

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*  
-Galatians 3:28

*And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*  
-1 John 3:23

400,000.

I was surprised to hear this number; it was higher than I would have expected. Certainly, I knew the number would be high, but this was higher than I imagined. In Arlington National Cemetery there are approximately 400,000 graves where service members have been buried and interred.

I was privileged to be present at the internment of one of our church members, and it was a service which was not only moving and meaningful, but a privilege I was not sure I would ever witness, either; my gratitude goes to the family for allowing me space to be present with them. But as we made our way through the cemetery to the internment site, I couldn't help but think upon this number which the liaison had just mentioned: approximately 400,000 soldiers and veterans buried in this place.

As a minister I feel I have a unique relationship with death. Since I began my religious studies in college I have been encouraged to visit cemeteries on non-work-related occasions to bear witness to and observe the lives that are represented by their markers. In most cemeteries, there is a wide variety in terms of size and ornateness of these markers; some are large, some are small, some are clean while others are overgrown. Some mark the presence of a single grave while others represent a whole family.

But Arlington is different. While there is some minor degree of difference in regards to religious preference, for the most part Arlington is a cemetery of uniformity: the grave markers are all the same color, all within the same size range, and all spaced at the same distance one from another. The purpose of this, I presume, is to represent and honor the service that was provided, and how that was greater than the things in life which are so often focused upon as differentiating. In Arlington, everyone is the same, down to the markers of their final resting places.

And yet, driving through the cemetery, I couldn't help but imagine the individuality of the lives represented. Men and women who came from all variety of backgrounds: different home towns in different states, different ages, different lengths of service and rank, different family dynamics and backgrounds, wealthy and poor. All these now-uniform markers represent lives that were vastly different, and overwhelmingly united in a common purpose. The uniform that they wore in life, overtop the differences in background and history, continues even after death, while each one still represents a unique individual.

I found myself pondering this dynamic in terms of Christianity. We each come with our unique individuality; no two of us are the same, even the ones who come from the same family. And yet, in Christ, we are made one, and we are called to represent Christ more than our own self, our own individuality. And what does this uniform consist of? We could look at the "armor of God" passage in Paul's letter to the Ephesians: truth, righteousness, readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace, faith, and salvation. But while these are our characteristics, and ones to be lived out, I would make the argument that our true "uniform" comes to us from Matthew's gospel: Love. Love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself. This is how we are to be seen, known, and recognized.

We are each unique, created lovingly and personally in the image of God (see Psalm 139), and yet in Christ we are made one in a common service and uniformed in His love. What an amazing call to service this is, indeed. Thank you for your service, and as we remember not only our veterans this month but also take time to be grateful for our blessings, let us be doubly thankful.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER, 2018

### Sunday, 4 November 2018

“24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15a \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 8:2-3  
 Sermon: “Unacceptable Healing”

### Sunday, 11 November 2018

“25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Micah 5:2-5a; 6:6-8 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 9:13  
 Sermon: “The Right Sacrifice”

### Sunday, 18 November 2018

“26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 5:14  
 Sermon: “A New World”

### Sunday, 25 November 2018

“Christ the King/Reign of Christ” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 21:12-13  
 Sermon: “Getting Ready”



**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.

Communities recovering from recent hurricanes & tornados  
 Maxine Newton (mother-in-law of Wayne Powers' daughter)  
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister  
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother  
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister  
 Evelyn Lichvar, her son, Rick, & her brother, Martin (health issues)  
 Becky Smith  
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)  
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends  
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother  
 Courtney Stewart, friend of the Hunters (Duke Hospital)  
 Jane Arehart, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issues)  
 Gladys Wiseman  
 Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)  
 Verne & Clara Smith  
 Scott Guelcher, friend of Larry Johnson (health issues)  
 Carol Knight, friend of Rose Scott (health issues)  
 Karen Titmus & family, friends of the Wiseman/Scott families  
 (health concerns)  
 Sharon Entwistle (friend of Barb Taliaferro)  
 Elizabeth Scott

Peggy Allen  
 Dink Armstrong's sister, "Shorty" (health issue)  
 Eddie Frankenstein  
 Erle Potter, good family friend of Haskys (in treatment for health issue)  
 Grace Cibula  
 Richard Harsh  
 Nancy Willis, grandmother of Corey Whelan, who's also Pat Hunter's  
 grandson (terminal diagnosis)  
 Carol Bowman, Sharon Entwistle's mother (health issue)  
 Debbie Hudson, Susan Shockley's friend (health concerns)  
 Michelle Daschner, PG Fire & EMS office intern (health issue)  
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member (health issue)  
 Dennis Allen (recovering from hip replacement surgery)  
 Larry Hicks, husband of Doreen Hicks (health concerns)  
 Joy for birth of Jason & Megan Cashing's daughter, "Carrie" (b. 9/24)  
 Family/friends of Elisha L. Beverly (d. 10/12)  
 Family/friends of J. Aubrey Williams (d. 10/15)  
 Family/friends of Jimmy Clark (d. 10/17)  
 Family/friends of George Poulson (d. 10/20)  
 Family/friends of J. Hargrave Williams (d. 10/20)

*“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.” Psalm 100:4*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER**  
Bobby Allen

**NOV. 4:** Daylight Savings Time ends, 2 a.m.; **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service**, 11 a.m.

**NOV. 6:** Election Day, polls open 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; **Circle**, 12:30 p.m.; **GS Troop 5000**, 6 p.m.; **Congregational Care Com.**, 6 p.m.; **Facilities Com.**, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 7:** Choir practice, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 11:** Veterans Day; **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service**, 11 a.m.

**NOV. 12:** Veterans Day observed

**NOV. 14:** Choir practice, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 15:** Newsletter articles due in church office, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com.**, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 18:** Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship**, 11 a.m.; **Session meeting**, 12:30 p.m.

**NOV. 19:** Church office open.

**NOV. 20:** Church office open.

**NOV. 21:** Church office open, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; **Preschool Thanksgiving break**, closed Nov. 21-23; **Newsletter out**, 2 p.m.; **Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 22:** Thanksgiving Day

**NOV. 25:** Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship**, 11 a.m.; 5 Cents A Meal Offering, 11 a.m.; **Potluck Lunch**, 12:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall, followed by **decorating of church for Advent/Christmas**.

**NOV. 28:** Choir practice, 7 p.m.

**NOV. 30:** Committee reports due in office, 2 p.m.

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*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

NOVEMBER 4	
NOVEMBER 11	
NOVEMBER 18	
NOVEMBER 25	Dianne Overstreet

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 - NOVEMBER, 2018

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Bobby Allen	NOV. 4 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente. End Daylight Sav. Time	NOV. 11 25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.	NOV. 18 26 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pente.	NOV. 25 Christ the King/ Reign of Christ
<b>Ushers</b>	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
<b>Announcements</b>	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Valerie Harsh	Minister	Patsy Johnson	Pat Hunter*
<b>Junior Church</b>	Lisa Brown	Tara Foster	Valerie Harsh	Megan Cashing
<b>Counting</b>	David Johnson Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing



## WHAT'S JASON READING? *Who has time to read anything right now?!!*

On behalf of your Session, I would like to again thank you for attending the informational Congregational Meeting of October 21. For those who were unable to be in attendance, I'd like to provide a brief synopsis. Essentially, we have reached a point in Gregory's financial life that monthly expenditures are roughly \$2,500-\$3,000 more than what is brought in through offerings and other income, and we wanted to make sure that everyone in the congregation was on the same page in this understanding and have a chance to ask questions. While it is apparent that action will need to be taken, this meeting was not the time to do so. At this point, we are able to supplement our finances with our investment savings accounts, but those will only last so long. Your Session and committee members are faithfully discussing options and potential actions, and will keep the congregation informed as we move forward.

At this time there are several ways in which you can continue to help and support: continue to pray for our congregation's leadership; consider increasing your regular offering; consider making one-time donations to help cover aspects of our monthly operations (info available); invite your friends to join us; continue to ask questions and make suggestions (we trust that your perspective may show things we've overlooked). And please, if you have questions or concerns, contact a member of Session or the Minister. Thank you, and God bless! - Jason

## TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

### A Day for Thanksgiving

"To all ye Pilgrims: In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetable, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience;

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings. William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony." --William Bradford (1590-1657), Pilgrim father and

*second governor of Plymouth colony.*

### Thankfulness in Worship

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it." -- A.W. Tozer (1897-1963), Christian author and church pastor in America and Canada.

"The Lord has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast." -- John Calvin (1509-1564), French theologian and major church reformer.

### Thankfulness of Heart and Mind

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but an humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow." --Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), American pastor, reformer, and abolitionist.

"The Christian who walks with the Lord and keeps constant communion with Him will see many reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving all day long."--Warren Wiersbe, American pastor and Bible theologian.



"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!" -- Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887), American minister and reformer.

### Thankfulness in Prayer

"Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts." -- Andrew Murray (1828-1917), South African born missionary and minister.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

NOVEMBER, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2p Church Cleaning	5	3
4 2a Daylight Saving Time Ends (Set clocks back 1 hour!)  9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	5	6 Election Day  6a-7p Polls open  12:30p Circle  6p Cong. Care Com.  6p GS Tr 5000  7p Facilities Com.	7 7p Choir practice	8 2p Church Cleaning	9	10
11 Veterans Day  9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 	12 Veterans Day (observed)	13	14 7p Choir practice	15 2p Church Cleaning  2p News articles due in office  7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	16	17
18 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12:30p Session meeting	19 Office open	20 Office open  6p GS Tr 5000	21 Office open  Preschool closed for Thanksgiving break Nov. 21-23  7p Choir practice  2p Newsletter Out  2p Church Cleaning	22 Thanksgiving 	23	24
25 9:45a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering  <i>Flowers: D. Overstreet</i>  12:15p Potluck lunch, followed by decorating of church for Advent/Christmas	26	27	28  7p Choir practice	29	30 2p Committee reports due In office	

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## ***NOVEMBER 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)