

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"  
Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to the disciples,  
"Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"*

-Mark 4:39

We've just wrapped up one of my favorite seasons every four years: the Winter Olympic Games. I love the competition and comradery, the stories and the athleticism, I love bearing witness to the heartbreak and reveling in the accomplishment, and above all I love what the Olympics represent and bring out in the athletes and teams: the best of who we can be. I've greatly enjoyed watching our athletes represent our country and do so with smiles and pride. But I've also enjoyed witnessing the once-in-a-lifetime occasions that come out of these games.

For instance, in this past Olympics the story came to my attention of one of the Women's Speed-skating Relay teams. Early in the race one of the skaters, approaching the handoff, fell and had to recover. If that were to happen to me, I might be tempted to give up then and there – you're competing against the best and there's no way a mistake like that could be overcome, right? Wrong. This team did just that: the skater got up and recovered, and the team pulled together to come back from behind and win, setting a new record in the process.

Similarly, I witnessed a cross-country skier who was knocked down and tangled up in the first 200 meters of his long-distance race. He came back from the fall and a broken pole to win the gold. And it made me realize something: the athletes do not simply practice and train the motions of their sport, they must also train to fail. How else could they recover so completely? How else could they continue to compete after such a setback? These athletes must practice falling and failing in order to know how to recover.

And so must we in our lives of faith. We have never been promised that the life of faith will be an easy one,

free from trial or tribulation (in fact, it's almost guaranteed). And we're certainly not the only ones to experience difficulties, trials, and even failures. The people of God wandering the wilderness experienced them (remember that time they made a false god out of gold?), the people of Israel and Judah in exile experienced them, the disciples experienced them (as evidenced by our reading above). And it won't always be simple or easy. Sometimes our faith and our lives will be so rocked that we're not sure we can know how to recover, let alone whether it's possible.

But we do have three things going for us: 1) we can support one another, both in our times of struggle as well as when we are looking at the potential hiccups in the road ahead; 2) we are invited to remember our faith, and to take comfort in the knowledge that the end result does not rest on our own efforts alone; and 3) we are called upon to remember that even with our struggles, our fallings and failures, God is steadfast and loving, our Rock and Redeemer!

During the remainder of our journey through Lent, we will come face-to-face with the stark reality that we are broken and faulty people (a view that few relish, though true nonetheless). But even in the face of such failure we are reminded, through Christ's life, ministry, death and resurrection, that we are loved, and that our fallings and failures do not define us. Let us live into this promise in faith and joy!

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2018

### Sunday, 4 March 2018

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 17:1-7 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 18:12-27  
 Sermon: “Standing Firm”

### Sunday, 11 March 2018

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 145:10-13 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 18:28-40  
 Sermon: “A King of What?”

### Sunday, 18 March 2018

“5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 146 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 19:1-16a  
 Sermon: “The Seat of Power”

### Sunday, 25 March 2018

“Palm Sunday” - Liturgical Color: Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 24 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 19:16b-22  
 Sermon: “Approaching the Gates”



**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 & 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 Michelle Coleman (health issues & recov.) Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital) Jane & Ralph Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friends (health issues)	Gene Vasek (health issue) Gladys Wiseman Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) 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) Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families (health concerns) Reid Foster, recovering from ankle surgery Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields’ daughter (recovering from surgery) Rev. Pat Elder (recovering from heart surgery) Discernment for Travis Walker Charlie Perkins
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATEKEEPER:**

Charles Smyth

**Yay! Our new electronic sign is up and running!**



**Easter Lilies:** Be sure to place (& pre-pay) your Easter lily order by Sunday, March 18. Cost is **\$12 per potted plant**. Make checks payable to Gregory Memorial Church. Lilies will be delivered to church Sanctuary during the week of March 25, just in time for Easter Sunday, April 1.

**MAR. 1:** Lenten service & lunch, Sycamore UMC; **Christian Ed Committee** meeting, 7 p.m.

**MAR. 4:** Reserve **Easter lilies**.

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

**MAR. 8:** Lenten service & lunch, GMPC, 12 p.m.; **Missions –Outreach Committee**, 7 p.m.

**MAR. 11:** **Daylight Saving Time begins** at 2 a.m. Don't forget to set clocks forward a hour when you go to bed the night before ("spring forward"); Reserve **Easter lilies**.

**MAR. 15:** Lenten service & lunch, Oakland Baptist Ch., 12 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Committee**, 7 p.m.

**MAR. 18:** Last day to reserve Easter lilies; **Workcamp planning meeting**, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall. We'll continue planning our fundraiser dinner.

**MAR. 20:** Session meeting, 7 p.m.

**MAR. 22:** Lenten service & luncheon, Bethlehem Congregational Church; **Newsletter** out, 2 p.m.

**APR. 14:** Youth headed to Work Camp this summer will be hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 14!** Mark your calendars now, and be on the lookout for ticket sales!



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

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

MARCH 4	
MARCH 11	
MARCH 18	
MARCH 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 – MARCH, 2018

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Charles Smyth	<b>MAR. 4</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	<b>MAR. 11</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent Begin Daylight Sav. Time	<b>MAR. 18</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent	<b>MAR. 25</b> Palm Sunday
<b>Ushers</b>	Sheila Fields Janet Shill Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson
<b>Announcements</b>	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Pat Hunter	Minister	Megan Cashing	Susan Shockley*
<b>Junior Church</b>	Tara Foster	Valerie Harsh	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Megan Cashing
<b>Counting</b>				

\*Also 5 Cents A Meal Offering



### WHAT'S JASON READING?

For Church: "Trauma Stewardship"  
(by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky)

For School: "First Responder  
Resilience" (by Tania Glenn)



For Fun: "A Wrinkle in Time"  
(Madeline L'Engle)



### **GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEER(S) & SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

Our Preschool is looking for volunteers to assist with project paperwork (scissors-work such as making cut-outs for the Preschool students to use in their daily activities and related tasks that are too complex for tiny hands to accomplish). If you are interested in assisting the Preschool in this capacity, *OR* to place your name on the Substitute Teacher List that we are building, **please contact Janet Lammey, Preschool Director by calling 804.203.3061.**

## HOLY HUMOR

### A QUARTER ... FOR JESUS?

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas.

Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the city bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it! It's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount?" Continuing on, he rationalized to himself, "Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet."

When the bus arrived at his stop, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town?"

"Yes," the preacher replied.

Then the driver said, "Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

At his stop when the preacher stepped off the bus, he grabbed the nearest light pole to steady himself, held on, and said to himself, "*OH GOD, I ALMOST SOLD YOUR SON FOR A QUARTER!*"

We must remember that our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians, and will put us to the test! Always be on your guard -- and remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian."

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

Being a Christian is a whole lot like being on the old show, Candid Camera:

*When you least expect it, expect it!*

**GATEKEEPER: CHARLES SMYTH**

MARCH, 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Sycamore UMC 2p Church Cleaning 7p Christian Ed	2	3
4 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Reserve Easter lilies	5	6 12:30p Circle 6p Cong. Care 6p GS Tr 5000 7p Facilities 7p Worship	7 7p Choir practice	8 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: GMPC 2p Church Cleaning 2p Session agenda out 7p Missions-Outreach	9	10 8a Church Work Day, breakfast for volunteers in Fellowship Hall
11 2a Daylight Saving Time starts (advance clocks 1 hr.) 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Reserve Easter lilies	12 1-9p BS Order of Arrow & 6p dinner	13 6p GS Tr 553	14 7p Choir practice	15 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Oakland Baptist 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance	16	17
18 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Last day to Reserve Easter lilies	19	20 6p GS Tr 5000 7p Session meeting	21 7p Choir practice	22 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Bethlehem Congregational 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	23 11a Deadline: Lilies order to florist	24
25 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	26 Easter lilies delivered this week (date & time to be scheduled)	27	28 1-9p BS Honor Ct (w/6p dinner, Fellowship Hall) 7p Choir practice	29 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 2p Church Cleaning 7p Maundy Thursday Serv.	30 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	31 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 8a Rain date: Church Work Day 2p Reports due

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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***MARCH 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)