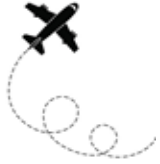


Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*"God said: 'I hereby make a covenant. Before all your people/ I will perform marvels, such as have not been performed in all the earth or in any nation; and all the people among whom you live shall see the work of the Lord; for it is an awesome thing that I will do with you.' "*  
*-Exodus 34:10*

It had not been an easy road for the people of Israel to reach this point. We often read of the Divine covenant language in Exodus and think of the people, fresh off their walk through the Red Sea, gathered around the foot of the mountain and eager to hear what would happen next. By the time we reach Chapter 34, however, much has happened, and not all of it has been positive.

The people, having been removed from slavery in Egypt and covenanted with God, have now wandered in the wilderness, complained about wandering in the wilderness, made an idol and worshiped it, journeyed through the wilderness some more, been fed and watered and still complained, and have even stood on the border of the Promised Land only to turn away in fear. We often tend to think of the spiritual development of the people of God (Israel in this case, but ultimately any who seek God in their hearts) as a linear progression – start at Point A, then move to Point B, and so on until the destination is reached. We often imagine that once a point was reached, one did not (does not) return to it.

However, as we join the story of the People of Israel in Exodus Chapter 34, they are approaching the covenant with God *a second time!* They are receiving the tablets of the covenantal commands, *again!* Why? Because that was what was needed in their spiritual development as they followed after God. They had meandered, physically and spiritually, and at times followed closely while at other times strayed far off the path. They journeyed forward, then backward, then sideways, and then forward again, revisiting events and situations they had already encountered. I can only imagine that, for Moses and Aaron, it was a lot like trying to herd cats (or toddlers, for that matter).

We can look back on the people of Israel and shake our heads that it took such a process, but the truth is that it is just as much our reality today, too. We continue to meander, to wander around seemingly aimless at times, even as we desire to draw closer to God and move in the direction we are called. It is simply human nature, but it doesn't have to be the nature that ultimately defines us.

God covenanted, again, with Israel, and then did something more: promised that the people would witness marvelous sights, but not just for themselves! These marvels would also help the nations around Israel see, through them, the wondrous nature and presence of God! Even as the people are reminded of God's faithful and steadfast presence (remember that Hebrew word, *chesed*), they are re-covenanted to bear that witness to those they encounter on a daily basis.

It will certainly be a work, a journey, a ministry that has its starts and stops and stutterings, but it will also be a faithful work. We are called upon to remember this Truth for our own lives and ministries, as well, and in remembering to live into this proclamation, this covenant, this presence of God. We, too, continue to move through the wilderness toward the kingdom that has been promised and covenanted in Christ, the kingdom to which we are called above and before any other of this earth. May we indeed remember, and may we live into the covenant.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



**WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2020**

**Sunday, 6 September 2020**

“14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 18:15-20  
 Sermon Title: "Witness & Testimony"

**Sunday, 13 September 2020**

“15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 14:19-31 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 18:21-35  
 Sermon Title: "With the Oppressed"

**Sunday, 20 September 2020**

“16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 16:2-15 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 20:1-16  
 Sermon Title: "Enough for the Day"

**Sunday, 27 September 2020**

“17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Matthew 21:23-32  
 Sermon Title: "Forgotten Miracles"



**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 &amp; 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                  Butch Meade, Glenda Mayhew’s brother                  Steve “Dee” Shortt, Kim Helmer Shortt’s husband (health issue)                  Verne &amp; 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)</p>	<p>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 &amp; 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)                  Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)                  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)                  Morgan Ingram</p>
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## 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 – SEPTEMBER, 2020

 <b>GATEKEEPER:</b>	<b>SEP. 6</b>	<b>SEP. 13</b>	<b>SEP. 20</b>	<b>SEP. 27 **</b>
<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
<b>Announcements</b>	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh	Mary Kay Schroeter
<b>Nursery</b>	Sheila Field Mary Kay Schroeter*	Jennifer Smyth Charles Smyth	Linda Johnson Patsy Johnson*	Valerie Harsh Sandy Hunter*
<b>Counting</b>				

\*\* 5 Cents a Meal Offering

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

**You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer  
and even once say "I."  
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer  
and even once say "My."  
Nor can you pray the Lord's  
Prayer and not pray for another;  
For to ask for our daily bread, you  
include sister and brother.  
All God's children are included in  
each and every plea;  
From the beginning to the end of it,  
it does not once say "Me."  
~ Anonymous**

**Granny's got it going on.....**

Got a letter from my Grandma the other day. She wrote:

The other day I went up to a local Christian bookstore and saw a "Honk If You Love Jesus" bumper sticker. I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling Choir performance, followed by a thunderous Prayer meeting, so I bought the sticker and I put it on my bumper right away!

Boy, am I glad I did! What an up-lifting experience that followed! I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good He is

... and I didn't notice that the light had changed. It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus, too because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed!

Then, I found that lots of people loved Jesus! Why, while I was sitting there, the guy behind me started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, "For the love of God! Go! Go! Go! Jesus Christ, Go!"

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking! I just leaned out of my window and started waiving and smiling at all these loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love.

There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him yelling something about a "sunny beach." I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. I asked my teenage grandson, who was sitting in the back seat, what it meant, and he grinned at me said that it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something. Well, I've never met anyone from Hawaii, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back. My grandson burst out laughing. *Why, even he was enjoying this religious experience!*

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray, or ask me what Church I attended. But this is when I noticed the light had changed. So I waved to all my sisters and brothers grinning, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and I felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared. So I slowed the car down, leaned out of the window, and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck again sign one last time as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!  
Love, Granny



- Author Unknown

*"Never cut what you can untie. Leave people better than you found them.  
And always..always.. try to exit better than you entered someone's life."* ~ Sophie A. Nelson

GATEKEEPER: TBA

## SEPTEMBER, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Meeting dates may be changed</i>		1 1p Circle  6p Cong. Care Com.	2  7p Choir practice	3 2p Church Cleaning	4	5
6  9:45a Sunday School  11a Worship service	7 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	8 7p Missions Com	9  7p Choir practice	10 2p Church Cleaning	11	12
13  9:45a Sunday School  11a Worship service	14	15	16 7p Choir practice	17 2p Church Cleaning  2p News articles due in office  7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	18	19
20 9:45a Sunday School  11a Worship service	21	22	23 7p Choir practice	24 2p Church Cleaning  2p Newsletter out	25	26
27 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service  11a 5 Cents-a- Meal Offering	28	29	30 2p Committee reports due in office			

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

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***SEPTEMBER 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.