

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,

When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. -Exodus 19:20



Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. -Matthew 17:1

My legs were a constant ache, while my feet felt as if they were gaining two pounds with every step, making each one harder than the one before. With the summit in view, however, my excitement for the view from the top – as well as the promise of stopping the hike to rest! – kept me going forward, step after heavy step. It wasn't a long hike; no more than a mile and a half, but at a steady incline the entire way my legs were close to jelly by the time we reached the highest peak in Shenandoah Park: Hawksbill Summit. And as tired as our legs were, as sore as our feet would be, as out of breath as our lungs were, the view of the entire Shenandoah Valley opening up below us was well worth the hike, and the pain.

We might use terms to describe such a view as breathtaking, amazing, awe-inspiring, or simply beautiful. When coupled with the afternoon we were there, when the wind was a steady roar in our ears and the conversations of anyone else were drowned out, making you feel as if you and you alone were standing there, you could even say it was transcendent or, dare I say, religious. When you realize that, no matter what or who else is there, it feels like it is simply you in the presence of God with no other distractions and a reminder of the grandeur and spectacle of the Divine, the word we're actually looking for is *liminal*.

Liminal refers to the threshold space between one area and another. When you open the door and cross over into the house from the outside, you are passing through the liminal space between the outside world and inside your home. When you are walking in the shadow of a building or trees, and pass into the open sunny area, you are moving through the liminal space between dark and light. Just as liminal space is physical in terms of the space around us, so too is it mental and emotional – for instance,

when you sit down to write a grocery list your mind is moving through the liminal state from being focused on one thing to now being focused on a grocery list. Any time a threshold is passed through – physical, mental, emotional – you are moving through liminal space.

The same goes with spiritual. In theological terms, the liminal space could be described as the space that exists between the Divine and the Mortal, between God and humanity. Sometimes, there seems to be great chasm of a threshold, and thus, the liminal space is vast. But at other times, when it seems that you are caught up in the very presence and intimate nearness of God – such as standing on the summit of Hawksbill Peak – that liminal space is very *thin*, almost non-existent.

These “thin spaces” – where there is little to no liminal space between us and God – are what we yearn for in our spirits. My hope and prayer is that worship on Sunday morning is something of a “thin space,” and I would imagine that other places and times in your lives have been thin, as well – the laughter of child or grandchild or the embrace of a loved one, for example. This is what worship is meant to be: the narrowing of the distance between us and God so that we might, in God's intimate presence, be more of who we were created and called to be, that we might be, more fully, our true selves. And in Christ, the One who has bridged the distance between Divine and Mortal in his very life and being, we are indeed given this opportunity each week, each day.

Where do you find your “thin spaces?” What would it take to make worship at Gregory Memorial more of a thin space for you or others?

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2019

Sunday, 1 September 2019

“12th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Hebrews 11:1-16 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 8:5-10
 Sermon Title: “Why Faith?”

Sunday, 8 September 2019

“13th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 2:4b-25 * 2nd Reading: Mark 10:6-8
 Sermon Title: “Out of Solitary”

Sunday, 15 September 2019

“14th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 * 2nd Reading: Mark 10:27
 Sermon Title: “Impossible”

Sunday, 22 September 2019

“15th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 32:22-30 * 2nd Reading: Mark 14:32-36
 Sermon Title: “Blessings in the Dark”

Sunday, 29 September 2019

“16th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15 * 2nd Reading: Mark 12:26-27a
 Sermon Title: “The Living God”



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.

<p>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; Evelyn's now living in North Carolina) 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 Gladys Wiseman Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) Verne & Clara Smith Sharon Entwistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend Peggy Allen Dink Armstrong’s sister, “Shorty” (health issue) Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Carol Bowman, Sharon Entwistle’s mother (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</p>	<p>Billy Robertson (health issue) Jo Hatfield, Larry & Linda Johnson's friend (injuries from a fall) Jerry Hasky (health issue) Moneka Surprenant, Sandy Eickmeyer's friend Gwen Spicer Shea, Dianne Overstreet's friend Joseph & Lindsay Paul (newborn twins born prematurely) Cathy Rackley, friend of Doreen Hicks (heart catheterization) Ed Seldon, future son-in-law of Doreen Hicks (upcoming heart catheterization) Judy Helm, Doug Holc's friend (health issues) Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.) Tom Merritt (health issues) Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues) Duane Callis, grandson of Larry Hicks (diabetes complications) Mark Cheriton, Janet Swinton’s son-in-law (returned health issues) Montag Saldana, preemie born of friends of Susan Shockley Randy & Kay Recher, son & daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma) Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (health issues) T.R. Brockwell, Marguerite Bishop’s son (health issues) Patsy Johnson (broken wrist)</p>
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"When you are good to others, you are best to yourself." Benjamin Franklin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gregory Memorial's self-supported Preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds is not being offered this school year due to its receiving enrollment numbers too low to sustain its viability during the enrollment period of March 1-July 1. Refunds have been issued to all who applied. We hope to offer this wonderful educational opportunity for Fall, 2020.



GATEKEEPER:
Doug Holc

Sep. 1: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.;
Worship service, 11 a.m.

Sep. 2: Labor Day

Sep. 3: Circle meeting (Cibula home),
1 p.m.; Congregational Care, 6 p.m.;
GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.

Sep. 4: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Sep. 8: "Back To Church Sunday";
Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; **Worship
service**, 11 a.m., with vocals by "The
Virginia Harmonheirs", a southern gospel
quartet. A **covered dish lunch** will be
held in the Fellowship Hall after the
service.

Sep. 9: **Worship Com.**, 1p.m.; **Crater
BS Karakona Chapter** meeting,
Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m.

Sep. 10: **Facilities Com.**, 7 p.m.;
Missions-Outreach, 7 p.m.

Sep. 11: **Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

Sep. 15: **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.;
Worship service, 11 a.m.

Sep. 17: **GS Tr5000**, 6 p.m.

Sep. 18: **Choir practice**, 7 p.m.

Sep. 19: **Newsletter articles** due in
church office, 2 p.m.; **Stewardship &
Finance Com.**, 7 p.m.

Sep. 22: **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.;
Worship service, 11 a.m.; **5-Cents-A-**

Meal Offering, 11 a.m.; **Session meeting**,
12:30 p.m.

Sep. 25: **BS Tr900 Honor Court &
dinner**, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m.; **Choir
practice**, 7 p.m.

Sep. 26: **Newsletter out**, 2 p.m.

Sep. 29: **Sunday school**, 9:45 a.m.;
Worship service, 11 a.m.; **Local
Emergency Aid Offering**, 11 a.m.

Sep. 30: **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.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

SEPTEMBER 1	
SEPTEMBER 8	
SEPTEMBER 15	
SEPTEMBER 22	
SEPTEMBER 29	

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 – SEPTEMBER, 2019

GATEKEEPER: Doug Holc	SEP. 1 12 th Sun. after Pente.	SEP. 8 13 th Sun. after Pente.	SEP. 15 14 th Sun. after Pente.	SEP. 22 15 th Sun. after Pente.	SEP. 29 16 th Sun. after Pente.
Ushers	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	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Announcements	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott		Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
Nursery	Megan Cashing Shirley MacNeill	Glenda Mayhew Judy Recher	Mary Kay Schroeter	Jennifer Smyth Charlie Smyth	Pat Hunter Patsy Johnson
Counting	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing	David Johnson (Sub.)	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Morgan Ingram Ron Recher	Donald Hunter Susan Shockley

*5 Cents a Meal Offering

* **BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 8!** *

September is not just the beginning of a new school year, but is a time for us to recommit ourselves to worshipping our Lord. To celebrate this recommitment, the Christian Ed committee has invited "The Virginia Harmonheirs" to join us in worship Sept. 8 followed by a covered dish luncheon.

The Virginia Harmonheirs is a southern gospel quartet from Central Virginia. They are known for singing of the love of Christ through traditional gospel songs, as well as some originals and some that are a little more obscure. Their goal is to reach those who don't know Christ, inspire those who do and create an enjoyable and immersive musical experience for all.

Please plan on joining us Sept. 8. Take this opportunity to invite a friend and bring your favorite dish to share.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

The Circus Comes To Town!

When William was young, his family belonged to a small country church. On Communion day, deacons would pass around the "bread and juice."

One Sunday, his family attended a church out of town that was more formal. What their home church called "bread and juice", this one referred to as "the elements", which William didn't understand. As Communion began, the pastor said, "If the deacons will come forward, the elements will pass among us."

William was suddenly excited and his mother didn't know why. Then he leaned toward her, whispering something that caused her to burst out laughing. With all eyes on the two, she took him by the hand and made a hasty exit.

All the way to the car, he protested. "Mom, we're going to miss the circus. *The pastor said the elephants were going to pass among us!*"

Priests, Ministers, Rabbis &

Bears ... Oh, My! A priest, a minister, and a rabbi wanted to see who was best at his job. So each one went into the woods, found a bear, and attempted to convert it. Later, they all got together to compare their success.

The priest began: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first Communion."

"I found a bear by the stream," said the minister, "And preached God's holy Word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him."

Then, they both looked down at the rabbi, who was lying in pitiful agony in

bandages and a body cast on a gurney. "Looking back on it," he moaned, "*Maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision.*"

Hymns v. Praise Choruses, Defined

An old farmer went to the city one weekend and attended the big city church. He came home and his wife asked him how it was.

"Well," said the farmer, "it was good. They did something different, however. They sang praise choruses instead of hymns."

"Praise choruses?" said his wife. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're OK. They are sort of like hymns, only different," said the farmer.

"Well, what's the difference?" asked his wife.

The farmer said, "Well, it's like this--- If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn'--- well, that would be a hymn. If on the other hand, I were to say to you: 'Martha, Martha, Oh Martha, MARTHA, MARTHA, the cows, the big cows, the brown cows, the black cows, the white cows; The COWS, COWS, COWS are in the corn; Are in the corn, the CORN, CORN, CORN.'"

Then, if I were to repeat the whole thing two or three times, well, THAT would be a praise chorus."

The next weekend, his nephew, a young, new Christian from the city, came to visit and attended the local church of the small town. He went home and his mother asked him how it was.

"Well," said the young man, "It was good. They did something different

however. They sang hymns instead of regular songs."

"Hymns?" asked his mother. "What are those?"

"Oh, they're OK. They are sort of like regular songs, only different," said the young man.

"Well, what's the difference?" asked his mother.

The young man said, "Well, it's like this--- If I were to say to you: 'Martha, the cows are in the corn' --- well, that would be a regular song. If on the other hand, I were to say to you: 'Oh Martha, dear Martha, hear thou my cry; Incline thine ear to the words of my mouth; Turn thou thy whole wondrous ear by and by; To the righteous, inimitable, glorious truth."

For the way of the animals who can explain; There in their heads is no shadow of sense; Harkenest they in God's sun or His rain; Unless from the mild, tempting corn they are fenced.

Yea, those cows in glad bovine, rebellious delight; Have broke free of their shackles, their warm pens eschewed; Then goaded by minions of darkness and night; They all my mild Chilliwack sweet corn have chewed.

So look to the bright shining day by and by; Where all foul corruptions of earth are reborn; Where no vicious animals make my soul cry; And I no longer see those foul cows in the corn."

He continued, "Then if I were to do only verses one, three and four and do a key change on the last verse, *well now, THAT would be a hymn.*"

SEPTEMBER, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service</p>	<p>2 LABOR DAY</p>	<p>3 1p Circle meeting; Host: G. Cibula (Cibula home) 6p GS Tr5000 6p Congregational Care Com.</p>	<p>4 7p Choir practice</p>	<p>5 2p Church Cleaning</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 "BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY" 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service with vocals by "The Virginia Harmonheirs" Covered dish lunch in Fellowship Hall after worship service.</p>	<p>9 1p Worship Com. 6p Crater BS Karakona Chapter meeting, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>10 7p Facilities Com. 7p Missions- Outreach Com.</p>	<p>11 7p Choir practice</p>	<p>12 2p Church Cleaning</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 6p GS Tr5000</p>	<p>18 7p Choir practice</p>	<p>19 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering 12:30p Session meeting</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 5:30p BS Tr900 Honor Ct. & dinner (setup starts 1p), Fellowship Hall 7p Choir practice</p>	<p>26 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a Local Emergency Aid Offering</p>	<p>30 2p Committee reports due</p>					

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

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SEPTEMBER 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