

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Rev. Charles Philips 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

Called Congregation Meeting today after worship service - Election of 3 Elders (Class of 2026), 1 Elder (Class of 2024) and 1 Trustee (Class of 2026).

Invitation to Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service & Dinner – Church of the Sacred Heart (New Bohemia) is hosting the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service on Sunday, November 19. Service begins at 6 p.m. Dinner (Lasagna & salad) will follow the service. *Reservation not required.*

Christmas Poinsettias – Cost: \$15 includes delivery; 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 now meets in the upstairs Parlor. The 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.

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

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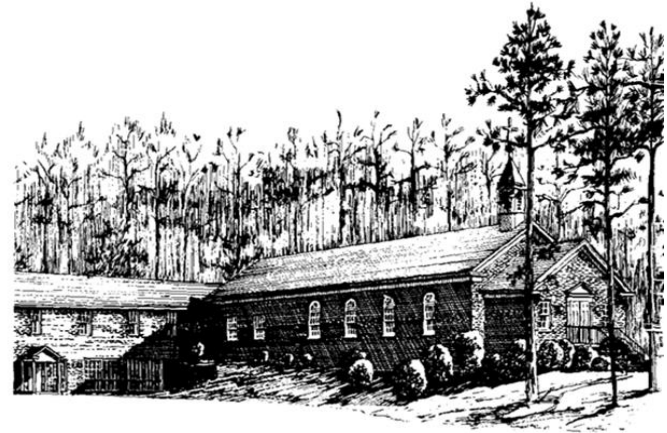
Resource: Hymns and “Apostle’s Creed”, Glory To God, The Presbyterian Hymnal, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, p. 35.

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

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Telephone: 804.732.1081 - Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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 12, 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** Patsy Johnson

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Charles Philips
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading; Psalm 78:1-7*]

One: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

All: **We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that he has done.**

One: The Lord established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

All: **So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep God's commandments.**

***OPENING HYMN #336 "We Gather Together"**

*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 - injuries 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 12	NOVEMBER 19
S	24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Philips 12p Called Cong. Meeting (Election of 3 Elders (Class of 2026), 1 Elder (Class of 2024) & 1 Trustee (Class of 2026) Moderator: Rev. Philips Order Christmas Poinsettias	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 Order Christmas Poinsettias
M	6p BSA Crater Karakona Ch. 19 Order of Arrow dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall Reception Area Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm) 13	9a <u>Church Office Open</u> 20
T	1p Circle meeting (Location: S. Hunter) 14 7p Finance Cmte	9a <u>Church Office Open</u> 21 6p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)
W	15	9a <u>Church Office Open</u> 22 2p Newsletter out
T	6a Clean Church 16 2p Newsletter articles due 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/Dining Rm)	Thanksgiving 23 6a Clean Church
F	17	24
S	18	25

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

M=Members V=Visitors

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

As far as the east is from the west, so far does God remove our transgressions from us, says the psalmist. With the assurance of God's healing mercies in our lives, we need not fear confession, but instead come with honesty, seeking wholeness in our own lives, and in the lives of those we may have injured. Let us confess to God those aspects of our lives in need of God's grace, first in unison, and then in silence. Amen.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

CONFESSION OF SIN [In unison]

Holy God, your way for us is clear: We are to live so that the manner of our lives speaks of your goodness, your generosity, your infinite mercy. Too often, though, we forget the purposes for which you made us. Too often, when we might meet inhumanity with the reflection of your goodness, we turn aside. We return unkindness for unkindness. We cling to what might be shared. We avoid those who are not like us. We fail to give grace in the measure we have received it. Forgive us, we pray. Remind us that your goodness is enduring, and your mercy is everlasting, for we pray all these things in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor; Ephesians 2:8-10]

One: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing:

All: It is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one might boast.

One: For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

All: Believe the promise of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

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

Let your Word dwell within us richly, O Lord. Let your truth ring as a clarion through the chatter around us. Hold us in this time, that your wisdom may shape us to the depth of our humanity, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

SCRIPTURE (HOLY BIBLE, NRSV Trans.)

Old Testament: Unison reading of Psalm 100, "A Psalm of thanksgiving."

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-17 p. 878 Reader: P. Johnson

New Testament: Philippians 3:4-16 p.954-955 Rev. Charles Philips

SERMON "Joy in Believing" Rev. Charles Philips

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #462 "I Love to Tell the Story"**

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]

The abundance of God's providing is evident: This world brims with goodness, amply offered that our needs may be met. In recognition of what God has provided us, let us worship God with our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

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

Holy God, you have given us what we need, indeed you have given us more than we need. Accept this portion that we dedicate to your work. Grant that we might be blessed in turn as we see your reign at work in the world and in ourselves. Amen.

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

One: Eternal God, from age to age, you have made yourself known to us. You have reached out to us so often, so persistently, we know of your love as your beloved children, held close.

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

One: Holy Father, we pray to you this morning with our concerns. For World affairs beyond our control, we pray for your mercy. Keep us mindful of the people of Ukraine, who continue to endure grinding war. For the people of Israel and Gaza, we pray for peace, knowing that you alone are the source of shalom, peaceable kingdom. For those in harm's way, we pray for protection. We pray awareness and grace for ourselves that we may learn forgiveness in the face of prejudice. Teach us how we may serve you more fully.

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

One: Holy One, We pray as well for ourselves. Where our members suffer from illness and affliction, grant your healing touch, bringing wholeness. For those suffering from mental and emotional illness, or addiction, give us understanding and compassion. For the lonely, may we be a place of friendship, a warm haven where love is shared. We make these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together saying, "**Our Father**"

***DEPARTING HYMN #263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"**

***CHARGE & BLESSING [Pastor]**

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the light of God's countenance shine upon you and give you peace, this day and forevermore, Amen.

POSTLUDE