

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

A SEASON FOR EVERYTHING

There will always be seasons for as long as time remains. While weather damage can be frightening, through our faith, we know God is still in control.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day night, shall not cease.” ~ Genesis 8:22

The context for the Genesis verse takes place right after the story of Noah, when God destroyed almost everyone and everything with the flood. This verse reminds us that He has promised never to do that again.

God orchestrates the seasons. He arranges a specific time for all things, and we can take joy and comfort in knowing that He is always in control.

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...” ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

This Ecclesiastes passage reminds us that God made all things, and sets designated seasons for our lives. The best thing we can do is to live one day at a time, recognizing that all things come from and belong to God, and rejoicing in the work that we do.

So, how does doing work bring us joy and pleasure? Some prefer the comfort of having a routine, while others like the spontaneity of having things happen at random. The answer lies in the next passages that refer to God’s instructions for the harvest. In the Old Testament, specific rules were set regarding collection of food and the passing of time.

“These are the appointed festivals of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall celebrate at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, there shall be a passover offering to the Lord, and on the fifteenth day of the same month is the festival of unleavened bread to the Lord; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread.

On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. For seven days you shall present the Lord’s offerings by fire; on the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation: you shall not work at your occupation.” ~ Leviticus 23:4-8

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the alien: I am the Lord your God.” ~ Leviticus 23:22

In Old Testament times, life patterns were based on the cycles of farming: People planted, the harvest of plants came in (hopefully), and people picked it to have food. God’s rules governed how people were supposed to plant and reap their crops, with some of the harvest meant to go back to God. Additionally, provisions were made for poor people to be able to gather food and be taken care of. God also instituted “holy days” (“holidays”), so the people could have times of rest.

Jesus described evangelism as God’s harvest. Of course, we won’t pluck people like grain, but we can recognize that there are people who need to hear the Gospel and be brought into God’s family. We can grow ourselves as “fruits of the spirit” and celebrate a harvest of believers when we share the love of Christ with those in need.

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; there ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” ~ Matthew 9:35-38

Source: Adapted from “A Season for Harvest Joys”;
<https://www.autumn Sunday School Lesson..html>
To share an article in THE HERALD, please email it to:
office@gregorymemorial.org or put in office door mailbox.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2023

Sunday, 1 October, 2023

“18th Sunday after Pentecost”/“World Communion Sunday” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer

Sunday, 8 October, 2023

“19th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Kenneth Stith

Sunday, 15 October, 2023

“20th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 22 October, 2023

“21st Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

Sunday, 29 October, 2023

“22nd Sunday after Pentecost” / “Reformation Sunday” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel



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.

First-responders, world-wide
Families, persons, entities impacted by weather-related disasters
Families/friends of victims of recent catastrophic fire
Those affected by earthquakes and cholera in Turkey and Syria
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
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
Billy Hudson, friend of Mary Lykins' daughter, Dianna L. Flaherty
(health issue)

Renee' Renier, friend of Mary Lykins' daughter, Dianna L.
Flaherty (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)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca (dentist, ret.), family friend of
Mary Lykins (injured & hosp. from fall, pending surgery)
Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L.
Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter (inj.: motor vehicle accident)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy - Petersburg Home
for Ladies, Rm. 18)
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter's grandson (continuing health issue)
Judy Recher (health issue)

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 ("World Communion Sunday")**. 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

October 1	Donald Hunter
October 8	Patsy Johnson
October 15	Sandy Hunter
October 22	Larry Johnson
October 29	Susan Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Movie Night! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 25th. The Faith Committee will present another movie from the Sight and Sound Collection. The movie featured will be "Esther." Esther's story is filled with drama, power, romance and intrigue.

The Book of Esther is unusual in that, in the original version, no name, title, or pronoun for God appears. However, God is definitely present in Esther's life. As you watch this movie it will help you to remember God is in all our lives and we only need to watch for his influence.

We will be serving Tacos, beverage and dessert at 6 p.m., and the movie will begin around 6:30 p.m. Hope to see everyone there!! Sounds like this will be a great movie!! Take this opportunity to bring a friend or two!

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

Stated Session Meeting - 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, October 15; Rev. Marvin Daniel, Moderator

TO MAKE YOU SMILE ... AT HALLOWE'EN!

"HERE, KITTY-KITTY....." IT'S 'NEAR HALLOWE'EN!

*"The cat has nine lives – 3 for playing,
3 for straying, and 3 for staying."
~ Old English Proverb*

The belief that cats have nine lives could stem from the fact that they always seem to land on their feet.



Have you ever wondered "Why are cats associated with Halloween?"

Black cats are a classic Halloween symbol, but how did they earn that special place in Fall? Cats have long served as objects of superstition. In Medieval France and Spain, black cats were considered bringers of bad luck and curses to any human they came near, and were associated with witchcraft. Many Medieval Germans believed themselves to be cursed if a black cat crossed their path from left to right.

Black cats, however, have also served as symbols of good luck in numerous cultures. In the British Islands, **black cats** are often believed to bring affluence to a house they occupied.

In Japan, they are also considered to bring good luck. In Ancient Egypt **black cats** were worshipped as sacred.

How did **black cats** come to represent bad luck and spookiness in the United States? It all started with the Pilgrims in the Plymouth colony. The Puritan Pilgrims distrusted anything associated with witches and sorcery, including **black cats**. They actively persecuted black cats – it became a

practice to burn black cats on Shrove Tuesday to protect the home from fire. After the anti-witch zeal had subsided in the colonies, **black cats** had been thoroughly cemented in popular legend right alongside witches. Decorators use them as a **Halloween symbol**, both alongside witches and independently, to add a frightful, unnerving ambience to their front steps, their green eyes spooking tick-or-treaters.



But if you're really feeling the holiday spirit this Halloween, consider adopting a black cat from an animal shelter or rescue service. Due to latent superstition, studies have shown that black cats are much less likely to be adopted compared with other fur colors. By adopting a black cat, you may rescue an animal who may otherwise not have found a loving owner. However, some shelters will not adopt-out a **black cat** immediately before Halloween. Some owners have been known to use them as "living decorations" before abandoning them.

And so it seems.... A newly discovered chapter in the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to the question, "Where do pets, especially pet cats, come from?" As it goes, Adam said, "Lord when I was in the garden, you walked with me every day. Now, I don't see you anymore. I'm lonesome here." And God said, "No problem! I will create

for you a companion who will be a reflection of my love for you. Regardless of how selfish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself." And so, God created a new animal to be Adam's companion. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. The new animal was pleased to be with Adam and wagged his tail whenever he saw Adam. And Adam said, "Lord I can't think of a name for this new animal." And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name shall be a reflection of my own name, **"God."** So his name shall be **"Dog."**

After a while, it came to pass that Adam's guardian angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved... but perhaps too well." And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he really is. *This companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration.*"


And so it was that God created **CAT** to be a companion to Adam. *And CAT would not obey Adam.* And when Adam gazed into **CAT's** glowing eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. **And with CAT, Adam learned humility.**



Source: <https://www.hartz.com/how-black-cats-came-to-halloween>

Source: <https://www.atimetolaugh.com>

OCTOBER, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 World Communion Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service & Holy Communion ➤ Peace & Global Witness Offering Guest preacher: Rev. John Scholer	2 1p Worship Cmte	3 7p Faith Cmte	4	5 6a Clean Church	6	7
8 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Kenneth Stith	9 COLUMBUS DAY 6p BSA Crater Order of Arrow Karakona Dist.19 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm)	10 1p Circle (Location: TBA) 7p Finance Cmte.	11	12 6a Clean Church 7p Faith Cmte.	13	14
15 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Marvin Daniel	16	17 6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)	18	19 6a Clean Church 2p News articles due	20	21 9a 115 th Presbytery of the James Meeting (via Zoom) Bill Shill, GMPC Comm'r
22 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ 5C Meal Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell	23	24	25 Movie Night "ESTHER" 6p Dinner 6:30p Movie	26 6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter out	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service. ➤ Local Emerg. Aid Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	30	31  2p Cmte reports Due				

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182
Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)