

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.  
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

John 15:12-13

*"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you –  
ask what you can do for your country."*

President John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

Earlier this week you (hopefully) received your annual stewardship letter, requesting your input as your Stewardship & Finance Committee and Session work on the budget for the upcoming year. In it, we focused primarily on the financial aspect of our congregation, but it's worth saying, and saying well, that, though is an important topic, it is merely the financial reflection of we seek to be as Christ's disciples here in 2019, in Prince George, Virginia.

And who we are is such a great gift. We are family; we provide one another with support and care, comfort and encouragement, strength and love. We accept one another as we are, and seek to see each other become the best person we are created to be.

We are a reflection of the Divine. We are created, individually and as a congregation, in the image and imagination of God. Even Paul saw this, as he spoke of the church in terms of the body of Christ; different parts playing complementary and necessary roles.

We are caretakers, of the fellowship of Gregory Memorial and the community of Prince George. We work toward a vision in each of these aspects that cares and provides for all its members in the best ways possible, and to that end we serve on committees and other civic organizations and boards.

We are stewards. We recognize the gifts we have received, and we prayerfully and faithfully seek to use them in responsible ways, ways that honor and reflect

the Kingdom of God as proclaimed to us in the Good News of Christ.

We are all these things (and more), and we are these things because of the gifts we have received from God, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit. We tend to think in terms of gifts as we approach the month of December: gifts we'd like to give, gifts we perhaps hope to receive, gifts that reflect the love we have and share.

This December, I would offer you not a gift, but an invitation. And truly, it is not my own invitation that I offer but the one that I, the one that we have received from Christ: an invitation to share the good news that dwells within us, embodied in our fellowship and praised in our worship. We are invited to not only receive this good news, but just as importantly, to share it.

Who will you share this invitation with in this month of joy? As we prepare to again welcome the One who has come to us through a mother's love, as we move through the days of gift buying and gift giving, were and to whom will you extend this invitation? We seek to grow as a church, not for our own sake alone, but for the blessing of God's kingdom. We have received this gift already, and now we are invited to share it. Let us do so with equal joy and love!



With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason

 **WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER, 2018** 

**Sunday, 2 December 2018**

“1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent” - Liturgical Color: Blue  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 26:36-38  
 Sermon: “A World in Need”

**Sunday, 9 December 2018**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent” - Liturgical Color: Blue  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Esther 4:1-17 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 5:13-16  
 Sermon: “The Gift of an Invitation”

**Sunday, 16 December 2018**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent” - Liturgical Color: Blue  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 12:15-21  
 Sermon: “The Invitation to Abundance”

**Friday, 21 December 2018**

"Darkest Night" Service, 7 p.m.

**Sunday, 23 December 2018**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent” - Liturgical Color: Blue  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 23:1-4 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 1:18-25  
 Sermon: “The Gospel in Music”

**Sunday, 30 December 2018**

“1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 132:11-12 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 1:1-17  
 Sermon: Pulpit Supply

**Other Services:**

December 21: Darkest Night Service, 7:00 p.m.  
 December 24: Christmas Eve Family Service, 6:30 p.m.  
 December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 11:00 p.m.



**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.

Tree of Life Synagogue 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)	Peggy Allen Elizabeth Scott 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) Donna Wilson (daughter of Doreen Hicks) Alex Titmus (recov. back surgery)
--	---

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER**

Charles Smyth

**DEC. 1: PG Christmas Parade, 3 p.m.**, followed by **Gregory Mem. Open House "Cookies & Cocoa"**, Fellowship Hall.

**DEC. 2: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service & Holy Communion, 11 a.m.; Workcamp-2019** interest meeting, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m.

**DEC. 3: Worship Com.**, 1 p.m.

**DEC. 4: Congregational Care Com.**, 6 p.m.; **GS Tr5000**, 6 p.m.; **Facilities Com.**, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 5: Preschool Christmas Field Trip** (Swift Creek Mill, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.); **Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 6: Presbyterian Women's lunch**, E. Foster residence, 1 p.m.

**DEC. 7: Set-up** (12/8 event), 6 p.m.

**DEC. 8; Cub Pack 910 Yard Sale**, 8 a.m., GMPC parking lot.

**DEC. 9: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.**

**DEC. 10: PG Fire & EMS meeting**, Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m.; **Crater Order of**

**Arrow dinner**, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m. (Set-up 1-5 p.m.)

**DEC. 12: Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 14: "Parents' Night Out" BS fund-raiser**, Fellowship Hall, 5-9 p.m.

**DEC. 16: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Congregational Meeting**, Sanctuary, 12:00 p.m.

**DEC. 18: GS Tr5000**, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

**DEC. 19: Preschool Christmas Pageant**, Sanctuary, 12 p.m.; **BS Tr900 Honor Court dinner, 6 p.m.** (Set-up 1-5 p.m.), Fellowship Hall; **Choir Practice**, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 20: Preschool Christmas break**, Dec. 20-31; **News articles due**, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com.**, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 21: Set-up** (12/22 event), 6 p.m.; **"Darkest Night" Service**, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

**DEC. 22: "Parents' Morning Out" BS fund-raiser**, Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**DEC. 23: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 5 Cents A Meal Offering; Christmas Joy Offering, 11 a.m.; Fellowship Chili & Soup Lunch**, Fellowship Hall, 12 p.m.

**DEC. 24: Christmas Eve Services with Holy Communion**, 6:30 p.m. & 11 p.m.

**DEC. 25: Christmas Day!**

**DEC. 26: Office open**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**DEC. 27: Office open**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; **Newsletter out**, 2 p.m.

**DEC. 28: Office open**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**DEC. 30: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship**, guest preacher, 11 a.m.; **Local Emergency Aid Offering**, 11 a.m.

**DEC. 31: New Year's Eve; Committee reports due in office**, 2 p.m.

.....  
*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

DECEMBER 2	
DECEMBER 9	Rose Scott
DECEMBER 16	Poinsettias
DECEMBER 23	Poinsettias
DECEMBER 30	

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 – DECEMBER, 2018

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Charles Smith	<b>DEC. 2</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>DEC. 9</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>DEC. 16</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>DEC. 23</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	<b>DEC. 30</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	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 Jared Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson
<b>Announcements</b>	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
<b>Junior Sermon</b>	Megan Cashing	Minister	Susan Shockley	Valerie Harsh*	Patsy Johnson
<b>Nursery</b>	Glenda Mayhew Judy Recher	Diane Overstreet Mary Kay Schroeter	Jennifer Smyth Charlie Smyth	Pat Hunter Patsy Johnson	Mary Webber Donald Hunter
<b>Counting</b>	David Johnson Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley	David Johnson Blake Bishop

\*5 Cents a Meal Offering



**WHAT'S JASON READING?** Material related to Critical Incident Stress Management.

**Christmas Open House** - The PG Christmas Parade is Saturday, Dec. 1 at 3 p.m., and Gregory will again have an Open House after the Parade. Outreach is asking for your support by baking 3 dozen cookies. Hot chocolate will also be served. Bring the cookies to church from 2-4 p.m. on Friday or at noon on Saturday. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to indicate what you will bring. Your participation will be greatly appreciated!

**WorkCamp-2019** Interest meeting will be held on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 5:30 p.m. All interested persons should plan to attend.

**Pledge cards** are requested to be returned to church by Monday, December 3.

**Christmas Cards to Soldiers** - Missions will be sending Christmas cards to Recovering American Soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center. There will be cards in the Narthex for you to sign along with a

greeting, or you may use a card from home. Place cards in the Narthex box by Dec. 16. *Messages are especially appreciated!*

**Christmas Eve Services** will be held at 6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

**Office Hours in the holiday weeks:**

Thanksgiving Week: Mon. - Wed., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. (*no Thurs. hours*)

Christmas Week: Wed. - Fri, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (*no Tues. hours*)

New Year's Week: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (*regular schedule*)

 **TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY** 

**I AM CHRISTMAS.**  
By Rev. C. W. Thompson (1971)

**I am Christmas.** I was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. My only birth certificate was a manger in a cattle stall, and those wise men who came by the see me. The blood of redemption flows through my veins because I offer salvation to the sinner whether poor, rich, young, old, slave or free. I am many things to many people. *I am Christmas!*

I am a host of living souls who believe in me and many who have given their lives for the cause I champion. I am Moses, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

I stood on Mt. Sinai and gave the commandments which were felt through history. I am the prophets, the judges, kings and noblemen. I am also the story that they told. I remember the children of Israel in Egyptian bondage and led them through the wilderness, across the sands of the desert, across the Red Sea down to the Dead Sea, to the top of Mt. Nebo and into the Promised Lands. I am Christmas!

I am Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I am Joseph, John the Baptist, Peter, Paul and James. Yes, I'm a part

of the great past present and future. I am a host of angels singing at the birth of the greatest, the wisest, and the most noble. I am the star of Bethlehem, the Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star.

I am a great book written through the inspiration of the all-present, all-knowing and Almighty.

I remember Pentecost, Mars Hill, Cyprus, Galilee, Palestine, Jerusalem and Patmos. When duty called I went and there I began to work.

I'm Stephen, Saul, David and the 12 disciples and yes, I'm Peter, Paul, Pilot, and Judas Iscariot. These I remember vividly.

I'm the cry of a new born baby, the laugh of a carefree youngster. I'm the thrill of a young girl on her graduation night--the excitement of her first date. I'm the principles that keep her clean and pure within.

I'm the food for the hungry child in Vietnam. The comfort for the mother and father who've lost a soldier in battle. *I'm Christmas!*

I'm Billy Graham, Dwight L. Moody, Billy Sunday and Peter Marshall. I'm the message behind every pulpit dedicated to the good

of mankind. I'm the charity for the poor, the blind, the crippled and the helpless.

You can see me in the spring when life comes to the dead earth, in the fall when the brown leaves fall, the winter when the white blanket covers a naked earth and you can see me in the sunshine of a clear summer day. I am Christmas!

I'm the gaiety of the flickering lights at Christmas time, the thrill of the busy shoppers and the gift for the world. I never wrote a book, but more books have been written about me than all others put together. I never owned a piece of property nor a bank

account; yet the whole world belongs to me. I'm the Messiah, the bread of life, the Savior of mankind, the Lamb of God. *I'm Christmas.*

I'm the little drummer boy in rags begging for his survival, I'm the rhyme of a poem, the peal of the church bells and the voice of a thousand choirs as they lift up their voices in chorus.

***I am Christmas!***



DECEMBER, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 3p Xmas Open House w/Cookies & Cocoa after PG Xmas Parade (PG Parks & Rec using parking lot)
2 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Holy Communion 5:30p Workcamp-2019 interest meeting	3 1p Worship Com.	4 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities Com.	5 9a-12p Preschool Christmas Field Trip, Swift Creek Mill Playhouse 7p Choir practice	6 1p Presbyterian Women's group Luncheon at E. Foster home 2p Church Cleaning	7 6p Setup for event on 12/8	8 8a Cub Pack 910 Yard Sale, GMPC parking lot
9 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	10 8a PG Fire & EMS mtg. 6p Crater Dist. Order of Arrow dinner (setup 1-5p)	11	12 7p Choir practice	13 2p Church Cleaning	14 5p BS Tr 900 supervised Babysitting Fund-raiser, Fellowship Hall	15
16 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12p Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary	17	18 6p GS Tr5000	19 12p Preschool Xmas Pageant, Sanctuary 6p BS Tr900 Honor Court dinner (setup 1-5p) 7p Choir practice	20 Presch. Xmas Break (Dec. 20-31) 2p Church Cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com. 2p News articles due in office	21 6p set-up for 12/21 event 7p Darkest Night service	22 7a BS Tr900 supervised Babysitting Fund raiser, Fellowship Hall
23 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering 11a Xmas Joy Offering 12p Fellowship Chili & Soup Lunch, Fellowship Hall	24 6:30p Family Xmas Eve service & communion 11p Xmas Eve service & communion	25 Christmas Day 	26 9a - 2p Church Office open	27 9a - 2p Church Office open 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	28 9a - 2p Church Office open	29
30 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Xmas 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Local Emergency Aid Offering Guest preacher: TBA	31 New Year's Eve 2p Committee reports due in office					

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

-----  
STAMP

.  
. .  
. . .  
. . . .

-----  
***DECEMBER 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)