

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

-Deuteronomy 30:19

*“Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”
“Come, and see,” said Philip.*

-John 1:46

“Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? (PCUSA Book of Order, W-4.4003d, h)

October is the month each year when we are encouraged to reflect again upon the occasion of the start of the Reformation (it was October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Church); the last Sunday of October is always dedicated as “Reformation Sunday” in our denomination’s liturgical calendar. October is also the anniversary month of my ordination, so I find myself annually in a position of revisiting and reevaluating my response to the questions at my ordination & installation, and how I am living out these responses here at Gregory. And each year, I find myself rededicated to living out my affirmative answer to these questions, particularly the two listed above.

While the questions remain, unequivocally, a grounding point, the questions that follow from them are more to do with *how* they are lived out. This is an ever-evolving point in the life of discipleship & ministry: taking who we are and the call we have received (parts of our core identity as Jesus-followers) and constantly adapting & re-adapting them to the current context/needs. And while it might sometimes seem as if the way we live out our calling is part of our core (often when practiced for a long time), the truth is that these practicalities are meant to change and adapt. Hence the phrase that comes to us out of the Reformation: *The Church reformed and always reforming, by the Word of God.*

This is not to say that newer or different is always better, nor is it to encourage change simply for the sake of change. Rather, it is a reminder that our God, in Christ, is a Living God – a dynamic relationship that grows and evolves with us, with all of humanity, with all of creation.

By the Word of God, we broken people are constantly drawn back to a faithful & ultimately loving God, invited to reform ourselves (& our Church) again and again into God’s image.

And as I again ponder the questions I answered in the affirmative during my ordination, and as I again seek to answer them with a convicted “yes!” I have to admit that I do not always know what this will look like, and I must also ask: How far do you, the congregation of Gregory Memorial, want to go? In faith, discipleship, and ministry I want to go deeper: to increase my spiritual life of prayer & study, to contemplate how to best live out God’s Word & Christ’s Love & the Spirit’s movement here in Prince George. And I want to take you with me (or at least walk alongside you as you make your own journey). But how far do you want to go, knowing that it might mean that we change how we do some things around here? How deep do you want to go, knowing that the best way to do that begins by being present even more, reprioritizing worship against some of the other demands on time & energy from society?

I won’t force you to go any further than you can, but I will join in extending the same invitation that Christ has given me, and has already given you as well: Come a little bit deeper, and let us see what the Church can do. As we remember our Reformation, how much deeper & further do you want to go? What more are you willing to offer?

Come, let us see together.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2019

Sunday, 6 October 2019

"WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY"

"17th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 * 2nd Reading: Mark 12:28:31

Sermon Title: "Shema"

Sunday, 13 October 2019

"18th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Ruth 1:1-17 * 2nd Reading: Mark 3:33-35

Sermon Title: "Bound"

Sunday, 20 October 2019

"19th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5 * 2nd Reading: Mark 11:8-10

Sermon Title: "Restoration"

Sunday, 27 October 2019

"REFORMATION SUNDAY"

"20th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 * 2nd Reading: Mark 10:42-45

Sermon Title: "Disregarded"



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
 Dink Armstrong's sister, "Shorty" (health issue)
 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
 Gladys Wiseman
 Steve "Dee" Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt's husband (health issue)
 Verne & Clara Smith
 Sharon Entwhistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend
 Carol Bowman, Sharon Entwhistle's mother (health issue)
 Peggy Allen
 Eddie Frankenstein
 Grace Cibula
 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)

Larry Hicks, Doreen Hicks's husband (health concerns)
 Donna Wilson, Doreen Hicks's daughter
 Cathy Rackley, friend of Doreen Hicks (heart catheterization)
 Ed Seldon, future son-in-law of Doreen Hicks (upcoming heart catheterization)
 Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.)
 Tom Merritt (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)
 Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues)
 Judy Helm, Doug Holc's friend (health issues)
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member (health issue)
 Etta Holc (mini-strokes; home)
 Sandra Elder, Lauren Knupp's mother (health issues)
 Jensen Gallaher, Kelly Knupp's daughter & Sandra Elder's granddaughter (recov., surgery)
 Velma Allen (severe arthritis)
 Family/friends of Judge James D'Alton (d. 9/13)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a brief Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, October 27, with the sole purpose of electing officers for the church. A slate will be presented at that time, and the floor will be opened for further nominations.



GATEKEEPER:
Charles Smyth

Oct. 1: Circle meeting 1 p.m.; Congregational Care, 6 p.m.; GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.; Facilities Com., 7 p.m.

Oct. 2: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Oct. 6: "World Communion Sunday"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m., Holy Communion; Peace & Global Witness Offering, 11 a.m.

Oct. 7: Worship Com., 1 p.m.

Oct. 8: Missions-Outreach, 7 p.m.

Oct. 9: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10: Christian Ed. Com., 7 p.m.

Oct. 13: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.

Oct. 14: "Columbus Day"; Crater BS Karakona Chapter Hallowe'en party, 6-9 p.m. (set-up starts 1 p.m.)

Oct. 15: GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.

Oct. 16: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Oct. 17: Newsletter articles due in church office, 2 p.m.; Stewardship & Finance Com., 7 p.m.

Oct. 20: Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.

Oct. 23: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Oct. 24: Newsletter out, 2 p.m.

Oct. 27: "Reformation Sunday"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; 5-Cents-A-Meal Offering, 11 a.m.; Congregational Meeting (Election of Officers), Sanctuary, 12:15 p.m.

Oct. 29: GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.

Oct. 30: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Oct. 31: "Hallowe'en"; Committee reports due, 2 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

OCTOBER 6	
OCTOBER 13	Rose Scott
OCTOBER 20	
OCTOBER 27	

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 – OCTOBER, 2019

GATEKEEPER: Charles Smyth	OCT. 6 17 th Sun. after Pente. <u>World Communion Sun.</u> Peace & Glob. Wit. Offrg	OCT. 13 18 th Sun. after Pente.	OCT. 20 19 th Sun. after Pente.	OCT. 27 20 th Sun. after Pente. <u>Reformation Sun.</u>
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 Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott		Valerie Harsh
Nursery	Valerie Harsh Sandy Hunter	Mary Webber Donald Hunter	Linda Johnson Mary Lykins	Donna Allen Mary Holc
Counting	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing	Morgan Ingram (Sub.)	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew

*5 Cents a Meal Offering

Did you ever want to know more about the **Protestant Reformation**? Curious about what led up to this event? Wondered why Martin Luther thought the best course was to nail a piece of paper to a door? Join Jason and the Sunday School class on October 20th and 27th, 9:45am, to look into the history of the Church and Reformation!

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TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Life on the edge...?

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff one day when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. On the way down he grabbed a branch, which temporarily stopped his fall. He looked down and to his horror saw that the canyon fell straight down for more than a thousand feet.

He couldn't hang onto the branch forever, and there was no way for him to climb up the steep wall of the cliff. So Jack began yelling for help, hoping that someone passing by would hear him and lower a rope or something.

"HELP! HELP!" he cried. "Is anyone up there? HELP!"

He yelled for a long time, but no one heard him. He was about to give up when he heard a voice. "Jack, Jack. Can you hear me?"

"Yes, yes! I can hear you. I'm down here!"

"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"

"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?"

"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."

"The Lord? You mean... **GOD?**"

"That's Me."

"God, please help me! I promise if, you'll get me down from here, I'll stop sinning. I'll be a really good person. I'll serve You for the rest of my life."

"Easy on the promises, Jack. Let's get

you off from there; then we can talk."

"Now, here's what I want you to do. Listen carefully."

"I'll do anything, Lord. Just tell me what to do."

"Okay. Let go of the branch."

"What?"

"I said...let go of the branch. Just trust Me. Let go."

There was a long silence. Finally Jack yelled, "**HELP! HELP! IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?**"

Rest in Peace.

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it.

The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor Phillips, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service."

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:00 or 10:30 service?"

Spooky!

After dying in a car crash, three friends went to Heaven for orientation.

They were all asked the same question: "When you are in the casket, friends and family are mourning over you, what would you like to hear them say about you?"

The first guy immediately answered, "I would like to hear them say that I was one of the greatest doctors of my time and a great man."

The second guy replied, "I would like to hear them say that I was a wonderful husband and school teacher who made a huge difference in our children of tomorrow."

The last guy thought a minute and replied "I'd like to hear them say:

!!"



HAPPY HALOWE'EN!

OCTOBER, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1p Circle Meeting 6p Cong .Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities Com.	2 7p Choir practice	3 2p Church Cleaning	4	5
6 "WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY" 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service Holy Communion <i>Peace & Global Witness Offering</i>	7 1p Worship Com.	8 7p Missions-Outreach Com.	9 7p Choir practice	10 2p Church Cleaning 7p Christian Ed. Com.	11	12
13 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service <i>Flowers: R. Scott</i>	14 "COLUMBUS DAY" 6-9p Crater BS Karakona Chapter Hallowe'en party (setup 1-5p)	15 6p GS Tr5000	16 7p Choir practice	17 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	18	19
20 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service	21	22	23 7p Choir practice	24 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning	25	26
27 "REFORMATION SUNDAY" 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering 12:15p Congregational Meeting (Election of Officers)	28	29 6p GS Tr5000	30 7p Choir practice	31 "HALLOWE'EN" 2p Church Cleaning 2p Committee Reports due		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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OCTOBER 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*