

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



**"Then Jesus said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's  
and to God what is God's. And they were amazed at him." Mark 12:17**

### ONE CENT: JUST ONE PENNY – OR IS IT MORE?

***Have you ever looked down wherever you were and found a penny?***

The story goes that a husband and wife were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. The wife was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house.

The first day and evening went well, and she was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. The wife knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of them. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

The wife wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."  
She read aloud the words "United States of America."  
"No, not that; read further!" he directed.

"One cent?" she asked.

"No, keep reading."

She squinted at the print and in a puzzled tone, she asked, "In God we Trust?"

"Yes!" he exclaimed, returning the penny to his pocket.

"And your point is...?" she asked with a hint of irritation at the importance focused on the small coin.

He smiled broadly and explained, "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It's stamped on every single U. S. coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him! Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray. I stop to see if my trust *IS* in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God: that I *DO* trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it's God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

This man knew the power of simple, daily Christian object lessons! We always hear stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, etc. This story gives it a twist that turns our thoughts immediately toward God!

Just like in Jesus day we have to pay taxes to the government, but only does God deserve our trust and devotion.

Let's let a penny remind us just like the man in the story to stop and thank God for all His blessings and also to make sure we are trusting Him in our lives at that very moment.

***Also, the next time you use the phrase "a penny for your thoughts," be reminded that even something as small as a penny can bring your thoughts back to God!***

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*Source: Creativebiblestudy.com. Lessons and Resources to Help Us Connect God's Words with Our Everyday Lives; "Christian Object Lessons: A Penny."*

To share an article in THE HERALD, please send it to the church email: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office door mailbox.

**WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Sunday, 4 September 2022**

“13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.

**Sunday, 11 September 2022**

“14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: TBA

**Sunday, 18 September 2022**

“15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: TBA

**Sunday, 25 September 2022**

“16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost” - Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: TBA



**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. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

<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 &amp; Clara Smith                  Peggy &amp; Dennis Allen                  Eddie Frankenstein                  Grace Cibula                  Etta Holc                  Jerry Hasky (health issue)                  Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (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)</p>	<p>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 Lykins Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter                  Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)                  Shirley MacNeill (health issue)                  Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue)                  Kenny Overstreet (health issue) and wife, Dianne                  Charlie Perkins (health issue)                  Jim &amp; Karen Hamilton of Charlotte, NC, Judy Recher's nephew &amp; niece (injured, vehicular accident)                  Chris Ashby, Wayne Powers' gr.daughter Brittney's husband (health issues)                  Larry Johnson (recovering at home after surgery)                  Judy Recher (injury from fall) and husband, Ron</p>
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***“For God is not unjust; He will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.” ~ Hebrews 6:10***

## 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.

### CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2022 schedule for Holy Communion has been changed to accommodate "World Communion Sunday" that's 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. We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, October 2 "World Communion Sunday."** We are continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

### HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2022

February 6, 2022	July 5, 2022	<b>October 2, 2022</b>
April 3, 2022	August 7, 2022	December 4, 2022

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BACK TO SCHOOL "BACKPACK" DONATIONS –

Special Thanks go out to the Gregory congregation for contributing money and supplies needed for the County's "Back to School Fair – Backpacks!"

### GMPC'S SHEPHERD PROGRAM IS COMING BACK!

Plans are being made by the Faith Committee to revive the Shepherd program. More on this will later.

### CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING –

There will be a Called Congregation Meeting after worship service on Sunday, September 11. The meeting is being called for the purpose of electing members to the Congregational Nominating Committee who will develop a slate of officers for 2023. Please plan to be there to give us your input!

## TO MAKE YOUR DAY

### OF SQUIRRELS AND CHURCHES...

It was early fall in the neighborhood, and the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and as a church, they shouldn't interfere with God's Divine Will.

At the Baptist Church down the street, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

Not to be undone, the nearby Methodist Church elders decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later, the squirrels returned when the Baptists took down the water slide.

The Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy: They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue; they took the first squirrel and circumcised him.



*They haven't seen a squirrel since.*

### TO PONDER:

Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, The message changes us.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited, until you try to sit in their pews.

## SEPTEMBER, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6a Church cleaning	2	3
4  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  <i>Guest preacher: TBA</i>	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b>	6  6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)  6p Cong. Care Cmte.  7p Facilities Cmte.	7	8  6a Church cleaning	9	10
11  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  <i>Guest preacher: TBA</i>  12p Called Congregational Meeting (Election of Congregational Nominating Cmte)  12:30p Stated Session Meeting  <i>Moderator: TBA</i>	12  6p BSA Crater District Order of Arrow Ch. 19 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)	13  1p Presbyterian Women meeting (Location: G. Cibula home)  7p Faith Comte.	14	15  6a Church cleaning  2p News articles due  7p Finance Cmte.	16	17
18  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  <i>Guest preacher: TBA</i>	19	20  6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm.)	21	22  6a Church cleaning  2p Newsletter out	23	24
25  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service ➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering  <i>Guest preacher: TBA</i>	26	27	28  6p BSA Tr 900 Court of Honor (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)	29  6a Church cleaning	30  2p Cmte. reports due	

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***SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER***



***HELLO, FALL!***



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

*We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva*  
*Worship 11:00 A.M.*