

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We welcome the Rev. Charles Philips back to our pulpit today!

#### Jan. Guest Preachers:

Jan. 1: Rev. Charles Philips; Officiant for Ordination & Installation of Elders

Jan. 8: Rev. Gibby Elder

Jan. 15: TBA

Jan. 22: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Jan. 29: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Moderator of Annual Congregational Meeting

**Ordination & Installation of New Elders** – Ordination (Doug Holc), followed by Installation of Elders for Class of 2025 (Doug, Patsy and David Johnson) will be held during this morning's worship service.

**Annual Congregational Meeting** – after worship service on Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 12 p.m. (weather-permitting; unless otherwise announced)

**Session Meeting Schedule for 2023** – Monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays beginning at 12 p.m. (approx.) in Session Meeting Room after worship service unless announced otherwise.]

**Holy Communion Schedule for 2003** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of even-numbered months (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.)

**Copies of "These Days" Magazine (Jan.-Mar)** are available in the Narthex. Pick up a copy now for inspired reading!

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#### **GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

[www.gregorymemorial.org](http://www.gregorymemorial.org) [www.facebook.com/gmpcva](https://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](mailto:office@gregorymemorial.org))

Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Rollings

Treasurer: Susan Shockley Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

#### Session Members

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

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Shill\* (2023)  
Rose Scott (2024); David L. Johnson\* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)  
Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)  
Donald Hunter - Clerk of Session (2023)

#### Trustees

Gail Rollings (2023); Donald Hunter (2024); Ron Recher (2025)

## 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

**"1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS"**

**JANUARY 1, 2023  
11:00 a.m.**

## GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### “1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS”

*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** Sandra Perkins, Organist  
Gail Rollings, Pianist

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

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Charles Philips

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; responsive]**

One: Sun and moon and all of you bright stars! All of you who are his messengers and comprise his heavenly forces! Highest heaven and you waters that are above the sky!

**All: Praise God!**

One: Let all of these praise the Lord's name because God gave the command and they were created!

**All: God set them in place always and forever. God made a law that will not be broken. Let us worship God!**

#### **\*OPENING HYMN #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]**

Let us confess our sins to God our loving and merciful redeemer.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison; based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11]**

Holy God, you have blessed us with a variety of gifts, but we are reluctant to share. We hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to put our gifts to good use. Amen.

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**\*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)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.**

**THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

	JANUARY 1	JANUARY 8
S	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service & Ordination & Installation of New Elders  ➤ Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips	<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service  ➤ Guest Preacher: Rev. Gibby Elder
M	2	9
T	<b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	<b>1p</b> Circle (Location: TBA)
W	4	11
T	<b>6a</b> Clean Church	<b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>7p</b> Faith Cmte
F	<b>Epiphany</b>	13
S	<b>1p</b> Worship Cmte will un-decorate the church	14

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	19	20		

M=Members V=Visitors

*(A Moment of Silent Confession)*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive; based on Isaiah 63:7-9]**

One: During all our distress, God is also distressed, so he sends a messenger who serves him to save us. In love and mercy God has redeemed us.

**All: Thanks be to God. 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]**

Open our hearts, Oh God, to this your Word. May we hear with joy what you would have us hear this day and may the music of your grace build our whole lives long that we may sing your praise with our whole being.

**SCRIPTURAL READINGS (NRSV)**

New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18 p. 971-972

New Testament Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23 p. 784

**SERMON**

"Help For The Test"

Rev. Charles Philips

**\*REFLECTIVE HYMN #123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

**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 the babe of Bethlehem, we have been given an immeasurable gift. May we give our gifts to play our part in the refrain of his story of redemption for our lives and the world. Let us give of our tithes and offerings.

### **OFFERING, OFFERTORY**

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

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

As the magi follow that star and turn their final corner toward Bethlehem, surely they wondered about the adequacy of their gifts for the newborn king. Teach us to follow you just as the magi followed that star faithfully, and remind us that you have given us what we need to serve you and your kingdom. May these gifts serve to guide yet others to the manger of the Savior as well. May they serve to build up community and heal our planet. Amen.

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

One: God of years 2022 and 2023, and of all times and places, we are grateful this day for gifts you have brought to us in this life and on this day. We lift our prayers of intercession and supplication up to you:

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

One: We pray for the war in Ukraine and Russia. For families ripped apart and grieving the losses of loved ones as well as the trauma of war on their children and future generations. We pray for the women of Iran and the Iranian people seeking greater agency, equality and opportunity for them and for their children. We pray for those held hostage and without due process as pawns of states and terrorist groups. May people never be used as currency and their humanity, dignity, and agency be preserved and always honored.

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

One: We also take this moment to pray for those closest to us we may know by name who need your love and care this day. Draw close to each one in body, mind, or circumstance, Gentle Savior. Work within each situation a knowledge of your divine love and compassion that compels your human family toward justice and love. Teach us where we may become hands and feet that all may know your grace and your powerful love. For we pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who you sent that we may know the depth of your love and that we may remember the prayer he taught us all to say, "Our Father..."

### **ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF ELDERS [Program insert]**

**\*DEPARTING HYMN #143 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"**

### **\*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]**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship and power of the Holy Spirit be and abide with you and all you encounter this week and forevermore. Amen.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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*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 Dr. Kyle Walker, pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford TX and provided for free distribution to congregations for worship use; © Presbyterian Outlook, 2022.