

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Marvin Daniel back 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. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay; R. Scott, Announcer

Note from Dennis Allen: Special "Thank-You" to the Gregory congregation in grateful appreciation for the many prayers, well-wishes, telephone calls, and cards sent to Peggy and Dennis. Peggy has relocated to the Petersburg Home for Ladies, an assisted living facility (311 S. Jefferson St., Petersburg, VA 23803).

Stated Session Meeting – Today immediately after worship service;
Moderator: Rev. Marvin Daniel.

Circle Meeting - Tuesday, Sep. 19 at 1:00 p.m.; Location: Grace Cibula's home.

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

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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 17, 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** Susan Shockley

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Marvin Daniel

CALL TO WORSHIP *[Responsive reading; from Psalm 103: 1-4]*

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me.

All: Bless God's holy name.

One: God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love

All: Bless God's holy name.

***OPENING HYMN #191 "We Have Come at Christ's Bidding"**

CALL TO CONFESSION *[Pastor]*

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

[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
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)
Family/friends of Laura Hackett Johnson, daughter-in-law of Patsy and
David Johnson, wife of Brent and mother of Nathan (d. 9/2)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca (dentist, ret.), family friend of Mary Lykins (injured
& hospitalized from a fall & possibly pending surgery)
Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary
Lykins' daughter (injured in motor vehicle accident)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues); Peggy was relocated to Petersburg Home
for Ladies on 9/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	SEPTEMBER 17	SEPTEMBER 24
S	16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Marvin Daniel	17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ 5 Cents Meal Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay
M	18	25
T	1p Circle meeting; G. Cibula's home 6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	19 26
W	20	6p BSA Tr900 Ct. of Honor Ord. of Arrow (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)
T	6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter articles due	21 28
F	22	29
S	23	2p Cmte reports due

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
September 3, 2023	18	4	8	
September 10, 2023	22	7	6	
September 17, 2023				
September 24, 2023				

M=Members V=Visitors

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive; James 5: 15-16]

One: The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed and restored to God's path of righteousness. Amen.

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

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

Open us, Eternal God, to your Word read and proclaimed. Help us not to turn from your truth or avoid your message. Help us be receptive to the wisdom you offer. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

Old Testament: Exodus 15:1-11 and 20-21

New Testament: Romans 14:1-12

Reader: S. Shockley

Gospel Message: Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON

"Forgive Us Our Debts"

Rev. Marvin Daniel

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #375 "Shall We Gather at the River"**

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]

We are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

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

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. Amen.

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

One: Loving God, as summer rapidly rolls into fall and busy schedules give us little space to pause and contemplate the eternal, we quiet ourselves now to enter your presence, to open our minds and hearts, to breathe the air you provide, to feel our hearts' beat, to give thanks, and to lift our prayerful petitions.

All: Holy Father, hear our prayers.

One: You bless us, God, with your steadfast love, surrounding us during times of suffering, comforting us in sorrow, offering us hope to face whatever is ahead. There is so much devastation, so much pain — we cannot wrap our minds around it all. Yet we petition you, Great God of All, to be with your people struggling to recover from natural disasters, to strengthen your people oppressed by worldly powers and greedy regimes, to soften hearts hell bent on war and violence, to heal those who are wounded, sick and grieving.

All: Almighty Lord, hear our prayers.

One: Faithful God, we trust you will never abandon us. We trust in your promise to provide for us, our children and your creation. We know joy because of you. We are blessed with friends and family and neighbors by your call to beloved community. Even amid suffering, you grace us with joyful opportunities to laugh, play, sing and dance. Help us, Holy God, to not be so focused on all that is going wrong that we miss all that is going right.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayers.

One: Finally, ground us in your good news, O God, and help us hold on to your promise of redemption in Jesus our Christ. Keep our feet steady on Christ's path, help us follow his teachings, help us love as he loved. Now, hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: **"Our Father..."**

***DEPARTING HYMN #198 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!"**

***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]**

God does not abandon us. God's love is steadfast. May this love inspire all our relationships as we leave this house of worship, knit together in God's love, bound as a community of Christ, guided by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE