

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*"...if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."*

*~Isaiah 9:16*

## THE HISTORY OF GREGORY'S ANGEL TREE

The original Angel Tree was a program begun by the Salvation Army in 1979. Majors Charles and Shirley White, working with a Lynchburg, Virginia shopping mall, used it as a way to provide clothing and toys for children at Christmastime.



They identified the wishes of local children by writing their needs on Hallmark greeting cards that featured pictures of angels. The cards were placed on a Christmas tree at the mall to allow shoppers to select children to help. More than 700 children had a brighter Christmas that first year.

The tradition spread across the country "like wildfire", thanks to WSM radio in Nashville, Tennessee, and CNN, which aired nationally.

After seeing the Angel Tree displayed at South Park Mall many years ago, I purchased one of the gifts off the tree and really had a warm, fuzzy feeling as a result. I was stepping outside of the family to do something for a stranger that I had never met. *It just felt right!!!*



Some years later, I became the chairperson of the Missions Committee here at Gregory. I was inspired to use the Angel Tree concept as our Christmas project. We adopted a family from the Department of Social Services that year. Since that time we have continued to help bring gifts of clothing, toys, food and household items to various organizations.

Most recently we have been supporting the students at the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands. Located in Wytheville, Virginia and supported by the Presbytery of the James, it has been serving orphaned children of all ages for just over 100 years. Again this year, we will adorn Gregory's Angel Tree with the needs of Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands!!

The 2021 Wish List of Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands will be announced soon.

Ever on a mission.....  
Sandy Hunter



## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER, 2021

### Sunday, 5 December 2021

Holy Communion

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent ” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: TBA \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: TBA

Guest Preacher: Rev. James Taneti

### Sunday, 12 December 2021

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent ” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: TBA \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: TBA

Guest Preacher: Rev. Renita Page

### Sunday, 19 December 2021

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent ” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: TBA \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: TBA

Guest Preacher: Rev. Beverly Bullock

### Sunday, 26 December 2021

“1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Xmas” - Liturgical Color: Purple

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: TBA \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: TBA

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  
 Verne & Clara Smith  
 Peggy Allen  
 Eddie Frankenstein  
 Grace Cibula  
 Etta Holc  
 Jerry Hasky (health issue)  
 Pam Henry, Mary Holc's family member  
 Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue)  
 Sharon Reed & family, Susan Shockley's co-worker (health issue)

Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)  
 Jennifer Caldwell, friend of Grace Cibula (health issue)  
 Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)  
 Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (health issue)  
 Randy Warthan (health issue)  
 Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (health issue, rehab)  
 Floyd M. Brown, Sr. (health issues)  
 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)  
 Junie "Bug" Treaster (recovering from surgery)  
 Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)

## 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,***

- **We encourage those singing to wear masks when singing hymns;** however, 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 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.

#### ***IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED,***

- **Please be responsible and continue to wear a mask when entering/exiting, singing or moving about the Sanctuary.** And if there are any questions you still have about the vaccines, please contact a Church Elder. Your confidentiality is assured, and we are 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).

### **CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

This month we'll be celebrating Communion on Sunday, December 5, and the elements will be served to you in the pews, with the bread 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!

## POINSETTIAS ARE ARRIVING DECEMBER 15!

*"A merry heart does good like medicine."  
Proverbs 17:22*

## "COOKIES & COCOA OUTSIDE" - DECEMBER 4

GMPC  
will host its  
"Cookies & Cocoa Outside"  
on December 4 at 3 p.m. after the PG Christmas Parade.  
Due to the ongoing pandemic, we will be offering packaged cookies  
and treats such as small bags of Oreos or Famous Amos cookies). The Outreach  
Committee will purchase items. If you would like to make a donation, please see Lisa Brown  
(804-926-0991) or  
GMPC office (804-732-1081).

*Lisa Brown*

## TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

### ***That's No Way to Treat a Santa!***

Two weeks before Christmas, four-year-old Christy found out she was allergic to gluten. Christmas Eve has been packed with activities. With no time to bake Christmas cookies, her mom picked up some gluten-free ones at the store. That way, Christy would be able to have a snack too.

That night Christy's dad ate one of the leftover Santa cookies. It went down the wrong way on the last bite, and he choked for a few minutes. Thinking nothing of it, the parents went to bed. That morning was full of fun and opening presents.

The family was sitting down to breakfast with their new toys when Christy looked at her gluten-free toast with a sad look.

"Mom, I think I should send Santa a sorry note."

"Why?" her mother asked curiously.

"I heard him gagging on the cookies last night."

***Ouch, Now That's Cold!*** Young Jessica had always wanted a dog for Christmas. This year, she asked Santa at the mall and even put it on her wish list.

When Christmas came, her mom handed her a huge box with holes. Excited, Jessica ripped it open only to be disappointed to find a little potbelly pig.

Disappointed, Jessica asked her mom, "Why did Santa get me a pig?"

From the kitchen, her dad yelled, "Oh, that's my fault."

"Why?" Jessica asked.

Her father replied, "I asked Santa for a Christmas ham."

***All Aboard?*** Two little naughty boys begged their father to open one present on Christmas Eve. With a knowing look, their father handed them two big boxes filled with coal.

"Just remember, this is only the first present."

He wanted them to learn a lesson, but not to be too disappointed.

Upon opening the coal, the two boys jump up and down in excitement.

Confused, the father looked at them, asking, "Why are you so excited about coal?"

The youngest boy looked at him in exasperation.

"You said this is only the first present, and **we really didn't think Santa would really bring us that train!**"



### **"Four stages of life:**

1. **You believe in Santa Clause.**
2. **You don't believe in Santa Claus.**
3. **You are Santa Claus.**
4. **You look like Santa Claus."**

~ Hoda Kotb

GATEKEEPER: TBA

DECEMBER, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 10a Church cleaning	4 3p "Cookies & Cocoa" Outdoors @ GMPC after PG Xmas Parade
5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. 11a Holy Communion (communion elements will be passed on trays) Guest Preacher: Rev. James Taneti <u>Last day to order Xmas Poinsettias</u>	6 11a Place Xmas poinsettia order With florist 1p Worship Com.	7 1p Circle 7p Cong. Care Com.	8	9	10 10a Church cleaning	11
12 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. Guest Preacher: Rev. Renita Page	13	14 1p Presbyterian Women's meeting at home of Grace Cibula	15 Poinsettias delivered today	16 2p News articles due 7p Stewardship & Finance Com.	17 10a Church cleaning	18
19 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. *Xmas Joy Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Beverly Bullock 12p Session meeting (Elect 2022 Clerk & Treasurer)	20	21 Church Office Open	22 Church Office Open	23 Church Office Open 2p Newsletter out	24 XMAS EVE 10a Church Cleaning 7:00p Family Xmas Eve Service	25 XMAS DAY
26 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Xmas 9:30a Sunday Sch. 11a Worship serv. * 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Beverly Bullock	27	28	29	30	31 10a Church cleaning 2p Committee reports due	

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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***DECEMBER 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.*