

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“...and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” *Romans 5:5*

Living in New York, I often found that February was the longest month. The winter cold and snow had begun to feel as if it was dragging on too long, and each new snowstorm brought with it an increased sense of vindictiveness, as if the weather was taunting us into thinking we’d never see spring again, and might never be warm again. I’ve found that I can cope with the cold up to mid-February, and then I’m ready for a change of pace.

Thinking on that now, as February winds down and March is set to come in (either like a lion or a lamb, I can never remember which), I realize that this has to do with a sense of anticipation: both hoped for and lived out. At the time, I’d be anticipating the arrival of spring, hoping for it with each new day, and living out the reality that it hasn’t happened yet.

I find that I’m still anticipating, even here and now. For instance: it is now official, I will graduate from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary as a Doctor of Ministry on May 19! I’m anticipating this event, but I know that it is yet to come. I’m also anticipating, to varying degrees: opening day of baseball season, the day that we baptize Carrie with her family gathered around her (April 21), becoming certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (no, I’m not going back to school again, no worries there!), and yes, I’m still anticipating spring (it is still February as I write this).

But I am finding, as we approach the beginning of the season of Lent, that there are other things I anticipate, as well, things that might easily be looked over, but which are perhaps a bit more profound. I anticipate seeing each of you in worship on Sunday mornings, gathering in sacred space to share a unique and meaningful aspect of our lives with one another. I anticipate journeying with you through the spiritual wilderness of Lent as we make our way to Jerusalem, following our Lord in his Passion, watching with him in the Garden, witnessing to his crucifixion and then, in fullest joy, hearing the women again proclaim his resurrection! Christmas is joyful, but Lent and Easter are my favorite seasons of the Church year!

And I realize that there are truths that can hinder our anticipation, or the realization of what we hope for. Weather, health issues, schedules can all keep us from worship on Sunday mornings, and then not only is my anticipation unrealized but our community is lessened, as well. Emergencies and other demands on our time, unexpected events can all get in the way of the realization of what we anticipate. But I’ve come to realize two truths about anticipation, as well:

1) There will always be hindrances that get in the way of the things anticipate seeing or doing. Rather than let myself be defined by these hiccups, I can instead focus on what it is about this anticipation that brings me joy, and look for that in other ways (for example: I anticipate the first game of opening season, but if I can’t tune into that, if I miss it...well, I can take joy in knowing that it has arrived, and try to get the next game).

2) Anticipation of an event is not a passive state, it is active. I must put what work I can into helping this anticipation be achieved. On the other side of this coin, especially when it involves other people, I need to remember that I can do all I can, and then have to let others make their choices (for example: I can’t force anyone to come to church, but I can encourage and invite and then let them make their own decision).

Friends, we are about to enter one of the greatest spiritual seasons of anticipation. How will you approach it? What work will you do along the way? How will you challenge yourself to join in our community during this season, that our anticipation of the “not yet realized” will be fulfilled in right time, and all our joy will be made complete? We’ll kick off Lent with events on March 5 and March 6, so check the church calendar for more information. I anticipate with joy your presence with us!

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



 **WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2019** 

**Sunday, 3 March 2019**

“Transfiguration of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 41:7-10 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 16:24-17:8  
 Sermon: “Loss and Gain”

**Sunday, 10 March 2019**

“1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Blue/Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 32:1-2 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 18:15-35  
 Sermon: “As Forgiven”

**Sunday, 17 March 2019**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Blue/Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 16:5-8 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 20:1-16  
 Sermon: “True Value”

**Sunday, 24 March 2019**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Blue/Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 45:6-7 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 22:1-14  
 Sermon: “Dress for Success”

**Sunday, 31 March 2019**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Blue/Purple  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 43:3-4 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 25:1-13  
 Sermon: “Trimmed and Burning”



**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.

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram’s sister  
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram’s grandmother  
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong’s sister  
 Evelyn Lichvar, brother, Martin, & her son, Rick  
 (health issues)  
 Becky Smith  
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix’s grandson (health issues)  
 Kenneth Andrews, Childress family’s friend  
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother  
 Courtney Stewart, the Hunters' friend (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, Larry Johnson's friend (health issues)  
 Sharon Entwistle, Barb Taliaferro's friend  
 Elizabeth Scott

Peggy Allen  
 Dink Armstrong’s sister, “Shorty” (health issue)  
 Eddie Frankenstein  
 Erle Potter, the Hasky family's friend (treatment for health issue)  
 Grace Cibula  
 Nancy Willis, (terminal diagnosis), Corey Whelan's grandmother;  
 Corey's also Pat Hunter’s grandson  
 Carol Bowman, Sharon Entwistle’s mother (health issue)  
 Michelle Daschner, PG Fire & EMS office intern (health issue)  
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member (health issue)  
 Larry Hicks, Doreen Hicks's husband (health concerns)  
 Donna Wilson, Doreen Hicks's daughter  
 Doris Harmison (Colonial Heights Health Care)  
 Billy Robertson (health issue)  
 Jaime Meurer (recovering from car accident)  
 Jerry Hasky (healthissue)  
 Barbara DeLong, former church member (loss of husband)

*“Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure, there your heart; where your heart, there your happiness.” St. Augustine*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**GATEKEEPER**  
Gregg Webber

**Mar. 2: BS Troop 900 Breakfast Buffet fundraiser** (pancakes, eggs, etc.), served from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; \$5/person, tickets sold at door day of event.

**Mar. 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; Tri-Cities 2019 Workcamp planning meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.**

**Mar. 5: "Shrove Tuesday (Mardi-gras, "Fat Tuesday")"; Circle, 1 p.m.; GS Tr5000, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.; Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper followed by service, 6:30 p.m.**

**Mar. 6: "Ash Wednesday"; Choir practice, 7 p.m.; Ash Wednesday service, 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 8: Crater District Order of Arrow Presidential Awards Reception, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.**

**Mar. 10: Begin Daylight Saving Time; "1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; Tr-iCities Workcampers' "Coffee/Tea" fund-raiser last day.**

**Mar. 13: Choir practice, 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 14: Lenten service & lunch, Host: Church of the Sacred Heart, 12 p.m.**

**Mar. 17: "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent", "St. Patrick's Day"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; Session meeting, 12:30 p.m.**

**Mar. 19: GS Tr5000, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.**

**Mar. 20: Choir practice, 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 21: Lenten service & lunch, Host: Trinity UMC, 12 p.m.; News articles due, 2 p.m.; Stewardship & Finance Com., 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 23: Tri-Cities Workcampers' Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.; tickets: \$8/person; contact [Gregory workcampers](mailto:Gregory.workcampers@fellowship.org) for tickets.**

**Mar. 24: "3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; 5 Cents a Meal Offering, 11 a.m.**

**Mar. 27: Choir practice, 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 28: Lenten service & lunch, Host: Sycamore UMC, 12 p.m.; Newsletter out, 2 p.m.**

**Mar. 31: "4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; Local Emergency Aid Offering, 11 a.m.; Committee reports due, 2p.m.**

*Missed the sermon?* GMPC's sermons are on *YouTube* each week. Check out [gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva) on Facebook, or the [gregorymemorial.org](http://gregorymemorial.org) website for the links, or search *YouTube.com* for Sunday's sermon.

**Mark your calendars for the following dates/events:**  
 March 5: "Shrove/Fat Tuesday" Pancake Supper, followed by liturgy to burn the palms of previous years in preparation for Lent, 6:30 p.m.  
 March 6: Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.  
 March 10: Daylight Saving Time begins (spring ahead one hour)  
 March 23: TWC Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, 6:00 p.m. – tickets available now!


**FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY**

MARCH 3	
MARCH 10	
MARCH 17	
MARCH 24	Rose Scott
MARCH 31	

For assistance with the sign-up, please call Church office at 732-1081 (9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday).

**THOSE WHO SERVE – MARCH, 2019**

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Gregg Webber	<b>MAR. 3</b> Transfig. of the Lord	<b>MAR. 10</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. in Lent	<b>MAR. 17</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Lent	<b>MAR. 24</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Lent	<b>MAR. 31</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sun. in Lent
<b>Ushers</b>	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Shill Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers
<b>Announcements</b>	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet	Valerie Harsh
<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>	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing	David Johnson Rose Scott	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew

 <p><b>REMINDER: TRICITIES WORKCAMP FUND-RAISER: COFFEE or TEA</b></p> <p>TWC Youth are doing a "Coffee or Tea" fundraiser. Purchase of coffee or tea through them gets you a quality product and helps raise funds toward the cost of Workcamp 2019! If you're interested, <i>get in touch with a camper by MARCH 10!</i></p>	<p><b>2019 LENTEN SERVICES</b> – Lenten service will be held at these area churches at 12 p.m. Simple lunch will follow.</p> <p><b>March 14 Church of the Sacred Heart</b> 9300 Community Lane, So. Prince George, Va.</p> <p><b>March 21 Trinity UMC</b> 10021 County Drive, Disputanta, Va.</p> <p><b>March 28 Sycamore UMC</b> 9710 Old Stage Road, Prince George, Va.</p> <p><b>April 4 Gary's UMC</b> 13501 Sunnybrook Road, Petersburg, Va.</p> <p><b>April 11 Bethlehem Congregational Church</b> 10501 Pole Run Road, Disputanta, Va.</p>
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**TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY**

**And Fish on Friday...well, maybe....**

Skip and Pete decided to go ice fishing and headed out to nice spot, where they cut a hole in the ice, and stick in their poles. Suddenly, a loud voice boomed from above, "THERE ARE NO FISH HERE!!!"

The men look around, at each other, looked up and didn't see anyone there. Baffled, Skip said, "I suppose we'd better move on then." And so they moved on to another spot, cut a hole and stuck in their poles in hopes of fresh Walleye, when once again, the voice from above boomed, "THERE ARE NO FISH HERE!!!"

They looked around, at each other, then looked up and again, saw no one there. "Here we go again," said Pete, and the men moved on to yet another nice spot. As soon as they got their poles in the hole, the voice from above boomed at them. "THERE ARE NO FISH HERE!!!"

Terrified, Peter cried out, "God in Heaven, is that you?"

The voice responded, "NO! THIS IS THE SKATING RINK MANAGER! **THERE ARE NO FISH HERE!!!**"

**A Sheepish Recovery....** A devout old shepherd lost his favorite Bible

while he was out looking for a wayward lamb.

Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. **"Your name is written inside the cover."**

**Wait...what?!** Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle.

The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?"

"No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and it being Lent and all, I figured **this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.**"

**'Taint Bad At All...** Well, Little Sheldon didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him.

"You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!"

Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?"

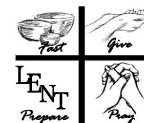
"Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. **"It's God's."**

**Let's Dust Off That Old Ash**

**Wednesday Joke!** The pastor commenced praying with the words "Oh Lord, without you we are but dust." As he paused for a dramatic effect, a small child's voice was heard to say, **"Mommy, what is butt dust?"**

**Have You See The New Bumper**

**Sticker:** "Tithe if you love Jesus. **Any fool can honk."**



MARCH, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <b>6p-9p</b> Set-up for Saturday event	2 <b>9a-11a</b> Breakfast Buffet (BS Troop 900 fundraiser, Fellowship Hall)
3 <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>6p</b> Tri-Cities Work camp planning meeting	4	5 <b>Shrove ("Fat") Tuesday</b>  <b>1p Circle</b>  <b>6p GS Tr5000</b>  <b>6:30p</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & service	6 <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  <b>7p</b> Choir Practice  <b>7p</b> Ash Wednesday service	7  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	8  <b>6p</b> Crater Order of Arrow Presidential Service Awards reception, Fellowship Hall	9
10 <b>Begin Daylight Saving Time</b>  <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> TWC "Coffee/Tea fund-raiser last day	11	12	13  <b>7p</b> Choir practice	14  <b>12p</b> Lenten service & lunch; hosted by Church of the Sacred Heart  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	15	16
17 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent St. Patrick's Day</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>12:30p</b> Session Meeting	18 "	19  <b>6p GS Tr5000</b>	20  <b>7p</b> Choir practice	21  <b>12p</b> Lenten Service & lunch; hosted by Trinity UMC  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning  <b>2p</b> News articles due in office  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com.	22	23  <b>6p</b> Tri-Cities Work campers' Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser, Fellowship Hall (all day for set-up; serve meal 6 p.m.)
24 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	25	26	27  <b>7p</b> Choir practice	28  <b>12p</b> Lenten service & lunch; hosted by Sycamore UMC  <b>2p</b> Newsletter out  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	29	30
31 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> Local Emergency Aid Offering <b>2p</b> Committee reports due						

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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***MARCH 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)