

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



Now set your mind and heart to seek the Lord your God.

~ Chronicles 22:19a

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment.”

~ Matthew 22:36-38

Perhaps you’ve heard the phrase before, ‘Jack of all trades, master of none’? It’s usually used to imply that a person (or even an organization) can do a little of everything, but cannot truly do/complete any of them on their own. Now, I’m one who likes to be knowledgeable about as many things as I can, but that’s more of a personal interest; if I’m going to commit to doing something, I want to do it well, and do it completely.

There’s more to this, though, than simply being able to do something well in our own lives and where we are. Jesus calls us, in the invitation to discipleship, to commit to it entirely – commit to the Kingdom of God, first and foremost; commit to loving God and loving others as ourselves, completely and without reservation; commit to striving for justice, kindness, and humility, without qualification or stipulation. As C. S. Lewis writes in *Mere Christianity*, “Christ says, ‘Give me all...Hand over the whole natural self...I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself; my own will shall become yours.’”

No half-measures. When it comes to discipleship, when it comes to the kingdom of God, it’s all or nothing.

One of my favorite hymns carries both the reassurance of the promise of, and the prayer of desire for, a ‘whole heart in Christ.’ *“Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. / Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; / Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above”* (“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”).

This can seem like a daunting ultimatum, giving away the whole completeness of one’s innermost heart. In reality it’s a life-enabling invitation.

When we commit, wholeheartedly, to the kingdom of God, the life of discipleship, and the work of justice, kindness, humility, and love in the Spirit, we find that we ourselves are more complete and able to live into the Abundance of Life Jesus proclaims with his own life, death, and resurrection. When we try to give some of ourselves, some of our hearts to this calling, if we attempt to hold back, then we live in discord – with God, with ourselves, with our neighbors. But when we live with our hearts wholly given over to the Lord, we find that we live in fullness with God, with ourselves, and with our neighbors. Giving over the fullness of our hearts, when given to God, is paradoxically the very thing that gives us the fullness of life, purpose, and meaning.

In John’s gospel, Jesus proclaims that he has come to bring life, and in abundance. Some days it may be easier than others, but may we each commit to giving our hearts, wholly, unto God each and every day.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2021

Sunday, 1 August 2021

Holy Communion

“10th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a * 2nd Reading: John 6:24-35

Sermon: "To Satisfy Hunger"

Sunday, 8 August 2021

“11th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-35 * 2nd Reading: John 6:35, 41-5'

Sermon: "Relationships of Life"

Sunday, 15 August 2021

“12th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 * 2nd Reading: John 6:51-58

Sermon: "Desiring Wisdom"

Sunday, 22 August 2021

“13th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43 * 2nd Reading: John 6:56-69

Sermon: "Words of Life"

Sunday, 29 August 2021

“14th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 * 2nd Reading: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Sermon: "Hear the Call"



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)
 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)
 Family/friends of Frances Waymack Kohout, (GMPC Charter Member-1951, living in Florida with family (d. 6/2)
 John Kohout (husband of Late Frances Waymack Kohout), now gravely ill, and their family

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, August 1, and 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

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has chipped in to help keep up our campus recently, especially after the remnants of Elsa brought some water into our Fellowship Hall. Your many hands and committed time brings us back to normal, and we are grateful! ~ Pastor Jason

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 3



History of "National Night Out": The National Association of Town Watch sponsors "National Night Out" in the United States and Canada. Although the origins date back to the early 1970s, the day has been celebrated since 1984. National Night Out promotes police-community partnerships in neighborhoods across the country. The event focuses on the community and raising awareness through camaraderie. By improving area relationships, the hope is to make our neighborhoods safer.

Shining a spotlight on community police programs, "National Night Out" increases connections between those who serve and their neighborhoods. Through a variety of programs designed to educate and improve relationships, dialogues open. Some of these programs include:

- Drug prevention
- Town watch
- Neighborhood watch
- Other anti-crime watch programs

Fast-forward to the present: More recently "Dog Walker Watch" joined as part of the program. Since dog owners (75 million of them) walk almost daily with their dogs watching their neighborhoods, what better sets of eyes to assist law enforcement! Their extra eyes and ears keep watching while they walk their canine companions in communities all over the country aiding law enforcement.

PGPD and Gregory's Boy Scout Troop 900 will host "National Night Out" in Gregory Memorial's parking lot on the evening of **Tuesday, August 3**. The event is anticipated to begin at 6:00 p.m., and will include hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and bottled water for those attending.

Lisa Brown, Outreach Committee



"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless." ~ Mother Theresa

GATEKEEPER: TBA

AUGUST, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. <i>(communion elements will be passed on trays along pews)</i>	1p Worship Com.	3 6p "National Night Out" Festivities in GMPC parking lot 7p Cong. Care Com.	4	5 2p Church cleaning	6	7 9a-2p "Back To School Fair" @ PG High School Parking lot
8 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	9	10 7p Missions Com. 7p Outreach Com.	11	12 2p Church cleaning	13	14
15 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	16	17	18	19 2p News articles due 2p Church cleaning 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	20	21
22 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv.	23	24	25	26 2p Newsletter out 2p Church cleaning	27	28
29 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a 5 Cents a Meal Offering 12p Session meeting	30	31 2p Committee reports due				

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

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AUGUST 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.*