

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell back to our pulpit today!

Today's Prelude is performed on the harp by Mrs. Louise Bagwell, wife of Dr. Charles E. Bagwell. *What a wonderful opening to our Christmas Day service! We thank you, Mrs. Bagwell!*

Dec. Guest Preachers:

Dec. 4: Rev. Clay Macaulay

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

Dec. 18: Rev. Charles Philips

Dec. 25: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

Next Sunday (Jan. 1) our guest preacher is Rev. Charles Philips.

Ordination & Installation of New Elders – during worship, Sunday, Jan. 1.

The lovely Christmas Poinsettias in our Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in honor of and in memory of those listed in the enclosed Poinsettia Dedication insert.

Reminder: please take your poinsettias with you after worship today!

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

Pastor: As announced

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

"NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY"

DECEMBER 25, 2022

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“NATIVITY OF THE LORD/CHRISTMAS DAY”

DECEMBER 25, 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!

PRELUDE Louise Bagwell, Harpist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS** Sandy Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; Luke 2: 10-11; responsive]

One: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

All: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN #134 "Joy to the World"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

Today marks a new beginning with the birth of Christ. Let us confess the sins that have kept us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate the birth of our newborn savior. Yet we find the suffering and despair of our world depressing. Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness. What reason is there to rejoice? We question your power even on this Christmas day. Emmanuel, return us to faith. Help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. Lift our spirits so we can see and appreciate the gift of God-with-us. Amen.

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Families, persons, entities impacted by Hurricane Ian

People of Ukraine

Those in our community suffering from mental/physical illness,
loss, grief or hardship

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)

Family/friends of James T. ("Tommy") Buren (d. 12/13)

Family/friends of Eleanor M. Jones, wife of Ligon "Lucky" Jones (d. 12/18)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER 25	JANUARY 1
S	Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell	1st Sunday of Christmas 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Ordination & Installation of New Elders Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips
M	26	2
T	27	6p GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)
W	28	4
T	6a Clean Church	6a Clean Church
F	30	Epiphany
S	New Year's Eve 2p Cmte reports due	1p Worship Cmte will un-decorate the church

ATTENDANCE:	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
December 4, 2022	16	10	7	
December 11, 2022	29	25	9	
December 18, 2022	21	9	7	
December 25, 2022				

M=Members V=Visitors

(A Moment of Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [In unison; Psalm 103:17]

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

Promise of God’s Forgiveness [Responsive]

One: Hear the good news of the gospel:

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, healed, and made whole.

One: Know that we have been forgiven, and be at peace!

All: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Amen!

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]

Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS (NRSV)

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 91 (selected verses) p. 477
 New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:5-13, 18-20, 26-38 p. 831
 Luke 2:1-20 p. 832-833

SERMON “Angels We Have Heard...” Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

REFLECTIVE HYMN #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostles’ Creed]

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

In gratitude for the gift of Christ our Savior, let present our tithes and offerings to God.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]

Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us, we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Pastor, responsive]

One: Everlasting God, your presence gives us hope this Christmas day. We come to give you honor and praise. We come grateful for all the good gifts with which we have been blessed. We come to pray for those who are especially in need of hope this day. Help us, Prince of Peace, to respond to your extraordinary love with love of our own. Help us be present today with family, friends and loved ones, while remembering those for whom this holiday surfaces pain and loss. As you have reached out to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, may reach out to others. Hear our petitions for those in need of your presence and hope.

All: Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for our world.

One: We pray for an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine. We pray for the women of Iran. We pray for those terrorized by extremists, those longing for peaceful solutions to age old conflicts. We pray for the oppressed in need of liberation. We pray for evil powers to be overthrown, for wrongs to be made right, for those thirsty for justice to be satisfied.

All: Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for our community.

One: Gracious God, bind us together in faith and service. Enlighten us to those persons in need in our communities. Organize us for action to solve systemic problems. Help us make room in our communities for weary travelers, people like Mary and Joseph in need of a safe place to stay. Help us make room for those who long to belong, but feel left out in the cold.

All: Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for friends and loved ones.

One: God of compassion, bless us and those we love. Heal those suffering from the illnesses of this winter season — RSV, flu and the ever-present threat of COVID-19. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, those mourning empty seats at holiday tables. Renew those needing respite, strengthen them with holiday sabbath. Mighty God, whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for our world. Finally, hear us as we pray together the prayer Christ taught us, **"Our Father..."**

***DEPARTING HYMN #122 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"**

***BLESSING**

One: We have been blessed!

All: We have met for divine worship, as God's people.

One: We have been blessed!

All: Our sins have truly been forgiven.

One: We have been blessed!

All: We go out into the world as the body of Christ, bearing the good news of the gospel. We are blessed, indeed. Amen!

CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king!"
Proclaim the good news of Christ's birth to all the world. May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

Resource: *THE 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: Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott and provided for free distribution to congregations for worship use; © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2022.

Christmas Poinsettias – 2022



The beautiful poinsettia plants are given by the following:

Grace Cibula (2R) – In memory of Zdenek Benes.

Sandy and Jim Correll (3R, 4 W) – In honor of our children (Allison, David, Kristen, Morgan, and Patrick and their families) and my mother, Lois Morgan; In memory of my father, Milt Morgan, Jr.

Kevin, Tara, Kevin II and Madison Foster (2R, 2W) – In honor of Evelyn P. Foster, Sarah E. Solesbee and Grace Cibula; In memory of Garland R. Foster, Sr., Franklin E. Solesbee, Sr., and Irving and Jean Waymack.

Maddi Glazer and Jonathan Mendoza (1R) – Given to the glory of God.

The Hunters (1R) – In honor of our grandchildren; In memory of our parents and grandparents.

Linda and Larry Johnson (2R) - In honor of our grandchildren: Corinne, Jack, Owen, Natalie and Emily; In memory of our parents: Homer and Mae Elkins; and Clarence and Ima Johnson.

Mary Lykins (1R, 1W) – In memory of David Lykins.

Shirley MacNeill (1R) – In memory of James MacNeill, Trudy McClenny and Aida Faries.

William Robertson (1R, 1W) – In honor of Shirley MacNeill; In memory of Ruth Robertson.

Howard and Cory Scott (1W) – In memory of Clifford W. Scott, Jr.

Rose Scott and Wayne Powers (1R) – In memory of Gladys and Roland Wiseman, Peg Ward and Jimmy Wiseman

Janet Swinton (1R) – In memory of Raymond Swinton.

Barbara Taliaferro (2R) - In memory of Tommie Taliaferro, husband; In memory of Tracy L. Taliaferro, son.

Lauren Vaughan (1R) – Given to the glory of God.