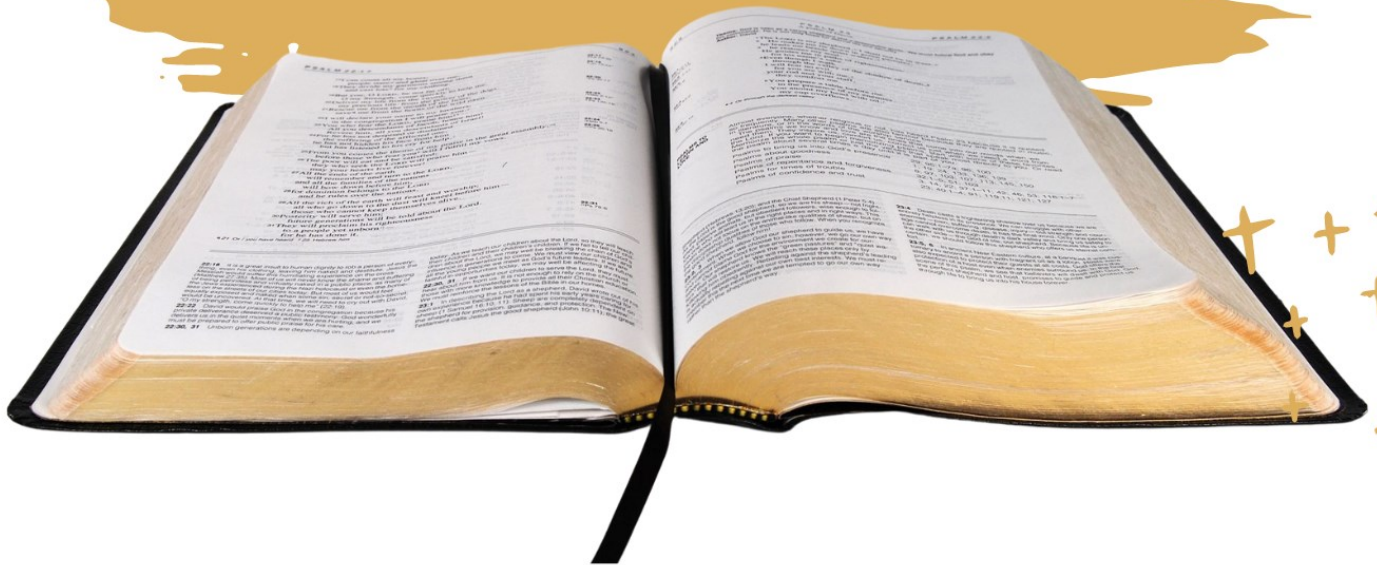
*Arm me with jealous care, as in Thy sight to live; and
O Thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give!*

*Help me to watch and pray, and on Thyself rely;
and let me ne'er my trust betray, but press to realms on high.*

Shalom!

Pastor Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

Come Study **WITH US VIRTUALLY**



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

12:00pm Study with Rev. Debra Carter

Zoom Meeting ID: 129 795 525 | Zoom Call In: (312) 626-6799

6:00pm Church in Prayer and Study with Pastor Johnson

Zoom Meeting ID: 584 878 336 | Zoom Call In: (312) 626-6799





FAMILY MONTH

BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR UPDATES

Game Night

Movie Night

Gathering Group Sessions

Come Home to Family

FEBRUARY 2023



SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTS

LIVING BLACK HISTORY TODAY

A YOUTH ORATORICAL PRESENTATION

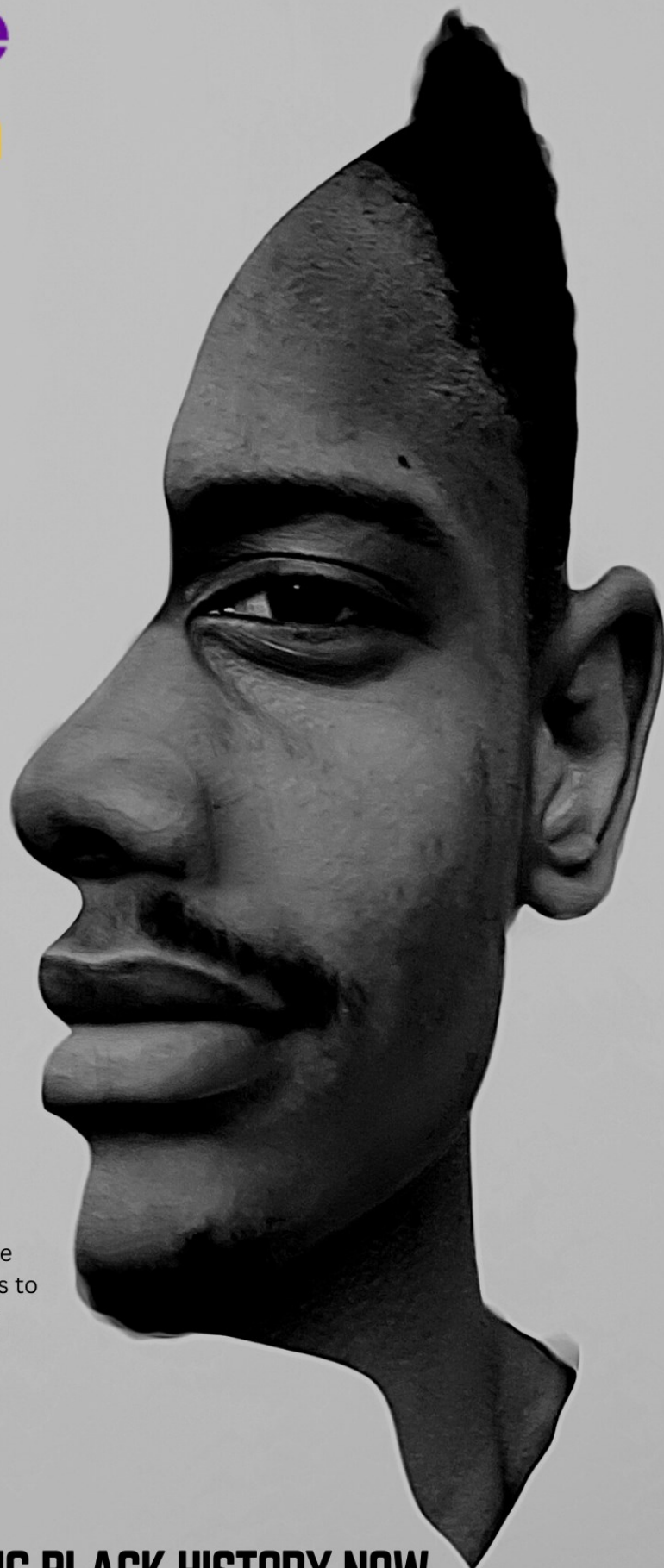
SAVE THE DATE

February 26, 2023

9:00am

Parents, you are encouraged to help your young people think critically about the theme and begin preparations to participate in this presentation. All are welcome. More information to come.

Sis. .Andrea Hughes, Youth Superintendent
Sis. Irma Wise, General Superintendent



I AM EXPERIENCING BLACK HISTORY NOW

Ministry Opportunities & Virtual Schedule

WEEKLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS AT-A-GLANCE

Zoom Direct Call: (312) 626-6799 |

Conference Call: (351) 999-3940

Sundays - 9:30-10:15am -

Teaching Ministry of Tabernacle Discussion of the Sunday
Church School Lesson

Zoom Meeting ID: 944 011 791 YouTube,
Facebook

Sundays - 11:00am -

Worship Celebration

Access via: YouTube, Facebook

In-person: No registration necessary.

Wednesdays - 12:00noon -

Bible Study with Rev. Debra Carter

Zoom Meeting: 129 795 525, YouTube, Facebook

Wednesdays - 6:00-7:30pm -

Church in Prayer & Study with Pastor Johnson

Zoom Meeting: 584 878 336

Weekly Sunday School Lessons

Winter Quarter 2022 - Unit I: God Prepares the Way

January 1, 2023 - God Promises to Hear and Forgive
2 Chronicles 7:12-22

**January 8, 2023 - God Promises Restoration and
Protection**
Isaiah 43:1-4, 10-12

January 15, 2023 - God Promises to Guide Our Way
Isaiah 48:3-8a, 17

**January 22, 2023 - God Promises Light in the
Darkness**
Isaiah 58:6-10

January 29, 2023 - God Promises to Be Present
Joel 2:21-27

Stay Connected | Virtual Ministry Meetings

DEACON'S GROUPS

Group 1 - Dea. Jerry Moses

4th Fridays - 8:00pm

Group 6/23 - Sis. Dorothy Pugh

4th Sundays - 3:00pm

Group 7 - Sis. Marguriete Winn

1st Sundays - 1:30pm

Group 10/21 - Deaconess Ann Pearson

3rd Sundays - 5:00pm

Group 18 - Dea. James S. Sarter

1st & 3rd Sundays - 4:00pm

Group 24 - Sis. Cynthia Harrington

Fridays - 7:00pm

Group 29 - Sis. Anita Friday

3rd Sundays - 1:30pm

The Endowment Committee invites you to visit the
Endowment Committee page on the Church's
website for more information on ways you can
participate.

<https://tmbcdetroit.org/giving/endowment-fund>

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Bessie Herring - 1/1

Arlean Parker - 1/6

Albert Wells - 1/7

Shanier Holmes - 1/13

Margarett Wells - 1/18

Diana Wynn - 1/21

Carolyn Johnson - 1/26

Pauline Wallick - 1/28

James Robinson - 1/29

Alexis Rose Hamilton - 1/30

MINISTRY AUXILIARIES

Marr-O-Nots - Bro. Donald Hudson

3rd Sundays - 6:00pm

Usher Ministry - Sis. Charlotte Kennedy

2nd Saturdays - 1:00pm

For access details contact the ministry leader listed or call
the Church office at 313-898-3325.

Sick and Shut-In

ARNOLD, Sis. Nancy

BELL, Sis. Bessie

HAWKES, Bro. Earnest

HERRING, Sis. Bessie

HICKS, Sis. Mary

HINES, Sis. Bernadine

HOUSE Jr., Bro. Howard

HUNTER, Bro. James

LINEBARGER,

Deaconess Nazell

LYNCH, Sis. Willie B.

MARTIN, Disciple Joan

MEBANE, Rev. Dr. William

ODOM, Bro. Dan

RANDOLPH, Bro. Thelise

SMITH, Sis. Chanel

WALLICK, Sis. Pauline

WATSON, Sis. Irma

WELLS, Sis. Betty

WILMORE, Bro. Louis

Condolences

~~~

Brother Michael English for the loss of his Mother,  
Deaconess Eleanor English

~~~

Deacon Kenneth & Sister Viola Hubbard for the loss of their
Brother-in-law, Brother William Walker

~~~

Brother Fred Cardenas for the loss of his Daughter,  
Sister Tracey Luster

~~~

Trustee Pamela Stone, Sister Patricia Murray,
Sister Sherri Sears, for the loss of their Mother,
Sister Sara Nash

~~~

Sister Stephanie Southall for the loss of her Mother,  
Sister Frances Johnson

~~~

Brother Gerald and Brother Craig Johnson for the loss of their Mother,
Sister Meritha Johnson

~~~

Sister Mozell Scovel for the loss of her Husband,  
Bro. Wilbert Anthony Scovel

~~~

Sister Alexis Riggins for the loss of her Mother, and
Sister Destiny Riggins for the loss of her Grandmother,
Sister Anna Riggins

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church

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Prayer Requests—prayer@tmbcdetroit.org • General Church Email — contact@tmbcdetroit.org

DIRECTORY

Nathan Johnson, D.D., Senior Pastor

Rev. Terry Robinson, Minister of Discipleship and Kingdom Expansion

Deacon James S. Sarter, Chairman, Deacon's Ministry	Trustee J. L. Westbrook II, Chairman, Trustee's Ministry
Sister Debra Folson, Church Treasurer	Deacon Jerry Moses, Church Clerk
Rev. Dennis Kitchen, Youth Ministry	Dr. Kimberly Elyse, Church Office Secretary
Disciple Duane Hill, Children's Ministry	Rev. Samuel E. Spruill, Jail & Prison Ministry

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Every Sunday

Worship Service 11:00 am
Sunday Church School 9:30 am
New Member's Class 9:30 am
Big Sisters • Children 2½-5 years • Child Development Center 11:00 am
Observance of the Lord's Supper • Every 1st Sunday (11:00 am)
Baptism • Every 2nd Sunday (11:00 am) Dedication of Babies • Every 3rd Sunday (11:00 am)
Children's Worship Celebration • Every 1st & 3rd Sunday (11:00 am)

The Church in Fellowship, Study, and Prayer • Every Wednesday (6:00 pm-7:15 pm)

