

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.
-Hebrews 12:1-2



I've always disliked going to the eye doctor. I have nothing against what they do (in fact, I greatly appreciate it), and I truly enjoy being able to see clearly, so I'm grateful for their help in that area. But I've never enjoyed the examination part of the annual visit, and it has nothing to do with people working around my eyes. Rather, whenever I'm in the exam and I'm being asked to read a line, or which is better (Option A, or Option

B), I always feel as if the answer I give is not the answer they expected. I can almost hear in their voice an unspoken, "Really, you think that line contains those letters? Or that Option is the better one? Your eyes are far worse than anticipated!" It just always feels like I'm giving the wrong answer, and that my vision is incorrect...that I'm not actually seeing what I think I'm seeing.

More than likely, however, is the reality that while I am honestly stating what I think I see, my vision is not that bad, and it really only needs some minor correction. It's only in my mind that I think I'm not giving the 'right' answers, and it's important to recognize that distinction, as it speaks more to whether or not I trust in the vision that is before me, and less to my physical capabilities. Regardless, it is good to regularly check one's vision and make sure that it is focusing correctly. And this is true for Christ's Church just as much as it is for Christ's disciples.

Gregory Memorial is at a point that we are checking and potentially refocusing our vision. Your session and I are now in the process of revisiting our mission & vision, discerning together whether they are still aligned with the capabilities and gifts of the congregation and, more

importantly, that they are still aligned with the overall vision that we have received from Christ: the Good News of the Abundant Life of the Kingdom of God. Using exercises found in *The Path: Creating Your Mission Statement for Work and for Life* (Jones, 1998), we are prayerfully discussing and discerning how Gregory Memorial lives out the Kingdom of God in our own unique and particular way here in Prince George. Our first such discussion was this past month, and it brought about wonderful conversation! Suffice to say, I believe we have set ourselves on a good trajectory as we look to our congregation's future.

I cannot say, necessarily, where it will lead us, but I do believe in the process and have faith that the vision we are brought to will be one that we can trust in, and will be one which comes from God. The real question, then, will be: do we, as a congregation, have what it takes to follow where this renewed vision is leading us? Again, time will tell, but I continue to have faith in our congregation and its resolve.

It is appropriate that we are taking up this work now, as we enter into the season of Lent. Lent has always been about preparation, about taking stock of one's self and passions, one's abilities and even one's fears & weaknesses. Christ, tempted in the desert, faced difficult decisions (and came through them to the other side, better off and more prepared for the ministry he was about to undertake). We, too, may face such trials in this season of Lent, and like our Lord, we can come out the other end prepared for what we are called to do, prepared to bear witness not only to the crucifixion but also to the resurrection. It is on this that we ultimately fix our vision; it is of this that we ultimately proclaim and live out. May our vision be blessed, indeed, and may this season of Lent be a true gift.



With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MARCH, 2020

Sunday, 1 March 2020

“1st Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Psalm 19:7-10 * 2nd Reading: Mark 10:17-31
 Sermon Title: "More Than Gold"

Sunday, 8 March 2020

“2nd Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 34:11-14 * 2nd Reading: Mark 10:32-52
 Sermon Title: "The Good Path"

Sunday, 15 March 2020

“3rd Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 86:8-13 * 2nd Reading: Mark 12:1-17
 Sermon Title: "Unto the Lord"

Sunday, 22 March 2020

“4th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 89:1-4 * 2nd Reading: Mark 12:28-44
 Sermon Title: "First Things First"

Sunday, 29 March 2020

“5th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: Psalm 102:12-17 * 2nd Reading: Mark 13:1-8, 24-32
 Sermon Title: "Stones Along the Path"



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 sis (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 Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue) Verne & Clara Smith Peggy Allen Eddie Frankenstein Grace Cibula Etta Holc Jerry Hasky (health issue) Doris Harmison (The Crossings at Ironbridge, Chester, Va.) Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma) Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop’s friend (health issues) Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp’s mother (health issues)</p>	<p>Velma Allen (health issue) Adele Linkenhoker, Barbara Taliaferro’s friend (health concerns) Jane & Bob Jones (health issues) Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh’s brother-in-law (health issue) Rev. Paul Luthman, previously our pastor (recovering from surgery) Sharon Reed & family, Susan Shockley’s co-worker (health issue) Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue) Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers’ uncle (health issue) Randy Warthan (health issue) David Minor (health issue) Chris Harvey (MCV, burns accident) Inez Paul, Mary Holc’s mother (health issue, rehab) Ron Recher (recov. from surgery) Floyd Brown, Sr. (SRMC, health issues) Family/friends of Irene Ondisko, Donna Allen’s mother (d.2/17) Family/friends of Irene Floyd, Les Mayhew’s mother (d. 2/17) Family/friends of Jackie Woodruff, Chris Harvey’s mother (d.2/18) Family/friends of Gladys Wiseman (d. 2/19) Pam Landrum, Doris Harmison’s daughter (orthopedic issue) Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley’s neighbor’s son (health issue)</p>
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The LORD is good to all: he has compassion on all he has made.

LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

March 5 Gary's UMC
 March 12 Sycamore UMC
 March 19 GMPC
 March 26 Church of the Sacred Heart
 April 2 Bethlehem Congregational Church

A simple lunch will follow the service; all are invited!

Be sure to order your Easter lilies! Cost \$13 per plant; make check payable to Gregory Memorial Church; order deadline is Sunday, March 22. Order form will be enclosed in Sunday bulletins.

Cub Pack 910 Spaghetti dinner fund-raiser will be held Saturday, March 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall; dinner is \$7 per person; tickets by advance order & also at door that evening; Contact: Tammy Lively 804.931.4680

***Daylight Saving Time** begins on March 8 - remember to "spring" ahead one hour!

***TWC20** will have its regular meeting on Sunday, March 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

***Pancake Breakfast** fund-raiser will be offered by our Workcamp group on Sunday, March 29 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the GMPC Fellowship Hall. Donations accepted!

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

MARCH 1	
MARCH 8	
MARCH 15	
MARCH 22	
MARCH 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 – March, 2020

GATEKEEPER: Charles Smyth	MAR. 1 1 st Sun. in Lent	MAR. 8 2 nd Sun. in Lent Begin Daylight Sav. Time	MAR. 15 3 rd Sun. in Lent	MAR. 22 ** 4 th Sun. in Lent	MAR. 29 *** 5 th Sun. in Lent
Ushers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers
Announcements	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh
Nursery	Glenda Mayhew Judy Recher*	Sheila Field Mary Kay Schroeter*	Jennifer Smyth Charles Smyth	Linda Johnson Patsy Johnson*	Brenda Bond Donald Hunter*
Counting	Sandy Hunter Susan Walker	Morgan Ingram Blake Bishop	David Johnson Megan Cashing	Donald Hunter Patsy Johnson	Sandy Hunter Glenda Mayhew

* Choir member leaves for Nursery after Anthem

** 5 Cents A Meal Offering

*** Local Emerg. Aid Offering

BRUNSWICK STEW & BAKE SALE MARCH 14 FROM 1-4 PM

Missions and Outreach Committees are sponsoring a Brunswick Stew and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 14 from 1-4 p.m. Hopefully, you've been selling quarts to family and friends for 2 weeks now. Please call your orders in to Sandy Hunter at 804.731.0082 so I can keep the count on the number sold. Stew is \$8 per quart. Checks made payable to Gregory Memorial Church. Stew will be ready for pickup at 1:00 p.m. on the 14th in the Fellowship Hall here at the church.

In addition to selling stew, we need people on Friday evening to cut and chop meat and vegetables. Come to the Forehand residence, then take the left drive when you get to the house. There is building there where everything will be prepared. The address is 4620 Melfore Drive, off of Ruffin Road. Please be there at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite knife and peeler for peeling and chopping.

Then on Saturday morning at 5:00 a.m., we will begin cooking the stew. At this point we will need help stirring the stew until it is done several hours later.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!!! We stand to make over \$2,000 on this project to help pay some of our expenses. Contact: Sandy Hunter, 804731.0082

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Maybe a Little Too Much Prayer?

Johnny, a very bright 5-year-old, told his daddy he'd like to have a baby brother and, along with his request, offered to do whatever he could to help. His dad, a very bright 35-year-old, paused for a moment and then replied, "I'll tell you what, Johnny, if you pray every day for 2 months for a baby brother, I guarantee that God will give you one!"

Johnny responded eagerly to his dad's challenge, went to his bedroom early that night and prayed for a baby brother.

He prayed every night for a whole month, but after that time, he began to get skeptical. He checked around the neighborhood and found out that what he thought was going to happen, had never occurred in the history of the neighborhood. You just don't pray for 2 months and then, *WHAMMO*- there's a new baby brother. So, Johnny quit praying. After another month, Johnny's mother went to the hospital. When she came back home, Johnny's parents called him into the bedroom. He cautiously

walked into the room, not expecting to find anything, and there was a little blanketed bundle lying right next to his mother. His dad pulled back the blanket and there was -- not just one baby brother, but TWO!! His mother had twins!

Johnny's dad looked down at him and said, "Now aren't you glad you prayed?"

Johnny hesitated a little and then looked up at his dad and said, "*Yes, but aren't you glad I quit when I did?*"

MARCH, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday in Lent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 6:30p WorkCamp plan meeting <i>Order Easter lilies</i>	2	3 1p Circle (Host: TBA) 6p Cong. Care Com. 6p GSA Tr 5000	4 7p Choir practice	5 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Gary's UMC 2p Church Cleaning	6	7
8 2nd Sunday in Lent 2a Begin Daylight Saving Time 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service <i>Order Easter lilies</i>	9 6p Crater BSA Karakona Chapter	10 7p Missions Com.	11 7p Choir practice	12 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Sycamore UMC 2p Church Cleaning	13	14
15 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 12:30p Session meeting (Shockley res.) <i>Order Easter lilies</i>	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 6p GSA Tr 5000	18 6p BSA Tr900 Honor Court dinner (setup 1-5p) 7p Choir practice	19 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: GMPC 2p News articles due in office 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	20	21
22 4th Sunday in Lent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering <i>Last day to order Easter lilies</i>	23	24	25	26 11a Deadline for Easter lilies order to florist 12p Lenten service & lunch; Host: Church of the Sacred Heart 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning	27	28 5:30p-7:30p Cub Scout Pack 910 Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser, Fellowship Hall (Set-up 3p) Cost: \$7/person
29 5th Sunday in Lent 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a Local Emergency Aid Offering	30	31 6p GSA Tr 5000 2p Committee reports due				

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

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MARCH 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*