

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



Then a servant-girl, seeing Peter in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him."...The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

~Luke 22:56-57, 61-62

When I was younger, my favorite summer-time game to play with friends was a crossover between "Hide and Seek" and "Tag." Played after the sun set, the premise was that one of us would go off and hide, while the rest of us stayed at the safe spot and counted down. When our count was finished, we would venture into the backyard, attempting to seek out our hidden friend, spotting him before he could sneak up on us and tag us. Once spotted, one of us would cry out and we would all sprint back to the safe spot, trying to avoid being tagged for the next round.

I took great delight in being "it", in being the one to go off and hide, attempting to distance myself from my friends and hide myself from their sight. But as we approach the final weeks of Lent, leading us to the cross, I am reminded of how the disciples, Jesus' closest friends and companions, also attempted to do just this – distance themselves from him, hide themselves from his sight – when he might have needed them the most.

It began when they were with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, falling asleep. It continued when Jesus was arrested, and they scattered, and again when he was tried, and they denied him. It culminated when Jesus went to the cross, and they were in hiding, fearful for their own lives, unable to be with Jesus at the end of his life.

Growing up, it was fun to play at hide and seek, to see if I was clever enough to avoid detection from my friends. Now, as we approach the final half of this season of Lent, I am reminded that such a practice is no longer a game, but it is something which I still practice. I know full well that I am too much like the disciples in

this moment of crisis, and though I desire to remain by my Lord's side, it is all too tempting to go off and hide myself from his presence, his vision.

Thankfully, Jesus is merciful, and even after such a denial, can offer forgiveness and restoration. More so, it is also not too late, for me or for any of us to make the decision not to run and hide, but to take on our own shoulders the weight of bearing witness to the crucifixion, to our Lord's humiliation and sacrifice.

It is morbid to consider watching such a gross spectacle, such an execution; in today's world we take every effort to sanitize and "clean up" death, in every form possible. Our hesitation at bearing witness is understandable. But we are given the opportunity to, like the women who did what the men could not, gather at the foot of the cross and remain close to our Savior in his time of agony.

And when we do, we will find that we truly do bear witness not just to death, but to resurrection, and to Life Abundant, a Life that cannot be tarnished by death. This is who we are; this is the promise of the gospel: that death no longer has power, and in Christ, resurrection is final the word. Let us be faithful together; let us be faithful to God, and let us not give up on gathering together to bear witness to the good news, in Lent, in Easter, and in all our lives.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2016

Sunday, 6 March, 2016

4th Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12 & 2nd Reading: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
 Sermon: "From Death to Life"

Sunday, 13 March, 2016

5th Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 & 2nd Reading: John 12:1-8
 Sermon: "Christ Beside Me"

Sunday, 20 March, 2016

Passion/Palm Sunday - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a & 2nd Reading: Luke 19:28-40
 Sermon: "Carrying Your Cross"

Thursday, 24 March, 2016


"Maundy Thursday" - Liturgical Color: Purple
 Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, 25 March, 2016

"Good Friday" - Liturgical Color: Black
 Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, 27 March, 2016

Ressurrection of the Lord/Easter - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25 & 2nd Reading: Luke 24:1-12
 Sermon: "A New Narrative"

 **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.

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
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 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
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Aida Faries
 Helen Cibula
 Grace Cibula (home)
 Elizabeth Scott
 Ruth Figg
 Kenneth Figg (accident injury)
 Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)

Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's co-worker
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Jimmy Clark
 Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram
 Eleanor Jones (home)
 Jean Waymack
 Frank Solesbee
 Cheryl May, Susan Walker's employee (Cheryl's dad's health issues)
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 Valerie Harsh (recov., foot surgery)
 Sharon Maderly, Kaitlyn Hartsell's grandmother (health issue)
 Peggy Allen (home)
 The Juliano family, the Cashings' friends (fire/smoke damage to home)
 Berthel & Izzy Garza, Mary Kay Schroeter's friends (health issue)
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)
 Mary Mistr (fire damage to home)
 Otto Eickmeyer, Sandy Eickmeyer's dad (recov., surgery)
 Frienda/family of Donald Vtipil, Sr. (d.2/25)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen

❖ Outreach Committee is once again planning an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the kids and youth of our congregation, to take place between the Sunrise service and regular service on Easter Sunday. We would like your help: all we ask of you is to donate a dozen or so plastic Easter eggs, prefilled with a small amount of treats. Please bring them to church by March 24. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Ingram or Jason Cashing.

❖ Mark your calendars now: Gregory Memorial will be headed to The Diamond to cheer on **the Richmond Flying Squirrels on Saturday, June 18!** We will be sitting in one of the party decks, so the price is expected to

be from \$15-\$20 each. More details to follow, so stay tuned!

❖ March 20 is the last day **to place orders for Easter lilies**. Cost is \$12.50 per lily.

❖ Remember to ‘spring ahead’ one hour; **Daylight Saving Time begins March 13.**

❖ **Special services for Holy Week:**

- Maundy Thursday (March 24), communion service at 7:00 p.m.
- The Sanctuary will be open for personal prayer on Good Friday (March 25), 12:00-1:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:30 p.m.

❖ **Tri-Cities Workcamp** – A Workcamp planning meeting will be held on Sunday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship

Hall for youths interested in participating in **Gregory’s 2016 Workcamp week: July 17-23.**

❖ **2016 Lenten Services & Luncheon Schedule:** Lenten services will held at these area churches beginning at 12 p.m., followed by a light lunch:

- Mar. 3 Trinity UMC
- Mar. 10 Newville UMC
- Mar. 17 Bethlehem Congregational

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

MATCHING WITS WITH A KID? BETTER THINK TWICE ABOUT IT!

➤ A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales, and her teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher repeated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, “When I get to Heaven, I will ask Jonah.”

The teacher asked, “What if Jonah went to Hell?”

The little girl replied, “Then you can ask him.”

➤ During a Kindergarten teacher’s observation of her students while they were drawing, she casually walked around to observe each child’s work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the

drawing was.

The girl replied, “I’m drawing God.”

The teacher paused and said, “But no one knows what God looks like.”

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, “They will in a minute.”

➤ A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy Father and thy Mother”, she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a large family) answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

➤ One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head.

She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, “Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?”

Her mother replied, “Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white.”

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, “Mummy, how come *ALL* of Grandma’s hairs are white?”

➤ The children had all been photographed, and their teacher, who was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture said, “Just think how nice it will be to look at it in 30 years when you are all grown up and say, “There’s Jennifer...she’s a lawyer now,” or “That’s Michael...he’s a doctor now.”

A small voice at the back of the room chirped, “And there’s the teacher...she’s dead now.”

Contributed by Ron Recher; Thanks, Ron!


FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

March, 2016

March 6	
March 13	
March 20	Rose Scott
March 27	Easter Lilies

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

Those Who Serve – March, 2016

 GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen	MAR. 6	MAR. 13	MAR. 20 "Palm Sunday"	MAR. 27 "Easter"
Ushers	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh
Junior Sermon	Pat Hunter	Minister	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Mary Holc Breeana Hunter	Marguerite Bishop Madison Foster	Tara Foster Kevin Foster	Patsy Johnson Kaitlyn Hartsell
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Kevin Foster Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher

MARCH, 2016

GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		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: Trinity UMC) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Youth Workcamp mtg. <i>Accepting orders for Easter lilies</i>		6:30 pm Outreach	7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Newville UMC) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
2:00 am Daylight Saving Time begins 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Accepting orders for Easter lilies</i>	12-9:00 pm Scouts Order of Arrow (6 pm dinner) Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm Missions	7:00 pm Choir 2-8:00 pm Cleaning	9:00 am News articles in 12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Bethlehem Congregational Church)		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<u>Palm Sunday</u> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Third Sunday Lunch</i> <i>Last day to accept orders for Easter lilies</i>	3:00 pm GMPC's Easter Lily order is due at florist		1-9:00 pm Scouts Court of Honor (6:00 pm dinner) Fellowship Hall 7:00 pm Choir	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> 2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs. Service & Holy Communion <i>Arrival of Easter Lilies</i>	<u>Good Friday</u> 12-1:00 pm & 6:00-7:30 pm Sanctuary is open for personal prayers	
27	28	29	30	31		
<u>Easter</u> 7:00 am Sunrise service & breakfast 9:45 am Easter egg hunt for children 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offrg</i> <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offrg.</i>	1:00 pm PG Triad, PG Library 7:00 pm Christian Ed School Easter Vacation Week: 3/28-4/4		7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Committee. Reports in 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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MARCH 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)