



Reflecting news and views

The Reflector

a publication of the Illinois/Wisconsin District of the Church of the Brethren

March 2012 / Volume 09 / Issue 2

District Executive: Kevin Kessler

DE PONDERING by Kevin Kessler



I'm always elated when I find a nugget of profound wisdom in a book I'm reading. One of these gems jumped out at me in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating* by Norman Wirzba. This profundity from

Wirzba certainly relates to the subject on which he writes, but it can also stand alone, out of context, which is the way it impacted me. The subject is Sabbath, and here is what he writes:

Scripture tells us that God blessed and hallowed the seventh day "because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation" (Genesis 2:3). God's rest has nothing to do with fatigue, as if God could become tired of creative work. Rather, it has to do with the intense joy and peace, the supreme delight and contentment that followed from God's life-giving work. When people think of Sabbath they tend to think in terms of exhaustion: rest is a break, the time to escape from the harried pace of life. For God, however, rest is best understood as God's complete entrance into life and as God's availability to and joy in the beauty and goodness that is there. Directly contrary to human restlessness, the constant, frantic searching and striving for a different place or a better community, *God rests because there is no other place God would rather be*. God rests because the place where God is is the place of God's love and concern and work, and there simply is no other place worth going to. Sabbath is not a reprieve from life but the putting to an end of the restlessness that prevents deep engagement with it.

Wirzba's words guided me to think about Lent, the season of the church year now upon us. Lent is a time when we are invited to be self-reflective, to examine our lives in relation to God and others. This opportunity allows us to consider a vast array of behaviors in which we engage to determine how well we are doing. To perform this practice thoroughly takes time. Therefore, carving out

occasions to be exclusively contemplative seems beneficial. Provided, then, is an opportunity to rest from the constant restlessness which tends to consume our waking hours. In this manner, Lent becomes for us a Sabbath.

Lent is indeed an occasion for us to consider our less than attractive behaviors for which we seek forgiveness. As Sabbath, Lent is likewise an opportunity to consider the joy and beauty of our lives, to contemplate that which is good, acceptable, and right in the eyes of God, which our lives display. Pondering these attributes lets us rest in a place that is worth going to. Furthermore, tarrying in these thoughts for a season potentially helps us alter our lives to become more wholly immersed in attractive behaviors. Ultimately, we reach the point of being Sabbath people, ably living our lives in love and concern, where there is no better place to be.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The statistics are shocking: in the US, a report of child abuse is made every 10 seconds. The Department of Health and Human Services says 3.3 million child abuse reports and allegations were made involving an estimated 6 million children in 2009 alone. Christianity proclaims justice and hope for all who are victimized; the church is called to protect God's children and restore hope to those who are abused.

Read the full story at www.brethren.org/childprotection/month.html

Copied from News Service, Church of the Brethren



DISTRICT POTLUCK
APRIL 28, 2012
PEORIA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
4714 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614

Schedule

8:00 – 9:00 -----Registration
9:00 – 9:40 -----Opening Worship
10:00 – 10:45 -----Workshop Session 1
11:00 – 11:40 -----Worship
11:45 – 12:55 -----Potluck Lunch
1:00 – 1:45 -----Workshop Session 2
2:00 – 2:45 -----Workshop Session 3
2:50 – 3:25 -----Closing Worship

Following is the list of workshops, a brief description of each, and times for the workshops. Please choose one item from each time frame to attend. Please note that more fellowship time has been built into the schedule as you requested following the last District Potluck. Ordained persons may receive CEU credit for attending these workshops, so please pick up a 3 x 5 card at the registration table.

10:00 – 10:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 1

1. **DEACON SPIRITUALITY** - by Donna Kline – It's generally assumed that deacons are spiritually mature. But here you are, with the same questions and doubts as everyone else. This workshop will provide a forum to discuss how we might walk more confidently in our own faith journeys.
2. **YES, YOU CAN DO IT!** - by Genie Fifer – Come learn some keys to memorizing scriptures as well as different fun ways to memorize. It is geared to all ages and to all levels of remembering or, as in my case, the lack of remembering. Let's learn together.
3. **PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE** – by Chris Douglas – “Lectio Divina” is the Latin phrase (meaning “Holy Word”) that describes the ancient Christian practice of praying with Scripture. We will spend time with a couple of different scripture texts in silent prayer as we discover how God speaks to us in prayer through scripture.
4. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** - Time to visit in the fellowship hall.

1:00 – 1:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 2

1. **HELPING THE HURTING** – by Donna Kline – Nearly every major life transition includes some degree of loss. Even with the frequency with which this happens, it's still very difficult to know how to minister to those in a time of grief and loss. Join our discussion for thoughts on how we can best be compassionate and supportive during these difficult times.
2. **TELLING GOD'S STORIES: STEPS TO TELLING A MEMORABLE BIBLE STORY** – by Denise Nichols – Make your Sunday School class more interesting or get others excited about Bible stories. Come and learn the steps for telling a Bible story from a storyteller herself. I will demonstrate by telling you a story and then share the steps of development so you too can become a better storyteller.
3. **YES, YOU CAN DO IT!** – by Genie Fifer – Come learn some keys to memorizing scriptures as well as different fun ways to memorize. It is geared to all ages and to all levels of remembering or, as in my case, the lack of remembering. Let's learn together.
4. **PRAYING WITH MUSIC, ART, AND JOURNALING** – by Chris Douglas – We pray in many different ways. Some people find it difficult to sit still but find the use of music and artistic expression helps them to better focus their attention on prayer. Others find writing in a journal to be a good way of “centering.” We'll explore a variety of these ways to pray during this workshop.

2:00 – 2:45 – WORKSHOP SESSION 3

1. **BUILDING BLOCKS OF DEACON MINISTRY** – by Donna Kline – Thinking of expanding your existing deacon ministry? No deacons at all, but you would like to learn how (and if!) you might begin? This workshop on the basics of deacon ministries is designed to help you understand the questions to ask, as well as provide guidelines on what deacons in the Church of the Brethren are called to do.
2. **TELLING GOD'S STORIES: STEPS TO TELLING A MEMORABLE BIBLE STORY** – by Denise Nichols – Make your Sunday School class more interesting or get others excited about Bible stories. Come and learn the steps for telling a Bible story from a storyteller herself. I will demonstrate by telling you a story and then share the steps of development so you too can become a better storyteller.
3. **PRAYER WALKING** – by Chris Douglas – What happens when we begin to see as if we were looking through God's eyes? And hear as if we were listening with God's ears? During this workshop, we'll go outside to walk and consciously imagine ourselves looking through God's eyes... and focus all of that into our prayer. Come and spend time with God.
4. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** – Time to visit in the fellowship hall.

Registration Form

District Potluck --- April 28, 2012

Peoria Church of the Brethren
4714 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, IL 61614
9:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Worship * Workshops * Fellowship * Food

Registration Fee - \$5.00, but no one will be turned away
Registration deadline prior to the District Potluck is April 9.
You may attend without registering ahead of time.

Each person should bring a potluck dish to enjoy with others from across the district.
Drinks and table service will be provided.

Schedule	Workshop Topics and Leaders
8:00 – 9:00 ----- Registration	Deacon Training -- Donna Kline
9:00 – 9:40 ----- Opening Worship	
10:00 – 10:45 ----- Workshop Session 1	Memorizing Scripture – Genie Fifer
11:00 – 11:40 ----- Worship	
11:45 – 12:55 ----- Potluck Lunch and Fellowship	Forms of Prayer – Chris Douglas
1:00 – 1:45 ----- Workshop Session 2	
2:00 – 2:45 ----- Workshop Session 3	Storytelling – Denise Nichols
2:50 – 3:25 ----- Closing Worship	

Plan now to attend this exciting event. Share this information with others in your church. There will be something for everyone: deacons, Sunday School teachers, pastors, those who want to learn, worship, and enjoy wonderful fellowship.

Come enjoy time with sisters and brothers from across the district!!!!!!

*This one-day event is being planned by your **District Deacons** on behalf of the Leadership Team of the District.*

Please complete the bottom portion, detach, and return with the registration fee to the **District Office at 269 E. Chestnut St., Canton, IL 61520**. Make checks payable to the District of IL/WI. **NOTE:** If you know how many are planning to attend from your congregation but are unsure of who, please return the form with the name of the congregation and the number attending. This will help us plan for the day. **Thank you.**

We look forward to seeing you and visiting on Saturday, April 28, 2012, at Peoria.

District Potluck – April 28, 2012

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Congregation _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Number attending _____

Please make copies of this form as needed.

Camp Emmanuel News:



Spring is in the air and a new camping season beckons. We hope to see many of you enjoying the peaceful beauty and good-natured fun at one or more of the Church of the Brethren camps in 2012. Opportunities to serve Jesus at Camp Emmanuel abound from cooking to cleaning to construction and repair, grounds pickup and boat maintenance.

Projects for Work Week include:

- a. Rebuild Spill Way Bridge
- b. New door & deck on Elm Cabin
- c. Build handicapped accessible fishing dock
- d. Playground repaired or replaced
- e. Repair men's showers
- f. Repair Cottonwood Electric
- g. Cleaning cabins, chapel and porch & dining hall
- h. Cutting firewood
- i. Grounds maintenance
- j. Paint four-square grid on basketball court

Please also prayerfully consider serving as cook or assistant cook for one of the camps. Volunteer cooks and assistants save the camp thousands of dollars per season and are greatly appreciated. Also, new this year, (we hope) air conditioning in the camp kitchen. Woo Hoo!

Camps still needing cooks are:

Assistant cook needed—Junior Camp: Dates June 17-23 (Jane Weiss—head cook)

Cooks & assistants needed for: Youth Camp—June 3-9; Pre-Junior-- July 13-15,

Young Adults—August 3-5; Family Camp--August 31-September 3.

Any of these would make a great service project for any church group.

For further information please contact Ruth or Mike at 309-321-2291 or email at campemmanuel.cob@gmail.com

News from Emmaus and Honduran Mission

It was a hectic summer last year at Camp Emmaus with the restoration of the camp pool, which is still on-going.



But with everything going on at Camp attention was also focused on the Honduran Mission 2012. The mission continues to be blessed by God's grace and from people who provide financial support and prayers for the people of Honduras.

The January 2011 mission supported six Honduran families providing each family the opportunity to build an 18' X 18' block home. People worked five weeks getting sand and gravel from the river to make nearly 4,000 concrete blocks then moving them to the housing sites. Working together with the Hondurans construction was completed on six houses in seven days. Each house has a concrete floor, metal roof and an installed door and window.. On the last day in Las Palmas a celebration was organized by the Hondurans who expressed their gratitude to God and the workers for the new, safe, healthy houses.

Over the past six years the Mission Teams have completed the repair to the clinic at San Juan Baptista, built 32 latrines in Los Ranchos, 11 water storage tanks and 34 block homes in Los Ranchos and Las Palmas.

In addition to the construction projects the Mission Teams have sewed diapers, dresses and shorts for babies and children, brought medical supplies to local nurses and clinics, provided school supplies, sent 360 tropical fruit tree seedlings, secured stoves and provided for electric power, shipped text books, provided a sewing machine for a seamstress in a rural village plus much more in financial, spiritual and other support for the people of Honduras.

A team was scheduled to go back to Las Palmas in January 2012 to build 6 more homes. Bill and Betty Hare ask for your prayers for the Honduran Mission and would accept any financial help anyone would care to make to keep mission alive and active. Contributions can be sent to: Bill Hare, P.O. Box 128, Mt. Morris, IL 61054. Checks should be made payable to Honduras Mission Project. Bill and Betty are also available for presentations and can be contacted at (815) 734-4268.

Annual Conference Housing in St. Louis



A number of people have called the Annual Conference Office in recent days interested in making hotel reservations at downtown St. Louis

hotels other than the three in the Annual Conference housing block (**Renaissance Grand, Holiday Inn, and Hyatt**). There are certainly many other hotels in the downtown area beyond the three that the Annual Conference Office signed contracts with five years ago. Some of them even have free breakfasts.

Some people have asked me: Why don't you have any rooms there? My honest answer is: I don't know why the decisions were made that were made five years ago. But what I do know is that the Executive Director at that time signed contracts for 977 hotel rooms on each of the four "peak" nights

and that the **Church of the Brethren has to pay for those rooms**, whether anyone stays in them or not.

Paying for hotel rooms that no Brethren stay in could cost us thousands and thousands of dollars (like it did in 2009 at the San Diego conference). Ultimately, it will result in us having to have a two-tiered registration price: \$105 (non-delegate) if you stay in the conference housing block or much higher if you choose to book outside of that block, risking that we will have to pay for unused rooms. A second reason for booking within the conference hotel block is that those three hotels pay the convention center, based on the number of hotel nights that we use, for a portion of the meeting space rental cost that we are charged by the convention center.

Grace and Peace,

Chris Douglas, Director of Conference Office,
Church of the Brethren, 847-742-5100 ext. 228



sharing resources. changing lives.

One Great Hour of Sharing resources should have arrived!

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
you may share abundantly in every good work."
2 Corinthians 9:8*

The theme for the 2012 One Great Hour of Sharing offering materials continues to be
Sharing Brings Joy, and this year the focus is sharing joy with others.

The suggested offering date is Sunday, March 18.

Envelopes, bulletin inserts, and a poster should be g in your mailbox , and in lieu of a printed leader's guide this year, all such materials are available online at www.brethren.org/oghs Children's activities, sermon starts, orders of service, and many other ideas for creating a dynamic worship service are available at the click of your mouse.

If you would prefer a printed copy of these materials or if you have any questions,
e-mail offerings@brethren.org or call Mandy Garcia at 847-742-5100 ext. 305.

'Naked Anabaptist' author Murray featured in upcoming webinar



A one-day workshop and webinar titled "Changing World, Future Church, Ancient Paths" will be led by Stuart Murray Williams and Juliet Kilpin on March 10, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Pacific), or 12-6 p.m. (central). The event will address the question, "What does it mean to follow Jesus in a changing culture, in which the Christian story is no longer familiar and the church is on the margins?" according to an announcement from Congregational Life Ministries staff Stan Dueck.

Read the full story at www.brethren.org/news/2012/naked-anabaptist-author-leads-workshop.html (copied from News Services, Church of the Brethren)

2012 National Young Adult Conference

Are you between the ages of 18 and 35? If so, then you are invited to the NYAC in Knoxville, TN. This event will be a chance for young adults to gather and create a loving community, have engaging conversations about our role in the denomination and also enjoy various speakers.

NYAC takes place on **June 18 – 22, 2012** at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Our theme is "**Humble, yet Bold: Being the Church**," based on Matt. 5: 13 – 18, "Being Salt for the Earth" and "A light for the world."

Online registration begins Jan. 6 at 8 PM at www.brethren.org/yac. The cost for the event will be \$375 and includes housing, programming and meals. The Young Adult Steering Committee encourages congregations to offer NYAC scholarships in their 2012 budgets. NYAC gift certificates may be purchased by friends and families.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY to be part of the community that will be created

during these five days in Knoxville. Join us on Facebook on "Young Adults of the Church of the Brethren."

For more information call 800-323-8039 ext. 281 or E-mail NYAC2012@brethren.org.



Accessibility Grants Now Available

The Retirement Research Foundation is pleased to announce the 2012 Accessible Faith Grant Program to enable houses of worship to make accessibility improvements to their facilities. The program is available to houses of worship in **six metro Chicago counties: Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, and McHenry**. Since the program began nine years ago, the Foundation has awarded 129 grants to religious congregations totaling almost \$2.8 million to make their facilities more accessible.

Please help us share information about the Accessible Faith Grant Program with leaders of houses of worship, disability rights advocates, and others who may know religious congregations that could benefit from this opportunity. Please announce the Accessible Faith Grant Program through print or electronic newsletters, listservs, or other means available to you. A copy of the flyer announcing the 2012 Accessible Faith Grant Program is attached. You may view it in full color, download and make copies of it. You will find a full description of the program, application form, and tips for completing the application in the Accessible Faith Grant Program section of our website at www.rrf.org.

We hope that you will help spread the word immediately to give congregations adequate time to submit an application. We will accept applications from **March 1 through June 1, 2012**. Thank you for helping us make others aware of the importance of accessibility improvements and the availability of funding for such efforts.

If you have questions or comments, or you wish to be removed from the Foundation's mailing list, please contact us at AFG@rrf.org. Thank you.



Church of the Brethren

IL/WI District Church of the Brethren

269 E. Chestnut • Canton, IL 61520

Phone & Fax: 309-649-6008

District Executive: Kevin Kessler, kevink.iwdcob@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant: Beth Carpentier, bethc.iwdcob@att.net

Feb. 7, 2012

Dear Pastor, Treasurer, Friend of the District:

Each quarter the district office sends out the Pledged to Actual Comparison report for two reasons. The first reason is practical. The report provides congregations with the opportunity to review their giving for the year. Are they on track with their pledge? Have funds been sent that are not recorded? Can a contribution be made or increased? It's always helpful to review current giving.

The second reason for sending this report is to say, "Thank you!" Your contributions to the district budget ensure the continuation of district ministries. District leadership takes seriously the responsibility to prudently care for and utilize contributed funds. So, thank you for entrusting district leadership to act on your behalf to effectively use the resources you give.

Moreover, thank you for the dollars and cents you contribute that make possible the following:

- Mission and Mortar grants/loans allowing congregations to improve real property and/or revitalize ministries.
- A district office that serves as a central base for the district, receives questions and comments, assists in meeting and district conference preparations, acts as a conduit for resources, and...
- District staff who assist with pastoral placements, pastor/congregation evaluations, resource distribution, consultation on matters of the church, licensing/ordination/installation services, and...
- A district newsletter helping us stay connected with each other and providing relevant insights.
- District Deacons who provide assistance during times of conflict and produce the District Potluck giving us the opportunity to gather for worship, fellowship, and learning experiences.
- Sending a Standing Committee delegate to represent our district at Annual Conference.
- Supporting new church development.
- Supporting revitalization of existing congregations.
- Financially supporting persons in ministry training programs—Education For a Shared Ministry (EFSM), Training in Ministry (TRIM), and Bethany Theological Seminary.
- Securing mentors for ministers in training, supporting persons through the credentialing process, giving oversight to the credentialing process
- Investing in a visioning process; setting goals; building strategies.
- And more...

Together, we are making a difference!

Grace and peace,

Kevin Kessler
District Executive

Continuing the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.

Illinois/Wisconsin District Church of the Brethren
2011 Pledged to Actual Comparison (unaudited)
(Year End) As of December 31, 2011

Congregation	2010 Actual Contribution	2011 Annual Pledge	2011 YTD Actual	Difference	Paid %
Allison Prairie	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Batavia Faith	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Canton	\$1,800.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,500.00	\$200.00	115.4%
Cerro Gordo	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Champaign	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Cherry Grove	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	--
Chicago First	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Decatur	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Dixon	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$1,404.00	\$1,404.00	--
Douglas Park	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	--
Franklin Grove	\$400.00	\$900.00	\$1,100.00	\$200.00	122.2%
Freeport	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Girard	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Highland Avenue	\$15,141.00	\$14,300.00	\$14,510.25	\$210.25	101.5%
Hurricane Creek	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	100.0%
La Place	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Lanark	\$2,654.08	\$0.00	\$2,449.92	\$2,449.92	--
Martin Creek	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Milledgeville	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	--
Mt. Morris *	\$3,975.00	\$1,776.00	\$1,776.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Naperville	\$4,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Neighborhood *	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Oak Grove	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Oakley Brick	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Panther Creek	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Peoria	\$5,850.00	\$5,850.00	\$5,850.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Polo	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Rock Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Rockford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Romine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
Springfield	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Stanley	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	--
Virden	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	--
Walnut Grove	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	--
West Branch	\$994.25	\$740.25	\$1,000.25	\$260.00	135.1%
Woodland	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00	100.0%
Yellow Creek	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	--
York Center	\$8,500.00	\$7,650.00	\$8,500.00	\$850.00	111.1%
				\$0.00	
Totals	\$59,264.33	\$49,716.25	\$58,690.42	\$8,974.17	118.1%

* Includes funds received in 2011 toward 2010 pledge

Thank You Illinois-Wisconsin District Congregations for your continuing support.

2012 Calendar

MARCH

- 2World Day of Prayer
- 10-12 ..Mission & Ministry Board, New Windsor
- 11Daylight Savings Time Begins
One Great Hour of Sharing

APRIL

- 1Palm Sunday
- 6Good Friday
- 7First Day of Passover
- 8Easter
- 23-May 4.....BVS Older Adult Orientation
- 28DISTRICT POT LUCK at Peoria CoB

MAY

- 1Labor Day
- 3National Day of Prayer
- 6National Youth Sunday
- 13Mother's Day
- 17-19 ..New Church Dev. Conf. , Richmond, IN
- 27Pentecost Sunday
- 28Memorial Day

JUNE

- 1-3 Women's Retreat, Camp Emmanuel
- 3-9 Youth Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-16 Jr. Hi Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-29 ..BVS Summer Orientation
- 16-22 ..National Young Adult Conf., Knoxville
- 17Father's Day
- 17-23 Junior Camp, Camp Emmanuel

JULY

- 6-7Ministers Assoc. Pre-Conf., St. Louis, MO
- 7-11ANNUAL CONFERENCE, St. Louis, MO
- 7Mission & Ministry Board, St. Louis, MO

AUGUST

- 3-5 Young Adult Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 10-12 Men's Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 20-30 ..BVS/BRF Orientation, New Windsor
- 31-Sept. 3 Family Camp, Camp Ennanuel

SEPTEMBER

- 3Labor Day
- 3Family Camp, Camp Emmanuel
- 16-Oct 5.....BVS Fall Orientation
- 17Rosh Hashanah
- 21International Day of Peace
- 26Yom Kippur

OCTOBER

- 7World Communion Sunday
- 20-23 ..Mission & Ministry Board, Elgin, IL
- 28Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER

- 4National Jr. High Sunday
Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 16-18 ..Mission Alive, Lititz, PA
- 22Thanksgiving Day
- 25First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

- 2First Sunday of Advent
- 9First Day of Chanukah/Hanukkah
- 25Christmas Day
- 31New Year's Eve