

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” ~Romans 8:2

I read an interesting article recently based on studies of religious homes vs. secular homes. While I would argue that this article, like so many articles everywhere, was painted with a somewhat broad brush, the results of the study being reported were fairly conclusive: Those children raised in a secular home were showing greater characteristics of tolerance, anti-racism, anti-sexism, and fewer tendencies of vengeance and succumbing to peer-pressure. (*Bengtson, Vern L: Longitudinal Study of Generations*). The article, in short, states that not believing in God is not synonymous with being amoral.

Which is good news, typically. I'd like to think that morality is possible regardless of the situations of one's upbringing, and we know that the world can use as many morally-minded people as possible. But it got me wondering and asking myself: If secular families are providing a framework of positive ethics and morality better than religious families, where did religion go wrong?

After all, from the beginning of Jewish history, oral and then written, humanity has had the kinds of laws in place which would steer each of us toward proper and uplifting treatment of one another, of living in right and positive relationship in society, with each other and with God. And when Jesus arrived, Immanuel God-With-Us, that only solidified: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Luke 6:31 – the Sermon on the Plain). Treat each other as you would treat God, for each of us is made in the Divine Image, and is a child of God.

For centuries, religious homes have had the very foundation of right living with others in this world at our fingertips. So why, then, does a 40+ year study of our society show that secular homes are outpacing religious homes in instilling these attitudes? I do not have a quick answer, but I do have speculations. One of these is that we so often find comfort in attempting to live by the letter of the law, comfort in making the decision of 'who is in and who is out,' that we forget to live by the spirit of the law. We forget that the law, in the first place, is only a written interpretation of what should be within our hearts, in the

fibers of our very being: Each person we come across is a child of God, who has received the invitation to new life made possible in our resurrected Lord.

Furthermore, it is easy to get caught up in simply going through the motions, and forgetting what the motions are supposed to strengthen within us. Attending worship, volunteering, participating in mission and outreach, reading the Scriptures, spending individual time in prayer...these are not simply actions to check-off on a daily or weekly schedule, but are practices to keep us attuned to the presence of God, the love of Christ, the calling to be agents of the Kingdom of Heaven, wherever and whenever we may be. We cannot simply go through the motions.

As I move through this season of Lent, as I prepare to meet Christ again at the cross, and then the tomb, and then the empty tomb, I will focus on this truth: That Christ came into this world for all the world, and if I in any way am telling someone otherwise, then I am missing the mark. It is their choice to accept this truth or not; but as one who has already accepted it, it is my calling to continue to extend the Christ's invitation to new life. To everyone. I will not be content with simply going through the motions. I will not take my comfort in being one who is 'in the know.' I will work to keep myself grounded in Christ, and reaching out into the world.

I don't care if secular households do this well, also, if they are able to instill morality and right-living in society. I just don't want to be one of the religious households that does it worse. Christ's love means too much to me. I know it means just as much to you.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH 2015

Sunday, 1 March 2015

2nd Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
 Second Reading: Mark 8:31-38
 Sermon: "A Name Worth Living For"

Sunday, 8 March 2015

3rd Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
 Second Reading: John 2:13-22
 Sermon: "Can and Should"

Sunday, 15 March 2015

4th Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9
 Second Reading: John 3:14-21
 Sermon: "Salvation Raised Up"

Sunday, 22 March 2015

5th Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 Second Reading: John 12:20-33
 Sermon: "A New Way"

Sunday, 29 March 2015

Palm Sunday - Liturgical Color: **Purple**
 First Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Second Reading: John 12:12-16
 Sermon: "Open the Gates"



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.

For all who have been sick
 Our military and their families
 Our college students & the 2014/15 K-12 School Year
 Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother
 Helen Cibula
 Mark Smiley
 Bucky Allen
 Beverly Childress
 Ruby Hasky
 Wayne Hedgepeth, Ruth Figg's nephew (health issue)
 Bill McAllister
 Frank Solesbee
 Donna Allen
 Aida Faries
 Don Vtipil
 Marian McDonald
 James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell's brother
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother
 Mike & Brenda Harrington, Valerie Harsh's friends
 Maryland Blanchard, Grace and Helen Cibula's friend
 Ben Nicely, Spain family's friend

Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother
 Bob Hogsett, father-in-law to the Rechers' daughter
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother
 Tracy Taliaferro
 Brittany Mason, Kenny Overstreet's niece (surgery)
 Peyton Audrey, Audrey Turner's great-granddaughter
 Mark Chariton (new health issue)
 Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)
 Becky Smith (recovery from procedure)
 David Johnson
 Joanne Overstreet
 Jimmy Clark (hospitalized)
 Bradley Brockwell
 Audrey Turner (health issues)
 Jerry Bond
 Beth Thompson, Susan Walker's co-worker (health issues)
 Marty Moran, Marguerite Bishop's friend (surgery)
 Ron Recher, recovering from a procedure
 Peggy Allen (pending surgery)

QUICK CALENDAR:

- 3/1 - Preschool 2015/16 School Year Registration begins
- 3/5- Lenten Service & Lunch, Sycamore UMC, 12 pm
- 3/8 - Luncheon & discussion
- 3/9 - Committee reports in
- 3/12- Lenten Service & Lunch, GMPC, Lunch 12 pm; Relay for Life meeting, 6 pm
- 3/17- Session meeting, 7 pm
- 3/19 - Lenten Service & Lunch, Newville UMC, 12 pm
- 3/21 - GMPC Work Day, 8 am Breakfast (Raindate: 3/28)
- 3/23 - PG Triad , PG Library, 1 pm
- 3/25 - Scouts Court of Honor & Dinner, , 6 pm
- 3/26 - Lenten Service & Lunch, Trinity UMC, 12 pm
- 3/29 - Palm Sunday

CLERK'S CORNER

By: Donald R. Hunter

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church did not meet in February.

.....
Privacy Disclaimer: Gregory Church safeguards its members' personal information and does not include it in Newsletters and Bulletins (unless requested) that are published on the Church website. However, this information may appear, if requested, within the text of printed Newsletters and Bulletins distributed to the Church congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN SERVICES & LUNCHEONS will be held at 12:00 p.m. at these churches, followed by a simple lunch:

- Mar. 5 Sycamore UMC, 9710 Old Stage Rd., Prince George
- Mar. 12 Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church, 6300 Courthouse Rd., Prince George
- Mar. 19 Newville UMC, 9014 Hines Rd., Disputanta
- Mar. 26 Bethlehem Congregational Church, 10501 Pole Run Rd., Disputanta

ABOUT OUR NEWS LETTER... In our communications, we strive to offer the best product for the most reasonable price. Due to our current copier contract, which will soon be in the process of being reworked, color copies are inordinately expensive, and has not been the best use of the gifts entrusted to the church. For the near future, we will be switching to an all black-and-white news letter to better use the offerings you have faithfully given, until we can renegotiate a copier contract that more closely fits our needs/purposes. Thank you for your understanding!

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER (RECHERS) Ron and Judy have a new telephone number. We don't publish members' personal information, so please ask them for the new number, or call the Gregory office at 732-1081 for it.

From the Pastor's Desk....



Don't forget that Sunday, March 8, is the day that Daylight Saving Time begins!

Set your clocks AHEAD one hour when you go to bed Saturday night!

* On March 8, following worship, we will be holding a luncheon and discussion, during which Jason will share some of his photos and experiences from the Holy Lands, and allow time for

questions. If you've been interested to hear about his trip, you won't want to miss this!

* Our spring mission trip is coming up, and now's the time to get on board! In June (19-25), we will be headed to an area of West Virginia to help with basic rebuilding and home improvement projects. While some of the exact details are still being finalized, we will be working with West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and

Workcamps, an established organization which has run work trips for groups such as ours for many years. We're looking for 8-12 people, 16 years and older, to spend a week in service, worship, fellowship, and ministry to others in need.

Sign up now, and see Jason with any questions!



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

MARCH , 2015

March 1	
March 8	
March 15	
March 22	Rose Scott

Please write in your name on the Flowers signup sheet beside the Sunday you wish to provide flowers.
For assistance, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday).

3-MONTH GATEKEEPER SCHEDULE



MARCH - Keith Spain

APRIL - Bobby Allen

MAY - Doug Holc

SUNDAY SERVANTS – March 2015

<u>GATEKEEPER:</u> Keith Spain	MAR. 1	MAR. 8	MAR. 15	MAR. 22	MAR. 29 “Palm Sunday”
Ushers	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Melissa Johnes Chris Johnes	Keith Spain Ruby Spain Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Jerry Bond	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Lew Mayhew
Acolytes	Breeana Hunter Owen Hunter	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	Kiley Johnes Ella Johnes	Jaime Meurer Kaitlyn Hartsell	Breeana Hunter Owen Hunter
Announcements	Dianne Overstreet	Jerry Bond	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott	Jerry Bond
Junior Sermon	Pat Hunter	Minister	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker	Valerie Harsh
Junior Church	Rose Scott Breeana Hunter	Melissa Johnes Justin Ellie-Bowman	Mary Holc Jared Smyth	Marguerite Bishop Kevin Foster	Tara Foster Madison Foster
Nursery	Ruby Spain	Rose Scott	Susan Walker	Glenda Mayhew	Ann Hartsell
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter

MARCH , 2015

GATEKEEPER: Keith Spain

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:30 am Line Dance 6:30 pm Missions	12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Sycamore UMC) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2:00 am Begin Daylight Saving Time: <u>Set Clocks ahead 1 hr.</u> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship followed by Luncheon & discussion; "Pastor's Trip to Holy Lands"	9:00 am Committee reports in 9:30 am Line Dance	6:30 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance	7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: GMPC) 2:00 pm Session Agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:00 pm Relay for Life meeting		9:00 am - 6:00 pm Turner /Rosenthal Family, Fellowship Hall
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	9:30 am Line Dance	7:00 pm Session meeting	7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Newville UMC) 2:00 pm News Letter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		8:00 am Breakfast & Work Day @ GMPC
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents A Meal Offering</i>	9:30 am Line Dance 1:00 pm TRIAD @ PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed		6:00 pm Scouts Court of Honor & Dinner, Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Bethlehem Christian Church) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		Raindate for 8:00 am Breakfast & Work Day @ GMPC
29	30	31				
PALM SUNDAY 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i>	9:30 am Line Dance					

-
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182
Prince George, VA 23875-0182

-

STAMP

--
-
--
MARCH NEWS LETTER



COME JOIN US!!
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

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