Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



"1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS"

December 29, 2019 - 11:00 a.m.

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God, made known in Christ. We pray you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to the quiet stillness of the presence of God!

GOD GATHERS THE PEOPLE

Choral Prelude

Sandra Perkins & Gail Rollings

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome & Announcements

Passing of the Peace

Pat Hunter Sandy Hunter

Sharing of Joys/Concerns

Call to Worship

One: We recount the gracious deeds of God, all that the Lord has done for us:

All: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.
One: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, pioneer of our

salvation.

All: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.One: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and

carrying us.

All: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

*Opening Hymn #143 – "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

Promise of God's Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

One: Know that we have been forgiven, and be at peace!

All: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen!

*Congregational Response (Hymn #581)

The Giving of our Tithes, Gifts & Selves to God - Offertory

Congregational Response (Hymn #606)

*Prayer of Dedication

WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD

Choral Anthem - "A New Star"

Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illumine our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path into the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

Scriptural Readings 1st Reading Psalm 91:9-12 p477

Sermon "Follow Him" Pat Hunter Sandy Hunter

Mark 1:1-20

Reflective Hymn #128 – "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Affirmation of Faith

2nd Reading

I believe that Jesus is the Word of God, that he was with God at the beginning of Creation and, in fact, was God.

I believe that Jesus is the Light of God that came into a darkened world so that, through his light, all people might experience the gift of new life.

I believe that Jesus is Emmanuel, God who lived with us, as one of us, and that, as we trust our lives to him, we become children of God.

In him, we discover divine grace for a fresh start; we find the truth that sets us free from all that holds us back. Until the first Christmas, no one had ever seen God, but, in Jesus, we now know who God is and how much we are loved. Amen.

[from "The Gospel of John", Chapter 1]

p812

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

One: Lord, in your mercy, All: Hear our prayers.

Departing Hymn #119 - "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Blessing

One: We have been blessed!

All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.

One: We have been blessed!

All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.

One: We have been blessed!

All: We go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!

*Pastoral Benediction

*Choral Benediction & Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents of Little Ones: We want worship to be a nurturing experience for your whole family. As such, Nursery services are available for your benefit and the enjoyment of your child. Let one of our greeters know and they'll help you get set up!

Today's sermon will be delivered by Pat Hunter and Sandy Hunter. Pastor Jason is on vacation and will return to the pulpit on January 5.

We will **"de-deck the halls"** after worship on <u>Sunday, January 5</u>. It's said that "many hands make light work", so please join us in this necessary task.

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting for 2019** will be held following worship on <u>Sunday, January 19</u>. Lunch will be covered dish, so bring a dish to share. We will conduct the meeting after lunch. The business will include reviewing annual committee reports, voting on the Pastoral Covenant among other items. (Alternate date: 1st Sunday after, as weather permits.)

A Pancake Breakfast (fund-raiser for our Tri-Cities Workcamp group) will be held on <u>Sunday, January 26</u> in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Free-will donations will be accepted.

"These Days" (Jan.-Mar.) magazine. The Winter Quarter issues have arrived! Pick up a copy today for some inspirational reading!

GMPC Information

www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva 804.732.1081 Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Pastor: Rev. Jason Cashing (Jason@gregorymemorial.org)

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)
Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings
Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

Sandy Hunter (2019); Patsy Johnson (2019); Charles Smyth (2019) Pat Hunter (2020); Susan Shockley (2020); ______ (2020)

Blake Bishop (2021); _____ (2021); ____ (2021)

Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session)

Trustees

Morgan Ingram (2019); Donald Hunter (2020); John Carl Allen (2021)

12/2	29 THESE TWO WEEKS A	I GR	EGORY	
	9:45a Sunday School	29	9:45a Sunday School	5
1 _	11a Worship		11a Worship	
S	11a Local Emergency Aid		-	
	Offering		6:30p Workcamp plan meeting	
M		30	Epiphany	6
			1p Worship Com.	
T	9a-2p Church office open	31	1p Circle (Host: TBA)	7
			6p Congregational Care Com.	
			6p GS Tr5000	
			6p Facilities Com.	
W	JAN	1	7p Choir practice	8
	New Year's Day			
	9a-2p Church office open			
T		2		9
	9a-2p Church office open			
F		3		10
c		- 1		11

SUNDAY SERVANTS GATEKEEPER: Bobby Allen (Dec.) Donald Hunter (Jan.)

		Donaid Hunter (Jan.)
	Dec. 29	Jan. 5
USHERS	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Valerie Harsh
NURSERY		
COUNTING	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing

FACTS & FIGURES							
		YTD	Thru 10/31/19	Offrg.	Rec'd.		
Pledged/proj. incr.	\$137,530	Inc.	\$110,661.63	12/1	\$1,674.00		
Ann. Budget exp.	\$145,537	Exp.	(\$116,229.40)	12/8	\$2,680.60		
Mo. Budget needs	\$ 12,128	Diff.	(\$ 5,567.77)	12/15	\$1,725.00		
				12/22	\$2,865.00		

	Worship	Sun. School	Children	Youth
Dec. 22, 2019	55	11		

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister

Mary Chadwick & Adelaide "Shorty" Smith, "Dink" Armstrong's sisters (health issues)

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 Entwhistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend Peggy Allen

Eddie Frankenstein

Grace Cibula

Jerry Hasky (health issue)

Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.)

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)

Etta Holc (broken foot; home)

Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro's friend (health concerns)
Jackie Woodruff (health issues)

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Jane & Bob Jones (health issues)

Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from brain surgery)

Mark Cheriton, Janet Swinton Shill's son-in-law (hospice care; home)

Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (triple bypass)

Betty Arthur, Mary Lykins' son-in-law's mother

Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from back surgery)