





Volume 16 April 19, 2024 Number 16

SERVING AS ELDERS

John Cooper Keith Hammonds Tim Simpson Jere Spurlin Dan Whitson

SERVING AS DEACONS

Sam Allison, Allan Dillard, Richard Dobbs, Jeff Etheredge, Andy Harrison, Tom Inman, Jimmy Jeffreys, Mike Pirtle and Randall Terry

SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

J.C. Enlow-Ukraine, Mexico,
West Africa
Wayne Barrier-Borneo
Rod Kyle-Solomon Islands
Chris Herd-New Zealand
Steve Worley-Nigeria

PULPIT MINISTER

Alan Watkins

YOUTH MINISTER

Keith Jett

OUTREACH MINISTER

Robert Guinn

SECRETARIES

Angie Newell

Sandra Harrison

"THE BRIDGE" DIRECTOR

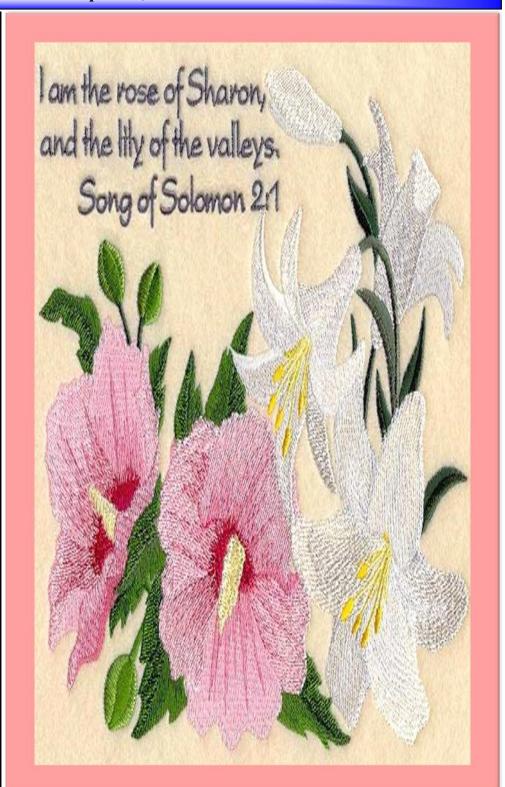
Becky Ellis

WEBPAGE:

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"The Shepherds' Corner" 04/19/2024 (Page 1 of 2)

When you come together in one place Raymond Elliott

"When we come together in one place", it is imperative that "all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor 11:18; 14:40). It is the opportunity when we come together to worship God and the Lamb "in spirit and truth" (John 4: 23,24; Rev 4 & 5). It is wonderful that brothers and sisters in Christ enjoy the company of one another; but when the set time has come, our hearts should be centered on worshipping God. This is a deliberate action on our part. Worship begins with the opening prayer. God is spirit and our spirits should be attuned with God's spirit (John 4:24). The "acts of worship" can sound too legalistic and formal for some; but if we use the term "avenues" it can be understood that singing, praying, teaching, the Lord's supper and giving are avenues through which we express our love, praise and homage to God.

The order in our assemblies when we are worshipping together can be and oft is a tradition which contributes to our worship being done "decently and in order." However, when the same "order of things" is done for decades it can easily become law and that is when tradition becomes wrong. Several years ago an elder told me that when he went off to a Christian college located in a different state, he knew that the church where he began worshipping was unscriptural because they were having the Lord's supper before preaching and not afterwards!

If a change should be made in the order of worship it would be best for it to be announced before it was time to begin. "The order of worship" could be printed and would be available to those in attendance. By doing this, there would be less confusion for everyone. Several years ago while working with a congregation in a small town, I mentioned to the song leader that I would like to make a change in the order of our worship. He was to lead the first song and then I would read from the Bible and make some remarks and we would do this more than once. My failure was that I did not inform the congregation of the changes that I had made! And this is the way things went in our worship that Sunday morning; the song leader led the first song and then I got up and read from the scriptures and made some remarks that were appropriate and I sat down. The song leader announced the number of the second song that we were to sing and when he began singing, the congregation stood, thinking that this was the "invitation song"! Lesson learned! It would be good for a congregation to make changes occasionally so that the younger generation could know that the set order was not a pattern as found in the New Testament.

"The Shepherds' Corner" 04/19/2024 (Page 2 of 2)

It is good that the song leader prepares his selections for the worship. Since we are to praise God, songs of praise would be excellent to lead to begin our worship. It is always appropriate for the congregation to stand when singing such songs. It would be good for the men who have been asked to lead prayers in the assembly to think beforehand what would be said in the prayer. Remember also it is to be a public prayer, that is, the prayer leader should lift his voice so all could hear. When there is a microphone, the prayer leader should speak directly into it. Remarks made when we are observing the Lord's supper should be brief and a source of encouragement for all to meditate on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the love of God and His Son manifested at Calvary. Remember also that prayers are offered up to God the Father (Matt 6:9). It was the body of Jesus that hung on the cross and it was His blood that "was shed for the remission of sins" (Matt 26:28); and He (Christ) walked among men so that He was tempted as we are and thus became our mediator between man and God (Heb 2:17,18; 1 Tim 2:5,6). So we pray to God through Christ. For this reason, our prayers are prayed "In Jesus name" not "in Your name."

God is spirit and "a spirit does not have flesh and bones..." (John 24:39). Preaching/teaching the word of God is a fearful responsibility (James 3:1)! Timothy received a charge from the apostle Paul to "...preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching" (2 Tim 4:2-4). "The word" would consist of "all scripture" because they were "given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim 3:16). It is the duty of the preacher to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ for "it is the power of God to salvation!" (Rom 1:16; Matt 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16; 1 Cor 15:1-4) We have the example of the early church giving "on the first day of the week" (1 Cor 16:1,2). This contribution was for the "Saints" in Judea who were in need of financial help. This is an example as to when we can give our monetary gifts to the Lord when we assemble on the first day of the week to worship God. Every Christian should read 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 to learn more about the giving made by the churches in Macedonia. First of all, the Christians "gave of themselves to the Lord" (8:5). Paul also wrote that their giving was a matter of "grace" (8:7).

My brothers and sisters, when we come together in one place, let us "worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under His care." "Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness" (Psalm 100:1,2; 95:6,7; 145:3).



WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS WEEK COME AND JOIN US!

WEEK OF 4/21/2024 THROUGH 04/24/2024

4/21/2024 SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES 9AM

Class: "My Bible"
Teacher: Robert Guinn
Where: Auditorium

Class: "Questions from Daily Bible Reading"

Teacher: Alan Watkins Where: Fellowship Hall Class: "The Barnabas Factor" Teacher: John Cooper Where: Classroom 2

Teenage Bible Class (6 - 12 Grade)
Teacher: Keith Jett
Where: Teen Room

The Bridge - Nursery Thru 5TH Grade

SUNDAY WORSHIP

4/21/24 10AM Worship Service - In the Auditorium 5:00PM Worship Service OR WATCH LIVE STREAM ON:

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/DecaturCoC/

YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmt9ZXk_fXzu6pGl4H5UpQA

4/24/2024 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES 6:30 PM

Class: "The Go Statements of Jesus"

Where: Auditorium Teacher - Jere Spurlin

Class: "Book of John"
Where: Fellowship Hall
Teacher - Alan Watkins
Class: "Let Us Sing"
Where: Classroom 2
Teacher: Robert Guinn
Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class Where: Room 5/6 Teacher - Donna Lamp

Teenage Bible Class (6th - 12 Grade)

Where: Teen Room Teacher - Keith Jett

The Bridge - NURSERY THRU 5TH GRADE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

APRIL PRIVILEGE TO SERVE LIST

April 2024 Sunday 10AM Service Order

Service	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Welcome	Keith Jett	Alan Watkins	Keith Hammonds	Robert Guinn
Opening Prayer	Philip Miller	Roger Kalonick	Joel Biship	Jeff Etheredge
Song Leader	Jere Spurlin	John Cooper	Robert Guinn	Jere Spurlin
Shepherds Prayer	Tim Simpson	Jere Spurlin	Dan Whitson	John Cooper
Lord's Supper Devo	Robert Guinn	Andy Harrison	Steve Gober	AC Connor
Scripture Reading	Mike Pirtle	Andy Nash	Steve Wilson	Bill Hardwick
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Dennis Powers	Joey Gray	Gene Owens	Buddy Burchell

April 2024 Sunday 5PM Service Order

Service	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
Welcome	Steve Gober	Mark Henderson	Jeff Ellis	Mitchell Etheredge
Opening Prayer	Will Ellis	Sam Allison	Allan Dillard	Steve Gober
Song Leader	Andy Harrison	Dan Whitson	Mark Henderson	Nathan Ellis
Scripture Reading	Terry Strong	Cory Wells	Philip Miller	Mike Pirtle
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Tom Inman	Keith Hammonds	Steve Underwood	Daniel Underwood

April 2024 Wednesday Night Service Order

Service	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Song Leader	Robert Guinn	Nathan Ellis	Witt Ellis	Mark Henderson
Invitation	Keith Jett	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Announcements	Keith Hammonds	Jere Spurlin	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson
Closing Prayer	Keith Hammonds	Jere Spurlin	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson

Monthly Greeters:

Sunday AM - Spurlin & Garrett

Sunday PM - Hammonds & Gibson

Wednesday - R. Terry & Hardwick

2024 MONTHLY VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENTS (if you can help organize a month, please sign list on bulletin board or contact the Office. Thanks!)

MONTH FOOD COMMITTEE GAME NIGHTS FELLOWSHIP MEAL MONTHLY DEVOS

	TOOD COMMITTEE	GAINE MIGHTS	TEEDO WOME MENT	
JANUARY	Ruby Truitt			
	Lynda Holbert			
	Felicia Moody	Guinn	Guinn	No Devo this Month
FEBRUARY	Debbie Wiggins			
	Janice Watkins	Prentice	Guinn	
MARCH	Sonia Nash			
	Carole Pirtle		Guinn	Jett
APRIL	Carol Etheredge			
	Sonia Nash		Guinn	
MAY	Ann Copeland			
	Kitty Ferrell			
JUNE	Ginger Spurlin			
	Adonis Whitlow			
JULY	Tylerann Betterton			
	Kelley Wells			
AUGUST	Amy Henderson			
	Janet Smith			
SEPTEMBER	Janelle Connor			
	Sherry Morgan			
	Renae Fields			
OCTOBER	Lynda Holbert			
-	Felicia Moody			
NOVEMBER	Diane Warren			
	Nancy Gray			
DECEMBER	Donna Lamp			
	Cathy Stillwell			

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE LESSON OUTLINE (04/21/2024)

GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE AND MODERN ISRAEL Gen. 12:1-7

INTRO:

- 1. God made a promise to Abraham.
- 2. He repeated the promise to Jacob. Gen. 35:10-12
- 3. The descendants became God's chosen people at Mt. Sinai. Ex. 19:1-6
- 4. Many people have questions about the relationship of the Israel of today and the Israel of scripture.

I. WHAT DID GOD PROMISE ABRAHAM?

- A. He selected Abraham because Abraham was capable to carry out what God had in mind. **Gen. 18:19; Heb. 11:8-10**
- B. There were seven elements in this promise.
 - 1. I will make you a great nation.
 - 2. I will bless you.
 - 3. I will make your name great.
 - 4. You will be a blessing.
 - 5. I will bless those that bless you.
 - 6. I will curse those that curse you.
 - 7. In you all nations of the earth will be blessed.
- C. There was nothing purely racial or ethnic in God's election of his chosen people.

II. IS MODERN ISRAEL THE PROMISED NATION AND THERE-FORE SONS OF ABRAHAM?

- A. What did God say through Paul about Abraham and his faith? Rom. 4:1-15; Rom. 9:3-8; Gal. 3:6-9, 23-29
- B. The Israelites were God's chosen people during the time of the Mosaic Law, which has been taken out of the way.

Rom. 7:6, 7; Eph. 2:11-16; Col. 3:11-17; Heb. 8:1-13; 10:9

CONC:

- 1. Should we pray for Israel? Absolutely! Just like we should pray for any group of people.
- 2. God sent Jesus for all people because he loves us. **John 3:16**; **Heb. 10:10**

Remember In Our Daily Prayers

OUR SICK

Howard Gibson will be undergoing keep them in your prayers. tests, including an MRI on Wednes- Doris Betterton, the mother of Don- ica Parker, Charlotte Pereira, Tatests.

went well. Send cards to - 1804 prayers. Fitzgerald Dr. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603. Please keep him in your Ed & Winda Anderson, Dan pravers.

hospital. She was having problems with her heart. Send cards to – 3219 Lower River Road, Decatur, AL Hammonds, Mary Harris, Lynda 35603. Please keep her in your prayers.

gery on Wednesday and everything went well. Send cards to - 168 Robbins, Jamie Sparkman, Mack Emory Dr., Decatur, AL 35603. Stillwell, Thelma Struck, Daven Please keep her in your prayers.

and would like to thank everyone for Wells, Doyle Whitlow, Virginia all the prayers, texts and calls re- Woodall, Jane Yeager. ceived during his sickness.

Dianne (Beall) Vanhook had a stint put in her heart last week. Please keep her in your prayers.

Theresa Lambert, a friend of Kellev Wells had surgery last week for her cancer and is doing good. Please keep her in your prayers.

James Satterfield, the father of Tylerann Betterton is having heart issues. Her mother, Shelia Satterfield came home from the hospital. Send Cards to - James & Shelia Satterfield, 2422 Woodland Street

S.E., Decatur, AL 35601. Please Lane, Tim Martin, Darryl Macon,

day, April 24 to investigate a recent ny Betterton had foot surgery on maya Plott, Jo Robbins, Peggy health issue. Send cards to - 519 March 31 and is non weight bearing Robinson, Bobby Roy, Diane Russ, Dogwood Pl. S.W., Decatur, AL for 2 weeks. His father, Johnny Sandra Stancil, Harper Struntz, 35603. Please keep him in your **Betterton** will be having hip re- Cheryl Stubbs, Becky Swanger, prayers and for good results on all placement surgery on April 23. Send David Taylor, Samuel Taylor, Betty cards to - Johnny & Doris Betterton, Thomas, Freddy Thomas, Abel David Williams had surgery on his 52 Broadhead Drive, Decatur, AL Vonada, Albert Vinsant. knee on Tuesday and everything 35603. Please keep them in your

OUR MEMBERS

Chenault, Robbie & Aloma Clark, Jamie Sparkman is home from the Terri Davis, Troy & Faye Demastus, Mitch & Bonnie Elswick, Harold & Paula Fagan, Dickie Goode, Effie Holbert, Malcolm Jones, Roger & Jan Kalonick, Jane Lee, Bill Janice Watkins had cataract sur- McWhorter, Norene Mullican, Carolyn Nash, Tanya Ramos, Jennifer Vinson, Bill & Diane Warren, Dana Sam Allison has been home sick Watts, Doug Weatherspoon, Teresa

FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF **OUR MEMBERS**

Tiffany Allen, Jack Amos,, Kim Anderson, Doug Andrews, Jonna Barrier, Dillion & Patti Bayes, Will Bennett, Sue Bevis, Billy Tom Blankenship, Judy Boles, Nellie Caldwell, James Colonel, John Cordes, Larry Burress, Raymond Driggers, Beth Gardner, Donna Hammonds, Betty Hawkins, Shane Haynes, David Ives, Chloe James, Ricky Johnson, Rita King, Rudy Kirchner, Atticus

Ruth McCaskey, Mike Miller, Mon-

SHUT-INS

Pauline "Polly" Baker, Marian Bradford, Betty Bunch, Patsy Cagle, Mary Harris, Jane Hartselle, Austin Inman, Jean League, Widdy Riley, Shirley Smith, Wanda Smith, Charlotte Taylor.

IN MILITARY SERVICE

Riley Fagan, Zac Hanford,

NURSING HOME ADDRESSES

- 1. Country Cottage (256) 301-1800 2515 Old Moulton Road Decatur, AL 35603
- 2. Decatur Health & Rehab USA 2326 Morgan Avenue Decatur, AL 35601 (256) 340-5765
- 3. Falkville Nursing Home 10 West 3rd Street Falkville, AL 35622 (256) 784-5291
- 4. NHC Healthcare (256) 974-1146 300 Hospital Street Moulton, AL 35650
- **Summerford Nursing Home** (256) 784-5275 4085 Hwy 31 S.W. Falkville, AL 35622
- 6. River City Care & Rehab (256) 355-6911 1350 14th Ave. S.E. Decatur, AL 35601



This is the current listing of our Shut-In Members along with their address and phone number. Please check on them by calling or dropping a card in the mail to let them know they are missed and being thought about.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	PHONE NO.	
Polly Baker	2867 Vaughn Bridge Rd., Hartselle, AL 35640	256-778-3027	
Marion Bradford	2005 13th St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-4674	
Betty Bunch	1307 Pennylane S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-350-3045	
Patsy Cagle	1714 Westmeade St. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-3525	
Della Carmon	649 Piercefield Drive, Richmond Hill, GA 31324		
Beverly Fite	2110 Birch St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-476-3565	
Mary Harris	1009 Line Street, Apt. 123, Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-2110 / Cell – 256-306-1103	
Jane Hartselle	1121 9 th Ave. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-7832	
Austin Inman	2306 Duncansby Dr. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-318-6154	
Widdy Riley	210 Wilson St. N.E., Apt. 2031, Decatur, AL 35601	256-303-4567	
Shirley Smith	C/O Legacy Village of Jacksonville, Room 314, 1116 James Hopkin Rd. Jacksonville, AL 36265	256-345-2986	
Wanda Smith	1420 Danville Rd. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-6693	
Virginia Woodall	1541 Berkely St. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-686-2760	

Events Current

GAME NIGHT

Tomorrow at 5:30 PM in the Annex. Please bring sides, Our next Wednesday Night on the birth of their son, desserts and drinks. If you Fellowship Meal is May 1 at have any questions, contact 5:00 PM in the Annex. Robert Guinn.

BROOKDALE CEDAR SPRINGS DEVO

Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 1:30 PM

LADIES TUESDAY MORNING **BIBLE CLASS**

9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. from 6:00 - 8:00 PM in the An- in November. The dates of the Alan Watkins is the teacher.

THRIVE CONFERENCE

Place: Decatur Church of Christ

Date: Friday, April 26

Time: 5:00 – 9:45 PM

And

Date: Saturday, April 27

Time: 8:15 AM – 4:30 PM (snacks provided on Friday night and breakfast & lunch

provided on Saturday)

AREA WIDE YOUTH RALLY

Date: Saturday, April 27 **Time:** 5:00 – 7:00 PM Place: Decatur Church of

Christ

(Rally food will be provided)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP MEAL

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING

Our next Wednesday Night iel & Lisa Hall. Singing is May 1 at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium.

MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER

nex.

J.O.Y. GROUP LUNCH (50 YEARS & UP)

The J.O.Y. Group will be having lunch at the Brandin' Iron Steakhouse, located in Cullman, on Saturday, May 18 at 11:30 AM. If you plan on attending, please sign the list located on the bulletin board in the lobby. If you have any questions, contact Bill or Diane Warren.

LADIES TUESDAY NIGHT **CLASS**

This class will not meet again until August.

CONGRATULATIONS to Cameron & Bethany Hall "Anthony Simon Hall". He was born on April 12. All doing well. Proud are Grandparents are Clyde & Kathleen Burress and Dan-

LADIES RETREAT IN **NOVEMBER**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for all ladies who The next class is April 23 at Our next meeting will be May 6 want to go on the ladies retreat retreat are Nov. 14 - 17 at Smith Lake. There are 24 spaces available. Please sign the sheet if you want to go. If you have any questions, contact Suzanne Garrett.

PANTRY ITEM NEEDED

Instant Potatoes





Decatur Church of Christ (04/14),

First and foremost I would like to thank each and every one of you for accepting me and loving me. Currently I am receiving treatment at the Tuscaloosa VA hospital and that was the best decision I could have made. I am learning to deal with sobriety and also am learning to be social with others such as me. I am pretty sure Mr. Doyle Rochester and Mr. Jim have been trying to reach out to me via telephone. Unfortunately my phone is out of service at this time.

I'm asking that you all continue to pray for me and my loved ones. Also, if there are any pamphlets you can send me to study with it would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you guys soon.

Sincerely,

Amanda Johnson

Please ask the ladies to pray for me too.

Amanda Johnson C/O Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center MHRRTP Program 3701 Loop Road East Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

Decatur Church of Christ (04/17),

I want to thank all of you who have sent cards and notes of encouragement to me & Dillon. What a wonderful joy it has been to receive them. You have taken Hannah & Buddy into your arms of love and comfort. I am pleased to know they have found a happy home with all of you. You are a blessing to all of us.

In Christian Love. Patti Baves (Grandmother of Hannah & Buddy Burchell)



Ladies' Day

Crestview Church of Christ 2001 US Hwy 31 Boaz. AL 35957

Date:

Saturday, April 13

Time:

9:00 - 12:00 PM (with lunch to follow)

Guest Speaker:

Amber Spann

Theme:

"When Life Gives You Lemons"

Gospel Singing

Madison Church of Christ 556 Hughes Road Madison, AL 35758 Sunday, April 21 5:00 PM

Grief Seminar

Beltline Church of Christ 2159 Beltline Rd. S.W. Decatur, AL 35601

Speaker:

Jeff Jenkins Theme: Hope for the Hurting

Dates:

Saturday, April 13

9:00 - 9:30 AM - Registration 9:30 - 10:15 AM - Session 1 10:30 - 11:30 AM - Session 2 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Lunch 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM - Session 3 1:15 PM - Questions & Answers

Sunday, April 14

9:00 - 9:45 AM - Bible Study Session (You are not alone - Revelation 1) 10:00 - 11:15 AM - Worship Hour Session - (A glimpse into glory -Revelation 2)

Please RSVP to help with planning: office@beltlinechurchofchrist.org 256-353-1876

Gospel Singing

Morrison Church of Christ 201 S. Main Street Morrison, TN 37357 Friday, April 26 7:00 - 9:00 PM Refreshments served after singing

APRIL 2024

Widdy Riley

Sam Allison

April Castaneda

14th – Bill Hardwick

16th - Elizabeth Guinn

19th -Sonia Nash

21st - Cory Wells Jessi Watts

22nd - Draven Vandiver

23rd - Harper Loyd

24th -Jane Hartselle **Bobby Malone**

28th -**Becky Ellis**

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!



April 2024

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM	Fellowship Meal 5:00 PM In the Annex Singing Night 6:30 PM	4	5	6 Walk4Water Wilson Morgan Park 8:30 AM
7 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM L2L Banquet 6:00 PM Annex	8	9 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM Ladies Class 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall	10	11	12	13
Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM Ladies Planning Meeting 4:00 PM Fellowship Hall	15	16 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM	17	18	19	Youth & Family Game Night 5:30 PM
21 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM	22	23 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM	24	25	26 THRIVE Conference Decatur CoC 5:00 - 10:00 PM	THRIVE Conference Decatur CoC 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM Thrive Area Wide Youth Rally 5 - 7:00 PM
28 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM	29	30 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 AM				