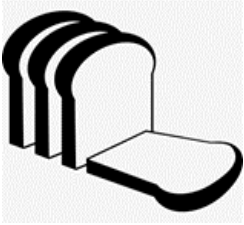


Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

~ John 6:33-35

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

~ Matthew 26:26

Recently, my daily morning breakfast negotiation with my daughter has taken on an almost predictable back-and-forth. “Carrie, would you like some toast for breakfast?” “No,” she replies. And then continues, “I don’t do toast.” “You don’t do toast?” I ask. “What would you like instead?” And every morning, the answer is, invariably, “Hmm...bread.”

She doesn’t want toast (which she used to love, by the way), but now wants a simple piece of plain bread. To the casual observer, I might be mistaken for a cruel jailor who offers a meager pittance to an inmate. Yet, this is her request, each day, and as I hand her this desired piece of bread she joyfully accepts it and dances off back into the living room to listen to her music and play with her toys. Only occasionally do I find an uneaten remnant of the piece of bread from that morning; usually, it’s devoured within a handful of bites.

Each month, as we come to the Lord’s Table, we proclaim in the Prayer of Invitation, “May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter.” It’s the reminder to ourselves, combined with the petition to God, that the presence of the Divine is right here with us, as close as our next breath, and waiting for us just as the bread on the Table awaits us, ready to

nourish us in body and in spirit. It’s the reminder that something does not need to be special or holy to bring God to us, but that, rather, God uses the mundane and everyday to come to us, and in turn makes them holy. In every ordinary aspect of our daily living, God is coming to us, making such things holy through such use.

How often, as we look for the spectacular and special, do we overlook the presence and joy of the Divine in something we presume to be ordinary and forgettable? I can’t answer that for you, but I will say that I’m probably more guilty of that than I’d like. It’s something to work on. But if I can remember that even something as common as an ordinary piece of plain bread can bear forgiveness and grace, even abundance of life in Christ, then I’ve already begun the journey to look for the other ways in which the Spirit of the Divine is available to me, to you, to us and all the world.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JULY, 2021

Sunday, 4 July 2021

"Independence Day"

"6th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 * 2nd Reading: Mark 6:1-13

Sermon: TBA, Rev. Roger Gench, Guest Preacher

Sunday, 11 July 2021

Holy Communion

"7th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 * 2nd Reading: Mark 6:14-29

Sermon: "Celebratory Outcomes"

Sunday, 18 July 2021

"8th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a * 2nd Reading: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sermon: "Spirit on the Move"

Sunday, 25 July 2021

"9th Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 * 2nd Reading: John 6:1-21

Sermon: "What Feeds You?"



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 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)</p>	<p>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, Doris Harmison's daughter (orthopedic issue) Trevor Fine, Susan Shockley's neighbor's son (health issue) Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue) The Rolley Family, Marguerite Bishop's friends (health issues) Judy Recher (recovering from surgery) Debbie Pearson, wife of Butch Pearson, PGPD Ret. (orthopedic issue: foot)</p>
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"Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world." ~ Philippians 2:14-15

UPDATED WORSHIP GUIDELINES...

GREETINGS SAINTS AND FRIENDS OF GREGORY MEMORIAL!

Your Session has been diligent in faithfully assessing how we continue to worship and move forward, and now especially, in light of the updated guidelines and proclamations from both CDC and local and federal leaders. Please note the following:

IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED,

- You no longer need to wear a mask when entering/exiting, or moving about the Sanctuary. Of course, if it is your personal comfort level to do so, then please be happy in doing so.
- We will no longer physically block off every other pew. We encourage you to sit where you are comfortable sitting, and with whom, but please be respectful of others as we make this transition --- there may be some who are still more comfortable sitting with a bit of distance, and that's ok.
- At this time, we will still refrain from singing hymns together, though Session is discussing this aspect in an ongoing conversation. We will also be exploring other musical options in the meantime. I know this is disappointing to many of us, but please continue in grace and understanding. Thank you.

IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED,

- Please be responsible and continue to wear a mask when entering/exiting, or moving about the Sanctuary. And if there are any questions you still have about the vaccines, please contact Jason. Your confidentiality is assured, and he is happy to be of assistance in your decision-making.

IF YOU ARE FEELING "UNDER THE WEATHER",

- Please know that we join with you in spirit, and wish you well, but you are encouraged to stay home and take care of your own health. Or, if you feel that you can still be out and about, and attending worship, please continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

Love and Peace to You All!

ONLINE WORSHIP

We will continue offering on-line worship each Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m., via FaceBook Live (from the church's Facebook page) and Zoom (use Meeting ID: 756-330-772, Passcode 6300, or those without reliable internet may dial 1-253-215-8782 and enter Meeting ID# 756-330-772, Passcode 6300).

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

This month we'll be celebrating Communion on Sunday, July 11, and we'll be returning to a more familiar way of doing so: The elements will be served to you in the pews, though with slight modification – the bread will be in individual cups to minimize handling.

And if you'll be joining us at home, please remember to have some bread and juice at hand so that you can celebrate Christ's Table with us, wherever you may be!

THOSE WHO SERVE

The Worship Committee has temporarily suspended publishing the Sunday Servants schedule due to on-going Pandemic constraints.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **CONGRATULATIONS ARE DUE** - Many congratulations to our high school graduates - Breeana Hunter, Austin Smyth, Loren Knupp, Kylie Johnes – know that your Gregory Memorial family is proud of you, and can't wait to celebrate with you all that you'll accomplish in the future! *Pastor Jason*

* **MOVIE NIGHT: "JOSEPH"** - Gregory Memorial is hosting a Bible-story movie night ("Joseph", a film produced by Sight & Sound Theater) on Wednesday, July 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. Come along, bring some friends, and enjoy both a fun gathering and fun movie! *Sandy Hunter, Chair, Missions Committee*

* **"BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR" (AUGUST 7)** - Prince George Social Services is collecting school supplies needed for filling Elementary and Secondary School students' "backpacks" (*NOT the backpacks themselves; just the items.*) Items collected will be distributed by Social Services to Prince George County residents at the drive-up "Back to School Fair" event on August 7 at PG High School. An informational flyer is provided in this newsletter with all the needed details. The deadline for bringing donated items to Gregory's Fellowship Hall is Sunday, July 25. *Lisa Brown, Chair, Outreach Committee.*

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Got Michelins? Anyone? ANYONE?

Two priests died at the same time and met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter greeted them and said, "I'd like to get you guys in now, but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to Earth for about a week. Thing is, you can't go back as humans. So, what'll it be?"

The first priest said, "Well, I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring above the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," said St. Peter, and off flew the first priest.

The second priest mulled this over for a moment and asked, "Will you be keeping track of us?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," said the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," said St. Peter, and the second priest disappeared.

After a week, the computer was fixed, and the Lord told St. Peter to recall

the two priests. "Will you have trouble locating them?" He asked.

"The first one should be easy," replied St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But locating the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asked the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother explained, trying to keep it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then asked, *"So, why's the groom wearing black?"*

* * *

A dog had followed his owner to school. His owner was a 4th Grader at a public elementary school.

However, when the bell rang, the dog sidled inside the building and

made it all the way to the child's classroom before a teacher noticed and shooed him outside, closing the door behind him.

The dog sat down, whimpered and stared at the closed doors. Suddenly, God appeared beside the dog, patted his head, and said, "Don't feel bad, Boy...*they won't let ME in either!*"

SUMMER'S UPON US NOW!



Would you like to receive the Weekly Inspiration email in your inbox every Monday morning? Make sure Jason has your email address, and then look for this to come to you at the beginning of each week!

Pastor's email address: Jason@gregorymemorial.org

For example:

WEEKLY INSPIRATION FOR JUNE 21:

I used to have a Zippo lighter with the inscription "Philippians 2:15" on it. I don't know what's happened to it in recent years; all I can surmise is that it found one of the black holes of home ownership that seem to be one-directional, and more than often take individual socks. But it was (and continues to be, in my mind) a reminder of the quality of character to which we are called in Christ. "So that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world" (NRSV).

It can be easy to view Paul as a criticizer, always pointing out faults and telling people how they ought to behave, but the truth is that he is an encourager, an exhorter to live better lives. His desire is for people to be the best versions of themselves, in and through the relationship they have with Christ. For instance, he earlier writes, "I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding" (Philippians 1:9, NLT) and also, "Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith" (Philippians 1:25, NLT). The ministry of Paul, in Christ, is to encourage others to live as their best possible versions in Christ.

And you can't encourage someone into their best possible version if you're always criticizing. Neither can you do it without love. You can only encourage someone with, well, positive encouragement. Do you want someone to grow? Give encouragement. Do you want someone to do more or be better? Encourage. And do you want this for yourself? You know the answer by now: Encourage yourself, as you would others.

Prayer: Lord, in your Spirit help me to be the best Christian I can, so that others may likewise be encouraged by me, directly and indirectly. For the joy of my life, the sake of your Good News, and glory of your kingdom, we pray. Amen.

GATEKEEPER: TBA

JULY, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 2p Church Cleaning	2	3
<p>4 Independence Day</p> <p>9:45a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>Guest Preacher: Rev. Roger Gench</p> 	<p>5 1p Worship Com.</p>	<p>6 7p Cong. Care Com.</p> <p>7p Christian Ed. Com.</p> <p>7p Facilities Com.</p>	7	<p>8 2p Church cleaning</p>	9	10
<p>11 9:45a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>11a Holy Communion <i>(communion elements will be passed on trays along pews)</i></p>	12	<p>13 7p Missions Com.</p> <p>7p Outreach Com.</p>	14	<p>15 2p <u>Session Agenda out</u></p> <p>2p Church cleaning</p> <p>2p News articles due</p> <p>7p Stewardship & Finance Com.</p>	16	17
<p>18 9:45a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p>	19	20	<p>21 7p Community Movie Night "Joseph" In church Fellowship Hall</p> <p><i>Bring friends!</i></p>	<p>22 2p Newsletter out</p> <p>2p Church Cleaning</p>	23	24
<p>25 9:45a Sunday Sch.</p> <p>11a Worship serv.</p> <p>11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</p> <p>12p <u>Session meeting</u></p>	26	27	28	<p>29 2p Church cleaning</p>	30	<p>31 2p Committee reports due</p>

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

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JULY NEWSLETTER



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

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