

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



"This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides in you, and he will be with you." ~John 14:17

"Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." ~John 15:4-5

It has been easy to view this season as one that has been limiting and restrictive; certainly, this is how it has felt. We have been limited in how we gather. Our capability to engage the business of our ministry has been restricted to digital communication. We have been called upon to restrict our individual movements in an attempt to promote the well-being of the greater community. As this state of being continues, it has become more and more tempting to rail against such curtailment, and be caught up in a mindset of what we don't have, or what we can't do.

In this season, I find myself returning again and again to Jesus' farewell discourse in John, as he's speaking to the disciples prior to his arrest, attempting to give them one last bit of advice and encouragement before he is taken from them. I keep coming back to this because, like the disciples, it is easy to slide into a mindset of anxiety, hurt, fear, uncertainty, and anger. This doesn't surprise me, either. These are normal and natural, even predictable responses to the grief that attends an experience of loss. As we have lost a sense of ability (being able to move about, gather, and go about life in general), as we have given up or let go of many of the activities that made life feel normal (or even reduced them), we have experienced loss. And in that loss, grief. And from grief, we live with anxiety, hurt, fear, uncertainty, anger, depression...the list goes on.

We are very much akin to the disciples just prior to the arrest of Jesus on that fateful night. At least, I know I am, and so I keep returning to Jesus' farewell discourse, to hear him offer to me the comfort that he offered the disciples. And in these words, what I hear again is his admonition and reminder. *Do not be afraid; I will be with*

you. Furthermore, the Spirit will be with you, uniting us and holding us together. Do not be afraid...

Rev. Henry Francis Lyte penned the words to the hymn "Abide with Me" as he was about to depart from his congregation of over two decades to seek treatment for his tuberculosis. He did not know how long he would be gone, apart from them and from his family. He did not know that he would never return to them. But as he prepared to depart, he offered his heart in prayerful awareness of the presence of God. "I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;/ills have not weight, and tears no bitterness./Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?/I triumph still, if thou abide with me."

It would be easy to view and define this season as one that is limiting and restrictive. We are reminded, invited to instead view it as one in which we are imminently more aware of the very presence of God, who abides with us still. No matter what we may feel we lose in this life, Christ is present with us. In him we live and move and have our being. Nothing can separate us from God in the love of Christ, and only we have the capability to focus on what we don't have rather than to remember and refocus on who we have never lost. Let us, even in this season, be mindful of the One in whose presence we continue to dwell, to abide, to live.



With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JULY, 2020

Sunday, 5 July 2020

“5th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
 Sermon Title: "Storied Beginnings"

Sunday, 12 July 2020

“6th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 25:19-34 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 Sermon Title: "Cultivating Good Soil"

Sunday, 19 July 2020

“7th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a * 2nd Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 Sermon Title: "Bethel Dreams"

Sunday, 26 July 2020

“8th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green
 1st Reading: Genesis 29:15-28 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
 Sermon Title: "Dedicated Life"



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, and 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) Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron and Judy Recher (head-on crash in Oklahoma) Melvin Huff, Marguerite Bishop's friend (health issues) Pam Henry, Mary Holc’s family member</p>	<p>Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues) Velma Allen (health issues) 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 and 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) Chris Harvey (MCV, burns accident) Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab) Ron Recher (recov. from surgery) Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (SRMC, health issues) Pam Landrum, Doris Harmison's daughter (orthopedic issue) Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue) Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue) Family/friends of Rosa P. Bristow (d. 6/2)</p>
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CLERK'S CORNER *By: (David) Larry Johnson*

This information from the Session is long overdue. Its absence is totally my fault and for that I apologize and will endeavor to do better in the future.

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church (GMPC) met January 26, 2020. The following information and actions resulted from that meeting.

- There are nine Congregation members on the Session plus the Pastor, Dr. Jason Cashing, who is the Moderator of the Session. There are 10 standing Committees at GMPC and each committee is headed by a Chairperson. Committees need congregation members to join and assist in conducting the business of the committee. Please contact a chairperson if you are willing to help. Chairpersons were assigned to the committees as follows:
 1. Christine Belsches Memorial Fund Scholarship Committee (Chairperson: Susan Shockley)
 2. Christian Education Committee (Chairperson: Barbara Taliaferro)
 3. Congregational Care Committee (Chairperson: Blake Bishop)
 4. Facilities Committee (Chairperson: Charles Smyth)
 5. Missions/Preschool Committee (Chairperson: Sandy Hunter)
 6. Nominating Committee (Chairperson: Pat Hunter)
 7. Outreach Committee (Chairperson: Lisa Brown)
 8. Personnel Committee (Chairperson: Mary Holc)
 9. Stewardship & Finance Committee (Chairpersons: Susan Shockley/Financial Secretary: Sandy Hunter)
 10. Worship Committee (Chairperson: Larry Johnson)
- The Session is scheduled to meet the 3rd Sunday of the odd numbered months, (January, March, etc.) at 12:30 p.m. to conduct the normal business meetings of the church.
- The Session is scheduled to meet the 3rd Sunday of the even numbered months (February, April, etc.) at 12:30 p.m. These meetings are considered workshops or “vision meetings.” The vision meetings will be used for talking, dreaming, ministry building, etc.
- The Session approved using the 2019 church budget as a working budget until action on a final 2020 budget would be taken at a later meeting. The 2019 level of giving to the Presbytery was approved for 2020 without change.
- On March 19th the Lenten Lunch will be hosted by GMPC.

The Session of GMPC met February 16, 2020 for a workshop, vision, planning meeting.

And then the virus hit...

The Session of GMPC met March 13, 2020 at a Called Meeting. The main focus was on the logistics of the church as a reaction to the coronavirus threat. The following actions were approved.

- All congregational gatherings were suspended from March 15 through April 4.
- Jason will livestream a worship service on Facebook each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- It was approved to withdraw \$10,000 from the Mairs & Power stock market fund to meet immediate expenses.
- A letter is being sent to the congregation explaining the situation and Jason will make a phone announcement to the congregation with immediate information.
- Session business will be conducted by email or by other means for the immediate future.

The Session has not met again since March 13. There have been some minor actions taken via email such as approving the annual statistical report and approving meeting minutes. Jason's requests for vacation time in April and continuing education opportunities in June were both cancelled by the virus situation. We approved the use of the church as a polling place for the June primary election, but that request was withdrawn by Prince George County.

Report of Commissioner to the Presbytery of the James Stated Meeting. I attended the meeting on June 16 via the Internet from the comfort of my living room.

- Most of the actions taken were routine business and personnel actions.
- A new Sabbatical Leave Guidelines document was approved. The guidelines suggest that after serving six years at a church, a minister be allowed a sabbatical of up to three months duration. Other recommendations are that planning for the sabbatical occur at least six months ahead of time, be approved by the congregation, and that the minister return to the church and plan to remain at the church for at least four times the length of the sabbatical in order to share the fruits of the sabbatical with the congregation.
- Pastor compensation levels for 2021 are to remain at the 2020 levels.

A final note: Jason's sermons are available for replay on Facebook (search for “Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church”) and on the church website at <http://gregorymemorial.org>. Recent sermons are on the Welcome page and older sermons are on the Worship Bulletins page.



We will continue with phased "regathering" for worship through July, with input from both the medical field and the Presbytery. Right now, the first two Sundays of July (5 & 12) will have online worship only, via the church's FaceBook page and church website. After that, the following Sundays (19 & 26) will offer "drive-in" worship, with the Sanctuary as the weather back-up (per the notice that was sent out early June). Please contact the church with questions, and thank you for your continued flexibility.

AS WE CONTINUE OUR SOCIAL DISTANCING

Worship Options/Access And Tips

Although it looks vastly different, we will continue to gather our hearts for worship on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. There are now multiple ways to join together in this time (from afar):

- Join us on the GMPC FaceBook page for the live-stream worship;
- Join us on Zoom (www.zoom.us) for the same live-stream worship:
Meeting ID# 756-330-772
- If you have unreliable internet, you can join us by telephone by dialing
1-253-215-8782 and entering. Meeting ID# 756-330-772

A Few Tips To Enhance Your Virtual Worship Experience

- Turn off all other electronics and devices;
- Have your Bible ready to read along with the morning's scripture;
- Light a candle to represent Christ's Light during the service.

During this period of social distancing and while large groups are discouraged, Jason's daily schedule will be as follows: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the church, 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. home as a parent, and then working from home from 1:30 p.m. on. Should the governor issue a state lockdown, the hours will remain the same but all work will be done from home.

SPECIAL HEARTFELT THANKS TO THE GREGORY CONGREGATION: The family of the Late Rosa P. Bristow thanks their Gregory friends for all of their kind condolences during their recent bereavement on the loss of their mother and grand/great-grandmother, sister and aunt, Rosa ("Mrs. B").

THOSE WHO SERVE – JULY, 2020

GATEKEEPER: 🔑 TBA	JULY 5	JULY 12	JULY 19	JULY 26 **
Ushers	Sheila Fields Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	John Carl Allen Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Charles Smyth Austin Smyth Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Larry Johnson
Announcements	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
Nursery	Valerie Harsh Sandy Hunter*	Pat Hunter Mary Lykins*	Donna Allen Mary Holc*	Rose Scott Susan Shockley*
Counting	Donald Hunter Susan Walker	David Johnson Blake Bishop	Sandy Hunter Megan Cashing	Morgan Ingram Patsy Johnson

* Choir member goes to Nursery (if needed) after Choral anthem

** 5 Cents a Meal Offering

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

YOU MIGHT BE GETTING OLDER WHEN...

Your underwear starts creeping up on you--and you enjoy it.

You don't do drugs anymore because you can get the same effect, just by standing up really fast.

You light up the candles on your birthday cake and a group of campers form a circle and art singing "Kumbaya."

Your back goes out more than you do.

You wonder why you waited so long to take up macramé.

One of the throw pillows on your bed is a hot-water bottle.

It takes a couple of tries just to get over a speed bump.

You have a party and the neighbors don't even realize it!

You find yourself singing along with the elevator music.

Your ears have more hair than your head.

You can only burn the Midnight oil until 9 o'clock.

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

Your back goes out more often than you do.

The twinkle in your eyes is the sun hitting your bifocals.

You feel like the morning after, and didn't go anywhere the night before.

Your childhood toys are now collectibles and antiques.

You can injure yourself in your sleep.

The clothes that you put away until they come back in style, come back in style!

*"You never appreciate what you have until it's gone. Toilet paper is a good example."
Anonymous*

JULY, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Activities listed may Be changed</i></p>			1	<p>2 2p Church Cleaning</p>	3	<p>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</p>
<p>5 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.</p>	6	<p>7 6p Cong. Care Com.</p>	8	<p>9 2p Church Cleaning</p>	10	11
<p>12 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.</p>	13	<p>14 7p Missions Com.</p>	15	<p>16 2p Church Cleaning 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance Com</p>	17	18
<p>19 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12:30p Session Workshop Mtg.</p>	20	21	22	<p>23 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning</p>	24	25
<p>26 9:45a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</p>	27	28	29	<p>30 2p Church Cleaning</p>	<p>31 2p Committee reports due in office</p>	

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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JULY NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG

We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva
Worship 11:00 A.M.