

Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



"Let us come before his presence with THANKSGIVING." ~ Psalm 95:2

## A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING

In October 1621, 53 Pilgrims gathered in Plymouth, MA to celebrate the successful Fall harvest with 90 Native Americans who helped them survive a difficult year. They saw the harvest as a life-giving bounty from God that would sustain them through the long winter. This time of "Thanksgiving" was a Pilgrim tradition brought from England and shared with their new Indian friends.

***Desperate times call for desperate praise.*** In 1789, President Washington proclaimed a "National Day of Thanksgiving" to be celebrated each November which varied by state until on October 3, 1863 President Lincoln declared the last Thursday of November (later codified by Roosevelt as the 4th Thursday of November) as a national **"Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."**

What makes this proclamation intriguing is that the nation was in the midst of the Civil War, when the Union was divided, state vs. state and brother vs. brother. The fabric of our country was being ripped apart by loss of life and property and devastating families across the land. In the context of a nation at war with itself, Lincoln drew the nation's attention with these words: ***"the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy."*** He knew that focusing on the goodness of God changes our perspective on everything else. Honest Abe understood that **the greatest weapon against chaos is *thanksgiving*.**

***Tumultuous times call for radical thankfulness!*** Fast forward to Thanksgiving 2022. We have experienced what could be described as the most tumultuous year in decades. Our nation is still divided. COVID-19 has devastated families and our economy. Racial tensions seem to be constantly at a boiling point. Politics have been at their most contentious. With all of this, what is our

attitude to be on the fourth Thursday of November this year?

In following the lead of the Pilgrims and President Lincoln by simply giving thanks, as Believers, we find God's hand leading, providing, and protecting us in everything. **If you are still breathing, God has brought you through to this point.** So, in spite of all that has happened this year, these things are always true of us in Christ:

- God has *"delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have received redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* [Colossians 1:13-14]
- *"Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."* [Ephesians 3:20-21]
- *"You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."* [1 John 4:4]

***Heavenly focus calls for transformative thanksgiving.*** As Christ followers, we have *infinite* reasons to be thankful. Be encouraged to shift your eyes away from the chaos of 2022 and instead focus on the truths that we are saved, sanctified, sealed, secured, and sustained by the blood of Jesus on the Cross and the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of the Father. When you focus on Him, no matter what happens, thanksgiving will flow naturally and freely, not just on the fourth Thursday in November, but all day every day!

*Source: [www.forgivingforward.com/thanksgiving\\_during\\_turbulent\\_times](http://www.forgivingforward.com/thanksgiving_during_turbulent_times), ReGenerating Life Ministries, Inc., Fayetteville, GA, USA*

*To share an article for publication in THE HERALD, please send it to the church email: [office@gregorymemorial.org](mailto:office@gregorymemorial.org) or drop it off in the church office door mailbox.*

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER, 2022

### Sunday, 6 November 2022

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

### Sunday, 13 November 2022

"23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" - Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Andy Meyers

### Sunday, 20 November 2022

"Christ the King/Reign of Christ" - Liturgical Color: White  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Bagwell

### Sunday, 27 November 2022

"1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent" - Liturgical Color: Purple/Blue  
 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.

Families, persons, entities impacted by Hurricane Ian  
 People of Ukraine  
 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 & 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)  
 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)  
 Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)  
 Charlie Perkins (health issue)  
 Chris Ashby, Wayne Powers' granddaughter  
 Brittney's husband (health issues)  
 Judy Recher (problem with knee)  
 Barbara Taliaferro  
 Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)  
 Billy Robertson (recent health issue)  
 Shirley MacNeill (recent 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.

### **CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION**

Our 2022 schedule for Holy Communion provides that we will celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months.

We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, December 4 "Second Sunday of Advent."** 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	October 2, 2022
April 3, 2022	August 7, 2022	<b>December 4, 2022</b>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CCHASM Thanksgiving Meals** – The special collection for Thanksgiving meals for CCHASM on Sunday, October 16, amounted to \$122. Additional money was taken from our "5 Cents-a-Meal Offering" account to allow us to send \$200 to CCHASM. So, a hearty "Thank-you" to everyone for your generosity! Proof once again, that if everyone does a little, it amounts to a lot!!!  
[Sandy Hunter, Faith Committee Chm.]

### "Dinner and a Movie" Nights -

Thanks to all who have supported our efforts to reach out to our community with "Dinner and a Movie" Nights.



The feedback we have received has all been very positive. *(Attendance did pick up when we offered food! LOL)* If there is something you would like to see us offer, please contact Lisa Brown (804-926-0991); Patsy Johnson (804-691-2455); Janet Shill (804-720-6792); or Sandy Hunter (804-731-0082). [Sandy Hunter, Faith Committee Chm.]

**Upcoming "Cookies'n' Cocoa" Open House** - Plans are being made by the Faith Committee to again hold GMPC's "Cookies 'n' Cocoa" Open House to offer these refreshments to parade-goers on Saturday, December 3, during the Prince George Christmas Parade. Weather-permitting, the Parade will start at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering to

serve, or to bring cookies, contact Lisa Brown (804-926-0991) or Sandy Hunter(804-731-0082). [Sandy Hunter, Faith Committee Chm.]

**Called Congregational Meeting** – A Called Meeting of Gregory Memorial's congregation will be held immediately after worship service (approx. 12:00 p.m.) on Sunday, November 13, 2022. The meeting is being called for the purpose of considering the Congregational Nominating Committee's ("CNC") proposed slate of officers from which to elect 1 Trustee and 3 Elders (Class of 2025) and also 1 Elder for a partial term (Class of 2024). [Sandy Hunter, CNC Chm.]

## TO MAKE YOUR DAY

### A THANKSGIVING DIVORCE (NOT...)

The third week of November, a mature couple in Phoenix began making their family Thanksgiving preparations. As they puzzled over how to get the family together after several holidays apart, they lamented how far their son and daughter now lived from them, and how unlikely it would be they'd make the trip at such great expense only to spend the brief Thanksgiving holiday with them.

Finally, the father reached a decision. He phoned their son in New York on the day before Thanksgiving and said, "Son, I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you something. Your mother and I are divorcing; 45 years of misery is long enough!"

Stunned, the son screamed, "Pop, what are you talking about?"

"Well, we can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father said. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this. So, I am leaving it up to you to call your sister in Chicago and tell her!" and he quickly hung up.

Frantic, the son called his sister, who likewise exploded on the phone on hearing the news. "Like heck they're getting divorced!" she shouted to her brother. "I'll take care of this right now!"




Immediately, she called their parents in Phoenix, and screamed at their father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, *DO YOU*

*HEAR ME?*" and she hung up.

The father chuckled as he put his phone down. Turning to his wife with a sly grin, he calmly said, "Okay, took care of that...*they're both coming here for Thanksgiving and they're even paying their own way!*"



# NOVEMBER, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>It's time to "FALL BACK"! Daylight Saving Time Ends Nov. 6 – Be sure to set all clocks back 1 hr.</b></p> <p><b>Month of Sundays to order Christmas Poinsettias: Use order forms in bulletin Nov. 13 - Dec. 4</b></p>		<p><b>1 All Saints Day</b></p> <p><b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)</p> <p><b>7p</b> Cong. Care Cmte</p> <p><b>7p</b> Facilities Cmte</p>	<b>2</b>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>6a</b> Clean Church</p>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>2a</b> Daylight Saving Time Ends (Set clocks back 1 hr.; "Fall back!")</p> <p><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>11a</b> Worship service</p> <p><i>Guest preacher: TBA</i></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>1p</b> Worship Cmte</p>	<p><b>8 Election Day</b></p> <p><b>6a-7p</b> Polls are open</p> <p><b>1p</b> Circle (Location: TBA)</p> 	<b>9</b>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>6a</b> Clean Church</p> <p><b>7p</b> Faith Cmte</p>	<p><b>11 Veterans Day</b></p> 	<b>12</b>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>11a</b> Worship service</p> <p><i>Guest preacher: Rev. Andy Meyers</i></p> <p><b>12p</b> Called Cong. Mtg (Election of 2023 officers) <i>Rev. Meyers, Moderator</i></p> <p><b>12:30p</b> Stated Session Mtg <i>Moderator: Rev. Meyers</i></p> <p><b>Order Christmas Poinsettia</b></p>	<b>14</b>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)</p>	<b>16</b>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>6a</b> Clean Church</p> <p><b>2p</b> News articles due</p> <p><b>7p</b> Finance Cmte</p>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<p><b>20 "Christ the King/ Reign of Christ"</b></p> <p><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>11a</b> Worship service ➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering</p> <p><i>Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles Bagwell</i></p> <p><b>Order Christmas Poinsettia</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Church Office open</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Church Office open</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Church Office open</p> <p><b>2p</b> Newsletter out</p>	<p><b>24 Thanksgiving</b></p> <p>Church Office closed</p> 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<p><b>27 1st Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School</p> <p><b>11a</b> Worship service</p> <p><i>Guest preacher: TBA</i></p> <p><b>Order Christmas Poinsettia</b></p>	<b>28</b>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>11a</b> Order Xmas Poinsettias from florist</p> <p><b>6p</b> GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>2p</b> Cmte reports due</p>			

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***NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER***



***LET US GIVE THANKS!***



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

***We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)***  
***Worship 11:00 A.M.***