

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



Then Jesus said to [the women], “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” -Matthew 28:10

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.” And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. -Revelation 22:17

I was listening to an interview with actor and musician Will Smith, as he related his decision to go skydiving with friends. The night before, when the decision was made to go the next day, it seemed like a good and fun idea, he recounts. He goes on to say how, when standing in the open doorway of the plane, all the talk of the night before seemed a bit foolish. But then he jumped anyway, and he says that movement – from the door of the plane to empty air – was one of the most fear-inducing movements he’s ever made. During the interview, after this experience, he went on to remark, “The best things in life are waiting on the other side of your maximum fear.”

I can’t help but imagine that the disciples, sitting in the upper room of that house in Jerusalem following the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, were sitting in a state of maximum fear – fear of being discovered and arrested as conspirators to sedition, and likewise crucified; fear of the unknown future, and what it would hold without their teacher and leader, their friend; fear of what they would do next. And yet, they were invited to go forth to Galilee, to move into their future, and see where it led them.

Likewise, John of Patmos was writing to communities that lived in a degree of fear – fear of what their future would hold; fear of how the populations around their little church communities would treat them; fear of an unknown fate against an empire that seemed too large to confront, much less overcome. And yet, the invitation stands: “Come.”

Often, when we are faced with a situation that induces fear, one of two potential paths is followed: either we are paralyzed by an inability to respond, or we are induced to action (the “fight or flight” response). Both of these, however, are reactionary, and not responsive; meaning we react out of instinct, and often without thinking or reflecting. A more biblical response, I believe, is to see these situations not with fear for our person or future, but to see them as the opportunity they offer, and that this is especially true as we face the reality of

resurrection and its inherent invitation to new & abundant life in Christ.

Resurrection presents as something known but not understood, realized but not definable. And the new life that comes on the other side of resurrection is as much filled with uncertainty and unknown (both of which elicit fear within us) as it is with opportunity for something greater and more meaningful. We yearn for this new life; indeed, the end of the Book of Revelation is filled with beautiful imagery of the New Heaven and New Earth which is meant to remind us that we are not defined by the ills and brokenness of this world as we know it. But at the same time, this new life scares us precisely because it is unknown, unfamiliar, and not yet secured. We yearn and hope for the new life Christ offers, we pray for it and sing of it; and yet, we are scared of it, as well, because it is a future which we do not yet fully realize...and it becomes so much easier to look back on the comfortable and defined past and try to live there, instead.

“You can’t dwell on the past and expect that you’re going to move forward with any success.” Wise words from a good friend and colleague, one with much more experience in both ministry and counseling. If we are to move forward...if we are going to live into the fullness of resurrected and new, abundant life, then we cannot do so by trying to recreate the past, or by dwelling on what we feel has been lost. “Onward and upward,” as C.S. Lewis writes.

In this Easter season, we are called upon and invited to do the difficult, and perhaps even unimaginable: to give up what we have known, that we might instead be filled by what is being offered. It is a scary premise, indeed, but it is also both the most faithful and rewarding premise, as well. The gift of resurrected, abundant life awaits us all.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2019

Sunday, 5 May 2019

“3rd Sunday in Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 10:1-17, 34-4 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 9:36-37
 Sermon: “Go Forth with Abundance”

Sunday, 12 May 2019

“4th Sunday in Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 10:40-42
 Sermon: “Everyday Calling”

Sunday, 19 May 2019

“5th Sunday in Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Romans 1:1-17 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 9:10-13
 Sermon: “A Letter to the Church”

Sunday, 26 May 2019

“6th Sunday in Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Romans 5:1-11 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 11:28-30
 Sermon: “Through Christ”



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, her brother, Martin, & her son, Rick (health issues)
 Becky Smith & 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 Entwhistle, Barbara 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 Entwhistle'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 a fall)
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)
 Mattie-Lynn's Metschke's brother, Montana (in VCU w/failed placenta)
 Mary Holc (recov., surgery)
 Courtney Stewart (celebrating healthy birth of baby)
 Moneka Surprenant, Sandy Eickmeyer's friend
 Gwen Spicer Shea, Dianne Overstreet's friend
 Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (injured 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 catheterization)
 Ed Seldon, future son-in-law of Doreen Hicks (upcoming heart catheterization)
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issues)
 Cathy Moore, Glenda Mayhew's sister (recov., surgery; good prognosis)

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc

May 1: PG Fire & EMS staff meeting; Fellowship Hall, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; **Choir practice, 7 p.m.**

May 5: "3rd Sunday of Easter"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service (Guest Preacher) 11 a.m.; Tri-Cities Work Camp plan meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

May 7: Circle, 1 p.m.; Congregational Care Com., 6 p.m.; Girl Scout Troop 5000, 6 p.m.

May 8: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

May 9: Preschool Mother's Day celebration, 11 a.m.

May 12: "4th Sunday of Easter," "Mother's Day"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering, 11 a.m.

May 13: Crater District Scouts' Picnic, Fellowship Hall, 1-9 p.m.

May 14: Preschool Advisory Board, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

May 15: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

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

May 19: "5th Sunday of Easter"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship (Guest Preacher), 11 a.m.

May 21: GS Troop 5000, 6 p.m.; Session meeting, 7 p.m.

May 22: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

May 23: Preschool 2018-19 term last day; Newsletter out, 2 p.m.; Preschool graduation ceremony, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

May 26: "6th Sunday of Easter"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.; 5 Cents a Meal Offering, 11 a.m.

May 29: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

May 31: Committee reports due, 2 p.m.
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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.

& MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jason will be away on Sunday, May 5, for a family wedding, as well as Sunday, May 19, to attend the commencement exercises of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
- Be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet for our trip to a Richmond Flying Squirrels game! We'll be going to the game on Saturday, June 29 – details to follow!
- Help the Presbyterian Women celebrate Mother's Day with their special Birthday Offering on Sunday, May 12.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

MAY 5	
MAY 12	
MAY 19	Jason Cashing
MAY 26	Rose Scott

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 – MAY, 2019

GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc	MAY. 5 3 rd Sun. of Easter	MAY. 12 4 th Sun. of Easter "Mother's Day"	MAY. 19 5 th Sun. of Easter	MAY. 26 6 th Sun. of Easter
Ushers	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	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew
Announcements	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott
Nursery	Marguerite Bishop Blake Bishop	Lisa Brown Evelyn Foster	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Megan Cashing Shirley MacNeill
Counting	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley

*Also 5 Cents A Meal Offering

YARD & BAKE SALE — JUNE 1

Missions, Outreach and Christian Ed are organizing a Yard and Bake Sale here at the church, **Saturday, June 1 from 8 a.m. to noon.** This project will only be successful if we all work together. Flyers will be put in the Narthex beginning the first Sunday of May. Everyone needs to take a few of these to pass out to neighbors and family so that our event can be advertised, as well as, find individuals that would like to rent a space. We would like to have individuals that are interested in selling some of their personal items, as well as, vendors.



The Bake Sale is the other very important piece to this project. In years past Gregory has had some very successful Bake Sales. The success of this depends on every one of you. Please start thinking now about what you can make to sell. We have many excellent cooks who have some well-known specialties!! Besides baked goods, items can include jams, jellies, pickles, rolls, etc. *Priced* Items for the Bake Sale can be brought to the church Friday, May 31 from 4pm to 6pm or first thing Saturday morning, June 1, from 7:30am to 8am.

To further enhance our day Prince George Animal Shelter will be hosting a Pet Adoption Day and the fire department will be bringing their special Tornado Safety Van. This van is designed to educate children on tornado safety practices.

Please mark June 1 on your calendars now and spread the word about this endeavor!!! The success of this depends on YOU.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Here's the skinny on mothers.....

- A mother is a person who, when seeing there are only 4 pieces of pie for 5 people, promptly announces she never cared for pie.
- There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it.
- Sometimes the poorest woman leaves her children the richest inheritance.
- A mother forgives us all our faults, not to mention the 1 or 2 we don't even know we have!
- A Freudian slip is when you say one thing, but mean your mother.
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- She who rocks the cradle, rules the world.

- A Mother's love will go with her son whether he goes to the governor's chair or the electric chair.
- God could not be everywhere and, therefore, he made mothers.

Mom, the good shepherd.....

My mom is my shepherd; I shall not want. She makes me lie down under cool, downy comforts. She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul.

She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness, for I am her namesake!

Yea, even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be a'scared, because my mom is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me.

Mama sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner even in front of big, mean bullies.

She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses. She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over.

Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life, for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever.

Source: Christian Education 101: A Child Learns to Trust by Laurie Hays Coffman



MAY, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 8a-12p PG Fire & EMS staff mtg. 7p Choir practice	2	3	4
5 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 6p Tri-Cities Workcamp planning meeting	6	7 1p Circle 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000	8 7p Choir practice	9 11a Preschool Mother's 'Day Celebration 2p Church cleaning	10	11
12 4th Sunday of Easter MOTHER'S DAY 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ Flowers: J. Cashing	13 1-9p Crater District Scouts Order of Arrow Picnic, Fellowship Hall	14 6p Preschool Advisory Board meeting	15 7p Choir practice	16 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	17	18
19 5th Sunday of Easter 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service	20	21 6p GS Tr5000 7p Session meeting	22 7p Choir practice	23 Preschool Last Day 2p Newsletter out 2p Church cleaning 6:30p Presch. Grad., Sanctuary	24	25
26 6th Sunday of Easter 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering ➤ Flowers: R. Scott	27 MEMORIAL DAY	28	29 7p Choir practice	30 2p Church cleaning	31 2p Committee reports due	

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

STAMP

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MAY 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*