

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Charles Philips to our pulpit today.

Guest Preachers & Announcers

September 3: Rev. Charles Philips; S. Hunter, Announcer

September 10: Rev. Marvin Daniel; L. Johnson, Announcer

September 17: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Shockley, Announcer

September 24: Rev. Clay Macaulay; R. Scott, Announcer

Next Sunday, (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. 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**

Change of Committee meeting dates for September:

- Faith Cmte – Wednesday, September 13, 7 p.m.

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Resource: Hymns and "Apostle's Creed" p. 35 from Glory To God, The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Resource: Liturgy written by Rev. Molly Spangler, Assoc. Pastor, Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina and provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 Presbyterian Outlook.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

www.gregorymemorial.org 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)

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

SEPTEMBER 3, 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** Sandy Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Charles Philips

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading*]

One: We gather hoping to see God, here in worship.

All: We realize that we see God when we show one another honor, pursue hospitality to strangers, and live in harmony with one another,

One: When we rejoice in hope...

All: ...let us worship the visible God amongst us.

***OPENING HYMN #321 "The Church's One Foundation"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

God wants us to be ourselves. But every time we hurt one another, or ourselves, we get further and further away from who we are. It is in our confession, in admitting the truth of our lives, that we can be our genuine selves again. Let us join in our prayer of confession together:

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

***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)
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 (moved to Dinwiddie Rehab., Room 102)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	SEPTEMBER 3	SEPTEMBER 10
S	14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips	15th Sunday after Pentecost “Back to Church Sunday” 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p “Back to Church Sunday” Covered Dish Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
M	LABOR DAY 4	11
T	5	1p Circle meeting (Location: G. Cibula home) 7p Finance Cmte
W	6	7p Faith Cmte 13
T	6a Clean Church 7	6a Clean Church 14
F	8	15
S	9	16

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	21	6	8	

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

God of love, you ask us to love one another from the center of who we are, you tell us to bless one another, you encourage us to do good. But we have not listened to your words, instead of loving we have practiced hatred, instead of blessing, we have perfected cursing, instead of doing good, we have sought to get even. Forgive us for giving up. Give us grace to try again, and encouragement to make your ways, our ways. We pray, we wait, and we hope. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor]

God’s love for us is genuine. When we need it the most, God’s grace washes over us seeping into the cracks of our brokenness and saturating our thirsty hearts. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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

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

O Holy Creator, you spoke all of creation into being, we ask that you keep speaking to us now. Speak to us as we read Scripture, that we might hear your voice ringing clear and concise through the many voices around us. Speak to us, that we might hear and understand. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

New Testament: Matthew 16: 13-28

Old Testament: Psalm 122: 1-9

SERMON “The Gates” Rev. Charles Philips

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #829 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"**

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]

Why do we give each week? We give because we have received so much from God. We give because we trust that God can do more with what we have than we can do alone. Let us practice our gratitude this morning through the giving of our gifts.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

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

Gift-giving God, we bring you what we can offer, our time, our talents, our finances, our very selves, in the hope that what we bring, you might magnify, and multiply, for the work of your love in the world. Amen

LORD'S PRAYER [Responsive reading]

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,

One: You are the first, the last, the everything in-between; we lift praise and prayers up to you, because we know that you have been listening since the first voice in the garden, and we trust that you listen still.

All: Hallowed be thy name,

One: Yours is the name above every name, the name spoken in all languages, the name that echoes across all time and space.

All: Thy kingdom come,

One: May all of creation look more and more like your heavenly kingdom, a place of peace, a place of love, a place everyone feels at home.

All: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

One: Here in this place may love be genuine, hospitality given to strangers, overcome evil with good, and may we live peaceably.

All: Give us this day our daily bread

One: Allow us to taste, drink and remember goodness you have given us. Allow us to trust rather than hoard so no one goes hungry or thirsts.

All: And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

One: Give us as many chances as it takes to get it right, and may we give others just as many chances as you have given us.

All: And lead us not into temptation,

One: Guide us to stay on your good path, in the face of life's adversities.

All: But deliver us from evil.

One: Because we know evil has many forms. Whenever evil shows up, rescue us from it time and time again.

All: For thine is the kingdom,

One: Where we hope to live with you,

All: And the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

***DEPARTING HYMN #649 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"**

***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]**

Friends, go out into the world in peace. Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, love everyone, that God's light and love, justice and joy, might be for you and all people everywhere. Amen.

POSTLUDE