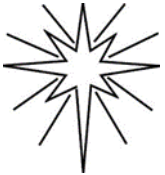


Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.
-Colossians 3:10*

*He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!
-Psalm 103:4-5*

After more than four decades, the saga, the story has come to an end. For some of us, it has been (literally) our whole lifetime; I was born the year the first movie came out, and the first movie I saw in the theater (my babysitter took me, choosing to ask forgiveness of my parents after the fact) was an installment in this story. And even if it's not one you're as familiar with, if I were to say, "Long ago in a galaxy far, far away..." you would more than likely know what I was referring to. The story of the Skywalker family, told through the *Star Wars* movies has recently been completed, and for many of us, it is truly the end of an era.

And it can feel like an ending for us in the Church, as well, as we're about to move from one year into the next, one decade into the next, and most recently we have celebrated the Christmas event. We gathered together on Christmas Eve, singing the carols and hearing the Nativity story again proclaimed...we have lit our candles as we sang together "*Silent Night, Holy Night*"...we have spent long weeks in preparation and culminated this work by celebrating the hoped-for peace that our Lord can bring. Then, we gathered joyously with family: sharing gifts in love, sitting at table together, and basking in the glow of knowing that all the work has finally culminated in this event and, to borrow words from the Passion event of Christ, knowing that 'it is finished.'

Such a completion can often leave a sense of emptiness and an expression of "now what?" It's perfectly normal to experience this, and to experience it can be disorienting and energy-draining. Whether it is the completion of a story you have lived with your whole life, or a season that has once again come and gone, following

along in the wake after it can leave us feeling adrift and without anchor.

But remember, O People of God, that this is a season of Good News!!! For instance, this is my annual reminder to you that the Christmas season does not end on December 25, but rather it begins! We celebrate still the realization that the God's Love has become incarnate in our world, in our lives, and that while event may be complete, the story has not ended but rather just begun! "A long time ago in a country on the other side of the world..." is how we begin our story once more, living into the invitation now being offered us, an invitation to journey to meet our Lord, a journey to align our lives with his, a journey to proclaim the good news of his abundant life for all who would learn of it for their own lives. The arrival of our Lord as an infant in Mary's arms is not the end but the beginning, and we are invited to re-begin our life with him. What a joyous invitation, indeed!

So, what are we waiting for? Shall we again meet him, Christ our Lord, and then go and proclaim this good news, telling it on the mountain for all to hear? Shall we again follow the star that we might live in the Light? I believe we shall, and I believe we shall not only do so with great joy and celebration but that we will find great gifts of life and light awaiting us, awaiting our world.
Merry Christmas!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2020

Sunday, 5 January 2020

“2nd Sunday of Christmas” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 103:1-5 * 2nd Reading: Mark 1:21-45
 Sermon Title: "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

Sunday, 12 January 2020

“Baptism of the Lore” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 103:6-14 * 2nd Reading: Mark 2:1-22
 Sermon Title: "Mercy of the Lord"

Sunday, 19 January 2020

“2nd Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 126:1-6 * 2nd Reading: Mark 4:1-34
 Sermon Title: "Those Who Dream"

Sunday, 26 January 2020

“3rd Sunday after Epiphany” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Psalm 89:1-4 * 2nd Reading: Mark 5:1-20
 Sermon Title: "News Proclaimed"



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 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 Entwistle, Barbara Taliaferro's friend Peggy Allen Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Jerry Hasky (health issue) Randy & Kay Recher, son & daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma)</p> | <p>Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.) 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) 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, formerly our pastor (recovering from back surgery)</p> |
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"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." Mother Teresa

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:
TBA

Jan. 1: "New Year's Day"; Church office open, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (2020 holiday schedule)

Jan. 5: "2nd Sunday of Christmas"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; De-decorating the church after worship; WorkCamp planning meeting, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 6: "Epiphany"; Worship Com., 1 p.m.

Jan. 7: Circle (Host, location: TBA), 1 p.m.; Congregational Care Com., 6 p.m.; GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.; Facilities Com., 7 p.m.

Jan. 8: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Jan. 12: "Baptism of the Lord"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.

Jan. 13: Crater Karakona BS Chapter meeting, Fellowship Hall, 5:30 p.m. (setup 1 p.m)

Jan. 14: Missions-Outreach Com., 7 p.m.

Jan. 15: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

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

Jan. 19: "2nd Sunday after Epiphany"; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; Annual Congregational Meeting for 2019 & covered dish lunch, Fellowship Hall, 12:15 p.m. (Alternate date: 1st Sunday as weather permitting)

Jan. 20: "ML King Day"

Jan. 21: GS Tr5000, 6 p.m.

Jan. 22: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Jan. 23: Newsletter out, 2 p.m.

Jan. 26: "3rd Sunday after Epiphany"; Pancake Breakfast (Workcamp fundraiser/freewill offering will be accepted), Fellowship Hall, 9-10 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Worship service, 11 a.m.; 5 Cents a Meal Offering, 11 a.m.

Jan. 29: Choir practice, 7 p.m.

Jan. 31: 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

| | |
|------------|--|
| JANUARY 5 | |
| JANUARY 12 | |
| JANUARY 19 | |
| JANUARY 26 | |

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 – JANUARY, 2020

|  GATEKEEPER: Donald Hunter | JAN. 5 | JAN. 12 | JAN. 19 | JAN. 26 |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Ushers | John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers | Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram | Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson | Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew |
| Announcements | Valerie Harsh | Mary Kay Schroeter | Larry Johnson | Rose Scott |
| Nursery | | | | |
| Counting | Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing | Morgan Ingram (Sub.) | Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew | David Johnson Ron Recher |

*5 Cents a Meal Offering

The Christmas season has not ended but continues! Join us following worship on January 5 as we celebrate the Epiphany and "de-deck the halls" – As is often said, "many hands make light work" and all help will be greatly appreciated!

* * * * *

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 19. Lunch will be covered dish, so bring a dish to share, and after we have lunch we will conduct the business of reviewing annual committee reports, voting on the Pastoral Covenant, and other business as necessary.

* * * * *

Our next pancake breakfast fundraiser for our Tri-Cities WorkCamp group will be Sunday January 26, from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

The Customer Is Always Right...

A woman came into the beauty shop one day to get her hair fixed. Her beautician was noted to always be complaining about most everything. The customer stated that she was planning on leaving for Rome in a few days.

Beautician: Rome...Rome...Why that is one of the dirtiest cities you could ever go. How are you going to get there?

Customer: We are flying Continental Airlines.

Beautician: Continental...They are the worst airline! And they have the ugliest hostesses. Where are you staying?

Customer: We are staying in the Villa.

Beautician: Villa...Villa! Why that is so overrated and way too expensive. I

wouldn't stay there if I were you. What are you going to see?

Customer: We are planning on seeing the Pope.

Beautician: Why girl, you would be lucky to even see him from long distance. Don't you know everyone wants to be around him? You won't be able to get within a mile of him. A month went by and the customer went back to the beautician, hoping to break her of her bad habits. The beautician asked her what she had been doing and the customer replied that she had just got back from Rome.

Beautician: Rome...I bet your flight was bad.

Customer: No, the flight was great. They had actually overbooked the flights and gave us first class seating and fed us steaks all the way to Rome. And our hostess was the most handsome man I had ever seen!

Beautician: Well. What about the Villa?

Customer: Funny you should ask. The Villa had just completed a \$5 million restoration. They were also overbooked and we were forced to stay in the owner's personal villa. Wow! The accommodations, the service, we had everything, we lived like kings!

Beautician: Well...what about the Pope?

Customer: We took the tour to the Vatican. One of the guards tapped us on the shoulder and stated, "The Pope often entertains a few people now and then, would you like to have a personal visit with the Pope?"

Beautician: I can't believe that. What did the Pope say?

Customer: He took one look at me and asked, "*That's the worst hair-do I have ever seen! Who in the world fixed your hair?*"

JANUARY, 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-----|
| | | | 1 New Year's Day 9a-2p Church office open | 2 2p Church Cleaning | 3 | 4 |
| 5 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service "De-Decorate" the church after worship 6:30p WorkCamp plan meeting | 6 Epiphany. 1p Worship Com. | 7 1p Circle (Host: TBA) 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GS Tr5000 7p Facilities Com. | 8 7p Choir practice | 9 2p Church Cleaning | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Baptism of the Lord 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service | 13 5:30p Crater Karakona BS Chapter meeting, Fellowship Hall (setup 1p) | 14 7p Missions-Outreach Com. | 15 7p Choir practice | 16 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com. | 17 | 18 |
| 19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 12:15p Annual Congregational Meeting for 2019, Covered Dish lunch (Alt. date: 1 st Sunday after as weather permits) | 20 ML King Day | 21 6p GS Tr5000 | 22 7p Choir practice | 23 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning | 24 | 25 |
| 26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9-10a Pancake B'fast 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering | 27 | 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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JANUARY 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