

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.”...So Abram went, as the Lord had told him. *-Genesis 12:1, 4a*

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. *-Mark 1:17-18*

The weekend after Easter we were in NY helping my in-laws move from their home of the past several decades into their new home. It also marked, for me and my family, the time just about eight years ago when we were packing up what had been our first home to move here to Prince George.

Moving – the packing, making decisions about what to keep, the addressing logistics – is an emotional time. On top of all the physical dynamics are the emotional ones, which often carry greater impact – saying goodbye to a community and letting go of what has been familiar. It takes great courage to move. And in our cultural desire to embrace comfort, moving is sometimes seen as a negative experience.

Our faith, though, often calls us to move. God calls Abram away from the country he’s known for almost a century, and then calls him to move away from his given name. The same goes for his wife, Sarai, who journeys with him (both physically and mentally). Jesus calls the disciples to leave their homes and professions. I often wondered about how that conversation went between Simon Peter and his wife, and whether she, too, went with him as an unnamed disciple or stayed in Galilee to care for her family.

Moving is difficult, but our faith gives us courage to move in response to God’s call. Even when we don’t physically change location, we may be moving as a congregation into a new stage or new phase of mission and ministry. I certainly believe that Gregory has been approaching this threshold for some time now, even if that call is still not crystal clear.

I’m not one for platitudes, but this certainly seems to be the kind of moment when “Let go and Let God” seems applicable. As we are invited, called to respond in faith by moving into something not yet fully known, we must –

like a trapeze artist – let go of one swing in order to move forward, trusting that the next swing will be waiting for our hands to meet it. The good news is that not only do we have a rich faith history which shows God calling people into something new, that same faith history shows us, time and again, God present with the people called, guiding and caring for them both in the process and in the new place. Let us, then, trust in faith, letting go and letting God.

* * *

Speaking of moving, we must now send all our love with Bobby and Donna Allen as they make their move to Florida. They have been dreaming of and planning for this for years, and it is hard to be upset that they are finally taking the steps to realize this dream. But we will miss them. Bobby, especially, has been the silent hands behind many church projects, and I’m sure even I only know a fraction of them. God bless and God speed, Bobby and Donna, and may you be richly blessed with an abundance of joy and love in your new home!

* * *

As a church, your session has also been considering some moving and rearranging of committees, to try and continue the work we’ve been doing with the changing capacity of members. In that work, we recognize that there is still (always, it seems!) a need for membership on our ministry committees. We are grateful for Bill Shill who has recently joined in with the work of Facilities, and we are continuously grateful for the work of our current committee membership. If you do not yet have a committee you are committed to, I would encourage you to pray on where God may be calling you to serve!

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR MAY, 2021

Sunday, 2 May 2021

“5th Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40 * 2nd Reading: John 15:1-8
 Sermon Title: "Wilderness Fruit"

Sunday, 9 May 2021 - "Mother's Day"

“6th Sunday of Easter - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 10:44-48 * 2nd Reading: John 15:9-17
 Sermon Title: "Leveling Up"

Sunday, 16 May 2021

“7th Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 * 2nd Reading: John 17:6-19
 Sermon Title: "In the Word"

Sunday, 23 May 2021

“Day of Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Red
 1st Reading: Acts 2:1-21 * 2nd Reading: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
 Sermon Title: "The Advocate"

Sunday, 30 May 2021

“Trinity Sunday” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8 * 2nd Reading: John 3:1-17
 Sermon Title: "Seeing the Kingdom"



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
 Becky Scott Smith
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (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 & Judy Recher
 (head-on crash in Oklahoma)
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member
 Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (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 & 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. (health issues)
 Pam Landrum (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)
 Judy Recher (recovering from surgery)
 Linda Johnson (ankle fracture)

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

We will continue to celebrate communion on the 1st Sunday of the month. 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/on-line, I invite you to have ready during these services a bit of bread and juice, so that you may commune with us in Spirit, as well!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- On Sunday, May 2 at 12:30 p.m., we will host an "Author's Reading"! Melissa Face, author of *I Love You More Than Coffee*, will be in our fellowship hall to read some selected essays from her book and host an informal Q&A. Light refreshments will be provided. Mark your calendars for this fun & enjoyable event!

- May has become a month of special offerings, with multiple ways in which you can support the ministries of our church and denomination. May 16 will be our monthly "5 Cents-a-Meal" Offering, as the following Sunday will be the Pentecost Offering for the denomination. Finally on May 30 will be the Local Emergency Aid offering. Please make note of these special offering requests!

- If you know a college student or vocational student, related to the congregation, who may be in need of tuition support/expense support, now is the time to encourage them to submit an application for the Belsches Scholarship! Applications are due by May 31, and can be picked up through the Office.

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

"Thank You, Anna Jarvis..."

Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organized women's groups to promote friendship and health, originated Mother's Day.

On May 12, 1907, she held a memorial service at Andrews Methodist Church, her late mother's church, in Grafton, West Virginia. Within 5 years virtually every state was observing the day, and soon it was spreading internationally. On May 9, 1914, U. S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May.

Although Jarvis had promoted the wearing of a white carnation as a tribute to one's mother, the custom soon developed of wearing a red or pink carnation to represent a living mother or a white carnation for a mother who was deceased.



Wait....What???

Have you ever noticed that birds of a feather really DO flock together . . . and then they poop on your car!

A penny saved is a government oversight.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

He who hesitates is probably right.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL? (*Hmmm...*)

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in BIG trouble.

Is it just me, or did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words 'THE' and 'IRS' together that it always spells 'THEIRS'?

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying

about your age and then you start bragging about it!

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and I'm proud to still be able to talk about it!

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to your youth, think of Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young. Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

A Gentle Thought for Today

Lord, keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth....

AMEN



GATEKEEPER: TBA

MAY, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Holy Communion 12:30p "Author's Reading" (<i><u>I Love You More Than Coffee</u></i> , new book by Melissa Face) in Fellowship Hall; refreshments will be provided (cookies & water)	3 1p Worship Com.	4 1p Circle 7p Cong. Care Com. 7p Facilities Com.	5	6 2p Session Agenda out 2p Church cleaning	7	8
9 Mother's Day 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	10	11 7p Christian Ed.Com. 7p Missions Com. 7p Outreach Com.	12	13 2p Church cleaning	14	15
16 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12p Session Meeting 11a <u>5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</u>	17	18	19	20 2p News articles due 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	21	22
23 Day of Pentecost 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. <u>Pentecost Offering</u>	24	25	26	27 2p Newsletter out 2p Church cleaning	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Local Emerg. Aid Offering	31 Memorial Day 2p Committee Reports due <u>Deadline for scholarship applications</u>					

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

STAMP

MAY NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
WWW.GREGORYMEMORIAL.ORG

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