

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" -Mark 9:24

I find this to be one of the most honest prayers within our Scriptures. It is uttered by a man who has reached a point where he is no longer sure of what will happen next, or if everything will be alright. His son has been afflicted for years, with no relief or cure in sight, until he finally hears of Jesus and the miracles he has been performing. The desperate father brings his sick son to Jesus and begs for a similar healing. Jesus, in return, comments that all things are possible for those who believe. In his desperation and frustration, the father cries out that he believes, AND that he is not sure he can believe, at the same time, needing help from the Spirit to sustain him in his faith.

Friends, how often has this been us, and we have been afraid to say so? We have been taught that we should never show our uncertainty or our fear, as it is a sign of weakness, and weakness is frowned upon. We have been taught to hold strong to our faith, and never let it waiver, for that is what "true" Christianity is – unwavering faith, and to show otherwise implies that you're not truly a Christian. We have been taught and told, time and again, that there can be no room in our hearts, our minds, or our spirits for unbelief or doubt.

These teachings are misguided.

It is good for us to remember that our faith is founded in the One who is faithful, in all times and places. It is good for us to remember that our hope for this life and the next is based upon the life, death, and resurrection of the One who is able to secure our future, even when we don't deserve it (the very basis for grace). But it is just as true that we are, each and every one of us, human – broken, mortal, and failing. We will doubt, and this is natural in this life. "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."

We are not the first to doubt, or feel uncertain when facing the future. Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David...all the founders of our faith found themselves doubting at one point or another. (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief). The disciples doubted, *especially* on the Saturday between Good Friday (when Jesus was taken from them

by death) and Easter morning (when Jesus showed himself resurrected)...a thought that I've been very mindful of as we again approach this Saturday of Holy Week (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief). And Jesus himself doubted, as he hung on the cross, wondering why he was forsaken by God, his own Father (I believe; help my unbelief).

I confess that there are times in ministry, even after ten-plus years, that I feel as if I have no idea what I'm doing. I find myself haunted by questions... 'Is this the right decision? Could I have done more? Did I really offer anything of benefit?' and I know I'm not the first church leader to be in this position (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief).

And perhaps you have felt this way in your life, as well: haunted by questions, facing an uncertain future... 'What will happen as we face this illness? How will the bills be paid? Will I ever hear from them again?' As humans, we will face, more often than we would like, situations where we just don't know (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief).

One thing I have learned, though, is that the opposite of faith is not doubt. No, doubt is what enables faith to have the power it does. The author of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us still that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). We have a great hope, born out of the promise of the only One who is able to offer us hope in the first place, and in that we place our faith. But, as I said, we are but human, frail and imperfect; we will doubt, and there is no shame in doubting honestly. As we again approach Easter, let us hold to our faith, especially when we doubt, so that we might hear again the resurrection promise of New Life, the reward of a life of faith. Lord, I believe; help my unbelief...

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2017

Wednesday, 2 April 2017

“5th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12 * 2nd Reading: Luke 18:31-19:10
 Sermon: “Opening Your Eyes”

Sunday, 9 April 2017 (“Palm Sunday”)

”Palm/Passion Sunday” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 118:19-23 * 2nd Reading: Luke 19:29-44
 Sermon: “The Long-Awaited Arrival”

*Thursday, 13 April 2017 (“Maundy Thursday”)

*Holy Week Services: Maundy Thursday; Color: Purple
 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 16 April 2017 (“Easter Sunday”)

“Resurrection of the Lord/Easter”- Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 118:17, 21-24 / 2nd Reading: Luke 24:1-12
 Sermon: “Remembering”

Sunday, 23 April 2017

“2nd Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Luke 23:33-34a, 46 * 2nd Reading: Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60
 Sermon: “Telling Our Story”

Sunday, 30 April 2017 (“Homecoming Celebration”)

“3rd Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 30:1-12 * 2nd Reading: Luke 24:13-35
 Sermon: “One More Move” – The Reverend Dr. John Willingham



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.

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
 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
 Eleanor Jones
 Vivian Johnes (improved, at-home rehab)
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother
 Teresa Knott, PG County employee (health issue)
 Billy Robertson (home, feeling better)
 Eileen Mozucha (continued recov., home)
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recov.)

Ralph Summerson
 George Poulson
 Aida Faries
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)
 Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff
 Irma Honeycutt, Dave & Patsy Johnson’s friend (health issue)
 Harvey Spain (recov., heart surgery)
 Ed Armstrong (home, going through dialysis)
 T. J. Webb
 Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friends (health issues)
 Marguerite Bishop (broken wrist)
 Gladys Wiseman (Colonial Heights Rehab. Ctr.)
 Gene Vasek (health issue)
 Barbara Taliaferro (recov., knee surgery)
 Kay Slade, Rose Scott’s friend (health issue)
 Ron Woody (health issues)
 Carrie King (health issues)
 Tull Family (Joe’s deployment next year)
 Mila Campen (hospice care)
 Roger Overstreet (back in hospital)
 Dianne Overstreet (recovering from surgery)
 Family/friends of Zelda Ann Whitley, Janet Lammey’s mother
 (d. 3/13)

“Peace be to this house and to all who dwell in it. Peace be to them that enter and to them that depart.” - Unknown

From Outreach Committee:

Recently the Outreach and Missions Committees met in a joint meeting. It is questionable whether this is the best way to go. But one thing is very certain. More committee members are needed. We need your input concerning events, activities, etc., that you would like to see happen! Even if you can't make committee meetings, we would love to hear from you.

Outreach is currently sponsoring a collection event for the James House. Any personal care items, laundry detergent, other cleaning supplies, razors, tissues, towels, twin sheets, canned and other non-perishable foods, toilet tissue, etc., are suggestions. Cash contributions are always appreciated. All items should be brought to back room of Fellowship Hall by April 2.

In May, we will be supporting the Pregnancy Support Center of the Tri-Cities, Inc., with an event called "Baby Bottle Blessing." Baby bottles will be available on Mothers' Day for interested church members to fill with cash, coins, and checks. Please stay tuned for more info... [Contact: Judy Recher]

From Missions Committee:

PROJECT JAMES HOUSE: March is Women's History Month. In celebration of that, we would like to collect items needed by the James House for the women housed in their facility. The James House is the only accredited nonprofit organization helping people affected by sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking in our area.

List of items needed:

- Bath towels
 - bottles of shampoo
 - laundry detergent
 - fabric softener
 - deodorant
 - bottles of lotion
 - paper towels
 - nail clippers
 - boxes of cereal
 - canned food
 - non-perishable foods
 - shaving razors
 - shaving cream
 - tissues
 - hair spray
 - toilet paper
 - twin bed sheets
 - shower curtains and liners
 - cleaning supplies
- Cash contributions are always appreciated.

Collections begin today and go to April 2 for our project. Bring items to the Fellowship Hall. Baskets will be provided for these items.

Thank you for giving!! [Contact: Sandy Hunter]

WHAT'S JASON READING



For School: "Groups: Process and Practice"
(Corey, Corey, and Corey, eds.)

For Church: "The Study of Evangelism" (Chilcote and Warner, eds.)

For Fun: "Practical Theology" (Osmer)

HOLY HUMOR

Church Ladies and Their Computers ...Oops! Thank God for church ladies with computers. These sentences (*with all the BLOOPERS*) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs. Next Thursday there will be tryouts

for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The church will host

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across

from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:
Charlie Smyth

Apr. 1: Boy Scouts Pork Butt (pre-ordered) fund-raiser, pickup time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Temple Bld. parking lot.

Apr. 2: Project James House donations are due (Fellowship Hall. Meeting room).

Apr. 4: Circle Meeting is at the home of Mrs. Judy Recher at 12:30 p.m.

Apr. 6: Christian Ed meets 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Apr. 8: Church Work Day, breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

Apr. 13: Maundy Thursday service and Holy communion, 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary. All are invited to attend!

Apr. 15: "Clean Community Day" in Prince George County; 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. "Clean Community Day" is held for Prince George County residents

to dispose of hazardous waste, tires, and certain unwanted items *without charge*.

On-site shredding will be available for you to securely destroy old personal files and documents. Paper clips and staples may be left in the papers. *NO cardboard, binders, or computer discs, please!* Adopt-A-Highway volunteers will be out on many local roads picking up litter. Disposal sites are located at: PG Police Dept. Parking Lot, 6600 Courthouse Road, Prince George, Va., and also PG Convenience Center, 3100 Union Branch Road, So. Prince George, Va. Call PG Dept. of General Services at 732-0775 or Virginia Cooperative Extension Service office at 733-2686 with any inquiries on which items qualify for disposal at the sites.

Apr. 15: Bull Hill Rd. Cleanup, 8:30 a.m.

Apr. 16: Easter Sunrise service will be at 6:30 a.m. and breakfast to follow in Fellowship Hall.

As a special treat for the children attending, an **Easter Egg Hunt** will be

held during the Junior Church portion of the 11:00 a.m. service. Youth, ages 3 – 12, will be hunting eggs and older youth are asked to come and assist. Lots of fun and prizes for all!!!

Apr. 22: Workcamp team fundraiser. An all-day event. Details T/B/A.

Apr. 25: Session meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (stated meeting moved from Apr. 18 due to Pastor's vacation).

Apr. 30: Homecoming Celebration! Morning worship service begins at 11:00 a.m. Sermon by The Rev. John Willingham of Doylestown, PA. Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall will follow the worship service. Special program at 2:00 p.m.


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Missed the sermon? GMPC's sermons are on YouTube each week. Check Gregory's Facebook page for the links, or search YouTube.com for Sunday's sermon.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

APRIL 2	
APRIL 9	
APRIL 16	Easter Lilies
APRIL 23	
APRIL 30	

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 – APRIL, 2017

 GATEKEEPER: Charlie Smyth	APR. 2 5 th Sun. in Lent	APR. 9 "Palm Sunday"	APR. 16 "Easter"	APR. 23	APR. 30 "Homecoming Sunday"
Ushers	Jerry Hasky Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson
Announcements	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	Minister	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Megan Cashing	Jennifer Smyth	Patsy Johnson	Susan Walker	Pat Hunter
Counting	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing

GATEKEEPER: Charlie Smyth

~ April 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9a-12p BS Fundraiser – (preordered) Pork Butt pickup, Temple Blg Parking Lott
2 9:45a Sunday School 11a Holy Communion 11a Order Easter Lilies 11a Worship Service	3	4 12:30p Circle Meeting (Recher) 5:30p GS 5000 6p Congre. Care	5 7p Choir Practice	6 12p Lenten service & luncheon- Bethlehem CC 2p Church Cleaning 2p Session agenda out 6p Facilities Workshop 7p Christian Ed- GMPC	7	8 8a-1p Church Clean- up Day, breakfast for Clean- up volunteers in Fellowship Hall
9 Palm Sunday 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service	10	11 6p GS 553	12 7p Choir Practice	13 Maundy Thursday 2p Church Cleaning 7p Maundy Thursday service & communion 6p Facilities Workshop	14 Good Friday	15 Holy Saturday 8:30 a-12p Bull Hill Rd. cleanup (first meet in church pkg lot.) 8:30a -1p PG Clean Community Day
16 Easter Sunday 6:30a Sunrise service, then breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:45a Sunday School 11a Easter Egg Hunt 11a Worship Service	17	18 5:30p GS 5000	19 7p Choir Practice	20 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 6p Facilities Workshop	21	22 8:30 a- 7:30 p Workcamp fund- raiser, details t/b/a
23 9:45a Sunday School 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal 11a Worship Service	24	25 6p GS 553 7p Session meeting	26 7p Choir Practice	27 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out 6p Facilities Workshop	28	29
30 9:45a Sunday School 11a Emerg. Aid Offering 11a GMPC Homecoming Celebration 11a Worship Service 2p Special Homecoming Program 6p Committee reports due						

Gregory Memorial Preschool Registration Form

Child's Full Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Mother's Full Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

Name of Employer: _____ Work Hours: _____

Business Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

(City State, Zip) _____

Email address _____

Father's Full Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

(City, State, Zip) _____

Name of Employer: _____ Work Hours: _____

Business Address: _____ Work Phone: _____

Guardian other than Above _____ Home Phone: _____

Home Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

(City State Zip) _____ Work Phone: _____

Name of Employer: _____ Work Hours: _____

Business Address: _____

Emergency Contacts: (other than parents or guardian)

Primary Emergency Contact _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Secondary Emergency Contact: (other than parents or guardian)

Secondary Emergency Contact _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Person(s) authorized to pick up child: (other than those listed above)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Person(s) NOT authorized to pick up child:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Registration for the 2017/18 School Year begins **March 1, 2017**. Please call Janet Lammey, Preschool Director, at **704-0584**, or email gregorymemorialps@hotmail.com to check availability of openings for enrollment.

Registration and Fees: Tuition is due 1st of month as follows: 3 yr. old class - \$130/mo. & 4 yr. old class - \$135/mo.

Eligibility: Children must reach the stated age by September 30 of current school year. A copy of each child's birth certificate from their state of birth & copy of child's immunization record is requested at registration & will be kept on file by Preschool. Return completed registration form with \$50.00 non-refundable registration fee within two weeks to insure a position in our program.

Make checks payable to "GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL". Completed registration forms should be mailed to:

Gregory Memorial Preschool
P. O. Box 182
Prince George, VA 23875

Parents will be notified in August with additional information regarding orientation.

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

STAMP

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APRIL NEWSLETTER



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

We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva
Sermons on Youtube.com
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG