

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

December's Guest Preachers:

December 3: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Holy Communion; R. Scott, Announcer
December 10: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Shockley, Announcer
December 17: No church at Gregory Memorial; (Announcer queue stays same)
December 24: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell; P. Johnson, Announcer
December 31: Rev. Charles Philips; S. Hunter, Announcer

Christmas Poinsettias - Today is the last day to submit your poinsettia order.

Circle will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12; Location: Susan Shockley's.

Angel Tree – Next Sunday (Dec. 10) is last day to bring your not-wrapped gifts.

Christmas Cards - Save postage: place Christmas Cards to your Gregory friends in the Christmas Card Box in the Narthex! **They** will be given out on Sunday, Dec. 10.

No church services at Gregory Memorial on Sunday, Dec. 17. Our congregation has been invited to hear Trinity UMC 's (10021 County Drive, Disputanta) Christmas Cantata during their worship service that begins at 11:15 a.m.

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Resource: Hymns from GLORY TO GOD, THE PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

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

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 Rollings
Treasurer: Susan Shockley Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

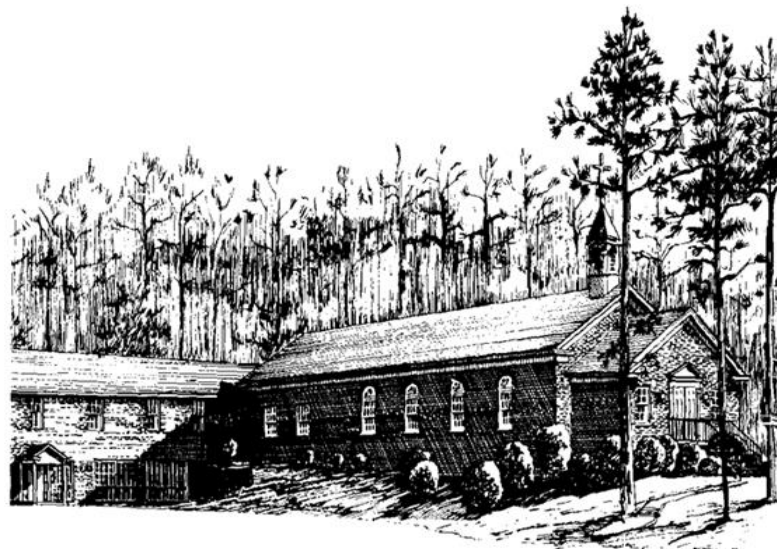
*(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)*

Lisa Brown (2023); Donald Hunter (2023); William Shill* (2023)
Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)
Rose Scott (2024); _____* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)
Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session - 2023)

Trustees

Gail Rollings (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**

"1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

DECEMBER 3, 2023

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

DECEMBER 3, 2023

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS /
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS**

Rose Scott

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Marvin Daniel
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [Responsive]

One: Christ is coming!

All: We will keep awake!

One: Christ is coming!

All: We will be ready!

One: Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of
the earth.

All: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

***Candle Lighter:** We light this candle as a symbol of the hope we have in
the promise of the Lord's coming.*

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

*** OPENING HYMN #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

**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-Gaza Strip war

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)

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 fall injury)

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; Parham Doctor's Hosp., Rm. 215)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER	3	10	
S	1st Sunday of Advent: "Hope"		2nd Sunday of Advent: "Peace"	
	9:30a Sunday School		9:30a Sunday School	
	11a Worship Service & Holy Communion		11a Worship Service	
	Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel		Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	
	Last day to order your Christmas Poinsettias!		Christmas Card distribution	
			Last day to bring not-wrapped Angel Tree gifts	
	M	11a Deadline to place poinsettia order with florist	4	6p BSA Crater Order of Arrow Karakona Ch19, Nawakwa Lodge 3 (Fellowship Hall, multiple rooms)
	T		5	12p Circle (Location: S. Shockley's) 7p Finance Cmte
W	7p Faith Cmte	6		
T	6a Clean Church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall , multiple rooms)	7	6a Clean Church	
F		8		
S		9		

ATTENDANCE:	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
November 5, 2023	24	5	10	2
November 12, 2023	12	7	8	
November 19, 2023	27	10	12	2
November 26, 2023	24	8	14	

M=Members V=Visitors

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our Addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace during our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer of confession.)

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

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. Amen.

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

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

Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS [NRSV]

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 p. 606 Reader: R. Scott
New Testament Lesson: Mark 13: 24-37 p. 826

SERMON "Watch!" Rev. Marvin Daniel

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN #321 "The Church's One Foundation"**

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; 2 Peter 3:8-15]

"All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation." Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER [Pastor; responsive]

One: Christ is coming. He is coming to make all things new. Eternal God, during this season of Advent, help us prepare Christ's way, help us center our hearts, minds, and prayers on your holy presence in our midst.

All: God of our salvation, hear our prayers.

One: As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and for rest. For those of us who know warm homes and soft places to sleep, we give thanks for these precious gifts. We pray for those who are unhoused, or those whose home is unsafe or financially insecure. May all your children get the rest they need to thrive.

All: God of our salvation, hear our prayers.

One: As divisiveness and conflict plague us and wars rage across the world, Holy God, we focus on the generosity, kindness and care you encourage within us. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world, let us drop our facades and the masks of strength we hide behind. May this season of Advent prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love.

All: God of our salvation, hear our prayers.

One: As a people of faith, we lift these prayers to you, trusting that you hear us and receive us. Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together, "**Our Father**"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE [Please refer to Insert]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION [In unison]

God of our Salvation, you straighten the winding of our hearts and smooth the paths made rough by sin. Keep our hearts watchful in holiness, and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us. You renew us at the table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

***DEPARTING HYMN #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" V. 1 & 7**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

We do not leave this sanctuary and leave God behind. God's call to prepare our hearts, our minds, our communities and our world for the coming Christ, is clear.

May this call 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**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table *[Minister]*

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: Let us pray.

All: Loving God, through your goodness, we have this bread and cup to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we know your touch in all bread, all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. Amen.

Words of Institution

Minister: Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread ... *[Minister continues with words of institution from 1 Cor. 11:23-26 or Gospel parallels.]* The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion of The People at the Lord's Table *[The elements are distributed in the manner most suitable. After the last person is served, the Minister continues:]*

Prayer of Gratitude

Minister: Let us give thanks together:

All: We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us, and we come close to Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, on earth and in your heavenly host, with brothers and sisters around the world, we join in the song of your unending greatness. Amen.

Adapted from The PC (USA) Common Worship Book and The Iona Abbey Worship Book