

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



“When [the shepherds] saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.”

~Luke 2:17-20

“On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...”

While the celebrations of the day may be fading into memory, while the wrapping paper, bows and bags may be cleaned up (or not), the truth is that, for us, Christmas is just beginning! From the end of November to December 24, we spent our days in Advent, preparing for the arrival of our Messiah, Immanuel, God-with-us. And then, just a few days ago on December 25, our season of Christmas began! It will carry us through into the beginning of January (the 6th, to be exact)...

Last month, I spoke about disciplines to put into practice to help us, individually and as a community, to prepare for Christ’s arrival once again into our lives. Disciplines such as daily devotion and prayer, deliberate and active sharing of the blessings we have received, taking time to be mindful of the presence of God, and to breathe – simply breathe. The regular practice of these disciplines during Advent can help us to make the most of the season, and (in my opinion) go further to “keep Christ in Christmas” than any yard sign.

But they are not simply Advent practices, for a few weeks of the year. Nor are they simple Christmas practices, to continue in these coming days. Rather, these are *Christian* practices, disciplines which continually enhance and increase the life of faith we seek, the nearness of the Kingdom of God which we proclaim. The presence of Christ in our lives, after all, is

not limited to the time of Advent or Christmas, but is a year-round, life-time reality. So, too, are the disciplines of our faith! What joy, indeed, to be had in Christ!

Much like an athlete who strives to stay at the peak of his game, much like the professional who works to remain at the forefront of her field, we Christians bring the best gifts, the best service to our Lord when we continue to practice our faith and keep our skills (so to speak) fresh and up to date. When we let the ways of living out our faith fall by the wayside, then our ability to proclaim God’s Kingdom likewise lessens.

The difference is that the practice of these disciplines – prayer, mindfulness, service, compassion, humility, love – brings joy, and not fatigue; they bring peace instead of burnout. They bring us closer to Christ, which is the source of Life and Light, renewing us rather than diminishing us or our strength.

What a Christmas gift this is, what a joy to be found in the presence of Christ and the Kingdom of God. Merry Christmas, one and all, and to all a good night!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2016

Sunday, 3 January, 2016

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day - Color: White
 1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14
 2nd Reading: John 1:10-18
 Sermon: "Drawn from the Corners"

Sunday, 10 January, 2016

Baptism of the Lord - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
 2nd Reading: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
 Sermon: Rev. Kelly Kaufman

-Sunday, 17 January, 2016


2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5
 2nd Reading: John 2:1-11
 Sermon: "Renamed"

Sunday, 24 January, 2016

3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
 2nd Reading: Luke 4:14-21
 Sermon: "With Rejoicing"

Sunday, 31 January, 2016

4th Sunday after Epiphany- Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Luke 4:21-30
 2nd Reading: Luke 4:21-30
 Sermon: "A Mistaken Prophet"

 **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.

Don Vtipil
 Marion McDonald
 James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell's brother
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother
 Maryland Blanchard, Grace and Helen Cibula's friend
 Ben Nicely
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Mark Chariton
 Evelyn Lichvar (health issues)
 Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)
 Rick Lichvar, Evelyn Lichvar's son (chronic illness)
 Becky Smith
 Chuck Barnes, the Ingrams' friend
 Bob Hogsett, father-in-law to the Rechers' daughter
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Aida Faries
 Helen Cibula
 Elizabeth Scott
 Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's coworker
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Ruth Figg

Jimmy Clark
 Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram
 Eleanor Jones
 Jean Waymack
 Frank Solesbee
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Robert Hartsell (recov., health issue)
 Cheryl May, Susan Walker's employee (Cheryl's dad's health issues)
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 T. J. Orr, youth friend of the Bishops (home)
 Valerie Harsh (recov., foot injury)
 Billy Robertson (recov., heart attack)
 Sharon Maderly, Kaitlyn Hartsell's grandmother (health issue)
 H. Martin Robertson (health issues) & wife Carol
 Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother (recov., surgery)
 Peggy Allen
 Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)
 The Juliano family, the Cashings' friends (fire/smoke damage to home)
 Berthel & Izzy Garza, Mary Kay Schroeter's friends (health issue)
 Judy Recher (health issue)
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen

Annual Congregational Meeting to be on Sunday, January 24, 2016, following worship (with lunch provided). A make-up date, if necessary, will be January 31, 2016.

Sunday Luncheon for January will be on Fourth Sunday, January 24, after Annual Congregational Meeting.

[From Facilities Committee:]

"Greetings in this season of peace of joy! The Facilities and Stewardship & Finance Committees would like to express a deep level of gratitude for all the ways that you, the members of Gregory Memorial, have supported this church, her ministries, and the

needs of her facility over the years. We perhaps do not say this enough, but we would not exist without all the ways you support us, and for this we are immensely grateful. Thank you!

Recently we contracted to have the roof of the Fellowship Hall replaced. The shingles on the roof were over 30 years old from what we could tell, and far past the 'lifetime' of the roof. As this was such an immediate need, our committees determined to fund this project through the use of our investments, as opposed to undertaking a fundraising campaign. We have since heard some dismay that we did not give you, the congregation, a chance to

help in this expense. It was never our intent to cut you out of the process, or to take your gifts for granted. We simply wanted to make sure there was no delay in replacing the roof.

If you would like to donate to this project, or any others, please speak with a member of the Facilities Committee, the Stewardship & Finance Committee, or the Pastor. Thank you very much, and may blessings be yours in this new year!"

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, sign up on the form in the Narthex, or, indicate on the form you prefer reading it directly from the church website.

HOLY HUMOR

By Sandy Hunter

Catholics And Coffee...

The people at Starbucks managed to arrange a meeting with the Pope at the Vatican.

After receiving the papal blessing, the Starbucks official whispered, "Your Eminence, we have an offer for you. Starbucks is prepared to donate \$100 million a year to the church if you change the Lord's Prayer from 'give us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily coffee.'"

The Pope responded, "That is impossible. The prayer is the word

of the Lord. It must not be changed."

"Well," said the Starbucks man, "we anticipated your reluctance. For this reason we will increase our offer to \$300 million."

"My son, it is impossible. For the prayer is the word of the Lord, and it must not be changed."

The Starbucks guy said, "Your Holiness, we at Starbucks respect your adherence to the faith, but we do have one final offer...We will donate \$500 million a year - that's half a billion dollars - to the great Catholic Church if you would only change the Lord's Prayer from 'give

us this day our daily bread' to 'give us this day our daily coffee.'

Please consider it." And he left.

The next day the Pope convened the College of Cardinals. "There is some good news," he announced, "...and some bad news. The good news is that the Church will come into \$500 million.

"And the bad news, your Holiness?" asked a Cardinal.

"We're losing the Wonder Bread account."



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

January, 2016

January 3	
January 10	
January 17	
January 24	
January 31	

For assistance with this list,
 please call Church office at 732-1081
 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday*)

Sign-up sheet is temporarily on counter of Fellowship Hall kitchen.

SUNDAY SERVANTS – January, 2016

<u>GATEKEEPER:</u> Dennis Allen	JAN. 3	JAN. 10	JAN. 17	JAN. 24	JAN. 31
Ushers	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson
Announcements	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Rose Scott	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Valerie Harsh Justin Ellis-Bowman	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Patsy Johnson Breeana Hunter	Lisa Brown Madison Foster	Megan Cashing Kaitlyn Hartsell
Counting	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Ron Recher	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Sandy Hunter Pat Hunter	Donald Hunter David Johnson

JANUARY, 2016

GATEKEEPER: Dennis Allen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					New Year's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship		12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Facilities 7:00 pm Worship	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting	5:00 pm Scouts District Order of Arrow Lock-in Dec. 8-9 at GMPC	11:00 am Scouts Lock-in ends
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Guest Preacher</i>		6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship			6:30 pm Missions 7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		1-9:00 pm Cub Scouts Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Fellowship Hall (5-7:00 pm dinner)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i> Annual Congregational Meeting & 4 th Sunday Luncheon (Rain date: 1/31)	1:00 pm PG Triad, PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed		7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Newsletter Out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		9:00 am Officers' Training, Fellowship Hall
31						
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i> <i>Rain date for Cong. Mtg. & Lunch</i> 2:00 pm Committee reports in						

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

STAMP

-- -- --
JANUARY NEWSLETTER



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

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