

# COMMUNITY NEWS

News & Events for the City of Vestavia Hills • March 2019

A joint publication of the City of Vestavia Hills, Vestavia Hills City Schools & Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2019

- 7 Design Review Board  
Executive Conference Room, 6 p.m.
- 11 Senior Citizens Luncheon  
Dogwood Room, 11:30 a.m.
- 11 City Council Meeting  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 12 Chamber Luncheon  
Vestavia Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Planning and Zoning Commission  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 18 Council Work Session  
Executive Conference Room, 5 p.m.
- 19 Parks and Recreation Board  
Executive Conference Room, 7 a.m.
- 21 Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Council Chamber, 6 p.m.
- 25 Vestavia Hills City Schools  
Spring Break begins
- 25\* City Council Meeting  
Council Chamber 6 p.m.
- 26\* Library Board Meeting  
Library in the Forest, 4 p.m.
- 28\* Friends of the Library  
Library in the Forest, 10 a.m.

\* Due to Spring Break (March 25-29), these meetings may be rescheduled/ canceled.



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Ashley C. Curry, Vestavia Hills Mayor

There are many exciting things going on in the City!

In January, 854 citizens responded to the “What are Your Priorities for 2019?” survey in the Vestavia Hills Listens portal. Citizens answered various questions and ranked the quality of the City services (public safety, parks and recreation, library, city streets, etc.). The information obtained from this survey was used by the Council in establishing priorities for the 2019 strategic plan.

On February 4, Congressman Gary Palmer hosted the annual U.S. Service Academy Nominee Reception at Vestavia Hills City Hall. I am always amazed at the number of our high school seniors that are nominees for the different service academies. Some of our students receive offers from multiple academies. This is a tremendous honor for our students and a credit to the Vestavia Hills

school system. Thank you, Congressman Palmer, for recognizing our students and promoting the service academies.

The Infrastructure and Community Spaces Plan will proceed to the design development phase. In fact, this topic was discussed during the Council’s strategic planning session held on February 4 and 5. By the time this article is published, you should see progress with the Crosshaven Road improvements as well as definitive design renderings for Wald Park, Cahaba Heights ballfields, the Community Building and improvements to the Sicard Hollow Athletic Complex (SHAC).

Vestavia Hills will host its second Freedom from Addiction Coalition (FFAC) awareness breakfast to address the epidemic of opioid addiction that is sweeping the nation, our state and our cities. The awareness breakfast will be

– Mayor’s Message continued on page 3



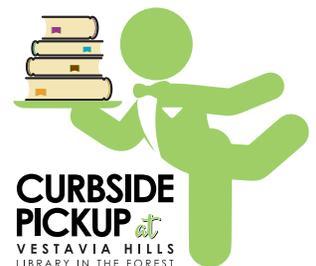
## CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Downes, Vestavia Hills City Manager

“My pleasure!” Where do you regularly hear that? Of course, Chick-fil-A! It is part of a corporate

brand emphasizing customer service. Have you ever heard of the “Ritz-Carlton Approach?” The luxury hotel chain epitomizes finding a way to please its customers even in the most difficult of circumstances. These are just two examples of private entities who work very hard at sustaining a positive customer experience. Most people would laugh if one tried to establish a governmental organization as being like these two companies. Well, believe it or not, our senior staff in the City of Vestavia Hills continually tries to exemplify a model of positive customer experience. Are we perfect? No. Are we improving? Yes.

I would like to brag a little bit this month on the Library in the Forest – our world class library run by world class people. This month they are implementing “Curbside Service” at the library. By following some simple instructions, a patron does not need to leave his/her vehicle when returning a loaned item. Pull up, dial a number and bingo – our staff will greet you curbside. Given the fact that our city has a very large number of seniors, I see this effort as a great



– Manager’s Report continued on page 3



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Todd Freeman, Ed.D., Vestavia Hills City Schools Superintendent

### The Courage to be Creative

The primary goal in education should be to ignite and motivate the natural curiosity to learn. For children, playing invariably brings out the creative aspects of their personality. When they are having fun or enjoying doing something, they are also engaged in learning at the deepest, most impactful level. As an adult, I can attest that this never really changes. At any age, gaining and applying knowledge works best when we enjoy the task before us and find meaning in it.

The World Economic Forum recently published an article about the role of technology in the global economy. Part of their study included results of a survey on what students most enjoyed doing in school. The top responses were participating in performing arts and computer science classes. This comes as no surprise given that both of these opportunities encourage creativity.

Vestavia Hills City Schools is committed to providing opportunities for our students to learn without limits. A strategic way to accomplish this is to embolden our students' creativity and curiosity. Accordingly, we are constantly envisioning how to support a school environment where students enjoy what they do, find relevance in their work, and learn.



One area that continues to experience growing interest is robotics. Students in elementary, middle, and high school are increasingly participating in robotics classes and competitions. They are immersed in computer programming that sharpens critical thinking skills and the ability to solve complex problems. They are sharpening their communication

and leadership skills through collaboration with classmates.

Robotics teams in VHCS have been very successful in recent competitions, and the number of students participating continues to grow. Teams are required to exhibit excellence in design thinking, engineering, and budgeting. Students work in teams which reinforces the role of individual and collective responsibilities. These competitive events are a model for creating engaging learning experiences that students enjoy.

Courageous creativity is the fuel that drives inventive, ingenuitive, and idealistic thinking. It is an important aspect of solving problems that will advance society. Robotics is one of many ways that our students can use the gift of creativity that they all possess.

I encourage you to stop by a school and see students having fun – and learning!



## VHHS CHORAL GROUP TO PERFORM AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Just Singin', the Vestavia Hills High School famed acapella singing group, has been invited to sing at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Conference on March 1 in Kansas City. The group is one of only 25 choirs selected from a pool of 225 choirs from around the globe.

This is the first time in the 60-year history of this major national music conference that an Alabama public school choir has been invited to perform, according to VHHS choral department director Megan Wicks-Rudolph. "This is an unbelievable achievement for this group," said Dr. Megan Rudolph. "There are groups that try for years to get invited to sing at this conference. It's so humbling to be chosen to share the stage with some of the world's best choirs," she said.

Formed in 2006, Just Singin' is a select group of tenth through twelfth grade vocalists performing acapella pop music. The group sings at community events throughout Vestavia Hills.

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## Mayor's Message *continued from page 1*

held at Vestavia Hills United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 a.m.

The latest statistics show that in the United States, drug overdose deaths involving opioids rose from 8,048 in 1999 to 47,600 in 2017 (according to the National Center for Health Statistics at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). According to Governor Kay Ivey's State of Alabama Opioid Action Plan, the rate of overdose deaths increased by 82% from 2006 through 2014. During these years, 5,128 overdose deaths were reported in Alabama. In 2016, 741 overdose deaths were reported, representing a rate of 15.3 persons per 100,000.

This is an opportunity to learn about the opioid/heroin crisis and get information for your loved ones or someone you know. Our FFAC is committed to getting the information out and connecting citizens in need with the agencies that can assist them. If you would like a private meeting with any of the agencies, this can be done after the presentation. Please share this information with your friends and through your churches. Together we can make a difference in this ongoing battle of drug addiction. I want to personally thank all of the agencies that partner with us.

## Manager's Message *continued from page 1*

example of taking care of the customer. This falls in line with many other efforts at the library to attend to its customer in a special way. Issuing passports, providing exercise bikes, Apple computer platforms and being environmental stewards show our community that we care. These are actions unique to our library. Public servants really do care!

This is not solely present at the library. Last month, a public works crew stopped to replace a tire on a resident's car near Highway 31. The administrative offices try hard to answer calls with a live voice during the work day. Our park maintenance crews stay at work beyond work hours to assist in a last second need at the Civic Center. Our police and fire department officials don't just enforce laws and fight fires. They are continually attending to the needs of our residents and visitors, whether it is simply providing directions or generously giving of their own income to help the neediest of the community.

Ok then, what should we call the customer centered focus of Vestavia Hills? I will suggest – Living a Life Above! We, the staff of Vestavia Hills, will continue to strive hard to be consistent in these efforts. I hope you notice our sincere efforts whether it means your issue has been resolved or falls in a more difficult category. I wish you the best as we all come out of hibernation.

A graphic for an egg hunt. It features a central blue Easter egg with a white and pink bunny ear on top. The text "EGG HUNT" is written in large, bold, orange letters across the egg, and "in the Hills" is written in a purple, cursive font below it. The background is a light green with a repeating pattern of various Easter eggs.

The Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce is excited to present the 2nd Annual Egg Hunt in the Hills! March 18-April 12, we will be having an Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt around Vestavia Hills.

- On different days and times we will be posting a clue on our Facebook page with the location of an egg.
- The first person to find each egg, will win a prize donated from Chamber member businesses.\*
- When you find the egg, take a picture of it and post it in the comments of the clue. If you do not use Facebook, you will need to call the Chamber Office within 1 hour of finding the egg, otherwise that egg will be void and a replacement will be hidden.
- If the egg is at a business, you will turn it in to their staff to collect the prize.
- Eggs found in public areas, such as the Library in the Forest or City Hall, will need to be brought to the Chamber Office to receive the prize.

Then on **April 13**, at 9:00 am at Byrd Park, children 3rd grade and younger can join us for an Easter Egg Hunt! Bring your basket to hunt for eggs filled with candy and small prizes!

Visit [www.vestaviiahills.org](http://www.vestaviiahills.org) for more info.

\*1 Prize Egg Per Household



## PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

### NEW MERKEL SENIOR CENTER

Monthly programs, events and guest speakers;  
Games EVERYDAY!

**Monday-Friday:** Fun, Fellowship & Lunch

**Tuesday:** Tai Chi & Table Games, 12:30 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Students from VHECH visit New Merkel House for a “Getting to Know You” lunch

**Wednesday & Friday:** Bingo, 11:00 a.m.

**Thursday:** Tech Talk Thursdays

**March 5:** Mardi Gras trivia, history & games

**March 12:** Art with Tina Chaffin

**March 18:** St. Patrick’s Day trivia, history & games

More information, including the **full calendar of Senior Programming activities**, can be found on the City website at <https://vhal.org/community/senior-living/> or by contacting Melanie Perry at 205.967.5977.

### POOL PROGRAMMING AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY:

5:15-6 p.m. **Group Swim Lessons.** For children ages 3-12.  
Session 1: March 4-7 – one week session, \$60  
Session 2: March 18-21 & 25-28 – two week session, \$120  
*Missed classes are non-refundable and cannot be made up.*  
To register, text 205.910.9092.

#### MONDAY & WEDNESDAY:

6:35-7:15 p.m. **Stroke Development.** 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

#### TUESDAY & THURSDAY:

6-6:30 p.m. **Ai Chi.** 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

6:35-7:15 p.m. **Aqua Fitness.** Cardio, muscle conditioning and stretching. 8 sessions for \$35 or \$5 per session.

#### SATURDAY:

10-10:45 a.m. **Group Swim Lessons.** For children ages 3-12.  
New group lessons will begin every 2 weeks.  
The cost is \$120 for the 8 group lessons.  
*Missed classes are non-refundable and cannot be made up.*  
To register, text 205.910.9092.

10-10:30 a.m. **Private & Semi Privates Swim Lessons.**  
For more information, text 205.910.9092.

10:30-11 a.m. **Private & Semi Private Swim Lessons.**  
For more information, text 205.910.9092.

## SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES



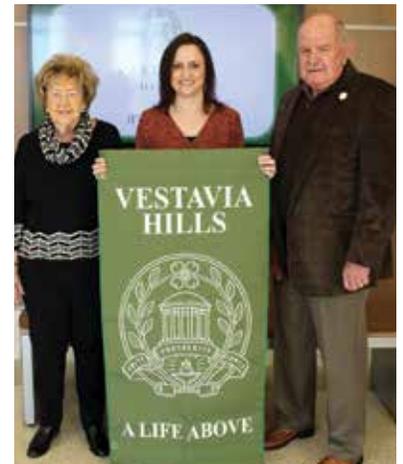
Each day in America, lives are saved by functioning smoke detectors, but statistics show that 60% of fire fatality victims do not have a working smoke detector. Standard smoke detectors rely heavily on the ability to hear, but the Hearing Loss Association of America estimates

that approximately 48 million Americans suffer from some degree of hearing loss. In these cases, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Vestavia Hills Fire Department recommend that smoke detectors for the hearing impaired be installed so that loved ones are alerted wherever they may be in the home. Smoke detectors with strobe lights may be used to notify the hearing impaired in the living spaces of homes where they would normally be awake. In order to alert residents when they are sleeping, the NFPA recommends a bed-shaker device which vibrates the resident’s pillow or bed to alert them to evacuate the structure. Another option for a resident with partial hearing is to use a loud, mixed or low-pitched device designed for the hearing impaired.

### CITY BANNERS EXTEND WARMTH & WELCOME

Eighty-five new City banners, designed and purchased by Vestavia Hills Beautification Board, are making their appearance around town. The banners, created to extend warmth and welcome, feature the City’s logo along with our motto, “A Life Above.” They can be found along the Highway 31 corridor, as well as the Cahaba Heights shopping district and Rocky Ridge business district.

The Vestavia Hills Beautification Board is a working board sponsored by the City of Vestavia Hills whose purpose is to create and maintain various beautification projects around our city.



*Board members who chaired this project, pictured left to right: Anne Boston, Laura Flynn & Butch Zaragoza.*



## CHAMBER NEWS

*Karen J. Odle, Vestavia Hills  
Chamber of Commerce President*

In a continued effort to support Vestavia Hills businesses in our Shop Dine Play program, we will be implementing a new contest – “Savor the Summer” – to focus on Vestavia Hills restaurants in the summer of 2019. Mark your calendar to begin collecting those receipts!

Did you know Vestavia Hills now has over 100 restaurants within our city limits? This includes fast food shops, ice cream shops and grocery stores with delicatessens as well as some of the finest restaurants in the Greater Birmingham area.

To celebrate this fact, the Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce will sponsor “Savor the Summer,” a contest to encourage residents and non-residents alike to visit as many of these eateries as possible to enjoy what Vestavia Hills has to offer. And better yet, an opportunity to win some great prizes!

The contest will begin May 23 and conclude August 5 and prize winners will be announced at Back 2 School in the Hills on August 9:

- 1st Place – \$500 Visa gift card
- 2nd Place – \$300 Visa gift card
- 3rd Place – \$200 Visa gift card

The following rules will apply:

- Open to both residents and non-residents
- Limit 1 entry per household
- Only original receipts are accepted
- 1 household receipt per restaurant per mealtime; multiple receipts from a restaurant are only allowed if it is for different mealtimes (example: one from Chick-fil-A for breakfast and another from Chick-fil-A for dinner)

To enter the contest, pick up a receipt envelope at the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, Library in the Forest or New Merkel House. The envelope with all original receipts must be turned in to the Chamber office no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on August 5.

Additionally, we feature a Restaurants of the Week on Facebook. Take a selfie at that restaurant and post on the Chamber Facebook page. A winner will be selected via a random drawing to receive a \$25 gift card from that restaurant.

## VESTAVIA HILLS DOGWOOD FESTIVAL



This year, the Vestavia Hills Dogwood Festival celebrates its 55th anniversary with a host of special activities including the Dogwood Luncheon, Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast and Vestavia Belle Presentation.

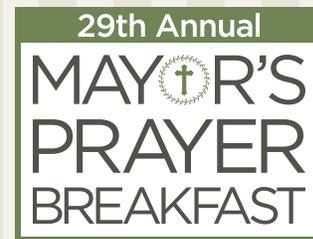
The Vestavia Hills Beautification Board sponsors the festival to promote the City and its beauty. Event proceeds are used to purchase trees and seasonal holiday decor for City Hall, the Senior Lodge and the Dogwood Room.

### Dogwood Luncheon

The 2019 Vestavia Hills Dogwood Luncheon will be held Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club. We are pleased to welcome Ashley Lowe Nance as our featured speaker. Ashley is a wife, mother, writer, educator and former Vestavia Belle. This year’s event will feature Belle fashions through the years, door prizes and fabulous food. Join us as we celebrate our Belle program and all of the wonderful young women that have served our city throughout the years.

Tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in advance. The deadline to purchase is April 15, 2019. Tickets will NOT be available at the door. To purchase tickets, contact Gina Henley at ghenley401@charter.net or 205.910.4837. For additional information visit the Beautification Board’s website at [www.vestaviabeautiful.com](http://www.vestaviabeautiful.com) or Facebook page at Vestavia Hills Beautification.

### 29th Annual



April 23, 2019  
7:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club

This year’s speaker is Micah McElveen,  
CEO & Executive Director of Vapor Ministries.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact the  
Vestavia Hills Chamber of Commerce at 205.823.5011  
or visit [www.vestaviahills.org](http://www.vestaviahills.org).

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## ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL

### VESTAVIA HILLS TO COMMEMORATE ALABAMA'S 200th BIRTHDAY IN 2019

On January 14, 2019, Mayor Ashley Curry proclaimed 2019 to be the year Vestavia Hills will celebrate the Alabama Bicentennial. The City, in conjunction with the Vestavia Hills Historical Society, Beautification Board and Senior Citizen Association, will be hosting a number of events to celebrate this momentous anniversary. Additionally, the bicentennial commemoration in Vestavia Hills will have an important educational function. In our City schools and library, there will be an emphasis on Alabama history.

The City received a grant from the Bicentennial Commission and will utilize the grant money to host the following programs and events:

- **March 11, 2019 – Senior Citizen Luncheon.** Featuring special guest(s) and entertainment; 11:30 a.m. at Vestavia Hills Civic Center Dogwood Room. For more information, email [administration@vhal.org](mailto:administration@vhal.org).
- **April 15, 2019 – Vestavia Hills Mayor's Message with Mayor Ashley Curry.** 2 p.m. at the Library in the Forest
- **May 2, 2019 – Historical Sites Bus Tour.** Experience our City in a guided tour and visit historical sites throughout Vestavia Hills, including Liberty Park, Cahaba Heights and Patchwork Farms. The tour will depart at 8:45 a.m. from Vestavia Hills City Hall and the cost is \$10 per person. To register, email [vhHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:vhHistoricalSociety@gmail.com) or mail payment to: Vestavia Hills Historical Society, c/o Library in the Forest, 1221 Montgomery Highway, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216. The deadline to register is April 26.
- **Informative Display.** In addition to the aforementioned events, there will be a display featuring historical moments in Alabama history that will be located in the lobby of City Hall.
- **Birthday Party.** The City will host a 69th birthday celebration for the City of Vestavia Hills. Look for more information to come!

To learn more about the state of Alabama and the Alabama Bicentennial, visit [www.Alabama200.org](http://www.Alabama200.org).



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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY?

To view the full calendar of this month's programming, visit <https://vestavialibrary.org>.

### CHILDREN: 205.978.0158 (Preschool-Grade 5)

- M* **Toddler A-Go-Go.** 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. Community Room
- Tu* **P.J. Storytime.** 6:30 p.m. Children's Program Room
- W* **Story Friends.** 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room
- Tb* **L.I.F.T. (Library in the Forest Time).** 9:30 a.m. Children's Program Room
- Tb* **Book Babies.** 10 a.m. Treehouse (*Registration suggested*)
- 2 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement.** 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room
- 5 Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: Build Your Own Puzzle or Maze.** 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 6 This & That: Minute to Win It Challenges.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room
- 12 Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: Ropes and Pulleys.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room
- 13 This & That: Hang Out at the Hills.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room
- 16 Ms. Casey's Marvelous Music & Movement.** 10:30 a.m. Children's Program Room
- 19 Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead: Ireland.** 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 19 Family Night: Magician Russell Davis.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 20 This & That: Game Changer.** 3:30 p.m. Children's Program Room
- 25 Staycation Week: Decorate Your Own Umbrella.** 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 26 Staycation Week: Decorate Ceramic Banks.** 3:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 27 Staycation Week: Animal Show.** 3:30 p.m. Community Room
- 28 Staycation Week: Science Show.** 3:30 p.m. Community Room
- 29 Staycation Week: Movie Fun! 1 p.m.** Community Room

### TEENS: 205.978.3683 (Grades 6-12)

- 1 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 5 Marvel Movie Night.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 6 Craft Event.** 4 p.m. Electronic Classroom
- 8 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 12 Fortnite Night.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 13 Writing Group.** 4 p.m. Historical Room
- 15 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 20 Teen Art Group.** 4 p.m. Treehouse
- 22 Open Gaming.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 26 Anime Night.** 4 p.m. Community Room
- 27 Writing Group.** 4 p.m. Historical Room
- 29 Mario Kart 8 Tournament.** 4 p.m. Community Room

### ADULTS: 205.978.4678 (Ages 18+)

- 1 First Friday Fiber Arts.** 10 a.m. Treehouse
- 4 Knit Night in the Forest.** 6 p.m. Treehouse
- 6 Makerspace for Adults: Mondrian Mason Jars.** 6:30 p.m. Makerspace
- 7 OLLI Presents: Eleven Revolutions in the Colonies.** 1:30 p.m. Community Room
- 7 Read & Feed Book Group – Liberty Park.** 6:30 p.m. Taziki's in Liberty Park
- 11 Tai Chi: Beginner.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 12 Ms. Olivia's Evening Reads Book Group.** 6 p.m. Historical Room
- 13 ABCs of Medicare.** 1 p.m. Treehouse
- 14 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate.** 2 p.m. Community Room
- 15 Upcycle City: Burlap Garden Flags.** 7 p.m. Community Room
- 18 Beginner Belly Dance with Bethany.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 21 OLLI Presents: An Overlooked Chapter in the American Revolution.** 1:30 p.m. Community Room
- 25 Tai Chi: Beginner.** 6 p.m. Community Room
- 28 Friends of the Library Presents: Better Business Bureau: Avoiding Fraud.** 10 a.m. Community Room
- 28 Tai Chi: Beginner & Intermediate.** 2 p.m. Community Room

### TECHNOLOGY: 205.978.4679

- 4 Windows 10.** 6 p.m. Electronic Classroom
- 12 Apple Mobile Devices with Tech Ease.** 2 p.m. Children's Program Room
- 13 Google Drive.** 2 p.m. Electronic Classroom
- 26 Facebook Security.** 10 a.m. Electronic Classroom
- 28 Advanced Excel: Pivot Tables & Dashboards.** 4 p.m. Electronic Classroom



- 4 Open Maker Lab: Maker Monday.** 10 a.m. Makerspace
- 7 Intro to 3D Printing.** 4 p.m. Makerspace
- 9 Open Maker Lab.** 1 p.m. Makerspace
- 11 Open Maker Lab: Maker Monday.** 10 a.m. Makerspace
- 12 Intro to Arduino.** 4 p.m. Makerspace
- 18 Open Maker Lab: Maker Monday.** 10 a.m. Makerspace
- 21 Vinyl Cutting 101.** 4 p.m. Makerspace
- 25 Open Maker Lab: Maker Monday.** 10 a.m. Makerspace
- 26 Intro to Arduino.** 4 p.m. Makerspace



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- Service of Word and Table | 9:45
- Traditional Service | 9:45
- Contemporary | 11:00
- Sunday Evening Worship | 5:00

