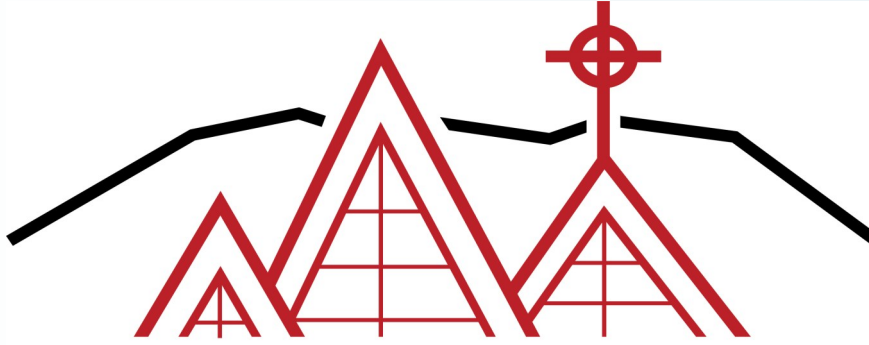


June
2026



Kunéix Hídi Northern Light United Church

*The mission of Kunéix
Hídi Northern Light
United Church is to
make disciples of Jesus
Christ through
God-centered worship
and people-centered
ministry.*

400 West 11th Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1512
(907) 586-3131
office@khnLuc.org
Christina's office hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm
Minus lunch hour

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Sunday Worship

10:00 am in person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/398434443>

By phone +1 253 215-8782 Meeting ID: 398 434 443

Scan this code to donate now



Rev. Dr. Charles Ensminger, Pastor
pastor@khnLuc.org

khnLuc.org
(907)586-3131

The Intangibles of Faith

The Trinity is a concept that would be best described as a mystery of faith. While it is not a doctrine spelled out in scripture (the word trinity itself does not occur in the Bible at all, and there are only glimpses of it as a concept in the Bible itself), it *is* a doctrine the Christian Church holds as binding. As such, the concept of the Trinity is a central tenant of our faith. However, it remains a mystery and, therefore an intangible.

Intangibility is, in my opinion, a hallmark of religion. Intangible: incorporeal, ethereal, spiritual, that which cannot be defined, held on to, or even seen. There is no gadget, no app, no hook, no gimmick, no *thing*.

Thus, worship is to be the vehicle for experiencing the intangible. The community of the congregation is to be that which becomes the place for experiencing the intangible. And that community and worship is built on other intangibles – greater intangibles, greater mysteries.

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- Summer Lunch Program
- Family Promise

The Intangibles of Faith, continued

For example, to speak of “justification by faith in the eyes of God,” to speak of “love poured out by the presence of the Holy Spirit,” - these are intangibles. Ideals, yes, but *ideas* primarily which are given form through words that seek to convey that which we cannot see, beliefs that we cannot know in the presence of God which we cannot describe.

Christian language, composed from theology, philosophy, or of Christology is used to speak in specifics regarding abstractions. It is as if we seek to measure the distance between objects in a dream after we wake up. The parameters of the dream baffle the rationality of an awakened mind and yet it is the *same* mind in which the dream was conceived.

Therefore, to speak of the Trinity is to speak of a concept that is an attempt to put definition to an idea that, like trying to hold a cloud, can never adequately work. And yet in the attempt we find an act of devotion.

Striving for definition is human nature. Recognizing that which is beyond our language and understanding pushes us to develop clarity of language, a deeper understanding, as well as an increased respect for that whose presence is awe-inspiring. The concept of the Trinity, flawed or accurate or a combination of both, is to view the theological doggedness of the Christian faith.

Perhaps to better explain this, we might consider the intangibility of music. Martin Luther once wrote, “Music is the art of the prophets.” For those who aren’t musicians, though, talking about music can be confusing if not confounding, because describing music is no small task. For example, try to *describe* a sound or a musical note. You can sing it, hum it, or even pronounce the rhythm of a piece, but you can never actually describe music.

To try to describe music or how and why a piece of music elicits emotion usually leads to long, awkward pauses that end in phrases like, “I don’t know what it is, but I am moved by it.”

The philosopher Thomas Carlyle once wrote, “Who is there that, in logical words, can express the effect music has on us? A kind of inarticulate, unfathomable speech, which leads us to the edge of the infinite, and lets us for moments gaze into that!”

We are moved by music. It speaks where words cannot, hence the difficulty in describing it. It exists, but it is a mystery, and thanks be to God for it. It is intangible. So is the mystery of the Trinity.

When we gather in places of worship the mystery surrounds us, reverberates, and echoes within and around us. Should we work to whittle down the intangible mysteries into tangible facts or objects to which we can pick up or put down we devalue them and do ourselves a great disservice.

Instead, the church should be a place where we are reminded that we speak of mysteries which are intended to be objects of contemplation. The intangibles of faith are those which allow us to glimpse truths beyond what we think we know. There, then, is where we find that intangible mystery that is the presence of God.

Peace be with you.
Pastor Charles

50th Anniversary Celebration



Friday, June 5, 2026, 5-7 PM

KHNLUC Memorial Hall
400 W. 11th Street
Juneau, AK

Please join Margaret and Allan MacKinnon as we celebrate 50 years! We'll have hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and cake at the reception. No gifts, please! Your presence is enough.

RSVP to margaret.mackinnon@gmail.com



Sermon Series

Listening to my own sermons, I found that one of the points I stressed during Lent and Easter was listening to what Jesus taught. I am going to deliberately follow that thinking through the months of June and July.

6/7 Luke 6:20-36
The Blessed and the Weary

6/14 Luke 6:27-36
Concerning Behavior

6/21 Luke 6:37-38
As It Might Be

6/28 Luke 6:46-49
Rocks and Sand

Baby Regalia Contest

The Church (through Native Ministries and Healing Task Force Committees) is sponsoring 2 year old Waylon Hills, son of Lexi and Andrew Hills, members of KHNLUC, for the Baby Regalia Contest. His regalia is being made by his Aunties. Pictures will be posted in the next newsletter.



Today I officially retired from 33 years of teaching with the last ten years as a Reading Interventionist at Montessori. Those years were healing, exciting, and loving. Thank you staff for working with me, thank you students for the gift of youth, and I'm not gone forever. You'll probably see me volunteering in the building helping to spread the joy of reading. It's been a passion since I was a Senior in high school tutoring children in a summer program. I appreciate the flowers and the students who I taught made a statement by standing up! This retirement feels right. The last one was a forced retirement for good reason, but left a tremendous hole in my being. Now the time is right and I made the choice so that I can be available to help care for my new grandson, my 101 yr. old mom, and my health.

- Sharon Denton



Student services coordinator Dr. Monica Buettel will be promoted to student services director. She has been a districtwide school psychologist at JSD since 2020.

Buettel has 25 years of experience in her field, serving in a variety of roles in Colorado and Alaska, such as a school psychologist, special education director, and traveling school psychologist. She was named 2011 Colorado School Psychologist of the Year.

She started her career as a teacher. She taught English at Jefferson Academy Junior High, Broomfield, Col., and was an elementary music teacher and band director at Cherry Creek Academy, Denver Tech Center, Colorado.

The position is open following the resignation of Dr. Jason DeCamillis, who joined the district in 2023.

Presbytery Meeting

On May 21, I went as our Church's representative to the Northwest Coast Presbytery Meeting that was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Everett.

Before the official opening of the worship and business meeting, those of us from Alaska met and shared what is happening in our churches. Ketchikan, Sitka, and Wrangell all said that the population of young people is decreasing in their schools and churches. I agreed with the problem and then shared about the installation of heat pumps, electric car charging stations and the start of the remodeling of the Walter Sobeloff Memorial Hall. Kenny from the Ketchikan Presbyterian Church expressed how grateful the church is for being able to Zoom into our service and for having Pastor Charles lead worship in person on occasion.

The opening of the business and worship meeting included a Land Acknowledgement of the Tlingit, Tsimshian and Haida peoples of Southeast Alaska as well as others represented.

Jessica Vazquez Torres used the Scripture from Isaiah 61:1-4 for her sermon "Turning the World Right-Side Up."

Rev. Laura Terasaki gave the Executive Report and announced the Jubilee Campaign: "a time to loosen what binds, to mend what is broken, to restore what was lost."

We took part in the Ordination of Amanda Sutherland as chaplain at Bethany and member of the NW Coast Presbytery.

We approved an alternative means for meeting the requirement for the Bible Content Exam by accepting an in-person oral exam to evaluate the candidate's biblical knowledge.

Outgoing Moderator Pastor Rebecca Holland led us in the Lord's Supper.

The new Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Stephanie Hamkey, was installed.

We adjourned with prayer.

Thank you for the opportunity to attend this Presbytery as your representative.

Mary Becker

Camp Champ at Eagle River United Methodist Camp

The ERUMC organized a day and overnight Camp Champ this year, May 25 - 29, 2026.

CAMP CHAMP: A camp for youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity for a "camp" experience. Targeted populations are children with incarcerated parents, children who are homeless, or children referred by our town's domestic violence shelter or school counselors. Referral only.

We have 24 children and many volunteers and counselors from the community. In addition, we have six counselors helping from Camp Penn of the Susquehanna Pennsylvania United Methodist Conference. Thanks especially to Traci Almlie, former camp manager and Program Director on the ERUMC board. The Alaska United Methodist Conference provided us with Ministry Opportunity Funds to help offer the camp. The Community of Christian Women and the church also provided support.

Annual Picnics

We host a Spring Block Party picnic to share food and fun with our neighbors in The Flats. This year's party will be Sunday, June 14 after Worship. Please bring a dish to share.

We celebrate the end of summer with a church picnic after worship service at Sandy Beach, complete with lots of food, beach walks, and an all-around good time. This year's picnic will be Sunday, August 30 after worship. Please bring a dish to share (no glass).



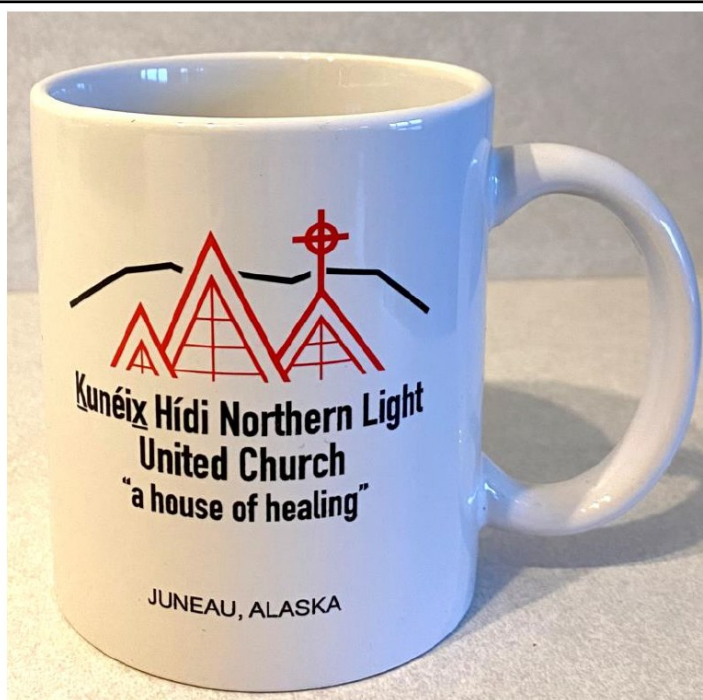
A Plan for Indigenous Ministries

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, Director of the Circle of Indigenous Ministries
Friday, June 5th at 2:00 - 3:30 pm
K̄unéix̄ Hídi Northern Light United Church

The Circle of Indigenous Ministries supports Native American and Indigenous churches, fellowships, and ministry partners of the United Methodist Church across the Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, and Washington through resourcing, coaching, consultation, and friendship. This workshop will explore the 10-year commitment to Truth, Repair, Self-Determination, and Indigenous Leadership, and the ongoing work of healing historic trauma, dismantling racism, and strengthening Native-led ministry and relationships throughout the four state region.

Rev. Dr. Allen Buck, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, brings deep wisdom and experience to this important conversation as the Circle continues building mutual, healing, and life-affirming relationships with Native and Indigenous peoples both within and beyond the church.

Rev. Kristi McGuire
Superintendent & Director of Connectional Ministries
Alaska UMC Conference



KHNLUC Deacons have donated 36 coffee cups to the Glory Hall.

“K̄unéix̄ Hídi means “a house of healing.” We chose this name after careful consultation with traditional elders and experts and prayerful discernment.

K̄unéix̄ Hídi reflects the transformative nature of God’s love and Jesus’s teachings, and our commitment to healing the wounds caused to our neighbors and siblings in Christ by racism and injustice.”

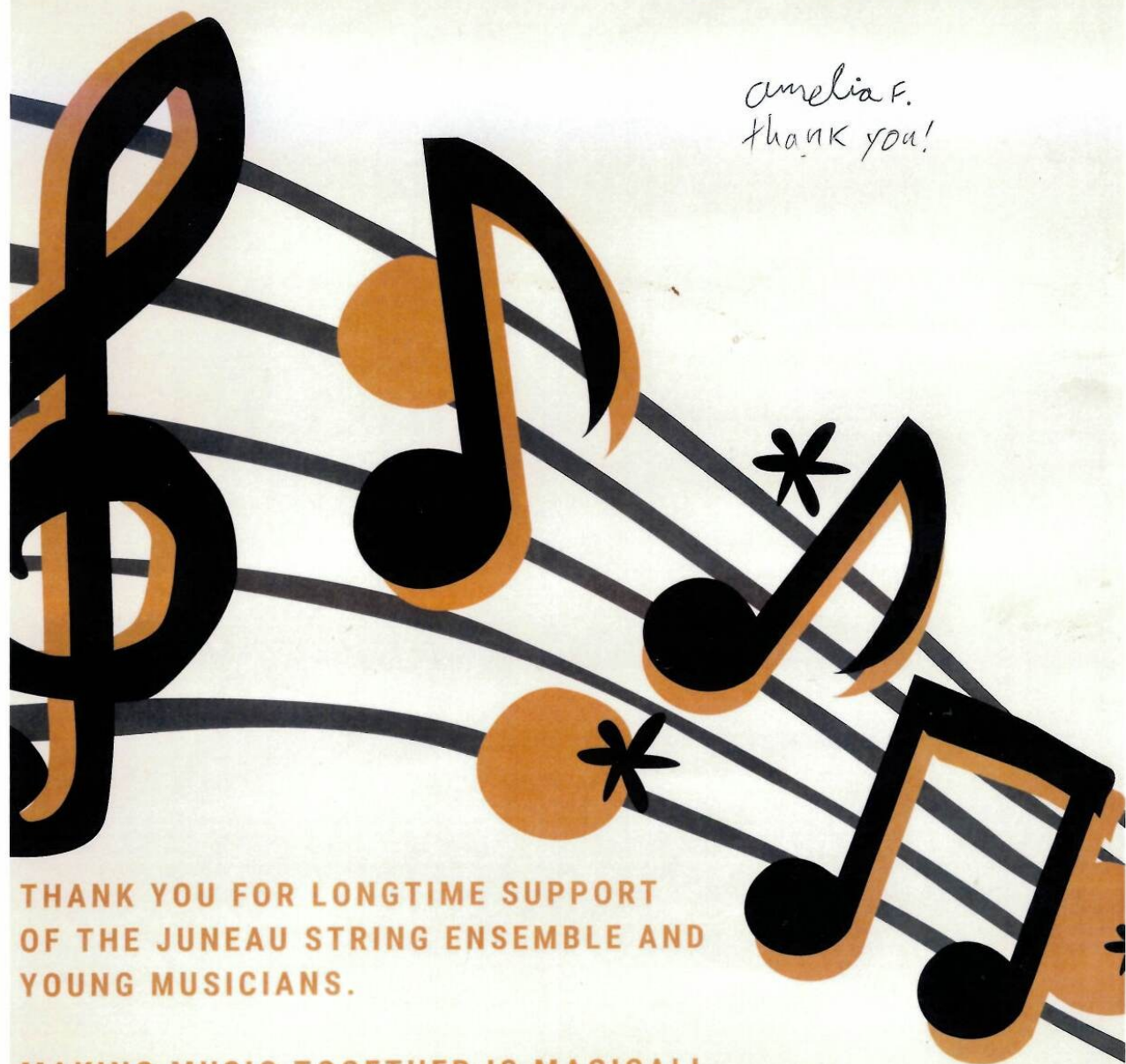
(Source KHNLUC Website)

Thank you!
you gave thank you!
@am/mta
Linn.
Liesel Thier

Northern Lights Church

**THANK
YOU!**

amelia F.
thank you!



THANK YOU FOR LONGTIME SUPPORT
OF THE JUNEAU STRING ENSEMBLE AND
YOUNG MUSICIANS.

MAKING MUSIC TOGETHER IS MAGICAL!

“Think & Learn – Before You Act. When Stories Don’t Align”

Facilitated by Rev. Murray Crookes
Thursday, June 4th at 6:00 pm
Douglas Public Library

Rev. Murray Crookes, pastor of Sitka United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church of Ketchikan, will facilitate an evening of reflection, listening, and conversation centered on the complexity of storytelling, truth-telling, and how we respond when histories and lived experiences challenge what we have been told or previously understood.

Pastor Murray is a Saint Lawrence Island (SLI) Yupik man. He brings personal stories shaped by both Indigenous and white colonial heritage, speaking honestly about the conflicting worldviews that can emerge when navigating multiple histories and identities. Murray’s grandmother, Katherine Anderson, survived boarding school and tuberculosis before moving from the Seward sanitarium to Sitka to become a nurse. Because his family settled in Southeast Alaska before ANCSA, they became members of Native corporations including Sealaska and SheeAtiká. Murray reflects on what it means to be an SLI Yupik man living and serving in Tlingit country.

This workshop is not a behavioral health session or clinical training. Rather, it is an invitation to pause, think, learn, and listen, especially for those hearing Alaska Native narratives of history for the first time. Through story-sharing and guided reflection, participants will have space to process, ask questions, and consider how we move forward with humility, curiosity, and care when stories do not align.

Summer Lunch Program 2026

June 1 - August 18, 2026

Help out with our Summer Lunch Program

Volunteer opportunity for our summer lunch program. If you’ve helped out before cooking, prepping on the day of service, or helping serve meals at the Geneva Woods Housing Complex, or think you might enjoy spending time with friends engaged in these tasks, it is time to sign up again. Some training is required, but it can be done online.

6/1 - 8/18 except Friday, July 3. The food preparers help from 10-12 and the servers from 11:45-1. Please contact Christina Maddox at office@khnluc.org or call 907-586-3131 to get details on necessary training. Contact Deb at debreifenstein@gmail.com, Freda at fmwestman@gmail.com, or call Deb 907-723-1879 to sign up in person. We would love to talk with you. You may sign up under “Serve” on our church website:

<https://khnluc.org/serve/>

Kelly Kuiken has been hired as the summer lunch provider



Though it's still cold and raining , the tulips and daffodils are blooming and the time has come when K̄unéix Hidi Northern Light United Church will be hosting a family of 8 for Family Promise Juneau at the House of Promise in the Valley May 31st through June 13th. The hosting requirements have changed now that there is a permanent site. We now only need to provide 3 cooked meals each week. The family will cook or reheat meals the other four dinners. And as was stated before, providing an overnight host is no longer required.

As of the writing of this article we only have hosts for 4 of the 6 meals that will be provided during the first two weeks of June. We still need dinner hosts for June 7th and 10th.

Many thanks to those people who have already donated to KHNLC's Food Security Fund so that we can purchase breakfast, lunch and dinner items (for the four dinners we do not provide). Special thanks to Anne Standerwick, Carol Barril, Melody Millard and others who have donated games for the House of Promise.

KHNLC will be hosting for one-week period August 2nd – 8th.

Financial contributions to the K̄unéix Hidi Northern Light Food Security Fund help us buy grocery items for the families. You may donate on-line at the church website or by mail. Please specify that the donation is for the Food Security Fund.

Financial support for FPJ is always welcome. Try the easy on-line option through Family Promise Juneau website. <https://www.familypromisejuneau.org/donate>

FPJ has enrolled with the [PayPal Giving Fund](#). We will now receive 100% of your donations with no fees taken out.

Call Family Promise Juneau: (907) 586-0160
Or mail check to: PO Box 32775, Juneau, AK 99803

Or you can contact: Linda McCargar,
K̄unéix Hidi Family Promise Coordinator
@ 971-241-0534 or ducky6670@gmail.com
or Pastor Charles Ensminger who is a Board member of FPJ

United Women in Faith Assembly 2026



Jane Ginter just returned from attending the United Women in Faith Assembly 2026 which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Twelve women from Alaska attended the event which had 4,000 people in attendance. The theme was “**Dream it, Believe it, Do it!**”

The United Women in Faith Assembly 2030 is officially scheduled for **May 17–19, 2030, in Richmond, Virginia**. This quadrennial gathering brings together thousands of members to participate in workshops, worship, and social justice advocacy.

The Alaska United Women in Faith Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, Sep 19 – Sunday, Sep 20 at United Methodist Church in Chugiak. All women are welcome to attend. Please contact Jane Ginter for more information.

Thank yous

Many people and groups are involved in making sure things happen at KHNLUC. Each month we would like to recognize some of those individuals and groups for their special services. Special thanks to:

*those who served as Liturgists: George Partlow, Lucy Wall, Jean Ann Alter, Laura Doogan, Carol Barril

*those who served as Greeters/ushers: Jane Ginter, Natalie Norberg, Karen Lipson, Janet Kussart, Laura Doogan

*Those who provided flowers: Denise Carroll (X2), Kathleen Jensen, Janet Kussart, Elizabeth Wheeler

*Mary Borthwick, Karen Dillon, Marianne Mills, John Pugh, Carol Barril, Pat Gorman, Jan and Don Kussart, April Rezendes, Patsy Wright and Jim Alter for their help in counting and recording financial gifts received by KHNLUC.

If you have a suggestion for a thank you, call Christina at the church office, 586-3131 or e-mail her at office@khnluc.org.

Sign Up!

You can be apart of what makes our worship together a good experience.

Our web site, <https://khnluc.org/>, has a section to help with worship. You can also tell Christina to sign you up if you prefer not to use the computer.

Everyone is invited to be part of our worship service.

The liturgist reads the scripture and helps lead the service with the pastor. Sign up to be a liturgist on the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall or call the office. You can serve as liturgist even if you worship with us via Zoom.

The ushers greet people before the service, pass out bulletins, pass the offering plate, and assist with the prayers and announcements from the congregation. [Sign up to be an usher.](#)

The altar flowers are provided by the congregation. [Sign up to provide flowers for worship.](#)

You can provide flowers even if you worship via Zoom. Flowers can be brought to the church before Sunday if that is more convenient for you. Ask Christina for the new key code to enter the side door on A Street.

We encourage you to think ahead and plan to help out. Pick a special day for providing flowers to honor a loved one. Maybe sign up once a month to be liturgist or usher.



3	Doug Standerwick
7	Dorothy Wasley
8	Rich Lyon John Doogan
9	Marsha Smith
11	Linda McCargar
12	Barbara Streveler Maxine Richert
13	Brad Hartman
16	Ginny Palmer
18	Steve Zimmerman
19	Yuri Nagle
20	Catrina Mitchell Sophia Pugh
21	Steve White
22	Carlton Smith Bob Coghill
25	Achiya Alexander Hope
29	Geoffrey Alter Reveille Cryderman

JUNE 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 5:00 Auburn Board Reception	2 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Wrangell Overnight Group	3 10:00 Finance Committee via Zoom 5:30 Chancel Choir Wrangell Overnight Group	4 5:00 Committee on Property Management Wrangell Overnight Group	5 7:30 Men's Breakfast 2:00 A Plan for Indigenous Ministry Wrangell Overnight Group 5:00 MacKinnon 50th Anniversary Celebration	6 Wrangell Overnight Group
7 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group Wrangell Overnight Group	8	9 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Chili	10 5:30 Chancel Choir	11 5:30 Council	12 7:30 Men's Breakfast	13
14 10:00 Worship Neighborhood Picnic 5:15 Youth Group	15	16 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons	17 5:30 Chancel Choir	18 1:00 Social Justice & Service Committee	19 7:30 Men's Breakfast	20
21 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group	22	23 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons Glory Hall Spaghetti	24 5:30 Chancel Choir	25	26 7:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Healing Task Force	27
28 10:00 Worship 5:15 Youth Group	29	30 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Al-Anon 2:30 Violin Lessons				