

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay back to our pulpit today! Since 2016, Dr. Macaulay (UTS, D. Min., 1985) has served as the Director for Alumni Development for Union Presbyterian Seminary. He returned to Richmond after serving as a pastor in congregations for 30 years. The son of a Presbyterian minister, Clay spent his boyhood in North Carolina, born in Mooresville, and grew up in Asheboro. Clay has a daughter, a son, and daughter-in-law who live and work in Florida and North Carolina. With his family, Clay has served pastorates in Williamsburg, Virginia, Hillsboro, West Virginia, Peoria, Illinois, and Weems, VA. He is a graduate of Davidson College (AB 1981).

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

Next Sunday' (October 1: Holy Communion) Guest preacher: Rev. John Scholer.

Next Sunday is "World Communion Sunday." The enclosed flyer gives info on where the received Peace & Global Witness Offering funds will be directed. An offering envelope will be provided in the October 1 bulletin.

"These Days" (October-December) – Copies of this magazine of daily inspirational readings are available in the Narthex free of charge to Gregory's congregation. Be sure to pick up a copy today!

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 24, 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** Rose Scott

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading*]¹

One: Today and every day let us praise God's name.

All: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

One: Today we will think on your wondrous works.

All: Today we will proclaim your awesome deed.

***OPENING HYMN #630 "Fairest Lord Jesus"**

CONFESSION OF SIN [*In unison*]¹

God of justice and righteousness, You lift up the lowly and fill the empty, yet we adore the high and the mighty. You reach out to the poor, yet we ceaselessly pursue wealth. You talk about treasure in heaven, yet we want dollars in our accounts right now. Forgive our lack of generosity. Heal our misguided ways. Cleanse us from the assumption that all that matters is what we have and what we can get. Change our hearts so that we can tend to the things that matter, and find our life in Jesus Christ.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

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 L. 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)
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
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter's grandson (continuing health issue)
Judy Recher (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	SEPTEMBER 24	OCTOBER 1
S	17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ 5 Cents Meal Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay	18th Sunday after Pentecost "World Communion Sunday" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion ➤ Peace & Global Witness Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer
M	25	1p Worship Cmte 2
T	26	7p Faith Cmte 3
W	6p BSA Tr900 Ct. of Honor Ord. of Arrow (Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm) 27	4
T	6a Clean Church 28	6a Clean Church 5
F	29	6
S	2p Cmte reports due 30	7

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V	M	V
September 3, 2023	18	4	8			
September 10, 2023	22	7	6			
September 17, 2023	21	7	7			
September 24, 2023						

M=Members V=Visitors

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]¹

Leader: Hear and receive the words of God's assurance:

People: **"Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name."**

One: When they call to me, I will answer them...With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation."

All: **In Jesus Christ, our Savior, we are forgiven.**

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

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison; 2 Timothy 3:16-17]²**

Holy God, your Word teaches us that all Scripture is inspired by you and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, speak to us, and inspire us that we may be proficient and equipped for every good work; through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

1st Lesson: Psalm 105: 1-6

2nd Lesson: Matthew 20: 1-16

SERMON "When It's Good to Be Last" Rev. Dr. W. Clay Macaulay

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #724 "O Jesus I Have Promised"**

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*]²

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.” Let us bring our offerings to God, even as we present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION [*In unison*]²

Gracious God, we thank you for your many blessings, especially your perfect gift of your Son Jesus Christ! Help us to receive your gifts with thanksgiving and humility and use them faithfully for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [*Responsive reading*]²

One: God of grace and God of glory, we come before you in prayer today, assured and comforted by the promise that when we do not know how to pray as we ought, your Holy Spirit intercedes for us as we pray for the people who have been named in worship today, whose names are on our prayer list, whom we carry in our hearts, who are known only to you.

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

One: Lord, hear our prayers for the mission, ministry, and work of this congregation. May we always serve with a spirit of generosity as we depend upon your gifts, rather than with a sense of scarcity that comes from looking to ourselves.

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

One: God of mercy, we pray for the peoples of this world whom you have created in your own image: for those who are in dangerous places through no fault of their own; for those who have experienced disasters that have upended their lives; for those who are oppressed and long to live as free people; for those who mourn and long to have hope in their lives.

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

One: Almighty God, help us to live lives worthy of the calling to which you call us. Remind us that we are the body of Christ. When one member suffers, may we all share the suffering and extend the loving care of Christ. When one member is honored, may we all rejoice together rather than be envious of another's blessings. Lord God, help us to live, love, and serve as faithful followers of Christ in your kingdom. We offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying "*Our Father...*"

*DEPARTING HYMN #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

*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*]²

Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor is not in vain. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

POSTLUDE

Resource: Holy Bible, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

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

Resource: Liturgy: ¹Connections – Worship Companion – Year A, Vol. 2 – "Season after Pentecost", David Gambrell, ed. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2023, p. 149. ²Rev. (Ret.) Philip Gladden, guest author, The Presbyterian Outlook, and provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 Presbyterian Outlook.