

*To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:*

## THE TEACUP'S STORY

There was a couple who used to go to England to shop in the beautiful stores. They both liked antiques and pottery and especially teacups. This was their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. One day in a beautiful shop they saw a beautiful cup. They said, "May we see that? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."

As the lady handed it to them, the cup suddenly spoke. "You don't understand," it said. "I haven't always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red and I was clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'Let me alone!' but he only smiled and said, 'Not yet.'"

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel," the cup said, "and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. Stop it! I'm getting dizzy! I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'"

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat!" the teacup said. "I wondered why he wanted to burn me, and I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as He shook his head, 'Not yet.'"

"Finally the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. 'There, that's better,' I said. And he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were so horrible I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet.'"

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, and it was not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. All the time I could see him through the opening, nodding his head saying, 'Not yet.'"

"Then I knew there wasn't any hope. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf."

One hour later he handed me a mirror and said, 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me---that couldn't be me! It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

"I want you to remember, then," he said, 'I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had left you alone, you'd have dried up.'

I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you'd have crumbled.

I knew it hurt and was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you'd have cracked.

I know the fumes were bad when I brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened; you'd not have had any color in your life.

And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't survive for very long because the hardness would not have held.

Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you.' "

~ Author Unknown



As written in Jeremiah 18:1-6: (NRSV), so says Jeremiah:

***"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 'Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words.'***

***So I went down to the potter's house and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he re-worked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.***

***Then the word of the Lord came to me: 'Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done?' says the Lord. 'Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.' "***

**Moral of the Story.** God knows what He's doing (for all of us). He is the Potter, we are His clay. He will mold us and make us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will. May the teacup story become our story as we yield to our Potter's hand. ***"Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."***

Source: <https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/teacup-story.html>

To share an article in THE HERALD, please send it to email: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office door mailbox.

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2023

### Sunday, 3 September, 2023

"14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" – Liturgical Color: Green  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips

### Sunday, 10 September, 2023

"15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" – Liturgical Color: Green  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

### Sunday, 17 September, 2023

"16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" – Liturgical Color: Green  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

### Sunday, 24 September, 2023

"17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost" – Liturgical Color: Green  
Guest Preacher: Rev. Clay Macaulay



**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...**One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

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 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  
Etta Holc  
Jerry & Ruby Hasky (health issues)  
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, kidney stones)  
Billy Robertson (health issue)  
Shirley MacNeill (health issue)  
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley's & Sandy Eickmeyer's friend (brain injury)  
John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)  
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)  
Grace Cibula (recovering at home; health issues)  
Peggy Allen (Southside Regional, ICU)  
Family/friends of Rich Landrum, Pam Landrum's husband (d.8/14) (Pam is daughter of the late Doris Harmison)

## CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

Our 2023 schedule for Holy Communion provides that we celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in even-numbered months. We will celebrate our next Holy Communion on **Sunday, October 1**. We are continuing with the practice of passing the communion elements among the pews.

## HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2023

February 5, 2023  
April 2, 2023

June, 2023  
August 6, 2023

**October 1, 2023**  
December 3, 2023

## ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

September 3	Sandy Hunter
September 10	Larry Johnson
September 17	Susan Shockley
September 24	Rose Scott

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### September 10 is "Back to Church Sunday!"

Let's celebrate with a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall 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 of our congregation.

We have been blessed in so many ways and now look forward to another wonderful and inspiring year here at Gregory Memorial Church.

***Mark your calendar!***

**Stated Session Meeting** - 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, September 17; Rev. Marvin Daniel, Moderator.

## TO MAKE YOU SMILE

### A MODERN PARABLE...



One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to retrieve the poor donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up.

Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

*THE LESSON HERE IS...Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up!*

***Shake it off and take a step up!***

### EVERYTHING'S NEGOTIABLE...

One day after the Lord had finished naming all of the animals, he had a conversation with Adam, who by then had noticed that all of the animals had a mate except for him. He asked God if he could make him a mate also.

God told Adam, "I will make for you a creature that will be the most beautiful thing to look at. She will always be submissive and in agreement with you, she will bring coffee to you every morning, prepare all your meals, and will bless you in many other ways."

Being a little skeptical, Adam asked the Lord, "How much will this cost me?"

God replied,  
"An arm and a leg."

Then Adam asked, "So...what can I get for a rib?"

And there we are.



### OUCH! THAT'S GOTTA HURT.....

An engineer died and reported to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checked his dossier and not seeing the engineer's

name there, accidentally sent him to Hell.

It didn't take long before the engineer became rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon set to work, designing and building improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell had air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators.

Needless to say, the engineer became a pretty popular guy, and the word soon spread.

One day, God called Satan and casually inquired: "So, how ARE things in Hell?"

Satan replied: "Hey, things are going great. We've got AC, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaimed.

"You've got an engineer down there? Well, clearly THAT'S a mistake - he should never have been sent down to Hell. Send him up to me immediately!"

"Not a chance," Satan replied: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insisted: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughed uproariously and answered: **"Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"**



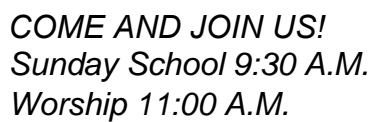
Source: [www.atimetolaugh.com](http://www.atimetolaugh.com)

## SEPTEMBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>No Worship Cmte meeting in September</i>					1	2
<b>3</b> <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service & Holy Communion  Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips	<b>4</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>5</b> <b>7p</b> Facilities Cmte	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>"Back to Church Sunday"</i>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel  <b>12p</b> Covered dish Lunch in Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b> <b>6p</b> BSA Cr. Ord Arrow (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, kitchen, Mtg/dining Rm)	<b>12</b> <b>1p</b> Circle. (Location: TBA)  <b>7p</b> Finance Cmte	<b>13</b>  <b>7p</b> Faith Cmte	<b>14</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>2p</b> News articles due	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel  <b>12p</b> Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Daniel	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, kitchen, Mtg/dining Rm)	<b>20</b> <b>6p</b> GSA Tr5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)	<b>21</b> <b>6a</b> Clean Church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service  ➤ 5C Meal Offering  Guest preacher: Rev. Clay Macaulay	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>6p</b> BSA Tr900 Ct. of Honor Ord Arrow (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, kitchen, Mtg/dining Rm)	<b>28</b>  <b>6a</b> Clean Church  <b>2p</b> Newsletter out	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>2p</b> Comte reports due

STAMP

## A wide, sandy beach with scattered driftwood and seaweed, bordered by a dense forest on the left and a blue ocean with white waves on the right. The sky is bright blue with scattered clouds.



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