

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

I am the good shepherd...”

- John 10:1-3, 10-11a

I know---we're nearly halfway through Lent, and here I am finally getting around to storing my Christmas décor. As I shoved the last glittered item on the top shelf of the closet between the Pastor's Study and the church office, I saw it: a small, white paper bag labeled "LENT IN A BAG." (You know, like, "Jack in the Box"?) Funny that I never noticed it before, but upon exploring its contents, I came to realize that it had been left, probably intentionally, by our previous pastor. Curiosity prevailed and soon there were arrayed on my desk a weird, seemingly unrelated assortment of items: a polished brown, river stone, a small zip-lock bag of play sand, a similar one containing birdseed, a tinned votive candle, a 3" x 5" notecard bearing a purple stick figure, and a seashell, along with a pamphlet entitled "LENT IN A BAG." I will share here the pamphlet's explanation of each item's symbolism, complete with a recommended action. You may want to make your own "LENT IN A BAG."

SAND: Between his baptism and the beginning of his adult ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, "to be tested." The desert is a dangerous place. Jesus was hungry, cold and tired. He was also tempted and tormented, but didn't give up. [Recommendation: Open the sand and touch it. Offer a prayer to God for God's protection against temptation.]

ROCK: While in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted by the devil to transform stone into bread. He knew he was not called to do this by God. He didn't change the rock into food. Later, Jesus became known for doing amazing things. He fed the hungry, offered encouragement, and healed people. [Recommendation: Think about a time when you have helped someone, and how it felt to help. Think about what God does call you to do.]

STICK FIGURE: Because Jesus was fully human, he "gets" us, understands us from inside our skin, and knows from experience that we're each capable of great things---Godly things. No matter what we do, he keeps on inviting us to join in his work. Jesus knows that we can do good things on earth, just like he did. In Lent, we are counting down 40 days until Easter. What can you do to be more like Jesus at home? At School? Everywhere? [Read

the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet (John 13). How can you live and serve like Jesus?]

CANDLE: Winter can be cold and dark. Spring is a time where we think of sunshine and flowers blooming. Jesus is called the Light of the World. Jesus told his disciples to be a light in the world and to make a difference. What do you need to do to keep the light of God's love lit and shining in your life? Where do you shine? What do you think you are good at? What is your talent? How might you use your talent for God? How can you encourage someone to see the good in themselves? [Recommended: Read Matthew 5:14-16 and sing the song "This Little Light of Mine." How do you let your light shine?]

SHELL: Historically, the season of Lent was when new Christians were prepared for baptism. Jesus began his ministry after his baptism. As someone who had been (or will be baptized), what is your calling? In baptism, we profess Jesus as our Lord and Savior. How does your whole life express your devotion to Jesus? Where and how might you grow in deeper devotion? [Read the story of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3, Mark 1, or Luke 3) and look at photos of baptisms of family members]

SEEDS: Watching the growth of a flower of vegetable seed reminds us of the miracle of hope and transformation that is coming in the promise of Easter. The seeds change: they decay as they transform into new life---new life we can't really imagine when we plant them! Where is there hope in your life? Where is there mystery? What transformation do you hope for during the Lenten season? With God's help, how can you take the first step? [Read the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32 or Luke 13:18-19) and Parable of the Leavened Bread (Matthew 13:33 or Luke 13:20-21). Think or talk about change. Ask for God's help in areas that you see that need change. Open the seed (it is bird seed and not for human consumption!) and touch it. How can you spread seeds of hope and goodness?]

Article contributed by Nancy Adams; Source: Pamphlet prepared by First Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY; modified ideas of Shawn Schreiner, Vicki Garvey & St. Cuthbert Episcopal Church February, 2016

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2022

Sunday, 3 April 2022

“5th Sunday in Lent” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: TBA * 2nd Reading: TBA
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Erroll G. Rohr

Sunday, 10 April 2022

“Palm Sunday” - Liturgical Color: Purple
 1st Reading: TBA * 2nd Reading: TBA
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 17 April 2022

“Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: TBA * 2nd Reading: TBA
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock

Sunday, 24 April 2022

“2nd Sunday of Easter” - Liturgical Color: White
 1st Reading: TBA * 2nd Reading: TBA
 Guest Preachers: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock & Rev. Sylvester H. 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.

<p>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) Sandra Elder, Kelly Knupp's mother (health issues)</p>	<p>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) Traci Wells, Glenda Mayhew's friend (health issue) Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue) Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna Starr Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter Renee Renier, long-time friend of Dianna S. L. Flaherty (health issue) Shirley MacNeill (health issue)</p>
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Actor/comedian Woody Allen said, "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying."
*Not dying... now that would be the real thing. And it's available, actually, if the promises of Jesus Christ are to be taken literally.
 See John 3:16 and John 10:10.*

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 HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2022 schedule for Holy Communion has been changed to accommodate "World Communion Sunday" observed on the first Sunday of October. The new schedule provides that we will celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months. Our next Holy Communion will be on ***Sunday, April 3*** and continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2022

February 6, 2022

April 3, 2022

June 5, 2022

August 7, 2022

October 2, 2022

December 4, 2022

April 10-16: Holy Week

April 10 – Palm Sunday
 April 14 – Maundy Thursday
 April 15 – Good Friday
 April 16 – Great Vigil of Easter
 April 17 – Easter



HERE'S WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ...

MOVIE NIGHT



The Missions and Outreach committees held another successful Movie Night. The Hot Dog Dinner and the movie "Jesus" attracted 26 people which included several visitors. The filming of this stage play, which was performed in the Sight and Sound Theater, was simply amazing. The scenes where Jesus and the Disciples were in the boat were especially awe-inspiring. You felt as if you were in the middle of the storm with them. It was a true mystery to all of us as to how they could film such a realistic scene. Everyone that attended had nothing but rave reviews.

Our next Movie Night has been set for Wednesday, May 11. Once again dinner will be served at 6pm and the movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. The movie that will be shown this time will be "Noah." More details about dinner will be forth coming. *Be sure to mark your calendar! And bring a guest or two!*

EASTER ACTIVITIES FOR JUNIOR CHURCH

We are planning a special Junior Church for Easter Sunday. Activities will include Easter crafts and snacks. If you have wanted to invite a young family to church then Easter Sunday will be the perfect time!! We hope to soon provide Junior Church every Sunday. If you are willing to help with the Junior Church program, please see Patsy Johnson.



TO MAKE YOUR DAY

PALM SUNDAY

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Annie stayed home from church with her mother. When the rest of the family returned home, they were carrying palm fronds. Annie asked them what they were for.

"People held them over Jesus' head as he rode by on a colt," her father explained.

"Wouldn't you know it!" Annie fussed. "The one Sunday I'm sick, and Jesus shows up and offers pony rides!"

EASTER SUNDAY

The pastor's family was invited to Easter dinner at the Wilson home. Mrs. Wilson was widely known for her amazing and delicious contributions to the church potlucks, so the pastor and his family were looking forward eagerly to partaking of a really great meal.

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. As usual, it was a feast for eyes, the nose and the palate. So, no big surprise that when the pastor's youngest son, Peter, received his plate, he dug in right away with gusto!

"Peter! Wait until we say grace," his embarrassed father admonished him.

"I don't have to," the 5-year-old replied confidently mid-gulps of food.

"Of course you do, Peter," his mother insisted rather forcefully. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house," Peter explained without looking up from his plate, "But this is Mrs. Wilson's house--she knows how to really cook!"

FLOWERS WRONGLY SENT

A businessman ordered flowers to be sent to the opening of his friend's new branch office. When the businessman got there, he was shocked to see the flowers he had ordered had a banner announcing:

"REST IN PEACE."


He was so outraged that he stopped at the florist shop to complain.

The clerk tried to comfort him. "It could be worse," she said, "Just think: Today, someone was buried beneath a floral arrangement with the banner announcing:

"CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW LOCATION!"

GATEKEEPER: TBA

APRIL, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3 <u>5th Sunday in Lent</u></p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service & Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Guest preacher:</i> <i>Rev. Dr. Erroll G. Rohr</i></p>	4	<p>5</p> <p>6p Congregational Care Cmte.</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>6a Church Cleaning</p>	8	9
<p>10 <u>Palm Sunday</u> <i>Begin Holy Week</i></p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service ➤ <i>One Great Hour of Sharing Offering</i></p> <p><i>Guest preacher:</i> <i>Rev. Marvin Daniel</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>6p BSA Tr900 Cyber/ I'net Security class (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6p Crater Dist. Karakona Ch 13 Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1p Circle</p> <p>7p Faith Cmte. <i>(Formed from combination of Christian Ed., Missions & Outreach Cmtes.)</i></p>	13	<p>14 <u>Maundy Thursday</u></p> <p>6a Church Cleaning</p> <p>2p News articles due</p> <p>7p Maundy Thurs. worship service & Holy Communion</p> <p><i>Guest preacher:</i> <i>Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock</i></p>	<p>15 <u>Good Friday</u></p>	<p>16 <u>Holy Saturday</u></p> <p>Great Vigil of Easter</p> 
<p>17 <u>Easter</u></p> <p>6:30a Sunrise service & B'fast</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service</p> <p><i>Guest preacher: Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock</i></p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>6p GSA Tr.5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>6a Church cleaning</p> <p>2p Newsletter out</p> <p>7p Stewardship & Finance Cmte.</p>	22	23
<p>24</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship service ➤ <i>5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</i></p> <p><i>Guest preachers:</i> <i>Rev. Beverly Sherrill Bullock</i> <i>Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock</i></p> <p>12p Session mtg.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> <i>Rev. Sylvester H. Bullock</i></p>	25	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>6a Church cleaning</p>	29	<p>30</p> <p>2p Comte. Reports due</p>

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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APRIL 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.