

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

THE POWER OF A THANKFUL HEART

**"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Giving thanks isn't always easy, but is the very thing we must do in order to see God's will accomplished in our lives. This is how we move into higher realms of faith for ourselves, for our city, and for our nation.

Thanksgiving has great power to bring joy and break the power of the enemy. Whenever you give thanks to God, despite the most difficult circumstances, the enemy loses a big battle in your life. When you give thanks in the midst of difficulty, you bring pleasure to God's heart. He is looking for Christians who live in a realm of praise and thanksgiving where the enemy no longer has an ability to hold or manipulate that person.

Are you thankful for your present circumstances? Are you thankful for your salvation, your friendships, and your job? Thankfulness is a key to your life. It is the key that turns your situation around because it changes you, your outlook, and your attitude. There is great power in a thankful heart.

Thanksgiving Brings Contentment. Begin to thank God for all the blessings he has given you instead of dwelling on the negative. Discontent dries up the soul. '

"Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment..." ~ 1 Timothy 6:6

Look at the example of Jesus. He followed the will of His Father to the very end. He obeyed without complaint. In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul says that we should have the same attitude. Jesus made himself nothing and took on the very nature of a servant. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death. An attitude of thankfulness and humility shows we accept God's will for our lives.

Offer God a Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving. The Duke of Wellington was a great British military leader who regretted not learning the secret of giving praise during his lifetime. He had great accomplishments, even defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. A brilliant, yet demanding person, he realized as he grew older that

there were areas in his life that needed to change. In his old age he was asked this question, "What would you do differently if you had your life to live over again?" He thought carefully and said, "I would give more praise." This is a lesson for all of us: If we would learn to be a people of praise and thanksgiving all the days of our lives, it would be a great accomplishment.

As David said "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord." ~ Psalm 116:17

We can each seek to grow an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving, rising to a new level of holiness in our lives by practicing these 3 ways to show thankfulness:

Thank and praise God for everything in your life. Thank Him for everything---even the difficulties. It is a sacrifice to do this, but God can turn troubles to triumph.

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise -- the fruit of lips that confess his name" ~ Hebrews 13:15

Don't allow yourself to complain about anything. During even the difficult times, be very careful to watch your tongue. Instead of complaining, think of ways you can verbally offer God the sacrifice of your thanksgiving.

Don't compare yourself with others. Don't wish that your life was different. God knows what is best for you.

The Bible says that having a thankful heart is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **When we begin to thank God for what we have, rather than comparing ourselves to others, it opens the door to us to receive God's blessings!**

Source: Adapted from "Thanksgiving - The Power of a Thankful Heart", by Debbie Przybylski, *Intercessions Arise*, <https://Crosswalk.com/thanksgiving/.html>

To share an article in THE HERALD, please email it to: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office door mailbox.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER, 2023

Sunday, 5 November, 2023

“23rd Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer

Sunday, 12 November, 2023

“24th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips

Sunday, 19 November, 2023

“25th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 26 November, 2023

“Christ the King”/“Reign of Christ” – Liturgical Color: White
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 affected by weather disasters & gun violence
Families, persons, communities affected by Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza
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, Dianna L. 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, kidney stones)
Billy Robertson (health issue)
Shirley McNeill (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)
Grace Cibula (recovering at home, health issues)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca (dentist, ret.), Lykins' family friend (recovering from injuries from a fall)
Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L. Flaherty (injured, motor vehicle accident)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy is a resident in 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 Alan Sheffield Foster (d. 10/10)

“Before you speak, it is necessary for you to listen, for God speaks in the silence of the heart.” ~ Mother Teresa

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, December 3 1st Sunday of Advent**). 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

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| November 5 | Donald Hunter |
| November 12 | Patsy Johnson |
| November 19 | Sandy Hunter |
| November 26 | Larry Johnson |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Called Congregational Meeting . There will be a Called Congregational Meeting immediately after worship service on Sunday, Nov. 12 for the purpose of electing officers for 2023: Elders (Class of 2026 & one elder to serve remaining time term ending December 31, 2024; and Trustee.

Stated Session Meeting –There will be a Stated Session Meeting immediately after worship service on Sunday, November 19 , Rev. Marvin Daniel, Moderator.

“Cookies ‘n’ Cocoa!” will be hosted by the Faith Committee at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2 in the church Fellowship Hall after the Prince George County Christmas Parade, serving pre-packaged cookies and cocoa that Lisa Brown will shop for. Monetary donations are sought for purchase of the items. Please see Lisa Brown (804.926.0991) or Patsy Johnson (804.691-2455).

TO FEED THE SOUL

A Day for Thanksgiving

"To all ye Pilgrims:

In as much as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, peas, beans, squashes, and garden vegetable, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the ravages of the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience;

Now I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with ye wives and ye little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November ye 29th, of the year of our Lord, one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings. William Bradford, Ye Governor of Ye Colony."

-- *William Bradford (1590-1657)*
Pilgrim father & second
Governor of Plymouth Colony.

Days of thanksgiving were celebrated sporadically until President George Washington proclaimed a nationwide day of thanksgiving on November 26, 1789. He made it clear that the day should be dedicated to prayer and giving our thanks to God.



Due credit for finally establishing Thanksgiving Day as a lasting national holiday goes to Sarah J. Hale, editor and founder of the Ladies' Magazine. Her editorials and letters to President Abraham Lincoln resulted in Lincoln's proclamation, in 1863, designating the last Thursday in November as a national holiday of thanksgiving. Later, in 1941, Congress adopted a joint resolution setting the date on the fourth Thursday of November.

For 400 years, and with few exceptions, we have observed a day of "thanksgiving." But what does it really mean to us?

Do we truly show our gratitude to God for His bountiful blessings, or are these blessings merely something we've come to take for granted?

Thankfulness in Worship

"Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it."

-- *A.W. Tozer (1897-1963)*
Christian author & church
pastor in America & Canada

"The Lord has given us a table at which to feast, not an altar on which a victim is to be offered; He has not consecrated priests to make sacrifice, but servants to distribute the sacred feast."

-- *John Calvin (1509-1564)*
French theologian &
major church reformer.

Thankfulness of Heart & Mind

"Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow."

-- *Henry Ward Beecher*
(1813-1887) American
minister & reformer.

"The Christian who walks with the Lord and keeps constant communion with Him will see many reason for rejoicing and thanksgiving all day long."

-- *Warren Wiersbe, American*
pastor & Bible theologian.

"The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings!"

-- *Henry Ward Beecher*
(1813-1887) American
minister & reformer.

Thankfulness in Prayer

"Let us thank God heartily as often as we pray that we have His Spirit in us to teach us to pray. Thanksgiving will draw our hearts out to God and keep us engaged with Him; it will take our attention from ourselves and give the Spirit room in our hearts."

-- *Andrew Murray*
(1828-1917) South
African born missionary
& minister.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Source: <https://www.ucg.org/the-good-news/thanksgiving-a-timeless-lesson>

NOVEMBER, 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <p><i>Christmas Poinsettias may be ordered Nov. 12 - Dec.5 using order forms included in the Sunday bulletins.</i></p> | | | <p>1 ALL SAINTS DAY 6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>2 ALL SOULS DAY 6a Clean Church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. John Scholer</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7 Election Day  7p Facilities Cmte</p> | <p>8 7p Faith Cmte</p> | <p>9 6a Clean Church</p> | <p>10 Veterans Day (observed)</p> | <p>11 Veterans Day </p> |
| <p>12 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips 12p Called Cong. Mtg. (Election of officers) Moderator: Rev. Philips <u>Order Poinsettias</u></p> | <p>13 6p BSA Crater Karakona Ch 19 Nawakwa Lge 3 Order of Arrow Dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>14 1p Circle (Location: S.Hunter) 7p Finance Cmte</p> | <p>15</p> | <p>16 6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter articles due 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ 5C Meal Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p St. Session Meeting Moderator: Rev. Daniel 6p Ecumenical Thanksgv Service - Sacred Heart Cath Ch, New Bohemia (Reception to follow) <u>Order Poinsettias</u></p> | <p>20 Church Office Open</p> | <p>21 Church Office Open 6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting /Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>22 Church Office Open 2p Newsletter out</p> | <p>23 Thanksgiving Day 6a Clean Church</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26 Christ the King/ Reign of Christ 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ Local Emerg. Aid Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel <u>Order Poinsettias</u></p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Rm.)</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30 2p Cmte reports due</p> | | |

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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Prince George, VA 23875-0182

STAMP

NOVEMBER 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)