

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. John Scholer 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

Christmas Poinsettias – Order forms for Christmas Poinsettias will be in the Sunday bulletins for the next 4 Sundays. Last day to order is December 3.

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 (3), an Elder to fill term expiring on December 31, 2024, and a 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.

Resource: Liturgy by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor and Publisher of The Presbyterian Outlook, and provided for distribution to congregations freely for worship use; © 2023 The Presbyterian Outlook.

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

NOVEMBER 5, 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** Donald Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. John Scholer
Guest Preacher

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

One: Come, all who are weary from the past week and in need of inspiration for the week ahead.

All: We come seeking rest and comfort, seeking God's truth, word and worship that will set us on the faithful path.

One: Come, all who are humble, open, and ready to learn.

All: We come as God's students, ready to listen and learn.

***OPENING HYMN #625 "O Lord, My God ("How Great Thou Art")"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

Confession requires a humble heart. Let us bow before our God to honestly confess our sins.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

CONFESSION OF SIN [*In unison*]

God our teacher, we often exalt ourselves while evaluating and judging others. You call us to humility, yet we resist, puffing ourselves up with prideful arrogance and rigid certainty. Forgive us, soften our hearts and open our minds to all we have yet to learn. Amen.

***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-Palestinian conflict in Gaza Strip
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.), 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 (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 5	NOVEMBER 12
S	23rd Sunday after Pentecost 2a End Daylight Saving Time 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. John Scholer	24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips 12p Called Congregational Meeting (Elect officers for 2024) Moderator: Rev. Philips
M	6	13
		6p BSA Crater Karakona Ch. 19 Order of Arrow dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)
T	7	14
	Election Day 7p Facilities Cmte	1p Circle meeting @ S. Hunter's 7p Finance Cmte
W	8	15
	7p Faith Cmte	
T	9	16
	6a Clean Church 2p Newsletter articles due 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	
F	10	17
	Veterans Day (observed)	
S	11	18
	Veterans Day	

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	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	23	4	11			

M=Members V=Visitors

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor; Isaiah 6:7]

“Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

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

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

You call us through your Word read and proclaimed, Holy God. May our eyes be opened and our hearts willing to follow wherever your Spirit leads. Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

New Testament: Ephesians 2:4-10 p. 950
 Old Testament: Psalm 136 p. 501-502

SERMON “Some Things Are Worth Repeating” Rev. John Scholer

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #313 “Lord, Make Us More Holy”**

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]

Friends, out of the abundance we have been given, let us humbly present our tithes and offerings to our God.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

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

God, you call us to Christ's mission and ministry. Bless these gifts that they might spread the hope of your good news, feed the hungry, shelter the poor, comfort the suffering, and free the captives. Bless us, also, so that our lives conform to radical love and faithful humility. Amen.

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

One: Eternal God, We gather as Christians, who love each other and love this world. Our hearts are burdened by the violence we witness in nations far away and in neighborhoods close to home. We grieve when your people suffer, and your peaceable kingdom seems like an impossible dream. It's just too much, at times, O God. We'd much rather keep our heads down and push on, pretending that all is okay.

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

One: Holy Father, You know our history of complicated conflicts, yet we know you grieve the violence of war and condemn abhorrent acts of terrorism. As war rages in the Holy Land, we know you grieve the historical suffering of Jews and Palestinians. God, we also groan in grief over the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. Pave a path toward peace in all wars happening across the globe. Protect the innocent wherever bombs of destruction fall.

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 grace, even as wars rage, there is suffering close to home, as well. We pray for the sick, the exhausted, the depressed, the grief-stricken who we count among our friends and family. We pray for the poor, the marginalized, the angry and overlooked.

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

One: Holy One, in a world so broken and in need of love, you do not leave us without hope. You are at work in our world making all things new. God our savior, we place our trust in this hopeful promise, even as we live, trying our faithful best to be Christ's body— sharing your love with others. Now, as people of the church and the body of Christ, hear us as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught us: "**Our Father ...**"

***DEPARTING HYMN #306 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"**

***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 God behind when we leave this sanctuary. God's call to love, to humility, to work and service that benefit all, is clear. May this call be ever before 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