

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Guest Preachers & Announcers

November 5: Rev. John Scholer; D. Hunter, Announcer

November 12: Rev. Charles Philips; P. Johnson, Announcer

November 19: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Hunter, Announcer

November 26: Rev. Marvin Daniel; L. Johnson, Announcer

Stated Session Meeting – after worship service today (12 p.m. est.) and will include examination of new Elders.

Invitation to Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dinner – Tonight at Church of the Sacred Heart (New Bohemia) at 6 p.m. Dinner (Lasagna & salad) will follow the service. Reservation not required.

Christmas Poinsettias – Cost: \$15 includes delivery; use order forms in Sunday bulletins and on Narthex table. Please make your checks payable to “Gregory Memorial.” Deadline is Dec. 3.

The Adult Sunday School class invites everyone to join them for their special Christmas lessons entitled “Who Needs Christmas” by Andy Stanley. The 4 thought-provoking sessions consist of a 15-minute DVD presentation presented by Pastor Stanley followed by discussion. These lessons will begin Sunday, November 26, 2023. Sunday School starts at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

Faith Committee is accepting monetary donations to cover cost of cookies and cocoa for the Christmas “Open House” in the Fellowship Hall following the PG Christmas parade on Dec 2, 2023. If you would like to contribute, please give your donation to Sandy Hunter, Patsy Johnson or Mary Holc.

Angel Tree - Our church will be sponsoring a family for Christmas. The Angel Tree will be in the Narthex beginning Sunday, November 26. Please take an item(s) off the tree and return it by Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Christmas Cards Box - Everyone will have the opportunity to share the joy of Christmas thru giving of Christmas cards to one another while saving on postage. Bring your cards to church beginning Sunday, December 3. Cards will be distributed on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

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. Carol Holbrook Prickett of Crescent Springs Presbyterian Church, KY, provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 The Presbyterian Outlook.

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*

**NOVEMBER 19, 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** Sandy Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Marvin Daniel
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading*]

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place;

All: we come today to rest in you.

One: You have been the voice that guides us;

All: we come today to listen.

One: You have been the host who feeds us;

All: we come today to be filled.

One: You have been our joy and crown;

All: we come today to sing your praise!

***OPENING HYMN #725 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know that our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide and too deep to undo. We also know that you can lift that weight from us and transform our lives. So we lift our prayer of confession to you:

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

***Please stand, as able.**

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

First-responders, world-wide
Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence
All families affected by the October 2023 Israeli-Hamas War in Gaza
People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war
Those in our community suffering from illness/loss/grief/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.), Lykins family friend
(recovering from a fall)
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 (on-going health issue)
Judy Recher (health issue)
Shirley MacNeill (health issues; recovering at home)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	NOVEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 26
S	25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Meeting & Examination of elected Elders Moderator: Rev. Daniel 6p Ecumenical Thanksgiving service @ Church of Sacred Heart, dinner (Lasagna & Salad) after service <i>Order Christmas Poinsettias</i>	Christ the King/Reign of Christ 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ 5 cents Meal Offering Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel <i>Order Christmas Poinsettias</i>
M	9a Church Office Open 20	27
T	9a Church Office Open 21	28
	6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	
W	9a Church Office Open 22	29
	2p Newsletter out	
T	Thanksgiving 23	6a Clean Church 30
	6a Clean Church	2p Cmte reports due
F	24	DECEMBER 1
		1p Worship Cmte-decorate church
S	25	2:30p Volunteers arrive to set up for "Cookies 'n' Cocoa" Christmas Open House in Fellowship Hall for after PG Christmas Parade at 3p.m. 2

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V	M	V
November 5, 2023	24	5	10	2		
November 12, 2023	12	7	8			
November 19, 2023						
November 26, 2023						

M=Members V=Visitors

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

CONFESSION OF SIN [In unison]

Merciful God, we confess that once again, we have done what is evil in your sight. We've made mistakes. We've made missteps. We have hurt people, by action and inaction. We have wounded creation, by action and inaction. We have chosen our ways over yours, by action and inaction. And if the sum total of what we have done and what we have not done adds up to evil in your sight, then in your sight we ask you to turn us towards goodness. Forgive our past, and shape our future that we might build your kingdom here. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]

One: Hear the good news! Who is our God?

All: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

All: We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. Alleluia! Amen.

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

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

Holy Spirit, your wisdom guides us deep into the mystery of your truth. Speak to us today, that we might understand your will and walk in your ways. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

Old Testament: Judges 4:1-7 p. 191-192

Psalm 123 p. 498 Reader: S. Hunter

New Testament: Matthew 25: 14-30 p. 807

SERMON "Use It or Lose It" Rev. Marvin Daniel

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #265 "Jesus Shall Reign Where're the Sun"**

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]

When we give, we combat the lie that we do not matter in this world. So as we enter a time of giving, I invite you to reflect on how your life, your skills, your time, and your money matters to this congregation and to God's mission in the world.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

Generous God, with Thanksgiving quickly approaching, we are reminded to give you thanks for the ministries of this congregation which you have entrusted us with. We are honored by the opportunity to be your holy body here. Bless these offerings, however they are given that our efforts may be ever more worthy of your name. Amen.

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

One: As children of our heavenly creator, let us bring our prayers to God. We pray with gratitude for the environment, for the sun that shines and rain that falls. Give us grace to show love to creation, not harvesting right up to the edge but leaving enough for the earth to renew itself.

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

One: We pray with gratitude for the church, for your holy community. Give us grace to take you seriously, and ourselves less so, making our faith communities places of radical welcome.

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

One: We pray with gratitude for our country, for the rights, freedoms and services we enjoy. Give us grace to work to make this nation like your holy kingdom: a place that turns to peaceful resistance and not revenge that makes sure there is enough for the poor and immigrant that treats all equally regardless of wealth or status.

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

One: We pray with gratitude for our communities: for schools, hospitals, libraries, grocery stores, mechanic shops, that we live in a place where we can get what we need, and often what we only want. Give us grace to build our community, to give back with our time, talent and treasure. To love our neighbors in real, concrete ways.

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

One: We pray with gratitude for those closest to us — friends, family, all we know best and love dearly. Give us grace to care for them and to receive their care.

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

One: And finally, we pray for ourselves, grateful that you have loved us from the first, guided us in your own ways, and forgiven us continually when we fall short. Give us grace for the week ahead, that we might turn away from hatred and anger and every kind of everyday carelessness, and turn our hearts entirely to you. And now we pray as Jesus taught us, saying: **"Our Father"**

***DEPARTING HYMN #268 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

***CHARGE & BLESSING [Pastor]**

Friends, go in peace, and be peace. Go in hope, and be hope. Go in faith, and be faithful.

And as you go, may the grace of God cover you, the love of Christ shine within you, and the Spirit's courage propel you forward, this day and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE