

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



**"In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed; you guided them by your strength to your holy abode."**

~ Exodus 15:13

**"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."**

~ 2 Thessalonians 3:5

After college, when I was first living for the year in Petersburg, Alaska, (and then Montana and then Texas), my mother started a practice of shellacking some of the leaves that had changed color and fallen (to help preserve them) and then send them on to me. Every fall I began to look forward to a small, lightweight package that contained a bit of "home" to remind me of the changing seasons and the beauty of my memories.

It is said anecdotally that the only constant in our world is change (and sometimes included in this are death and taxes). Often, we humans have a tendency to resist change and push back against it; we are naturally hard-wired to seek comfort and consistency, both of which rail against the prospect of change. Even when it is beneficial, change is often looked at with suspicion. And yet change is written into the fabric of creation. Leaves change colors and fall from trees as they prepare for winter, while at the same time those same leaves then provide mulch, protection, and nourishment to the ground below during that same winter season. They very creation around is designed for change, for growth and development.

(It should be noted that, in some ways, change indeed is not a beneficial reality. There are certainly aspects of change and realities where this is not an aspect of development and growth.)

And while change is evident around us, whether we desire it and welcome it or not, there is a balance to

this reality: there is One we know who is steadfast. This does not always mean the same as unable to develop, but in steadfastness we know God to be present, caring, loving, and faithful. These things hold true, and our scriptures speak to them repeatedly.

In Exodus (as quoted above), Moses reflects on how God has been steadfast toward Israel, even when Israel was in slavery in Egypt. Similarly, the Psalms reflect upon God's steadfast nature over 100 times (which is an average of just under once per Psalm). The prophets then go on to reflect of God's steadfast nature another dozen-plus times. And Paul exhorts the people of the congregations to which he writes to remember the steadfast love and faithfulness of God in Christ.

Even in the midst of change and transition, the steadfast love of God remains consistent. Our faith heritage and scriptures attest to this, as do our own personal experiences. Even when the world seems to be spinning around us in change, this is a truth that we hold fast in our lives. May it be for the glory of God, and may we find joy in the beauty of the world around us, even as it changes.

With you on the journey,  
Pastor Jason



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2021

### Sunday, 3 October 2021

#### "World Communion Sunday"

"19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Genesis 2:18-24 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 10:2-16

Sermon: "Partnered Relationship"

### Sunday, 10 October 2021

"20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 10:17-31

Sermon: "Prioritized Life"

### Sunday, 17 October 2021

"21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 10:35-45

Sermon: "Faithful Rewards"

### Sunday, 24 October 2021

"22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Mark 10:46-52

Sermon: "Cry Out!"

### Sunday, 31 October 2021

#### "Reformation Sunday"

"23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: John 8:31-36

Sermon: "New Covenant"



**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, our previous 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)

## 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 okay.

#### ***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**

Moving forward in October, we will continue the streaming of worship on the church's FaceBook page. If you wish to join us virtually on Sunday morning (or catch the recording later in the week) it will still be available on the church's FaceBook page - [www.facebook.com/gmpcva](http://www.facebook.com/gmpcva).

#### \* **SINGING OF HYMNS**

We have begun taking baby-steps to resuming some of the aspects we have suspended, specifically the singing of hymns! Hymnals and Bibles are back in the pew racks. We must strongly ask, though, that when we sing together, we put our masks on to do so. Inconvenient as that may be, it is still necessary. Thank you for your understanding.

#### \* **CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

This month we'll be celebrating Communion on Sunday, October 3, 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!

**Called Congregational Meeting** – after worship on Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 12 p.m.

**Movie Night #2: "Moses"** (Sight & Sound Theater Productions screenplay). Join us & bring friends! Wednesday, October 20, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. ~ *Missions/Outreach Committees*

The Chaplains of Liberty Chapel, Fort Lee are in urgent need of all types of SUMMER clothing for babies, children, boys, Girls, and all adults. Think "*Families*" when you consider what we need. **We have been asked not to receive clothing bought from Goodwill or Thrift stores.** This is the very first set of clothing these guests will receive in America, and we want to welcome them properly. We also ask for *conservative clothing with no logos or inappropriate language*. Lightly used clothes are welcomed. Here is what we need:

**WE NO LONGER NEED THE FOLLOWING:** *Diapers, Wipes, Pacifiers, Crayons, English Flash cards, Puzzles, Pack 'n' Plays*

**NEEDED ITEMS:**

<p><b><u>Women &amp; Girls</u></b>                  Underwear for woman &amp; girls                  Leggings for girls &amp; women (critical need)                  Sports bras (critical need)                  Shirts for women size Small/Medium (preferably light material with 3/4 to long sleeves)                  Long skirts size Small/Med                  Closed-toe shoes women sizes 7-8                  Sock size 7-8 women</p>	<p><b><u>Men &amp; Boys</u></b>                  Underwear men &amp; boys                  Pants size 34 &amp; below for men                  Shorts size 34 &amp; below for men                  Shirts all sizes                  Belts size 34 &amp; below                  Closed toe shoes sizes 7-8 for men                  Socks sizes 7-8 for men                  All sizes for boys clothing</p>
<p><b><u>Infants' Needs</u></b>                  Infant clothes Newborn to 24 months                  Baby formula for newborn only</p>	<p><b><u>Toys</u></b>                  Coloring books are still in demand                  Playing cards, please                  Games for kids in their room                  Soccer balls                  Volley balls                  Nerf balls &amp; toys of all kinds</p>
<p><b><u>Miscellaneous Items</u></b>                  Back packs of all kinds                  Duffel bags for families to have as luggage when they leave Ft Lee                  Nail clippers                  First aid kits                  Adult &amp; children masks                  Blankets                  Electric kettles for warming tea &amp; baby bottles (critical need)                  Phone chargers of all kinds, iPhone and Samsung. (They need to call &amp; check on family who have not arrived yet.)</p>	<p><b><u>Personal Items - Travel size is best!</u></b>                  This includes everything from baby shampoo (critical need), hand sanitizer, deodorant, toothpaste, mouth wash, lotion and any items you would need to travel. If you are providing personal hygiene items, <b><i>please NO large items.</i></b></p>

Deliver items to Liberty Chapel 9100 C Ave., Fort Lee. Enter the Sisisky Gate. Be prepared to go to the Visitor Center to show drivers permit for ID.

**TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY**

***E-MAIL BLUNDER*** - An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he

did his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife, whose husband had passed away only the day before.

When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she let out a piercing scream and fell to the floor in a dead faint. Her family

rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: "*Dearest Wife, Just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow.*"

PS.: *Sure is hot down here!"*



## OCTOBER, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9a Church Cleaning	2
3 <b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b>  9:30a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv. <i>*Peace &amp; Global Witness Offering</i>  11a Holy Communion  12p Called Congreg. Meeting	4 1p Worship Comm.	5 1p Circle  6p GS Tr. 5000  7p Cong. Care Com.	6	7	8 9a Church Cleaning	9
10 9:30a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv.	11 <b>Columbus Day</b>	12 7p Missions Com.  7p Outreach Com.	13	14 2p News articles due	15 9a Church Cleaning	16 9a POJ 109 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (Zoom)
17 9:30a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv.	18	19 6p GS Tr. 5000	20 6:30-8:30p Movie Night #2 "Moses"; Fellowship Hall	21 2p Newsletter out  7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	22 9a Church Cleaning	23
24 9:30a Sunday Sch.  11a Worship serv.  11a 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering	25	26	27	28	29 9a Church Cleaning	30
31 <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b>  <b>Hallowe'en</b>  9:30a Sunday Sch.  10:15a 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship B'fast  11a Worship serv. <i>*Local Emerg. Aid Offering</i>  12p Session meeting						

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

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***OCTOBER NEWSLETTER***



**COME AND JOIN US!**  
Sunday School 9:30 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.