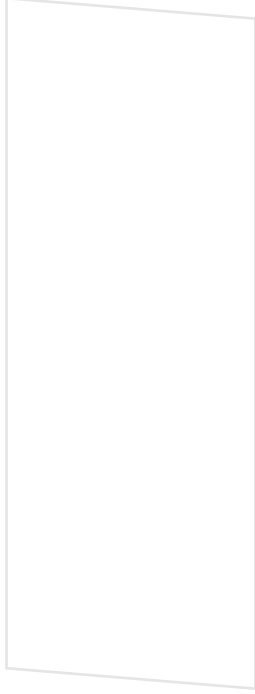


May 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 JULIANA STREET
 PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426

Fax: 304-428-0372

E-mail: office@fpcpborgwv.org

Visit us at:

www.fpcpborgwv.org

facebook.com/fpcpborg



WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE AND PROMISE.

Sunday Worship:

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

livestream on Facebook - 10:30 a.m.

Children's Church

& Sunday School 10:30 a.m.



Article Deadline: 15th of each month

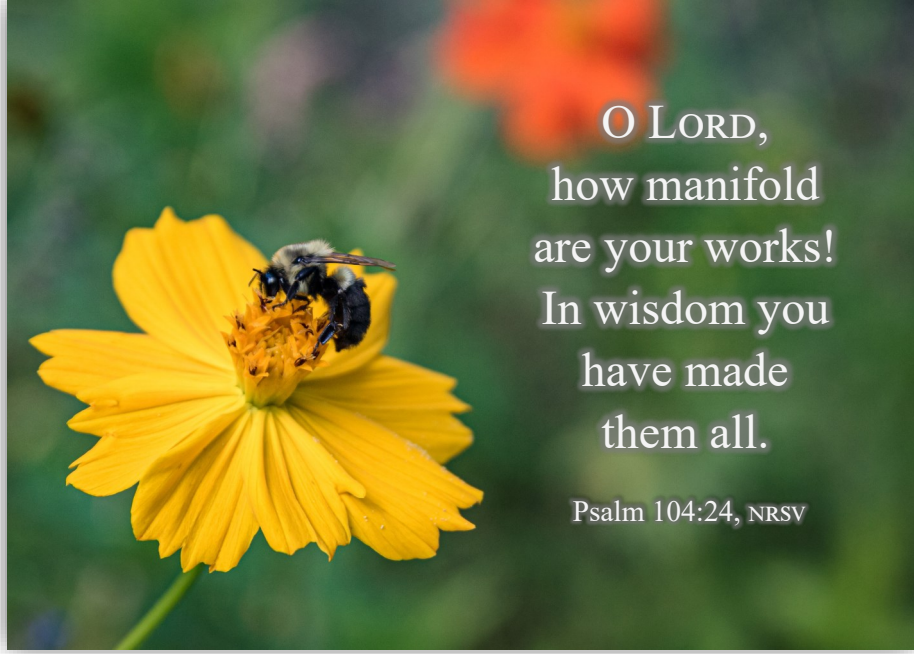
If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpborgwv.org.



first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2024



WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE

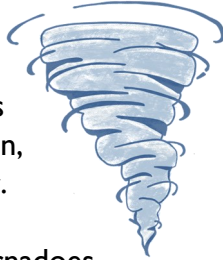
First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 Juliana St. ■ Parkersburg, WV 26101 ■ 304-422-5426



In elementary school, I moved with my family to Georgia. I wasn't in the Midwest where tornadoes are plentiful, but I remember tornado drills. We would go to the concrete wall at school, making sure we kept away from windows. We would kneel against the wall, duck our heads under, and cover our necks. Tornadoes didn't strike very often, but that didn't matter. We heard enough precautions about tornadoes that at seven-years-old I was sure that the winds were going to come. Anytime the wind howled as I walked home from the neighborhood bus stop, I was scared. I would look up to see if the sky was green. And when I was 9 or 10, a small tornado touched down a few blocks from our neighborhood; the storm brought hail and lots of downed branches.

The wind that I experienced and feared as a child was similar to the wind of the Holy Spirit that the disciples experienced on Pentecost.



That Sunday the Holy Spirit came, not like a peaceful dove or as a gentle breeze, but as singeing tongues of fire. The Spirit blew through the house as a strong and howling wind to drive the disciples out to streets to proclaim the gospel and share the love of Christ. Because of the Spirit, the disciples had to go out among people that they might not have known how to talk to under ordinary circumstances. They had to leave the safety of that room and go.



That's the Spirit we have. A Spirit who inspired the people and drove them to start the church. A Spirit who remained with them and continues to remain with us, pushing us in new directions, toward our call to something different or something we don't feel ready for. The Spirit has been described as one who comes alongside us as a companion.



Sometimes the Spirit alights to comfort us, and at other times the Spirit blows through to agitate us and drive us to action.

(Cont'd. on next page)

As we look forward to

Pentecost, may the Holy Spirit go before you to show you the way; go above you to watch over you; go behind you to push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself; go beside you to be your strong and constant companion; and dwell within you to remind you that you are surely not alone.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Annie



CARDER DENNISON

Carder is the son of Jeremy and Beth Dennison, and grandson of Joe and Debbie Foley.

He is graduating from Parkersburg High School.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

JAKE JOHNSON

Jake is the son of Eric and Stacy Johnson, and grandson of Greg and Joyce Boso.

He is graduating from WVU with a degree in Industrial Engineering.

BEYOND HEAVEN AND EARTH

The 16th-century theologian John Calvin said this about the Ascension: "Christ left us in such a way that his presence might be more useful to us — a presence that had been confined in a humble abode of flesh so long as he sojourned on earth As his body was raised up above all the heavens, so his power and energy were diffused and spread beyond all the bounds of heaven and earth."



PENTECOST

Holy Spirit, Lord divine,
Come from heights of heav'n and shine,
Come with blessed radiance bright!
Come, O Father of the poor,
Come, whose treasured gifts endure,
Come, our heart's unfailing light!

Of consolers, wisest, best,
And our souls' most welcome guest,
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.
In our labor rest most sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Consolation in our woes. ...

Cleanse our soiled hearts of sin,
Arid souls refresh within,
Wounded lives to health restore!
Bend the stubborn heart and will,
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
Guide the wayward home once more!

- 12th Century Hymn

Happy Birthday!

Denise Fragale	3rd
Ryder James	3rd
Kara Pascarella	6th
Jeffrey Vaughan	7th
Jim McGinnis	11th
Rita Fish	12th
Bob Fish	13th
Joe Hushion	16th
Benjamin Landsberg	16th
Bev Lippman	16th
Trisha Pascarella	18th
Senta Goudy	19th
Janet Duncan	21st
Avalyn Meckley	21st
Jim Sterrick	21st
Zachary Landsberg	23rd
Zach Thompson	23rd
Anna Marie Oehlmann	30th



Happy Anniversary!

Dean & Ann Leach 17th
Bob & Valerie O'Dell 25th

THE WATCHER

By Margaret Widdemer

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate.
And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe
Because she waited there.
Her thoughts were all so full of us,
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet.
Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late,
Watching from Heaven's window,
Leaning on Heaven's gate.

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Special Dates in MAY

- National Day of Prayer: May 2
- Ascension of the Lord: May 9
- Mother's Day: May 12
- Day of Pentecost - May 19
- Memorial Day: May 26
- Trinity Sunday: May 26

In Christian Sympathy

Bernice R. Lemley - April 5
Patricia Douglass - April 20

The Session, in its effort to better communicate with the congregation, is including highlights from their meetings in the monthly newsletter. Here are the highlights from their APRIL meeting:



- Saturday Stewards needs volunteers for the different projects they do each week as they care for our beautiful building and the grounds around it.
- Ruth Circle will be starting the book *What Happens When Women Say Yes to God* by Lysa TerKeurst. In May, the circle will begin meeting twice a month on Sunday mornings at 9:15.
- After reviewing the nominations for Volunteer of the Quarter, Session selected two volunteers to recognize. A Volunteer Appreciation Sunday is being planned to recognize our volunteers: Katelyn Hickman and Carl Gheen.
- Deacons reported that they are sending a care package for our college student Rory Essenmacher. Session had some suggestions for what could be included.
- Bluestone has multiple retreats coming up, as well as three weeks of camp scheduled for this summer.



Summer Camp Weeks of June 16, 23 & 30

For rising 4th-12th Graders
Payment plans and Scholarships available

2-Day and 4-Day Weekend
Family Camp Options Available

Read about the different Summer Camp offerings at www.bluestonecamp.org

For more details and info, email
mark@bluestonecamp.org
or call (304) 397-5050 and leave a voicemail.
Messages will be received by Mark via email.



Facilities Management Update



The Facilities Management Committee and The Saturday Stewards held their

quarterly committee meeting on April 6, and discussed the following:

- ◆ **3 Bids for resurfacing entrances**
Both entrances have needed resurfacing for several years.
- ◆ **3 Bids for tinting Sanctuary windows** - The first step before any flooring material can be installed, to prevent further fading of carpet, cushions, hymnals and Bibles.
- ◆ **3 Bids for electrical work on new kitchen for Child Care Center**
- ◆ **3 Bids for plumbing work on new kitchen for Child Care Center**
- ◆ **3 Prices on Electric Stove/Oven for new Kitchen at Child Care Center** - One of our goals for this year is to move the Child Care Center kitchen to a vacant room next to the director's office. Our overall goal is to better secure the space where all their activities are conducted.
- ◆ **What to do with the recently-cleaned hill on the East Side of the property** - We need to mark all



discharge pipes and place riprap down the hill from the drains to prevent erosion. We discussed different ways to maintain the hillside, e.g., planting wildflowers, over seed with grass, etc. We will consult with Judi White and professionals before proceeding.

- ◆ **May 25 will be Window Washing Day church-wide** - We will seek help from the congregation so we can finish this task in one day.

- ◆ **June 29 will be Deep-clean the Kitchen Day, and cleaning floors in Stevenson Hall**

Saturday Stewards will assist the Deacons, headed up by Joyce Boso and Barbara Lucas.

- ◆ **Replacing lights in hallways and offices with 6" LED lights** - The Committee agrees we need to start on this right away. With the rising cost of fluorescent bulbs, the frequency with which they are burning out, and the energy savings of LED lights, it would be cost-saving for the church. We will discuss funding assistance with the Finance Committee, looking for assistance from the congregation, and checking on grants available.



(Cont'd. on next page)

Saturday Stewards



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Work/Projects Completed

Each month we have scheduled repairs & maintenance.

In April we:

- (a) conducted the required monthly inspection of Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lighting and Exit Signs
- (b) buffed the tile floors throughout the building and cleaned windows in different areas
- (c) cleaned all air filters in the mini-split HVAC units throughout the building

Please feel free to join us! We welcome *anyone* that wants to help on Saturdays. Even if you can spend only an hour or two, or can help once or twice a month, that would be great! We always can use your help. And ladies, we definitely could use your feminine touch! We are an open group for both men and women. We meet each **Saturday at 8:30 a.m.** in the Harris Room and normally finish by noon or before. It's also a great opportunity for fellowship. If you'd like more information, please call or text me @304-588-6203.

Mike Beckett, Chair
Facilities Management

Saturday Stewards Work Schedule for May

- 4th** Facilities Management Meeting
8:30 - 9:15 in Harris Room
Monthly inspection of Fire Extinguishers/Exit Signs/Emergency Lighting
- 11th** Clean, Organize, Buff Floors and Inventory the Event Supply Room / Clean Out all Refrigerators/Freezers
Closet Cleaning Day / ALL closets and storage to be cleaned out, dusted, swept, mopped if applicable
- 18th** Check all light bulbs and replace as necessary / Clean filters on all mini-split units
- 25th** **Window Washing Day** / Interior and exterior (asking for help from the congregation)

* * * * *

Each Saturday a member of the team remains at the church 12-1 p.m. while the HA meeting is held in Stevenson Hall.

World Labyrinth Day Saturday, May 4

We invite you to take advantage of our lovely Labyrinth in the Memorial Prayer Garden to walk and pray, and read our current book in the StoryTrek. The church grounds are a great place to walk and all are welcome to enjoy them.

Here and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from our Treasurer. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Alfred at finance@fpcburgwv.org

Financial Statement as of March 31, 2024

	Budget	Actual
2024 Budget		
Income		
Sunday Offerings		
<i>Pledges</i>	\$ 126,175.00	\$ 41,167.30
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 44,624.00	\$ 13,342.30
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 543.60
Sunday Offerings	\$ 172,299.00	\$ 55,053.20
<i>Facility Rentals</i>	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 12,299.82
<i>Other Income</i>	\$ 175.00	\$ 119.10
<i>Misc. Income</i>	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Interest from F. Trust</i>	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 67,472.12
Expenses		
<i>Discipleship</i>	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 292.98
<i>Mission</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 161.11
<i>Worship & Music</i>	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 1,052.59
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 149,698.00	\$ 35,782.37
<i>Facilities</i>	\$ 81,630.00	\$ 14,760.75
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 3,273.00	\$ -
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 39.05
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 4,006.91
Total Expenses	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 56,095.76
Difference	\$ -	\$ 11,376.36

On Memorial Day

Remember the words Abraham Lincoln spoke at the dedication of the national cemetery on the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania:

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us - that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion - that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom"



ASSETS

CHECKING	
Operating Fund	\$ 11,385.99
Restricted Funds	\$ 50,891.63
Deacons Fund	\$ 3,689.82
Total Checking	\$ 65,967.44
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS	
Checking	\$ 1,647.51
Savings	\$ 1,627.84
Total PW Funds	\$ 3,275.35
INVESTMENTS	
Deacons CD	\$ 6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$ 4,076.45
United Bank Founders Trust	\$ 66,889.79
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$ 1,343,834.76
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$ 150,929.29
Total Investments	\$ 1,571,788.30
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,641,031.09



Thursday, May 2

LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD

For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall. This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.

2 Samuel 22:29-31

a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

What you need:

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



What you do:

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about 1/2-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.





Volunteer Recognition

Quarter Ended March 31

God is good! We are blessed with so many wonderful volunteers, working to support our church and its ministry, that the Session had many great choices for Volunteer of the Quarter this time. So, they decided that they wanted to recognize two of the nominees at one time. And, they have decided to honor the Volunteers of the Quarter by hosting a **Coffee Hour on May 19**.

Recognized for their commitment and dedication this quarter are **KATELYN HICKMAN** and **CARL GHEEN**. Their love of God's people is clear in their service.

KATELYN is "amazing," giving her time to help with The Gathering every week. And, her work to revitalize the Presbyterian Women was instrumental in its successful relaunch this quarter.

Nominators say: "She is a self-starter - Never needs to be asked to do something - Never complains - Takes responsibility." And, she does it all with a positive attitude.



CARL is recognized and appreciated for his work with the Saturday Stewards and for his beautiful table arrangements that make each meal we share together as a Church family special.

"He is friendly and can talk with anyone - At a recent community meal he sat at several guest tables, making sure everyone felt welcome," one nominator said.

"Carl is always willing to help the church, getting things ready and cleaning up afterwards," another nominator offered. "He's always cheerful and welcoming."

Thank you, nominators, for helping to shine a light on the great work people are doing at First Presbyterian Church.



Congratulations Katelyn and Carl!

The Session invites everyone to honor these two at their special Coffee Hour on **Sunday, May 19**.

HELP US COMMUNICATE WITH YOU

It is our goal to make sure every member of our congregation receives church communications in a timely manner. In particular, we want everyone to receive the monthly newsletter, either via e-mail (through a Flocknote), from the church website, by picking one up at church, or in the US mail.

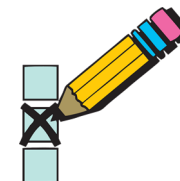
We understand not everyone prefers using a smart phone or computer for communicating. If that is the case for you or someone you know, please fill out the form below and return to us so that we can assure you receive the newsletter each month. Just check your preference, fill in your name and contact information, and mail it back to us. OR, you may call the church office (304-422-5426), send an

email to: office@fpcburgwv.org, or drop it in the box in the foyer. This will help us know how many copies we need to print each month.



If you are currently receiving Flocknotes and/or visiting the church website to gain access to the newsletter, that's great! If you don't want to change that method there is no need to return this form.

Thank you for responding, and if you have any questions, please call the church office, 304-422-5426.



I PREFER TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS:

- by e-mail (Flocknotes)
- from the church website
- by picking up at the church
- I don't get to church often - please mail a copy

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

UPCOMING Events

MAY

2nd: **National Day of Prayer**

4th: **World Labyrinth Day**

5th: **Cinco de Mayo**

9th: **Ascension of the Lord**

12th: **Mother's Day**

13th: *Pastor away thru 19th*

14th: **Election Day** / No School

19th: **Pentecost Sunday**
Guest Preacher - Randy Fife, ALP
Volunteer Appreciation Coffee Hour

26th: **Trinity Sunday / Graduate Sunday**
Memorial Day Observance

27th: **Memorial Day** - Church office closed
No School

30th: **Last day of School in Wood County**

JUNE

14th: **FLAG DAY**

16th: **Father's Day**

19th: **Juneteenth**

20th: **West Virginia Day**

"None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience."
—Martin Luther



May Liturgists



- ◆ 5 Katelyn Hickman
- ◆ 12 Becky McGinnis
- ◆ 19 Kathy Hinkley
- ◆ 26 Greg Boso




Communion Servers

May 5th
Katie Buchanan
Morgan James
Amy Leach
Becky McGinnis



Remembering Our Veterans

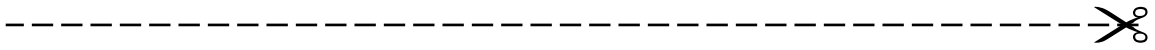


MEMORIAL DAY

On **Sunday, May 26**, during our 10:30 Worship, we will remember those who selflessly gave of themselves to serve and protect our country in the armed forces. Their names will be printed in the worship bulletin that day.

If you would like to submit the name of a deceased veteran for remembrance, fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate any Sunday, or return to the church office no later than **Monday, May 20**.

If you previously submitted names for recognition there is no need to do so again, since names remain in our database. If you are unsure, re-submit the names and duplicates will be removed. If you have any questions, please contact the church office, 304-422-5426, or office@fpcburgwv.org.



DECEASED VETERANS








1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

May



2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<p>“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.” —Anne Bradstreet</p>			<p>1 5:30 PM The Gathering</p>	<p>2 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p> 	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4 World Labyrinth Day</p>  <p>8:30 AM Facilities Management 9:15 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 2:00 PM Birthday party</p>																																																	
<p>5 Communion</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 PM PW Board</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00 PM Founders Fund Meeting 5:30 PM The Gathering</p>	<p>9 Ascension of the Lord</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scout 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																	
<p>12 Mother's Day</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>Pastor Annie away thru 19th</p>	<p>14 Election Day</p> <p>No School in Wood Co.</p> <p>12:30 PM Esther Circle 6:00 PM Financial Mgmt.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 PM The Gathering (Final Gathering until September)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																	
<p>19 Day of Pentecost</p> <p>Guest Preacher: Randy Fife, ALP</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Volunteer Reception 10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>Cents-Ability Offering</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>2:00 PM Henderson Hall Docents 6:00 PM Session 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>2:30 PM Personnel Committee</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>24 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																	
<p>26 Trinity Sunday Graduate Sunday</p> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Ruth Circle 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>Memorial Day Observance</p> <p>7:00 PM Mission Committee</p> 	<p>27 Memorial Day</p> <p>Church Office Closed No School in Wood Co.</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>6:00 PM Worship & Discipleship Comm.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Last day of school in Wood Co.</p> <p>7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>31 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>June 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							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						
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