

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.”

John 19:16b-18

Spring has sprung and with it come the memories and hopes of all that spring entails: warmer weather, sunny skies, perfect Saturday afternoons and evenings (don't pay attention to any of the cold temperatures or snow of the past weeks). Looking back, Easter has always been defined by the joys of new life all around, and revitalized life with the arrival of spring. It is a season of hope, of joy, and of good news!

But that good news is slightly less meaningful if we turn our eyes away from what makes it so good. We celebrate at Easter the resurrection of our Lord, his victory over death and the invitation to New Life that comes from the empty tomb, but none of that would be present without first acknowledging his death. Resurrection makes no sense without it; New Life doesn't have as much meaning without an end to the old life.

Yet how quickly do we move from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday (and yes, I know the technical answer is, “one week.”)? How often do we skip over the unpleasant realities of the unfounded accusations and arrest, the sham of a trial, and the execution of someone who bore no crime but love for the world and a desire to see it live into God's vision? Honestly, quite often; it's easier and makes us feel better to skip straight to the good news and the joyful celebration. It's human nature to attempt to do so, but we deny ourselves the fullness of this joy and this celebration when we move straight to the empty tomb without first going to the cross.

This is a joyful season, indeed, and spring brings with it even more reason to celebrate the resurgence of life that is around us. I invite you, in the week to come particularly, to join me as we move into this joy through the sorrow that made joy possible. There is a lot coming up this week and in the month to come (more about some of that in the pages that follow). But for now, I invite you to join us this Thursday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. here at Gregory Memorial as we celebrate Maundy Thursday, remembering that Jesus first went to the cross to make the world's joy possible in the first place.

Maundy Thursday, 3/29: Service with communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, 3/30: Take time on this day to read one of the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion (Matthew 27:24-66; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23:1-56; John 19:16a-42).

Holy Saturday, 3/31: Take ten minutes this day in silence, without distraction, to meditate on Christ's life and calling.

Easter, 4/1: Join us for multiple offerings! Sunrise service at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Regular service at 11:00 a.m. (with Easter Egg hunt for children).

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2018

Sunday, 1 APRIL 2018

“Resurrection of the Lord/Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 118:21-29 * 2nd Reading: John 20:1-18
 Sermon: “The Joke’s on Death”

Sunday, 8 APRIL 2018

“2nd Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 145:13-21 * 2nd Reading: John 20:19-31
 Sermon: “That You May Believe”

Sunday, 15 APRIL 2018

“3rd Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Matthew 6:24 * 2nd Reading: Acts 9:1-19a
 Sermon: “Only One Response”

Sunday, 22 APRIL 2018

“4th Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 “Preschool Sunday”
 1st Reading: Luke 6:18-19, 22-23 * 2nd Reading: Acts 16:16-34
 Sermon: “Consider the Source”

Sunday, 29 APRIL 2018

“5th Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: John 1:16-18 * 2nd Reading: Acts 17:16-31
 Sermon: Pulpit Supply



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 Arehart, Glenda Mayhew’s friend (health issues)

Gene Vasek (health issue)
 Gladys Wiseman
 Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue)
 Verne & Clara Smith
 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 (recov. from ankle surgery)
 Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields’ daughter (recov. from surgery)
 Rev. Pat Elder (recovering from heart surgery)
 Discernment for Travis Walker
 Charlie Perkins
 Sharon Noblin, Susan Shockley’s neighbor (caregiver concerns)
 Family/friends of Jim Judkins, David Johnson’s cousin (d. 3/12))
 Family/friends of Perry Lewis, former PG County Sheriff (d. 3/13)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:

Bobby Allen

Be sure to come hungry for **Workcampers' fundraiser Spaghetti dinner, (6 p.m.) on Saturday, April 14!**

The dinner (sit-down or take-out) includes a full spaghetti meal and entertainment, all proceeds going to our youth attending Tri-Cities WorkCamp July 22-28. Tickets are \$8/person and available through any of our campers!

We'll be hosting a **Firefighter Appreciation Sunday** with luncheon on Sunday, May 6, to show our thanks to those who serve our community. More information later, including a sign-up sheet for those who can help out!

Jason is leading his **DMin. Retreat**, the main project of his Doctorate, over the weekend of April 27-29. We'll have pulpit supply that Sunday, but please be praying for him in this crucial time!

Easter Lilies: Please be sure to take your plant(s) home to enjoy or gift after the service.

APR. 1: Sunrise service, 6:30 a.m., then breakfast in Fellowship Hall; **Worship w/special offering: "One Great Hour of Sharing" & Holy Communion, 11 a.m.; Easter egg hunt** for children during "Time for Children"

APR. 2: Worship Com., 1:30 p.m.

APR. 3: Circle, 12:30 p.m.; **Congregational Care Com. 6 p.m.;** **GS Tr. 5000, 6 p.m.;** **Facilities Com., 7 p.m.**

APR. 4: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

APR. 5: Christian Ed Com., 7 p.m.

APR. 8: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship, 11 a.m.**

APR. 9: Crater District Order of Arrow "Drug Awareness" class (open to public), Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

APR. 10: GS Tr. 553, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.; **Missions-Outreach Com., 7 p.m.**

APR. 11: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

APR. 14: Spaghetti dinner (fundraiser by our Workcampers), Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

APR. 15: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship, 11 a.m.**

APR. 17: GS Tr. 5000, 6 p.m.

APR. 18: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

APR. 19: Newsletter articles due in church office, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com., 7 p.m.**

APR. 20: Session workshop, 6 p.m.

APR. 22: "Preschool Sunday"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship & special program by our Preschoolers, "5 Cents a Meal Offering", 11 a.m.**

APR. 25: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

APR. 26: Newsletter out, 2 p.m.

APR 27-29: DMin Retreat

APR. 29: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship, Local Emergency Aid Offering, 11 a.m.;** Guest preacher TBA

EVENTS COMING UP

- 5/6: Firefighters Appreciation Lunch
- 5/13: Mothers' Day
- 6/18: Fathers' Day
- 6/24: Sunday in the Park
- 6/26: Puppets Show
- 7/20: Family Night
- 7/22: GMPC Workcamp Week begins
- 8/7: National Night Out
- 8/9: Flying Squirrels Ballgame

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

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

APRIL 1	Easter Lilies
APRIL 8	
APRIL 15	
APRIL 22	
APRIL 29	

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, 2018

GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen	APR. 1 Easter	APR. 8 2 nd Sunday of Easter	APR. 15 3 rd Sunday of Easter	APR. 22 4 th Sunday of Easter	APR. 29 5 th Sunday of Easter
Ushers	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Shill Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen 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	Patsy Johnson	Jennifer Smyth	Susan Shockley	Pat Hunter	Rose Scott
Counting	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing

*Also 5 Cents A Meal Offering



WHAT'S JASON READING?

Nothing new this month; his energy is focused on his DMin project and the Fire Academy



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.*

EASTER EGG HUNT - We will have our **annual Easter Egg Hunt** once again during Junior Church time on Easter Sunday. Children 3 years and older will be invited to join us for all the activities. Please pass the word to family and friends. We have two areas to hunt: one for children kindergarten age and younger, and one for older kids. (*Contact: Patsy Johnson*)



HOLY HUMOR

ENERGIZER BUNNY?

A man was blissfully driving along the highway, when he saw the Easter Bunny hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the Bunny, but unfortunately the rabbit jumped in front of his car and was hit. His basket of eggs went flying all over the place. Candy, too. Chocolate all over the place.

The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the Bunny carrying the basket. Much to his dismay, the colorful Bunny was dead.

The driver felt guilty, and he began to cry.

A woman driving down the same highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She

stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained, "I accidentally hit the Easter Bunny and killed it. There may not be an Easter because of me. What should I do?"

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew exactly what to do. She went to her car trunk, and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead Bunny, and sprayed the entire contents of the can onto the little furry animal.

Miraculously the Easter Bunny came back to life, jumped up, picked up the spilled eggs and candy, waved his paw at the two humans and hopped on down the road. Fifty yards away, the Easter Bunny stopped, turned around, waved and hopped on down the road another 50 yards, then turned, waved, hopped another 50 yards and waved again!!!!

This continued until the Easter Bunny was out of sight.

The man was astonished.

He turned said to the woman, "What in heaven's name is in your spray can? What was it that you sprayed on the Easter Bunny?"

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label.

It said: "*Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.*"



APRIL, 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 EASTER 6:30a Sunrise service & breakfast 9:45a Sun. Sch. 11a Worship, Time for Children (Easter egg hunt) "One Great Hour of Sharing" Offering 11a Holy Communion	2 1p Worship Committee	3 12:30p Circle 6p Cong. Care 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities	4 7p Choir Practice	5 2p Church cleaning 7p Christian Ed	6	7
8 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	9 6p Cr OA Drug Awareness (open class)	10 6p GS Tr553 7p Missions-Outreach	11 7p Choir Practice	12 2p Church Cleaning	13 5p Workcampers set-up for Spaghetti dinner	14 6p Spaghetti dinner fundraiser for Workcamp, Fellowship Hall (volunteers arrive 5:30p)
15 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 6p Workcamp planning meeting, Fellowship Hall	16	17 6p GS Tr5000	18 7p Choir Practice	19 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance	20 6p Session 2018 organization meeting & dinner (details TBA)	21
22 PRESCHOOL SUNDAY 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Special program by Gregory Preschool 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	23	24	25 7p Choir Practice	26 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	27 DMin Retreat 4/27-29	28 DMin Retreat
29 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Local Emerg. Aid Offering <i>Guest preacher TBA</i> End DMin Retreat	30 2p Reports due					

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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