

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*  
-Genesis 1:1-2

In my recent travels I had the opportunity to attend worship in another church, not as a leader but as a participant (a role most clergy seldom get to experience). This church had a few families with very young children, who were present in worship and, as can be expected, behaved like very young children: loud and chaotic.

I had the chance in this opportunity to consider how the presence and activity of these children, ranging in age from 1-3, affected my experience as an adult attempting to worship God through prayer and song, by listening to the preacher read from Scripture and proclaim the message of the day. And it's true to say that the energy of these children was a bit on the distracting side! There were indeed moments where I thought, "I just want to hear what's being said!"

But I also had another thought, one that carries a bit more weight in my mind: "These children, with all their chaotic energy, are children of God, and are experiencing the presence of God in every aspect of who they are." Their energy reminded me that God is the only one who can be steady and present in all of our chaos. And if we don't raise our children in the presence of God, both in the calm areas of life and the chaotic, then how can we expect them to reach out to God when they experience either?

There is a serene peace that often accompanies worship, and that's not a coincidence. Worship is to be a time of renewal and rest, a time and space when we can step away from our own burdens and chaos and experience, tangibly, a sense of God's presence. We often want to protect that sense, but I have to wonder after my recent experiences if we're throwing the baby out with the bath water (no pun intended)? Are we attempting to create and protect a sense of calm at the expense of being honest with our own chaos, and in the

process making those with chaotic youth feel as if they are unwelcome?

Annie Dillard uses a wonderful metaphor that ushers should issue construction helmets and life-preservers to those who come to worship, as the God whose presence we so casually seek is the same God who spoke order into chaos, the same God who created from nothingness, the same God whose presence makes mountains fall and the earth tremble. It is the same God who mortals could not bear to see or else they would perish, simply by being in the presence of the Almighty. Talk about chaos!

Furthermore, if we come into worship as a community and pretend that everything in life is fine, that there is no chaos, then who are we really fooling? God? I don't think so. Each other? Barely. My revelation in worship on that Sunday morning was that just because I come into worship does not mean that the chaos I experience in life suddenly stops or disappears; it's still right there with me. The only difference in that time and space is that I am seeking out the One, the only One, who can offer a steady, guiding hand against that chaos. Perhaps we all need this reminder every so often. And if a family, if a child, walks away knowing that they are loved, welcomed, and accepted, no matter what else is going on, is that really a bad thing? I don't think so. In fact, maybe we should embrace this chaos a little bit more...

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2017

### Sunday, 6 August 2017 – Holy Communion

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 17:1-5 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Revelation 4:1-11

Sermon: "The Beginning of the End"

### Sunday, 13 August 2017

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 1:29-31 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Revelation 5:1-14

Sermon: "Lion in Lamb's Clothing"

### Sunday, 20 August 2017

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 14:1-4 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Revelation 6:1-8; 7:9-17

Sermon: "Facing Calamity"

### Sunday, 27 August 2017

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: John 16:20-22 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-5

Sermon: "The End of the Beginning"



**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, Rick, and her brother, Martin (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  
 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  
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)  
 Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff  
 Irma Honeycutt, Dave & Patsy Johnson's friend (health issue)  
 T. J. Webb  
 Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew's friends (health issues)  
 Gene Vasek (health issue)  
 Ron Woody (health issues)  
 Gladys Wiseman (home)  
 Janet Shockley, Susan Walker's mom (recov. after surgery)  
 Sandy Eickmeyer (recov., home)  
 Perry Lewis  
 Roger Overstreet (continued health concerns)  
 Eddie Frankenstein, ret. PGPD Chief (health issues)  
 Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)  
 Charles Story  
 Shirley MacNeil (health issues)  
 Marquita Simpson (JRMCI)  
 Terry Robertson (placed in medically-induced coma)  
 Ed Armstrong (Hopewell Health Center)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATEKEEPER:**

Bobby Allen

**What's your favorite hymn?** As we move into summer, Jason invites us to sing our favorites, and to help guide him in picking them, he'd like you to tell him your favorite hymn(s) so that they can be incorporated into worship! Look for the submittal slips in the Narthex, and give them to him, leave them in his box, or place them in the collection plate!

**Please note: Session Workshop has been moved to August 25.**

**August 1:** "National Night Out" observance by Hidden Oaks/Rolling Meadows communities, held in GMPC's parking lot, to support neighborhood efforts against crime

and illicit drugs in our communities, 6 p.m.

**August 3:** Christian Ed committee meeting, 7 p.m.

**August 6:** Holy Communion; Sanctuary flowers by the Hunters.

**August 8:** Presby. Women's meeting (Cibula's), 12:30 p.m.; Missions-Outreach combined committees meeting, 7 p.m.

**August 15:** "Family Night" sponsored by Christian Education committee with hamburgers & hotdogs cook-out dinner and entertainment (Christian-themed Clown), 5:30 p.m. Sign-up for headcount is needed (sheet in Narthex or call church office 732-1081). **Bring a guest!**

**August 16:** Choir resumes its regular practice schedule, 7 p.m.

**August Session meeting:** Changed to Sep. 19. The Session Agenda will include committee reports for June and July.

**Aug. 25:** Session Work Shop at the Hunter's, 6:30 p.m. (Rescheduled from Aug. 11).

**Aug. 31:** Gregory Memorial Preschool Orientation for Parents, Fellowship Hall, 5 p.m.

.....  
**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

AUGUST 6	The Hunters
AUGUST 13	
AUGUST 20	
AUGUST 27	

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 – AUGUST 2017

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Bobby Allen	<b>Holy Communion</b> AUG. 6	<b>AUG. 13</b>	<b>AUG. 20</b>	<b>AUG. 27</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	Charles Smyth Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Jerry Hasky Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh
<b>Announcements</b>	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Valerie Harsh	Minister	Patsy Johnson	Pat hunter
<b>Junior Church</b>	Rose Scott	Mary Holc	Marguerite Bishop	Lisa Brown
<b>Counting</b>	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop



**For School:** "Trauma and Transformation at Ground Zero" (Storm Swain)

## WHAT'S JASON READING?

**For Church:** Embracing Stewardship  
(Charles R. Lane & Grace Duddy Pomroy)

**For Fun:** The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien)

## Family Night Cookout and Christian Clown

Tuesday night August 15, 2017  
5:30 p.m.

Come join us for hamburgers and hot dogs and  
Don't forget to Bring a Friend!

Please either sign-up on the list in the Narthex or call the church office!  
804.732.1081



## HOLY HUMOR

### OF SQUIRRELS AND CHURCHES...

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the

baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the

Baptists took down the water slide.

The Catholic church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him.

*They haven't seen a squirrel since.*



**"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved--- loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves. Victor Hugo**

## ~ AUGUST 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>5p</b> "Natl Night Out" for Hidden Oaks/Rolling Meadows communities in GMPC parking lot	2	3 <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning <b>7p</b> Christian Ed committee	4	5
6 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Holy Communion <b>11a</b> Worship Service  <i>Sanctuary flowers by the Hunters</i>	7	8 <b>12:30p</b> Presby. Women's meeting (Cibulas') <b>7p</b> Mission-Outreach combined committees	9	10 <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	11	12
13 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship Service	14	15 <b>5:30p</b> Special Family Program (Clown), Fellowship Hall, cookout (signup required for head count)	16 <b>7p</b> Choir Practice	17 <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning <b>2p</b> News articles due	18	19
20 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship Service	21	22 <b>(T) 6p</b> GS Tr 5000	23 <b>7p</b> Choir Practice	24 <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning <b>2p</b> Newsletter out	25 <b>6:30p</b> Session work shop (@ Hunters')	26
27 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering <b>11a</b> Worship Service	28	29	30 <b>7p</b> Choir Practice	31 <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning <b>2p</b> Committee reports due <b>5p</b> Orientation for Preschool parents		

-- -- --

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

-----  
STAMP  
\_\_\_\_\_

----- -- --

## ***AUGUST 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)  
[Sermons on Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)  
[WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG)