

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome the Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias to our pulpit today!** Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias co-pastors "Voices of Jubilee", a new worshipping community accompanying incarcerated youth and their families in central Virginia. A graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary and Rhodes College, she also works with the Richmond Community Bail Fund and lives in Richmond with her husband and three daughters.

### **Feb. Guest Preachers:**

**Feb. 5 "Holy Communion": Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias**

Feb. 12: Worship service by BSA Scout Troop 900

Feb. 19 "Transfiguration of the Lord": Rev. Charles Philips

Feb. 26 "1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent": Rev. Marvin Daniel

**Today we celebrate Holy Communion**, Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias officiating.

**Today immediately after church, Rosewood PC is hosting a "Soup-er Bowl" lunch.** A wide variety of homemade soups will be available for a donation with proceeds going to a charity.

**Rosewood PC and Woodlawn PC will also be jointly sponsoring a 3-hour seminar on prayer to be held at Woodlawn on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.** Please call the Gregory Church Office by Wednesday, Feb. 8, so the sponsors can prepare a place for you. The seminar will have 2 sessions, 2 breaks and a potluck lunch that those attending are asked to bring a food item to share.

### **REMINDER:**

**Scouts Sunday & Appreciation Reception - Sunday, Feb. 12 in Fellowship Hall** after worship service hosted by BSA Troop 900 and Pack 910.

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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/gmpcv](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcv)

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); \_\_\_\_\_\* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

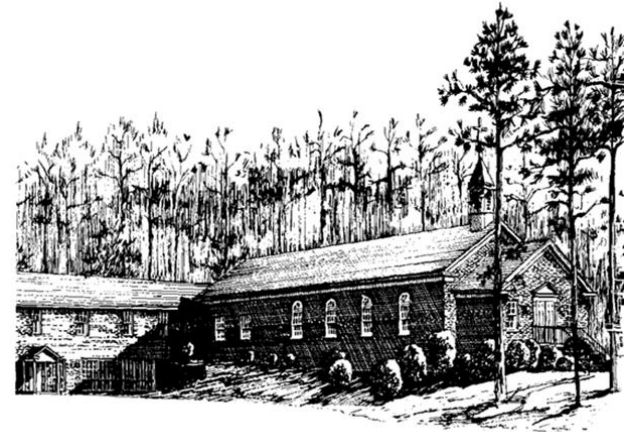
Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)

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*

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023**

**11:00 a.m.**

## GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*We welcome you to worship with us this morning, as we gather in community to draw closer to God. 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 quiet stillness of God's presence!*

**PRELUDE** Sandra Perkins, Organist  
Gail Rollings, Pianist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/  
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS** Larry Johnson

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias

### **CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; Psalm 27:1]**

One: We are called to the work of Israel, to the work of Jesus.

**All: We are called to spread God's love in this world.**

One: We can do this work, as we are, because of the Holy Spirit.

**All: By God's grace, we are salt.**

One: We purify, we cleanse, we bind, we bring out the best in people.

**All: By God's grace, we are light.**

One: We allow things to be seen as they are. We point to holiness.

**All: By God's grace, we follow the commandments and the law.**

One: We love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves.

**All: By God's grace, we are salt. We are light. God transforms us, uses us.**

One: Let us worship our God, so full of transformative grace.

### **\*OPENING HYMN #187 "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us"**

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

In worship, everyone is welcome as they are. We invite each other to set our burdens down, including the burden of false pretenses. Let us be honest with God and with our selves about the ways that we fail so that we can hear the good news of Jesus' redemption anew. Let us confess our sins together and individually.

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

## OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters

Families, persons impacted by gun violence

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 (health issues)

Eddie Frankenstein

Grace Cibula

Etta Holc

Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)

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)

Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)

Billy Robertson (recent health issue)

Shirley MacNeill (recent health issue)

Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)

John Kephart, Grace Cibula's nephew (heart surgery on 1/12)

Inez Paul, Mary Holc's mother (hospice care, Riverview on the Appomattox)

Tara Foster (recov. at home from surgery: kidney stones)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.**

**THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

|   | FEBRUARY 5  | FEBRUARY 12   |
|---|---|---|
| S | <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship Service<br>& Holy Communion<br><br>Guest Preacher:<br>Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias<br><br><b>After worship service:</b> "Souper-Bowl"<br>Sunday at Rosewood PC<br>Immediately after service (donations<br>accepted; proceeds go to a charity) | <b>SCOUTS SUNDAY</b><br><br><b>9:30a</b> Sunday School<br><br><b>11a</b> Worship Service<br>By BSA Scout Troop 900<br><br><b>12p</b> Appreciation Reception<br>In Fellowship Hall<br>Hosted by Scouts |
| M | 6   | <b>6p</b> Crater Distr. Karakona Ch19<br>Nawakwa Lge13 Order of<br>Arrow dinner mtg (Fellowship<br>Hall Reception Area, Kitchen,<br>Meeting/Dining Rm)  |
| T | <b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall<br>Reception Area, Kitchen,<br>Meeting/Dining Rm)<br><br><b>7p</b> Congregational Care Cmte   | <b>7</b><br><b>St. Valentine Day</b> 14<br><br><b>1p</b> Circle (Location TBA)  |
| W | Deadline to register for Prayer Seminar:<br>Call GMPC office 804.732.1081 to register   | 8 15  |
| T | <b>6a</b> Clean Church<br><br><b>7p</b> Faith Cmte  | 9<br><b>6a</b> Clean Church 16<br><br><b>2p</b> News articles due<br><br><b>7p</b> Finance Cmte   |
| F | 10  | 17  |
| S | <b>10am-1pm</b> Prayer Seminar with<br>Potluck lunch at Woodlawn PC (1201<br>Blackstone Ave. in Hopewell); <u>Pre-<br/>                     register at GMPC office by 2/8;</u><br>attendees bring Potluck dish share.  | 11 18   |

|                  | ATTENDANCE: |    | WORSHIP  |   | SUNDAY SCHOOL |   |
|------------------|-------------|----|----------|---|---------------|---|
|                  | M           | V  | M        | V | M             | V |
| January 1, 2023  | 19          | 7  | No class |   | 3             |   |
| January 8, 2023  | 27          | 17 | 7        |   |               |   |
| January 15, 2023 | 18          | 10 | 7        |   |               |   |
| January 22, 2023 | 23          | 7  | 9        |   |               |   |
| January 29, 2023 | 29          | 12 | 10       |   |               |   |

M=Members V=Visitors

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]**

Almighty God, you have called us to bring out the best in the world around us, to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us. We have failed your command. We choose conflict. We choose laziness. We choose excuses. Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely, for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

*[Pause for a moment of silent confession]*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]**

**One:** Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.  
**All:** **We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.**

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

**SCRIPTURAL READINGS (HOLY BIBLE, The Message Trans.)**

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 15 p. 430  
 New Testament Lesson: John 8: 1-36 p. 870-871

**SERMON** "Free" Rev. Ashley Diaz Mejias

**\*REFLECTIVE HYMN #418 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"**

**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]**

Friends, we have confessed our sins; let us respond by offering God what we hold as precious, whether that is our money, time or talents.

### **OFFERING, OFFERTORY**

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

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

Heavenly Parent, we offer you these gifts. Please bless them, just as you bless those who gave them and those who will receive them. May the sharing of these gifts remind us of the connection that holds us all together and the beloved community you call us to form. Amen.

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

One: Creator God, we gather this morning with our siblings in Christ across the world to worship you. Thank you for all the ways that you bless us. But we also know that this life is hard. It is full of sadness, of loneliness, of illness, of fear and of hatred. Heavenly Parent, we remember those who are struggling — those that we know intimately and those who we have never met. We lift them up to you now.

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

One: Lord, you have called us to share your love with the world. Empower us to do so. Empower us to work for good and to make a positive change. Please guide our political leaders. Please guide our community organizers. Please bless medical professionals and nonprofit workers and parents and volunteers and those who work in small and big ways, to bring about kindness and love.

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

One: Unifying God, we pray for the universal church. We pray specifically this morning for our siblings in Christ who we do not agree with. May religion and tradition not distract us from the movement of your Spirit. May we find a way to stand united without turning away from injustice.

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

One: God of all creation, we pray for those who are suffering from natural disasters across our country. We pray for California and all of the rain it has been receiving. We pray for those in Kentucky, still recovering from tornados and floods. We pray for those on the Gulf Coast still recovering from hurricanes.

One: All-knowing God, you know us our deepest, truest selves and so you know the prayer requests we carry. But the miracle of prayer is that there is something in the naming of our needs and worries and pain that connects us to you. And so, with faith in your compassion, we pray for those in our community. Christ, you are alive. You are present. You are working in the world. And it is in your name that we pray together as Christ taught us, **"Our Father..."**

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE**

**[Follow liturgy from "The Sacrament of Holy Communion" insert]**

**\*DEPARTING HYMN #611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

### **\*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]**

Beloveds, you are the salt of the earth. Go, today, with the Spirit and bring out the best of the world — the goodness that God has already created. Purify. Cleanse. Bind. And remember that this imperative from God is to the church. Let us spread God's love in the world as a community because we cannot do it alone. Amen.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

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## 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.**

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