

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."  
--Genesis 12:1-2*

*When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.  
--John 1:38-39*

## "It's unfamiliar, and yet familiar at the same time."

Following worship on the 19<sup>th</sup>, a service in which people were gathered with me in the Sanctuary for the first time since early March (though masked and 6 feet apart), I asked for feedback on what they thought of the service, how it went, what it was like to be gathered in such a way and whether we should continue in this format for the time being. The phrase above, offered in response to my question, is (I think) the best overall summation of this step in our grand work of ministry in a pandemic.

Certainly, it is unfamiliar, still. Even after months of living this way, it is unfamiliar; I don't know that it will ever feel familiar and normal, nor should it. Though this world is just our temporary home as we dream of the Kingdom of God to which we truly belong, that does not mean that we should accept as normal such diminished living as a pandemic or systemic injustice. As such, this is all still unfamiliar – communicating with one another while wearing a mask, so that we take measures to not spread any germs we may have (whether or not we know we have them); reading verses of well-known hymns without singing them; sitting separated from the members of our church family, and not greeting them with the warm hugs and handshakes which come so naturally to us...all of this is unfamiliar, and demands more of us than we are used to giving.

As unfamiliar as it is, though, there are signs and echoes of the familiar, of the certain and unshakeable. Namely, the love and presence of Christ, the work of the Spirit, the sovereign reality of God. And in the light of such familiar and unshakeable truths, we can venture boldly into the unfamiliar.

In the sermon of that same Sunday, as we discussed dreaming and visioning in the will of God, I quoted two individuals who have done extensive work on guiding congregations in times of unfamiliarity and uncertainty:

George Barna and Bob Logan. Both spoke of how seeking and living into the vision of God draws us out of status quo (the comfortable and familiar) and into risky experiments. On the surface, such a calling could seem off-putting, but when we pause to reflect on this Biblically, we remember that God has been doing this kind of risky experimentation and exploration throughout all of history, and with phenomenal results!

From calling an unknown old man from his homeland to a new place and promising generations as his inheritance, to guiding the people of covenant into the wilderness on the heels of a stuttering and insecure leader, to restoring a people from exile, to converting a persecutor of the faith to staunch evangelism...from sending a chosen prophet into the belly of a great fish to inviting a dedicated follower to walk on the waves...from providing sustenance in the wilderness to multiplying fish and loaves beyond imagination to feed multitudes...in and throughout all of this God has done unexpected, risky, and decidedly *non-status quo* things to show forth the Kingdom of Heaven and remind the people of what is truly important and necessary. And these examples don't even touch yet on the resurrection of Jesus in a great reframing of the world as it was known!

No, we should not be surprised to find ourselves in the midst of doing a new thing, an unfamiliar and even uncomfortable thing; the truth is still that there is familiarity in this, too. And undergirding it all is the familiar and unshakeable presence of the Divine, the love of Christ which never fails. In this truth, let us venture boldly forward into the future. Trust me, God is already there, beckoning us onward.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2020

### Sunday, 2 August 2020 – Holy Communion

“9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 10:1-12  
 Sermon Title: "On the Road Again: Sent Out"

### Sunday, 9 August 2020

“10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 32:22-32 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 8:22-25  
 Sermon Title: "On the Road Again: Doubts"

### Sunday, 16 August 2020

“11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Samuel 17:44-50 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 12:22-34  
 Sermon Title: "On the Road Again: Conviction"

### Sunday, 23 August 2020

“12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Daniel 3:19-30 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 18:35-43  
 Sermon Title: "On the Road Again: Wondrous Sights"

### Sunday, 30 August 2020

“13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Psalm 23:1-6 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Luke 10:17-20; 22:35-37  
 Sermon Title: "On the Road Again: Returned"



**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 & 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 (health issues)  
 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  
 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)  
 Pete Smyth, Charlie Smyth's dad (health issues)  
 Family/friends of Mary Childress (d. 7/6)

## MOVING FORWARD IN WORSHIP...

Although we are still in the midst of the global pandemic, we have begun to "re-gather" in worship, with some specific considerations in mind and practice.

### **Please note the following:**

- ~ Worship continues each Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
- ~ On-line worship offerings will continue via Zoom (Meeting ID: 756-330-772) and Facebook Live From the church's Facebook page; or those without reliable internet, may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772
- ~ If you are experiencing fever or other symptoms/illness, please stay home and worship with us virtually.
- ~ If you feel comfortable doing so, you may join us in person with the following considerations:
  - Cloth masks are still in effect for public spaces. If you plan to join us in person, please join us as well in wearing a mask for the health of us all.
  - Please make liberal use of the hand sanitizer placed at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
  - Family units are asked to keep physical distance of 6 feet. Pews are marked off for this.
  - Worship information will be available on the weekly "bulletin" handout. This will also be available digitally on the church website for those who wish to worship from home.

Above all and through all, remember this: Jesus loves you and loves us; we are not abandoned; this will last some time but is still temporary in the grand scheme of life; the more we do our part the quicker we will be on the other side of it.

Love and Peace to You All!

### **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.

## THOSE WHO SERVE – AUGUST, 2020

<b>GATEKEEPER:</b> 🔑 TBA	AUG. 2	AUG. 9	AUG. 16	AUG. 23 **	AUG. 30 ***
<b>Ushers</b>	Wayne Powers Brenda Bond Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	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
<b>Announcements</b>	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter	Larry Johnson
<b>Nursery</b>	Marguerite Bishop Blake Bishop*	Lisa Brown Tara Foster	Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Megan Cashing Shirley MacNeill	Glenda Mayhew Judy Recher*
<b>Counting</b>	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

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

\*\* 5 Cents a Meal Offering

\*\*\* Local Emerg. Aid Offering

## TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY



### HUMANITY'S "AHA" MOMENT...

When the Lord had finished naming all of the animals, he had a chat with Adam, who by then had noticed that all of the animals had a mate except for him. Adam asked God if he could make him a mate also.

God told Adam, "I will make for you a creature that will be the most beautiful thing to look upon. She will always be submissive and in agreement with you. She will bring coffee to you every morning, prepare all your meals, and will bless you in many other ways."

Being a little skeptical, Adam asked the Lord, "How much will this cost me?"

God replied, "An arm and a leg."

Adam scratched his head and asked, "*So...what can I get for a rib?*"

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A MAN WAS HAVING difficulties trying to train a dog he had just bought. One day he was talking about this to his next door neighbor who happened to be an evangelist.

The man complained, "This dog of mine is so disobedient that I can't train

him!"

The evangelist replied, "Why don't you let me have your dog for a few days? I have a couple dogs myself and they pay full attention to me."

"Okay, take my dog for a week and let's see what you can do."

A week later the man went back to his evangelist neighbor and asked, "How's it going with my dog?"

The evangelist said, "Great! Here he is! Talk to him."

The man said, "Sit" and his dog sat. Then the man said, "Roll over" and his dog rolled over.

Excited to finally have a fully trained dog, the man said "Heel!"

*The dog raised up, put its paws on the owner's head and barked, "Woof, woof, woof, woof!"*

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*IT WAS DURING* a recent ecumenical gathering that a secretary rushed in shouting, "The building is on fire!!!"

The METHODISTS gathered in the corner and prayed.

The BAPTISTS cried out, "Where is the holy water?!!!"

The QUAKERS quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The LUTHERANS posted a notice on the door declaring the fire was evil.

The ROMAN CATHOLICS passed the plate to cover the damage.

The JEWS posted symbols on the doors hoping the fire would pass.

The CONGREGATIONALISTS shouted, "Every man for himself!"

The FUNDAMENTALISTS proclaimed, "It's the vengeance of God!"

The EPISCOPALIANS formed a procession and marched out.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS concluded that there was no fire.

The PRESBYTERIANS appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

*The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.*

## AUGUST, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Activities listed may be changed</b>						1
<b>2</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service &	<b>3</b> <b>1p</b> Worship Com.	<b>4</b> <b>6p</b> Cong. Care Com.  <b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000  <b>7p</b> Christian Ed. Com.  <b>7p</b> Facilities Com.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>2p</b> Church Cleaning	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>7p</b> Missions Com.	<b>12</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>13</b> <b>2p</b> Church cleaning	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>12:30p</b> Session workshop	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>20</b> <b>2p</b> News articles due in office  <b>2p</b> Church cleaning  <b>7p</b> Stewardship & Finance Com.	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> 5 Cents a Meal Offering	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7p</b> Choir practice	<b>27</b> <b>2p</b> Newsletter Out  <b>2p</b> Church cleaning	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>9:45a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  <b>11a</b> Local Emerg. Aid Offering	<b>31</b> <b>2p</b> Committee reports due					

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***AUGUST NEWSLETTER***



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
**Sunday School 9:45 A.M.**  
**[WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG)**

*We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)  
Worship 11:00 A.M.*