

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



"[Jesus] said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus..." Matthew 14:29

"Will you come with me?"

I believe this is the question, the invitation ultimately being asked by Jesus in the moment his eyes met Peter's, standing mere yards apart though the distance probably seemed much longer to Peter – after all, there was the prow of the ship in between them, along with all the water and the choppy waves. And while Jesus beckoned Peter to step out of the boat and walk – on the water – to him, I believe the real question Jesus was asking Peter with his eyes was, "Will you come with me?"

We shouldn't be surprised by this; it's the real question Jesus asks in every encounter, teaching, and miracle with the disciples. Inviting them to follow him in discipleship, to learn from him, to apply his teachings in their lives, to bear witness to his life and work and proclaim his good news, to let him transform and define them for this world and the next...throughout it all, Jesus asks again and again, "Will you come with me?"

And Jesus asks us, as well.

I believe that we are beginning a new season here at Gregory Memorial. I wish I could tell you that I see with certainty where it will lead us, and how it will look, but I can't. What I can tell you, though, is of the conviction I feel that this is a journey of discipleship we are being invited to take, and that in such a journey our faith will be deepened and our ministry expanded. And in the weeks of October and November, we are beginning this new season, this new journey.

We will be centering this process around the study and discussion of the book *Anatomy of a Revived Church: Seven Findings of How Congregations Avoided Death* (Thom Rainer, 2020). This is not a "how-to" program of study, but rather a conversation starter; Rainer gives us the background and the questions to facilitate our conversation in our own context and community. We will be engaging this book during the Sunday School time each Sunday morning prior to worship, and I encourage you to strongly and prayerfully commit to joining us for each of the nine Sundays of October and November, in one way or another. For instance...

-If you are able and want to deepen your own spiritual life, consider committing to being a part of this study and discussion, 100% - read a chapter each week, answer the questions at the end, show up ready to contribute. [Note: I would go so far as to recommend everyone in the congregation read this with us, regardless of anything else.]

-If you don't know that you can commit 100% to our weekly discussion, then perhaps you can commit to actively contacting someone in the class to hear regular updates and offer your own thoughts and ideas.

-Commit to coming to worship more regularly during these months, whether in-person or online, as the Scripture readings will be aligning with the chapter topics for that day, and be part of the discussion in that way.

Regardless of your level of engagement and support, I would ask two things of each and every member and friend of Gregory Memorial: 1) Join us in consistent prayer, and 2) Be intentionally open to the movement of the Spirit. The Sunday School discussion will be in a time of prayer every Sunday from 9:40am-9:55am; join us in this, wherever you are, as we pray for our hearts and minds to be opened and guided, and for the willingness to follow where led (even into new and uncharted places). We will seek to be open to how we are being led, and this may mean new, different, or changed ways of living out our ministries; we would ask you to be open to these ideas and reflections, trusting that they are not made on a whim.

As I mentioned, this is the beginning of a season. My view of this is to study and discuss for October and November, which will lead us up to the Advent and Christmas seasons. In this time, we will allow our previous conversations to 'marinate' in our hearts and see what comes up – a time of dreaming, imagining, and gestating. Then, 2021 will be the time we begin to put action to our discussions; throughout the year we will explore, experiment, and try. Throughout this process, we will see just where God is leading us, and how we live out the kingdom in the here and now. Will you come with me?

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2020

Sunday, 4 October 2020 – Holy Communion

"World Communion Sunday"

18th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-39 * 2nd Reading: Romans 6:15-23

Sermon: "A New Life"

Sunday, 11 October 2020

"19th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Luke 18:9-14 * 2nd Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Sermon: "Hard Ownership"

Sunday, 18 October 2020

"20th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Exodus 32:1-6 * 2nd Reading: Matthew 15:1-9

Sermon: "Kingdom Eyes"

Sunday, 25 October 2020

"Reformation Sunday"

"21st Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Numbers 1:1-4, 17-19 * 2nd Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Sermon: "Changing the Script"



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
 Evelyn Lichvar, her brother, Martin, & 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 & Clara Smith
 Peggy Allen
 Eddie Frankenstein
 Grace Cibula
 Etta Holc
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)
 Kay Recher, daughter-in-law of Ron & Judy Recher
 (head-on crash in Oklahoma)
 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, our former 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)
 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
 The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues)
 Family/friends of Katherine "Dink" Armstrong (d. 9/1)

AS WE MOVE 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, Passcode 6300) 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, Passcode 6300.
- ~ 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.

Celebrating Communion

Beginning in October, GMPC is scheduled to celebrate communion on the first Sunday of each month for the remainder of 2020 (October 4, November 1, December 6) and on Christmas Eve. If you are worshipping in-person, the elements will be prepared ahead of time and made available to you as an individual serving. If you are worshipping with us at home/online, I invite you to have ready during these services a bit of bread and juice, that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

THE CLERK’S CORNER

By: (David) Larry Johnson




The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, Aug. 16, 2020 and approved the following:

1. Pastor’s request for continuing education.
2. Gregory Memorial as an elections polling location. After the Sep. 1 public hearing on the proposed relocation of the Courts Voter Precinct site from the County Courts Building to Gregory Memorial, the County Board of Supervisors postponed decision until its Dec. 8 meeting.
3. Appointment of Larry Johnson to serve as Commissioner for the Presbytery of the James' general meeting.
4. Acceptance of resignation of Blake Bishop as active Ruling Elder and Chairman of the Congregational Care Committee.
5. Appointment of Sandy Hunter to serve as authorized representative of GMPC as claimant on insurance policy of the Late Mary Childress.
6. Resume payroll payments to Sandra Perkins and Gail Rollings, effective Aug. 2, 2020, at half their contracted amount each to reflect the alternating schedule of music.
7. Authorization of Pastor Jason Cashing to explore grant options for securing AED devices for the church building.

The Session of Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, Sep. 20, 2020 and approved the following.

1. Recommendation for use of the Mary Childress bequest of \$25,742.20 as follows: \$10,000 to General Fund; \$5,000 to Designated Gifts; and \$10,742.20 to Capital Improvements. Also authorized Sandy Hunter to act as authorized representative of GMPC as claimant on all policies related to the Estate of Late Mary Childress.
2. Approved recommendation of the Preschool Board that the church not pursue re-establishing a preschool at this time, with all Session members in agreement with the Preschool Board's recommendation.
3. Session Meeting schedule: changed meeting frequency from bi-monthly to monthly through Dec. 31, 2020, on the 3rd Sunday.
4. Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday of each month through Dec. 31, 2020 and on Christmas Eve.
5. Susan Shockley volunteered to be our Commissioner to the virtual Presbytery of the James' Stated Meeting on Oct. 17, 2020.
6. A Lunch Gathering (dutch-treat) at Luca’s Italian Restaurant immediately after worship on Oct. 11, 2020.

THOSE WHO SERVE – OCTOBER, 2020

 GATEKEEPER: TBA	OCT. 4 + World Communion Sun. Peace & Glob. Wit. Offrg	OCT. 11	OCT. 18	OCT. 25 ** Reformation Sun.
Ushers	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	Larry Johnson	Rose Scott	Larry Johnson	Valerie Harsh
Nursery	Benda Bond Donald Hunter*	Pat Hunter Mary Lykins*	Donna Allen Mary Holc*	Rose Scott Susan Shockley*
Counting				

* Choir member leaves for Nursery after choral anthem.

** 5 Cents a Meal Offering

+ Communion Sunday

FROM THE COMMITTEES & ETC.

Choir - With no Choir activity, music staff will provide music on an alternating schedule.

Treasurer - The reduction in giving to-date this year compared to the same period last year is about \$33,000. Operating costs have been reduced where possible. Music staff salary reductions are planned to be in effect as long as no choir directing or choir practices are occurring. The secretary salary will not be reduced. The church may be able to receive a grant from the County. *(An application has been submitted but no results are known yet.)* A bequest of \$25,742.20 has been received from the Estate of the Late Mary Childress.

Stewardship & Finance – A recommendation for use of the Childress bequest was approved by Session as follows: \$10,000 to the General Fund; \$5,000 to Designated Gifts; and \$10,742.20 to Capital Improvements. Authorization of Sandy Hunter to act as claimant on all policies related to the Childress Estate was approved by Session.

Christine Belsches Memorial Scholarship Fund – Five \$500 scholarships were awarded for the Fall 2020 college semester. Applications for Spring semester scholarships are due by November 30, 2020.

Christian Education -- A Sunday School class for adults will begin October 4, 2020. The, as study guide. Pastor Cashing is working on an idea for a class for new members.

Congregational Care – Members of the Committee have been checking in on church members with visits and phone calls.

Facilities -- Instead of a church workday, specific jobs are being accomplished as needed. On September 26 the plan is to strip and paint the front doors of the Sanctuary. Two Capital Improvement Fund projects are to repair gutters and to replace the pillars at the entrance of the Fellowship Hall. If Capital

Improvement funds remain after those projects, then those funds might be considered for transfer to another fund.

Preschool -- Social Services was given \$590 to be used specifically for food purchase and distribution. Preschool Board recommended that the church not try to reestablish a preschool at this time. *(All members of the Session agreed with this recommendation.)*

Congregational Nominating -- The requirement is for there to be five members, including one Trustee. Recruiting of members is on-going.

Outreach - Having Open House after the Prince George Christmas Parade was discussed. It's not known whether the County will have a Parade this year. If there is, and if the weather cooperates, it might be possible to hold the Open House outdoors. Decisions will be made as Parade time draws near.

Personnel -- Staff job descriptions have been examined and salaries discussed. Sandra Perkins has agreed to provide organ accompaniment every other week on a substitute musician pay scale.

Worship -- The committee is keeping in touch by phone. Plans are to become more active as the Holiday Season approaches.



*“The way to happiness: Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry.
Live simply, expect little, give much. Scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others.
Try this for a week, and you will be surprised.”* ~ Norman Vincent Peale

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Hallowe'en – which literally means "Holy Evening", dates back to the pagan times and is thought to originate with the Celtic pagan festival of *Samhain*, a celebration of the end of the harvest season, meaning "summer's end." Celts in this period believed this evening was also when the walls between the worlds of the living and the dead were thin and porous, thus enabling spirits to pass through.

Celts feared the return of spirits through this thin wall between the worlds because they believed unhappy or vengeful spirits had the power to damage the crops for the next season. As a result of this fear, they would set up places at their dinner tables and offer the spirits food and drink to appease them. Bonfires were also lit to scare off the evil spirits.

Halloween also marks the day before the feast of "All Saints Day" (also known as "All Hallows")---a day that dates back to the 8th Century designed to stamp out pagan traditions and convert people to Christianity. On this day, Christians honored the saints and prayed for those spirits who had not yet reached Heaven.

Why do we "Trick or Treat?" The practice of Trick or Treating started in Ireland, Scotland and Wales when groups of people dressed up in costumes and knocked on doors asking for food. The groups offered up poems and songs in exchange for food. By the 11th Century, this practice evolved to include only children who went door-to-door, offering prayers for the dead in exchange for "soul cakes" (small cakes or cookies marked with a cross on the tops, representing a spirit freed from purgatory when the treat was eaten). This practice was called "souling."

By the 19th Century, this had evolved into a tradition where children sang songs, told jokes and read poems instead of prayers in exchange for pieces of fruit and money (the "Treat). Later, it evolved into children playing threatening pranks (the "Trick") on people to coerce them into handing over the sweets. *The name "Trick or Treat" was first used in America in 1929 when immigrants took overseas these traditions surrounding the day.*

The Spirits of Halloween Story... This happened in a little town in Northern Saskatchewan. Even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

Harry was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark and stormy Halloween night. The night was getting darker and the rain came harder, and no cars went by. The storm was so strong he could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly Harry saw a car come toward him and stop.

Without thinking about it, Harry got in the car and closed the door. Just as he realized there was nobody behind the wheel, the car started to move. As his panic set in, he looked at the road and saw a curve coming his way. Scared beyond belief, he started to pray, begging for his life. Just when the car got to the curve, and Harry thought it was all over, a hand appeared through the window and moved the wheel.

Harry was paralyzed in terror as he watched the hand appear every time the car got to a curve.

Gathering strength, Harry jumped out of the car and ran to the nearest town. Wet and in shock, he went to a bar and asked for two shots of rye. He started telling everyone about the

horrible experience he went through. The crowd sat in an eerie silence when they realized that Harry was crying and wasn't drunk.

About half an hour later, two guys walked into the same cantina. One said to the other, "Look Al, there's the jerk that got in the car as we were pushing it."

Story of the Graveyard Ghost... Two people were walking home after a Halloween party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows.

Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, busy chipping away at one of the headstones.

"Holy cow, Mister," one of them said after catching his breath, "You scared us half to death -- we thought you were a ghost! What are you doing working here so late at night?"

"Those fools!" the old man grumbled without looking up. *"They misspelled my name!"*



OCTOBER, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 "World Communion Sunday" 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion <i>Peace & Global Witness Offering</i>	5 1p Worship Com.	6 1p Circle 6p Cong. Care Com. 7p Christian Ed. Com. 7p Facilities Com.	7	8	9	10
11 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 12p Lunch Gathering at Luca's	12	13 7p Missions Com	14	15 2p News articles due 2p Church Cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	16	17 9a POJ Meeting (virtual)
18 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 12:30p Session Mtg	19	20	21 7p Personnel Com.	22 2p Newsletter out 2p Church Cleaning	23	24
25 9:45a Sunday School 11a Worship service 11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	26	27	28	29 2p Church Cleaning	30	31 HALLOWEEN 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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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



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

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