

# THE MESSENGER

May 2023



## LETTERS FROM THE PASTORS

Dear Ramsey Saints,

In Luke 11:2-4, we read, "Jesus said, This is how you should pray. 'Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.'" Later Luke, the same one who quoted Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, describes the early Church, the new believers in Jesus Christ this way in Acts 2:42, "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper) and to prayer."

When you pray, pray this way and the believers devoted themselves to prayer. Both of these verses are lessons in and acknowledgement of the power of prayer. Prayer is a foundational aspect of the mission and ministry of Ramsey Church. We take prayer seriously because we fully believe that God hears our prayers. Beginning with our April 30 bulletins we have moved the (fairly long) prayer list that was included each week and replaced it with the more immediate needs of our Ramsey Church family and those beyond our walls – a much shorter list. The longer list of on-going concerns will now be shared each Wednesday in the Ramsey Mid-Week Uplift that is emailed to everyone and in the monthly newsletter (YES – look for it in this May newsletter!). As we have prepared to make this transition from one way of sharing requests for prayers to another way to do so, the conversations were centered on how we could best be "circling" those in need of prayer with our love and support. One of the greatest powers of prayer is the connection it gives the one who prays with the one(s) in need of prayer. It has often been said that it is impossible to stay mad with someone for whom we are praying. When we pray one for another, we join our hearts and minds with them.

Ramsey Church, thank you for being people who are devoted to prayer. Thank you for sharing your needs and the needs of others you know with our church family so that we can "circle" those needs in prayer, love and support. Each morning my husband, Scott, and I pray for you – the saints of Ramsey Church. We likewise feel your daily prayers for us which sustain us along the way. "This is how you should pray".... just do it!

With transforming hope,  
Claudia

From a Pastoral Corner,

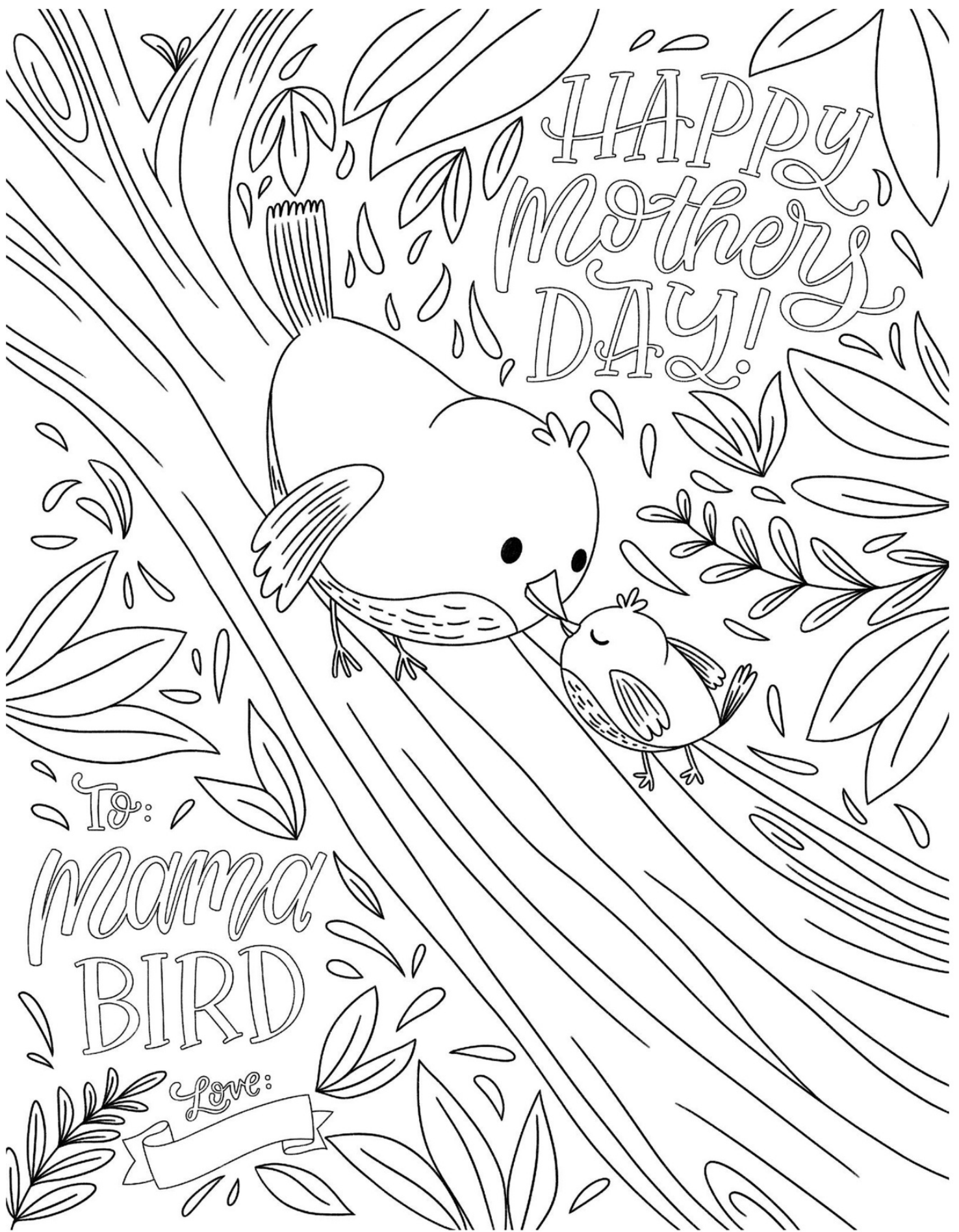
During this semester at Wesley, I felt challenged by one spiritual discipline Henri Nouwen calls "From Resentment to Gratitude." The reason why this practice caught my attention was because this was my first time hearing about it. I praise God for the guidance that spiritual practices bring to my life, which helps me stay connected with God and in good relationships with neighbors.

Henri Nouwen, in one of his books on spiritual practices, shares his experience after reading the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard from Mathew 20:1-16 "...the parable of the late arrivers angers me greatly! Why would the landowner pay those who came for the last hour the same as those who worked the whole day in the vineyard? It's not fair; it's not right. If the landowner did not want to pay the full-day workers more, at least he could have paid them first and sent them away so that they would not see how much the latecomers got! But no! Right in the face of those early comers who worked the whole day, the landowner pays a day's wage to the latecomers too, thus creating an occasion for resentment" Then, after reflecting on this parable over a long period, Henri Nouwen continues saying, "I have come to realize how self-righteous I am, and how resentful I feel about latecomers receiving the same wage a someone like me an early comer to the vineyard of faith (pg. 58). Then, I hear Nouwen asking, what is resentment? "Resentment," he said, "is one of the most vicious qualities of life because it makes human relationships and community life so difficult. It prevents us from seeking forgiveness and robs us of our joy. It takes away our inner freedom to act creatively and makes us cling to negative feelings as our only way to find an identity."

On Saturday, April 22, some members of the worship service and el servicio de adoracion joined the neighborhood dinner team for a moment of koinonia. Dinner was served, and the time for learning began. Three languages were heard Spanish, English, and the most excellent language of all, LOVE. Those sitting around the tables showed effort and willingness to learn a few new words in English and in Spanish. Words like Grace = Gracia, forgiveness = perdón, love = amor, were learned on that evening. As always, JESUS remained the same, and I also mean the Word JESUS spelled the same in both languages, but different only in pronunciation. As Pastor Claudia very frequently celebrates, YAY GOD! Thank you for diversity and color, shapes and forms, languages, and races. What else can we expect from the Creative Spirit of God? Let's keep JESUS in all our gatherings and in two different languages, let's praise His name in harmony, and LOVE = AMOR, which is the best language of all. Four letters in both languages.

Henri Nouwen reminded me that "when you cling to complaints, [the] heart gets full of resentment, and there is no room for God to enter and set us free" (pg. 62).

In faith, love, and grace,  
Pastora Norma  
Your companion on the way





### **RAMSEY REFRESH**

There are no projects scheduled for the month of May. In June, I would like to gather several people to help review all of the silk flower arrangements and table decorations in the Mission Room and possibly other places within the church. They are used to decorate the coffee time table, 55+ tables and Fellowship Hall and other events. We have been given new arrangements and possibly need to retire some of the older/worn ones. If you would like to help, please contact Joan McGowan at (804) 513-8540. or joanmcgowan56@gmail.com

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### **NO SUMMER COFFEE TIME**

There will be no Coffee Time in June, July, or August to give those who offer it each week a break for the summer. Coffee Time will resume on Sunday, September 3. If you would be interested in providing Coffee Time refreshments in the fall, contact Ann Hallinan at 804-271-4758.

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### **NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER**

Ramsey's next Neighborhood Supper will be Saturday, May 27 at 5:00 pm in the CLC. Come join us!

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### **55+ LUNCHEON**

We would like to invite you to the 55+ luncheon on Friday, May 12 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please give your RSVP to the church office (804-276-4628) by May 10. Bring a friend!



### **It is Graduation season!**

If you would like to have your graduate acknowledged in our June Newsletter, please submit the information below (along with a picture if desired) to the church office by noon on May 16, 2023.

Name:

School:

If college/university graduate, please list degree/major:

Plans after graduation:



## CONFERENCE KITS --- HYGIENE KIT AND/OR FEMININE HYGIENE KIT

Every year we are asked to participate in helping to buy items for the kits that our conference are asking for. Last year it was Hygiene Kits and Cleaning Buckets. This year it is Hygiene Kits and Feminine Hygiene Kits. Below are the items you may purchase and bring to church during the month of May and we ask that you put them on the table at the double glass doors at the back of the CLC Lobby. If you would rather donate money, please do, and make sure on your check you mark it for the conference kits items. If you have any questions, please give me a call, Sue Newman, at 804-271-0230. Thank you so much ahead of time. Last year was a wonderful success with what was donated to our conference.

### **Hygiene Kits -----** One Hand Towel (15 x 25 - 17 x 27 inches)

- . No Kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
  - . One Washcloth
- . No Kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber washcloths
  - . One comb
- . Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
  - . No pocket combs or picks
- . Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
  - . One toenail or fingernail clipper
- . No emery boards or metal nail files
  - . One Adult toothbrush
- . Do not remove from packaging
- . Personal advertising not acceptable
- . Bath size soap (3oz. or larger)
  - . No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- . Do not remove from packaging
- . 10 adhesive bandages (3/4 by 3 inches)
- . Common household bandages acceptable

### **Feminine Hygiene Kits -----** . One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

- . Two 2oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- . Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
  - . One travel pack of wet ones
- . 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency)
  - . Unscented
- . 10 Sanitary Napkins
  - . Unscented
- . Long Super ultra thin
- . Bath - size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
  - . No Ivory or Jergen's soap
- . Do not remove from packaging
- . Six laundry detergent sheets

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.

Hebrew 11:1



**5/12**

55+ Luncheon

**5/27**

Neighborhood Supper

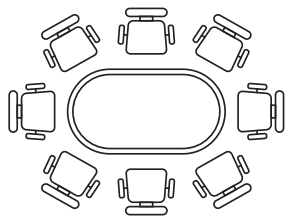
**5/28**

Pentecost



**GIVING QR  
CODE**

Scan the QR code above to be directed to our online giving resource!



## LEADERSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

All are invited to attend board meetings in person, or virtually online using ZOOM software. Please call the church office for the link. Leadership Board will meet on the following dates/times:

Tuesday, May 16, 6-7:30 PM **(ON ZOOM ONLY)**

Tuesday, June 20, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, July 18, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, August 15, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, September 19, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, October 17, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, November 21, 6-7:30 PM

Tuesday, December 19, 6-7:30 PM

If anyone wishes to receive a copy of the meeting notes, please contact the church office at 804-276-4628.

Please pray for your leaders that God will provide a vision, wisdom and patience as we work through this transition year.



## RAMSEY KIDS & IGNITE YOUTH

Looking to serve as a voluntary within the Children and Youth Ministry at Ramsey? Please scan the above QR code and it will take you directly to the Online Volunteer Slip where you can fill it out online and submit!

Ramsey Kids and Ignite continue to welcome new children and youth to join us every Sunday at 11:00AM. During the month of April, our children and youth participated in enacting the story of Jesus. His journey to the Cross as well the celebration of his resurrection. We had two children join us all the way from North Carolina who came specifically to participate in this play. A special thank you to ALL the children who participated as well as all the adults who helped in making this performance possible! These upcoming weeks, we will be focusing on Vacation Bible school. More details to come!







## **RAMSEY MEMBERS WITH ON-GOING HEALTH CONCERNS**

Virginia Abbott  
Alice Alford  
Matt Amason  
Betty Lou Brame  
Norma Britt  
Peggy Burch  
Mabel Campbell  
Melinda Campbell  
Mitzie Conner  
Ralph Conner  
Lois Crafton  
Dot Davis  
Sherry Fox  
Cicero Gainer  
Elnora Holmes  
Amy Salley  
Janet Sheek  
Nell Simmons  
Darlene Thomas  
Helen Wallace  
Curtis Walsh

## **FRIENDS WITH ON-GOING HEALTH CONCERNS**

Alice Alford  
Mitch Early  
Jimmy Edwards  
Jackie Gray  
Nancy Hulon  
Debbie Mullins  
Frances Owen  
Sara Katherine Reid  
Vance Richardson  
Sheri Ruggles  
Tim Ruggles  
Ellie Thomas  
Iris Ward

## **OTHER NEEDS**

Justin Chamberlain  
Brother of Tiffany Stone, prayers for life choices



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Cameron	May 2
Shirley Lawrence	May 3
Mike Southard	May 7
Daniel Bissett	May 8
Debbie Garrett	May 8
Harry Newman	May 15
Kathie Atkinson	May 18
David Sweat	May 18
Roger Hoover	May 21
Rebecca Bonilla	May 25
Linda Wilkes	May 25
Donna Cottrell	May 27
Rayven Brown	May 28
Fernando Salazar	May 30

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Erin & Matt Shrader-Amazon	May 3
Roger & Nancy Hoover	May 7
Laura & Jason McHale	May 7



# May 2023

May 2023 June 2023

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 30	May 1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	BUCCS Brunswick Stew (Pavilion, Woodfin Building, CLC)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	2:00pm McGuire Park Circle	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	8:00am CPR Recertification (Room 105)
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	1:00pm BUCC Brunswick Stew prep (CLC Kitchen, Woodfin School (clt)	8:00am TOVA Recertification
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6:30pm Generation of Dancers		6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	2:00pm BUCCS Brunswick Stew
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am DSP (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	6:00pm Amateur Sports	2:00pm Nina Woodfin Circle (Rm 105)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	12:00pm 55+ (Fellowship Hall) School (clt)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6:00pm Amateur Sports			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	8:00am CPR New (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	12:00pm Prayer Conference (Sanctuary)
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	6:00pm Amateur Sports	6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	1:00pm Baby Shower (CLC)
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship Hall)	7:00pm Prayer Conference School (clt)	7:00pm Prayer Conference (Sanctuary)	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	3:30pm Neighborhood Supper (CLC)
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	6:00pm Amateur Sports	6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship Hall)			
3:00pm Graduation celebration		9:00pm Dance Practice (CLC)				
28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2	3
10:00am Worship Service (Sanctuary)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	7:00am Care-a-Van	Group Counseling (Rm 203)	
10:30am Escuela Biblica	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	5:30pm Estudio Biblico (Room 105)	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	11:00am Prayer Meeting/Bible Study	9:00am Pickleball (CLC)	
11:00am Ignite (CLC)	10:00am Neighborhood Bible Study (Rm 105)	6:00pm Amateur Sports	6:00pm Amateur Sports Company (CLC)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	
12:30pm Servicio de Adoración (Sanctuary)	6:00pm James River Home School (clt)	6:30pm Generation of Dancers	6:30pm Generation of Dancers (Fellowship Hall)			