

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### Guest Preachers & Announcers

May 7: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell; P. Johnson, Announcer

May 14 "Mother's Day": Rev. Marvin Daniel; L. Johnson, Announcer

**May 21: Rev. Charles Philips; also Session Moderator; S. Shockley, Announcer**

May 28 "Day of Pentecost": Rev. Kenneth Stith; R. Scott, Announcer

**Stated Session Meeting will be held today** immediately after worship service, 12 p.m. (est.); Rev. Charles Philips, Moderator.

**"MAMA MIA!" AT FORT LEE PLAYHOUSE – Today, performance starts at 3 p.m.**

Those interested in carpooling meet at GMPC at 2 p.m.

**Pentecost Offering** will be received next Sunday, May 28. The enclosed brochure Details how the funds collected will be used. Offering envelope will be enclosed in the May 28 bulletin.

**Deadline for submitting applications for the Christine Belsches Memorial Scholarship Fund is May 31.** Applications may be submitted to Susan Shockley or Sandy Hunter, or mailed (Gregory Memorial PC, P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875) or brought to the Church Office.

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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](http://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); \_\_\_\_\_\* (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*

**7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**MAY 21, 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** Susan Shockley

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** [*Responsive reading*;

One: Sing to God.

**All:** Sing praises to God's name.

One: Sing to God O kingdoms of the earth.

**All:** Sing praises to the Lord.

One: Let us worship God.

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

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

Confession is a mirror by which we see ourselves more clearly. Let us offer our prayers to God.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

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

## OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Those affected by earthquakes and cholera in Turkey and Syria

First-responders, world-wide

Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters

Families, persons, communities impacted by gun violence

People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war

Those in our community suffering from 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

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)

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)

Ruth Figg (Petersburg Home for Ladies)

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

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

Tara Foster (recovering at home from surgery: kidney stones)

Billy Robertson (recovering from eye surgery)

Shirley MacNeill (recovering at home; health issues)

Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.**

**THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

		<b>MAY 21</b>		<b>MAY 28</b>
S	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>		<b>"Day of Pentecost"</b>	
	<b>9:30a</b> Sunday School		<b>9:30a</b> Sunday School	
	<b>11a</b> Worship Service		<b>11a</b> Worship Service	
	Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips		Guest Preacher: Rev. Kenneth Stith	
	<b>12p</b> Stated Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Philips			
	<b>3p</b> "MAMA MIA!", Beaty Playhouse <u>Carpoolers meet at 2pm @ church</u>			
M		22	<b>Memorial Day</b>	29
T		23	<b>6p</b> GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area; Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	30
W		24	<b>2p</b> Cmte reports due	31
T	<b>6a</b> Clean Church <b>2p</b> Newsletter out	25	<b>6a</b> Clean Church	<b>JUNE 1</b>
F		26		2
S		27		3

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V	M	V
May 7, 2023	19	6	9			
May 14, 2023	31	6	10			
May 21, 2023						
May 28, 2023						

M=Members V=Visitors

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]**

We confess, O God, that too often we have our head in the clouds. We are more comfortable with dreaming of the world as we wish it would be instead of working with you to bring that wish to reality. At times, we find it difficult to claim the power you have given us. Surely you have others more capable to be your witnesses? And so, we continue to gaze heavenwards. Jolt us out of our complacency, O God. Remind us to get a move on. Remind us we have work to do with you. Give us your energy, courage, and vision to be your witnesses to the end of the earth.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]**

One: We are God's people...

**All: created, loved and forgiven.**

One: The God of all grace has called us by name.

**All: God will restore, support, strengthen and establish us.**

One: It is good news to celebrate.

**All: We are forgiven!**

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

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [Pastor]**

Open our eyes; open our hearts. May we hear your Word read and proclaimed so that our lives and our witness will be strengthened. Amen.

**SCRIPTURES (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)**

Pastoral Reading: Acts 1: 1-14 p. 884-885

Unison Reading: Gospel of John 14: 1-9 [Read from insert]

Pastoral Reading: 2 Peter 3: 1-14 p. 988

**SERMON** "Depart and Return" Rev. Charles Philips

**\*REFLECTIVE HYMN #835 "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"**

### **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]**

To God we give in thankful response for all the gifts God has given us. The money we give is but one way we say, "thank you." The morning Offering will be received.

### **OFFERING, OFFERTORY**

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

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

Good and gracious God, the money we place in plates or give online we pray will be used to bring your kingdom to earth. May our gifts strengthen this congregation to be more faithful, more present and more daring in our community and to the ends of the earth. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Responsive reading]**

One: Heavenly Father, we gather with the disciples' question on our hearts: Is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel? Is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to all the places where grief and fear blanket the lives of your people?

**All: Holy Father, we pray for a sense of your clarity, your vision.**

One: O God, we desperately want to know when there will be an end to violence and hate and oppression. We want to know when people created in your image will exhibit love and care for one another, when nations will turn swords into plowshares and leaders will lead with the wellbeing of the people uppermost in their hearts.

**All: Holy Father, lead us, in the ways and witness that will reveal your desire and intentions for your world.**

One: Following Jesus' example of praying for his disciples, we are bold to pray for your world, your children and for ourselves. May our prayers give voice to the hurts of our hearts and the commitments of our souls. May we with honesty acknowledge the world as it is and pray for your guidance as we your disciples work for the world you desire. We offer this prayer in the name of the one who taught us to pray, "**Our Father....**"

### **\*DEPARTING HYMN #634 "To God Be the 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 your eyes cast heavenward give you the courage and energy to be about the work God has laid at your feet.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest, remain and abide with you today and all days. And all of God's people say: **Amen.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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

*Resource:* Liturgy written by Rev. Sharon K. Core, General Presbyter of the Western Reserve, and provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 Presbyterian Outlook.

## **Insert for Unison Reading]**

### **The Gospel According to John, Chapter 14: v.1-9**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to the place where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"