

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”
John 21:15

February is upon us, and everywhere one looks the signs of love are in the air. Pink hearts festoon building windows left and right; heart-shaped candy is prominently displayed in every store aisle; the radio airwaves are filled with helpful jewelry stores telling us exactly which diamonds our sweetheart yearns for... It is, it seems, the most romantic month of the year.

And so, it is fitting for me to say again how just how much I love all of you. I love that I have the privilege and blessing to serve as your pastor, in this place and in this time. I love that I get to share in your lives, both the joyful aspects and the difficult. I love that you allow me an opportunity to regularly share in the life of faith and call us back, time and again, to the Love which gives our lives their very shape and direction, the Love of God manifest in Christ.

It is a true joy to be here, with you, at Gregory Memorial and in Prince George. Not only do you allow me the joy of serving as your pastor, but you also allow some of my other passions, namely the fire service, hiking, and taking time to visit family back home. My life and my heart are full, and I am thankful. And this gratitude is merely one aspect of the love I bear you and this community.

Following the resurrection, Jesus meets the disciples in a familiar, favorite place: on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where he grew up and his early ministry began. After making the disciples a nice breakfast while they spent the night fishing, Jesus sits down to chat with Simon Peter, one of his closest disciples, and the one who denied Jesus three times out of fear. “Do you love me?” Jesus asks. “You know I do,” he replied. We think it a somewhat straightforward interaction, until we look at it from a different perspective.

In the original Greek, there are three words to describe love: *eros*, which refers to physical love (and is oftentimes connected to lust); *philia*, which refers to brotherly, familial love; and *agape*, which is communal love for all, regardless of relationship. *Agape* most closely reflects Jesus’ love for the world.

I was recently reminded that, in this interaction with Peter, Jesus is asking Peter, ‘do you *agape* me?’ To which Peter responds, ‘Yes, I *philia* you.’ While we translate all of this as the same word in English, they are, in fact, speaking of different things. Jesus is asking Peter if he loves Jesus and, through this love, all the world (in the way that Jesus loves the world). Peter is responding by saying, ‘I love you.’ It is a subtle difference, but a notable one. Jesus eventually meets Peter in this space, loving him even though the love being asked of him is not what is being returned. But it is with a qualification: “Feed my lambs.”

With the love that I bear you, I often wonder if I am doing enough to feed you, to offer you the full nourishment your spirits desire. I know that, in truth, God’s Spirit is the only one who is capable of fully feeding you, but that does not dismiss me from offering all I can to feed you and care for you. And I want to assure you that I will always be striving to offer you all that I can to help meet your needs. This is the gift I have received from Christ; this is the gift I offer you. Happy Valentine’s Day!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY, 2018

Sunday, 4 February 2018

“5th Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 42:1-3 * 2nd Reading: John 4:1-42
 Sermon: “Well-spring of Life”

Sunday, 11 February 2018

“Transfiguration of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 27:1-4 * 2nd Reading: John 9:1-41
 Sermon: “Sight Beyond Sight”

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

“Ash Wednesday” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 23 * 2nd Reading: John 10:1-18

Sunday, 18 February 2018

“1st Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 104:27-30 * 2nd Reading: John 11:1-44
 Sermon: Guest Preacher

Sunday, 25 February 2018

“2nd Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 51:7-12 * 2nd Reading: John 13:1-17
 Sermon: “The Lost Sacrament”



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 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)
 Verne & Clara Smith
 Kenny Overstreet (health issue)
 Brenda Wahl, Keith Spain’s mother (health issues)
 Leigh Primmer, PG County Finance Dept. (health issue)
 Scott Guelcher, friend of Larry Johnson (health issues)
 Carole Kreiger, friend of Dianne Overstreet (health issues)
 Carol Knight, friend of Rose Scott (health issues)
 Les Mayhew (recovering from surgery)
 Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families
 (health concerns)
 Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields’ daughter (health issues)
 Ed Hornbuckle, Megan Cashing’s grandpa (recovering from surgery)

“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:

Gregg Webber

Jason asks that you continue to hold him in your prayers as he continues work on his doctoral degree and undertakes the Prince George Fire Academy this semester. He'll be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding either of these programs!

Session 2018 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Tuesday of Jan., March, May, July*, September, and November. (*July meeting t/b/a).

FEB. 1: Christian Ed committee meeting, 7 p.m.

FEB. 4: Holy communion, 11 a.m.

FEB. 6: Circle, 12:30 p.m.; **Congregational Care committee**, 6 p.m.; **Facilities committee**, 7 p.m.; **Worship committee**, 7 p.m.

FEB. 11: "Scouts Sunday." In appreciation of support given the Scouts, Gregory's congregation is invited to celebrate Scouts Sunday at the **Cub Scouts' Pancake Breakfast** in the Fellowship Hall at 8 a.m., and after morning worship, to the **Boy Scouts' Appreciation Reception** in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 p.m.; **"Driving Miss Daisy" 3 p.m. matinee @ Ft. Lee Playhouse**, Carpool/caravan leaves



GMPC parking lot at 2:15 p.m. **Tri-Cities Workcamp meeting**, 6:00 p.m.

FEB. 14: Valentine's Day; Ash Wednesday service, 7 p.m.

FEB. 15: Stewardship & Finance committee, 7 p.m.

FEB. 22: Lenten service & luncheon, hosted by Gary's UMC, 13501 Sunnybrook Rd., Petersburg, Va.; Tel. 861-3201], service 12 p.m., simple lunch, 12:30 p.m.

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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.

"Driving Miss Daisy" at the Ft. Lee Playhouse on February 11, 3 pm matinee: All attendees' names have been turned in which will enable easy entry into the Post. There will be 23 of us which includes some friends of friends and friends from Tinsley Charter. If you desire to carpool there, meet at Gregory parking lot at 2 pm. We will depart from there promptly at 2:15 pm. Tickets will be distributed as soon as I receive them. Thank you for your support of this activity. *Judy Recher*

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

FEBRUARY 4	
FEBRUARY 11	Hunters
FEBRUARY 18	
FEBRUARY 25	Rose Scott

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 – FEBRUARY, 2018

GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber	FEB. 4	FEB. 11 "SCOUTS SUNDAY"	FEB. 18	FEB. 25
Ushers	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	SCOUTS	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Larry Johnson	SCOUTS	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh
Junior Sermon	Valerie Harsh	SCOUTS	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter
Junior Church	Rose Scott	SCOUTS	Marguerite Bishop	Lisa Brown
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing	David Johnson Rose Scott



WHAT'S JASON READING?

For Church: "The Sabbath
World: Glimpses of a Different
Order of Time" (Judith Shulevitz)

For School: "Feed My Shepherds:
Spiritual Healing and Renewal for
Those in Christian Leadership" (Flora
Wuellner)

For Fun: "A
Wrinkle in
Time"



(Madeline L'Engle)

HOLY HUMOR

THREE TREES...

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars twinkling like diamonds above him. **"I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I will be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"**

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be a strong sailing ship," he said. **"I want to travel mighty waters and carry powerful kings. I will be the strongest ship in the world!"**

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and busy women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave this mountaintop at all," she said. **"I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me they will raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world!"**

Years passed. The rains came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day, three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest," thought the first tree. "I shall hold wonderful treasure."

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters," thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship fit for kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me," he muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought him to a carpenter's shop, but the busy carpenter was not thinking about treasure chests. Instead his work-worn hands fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold or filled with treasure. He was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took him to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ships were being made that day. Instead, the once-strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. Too small and too weak to sail an ocean or even a river, he was taken to a little lake. Every day he brought in loads of dead, smelly fish.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in the lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted to do was stay on the mountaintop and point to God."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the

starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. **And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.**

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuttered. He knew he did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and rain. The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. **And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.**

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry, jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the first tree beautiful. It had made the second tree strong. **And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.**

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

"The Tale of Three Trees - A Traditional
Folktale" by Angela Etwell Hunt. Chariot
Victor Publishing, copyright 1989.

GATEKEEPER: GREGG WEBBER

FEBRUARY, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7p Christian Ed	2	3
4 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship Service 11a Holy Communion	5	6 12:30p Circle 6p Cong. Care 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities 7p Worship	7 7p Choir Practice	8 2p Church Cleaning 7p Missions-Outreach	9	10
11 SCOUTS SUNDAY 8a CubScouts' Pancake Appreciation B'fast, Fellowship Hall 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship Service 12:15p Boy Scouts' Appreciation Reception, Fellowship Hall 3p Ft. Lee Playhouse performance of "Driving Miss Daisy; caravan leaves GMPC park lot @ 2:15p 6p Workcamp plan meeting, Fellowship Hall	12	13 6p GS Tr553	14 ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Valentine's Day</i> 11:30a Preschool Valentine program 7p Choir Practice 7p Ash Wednesday service	15 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance	16	17
18 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. <i>Guest Preacher t/b/a</i>	19	20 6p GS Tr5000	21 7p Choir Practice	22 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host : Gary's UMC 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	23	24
25 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	26	27	28 2p Committee reports due			

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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FEBRUARY 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