

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



December 17, 2017 – 11:00 a.m.

“Third Sunday of Advent”

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God, made known in Christ. We pray you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to the quiet stillness of the presence of God!

GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Valerie Harsh

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Jason N. Cashing

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship

One: When Christ returns in power and glory, people will faint with fear.

All: But when you see these things, lift up your heads: our redemption is drawing near!

Candle Lighter: We light this candle as a symbol of God's love for us and our love for one another.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Opening Hymn #93 – “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

The Lord is near. In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news, and for the sake of all of the world. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

Promise of God's Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

One: Know that we have been forgiven, and be at peace!

All: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen!

***Congregational Response (Hymn #581)**

The Giving of Our Tithes, Gifts, & Selves to God - Offertory

Congregational Response (Hymn #606)

***Prayer of Dedication**

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Time for Children– Junior Sermon

Susan Walker

‘Worship Boards’ are on the front pew for older youth.

[Note: There's no Junior Church this morning because of the Christmas Cantata].

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Gracious Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear your word with joy. Amen.

Scripture 1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-15 p598
 2nd Reading: John 4:13-14 p865

Sermon: “Celebrate the Child Who Is the Light” Choral Cantata

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Affirmation of Faith

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. *[John 1:1-5]*

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

One: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayers.

***Departing Hymn #88, vs.1, 5-7 – “O Come, O Come,
Emmanuel”**

Blessing

One: We have been blessed!

All: We have met for divine worship, as God’s people.

One: We have been blessed!

All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.

One: We have been blessed!

All: We go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!

***Pastoral Benediction**

***Choral Benediction & Postlude**

ANNOUNCEMENT(S)

The lovely Christmas poinsettia plants are displayed in our Sanctuary in honor of or in memory of those listed in the Christmas Poinsettia insert. Please remember to take home your poinsettia(s) after the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24.

We will not have Junior Church this morning due to performance of our Christmas Cantata,

We will receive our **Christmas Joy Offering** next Sunday, Dec. 24. Please refer to the enclosed flyer for information on the offering.

A **“Darkest Night” service** will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 21, to honor the grief of loss and separation painfully present in this season.

Next Sunday, we will gather twice for worship: At our regular 11:00 a.m. time, we will observe 4th Advent. Then, at 7:00 p.m., we will celebrate Christmas Eve at a service for the entire family!

For those interested in attending the **Ft. Lee Playhouse production of Driving Miss Daisy**, we will be attending as a group on February 11 for the 3pm matinee. Cost of a ticket is \$13. If more than ten go, price drops to \$11. Please get your payment to me by January 14 so that names can be turned in to Ft. Lee for easy access to the Post on that day. If attendance exceeds ten, a refund will be forwarded to you. Any questions, call Judy Recher.

Don't forget:

- **Use Christmas Card Box in the Narthex** for congregation's cards.
- **Church office Hours, during upcoming holidays:**
Christmas & New Year's Weeks: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

GMPC Information

www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva
804.732.1081 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Jason Cashing (Jason@gregorymemorial.org)
Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)
Organist: Sandra Perkins Accompanist: Gail Rollings
Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

Mary Holc (2017); Susan Walker (2017); Robert Hartsell (2017)
Blake Bishop (2018); Valerie Harsh (2018); _____(2018)
Sandy Hunter (2019), Patsy Johnson (2019); (2019) Charles Smyth (2019)
Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session)

Trustees

Gregg Webber (2017); Mary Kay Schroeter (2018); Morgan Ingram (2019)

/17 THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	3rd Sunday of Advent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship 11a Christmas Cantata	17	4th Sunday of Advent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship 11a 5 Cents a Meal Offering 11a Christmas Joy Offering 7p Christmas Eve service & Holy Communion	24
M		18	Christmas Day	25
T	12p Preschool Christmas pageant 6p GS Tr. 5000	19	<u>Church office open</u>	26
W	Preschool Christmas break 12/20-1/2/18 7p Choir practice	20	<u>Church office open</u> 7p Choir practice	27
T	2p Church cleaning 2p Newsletter out 7p "Darkest Night " service	21	<u>Church office open</u> 2p Church cleaning 2p Newsletter out	28
F		22		29
S		23		30

SUNDAY SERVANTS



GATEKEEPER: Charles Smyth

	December 17, 2017	December 24, 2017
USHERS	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
JUNIOR SERMON	Susan Walker	Valerie Harsh
JUNIOR CHURCH	Valerie Harsh	Patsy Johnson
COUNTING	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter

Facts & Figures		YTD	Thru 11/30/17	Offrg.	Rec'd.
Pledged/proj. incr.	\$137,530	Inc.	\$121,031.90	12/3	\$2,393.25
Ann. budget exp.	\$145,537	Exp.	\$122,348.59	12/10	\$1,623.30
Mo. budget needs	\$ 12,128	Diff.	(\$ 1,316.69)	12/17	\$
Wk. budget needs	\$ 2,799			12/24	\$
				12/31	\$

ATTENDANCE: December 10, 2017

Worship: 37	Sunday School: 9	
	Spiritual Enrichment: 8	Children:
	Fellowship: 1	Youth:

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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)
Lauren O'Steen, Breeana & Owen Hunter's g'mother (health issues)
Les Mayhew (upcoming surgery)
Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families
(health concerns)
Family/friends of William N. Nall, Sr. (d. 12/7)
Our Joy for the birth: Jason Holc, Jr., Doug & Mary's grandson