

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Ever since the creation of the world [God’s] eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things [God] has made.” -Romans 1:19-20a

I’ve been doing a lot of cleaning recently. No surprise there; it comes with the territory of packing a house. The downside to cleaning something in an area which is still being packed is the inevitability of touching the clean surface with hands that are now dirty with dust. The end result is, predictably, a smudge of a fingerprint. Especially on the supposedly “finger-print resistant” surfaces.

Most of the time this elicits a resigned sigh and a return trip with the cleaning rag, but more and more recently (in an attempt to avoid frustration) I’ve been mindful of how this house, which has been a home for us, bears our fingerprints - literally and figuratively. The literal ones need to be cleaned, but the figurative ones will remain, and remain in our memories. No matter the distance or length of time, I and my family will remember all the ways in which our fingers were at work in this house, this home - the meals made (and dishes washed), the hours spent comforting a newborn, the improvements to the structure which reflected our commitment to each other and this community...all these have borne our fingerprints, and will continue to do so in our hearts.

I believe that creation bears the fingerprints of the Creator. In ways similar to what my wife and I have done on a small level, our entire world - all of creation around us - bears the loving fingerprints of the Creator who has invested time, energy, and love into all of creation. All the trees, streams, shorelines, and mountains are whorls and turns of God’s fingerprints. All the stars of the heavens, the clouds of the air, the waves on the waters...all are part of the

unique indicator of the compassionate touch of the One who brings life into being.

And so are each of you.

Recently in conversation with a friend who I had not seen in several years, I remarked that he “is a beautiful whorl of the fingerprint of God.” I can’t say that I know what prompted the comment, and until I said it I’m not sure I ever would have thought of such a perspective. But it’s true. Each of us, each of you is a beautiful whorl of the fingerprint of God, bearing the image and vision of the One who created you. Always remember this; always claim it for your life.

I am grateful beyond expression for the communion we have shared over these past years. You have taught me much and supported me on countless occasions. You have shown love to me, to my family, and together we have expanded the community of Christ in this area. These are truths that cannot be ignored, and should only be lifted up. We are beautiful whorls on the fingerprint of God, and God is not done creating. Thank you

With you on your journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER, 2021

Sunday, 7 November 2021

Holy Communion

“24th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 * 2nd Reading: Mark 12:38-44

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook

Sunday, 14 November 2021

“25th Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 * 2nd Reading: Mark 13:1-8

Guest Preacher: Ms. Shelly Barrick Parsons

Sunday, 21 November 2021

“Christ the King/Reign of Christ” - Liturgical Color: White

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7 * 2nd Reading: John 18:33-37

Guest Preacher: Ms. Shelly Barrick Parsons

Sunday, 28 November 2021

“1st Sunday of Advent” - Liturgical Color: Blue

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 * 2nd Reading: Luke 21:25-36

Guest Preacher: Rev. Beverly Bullock



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)

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)
 Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)
 Gene Longfield (health issue)

"You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength." ~ Marcus Aurelius

To the Gregory Congregation,

We have shared much together, and our lives have been enriched by one another. It can be difficult to realize that we are now called upon to be separate from one another, even if only for a while. One thing to note is the policy for ministers to abide by when moving on from a congregation. Your session has more detailed information regarding this, but one particular aspect has to do with social media. There is no personal ill-will in this action, but I will be unfriending from my social media accounts members of the church. This is to help all of us more fully embrace what God next has in store for all of us, and is only intended to be in place for one year. After this time, you are free to reach out to me and reconnect! I pray you each know God's blessings in the years to come!

Pastor Jason

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.

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, November 7, 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.

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

- Pauline Phillips

Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank thee for food and remember the hungry.
 We thank thee for health and remember the sick.
 We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
 May these remembrances stir us to service
 That thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

NEVER ENDING BATTLE....

And God populated the earth with broccoli and cauliflower and spinach and green and yellow vegetables of all kinds, so man and woman would live long and healthy lives.

And Satan developed the fast foods industry. And fast foods brought forth the 99-cent double cheeseburger. And Satan said to man, "You want fries with that?" And man said, "Supersize them." And man gained pounds.

And God created the healthful yogurt, that woman might keep her figure that man found so fair.

And Satan froze the yogurt, and he brought forth chocolate, nuts and brightly colored sprinkle candy to put on the yogurt. And woman gained pounds.

And God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad."

And Satan brought forth creamy dressings, bacon bits, and shredded cheese. And there was ice cream for dessert. And woman gained pounds.

And God said, "I have sent you heart-healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them."

And Satan brought forth chicken fried steak so big it needed its own platter. And man gained many pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

And God brought forth running shoes, and man resolved to lose those extra pounds.

And Satan brought forth cable TV with remote control so man would not have to toil to change channels between ESPN and ESPN2. And man gained pounds.

And God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition.

And Satan peeled off the healthful skin and sliced the starchy center into chips and deep-fried them. And he created sour cream dip also. And man clutched his remote control and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol.

And Satan saw and said, "It is good." And man went into cardiac

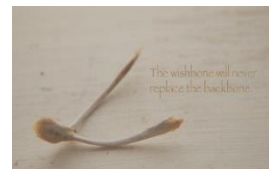
arrest.

And God sighed, and created a quadruple bypass surgery, angioplasties, and stents...

And Satan created HMOs...

And thus goes the battle between the God and Satan. God gives us things that are good, and Satan comes along and changes them or adds to them.

We all must choose what we will do with the things that God has given to us. What will you do with your life and the things that God has given you? You must choose every day whether you will use these things for God and his glory or for yourself and the world. The choices that you make today will determine what kind of life you will have tomorrow.



NOVEMBER, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1p Worship Com.	2 <u>Election Day</u> 1p Circle 7p Cong. Care Com. 7p Facilities Com.	3	4	5 10a Church cleaning	6
7 2a Daylight Saving Time ends 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. * Holy Communion (passing of Communion Elements in pews) Order Poinsettias	8 6p BS Order of The Arrow Karakona Ch 19 Nawakwa Lodge 3	9 7p Christian Ed Com. 7p Missions Com. 7p Outreach Com.	10	11 <u>Veterans Day</u>	12 10a Church cleaning	13
14 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. Order Poinsettias	15	16	17	18 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	19 10a Church Cleaning	20
21 Christ the King /Reign of Christ 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 12p Session Meeting Order Poinsettias	22 Church Office Open	23 Church Office Open	24 Church Office Open 2p Newsletter out	25 <u>Thanksgiving Day</u>	26 10a Church Cleaning	27
28 1st Sunday in Advent 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. * 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering 12p (Tentative) Called Congregational Meeting (elect officers for 2022) Last Day to Order Poinsettias	29	30 2p Committee reports due				

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER


Thankful



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.