

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. John Scholer back to our pulpit today!

### Guest Preachers & Announcers

October 1: Rev. John Scholer; D. Hunter, Announcer

October 8: Rev. Kenneth Stith; P. Johnson, Announcer

October 15: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Hunter, Announcer

October 22: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell; L. Johnson, Announcer

October 29: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Walker, Announcer

Today is "World Communion Sunday." Please use the enclosed envelope for your offering and refer to the enclosed flyer for information on where the received Peace & Global Witness Offering funds will be directed.

"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](http://www.gregorymemorial.org)    [www.facebook.com/gmpcva](http://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](mailto: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*

**OCTOBER 1, 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. John Scholer  
Guest Preacher

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** [*Responsive reading; Luke 13:29*]

One: People will come from east and west,

**All: from north and south,**

One: and will eat in the kingdom of God.

**All: Thanks be to God for welcoming us to the table.**

### **\*OPENING HYMN #1 "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION** [*Pastor*]

Sin is our stumbling block. Repentance clears the way to hear and receive God's truth. Let us confess our sins together.

### **CONFESSION OF SIN** [*In unison*]

Gracious God, we are indebted to you and your generosity. But we fail to live as good stewards of all you have given us. We confiscate and consume far more than our fair share. We neglect the poor and trap people in poverty, claiming that debt forgiveness is unfair. God, liberate us from our spiritual and moral bondage. Free our world for jubilee. Reorder our priorities so all your nations and peoples may thrive. Amen.

[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 - Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #18  
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter's grandson (continuing health issue)  
Judy Recher (health issue)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.**

**THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY**

	<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	<b>OCTOBER 8</b>
S	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost "World Communion Sunday"</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service & Holy Communion ➤ Peace & Global Witness Offering  Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer	<b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship Service  Guest Preacher: Rev. Kenneth Stith, Sr.
M	<b>1p</b> Worship Cmte 2	<b>Columbus Day</b> 9  <b>6p</b> BSA Crater OA Karakona Ch. 19 Nawakwa Lodge 3 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)
T	<b>7p</b> Faith Cmte 3	<b>1p</b> Circle (location: TBA) 10  <b>7p</b> Finance Cmte
W	4	11
T	<b>6a</b> Clean Church 5  <b>6p</b> BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	<b>6a</b> Clean Church 12
F	6	13
S	7	14

	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	17	2	8			

M=Members      V=Visitors

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON [In unison; from 2 Corinthians 5:17]**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; A new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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

**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Bless us, O God, with ears to hear your truth, vision to discern your path, and feet ready to move into action, responding to your call. Inspire us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)**

Old Testament Lesson: Psalm 119:105-112

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:37-39

Epistle Lesson: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

**SERMON** "There's Something about the Bible" Rev. John Scholer

**\*REFLECTIVE HYMN #503 "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation"**

**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: Savior God, you are the bread of life, and we are a hungry people. On this World Communion Sunday, we gather with our global siblings, remembering our Christian community. As your bread is broken and your cup is shared, we remember the people of the world who are suffering and struggling, those in need of your love and grace, and the planet entrusted to our care. As we participate in your kingdom feast, we praise you for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Incline your ear to us, Holy God, as we raise our prayers for our planet and the world's people.

**All: Savior God, hear our prayers.**

One: For nations at war and their citizens, we pray for peace. No one wins in a world addicted to domination and violence. Help us see the error of our violent ways. Help us chart a new course and build a more just society that prioritizes the welfare of all your people.

**All: Savior God, hear our prayers.**

One: For our earth, our partner in service and our home, we pray for renewal. As our planet warms, our climate changes, and natural disasters wreak havoc on all of life, help us value our natural resources and treat them with respect. May the urgency of the earth's need galvanize us into action

**All: Savior God, hear our prayers.**

One: For developing countries in Africa, Asia, and South America, we pray for opportunity, for economic security, for education and healthcare. May the poor be embraced and poverty eradicated. May all lives be regarded with the love and respect your children deserve.

**All: Savior God, hear our prayers.**

One: Ground us in your good news, O God, and hearten us with your hope-filled promise of redemption through Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the ways you are active and at work in our world and we revel in your presence. Keep us steady on Christ's path, following his teachings, and loving as he loved. Finally, hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: "**Our Father...**"

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE [Refer to insert]**

**\*DEPARTING HYMN #542 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"**

**\*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]**

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. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. 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 by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott., Editor, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, and provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Lord's Table *[Minister]*

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Minister: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.**

### Words of Institution

Minister: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread ... *[Minister continues with words of institution from 1 Cor. 11:23-26 or Gospel parallels.]* The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Communion of The People at the Lord's Table** *[The elements are distributed in the manner most suitable. After the last person is served, the Minister continues:]*

### Prayer of Gratitude

Minister: Let us give thanks together:

**All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.**

*Adapted from The PC (USA) Common Worship Book and The Iona Abbey Worship Book*