

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr to our pulpit today**

### **Guest Preachers & Announcers**

August 6: Rev. Marvin Daniel; P. Johnson, Announcer

August 13: Rev. Charles Philips; L. Johnson, Announcer

August 20: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, Announcer

**August 27: Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr; D. Hunter, Announcer**

**Next Sunday's (Sep. 3) Guest Preacher** – Rev. Charles Philips

**September 10 is "Back to Church Sunday."** Let's celebrate with a Covered Dish Luncheon right after church! Dust off those recipes as we will need main dishes, sides, salads and desserts. Plan to bring a dish or two and join in the fellowship. We have been blessed in so many ways and look forward to another wonderful and inspiring year here at Gregory Memorial Church.

*Mark your calendar!*

**8/27, 9/3**

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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 Hare

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 Hare (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*

**AUGUST 27, 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 Hare, Pianist

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

**PASSING OF THE PEACE** Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** *[Responsive reading]*

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**All: ...who made the heavens and the earth.**

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,

**All: ...then the flood would have swept us away.**

One The God who saved Israel is still at work in the world,

**All: ...hearing the cries of the afflicting and setting God's people free.  
Thanks be to God!**

### **\*OPENING HYMN #634 "To God Be the Glory"**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION** *[Pastor; Romans 12:3]*

The Apostle Paul writes, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think of yourself with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." In sober judgment and humility, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

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

## OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

Families/friends of victims of Maui, HI catastrophic fire  
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)  
Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers' uncle (health issue)  
Dana Etheridge, Wayne Powers' cousin (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)  
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)  
Tara Foster (recovering at home from surgery: kidney stones)  
Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues)  
Shirley MacNeill (home, health issues)  
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley's & Sandy Eickmeyer's friend (brain injury)  
John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)  
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)  
Peggy Allen (health issue, Southside Regional ICU)  
Family/friends of Rich Landrum, Pam Landrum's husband (d.8/14)  
(Pam is daughter of the late Doris Harmison)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.**

**THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

	<b>AUGUST 27</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 3</b>
S	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship Service  Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School <b>11a</b> Worship Service  Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips
M	28	<b>LABOR DAY</b> 4
T	29	5
	<b>2p</b> Necropsy report due	<b>7p</b> Facilities Cmte
W	30	6
T	31	7
	<b>6a</b> Clean Church <b>2p</b> Cmte reports due	<b>6a</b> Clean Church
F	<b>SEPTEMBER 1</b>	8
S	2	9

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
August 6, 2023	26	7	10	
August 13, 2023	17	6	7	
August 20, 2023	17	6	6	
August 27, 2023				

M=Members      V=Visitors

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]**

Gracious God, you are always present and active amid your people. We confess that sometimes we fail to recognize and respond to your saving work in the world. We defer to power and privilege, expect the tried and true, and succumb to doubt and despair when your ways are not clear. Behold, you are doing a new thing; help us to perceive it. Forgive us when we do not respond to your call. Liberate us from our fears and self-imposed limitations. Guide us into the fullness of life and love that you are at work preparing. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]**

One: Friends, hear the good news: Our God makes a way where there is no way, infusing our world with grace and hope when such goodness feels long gone. We are a people redeemed and restored.

All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

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

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]**

Mysterious God, we trust that you are at work among us, even when you are hidden from our sight. By the power of your Spirit, open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our arms to embrace your truth, as it comes to us in your Word. Amen.

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

Old Testament: Psalm 23

New Testament: John 1:35-46

**SERMON**                      "What Does Jesus Want?"                      Rev. Dr. Errol G. Rohr

**\*REFLECTIVE HYMN #440 "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostle's 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]**

By the mercy of God, we are called to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, for this is our act of worship. Our gifts differ, but all can be used to further God's kingdom. Let us receive the morning offering.

### **OFFERING, OFFERTORY**

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

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

Generous God, you are the source of all good gifts, and you are the one who taught us how to give. Receive our offering — an act of faith that even our small gifts have power and purpose in your world. Amen.

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

One: God of the exodus, we give you thanks for your continuing power of liberation in the world today. You create all that is out of chaos and formlessness. You draw your people out of our suffering, making a way where there is no way. You save us and forgive us and restore us to new life. Hear our prayers this morning for the whole human family.

**All: Holy Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

One: God of our fathers, Help us to hold one another and all creation with that same love, tenderness and fidelity. May we treat the earth and one another with respect, and rejoice that all you have created is, indeed, very good.

**All: Holy Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

One: God of all mercies, this morning we lift those in our midst and in our world in need of your healing and wholeness. Comfort the grieving survivors of the catastrophic fire on Maui, Hawaii and especially the town of Lahaina. Be with all people who are sick or injured, hungry or homeless, grieving or lonely, in prison or estranged from loved ones. Comfort the afflicted and send your presence to all who suffer.

**All: Holy Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

One: God who forms the church out of diverse and disparate people, send your Spirit to enliven us and equip us for ministry. As our bodies are made up of many members, build us up into the Body of Christ that we may be your church and members of one another. Keep us faithful to the gospel until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, **"Our Father..."**

### **\*DEPARTING HYMN #687 "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

### **\*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!**

### **"THE APPRENTICE PRAYER" (Read in unison from insert)**

### **\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

Go forth from this place, to speak truth to power, to love and serve the least of these, and to seek God's Spirit and embody that Spirit, in the places where God seems absent.

And as you go, may God's creative energy animate you, may Christ's liberating mercy surround you, and may the Holy Spirit's subversive presence empower you, now and forever more, Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**