

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:



CARNIVAL SEASON & MARDI GRAS: Highlights of That “Ordinary Time” Between the Epiphany and Lent

Why “Ordinary” Time? Clearly, there’s nothing “Ordinary” about this “Time.” The Ordinary Time after the Feast of Epiphany (January 6), that stands between the 2 great cycles of Advent-Christmas- Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost includes 4 to 9 Sundays, depending on the date of Easter. It is called “Ordinary”, not because of plain-ness, but because its Sundays are given ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.). Its central theme is the calling of disciples and the early ministry of Jesus, with its First Sunday focusing on the Baptism of Christ and the Last Sunday on the Transfiguration.

Carnival, on the other hand, is the irreverent merrymaking and festivity that takes place in many Roman Catholic countries in the last days and hours before the Lenten season. While the derivation of the word is uncertain, it possibly can be traced to the Medieval Latin term *carne m levar e* or *carnelevarium*, which means “to take away or remove meat.” Some believe the historical origin of Carnival is rooted in a primitive pre-Christian festival honoring beginning of the new year and rebirth of nature in the time between winter and spring, and others believe that its beginnings were in the pagan festival of ancient Rome, “Saturnalia.”

Regardless of its origins, the Carnival season is the final festivity before the commencement of the austere 40 days of Lent, during which Roman Catholics of earlier times fasted, abstained from eating meat, and followed practices of a simple life of self-denial of indulgences for spiritual reasons. The first day of Carnival varies with both national and local traditions. Thus, in Munich (in Bavaria), Carnival season is called “Fasching” which begins on Epiphany (January 6). In Cologne (in the Rhineland), it begins on November 11 at 11:11 a.m. (11th month, day, hour, and minute).

In some parts of Spain, Ash Wednesday is included in their Carnival celebrations, an observance that harkens back to a time when Ash Wednesday was not an integral part of Lent.

And then there’s “Mardi Gras.” In France the Carnival celebration is restricted to Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday). Originally started as a celebration

initially called “*Boeuf Gras*,” or “*fatted calf*”, it later morphed into the more-favored term “*Mardi Gras*”, from the custom of using up all of the fats in the home before Lent began.

In the United States the principal Carnival celebration is in New Orleans, and opens on Twelfth Night (January 6, “The Epiphany”) and reaches its peak with Mardi Gras festivities commencing 10 days before Shrove Tuesday (“Fat Tuesday”, day before Ash Wednesday). It’s marked with masked balls, elaborate costumes, parades, and various other festivities.

But Carnival Mardi Gras is more than just a time for raucous partying: It represents a time of celebration before Christian Lent begins, and lasts through Shrove Tuesday. From January 6 to March 4, 2025, Carnival revelers will enjoy parades, balls, king cakes, community celebrations and more.

Originating in New Orleans in 1699, it is always celebrated 47 days before Easter, which can fall on any Sunday between March 23 and April 25, meaning that the Mardi Gras celebration can fall on any Tuesday between February 3 and March 9. The 1700s tradition of celebratory balls continues to this day. At the Twelfth Night Ball, a king cake containing a bean is cut with whoever finds the bean inside serving as host for the next ball, and continues on until the evening of Mardi Gras before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. And so the tradition continues, with biblical reference:

“Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don’t be dejected and sad, for the joy of the LORD is your strength!” ~ Nehemiah 8:10



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY, 2025

Sunday, 2 February, 2025

Holy Communion

“4TH Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green

Service by: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 9 February, 2025

“Scout Sunday”

“5TH Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green

Service by: Scouts of BSA Troop 900

Sunday, 16 February, 2025

“6TH Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green

Service by: Rev. Nancy S. Clark

Sunday, 23 February, 2025

“7TH Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green

Service by: Thomas Campbell - Seminary student, Union Presbyterian Seminary



OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community.

First-responders, firefighters, search & rescue personnel, world-wide
 All persons & their pets affected by California wind-driven wildfires
 Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families
 Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters
 & gun violence
 All families affected by war & civil unrest in the Middle East
 People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine
 Those suffering from illness/loss/grief/hardship
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister
 Becky Scott Smith
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues)
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother
 Verne & Clara Smith
 Eddie Frankenstein
 Etta Holc
 Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)
 Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh’s brother-in-law (health issue)
 Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson’s friend (health issue)

Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder’s sister (health issue)
 Renee’ Renier, Diana Flaherty’s long-time friend (health issue)
 Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley’s & Sandy Eickmeyer’s
 friend (health issue)
 Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
 Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue)
 Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of
 Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins’ daughter
 Dennis Allen (health issue)
 Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (health issue)
 Judy Recher (health issue)
 Shirley MacNeill (health issues)
 Sean Godwin, Bill & Cheryl Godwin’s grandson (health issue)
 Charlie Perkins (health issue)
 Evelyn Foster
 Michael Evans, former son-in-law of Nancy & A. W. Adams;
 son of Bobby & Sandra Tipton, & Ray Evans
 Frank (“Butch”) Reiter, Jr. (health issue)
 Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S "SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY LUNCH AT ROSEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH! Rosewood Presbyterian Church [5500 Oaklawn Boulevard, Prince George] has invited Gregory's congregation and our Pastors to their "Souper Bowl Sunday" Lunch on **Sunday, February 2, beginning at 12 p.m.**, after worship service.

Come, join the fun and enjoy a delicious meal with great fellowship at our "sister" church!

RETURN OF THE...(no, not Jedi)... ACOLYTE! It now appears that we have gone through the tunnel and have come out the other side! Exciting news from our Worship Committee: Starting **Sunday, February 2 at 11 a.m.** we will hear "Chiming of the Hour" after "Prelude" and before Welcome/Announcements."

Chiming of the Hour, the time-honored religious tradition marking the transition from a time of everyday life to a time of worship, reminds us of the presence of God's church. The Chiming of the Hour has been absent for a long time.

During the Prelude, an "Acolyte" will light the candles (**to bring in God's light to the service**). During the Postlude while the congregation remains seated, the Acolyte will extinguish the candles and leaves the Sanctuary (**to carry God's light to the world**). After the Acolyte enters the Narthex, the congregation may begin departing.

Presently, we have no youths to serve as Acolytes, so these duties will be performed by members of our congregation. We will publish a "Chiming of the Hour & Acolyte Schedule" beginning with the March newsletter. For February, the Chimers and Acolytes will be designated to serve on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis.

If you would like to serve as a Chimer or an Acolyte, please contact Rose Scott or Mary Holc.

"SCOUT SUNDAY" – FEBRUARY 9! We are looking forward to "Scout Sunday" on **Sunday, February 9**. Scouts from Gregory Memorial's own BSA Troop 900, will give us our sermon, and Scouts from Troop 900, assisted with representatives from BSA Cub Pak 910, will assist with greetings, offering collection, and special music. Afterward, the congregation has been invited to the Scouts' "Appreciation Reception" hosted for the congregation in the church Fellowship Hall. It's a great opportunity to mingle with our Scouts and their leaders that represent Gregory Memorial! *Be sure to attend; the food is great!*

ADVANCE NOTICES: Details will be in March newsletter.

- Shrove (a/k/a "Fat") Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 2025 Lenten Luncheon in community churches –It's back!

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

February 2, 2025 April 6, 2025	June 1, 2025 August 3, 2025	October 5, 2025 December 7, 2025
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ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Rose Scott	BSA Troop 900	Mary Holc	Donald Hunter

BECAUSE SHARING IS CARING...A RED VALENTINE'S DESSERT!

Easy Cherry Crumble! Pre-heat oven at 375 degrees. Spray (or grease) an 8" (or 9") baking pan (or pie dish) and set aside. Prepare crumble topping: In large saucepan over medium heat, melt 6 Tbs. butter. Remove from heat & stir in 1-1/8 cup plain (or self-rising flour), 1/2 cup oats (quick-cooking or rolled), 6 Tbs. brown sugar, 1/8 tsp. salt, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon;. Mix to make crumbly topping. Prepare filling: Stir 1/2 tsp. almond extract flavoring into a 21 oz. can of cherry pie filling; pour filling into prepared baking pan (or pie dish) & sprinkle crumbly topping over it evenly. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees for 40-45 minutes. Serve warm or cold. Best when topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!

BE INSPIRED

Elegy for a quiet man

An elegy for Jimmy Carter, Jr. commemorating the life of President Jimmy Carter

BY PAUL HOOKER

PUBLISHED: DECEMBER 30, 2024

Goodbye, fierce and gentle warrior, farmer with your hands full of good soil. You grew things.

You made your choices for weal and woe, held your power loosely, let it go;
asked nothing of others you asked not of yourself.

In extraordinary times, you were an ordinary man —not a hero, not a saint, not a role model.
You looked into our eyes and told the truth as best you understood it. We did not listen.

We wanted fairy tales of false greatness, glib promises of never-ending good times,
eternal morning in a land immune to night — Lies, all, and so you warned us.
But comforting calumny is easier to hear than stony fact. We turned away
to worship at their shiny altars these gods of glory, greed, and gore.

You wavered not an inch from your convictions, smile undimmed by public humiliation;
you went back to planting crops in fields where no one else thought they could grow:
Peace in bloodied ground, homes in urban lots, love stretched like a wedding canopy
over time and patience and simple faith.

Do not despair. The fields you plowed still wait their harvest.
See, even now they bear your quiet fruit.



Bernard Gotfryd, photographer.
Jimmy Carter, Plains, GA, USA, ca. 1977.



Photograph, ca. 1977
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2020735076/>.

FEBRUARY, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p>8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)</p>
<p>2 4th Sunday After Epiphany</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service & Holy Communion</p> <p>Service by: Rev. Marvin Daniel</p> <p>12p "Souper Bowl Sunday" Lunch at Rosewood Presbyt. Ch. [5500 Oaklawn Blvd.]</p>	3	4	5	<p>6a Clean church</p> <p>6-8p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	7	<p>8</p> <p>10a-4p BSA Cub Pack 910 "Blue & Gold" Banquet (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)</p>
<p>9 5th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>"Scout Sunday"</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service by: BSA Troop 900</p> <p>12p Scouts' Appreciation Reception (Fellowship Hall)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:30-9p BSA Crater OA (Fellowship Hall, kitchen)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>1p Circle meeting (@ GMPC)</p> <p>7p Finance Cmte</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7p Faith Cmte (@GMPC)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6a Clean church</p> <p>2p Newsletter (Feb) articles due in office</p> <p>7-9p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hal)</p>	<p>14 St. Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)</p>
<p>16 6th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service by: Rev. Nancy S. Clark</p> <p>12p Stated Session Meeting</p> <p>Moderator: Rev. Clark</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p>	18	19	<p>20</p> <p>6a Clean church</p> <p>2p Newsletter (Feb) out</p> <p>6-8p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall)</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)</p>
<p>23 7th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service ➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</p> <p>Service by: Thomas Campbell UPSEM student</p>	24	25	26	<p>27</p> <p>6a Clean church</p>	<p>28</p> <p>2p Cmte reports due</p>	

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FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)