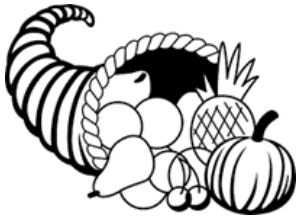


Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim God's greatness. Let the whole world know what God has done. Sing to God; yes, sing God's praises. Tell everyone of God's wonderful deeds.*

*1 Chronicles 16:8-9*

*Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong in Christ Jesus.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

There was a rule in my home as I grew up: I was not allowed to talk about what I wanted for Christmas – no lists, no hints, no asks – until the day after Thanksgiving. It was a rule that, as we drew closer and closer to Thanksgiving, became harder and harder to follow with the increasing amount of ads of the television for the year's newest toys and gadgets. And nowadays, as Christmas advertising tends to begin around the time we hit the summer solstice, such a rule might well be impossible for a young child to follow!

But the rationale behind this rule was profound, while simultaneously simple, though of course I would never comprehend it when I was young: enjoy this season, with all of its current gifts, for the time that you have it; don't think ahead to what you desire and do not have, but think on what is present and be grateful.

Like I said, it was a rationale I didn't comprehend when I was young. But I get it now.

The Author of Ecclesiastes takes great effort to remind the reader, even as he seems to remind himself, that each season, each time has within it great and wondrous gifts: blessings which could easily be overlooked if one were focused too intently on what is coming but not arrived, what is desired but not realized. This is a theme that is not unique to Scripture; even William Shakespeare incorporated it – from the perspective of the priest, nonetheless – into *Romeo & Juliet*.

As Romeo laments that he has broken the law and will be banished into exile, unable to be with Juliet, all he can think on is his unfortunate state. Seeking advice (with a bit of whining), he turns to Father Laurence who reminds him that his position is far more favorable that it could be: his enemy is dead, his love is alive, and rather than being executed he is being exiled (with the chance to return). Father Laurence continues, then, "a pack of blessings light upon thy back. Happiness courts thee in her best array" (*Romeo & Juliet*, Act 3, Scene 3).

In a culture of expectation and consumerism, where everything around us seems to point our attention toward what we don't have (and thus, so obviously, need), to look around and recognize what you *do* have – and be grateful for it – is against the norm. In such a culture, to be grateful is to be counter-cultural.

I encourage you, with God's blessings at hand in this season, to be counter-cultural. For what are you grateful? Where can we focus more on appreciating what we do have as opposed to focusing on what others say we lack? For it is in recognizing the joy and blessings of what God has offered that we more readily recognize, and proclaim, the Kingdom of God made present around us. A pack of blessings, indeed...

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2019

### Sunday, 3 November 2019

“21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Kings 18:17-39 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 9:2-4  
 Sermon Title: "Call on the Name"

### Sunday, 10 November 2019

“22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Hosea 11:1-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 10:13-14  
 Sermon Title: "As Children"

### Sunday, 17 November 2019

“23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 12:1-3  
 Sermon Title: "Tending the Vineyard"

### Sunday, 24 November 2019

“Christ the King” - Liturgical Color: White  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Kings 22:1-23:3 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 24:30-32  
 Sermon Title: "Burning Hearts"



**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  
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister  
 Dink Armstrong's sister, "Shorty" (health issue)  
 Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, & her son, Rick (health issues)  
 Becky Scott Smith  
 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  
 Eddie Frankenstein  
 Grace Cibula  
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)  
 Moneka Surprenant, Sandy Eickmeyer's friend  
 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 (health issue)  
 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)  
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member (health issue)  
 Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)  
 Velma Allen (severe arthritis)  
 Jane Jones (health issue)  
 Gregg Webber (Johnston-Willis)  
 Etta Holc (broken foot; home)  
 Buck Nunnally (health issue)  
 Jim & Adele Linkenhoker (friends of Barb Taliaferro), health concern  
 Jackie Woodruff, health issues  
 Shirley MacNeill (heart attack, recovering at home)  
 Family/friends of Gwen Spicer Shea (d. 10/19)  
 Family & Friends of Doris Karnowski (Josh Ingram's grandmother)  
 (d.10/20)  
 Family/friends of Elizabeth Scott (d. 10/13)

*"I am grateful for my friends. I take this time now to be aware of and to give thanks for the blessings of friendships." Anonymous*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Tri-Cities WorkCamp planning meeting is set for Sunday, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. If you or anyone you know is considering attending WorkCamp, these meetings are a must for you to attend!



**GATEKEEPER:**  
Doug Holc

**Nov. 3: Daylight Saving Time Ends,** 2 a.m.; **Sunday school,** 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service,** 11 a.m.; **WorkCamp planning meeting,** Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**Nov. 4: Worship Com.,** 1 p.m.

**Nov. 5: "Election Day"; Circle meeting** 1 p.m.; **Congregational Care,** 6 p.m.; **Facilities Com.,** 7 p.m.; **GS Tr5000,** 6 p.m.

**Nov. 6: Choir practice,** 7 p.m.

**Nov. 10: Sunday school,** 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service,** 11 a.m.; **Order Xmas Poinsettias**

**Nov. 11: "Veterans Day"; Crater BS**

**Karakona Chapter meeting:** Veterans Program, Fellowship Hall, 6 p.m. (setup starts 1 p.m.)

**Nov. 12: Missions-Outreach,** 7 p.m.

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

**Nov. 14: Newsletter articles** due in church office, 2 p.m.; **Christian Ed. Com.,** 7 p.m.

**Nov. 17: Sunday school,** 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service,** 11 a.m.; **Order Xmas Poinsettias**

**Nov. 19: GS Tr5000,** 6 p.m.

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

**Nov. 21: Newsletter out,** 2 p.m.; **Stewardship & Finance Com.,** 7 p.m.

**Nov. 24: Christ the King"; Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for WorkCamp),** Fellowship Hall, time: TBA; **Sunday school,** 9:45 a.m.; **Worship service,** 11 a.m.; **5-Cents-A-Meal Offering,** 11 a.m.; **Order Xmas Poinsettias**

**Nov 25-27:** Church office open 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

**Nov. 28: "Thanksgiving Day";** Church office closed.

**Nov. 30: Committee reports due,** 2 p.m.

.....  
*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

NOVEMBER 3	
NOVEMBER 10	
NOVEMBER 17	
NOVEMBER 24	

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 – NOVEMBER, 2019

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> Doug Holc	<b>NOV. 3</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> Sun. after Pente. End Daylight Sav. Time	<b>NOV. 10</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sun. after Pente.	<b>NOV. 17</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sun. after Pente.	<b>NOV. 24</b> Christ the King/ Reign of Christ
<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
<b>Announcements</b>	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	
<b>Nursery</b>	Rose Scott Susan Shockley	Marguerite Bishop Blake Bishop	Lisa Brown Evelyn Foster	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
<b>Counting</b>	David Johnson Ron Recher	Sandy Hunter Susan Shockley	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	Donald Hunter Megan Cashing

\*5 Cents a Meal Offering



As one of their ongoing fundraisers, our TWC group is considering offering a pancake breakfast once a month before worship. We have tentatively marked **November 24** as the first one, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

### A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

By Pauline Phillips

Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank thee for food and remember the hungry.  
 We thank thee for health and remember the sick.  
 We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.  
 May these remembrances stir us to service  
 That thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

### TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

#### **THE NEVER ENDING BATTLE....**

And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach and green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so man and woman would live long and healthy lives.

And Satan developed the fast foods industry. And fast foods brought forth the 99 cent double cheeseburger. And Satan said to man, "You want fries with that?" And man said, "Supersize them." And man gained pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair.

And Satan froze the yogurt, and he brought forth chocolate, nuts and brightly colored sprinkle candy to put on the yogurt. And woman gained pounds.

And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad."

And Satan brought forth creamy dressings, bacon bits, and shredded cheese. And there was ice cream for dessert. And woman gained pounds. And God said, "I

have sent your heart healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth chicken -- fried steak so big that it needed its own platter. And man gained pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

And God brought forth running shoes, and man resolved to lose those extra pounds.

And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And man gained pounds.

And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried of them. And he created sour cream dip also. And man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol.

And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And man went into cardiac arrest.

And God sighed, and created a quadruple bypass surgery, angioplasties, and stents...

And Satan created HMOs...

And thus goes the battle between the God and Satan. God gives us things that are good, and Satan comes along and changes them or adds to them. We all must choose what we will do with the things that God has given to us. What will you do with your life and the things that God has given you? You must choose every day whether you will use these things for God and his glory or for yourself and the world. The choices that you make today will determine what kind of life you will have tomorrow.

## NOVEMBER, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>2a</b> Daylight Saving Time ends  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service  <b>6:30p</b> WorkCamp Planning meeting	<b>4</b> <b>1p</b> Worship Com.	<b>5</b> <b>ELECTION DAY</b> <b>6a-7p</b> Polls open  <b>1p</b> Circle meeting  <b>6p</b> Cong. Care Com.  <b>6p</b> GS Tr5000  <b>7p</b> Facilities Com.	<b>6</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>7</b> <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	8	9
<b>10</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <i>Order Xmas  Poinsettias  (Cut-off date is 12/1)</i>	<b>11</b> <b>VETERANS DAY</b>  <b>6-9p</b> Crater BS Karakona Chapter meeting- Vet. Recog. program (setup 1-5p)	<b>12</b> <b>7p</b> Missions- Outreach Com.	<b>13</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>14</b>  <b>2p</b> News articles due in office  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning  <b>7p</b> Christian Ed. Com.	15	16
<b>17</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>12:30p</b> Session Meeting  <i>Order Xmas  Poinsettias  (Cut-off date is 12/1)</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6p</b> GS Tr5000	<b>20</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>21</b> <b>2p</b> Newsletter out  <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com.	22	23
<b>24</b> Pancake Breakfast WorkCamp Fundraiser-time TBA  <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering  <i>Order Xmas  Poinsettias  (Cut-off date is 12/1)</i>	<b>25</b> Church office open	<b>26</b> Church office open	<b>27</b> Church office open  <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>28</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b>  Church office Closed	29	<b>30</b> <b>2p</b> Committee Reports due

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

-----  
STAMP

---- -- -- ----  
***NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER***



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
*Sunday School 9:45 A.M.*  
*Worship 11:00 A.M.*

*We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva*  
*Sermons on Youtube.com*  
**WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG**