

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10

In John’s gospel, chapter 9, Jesus has once again done the unthinkable and the unacceptable: he has healed a man born blind, allowing him to see the world around him for the first time in his life, making it possible for him to enter into the fullness of society without being an outcast or shunned. And of course, all this happened on a Sabbath. (I mean, the very nerve of Jesus!)

Naturally, the Pharisees investigate, and approach Jesus for an explanation. After a couple of potentially confusing parables, Jesus gets down to the base answer. How could he have the nerve and the gall to do such a thing as miraculously restore a blind man’s vision on the Sabbath? Because he came “that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Jesus is the bread of heaven, the wine of salvation, the way, the truth, the life, and he is the good shepherd, the shepherd who leads the sheep to green and rich pastures, to streams flowing with clear, cool water. He has come to bring us to life, and to a life that is abundantly good.

There’s a good chance that you’ll be hearing me talk about “Life Abundant” a good deal in the months to come, as it’s the cornerstone text of my DMin project. But here, at the changeover of one year to the next, when our lives get thrown into the reflective consideration of resolutions and habits, the question can naturally move toward, “Am I living a life that reflects abundance in Christ?”

The simple answer is, probably, “No.” But that has nothing to do with material status or bank account or

size of house or car. Rather, the abundant life that Christ brings into the world is one of peace – peace of heart and peace of mind; it is one of joy; it is one of celebration and rich, joyful relationships. The abundant life Christ offers has very little to do with the quantity of things in our lives, and almost everything to do with the quality of our lives, and our lives shared with others.

My heart doctor is keen on this idea, as well. He’s concerned about the normal heart-related things, but he knows that heart-health is intimately related to the lifestyle we live (medicines can be important, too, but there’s more to it than just that). And studies have shown that a rich, meaningful, and joyful quality of life can go a long way to making our hearts physically healthy. In fact, one such study has shown that people who regularly and consistently join together in a community of worship have a higher quality of life, and longer more enjoyable lives. Worship is not simply something to do with life after death, but everything to do with Life Abundant, before and after death!

The community of faith (and its practice), along with the sharing of that community, brings a depth and quality of meaning to life that cannot be replicated. And so, as the year moves from 2017 to 2018, I encourage and invite you to again join us in worship, for your sake and for ours. We’ll see you soon!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2018

Sunday, 7 January 2018

“Baptism of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 66:1-5 * 2nd Reading: John 1:35-51
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Nicole Ball

Sunday, 14 January 2018

“2nd Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 104:14-16 * 2nd Reading: John 2:1-11
 Sermon: “A Celebration of Abundance”

Sunday, 21 January 2018

“3rd Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 127: 1-2 * 2nd Reading: John 2:13-25
 Sermon: “A Holy Temple”

Sunday, 28 January 2018

“4th Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 139:13-18 * 2nd Reading: John 3:1-21
 Sermon: “Born of the Spirit”



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.

Those affected by Las Vegas tragedy & the emergency responders
 Those affected by recent hurricanes & the emergency responders
 Members of Franklinville Presbyterian Church, Franklinville, NY
 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 & H. F. Scott, Jr.
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family’s friends
 Jimmy Clark
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh’s daughter (health issue recurrence)
 Peggy Allen
 Eleanor Jones
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother
 Teresa Knott, PG County employee (health issue)
 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recov.)
 Ralph Summerson
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)

Adrienne Wallace, member of Hopewell News staff
 Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friends (health issues)
 Gene Vasek (health issue)
 Gladys Wiseman
 Eddie Frankenstein, former PGPD Chief (health issues)
 Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue)
 Shirley MacNeil (health issues)
 Perry Lewis (health issue)
 Debbie Hudson, Susan Walker’s friend (recov. surgery)
 Janet Shockley, Susan Walker’s mom (surgery on 10/8)
 Dink Armstrong (recov. surgery)
 Verne & Clara Smith
 Kenny Overstreet (health issue)
 Brenda Wahl, Keith Spain’s mother (health issues)
 Richard Harsh (recov. from surgery)
 Leigh Primmer, PG County Finance Dept. (health issue)
 Scott Gelcher, friend of Larry Johnson (health issues)
 Carole Kreiger, friend of Dianne Overstreet (health issues)
 Carol Knight, friend of Rose Scott (health issues)
 Les Mayhew (upcoming surgery)
 Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families
 (health concerns)
 Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields’ daughter (health issues)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:
Doug Holc

Gregory Memorial Preschool is searching for a preschool teacher (or aide) for the 3-yr. old class. Hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Interested persons are asked to contact: Ms. Janet Lammey, Preschool Director, at 804.203.3061 for details.

Congregational Care Committee will not have a meeting in January.

JAN. 1: New Year's Day!

JAN. 14: Tri-Cities WorkCamp meeting, 6:00 p.m.

JAN. 16: Session meeting, 7:00 p.m.

JAN. 28: The Annual Congregational meeting for the business of the church, for the corporation, and for the election of officers will be held following worship on Sunday, January 28, or the first possible Sunday following if weather becomes a factor.



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

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

JANUARY 7	
JANUARY 14	
JANUARY 21	
JANUARY 28	

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 – JANUARY, 2018

 GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc	JAN. 7	JAN. 14	JAN. 21	JAN.28
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
Announcements	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
Junior Sermon	Pat Hunter	Minister	Megan Cashing	Susan Walker
Junior Church	Megan Cashing	Jennifer Smyth	Susan Walker	Pat Hunter
Counting	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher

WHAT'S JASON READING?



STILL READING....

For School: "The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma" by Bessel van der Kolk

For Church: "The Work of the Chaplain (Work of the Church)" by Naomi K. Paget

For Fun: "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" by J.K. Rowling



HOLY HUMOR

THEOLOGY.... As explained by children

The first book of the Bible is Guinness, in which Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.

The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'

Joshua led the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.

David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraction.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 12 decibels.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

One of the opossums was St. Matthew.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

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GO TO CHURCH, WILLIAM!

On a sunny morning, William's mother came into her son's room and said, "William, it's Sunday. Time to get up! Time to get up and go to church! Get up!"

From under the covers came mumbles, "I don't want to go!"

"What do you mean?" she said. "That's silly! Now get up and get dressed and go to church!"

"No!" he shot back. "I'll give you two reasons. I don't like them and they don't like me!"

"Nonsense," she told him. "I'll give **YOU** two reasons to go. First, you are 42 years old, and second, **you are the PASTOR!**"

[NOTE: Jason likes you very much and trusts you feel the same.]

GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc

~ JANUARY 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6p GS Tr5000	3 7p Choir Practice	4 2p Church Cleaning 7p Christian Ed	5	6
7 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. Nicole Childress Ball	8	9 12:30p Circle 6p GS Tr553 7p Facilities 7p Worship	10 7p Choir Practice	11 2p Church Cleaning 7p Missios-Outreach	12	13
14 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship Service 6p Tri-Cities WorkCamp meeting	15	16 6p GS Tr5000 7p Session	17 7p Choir Practice	18 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance	19	20
21 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	22	23	24 7p Choir Practice	25 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	26	27
28 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering After worship, Annual Congregational Meeting for 2017 with election of officers (meeting of corporation)	29	30 6p GS Tr5000	31 2p Committee reports due 7p Choir Practice			

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

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JANUARY NEWSLETTER

HAPPY
NEW YEAR



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*