

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Marvin Daniel back to our pulpit today!

Guest Preachers & Announcers

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

October 8: Rev. Kenneth Stith, Sr.; 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

Guest preacher for next Sunday, (Nov. 5): Rev. John Scholer.

IT'S HERE! Copies of the new Directory are available in the Narthex.

Be sure to pick up your copy!

A Called Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, November 12 in the Sanctuary, and will follow immediately after the worship service. The purpose of the Called Meeting is to elect officers for 2024: Class of 2026 Elders and one Trustee. 10/29, 11/5

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

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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*

"REFORMATION SUNDAY"

OCTOBER 29, 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 Walker

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Marvin Daniel
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading; based on Psalm 1*]

One: Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.

All: Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

One: May we be like trees planted by streams of God's living water.

All: May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor.

***OPENING HYMN #787 "God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

Sin betrays us and our God. Repentance redeems and restores.

Let us confess our sins together.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

CONFESSION OF SIN [*In unison*]

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Too often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us and return us to your way of righteousness. Amen.

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

First-responders, world-wide
Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence
Families impacted by the October 2023 Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Gaza Strip
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)
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)
Shirley MacNeill (health issues; Parham Doctor's Hosp., Rm. 215)
Family/friends of Hannah Vaughn, K. V. Butler's granddaughter (d. 10/4)
Family/friends of Alan Sheffield Foster (d. 10/10)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	OCTOBER 29	NOVEMBER 5
S	22nd Sunday after Pentecost "Reformation Sunday" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ <i>Local Emergency Aid Offering</i> Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	23rd Sunday after Pentecost 2a End Daylight Saving Time 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer
M	30	6
T	Hallowe'en 31	Election Day 7 7p Facilities Cmte
W	NOVEMBER 1	8
	All Saints Day	7p Faith Cmte
T	All Souls Day 2 6a Clean Church	9
F	3	10
S	4	Veterans Day 11

ATTENDANCE	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
October 1, 2023	19	5	6	
October 8, 2023	21	5	9	
October 15, 2023	27	5	8	
October 22, 2023	21	6	8	
October 29, 2023				

M=Members V=Visitors

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive; 2 Corinthians 5:17]

One: 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.

All: To God be the glory! Alleluia! Amen.

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

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

Lord, in the stories of your Scripture, give us truth to cling to; help us hear your still, small voice. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

1st Scripture Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Rev. Marvin Daniel
 Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:34-46 Susan Shockley
 2nd Scripture Lesson: Psalm 90: 1-6;13-17 Rev. Marvin Daniel

SERMON "Surprise Us With Love " Rev. Marvin Daniel

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

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]

God loves us and blesses us with abundance. God also calls us to love others and be generous with all we have been given. 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, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully entrust these gifts to your care and Christ's ministry. May these gifts reflect our love for our neighbors in need; blessing others As we have been blessed. Amen.

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

One: God of history, you know our story better than we know ourselves. You are the Alpha and the Omega, with us from the beginning, with us until the end. Your steadfast love is our ever-present help and hope. We praise you for your faithfulness. Despite our wanderings and failures, you have not abandoned us. We are your people. You are our God. Hear our prayers of gratitude.

All: Lord, in your infinite mercy, hear our prayers.

One: God of redemption, you call us to repent from the sins we have committed and the harms we've perpetuated. You call us to learn from past mistakes and seek your path of reconciliation. Yet we are a stubborn and wayward people. God, grant us the courage for reckoning with our past, so we can reconcile and redeem our present, and build a better future with you.

All: Lord, in your infinite mercy, hear our prayers.

One: God of the powerful and privileged, we scream in frustration over "politics as usual" and national leaders who squander opportunities for civil dialogue and real change. We lament the problems of our world that feel utterly insurmountable. Yet, we are not without resources. You have blessed us with gifted leaders and voices of reason. Call them to service. Grant them the platform and the votes they need to make a difference.

All: Lord, in your infinite mercy, hear our prayers.

One: God of creation, stoke the fires of urgency in pursuing justice for Our planet. Help us change our consumeristic ways, adapt to healthier planet habits, and treat nature with the care and respect she deserves.

All: Lord, in your infinite mercy, hear our prayers.

One: God of our Savior, you command us to love our neighbor as we Love ourselves. As Christ's disciples, help us follow his way of love, truth, and justice. As Christ's body, may the world know your love through us — what we do, who we are, how we pray. Finally, hear us as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying: **"Our Father"**

***DEPARTING HYMN #664 "Morning Has Broken"**

***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]**

We do not leave this sanctuary and leave God behind. God's law is clear. We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. May this commandment be ever before us; guiding us, inspiring us, enabling us to be Christ's body — his hands, his feet, his heart — in this, God's world.

May the grace, hope, peace, and love of God our Creator, Redeemer, And Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE