

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

-John 1:14

*At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"
which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

-Mark 15:34

I've struggled with this month's newsletter reflection, with putting into words what I've been thinking and feeling (a reality Nancy will vouch for, as she waited a week longer than usual for my submissions). I know that everyone said being a father would change me, and I knew they were right, even before Carrie was born. But – and this will likely surprise none of you – I could not have imagined the degree of this truth until it was (and now is) upon me. Two connected thoughts...

1) I now feel as if I understand the incarnation a bit more intimately. I'm not trying to equate my daughter with being God, but she is fashioned in the *imago Dei*, the image of God, as are we all. And while I've preached that and known that for years, it has a new meaning now.

When I look at Carrie, I don't just see her eyes looking at me, but God's eyes. Eyes that look to me with joy and laughter, eyes that look to me with concern and hunger, eyes that reflect the spectrum of human emotion and needs...and in them, I realize that this is also how God's eyes look upon me (and look upon us all, really). In her, I now have a deeper understanding of what it was for God to become human in Jesus of Nazareth, to come to the world in human form, and to look with human eyes – eyes filled with joy and hope, hunger and expectation, fatigue and curiosity – upon the world. God so loved the world, so wanted to know and understand the world, that God came into the world as one of us in the form of a newborn to experience it all. How completely and utterly amazing and wondrous this is!

2) I have no doubt that I will disappoint my daughter. I do not relish this fact, and I know that I will strive to offer her everything I can that is good and appropriate. But let's face it: we're human, and I no less than everyone else. It is bound to happen that I will someday disappoint and/or embarrass my daughter. And while I certainly pray it would never be to such a degree that she feels abandoned, I imagine that when that day comes, the way I'll feel when she first lets me know she's heartbroken is the same way God felt when Jesus cried out from the cross.

God, full of love for Jesus, watched him suffer in pain on the cross for the sake of a world of generations who might

not ever realize the depth of what was occurring. I imagine God's heart broke to hear the heartbroken cry of Jesus, feeling abandoned and disappointed in that moment. Regardless of how necessary, regardless of what ultimately came from this event, regardless of anything else, God's heart broke to hear such pain and disappointment.

I have no doubt that, someday, I will end up disappointing my daughter, and in that moment (though she knows it or not), my heart will break just as much. And as I realize this truth, I realize as well that this is also how God has seen me when I have disappointed him, when I have not lived up to my potential and calling, as well. It drives me to work to do more; to be more faithful, to reach out more often, to embody Christ's love more regularly.

Before we leave things completely on such a sorrowful note, it must be mentioned and reminded that God's love is still beyond human capacity or description. And herein lies both grace and assurance, forgiveness and reconciliation: though I have been disappointing to God and others, grace and love still abounds. Such love continues to call and confirm, to support and make whole. Such love continues to encourage and strengthen the daily tasks of discipleship. Knowing my daughter, seeing God in her, has helped me to grasp a degree of this love more fully. I pray she will know my love for her in such a way all through her life, as well.

Lent is the season of preparing ourselves – heart, mind, and life – to follow Christ in both his passion and his resurrection. Easter, coming soon, is the season of living into the abundance of love which enabled Christ to not only offer his life, but to offer the abundance of resurrection and new life, as well. May we truly live into such a love, and live it out for our neighbors, to the glory of God.

Join us this month for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations:

- Maundy Thursday (April 18, 7:00 p.m.)
- Easter Sunrise (April 21, 6:30 a.m.)
- Easter Celebration (April 21, 11:00 a.m.)



With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2019

Sunday, 7 April 2019

“5th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1st Reading: Psalm 98:7-9 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: “Simple Compassion”

Sunday, 14 April 2019

“Palm Sunday” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1st Reading: Psalm 118:25-29 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 21:1-17

Sermon: “Right Acclaim”

Sunday, 21 April 2019

“Resurrection of the Lord - Easter” - Liturgical Color: White

1st Reading: Psalm 118: 19-24 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon: “Open Graves”

Sunday, 28 April 2019

“2nd Sunday in Easter” - Liturgical Color: White

1st Reading: Psalm 40:9-10 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon: “Euangelion”

Other readings for Holy Week

Maundy Thursday: Matthew 26:1-56

Good Friday: Matthew 26:57-27:61

Holy Saturday: Matthew 27:62-65



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.

Victims of recent area bus accidents
 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 and her mother Elizabeth Scott
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Kenneth Andrews, Childress family's friend
 Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew's brother
 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
 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, Corey Whelan's grandmother (terminal diagnosis)
 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 (recov., car accident)
 Jo Hatfield, Larry & Linda Johnson's friend (injuries from fall)
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)
 Mattie-Lynn's Metschke's brother, Montana (in VCU)
 Mary Holc (recov., surgery)
 Courtney Stewart, celebrating healthy birth of baby
 Cathy Moore, Glenda Mayhew's sister (health issue)
 Moneka Surprenant, Sandy Eickmeyer's friend
 Gwen Spicer Shea, Dianne Overstreet's friend
 Ed Barnes & family, Bobby Allen's friend, missing at Kerr
 Lake for more than a week
 Family/friends of Billy Ingram, Josh Ingram's father (d. 3/21)
 Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle, burned in house fire
 Chris Lawrence, injured in house fire
 Joseph & Lindsay Paul (newborn twins born prematurely)
 Lynn Bond (recov.appendicitis & preparing for marriage)
 Cathy Rackley, friend of Doreen Hicks (heart catherization)
 Family/friends of Percy Ashcraft's brother
 Family/friends of Bill Russell's mother

"This life was not intended to be the place of our perfection, but the preparation for it. Richard Baxter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATEKEEPER: Charles Smyth

Apr. 1: Worship Com., 1 p.m.

Apr. 2: Preschool Spring Break: Apr. 2-4; **Circle,** 1 p.m.; **Congregational Care Com.,** 6 p.m.; **GS Troop 5000,** 6 p.m.; **Facilities Com.,** 7 p.m.

Apr. 3: Preschool Spring Break: Apr. 2-4; **Choir practice,** 7 p.m.

Apr. 4: Preschool Spring Break: Apr. 2-4; **Easter Lily order placed with florist,** 11 a.m.; **Lenten service & lunch,** Host: Gary's UMC, 12 p.m.

Apr. 6: Church Work Day, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., beginning with Breakfast for Work Day volunteers in Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m. (*Rain date: Apr. 20*)

Apr. 7: "5th Sunday in Lent"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service,** 11 a.m. & **Holy Communion;** **Tri-Cities Work Camp** plan meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

Apr. 9: Missions-Outreach Com., 6:30 p.m.

Apr. 10: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Apr. 11: Lenten service & lunch, Host: **Bethlehem Congregational Church,** 12 p.m.

Apr. 12: Set-up for 4/13 event, 6 p.m.

Apr. 13: Cub Scout Pack 910 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Fellowship Hall, 5-7 p.m.

Apr. 14: "Palm Sunday"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship,** 11 a.m.

Apr. 16: GS Troop 5000, 6 p.m.

Apr. 17: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Apr. 18: "Maundy Thursday", News articles due, 2 p.m.; **Maundy Thursday service,** 7 p.m.

Apr. 19: "Good Friday"

Apr. 20: "Holy Saturday"; Rain date - **Church Work Day.**

Apr. 21: "Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Sunday"; Sunrise service,

6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast in Fellowship Hall; **Sunday school,** 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service, Infant Baptism: Carrie Jane Ruth Cashing,** daughter of Rev. Jason & Mrs. Megan Cashing; **Easter Egg Hunt** during Junior Church for children 12 yrs. & younger, 11 a.m.

Apr. 22: "Easter Monday"

Apr. 24: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Apr. 25: Newsletter out, 2 p.m.

Apr. 28: "2nd Sunday of Easter"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship,** 11 a.m.; **5 Cents a Meal Offering,** 11 a.m.

Apr. 30: PG Fire & EMS staff meeting, Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; **Committee reports due,** 2 p.m.; **GS Troop 5000,** 6 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

APRIL 7	
APRIL 14	Easter Lilies
APRIL 21	Easter Lilies
APRIL 28	

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 – APRIL, 2019

GATEKEEPER:  Charles Smyth	APR. 7 5 th Sunday in Lent	APR. 14 "Palm Sunday"	APR. 21 "Resurrection of the Lord – Easter"	APR. 28
Ushers	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
Announcements	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Dianne Overstreet
Nursery	Valerie Harsh Sandy Hunter	Linda Johnson Mary Lykins	Donna Allen Mary Holc	Rose Scott Susan Shockley
Counting	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing

**COMMUNITY
EVENT JUNE 1**

The Missions-Outreach Committee is planning a Community event for June 1. Plans are being developed for the event to include a **yard sale**, **bake sale**, an **animal adoption corner**, and the **Fire Department's special van** to educate children in tornado safety protocol. **Possibly serving lunch** is also being considered. The Committee welcomes any input and/or volunteers to help with this event. More info on this special event later. Contact: Judy Recher



INFANT BAPTISM - Please join us as we celebrate the baptism of Carrie Jane Ruth Cashing in worship on Sunday, April 21, 2019! Carrie is the infant daughter of Rev. Jason and Mrs. Megan Cashing.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Once again Christian Ed will host an Easter Egg Hunt Easter Sunday, April 21. The Egg Hunt will be for any child 12 and under and will be held during Junior Church time. We look forward to a fun time so be sure to invite your family and friends.

2019 LENTEN SEASON concludes with services at these area churches at 12 p.m. Simple lunch will follow.

- April 4 Gary's UMC**
13501 Sunnybrook Road, Petersburg, Va.
- April 11 Bethlehem Congregational Church**
10501 Pole Run Road, Disputanta, Va.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

What is Easter?

A Sunday school teacher was attempting to teach her young students the true meaning of Easter. "Why do we celebrate Easter?" she asked. When the children replied 'because of the Easter bunny,' Easter eggs, candy, spring, etc., she said, "No, those are Easter traditions and symbols, but what is the REASON why we celebrate Easter? What happened at the very first Easter?"

A little girl raised her hand and said, "Easter celebrates Jesus coming out of the tomb." "Yes!" said the teacher, excited and relieved that finally the correct answer had surfaced.

Encouraged, she prompted, "Jesus arose from the tomb, and what does He do for us?" The youngster replied, "*He looks to see if he can see his shadow, and if He can, he goes back in for another 6 weeks.*"

How to kill eggs....wait, what?!

Little Lauren Marks was 5. On the Saturday before Easter, the Markses were just finishing lunch when Lauren jumped

up excitedly and asked, "When are we going to KILL the eggs?" It took her parents a few minutes to catch up, but they finally decided *she wanted to "DIE" (DYE) the eggs.*

Six Things About Life I Learned from the Easter Bunny:

1. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.
2. Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
3. There's no such thing as too much candy.
4. Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
5. Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
6. Some body parts SHOULD be floppy.

Waiting for Jesus!

Mickey, a 3-year-old, was sent by his mom to clean his room but each time he went in, he got distracted by all the toys and nothing got put away.

On the third try, Mom thought she'd try some principals learned at a recently-attended conference, and so she went into his room and said to him, "Mickey, what did Mommy tell you to do?"

"Clean my room."

"And did you clean your room?"
"No." he replied quietly.

She disciplined him and then helped him to pray and confess his error to God and ask Jesus to help him get his room cleaned. Seeing that he appeared to respond really well to all of this, his mom thought, "Wow, this stuff really works!"

And she left the room. But a few minutes later when she returned to check on his progress, she found him just sitting in the middle of the mess, doing nothing. In frustration she asked, "Mickey, what are you doing?"

He replied, just as frustrated, "*I'm waiting for Jesus to come and help me clean my room!*"



I'M SORRY MAAM, THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS A MIRACLE, NOT A SERVICE OF THIS CEMETERY

APRIL, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1p Worship Com.	2 Presch Spring Break Apr. 2-4 1p Circle 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities Com.	3 Presch Spring Break Apr. 2-4 7p Choir practice	4 Presch Spring Break Apr. 2-4 11a Place order for Easter lilies with florist 12p Lenten service & lunch Host: Gary's UMC	5	6 Church Work Day 8a Work Day breakfast for volunteers, followed by work day assignments
7 5th Sunday in Lent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a Holy Communion 6p Tri-Cities Workcamp planning meeting	8	9 6:30p Missions-Outreach Com.	10 7p Choir practice	11 12p Lenten service & lunch Host: Bethlehem Congregational Church 2p Church Cleaning	12 6p Set-up for 4/13 event	13 5p Cub Pack 910 Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser, Fellowship Hall
14 PALM SUNDAY 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service	15	16 6p GS Tr5000	17 7p Choir practice	18 Maundy Thursday 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due in office 7p Maundy Thursday service	19 Good Friday	20 Holy Saturday Rain date for Church Work Day
21 EASTER 6:30a Sunrise service & breakfast 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service Infant Baptism Easter Egg Hunt	22 EASTER MONDAY	23	24 7p Choir practice	25 2p Church Cleaning 2p Newsletter out	26	27
28 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	29	30 8a-12p PG Fire & EMS staff Meeting 2p Committee reports due in office 6p GS Tr5000				

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

STAMP

APRIL 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