

## Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.*

*Luke 10:1*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

*Romans 12:15*

“Why do you want to be a minister in the Presbyterian Church USA? You could be a minister in any denomination, so why this one?”

I was on a discernment retreat early on in my process toward ordination, still in the first stage, and this question was coming not from some random stranger but from my guide for the process, from the man who was going to walk with me every step from first conversation to ordination.

He wasn't trying to be condescending, but he honestly wanted to know: For me, seeking to be a minister in the PC (USA), what was it about this denomination as opposed to another one? If I was going to seek to be a representative of the denomination, then I should have a solid answer to the question.

And thankfully, I did. I knew that one of the things the PC (USA) has been able to do very well is to seek to live and minister in community, in relationship with one another. In our denomination, the voice of discernment comes from the conversations we have, as opposed to one person being the figurehead for decision-making. In our denomination, we live and breathe and follow our call with the support of each other, rather than on our own strength or ability.

I read my fair share of articles written on clergy burnout. And the statistics are not favorable; the majority of clergy who burn out and those that leave ministry all together do so in their first or second call, typically within 3-8 years of ordination, and after serving as a solo pastor.

I think that one of the primary reasons for this burnout is not the lack of preparation for ministry, or even the reality that what was expected was not the case. Rather, one of the primary causes for this burnout is the

lack of community a new pastor, particularly a solo pastor, is able to find; without support, the new minister becomes overwhelmed, and ends up leaving ministry.

This is no different for any of us. Community is more than just a vague ideal for which we strive, it is more than simply something we say we do – community is a deep reality for us in the Church, a reality which, without it, we cannot survive. We support one another, we pray for one another, we accept one another, we love one another. We recognize that the things which bring us together are stronger than any differences we may have. And when one is affected by sorrow, we all are affected; when one rejoices, we all rejoice.

Or as Rory Gilmore [of TV's "The Gilmore Girls"] puts it, "You jump, I jump, Jack."

And this deep reality of community is never more needed than when it feels like the world is tearing itself apart. When it seems that the norm is distrust and selfish gains, then it is all the more important that we model a welcoming community, as opposed to drawing into ourselves and shutting the doors. It is a risk, yes, but it is also a shining beacon, a bright Light into the dreary demeanor of the world.

The Light shines in our lives, it shines in our world, and the darkness has not overcome it. Let us continue to join together, strengthening each other, strengthening our Light, and let us shine its warmth to the world.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2016

### Sunday, 2 October, 2016 ("World Communion Sunday")

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 22:14-20  
 Sermon: "In Remembrance"

### Sunday, 9 October, 2016

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 32:1-14 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 23:34  
 Sermon: Guest Preacher

### Sunday, 16 October, 2016

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 1:46-55  
 Sermon: "Faithful Response"

### Sunday, 23 October, 2016

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 1:30-33  
 Sermon: "Guilty Conscience"

### Sunday, 30 October, 2016 ("Reformation Sunday")

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Kings 17:1-16 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 4:24-26  
 Sermon: "Serving the Lord"

 **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.

Communities affected by recent acts of violence  
 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  
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister  
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother  
 Evelyn Lichvar, her son, Martin, and her brother, Rick Lichvar  
 (health issues)  
 Becky Smith  
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)  
 Helen & Grace Cibula  
 Elizabeth Scott  
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends  
 Jimmy Clark  
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son  
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)  
 Peggy Allen  
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)  
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother (rectal cancer diagnosis)  
 Eleanor Jones  
 Dottie Adkins, Bobby Allen's co-worker (recov., home)  
 Vivian Johnes (improved, at-home rehab)  
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother

Teresa Knott, PG County employee (health issue)  
 Billy Robertson (home, feeling better)  
 Emily Hudson, Rose Scott's niece (continued recovery, home)  
 Susan Walker (health & stress issues)  
 Otto Eickmeyer, Sandy Eickmeyer's father (ICU, health issues)  
 Catherine Velvet, WorkCamp resident (health issues)  
 Gladys Wiseman (thumb injury)  
 Eileen Mozucha (stroke recovery)  
 Kerry Rosier (arm injury)  
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recovery)  
 Mae Grammer, Dianne Overstreet's friend  
 Mary Coleman (hospital stays)  
 Ralph Summerson  
 Carol Hornbuckle, Megan Cashing's grandmother (recov.,  
 outpatient procedure)  
 George Poulson  
 Aida Faries (unable to receive transplant)  
 Mary Tate, Grace & Helen Cibula's great-niece (health issue)  
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mothe, (wrist injury)  
 Family & Friends of Joyce Taylor, Sandy Hunter's cousin  
 (d. 9/17)  
 Family/friends of Dr. William B. ("Billy") Russell, Sr. (9/15)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER:** ➤  
Bobby Allen

**Homecoming Celebration** – ➤  
Speaker' availability has made it necessary that we reschedule our Homecoming celebration to Sunday, May 7, 2017.

**“These Days” (Oct. – Dec. issue)** is available in the Narthex publication wall rack. Be sure to pick up a copy for some inspirational reading!

**Pocket Congregation Directory** –  
We anticipate the pocket Directory will be available in early October.

**Homecoming Committee is collecting info** to make sure all family and friends, present and past, are invited to our Homecoming celebration in May, and to that end we would greatly appreciate your help! If you have current addresses for any previous church members not presently in our directory, please pass

that info onto a member of the Homecoming Committee. Thank you!



## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

OCTOBER	2	
OCTOBER	9	The Hunters
OCTOBER	16	Rose Scott
OCTOBER	23	
OCTOBER	30	Dianne Overstreet

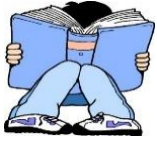
For assistance with this list, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday)

## THOSE WHO SERVE

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> 🔑 Bobby Allen	OCT. 2	OCT. 9	OCT. 16	OCT. 23	OCT. 30
<b>Ushers</b>	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	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
<b>Announcements</b>	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
<b>Junior Church</b>	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Patsy Johnson Jared Smyth	Megan Cashing Justin Ellis-Bowman	Jennifer Smyth Breeana Hunter	Susan Walker Madison Foster
<b>Counting</b>	Morgan Ingram Donald Hunter	David Johnson Glenda Mayhew	Donald Hunter Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott

*“Happiness is good. The place to be happy is here. The time to be happy is now. The way to be happy is to help make others happy.”*  
Robert G. Ingersoll

## WHAT'S JASON READING



of reflections to nourish pastors.

For church: The Art of Pastoring (William Martin), a collection

For school: Counseling Survivors of Traumatic Events: A Handbook (Weaver & Preston), to better respond to those living in pain.

For fun: To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee). *Can't believe I've never read this!*



## HOLY HUMOR



**BEST POEM IN THE WORLD** - I was shocked, confused, bewildered

As I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp--  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from 7<sup>th</sup> grade who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue.' 'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

- **ADAM & EVE** - Adam was returning home late one night when Eve confronted him. "You're seeing another woman, aren't you?" she accused.

"Don't be silly," he replied. "You're the only woman on Earth."

Later that night Adam woke up feeling a tickle on his chest. "What on Earth are you doing?" he asked Eve.

"Counting your ribs."

- **TOP 10 REASONS GOD CREATED EVE** -

10. God worried that Adam would be lost in the Garden of Eden because he would not ask for directions.

9. God knew that someday Adam would need someone to hand him the TV remote.

8. God knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appointment.

7. God knew that when Adam's fig leaf wore out, he would never buy a new one for himself.

6. God knew that Adam would not remember to take out the garbage.

5. God wanted man to be fruitful and multiply, but he knew that Adam would never be able to handle labor pains and childbirth.

4. As "Keeper of the Garden," Adam would need help in finding his tools.

3. Adam needed someone to blame for the "Apple Incident", and for anything else that was really his fault.

2. As the Bible says: "It is not good for man to be alone."

And the No. 1 reason: [Tada, drum roll, fanfare, etc.] God stepped back, looked at Adam, and declared: "I can do better than that."

- **E-MAIL BLUNDER** - An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she let out a piercing scream and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: *"Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. PS.: Sure is hot down here!"*



**OCTOBER, 2016**

**GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<u><b>World Communion Sunday</b></u> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship  <i>Holy Communion</i>  <i>Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering</i>		<b>12:30 pm</b> Circle  <b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> GS Troop 5000, Fellowship Hall  <b>6:00 pm</b> Cong. Care	<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>2:00 pm</b> Session agenda out  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning		<b>8:00 am-2:00 pm</b> BS Jamboree ( Lion Pack recruitment push), GMPC parking lot & kitchen
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship	<b>6-7:00 pm</b> GS Troop 553, Fellowship Hall		<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning  <b>7:00 pm</b> Stewardship & Finance		
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship		<b>5:30-8:30 pm</b> GS Troop 5000, Fellowship Hall  <b>7:00 pm</b> Session meeting	<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>2:00 am</b> News articles in  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning		<b>8:00 am</b> GMPC Cleanup Day & breakfast for volunteers
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School <b>11:00 am</b> Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	<b>1:00 pm</b> PG Triad, PG Library <b>6-7:00 pm</b> GS Troop 553, Fellowship Hall		<b>7:00 pm</b> Choir	<b>2:00 pm</b> Newsletter out  <b>2-8:00 pm</b> Cleaning		<u>Rain date for:</u> GMPC Cleanup day, etc.
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					
<u><b>Reformation Sunday</b></u> <b>9:45 am</b> Sunday School  <b>11:00 am</b> Worship <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i>	<u><b>Hallowe'en</b></u> <b>2:00 pm</b> Committee Reports in  					

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***OCTOBER NEWSLETTER***  
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**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)*