

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 today.

December 24: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell; P. Johnson, Announcer

December 31: Rev. Charles Philips; S. Hunter, Announcer

Service of Installation will be held today during worship service. Elders to be installed include: Blake Bishop (Class of 2024); Mary Holc, Sandy Hunter, and William Shill (Class of 2026). We welcome them back onto the Session!

Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 12; Location: Susan Shockley's.

Finance Committee - No meeting in December. Next meeting: Jan. 9.

Christmas Cards - Distributed today.

Angel Tree – Today is the last day to bring your Angel Tree gifts.

Christmas Joy Offering – Please refer to the enclosed brochures explaining how the funds received from this seasonal offering will be purposed. Offering envelopes will be provided in the December 24 worship service bulletin.

DIRECTORY OMISSION: Contact info for Sandra & Charlie Perkins! Please pick up a *peel-and-stick address label* with their info on it from the Narthex table to stick on Page 5 of your Directory!

Resource: THE 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 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

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**

"2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT"

DECEMBER 10, 2023

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

DECEMBER 10, 2023

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Rollings, Pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS Susan Shockley

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Marvin Daniel
Guest Preacher

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP David Johnson

CALL TO WORSHIP *[Pastor; responsive; Isaiah 40:1-5]*

One: Comfort, O comfort my people!

All: We welcome God’s tender words to us today.

One: Prepare the way for your God!

All: **We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ’s coming.**

One: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

All: Thanks be to God for this good news!

Candle Lighter: *We light this candle as a symbol of the peace of heart only God can bring.* Brown Family

All: **Come, Lord Jesus, come!**

***OPENING HYMN #83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

CALL TO CONFESSION *[Pastor]*

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

****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; recovering at home)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	DECEMBER 10	17
S	2nd Sunday of Advent: "Peace" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Service of Installation Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel Christmas Card distribution Last day to bring your not-wrapped Angel Tree gifts	3rd Sunday of Advent: "Joy" No church at Gregory Memorial 11:15a Our congregation is invited to attend the Cantata Worship Service at Trinity UMC (10021 County Drive in Disputanta)
M	6p BSA Crater Ch19/L3 Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall, multiple rooms)	11 18
T	12p Circle (Location: S. Shockley's)	12 19
W		13 20
T	6a Clean Church	14 21
F		15 22
S		16 23

	ATTENDANCE		WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V	M	V
December 3, 2023	23	3			9	
December 10, 2023						
December 17, 2023	No Church					
December 24, 2023						
December 31, 2023						

M= Members V= Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer of confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor]

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name!

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your way. Clear our minds of holiday distractions and busy tasks. Fill our hearts with the humility we need to hear and receive the message you intend for us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS [NRSV]

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-10 p. 581-582 Reader: S. Shockley
 New Testament: Mark 1:1-8 p. 812

SERMON "Hide-and-Seek" Rev. Marvin Daniel

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; John 1:1-5]

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor]

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ’s mission and ministry. Amen.

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

One: Eternal God, the one who comes, and the one with the power to break through our darkness and despair, the one who risks being born into a broken world, we give you thanks for the hope this Advent provides. Help us repent and return to you to prepare our hearts to receive Christ this Christmas. Help us straighten our paths, fill our valleys, and make our rough places smooth. Help us turn to you in prayer for comfort and strength.

All: Almighty God, who taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere, hear us as we pray now for others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

One: In your mercy, Creator God, hear our prayers for the hurting; for innocent civilians trapped in the horrors of war; for those longing for safety and shelter; for the sick and wounded; for refugees living in exile, for the poor and the oppressed.

All: Almighty God, hear us as we pray now for others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

One: In your mercy, Loving God, hear our prayers for those in our community who are in need of more support; for those who feel alienated or estranged; for those navigating life alone and lonely; for those who feel exhausted and weak; for those who feel overwhelmed and suffer in silence.

All: Almighty God, hear our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

One: In your mercy, Communal God, hear our prayers for our friends and family members; for those who are sick and their caregivers; for those who are grieving and missing loved ones during the holidays; for those who cannot hear the whisper of your angels’ wings amidst the busy chaos of their lives.

All: Almighty God, hear our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ.

One: As the Body of Christ and a community of faith, we lift these prayers up to you, Holy God. Comfort your people. Strengthen us with your love. May our faith build bridges of welcome to all who are wandering this Advent. Hear us now as we pray the prayer Christ taught us saying, “**Our Father...**”

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION OF RULING ELDERS [see Program]

Rev. Marvin Daniel
Officiant

Class of 2024 Elder: Blake Bishop

Class of 2026 Elders: Mary Holc, Sandy Hunter, William Shill

***DEPARTING HYMN #1 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

We do not leave this sanctuary and leave God behind. God’s call is clear. We are to prepare our hearts, minds, communities and world for our Prince of Peace.

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**