

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*“Your people shall be righteous; they shall possess the land forever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified. The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the Lord; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.”*

**-Isaiah 60:21-22**

Jesus said therefore, “What is the Kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

-Luke 13:18-19

“I’d been on the job for about three months when it came time for the joint planning meeting with the session and deacons. It was my first call to a small congregation in a medium-sized building. I was old enough to remember what church was like back in the ‘70s, when vacation Bible school was a community event and Christmas and Easter meant extra chairs around the perimeter of the sanctuary. The church to which I’d been called didn’t even fill up on the big holidays.

“So I went into that first leadership meeting with my new “Reverend” title and armed with information and statistics. As a second-career pastor I knew my way around the communication business. I also knew that churches were supposed to grow to be successful – and gosh darn it, we were going to do just that.

“I went into that meeting with all my fear and anxiety about serving a dying church. The leadership meeting started right on time and I proceeded to rush through all my great ideas. I talked about new communication strategies, adaptive change, appealing to millennials, mission and vision statements and probably about a hundred other things that I thought were vital at the time. Many of the leaders sat quietly.

“What was going on? I wondered. Why were they not excited to try all of the new things? How could they be so blasé about what their low numbers were showing? Did they want to dwindle away?

“Over the next year in ministry we got to know and love each other. They knew some of my idiosyncrasies and I knew some of theirs. Still, the next joint meeting wasn’t that much different. I went in with my PowerPoint and statistics and they patiently endured – again. Toward the end, a deacon raised her hand.

“‘I don’t want to seem rude,’ she said. ‘But it seems like we do the same thing every year and nothing ever changes. It doesn’t seem to make a difference.’

“Another elder pushed back against the need to change at all. I announced, rather harshly, that I was not a hospice pastor. We had to increase our numbers. An elder, who was (and is) wiser than me, pointed out that they had heard the same dire stories and statistics about decline for quite a few years, but every year God managed to pull them through, oftentimes with a few new members. Not enough to show statistical growth, since so many were dying, but enough to maintain.

“After another year or so together, we baptized an older child. I asked all the people in the sanctuary who had been baptized to stand and invited the boy to see the new family he would be joining. Then I asked everyone to sit except the people who had been baptized in that church. I expected about half the congregation to be standing, thinking that since it was a small town, most of them had probably been baptized in the church. I was very wrong.

“Of the 30 or so people who were in the room that day, only two remained standing. It was then that I realized that the church I had been serving for more than three years, the church that I thought had never changed, had in fact been changing all along. While they never had 50 people join in a year, for 15 years they had welcomed a few people who felt the presence of Jesus in that sanctuary and chose to come back week after week to meet him there.

“It was then that I realized that the given narrative for leaders with small congregations is simple: Grow it or close it. Today, I know that this is a false dichotomy. There is a third option. Small churches can thrive. Thriving small churches don’t get written up as success stories. Their pastors aren’t invited to speak at church conferences. In fact, there aren’t many resources geared just to them. Yet these small congregations continue to meet Jesus and welcome others to join them. They remain grateful, as God remains faithful.”

*(Originally published in Presbyterians Today, June/July 2018, p9. Reprinted here, in full, with permission by the author, Rev. Sue Washburn, Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mount Pleasant, PA).*

With you on the journey,

Pastor Jason

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2018

### Sunday, 5 August 2018 & Holy Communion

#### “Sunday in the Park”

“11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

### Sunday, 12 August 2018

“12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

### Sunday, 19 August 2018

“13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

### Sunday, 26 August 2018

“14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green



**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	Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)
Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister	Verne & Clara Smith
Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother	Leigh Primmer, PG County Finance Dept. (health issue)
Maryland Blanchard, Grace Cibula's friend	Scott Guelcher, friend of Larry Johnson (health issues)
Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister	Carol Knight, friend of Rose Scott (health issues)
Evelyn Lichvar, her son, Rick, & her brother, Martin (health issues)	Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families
Becky Smith	(health concerns)
Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)	Charlie Perkins
Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends	Sharon Noblin, Susan Shockley's neighbor (caregiver concerns)
Jimmy Clark	Elizabeth & H. F. Scott, Jr.
Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)	Grace Cibula
Jeff Mundy	Travis Walker & family (preparing for transition to Ft. Drum, NY)
Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother	Peggy Allen (home, physical therapy)
Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)	Dink Armstrong's sister, "Shorty" (serious illness)
Jane Arehart, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issues)	Eddie Frankenstein
Gene Vasek (health issue)	Donna Fields-Duvall, Sheila Fields's daughter
Gladys Wiseman	Nancy Adams

**“I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple. But God declared: Go down again, I dwell among the people.”**  
**Louis L. Newman**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**GATEKEEPER:**

Charles Smyth

**Circle** – no meetings Aug.; resumes Sep. 4, 12:30 p.m.

**Choir practice** – no practice August 1-Aug. 14 (summer hiatus); resumes Aug. 15, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 2: Christian Ed Com.**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 3: Worship**, 1 p.m.

**AUGUST 5: “Sunday in the Park #2”- Scott Park; Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship at Scott Park & Holy Communion**, 11 a.m.; **Potluck Lunch** after worship service. Bring a potluck dish to share/Worship Com. provides beverages..

**AUGUST 7: “National Night Out (Rolling Meadows Community)**, GMPC

parking lot, ~~5:30 p.m.~~<sup>6 p.m.</sup>; **Congregational Care Com.**, 6 p.m.; **Facilities Com.**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 9: “Faith Night” at The Diamond, Flying Squirrels ballgame** opening pitch, 6:35 p.m. (Car-poolers meet in GMPC parking lot at 5:30 p.m.).

**AUGUST 12: Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship**, 11 a.m.

**AUGUST 14: Missions-Outreach Com.**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 15: Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 16: Newsletter articles due** in church office, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com.**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 19: Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship**, 11 a.m.

**AUGUST 22: Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 23: Church Cleaning**, 2 p.m.; **Newsletter out**, 2 p.m.

**AUGUST 26: Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship, 5-Cents-A-Meal Offering**, 11 a.m.

**AUGUST 29: Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**AUGUST 31: Committee reports due**, 2 p.m.

**EVENTS COMING UP**

- 8/7: “National Night Out”
- 8/9: “Faith Night” at Flying Squirrels Ballgame, The Diamond, RVA

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

**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY**

AUGUST 5	Hunters
AUGUST 12	
AUGUST 19	
AUGUST 26	

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 – AUGUST, 2018**

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Charles Smyth	<b>AUG. 5</b> “Sunday in the Park” 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.	<b>AUG. 12</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.	<b>AUG. 19</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.	<b>AUG. 26</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Ushers</b>	Charles Smyth Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Shill Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh
<b>Announcements</b>	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Valerie Harsh	Minister	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter*
<b>Junior Church</b>	Mary Holc	Lisa Brown	Tara Foster	Valerie Harsh
<b>Counting</b>	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop

**WHAT'S JASON READING?**

For church: "Brushed by the Sacred"  
(Lee Beckes)

For fun: "Sons and Soldiers:  
The Untold Story of the Jews Who  
Escaped the Nazis and Returned with  
the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler"  
(Bruce Henderson)

For School: Working  
on my DMin write-up

## CHRISTIAN ED PLANS MORE FAMILY FUN FOR SUMMER

By Patsy Johnson

### "Faith Night" with the Richmond Squirrels, August 9!!!

There will be pre-game faith-based music and player testimonials. In addition, there will be "In Your Face

Fireworks" after the game. Don't miss this!! We have field-level seats reserved and the cost is only \$11 per ticket. If writing a check, please make checks payable to Patsy

Johnson. First pitch will be 6:35 p.m.!!!

**A THANK YOU** to those who helped feed the Work Campers.

## TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

### *The Best Poem in the World!*

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
as I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all, Nor the lights  
or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who  
made me sputter and gasp—  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
who swiped my lunch money! Twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting  
away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?  
Would love to hear Your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.....

And why's everyone so quiet,  
So somber – give me a clue.'  
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

*JUDGE NOT. Remember: Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.*

### *The Lone Ranger and Tonto.....*

went camping in the desert. After many miles, they reached a suitable campsite. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto awakened the Lone Ranger and said, "Kemo Sabe, look towards the sky...what do you see?"

The Lone Ranger replied, "I see millions of stars."

"What that tell you?" asked Tonto.

After pondering for a few seconds, the Lone Ranger said, "Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

Astrologically speaking, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo.

Meteorologically speaking, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

Timewise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning.

Theologically speaking, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant.

What does it tell you, Tonto?"

*"You dumber than buffalo...it means that someone stole our tent."*

### *Those Who Wait Upon The Lord...*

For the first week into starting his new weight-loss diet, Pastor Martin altered his drive to work to avoid passing his favorite bakery. Then, on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> day, he accidentally drove by the bakery without thinking and as he approached, there in the window were a host of goodies.

Feeling this was not by accident, the Pastor silently prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

*And sure enough, on the 10<sup>th</sup> time around the block, there it was! God is so Good!"*



AUGUST, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 2p Church Cleaning  7p Christian Ed	3 1pm Worship	4
5 "SUNDAY IN THE PARK"  9:45a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv. & Holy Communion  12:15p Potluck lunch  Flowers: Hunters	6	7 6 pm 5:30p Nat'l. Night Out (Rolling Meadows community) held in GMPC parking lot  6p Cong. Care Com  7p Facilities Com.	8	9 2p Church Cleaning  6:35p "Faith Night" at The Diamond, RVA, Flying Squirrels ballgame, (5:30p car-poolers leave GMPC parking lot)	10	11
12 9:45a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv.	13	14 7p Missions-Outreach Com.	15 7p Choir practice	16 2p Church Cleaning  2p News articles due in office  7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	17	18
19 9:45a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv.	20	21	22 7p Choir practice	23 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out 7pm PreSchool Orientation	24	25

**AUGUST, 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday Sch.	27	28	29 <b>7p</b> Choir practice	30	31 <b>2p Committee</b> reports due in office	
<b>11a</b> Worship serv.						
<b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering						

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

--  
 -----  
 STAMP

----

---

----

# ***AUGUST 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***