

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. W. Clay Macaulay back to our pulpit today! Since 2016, Clay Macaulay (UTS, D. Min., 1985) has served as the Director for Alumni Development for Union Presbyterian Seminary. He returned to Richmond after serving as a pastor in congregations for 30 years. The son of a Presbyterian minister, Clay spent his boyhood in North Carolina, born in Mooresville, and grew up in Asheboro. Clay has a daughter, a son, and daughter-in-law who live and work in Florida and North Carolina. With his family, Clay has served pastorates in Williamsburg, Virginia, Hillsboro, West Virginia, Peoria, Illinois, and Weems, VA. He is a graduate of Davidson College (AB 1981).

December's Guest Preachers:

December 4: Rev. Clay Macaulay; Holy Communion

December 11: Service by GMPC Laity; Special Music by "Streets of Gold"

December 18: Rev. Charles Philips

December 25: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

Christmas Poinsettias - Today is the last day to submit your poinsettia order.

"Streets of Gold" gospel group will appear for a special performance at Gregory Memorial during worship service on Sunday, Dec. 11! So tell all your friends and neighbors to come and join us! See enclosed flyer.

Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13; Location: TBA.

Christmas Eve Family Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols – Saturday, Dec. 24, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. All are welcome!

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Rd. / P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875

www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva

Telephone: 804.732.1081 - Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Pastor: As announced

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)

Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

*(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)*

Mary Holc (2022); Sandy Hunter (2022); Charles Smyth (2022)

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Skill* (2023)

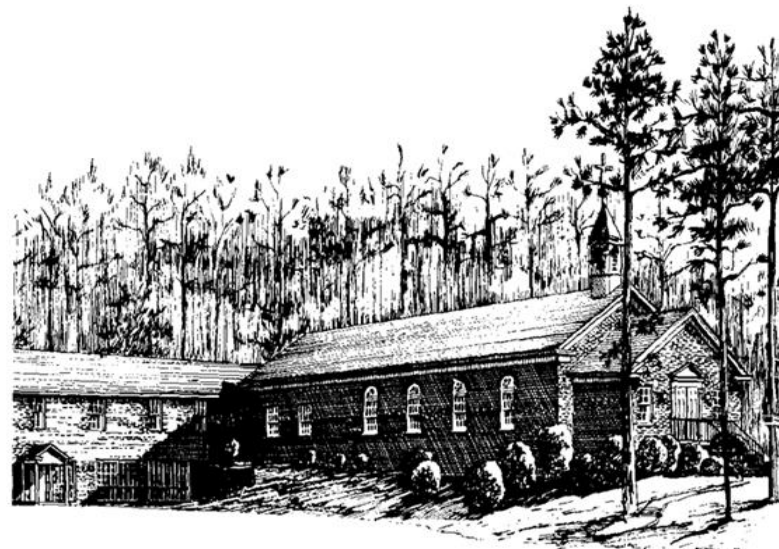
Rose Scott (2024); David L. Johnson* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session - 2022)

Trustees

Ron Recher (2022); Gail Rollings (2023); Donald Hunter (2024)

Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church



Christians Who Love and Care.

"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
Revelations 22:12-13**

"2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

DECEMBER 4, 2022

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

DECEMBER 4, 2022

11:00 a.m.

We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God, made known in Christ. We pray that you will know the presence of the Lord, through our worship, and through the work of the Spirit. We invite you to take these moments before worship to calm your hearts and minds and open yourself to the quiet stillness of God's presence!

CHORAL PRELUDE	Sandra Perkins, Organist Gail Rollings, Pianist
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rose Scott
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS	Rose Scott
PASSING OF THE PEACE	Rev. W. Clay Macaulay

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; responsive]

One: The season of Advent continues, as we continue to watch for our Lord.

All: We continue to guard our hearts and minds against idleness and distraction.

One: The Lord is coming to his temple.

All: We watch and wait for his coming.

Candle Lighter: *We light this candle as a symbol of the peace of heart only God can bring.*

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

****Please stand, as able.***

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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)
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)
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)
Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (rehab., Riverview on the Appomattox)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue, St. Francis Hospital)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER 4	11
S	<p>2nd Sunday of Advent: "Peace"</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship Service & Holy Communion</p> <p>*Guest preacher: Rev. Clay Macaulay</p> <p><u>Last day to order your Christmas Poinsettias!</u></p>	<p>3rd Sunday of Advent: "Joy"</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>11a Worship Service led by Gregory Memorial Laity</p> <p>*Special Music by "Streets of Gold" Gospel Group</p>
M	11a Place poinsettia order with florist before 11a	5
		12
T		6
W		7
T	6a Clean Church	8
	7p Faith Cmte	
F		9
S		10

ATTENDANCE:	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
November 6, 2022	19	12	4	
November 13, 2022	19	7	8	
November 20, 2022	26	12	7	
November 27, 2022	17	5	9	

M=Members V=Visitors

*** OPENING HYMN #102 "Savior of the Nations, Come"**

CALL TO CONFESSION³ [Pastor; from Matthew 3:2]

In Matthew 3:2, John the Baptist cries, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Let us confess our sins this Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³ [In unison]

God of the prophets, we confess our lack of preparedness and our tendency to wander away from you and your path. You call us to venture outside our comfortable spaces, yet we hunker down and excuse ourselves from faithful action. Forgive us, God. Call us again. Help us to respond this Advent in faith. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer of confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON³ [Pastor]

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and freed! May your ears hear this good news, and your eyes see the salvation of God!

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION³ [In unison]

Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's birth this Christmas. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS [NRSV]²

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 p. 558

New Testament Lesson: Romans 15:4-13 p. 924

SERMON "The Coming of Jesus: Welcome" Rev. W. Clay Macaulay

***"So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also has welcomed you for God's glory."*¹**
~ Romans 15:7

Theme: All are *welcomed* into fellowship with Jesus Christ.

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN #366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; John 1:1-5]

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

CALL FOR OFFERING³ [Pastor]

God gives out of God's abundance. Let us respond to God's generosity with our own abundant giving.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

*** DOXOLOGY HYMN #606 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]³

God of mercy, accept these gifts and multiply them for Christ's mission of love and grace for all the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER³ [Pastor; responsive]

One: Wise and wonderful God, on this second Sunday of Advent, we note the needs of those around us as we pray from those within our community: for the disabled and the over-looked; the awkward teen, the mom juggling her kids while carefully budgeting limited funds for food and for their young children who wonder if they will receive a Christmas gift;

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: We pray for the homeless family living in a temporary shelter; for the Missions Committee that ensures the church is responsive to the community's need. We pray for the pastors everywhere who prepared for this Sunday hoping that worship feeds the spiritually hungry and nourishes the gathered souls.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: Holy God, united as a family of faith and as your people, we lift these prayers for our community to you. In your mercy, hear and receive these prayers, Great God, and make us vessels for your grace and love. Now, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying together, "**Our Father...**"

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER⁴

Invitation to the Lord's Table [Pastor]

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving [Pastor; responsive]

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution [Pastor]

Serving of Bread and Cup [Distribution of the elements]

Prayer after Communion [In unison]

God of our Salvation, you straighten the winding of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. You renew us at the table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

***DEPARTING HYMN #104 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

Prepare the way of the Lord with your repentance with your forgiveness of others with your ministries of compassion and grace. May God's grace, Christ's peace, and the Spirit's guidance be with you today and always. Amen.³

***POSTLUDE**

Resource: ¹COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE (CEB), (Nashville: Common English Bible, © 2011) p.169, NT;

²THE HOLY BIBLE, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

Resource: Hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

Resource: Adapted from: ³Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution to congregations for worship use © Presbyterian Outlook, 2022; ⁴BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP © 1993; ⁴GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table *[Minister]*

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

Words of Institution

Minister: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread ... *[Minister continues with words of institution from 1 Cor. 11:23-26 or Gospel parallels.]* The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion of The People at the Lord's Table *[The elements are distributed in the manner most suitable. After the last person is served, the Minister continues:]*

Prayer of Gratitude

Minister: Let us give thanks together:

All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.

Adapted from The PC (USA) Common Worship Book and The Iona Abbey Worship Book