Blessed with God’s love and grace, we celebrate gifts of diversity. By Jesus Christ’s example, we welcome, in love, all who rejoice and worship with us.

February 2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service Title</th>
<th>Minister</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Sound Guild</th>
<th>Fellowship Hosts</th>
<th>Flower Donor(s)</th>
<th>Counters</th>
<th>Children's Activity Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 5</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>the Rev. Craig Hendrix</td>
<td>1 Kings 12:1-4; Mark 3:20-30</td>
<td>Team I</td>
<td>Group A</td>
<td>None–Congregational Dinner</td>
<td>Herb and Carolyn Krause</td>
<td>Jim Tonne and Dan Terpestra</td>
<td>Charles Washington, Jr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sermon Title: A House Divided</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liturgist: Judy Greeson</td>
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<td>Sunday, February 12</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>the Rev. Craig Hendrix</td>
<td>1 Kings 18:16-39;</td>
<td>Team II</td>
<td>Group B</td>
<td>Fred and Sally Haywood</td>
<td>Peggy Gregory</td>
<td>Carolyn Krause and George Darko</td>
<td>Colin Colverson</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sermon Title: God's Messenger</td>
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<td>Liturgist: Donna Hoppstead</td>
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<td>Sunday, February 19</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>7th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Communion</td>
<td>the Rev. Craig Hendrix</td>
<td>2nd Kings 17:1-17; Matthew 6:25-34</td>
<td>Team III</td>
<td>Group C</td>
<td>Janet Swift and Don Spong</td>
<td>Hilliard Family</td>
<td>Paul Rohwer and Jim Campbell</td>
<td>Colin Colverson</td>
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<td>Sermon Title: No King But God</td>
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<td>Liturgist: Matt Stone</td>
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<td>Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday-Communion</td>
<td>Text:Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6., 16-21</td>
<td>the Rev. Craig Hendrix</td>
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<td>Team IV</td>
<td>Group D</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Teresa Brittain and Dave Mullins</td>
<td>Ronnie Griffith</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sermon Title: The Mark</td>
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<td>Liturgist: None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, February 26, 2012, 10:00 a.m</td>
<td>8th Sunday in Ordinary Time</td>
<td>Text:Genesis 9:8-17;Peter3:18-22</td>
<td>the Rev. Craig Hendrix</td>
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<td>Anne Odum and Joe Grey</td>
<td>Bill and Maxine Vaden</td>
<td>Irene Darko and Dan Terpstra</td>
<td>Mary Anne Davidson, Russell Fulcher and Andrew Brittain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Patricia from Seattle says that her struggles with "the blues" are changed by her volunteering, despite her own physical limitations, in a nursing home and in a program where she reads stories to young children. Patricia chooses to work with such divergent age groups because the combination of youthful enthusiasm and the wisdom of elders keep her balanced and appreciative of life.

Patricia may not know the impact of her goodness in the lives of others but her experience is that goodness in action is transformative. She reminds me that every seemingly small thing we do becomes like a drop of water flowing into an ocean of hope and compassion. Opportunities abound in our local communities for being people of hope and good news.

I think also of Bruno Serato, one of The Huffington Post’s ‘Greatest Persons Of The Day,’ who is revered for the fine cuisine served to the rich and famous in his California restaurant. Bruno has never forgotten his humble beginnings as an immigrant who started out washing dishes. When Bruno saw a homeless child sheltered in a motel eating potato chips for dinner he wondered how to respond to the heart-breaking sadness of homeless children living in motels. Using the skills of his professional life he began delivering evening meals and has now served over 250,000 meals to children who live in motels.

Derreck, Patricia and Bruno are the tip of the iceberg among people across the world engaging in goodness, love and compassion. Their stories invite each of us to consider how we participate in making good news every day.

In becoming part of the good news of the human story, you remind us all that we are made for oneness as a human family. You become a birth-giver of hope. God smiles on you with every piece of good news that you contribute to.

Hope you enjoyed the article, and benefit from its message.

Blessings,
Craig
A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Hi,

This month, I'm using Bishop Desmond M. Tutu's article, "Made for Goodness" as the cover letter for the "Banner." It is wonderfully written and to the point.

Made for Goodness
Bishop Desmond M. Tutu

We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths. Congratulations to Arianna Huffington and The Huffington Post for offering a new way to celebrate these truths with the launch of Good News! The world needs your acts and compassionate loving goodness.

In the darkest days of the struggle to end apartheid, it was possible for some to succumb to the endless bad news of violence and torture systematically directed against people because of the color of their skin or those who had a vision of our oneness as people. But we were always upheld and strengthened by the good news of those whose actions reminded us that we are each God's partners in a love and justice that includes all.

The God who existed before any religion counts on you to make the oneness of the human family known and celebrated. You do this as you respond to the invitation found in the news of the day to make a difference. Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.

Everywhere around us, there are examples of people who are doing just that -- who are celebrating the oneness of the human family.

Atlanta's Derreck Kayongo noticed that bars of soap in hotels in the United States were going to waste. He knew that over two million children a year die of diarrheal illness often caused because people cannot afford to buy soap to wash their hands and prevent the spread of illness. Kayongo and his parents had fled Uganda 30 years ago to avoid the torture and killings of Idi Amin. From his experience of refugee camps he knew that people struggled to survive without basic necessities like soap.

Out of his dismay about wasted soap an idea was hatched. What if the soap could be cleaned and recycled? With the advice of his father, a soap maker from Uganda, he began the Global Soap Project, to collect, recycle and then distribute soaps to nine countries including Haiti, Uganda and Swaziland. More than just preventing the spread of diarrheal diseases and saving the lives of children, Kayongo has brought people and organizations together from around the world in this project of hope.

Like Derreck Kayongo, our own stories, experiences and gifts are the incubators of good news. When we allow our imagination to be engaged with the needs of the world around us, we actively participate in expanding love and compassion. When we do so, God is tickled pink!
From Your Parish Nurse

Coming Event: Health Luncheon Wednesday, February 15th at Noon. Susie Stiles-Wilson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, will speak on “Memory Loss.”

MRSA Infections

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) is a type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics called beta-lactams. These antibiotics include methicillin and other more common antibiotics such as oxacillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin. In the community, most MRSA infections are skin infections. More severe or potentially life-threatening MRSA infections occur most frequently among patients in healthcare settings. While 25% to 30% of people are colonized* in the nose with staph, less than 2% are colonized with MRSA

People at Risk of Acquiring MRSA Infections

MRSA infections can occur in any geographic location and anywhere on a person’s body and can affect anyone. Historically, MRSA infections occurred in hospitalized patients, but now these infections are common in the community. The biggest risk factor for MRSA infection is open or broken skin (such as a wound or surgical site); however, MRSA infections can occur even on areas of the skin where there is no obvious wound or break in the skin.

Patients in Healthcare Settings

Patients in healthcare facilities have weakened immune systems and undergo procedures (such as surgery) or have catheters inserted into the skin that make it easier for MRSA to get into the body. It is for this reason that healthcare personnel must follow infection control procedures (such as hand hygiene and proper catheter care) to prevent patients from acquiring MRSA infections. When patients get MRSA in healthcare facilities, the infections tend to be severe. Common infections include surgical wound infections, urinary tract infections, bloodstream infections, and pneumonia.
FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

Visitors of Infected Patients

When visiting MRSA patients, individuals should follow the facility’s visitor policies. Casual contact—such as kissing, hugging, and touching—is usually acceptable. Visitors should avoid touching catheters or wound sites and should wash their hands before leaving an infected person's room.

Skin Infections in the Community

MRSA in the community is widespread and therefore, anyone is at risk. Most people who get MRSA in the community get infections of the skin. Factors that have been associated with the spread of MRSA skin infections include: close skin-to-skin contact, openings in the skin such as cuts or abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions, and poor hygiene. People may be more at risk in locations where these factors are common, including: athletic facilities, dormitories, military barracks, correctional facilities, and daycare centers.

Protect yourself through good hygiene

The key to preventing MRSA infections is for everyone to practice good hygiene:

1. Keep your hands clean by washing thoroughly with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub.
2. Keep cuts and scrapes clean and covered with a bandage until healed.
3. Avoid contact with other people’s wounds or bandages.
4. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels or razors.
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
FROM YOUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

In God's Abundance Living, Moving, Being
Experience the abundance of God's love and blessings at Montreat this summer! The Worship and Music conference is directed by Jane Cain; lead musicians are Jonathan Willcocks and Jonathan Dimmock. What to expect? inspiring worship, choirs for all ages, handbells and instrumental ensembles, Bible study, drama, liturgical art, global music; and hiking, swimming, relaxing, fellowship in the mountains. To see more information about schedules and workshops, go to presbymusic.org and click on Montreat conference. There you see the entire conference brochure and find information about Montreat and Black Mountain, NC.

The church has reserved Georgia Lodge at Montreat for June 24-30, the second week of Worship and Music. All are welcome, adults, youth, children, families! Let Richard Ward or Mary Mullins know if you want a place in the Lodge; the cost per person is dependent upon the number of people.

“God is calling us to a place beautiful and set apart, calling us to a life of love and service.
We come, encircled by a great cloud of witnesses (by whom we are blessed)
…
We come with a vital heritage (living, moving, being the body of Christ)…
We come looking for guideposts at the crossroads (of justice and hospitality)
…
God is calling us to this place, directing us to new avenues of service (to let our lights shine )…
We come with joy in our hearts (we give thanks to God and share our gifts with others)…
We come with openness to Christ’s presence among us (who comes to make all things new)....”
(from the daily call to worship by Donna Giver Johnston)
FROM YOUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

Dear FPC family,

This spring the youth will begin to take a look at two things during their Sunday evening discussions and devotional time. The first is that for 5 weeks we will go more in depth looking at the life of David and see what it takes to become a person “after God’s own heart.” Secondly, for the rest of the semester, approximately 5 other Sundays, they will be looking at the portrayal of God and faith in television. God in television will look at the portrayal of faith and lessons to be learned from episodes of The Simpsons, House, ALIAS, Lost, and many more. Be sure to ask one of the youth about what they’re discussing on Sunday nights during the Spring! As well as discussion, the youth will also be playing more unique games, helping with different service projects and enjoying fellowship time with each other and those from around the Presbytery. We really are blessed with wonderful youth, and I encourage all of you to find out what they’re up to!

Blessings,
Hannah

February Youth Events:
2/3-2/5 Youth Ski Trip to Beech Mt., NC
2/5: No PYC
2/12: PYC 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
2/19: PYC 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
2/26: PYC 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Opportunities:
March 2-4: Presbytery of East TN Youth Summit in Gatlinburg. This event is for High School only and is a fabulous opportunity to worship, fellowship and hang out with other high school students from all around East TN. To get more info or a registration form, see Hannah.
Montreat Music and Worship Conference: June 24-30. Cost for conference, food, and lodging in FPC’s cabin is $475. See Hannah or Anna for more details or registration forms.

Children’s Activity Time
2/5: Anne Backus, Chris Brittain, Sumner Byrne
2/12: Hannah Norris, Kate Fulcher, Jon Markley
2/19: Sherith Colverson, Ashley Hadden, Nicole Markley
2/26: MaryAnne Davidson, Russell Fulcher, Andrew Brittain
SOCIAL CONCERNS

Criminal Justice Sunday

January 29 is designated Criminal Justice Sunday in the PC(USA) calendar. There are many opportunities for abuse of justice in our criminal system. One to be aware of is the private for-profit prison industry. The industry argues that it can house prisoners for less money than the state, while still making a profit. How can this be? Lower salaries and benefits for staff, among other things. Poorly built facilities may contribute, although it may be questionable that state-owned facilities are designed and built well. In general, in any fixed-price contract (such as a fixed price per prisoner) rather than reasonable costs plus an agreed level of profit, the economic incentive is to deliver the least amount of product or service you can get away with. What the for-profit prison industry can get away with is partly controlled by legislation that is written by the industry and given to the state overseeing bodies to submit for passage. The industry is also a strong lobby at both state and national levels.

According to a New York Times article (April 2008), “the United States has less than 5 percent of the world's population. But it has almost a quarter of the world's prisoners. Indeed, the United States leads the world in producing prisoners, a reflection of a relatively recent and now entirely distinctive American approach to crime and punishment. Americans are locked up for crimes — from writing bad checks to using drugs — that would rarely produce prison sentences in other countries. And in particular they are kept incarcerated far longer than prisoners in other nations...One in 100 Americans is locked up.”

We know the need for prisons will never go away. But has the for-profit prison industry helped increase the number of prisoners and lengths of sentences? Probably. Would more money spent on ways to prevent crime help? Probably. Will sentencing guidelines change as the cost of warehousing prisoners increases? Probably. Like so many other things, the criminal justice system is ultimately a matter of politics, and we all have a role in influencing politics. To quote the anthem our choir sang Christmas Eve, “Dream the dream Isaiah saw, justice purifying law.”

Blanket Sunday

Sunday, February 5, we will receive a special offering for blankets. The money goes to Church World Service (CWS), which uses the funds to purchase and ship blankets worldwide and within the U.S. and to support a variety of self-help textile-oriented development projects through its partner agencies. Because CWS buys in large quantities, it can provide a good wool or cotton blend blanket for a modest $5. When possible, blankets are purchased closer to the scene of a disaster, to speed delivery and to spur local economies.

Your gifts can help make a world of difference for millions of people. Please give on Blanket Sunday or any time; mark checks “Blankets”.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the US

Are you curious where greenhouse gases are being released and in what amounts? The US EPA has opened an on-line database that will let you see for yourself. The database, at http://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do, shows graphically how much greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, and refrigerants) is emitted at each of more than 6000 locations across the US. The site includes several gee-whiz features, such
as sliders to select the range of emissions to be displayed, as well as a choice of an interactive map or a list, bar chart, or pie chart of the data. You may be relieved that the largest emitter in Tennessee (a power plant in Cumberland City) emits only a bit more than 13 million metric tons of greenhouse gases annually, while Georgia and Alabama each have one emitter that emits more than 20 million metric tons.

**Green Power Switch**

On a related topic, this is a reminder that we purchase a small amount of green power from TVA. The amount is not large, but it is a reminder that good stewardship of the resources God has given us includes finding less polluting ways to produce power. We were the first church and, in fact, the first commercial customer in Oak Ridge to begin buying green power when it was first offered. Our green power is paid for from our undesignated benevolences fund.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM JIM WESSEL**

Gratitude is the capacity to live life with no excuses, no defense, no blame. Gratitude is the capacity to trust fully the goodness of God in the moment and to move into an unknown future with a sense of expectation and hope. As we enter 2012 perhaps our New Year’s resolutions at their deepest are a resolve to once again affirm with heart, mind and soul and strength the goodness of God and God’s intent for us to live our lives in respect of, in cooperation with and on behalf of all creation—all time, all space—with humility, compassion and justice. ...Ellie Stock

Another resolution for 2012 should be to separate situations from our attitude toward them. We forget that circumstances are what they are, neither stressful or not. We may view them anyway we want. If we view it as stressful, that’s our choice.

How many times have you said to yourself, “That really stressed me out.” Did the situation stress you out or was it your attitude that caused the stress. A philosopher said, “Nothing is good or bad, only our view of it.” Situations are not stressful, our view of the situation is what causes us to feel stressed.

Changing your attitude toward situations is very difficult. Most us have formed a lifetime habit of stressing about problems. God can give us the power to overcome that habit. When a situation arises, immediately ask God to give you the strength and courage to not judge it as stressful but to greet it as a problem to be solved, a puzzle. Many of us play games or work crossword or jigsaw puzzles. We enjoy problem solving. Form the new habit of enjoying problems that would otherwise result in an attitude of stress.
Memorial Garden Committee

Annual Report for 2011

A major renovation was undertaken this past summer. We removed the brass marker holder bearing the names of those buried in the garden and its place purchased a granite monument from Summers Monuments in Clinton. All the names of those buried are now engraved on the monument, which sits at one end of the garden facing the columbarium at the other end. The total effect is quite handsome.

We had two garden burials this year and one interment in the columbarium. A few years ago our former choir director, Gordon Warner, inquired about purchasing a unit in the columbarium. Because the committee believes in serving former staff members and ministers, we agreed to the purchase, and when Gordon died in May his children followed his wishes with interment in the columbarium.

Our usual maintenance continued: in spring for sprucing up and planting and in fall for clean up and leaf disposal. This means we try to be ready to welcome visitors at any time.

Committee members: Kate and Walt Porter, Anna and Bill Robinson, Sandy and Paul Rohwer, Shirley Sauls, Melinda and Ed Tilley, and Pat Clark, chair
Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church of Oak Ridge

Dear First Presbyterian Church:

Your gift to Second Harvest is helping ease the pain of hunger in our community. For every $1 Second Harvest receives 3 meals are provided to the hungry of East Tennessee. On behalf of those helped by your donation, thank you!

This year more people than ever are seeking help from local church pantries, group homes, soup kitchens and shelters. These organizations turn to Second Harvest for the food they need to serve the largely working-poor hungry of East Tennessee. Last month, the food bank served more than 160,000 people through its network of hunger-relief agencies in our community.

Your gift has come at a vital time for the food bank and at a vital time for the people who are struggling to feel their families. Thanks to your gift and the generosity of our community, the food bank has been able to gather additional food and reach out to thousands of additional adults, families, seniors and children.

Thank you for your donation and thank you for allowing Second Harvest to pursue its mission of ending hunger and feeding hope in East Tennessee.

Sincerely,

Elaine Sireno
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We at Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties would like to express our sincere thanks for your recent contribution of $1,200 to support ADFAC’s Crisis Cupboard program.

Founded in 1987, ADFAC is an independent, community based 501(c) (3) non-profit agency working to address the diverse charitable needs of low-income East Tennessee families. ADFAC works through the Social Services and Affordable Housing programs to provide assistance for basic needs such as rent, utilities, home repairs, food and pantry items, homeownership opportunities and school supplies.

Your recent support is especially needed and appreciated during this time of economic uncertainty. More and more local families are finding it difficult to make ends meet, and request for assistance have increased significantly. During this time of particular adversity, ADFAC will draw on its 24 years of experience to meet the emergency needs of our low-income neighbors with efficiency and compassion. Contributions like yours are essential to our ability to continue to meeting these needs; on behalf of the clients we serve, thank you.

With warm regards,

Tom Marshall
ADFAC Board President

Annie Cacheiro
ADFAC Executive Director
WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Wednesday Night Dinners

The Wednesday Night Dinners are starting up again on March 7th. The dinners will end after Easter on April 11th. We serve food from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. As always, we welcome everyone and are so glad when you can come. Our prices are low--only $4 per person, $12 per family, and children 6 yrs. and under are free. Our mission is high--service and fellowship. See you there!

JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

February Birthdays
4  Julie Clausing
8  Leann Trowbridge
13 Jim Tonne
14 Gene Ice
16 Susan Holsopple
22 Desmond Darko
23 Margaret Mott
23 Jody Washington
24 Pat Rush
28 Sandy Rohwer
28 Anna Thomas

February Anniversaries
None
### February 2012

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<tr>
<th>SUN</th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>6:30 Worship Committee, Rm. 102 7:00 CE Committee, Rm. 100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7:00 Choir Rehearsal Youth Ski Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5th Sunday in Ordinary Time)</td>
<td>10:00 Worship 11:00 Annual Meeting 11:15 Sunday School</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12:00 Men’s Lunch 6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>7:00 CC&amp;O Committee, Parlor 7:00 P&amp;M Committee, Rm. 102</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>12:00 Men’s Lunch 12:30 Women’s Lunch 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:30 Social Concerns</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>12:00 noon Health Lunch Understanding Memory Loss 7:00 Session Meeting, Rm. 102</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday School</td>
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<td>(7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)</td>
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<td>12:30 Women’s Lunch 6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>(6th Sunday in Ordinary Time) Blanket Sunday</td>
<td>10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday School</td>
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<td>(8th Sunday in Ordinary Time)</td>
<td>10:00 Worship 11:15 Sunday School 5:00 PYC</td>
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<td>12:30 Women’s Lunch 6:00 Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>7:30 Stewardship Committee, Rm. 100</td>
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