

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Charles Philips back to our pulpit today!

December's Guest Preachers:

December 3: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Holy Communion; S. Walker, Announcer
December 10: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, 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

Guest preacher for next Sunday (January 7) is Rev. Marvin Daniel.

"These Days" (Jan.-Mar.) - Copies are available in the Narthex. Pick up your copy for some daily inspirational reading!

Annual Congregation Meeting for 2023 will be held after worship service on Sunday, January 14 (weather-permitting, of course!); if inclement weather, the alternate date is Sunday, January 21

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 Hare
Treasurer: Kevin Foster Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

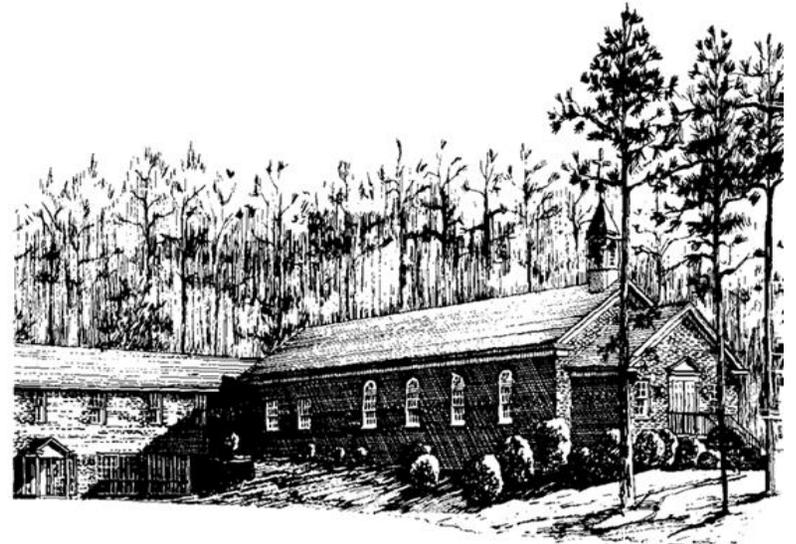
*(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)*

Rose Scott (2024); Blake Bishop* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)
Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)
Mary Holc (2026); Sandy Hunter (2026); William Shill (2026)
Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session) (2024)

Trustees

Donald Hunter (2024); Ron Recher (2025); Gail Hare (2026)

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 CHRISTMAS"

**DECEMBER 31, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS”

DECEMBER 31, 2023

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Charles Philips
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; responsive]

One: The season of Advent continues, as we continue to watch for our Lord.

All: We continue to guard our hearts and minds against idleness and distraction.

One: The Lord is coming to his temple.

All: We watch and wait for his coming.

***OPENING HYMN #134 "Joy to the World"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor; from Matthew 3:2]

In Matthew 3:2, John the Baptist cries, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Let us confess our sins this Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ.

[A time for silent prayer of 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-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

S	1st Sunday of Christmas 31 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips	Baptism of the Lord 7 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel
M	New Year's Day - 2024 1	6p BSA Crater Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms) 8
T	2	1p Circle (Location: G. Cibula's) 9 7p Finance Cmte
W	3	7p Faith Cmte 10
T	6a Clean Church 4 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	6a Clean Church 11
F	5	12
S	Epiphany of the Lord 6 1p Worship Cmte removes Advent/Christmas decor	13

ATTENDANCE:	WORSHIP		SUNDAY SCHOOL	
	M	V	M	V
December 3, 2023	23	3	9	
December 10, 2023	26	6	13	
December 17, 2023	No Church			
December 24, 2023	26	6	12	
December 31, 2023				

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Gracious and loving God, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we look back and recognize the many ways we have fallen short of your glory: Lord, forgive us.

As we look ahead to a new year, free us from thinking we can save ourselves. Help us to follow where you lead. Show us how to be your children and your heirs, forgiven and freed to live for our God and for one another in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer of confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor]

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

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

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

Almighty God, as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, may it not return to you empty. May it accomplish that which you propose. May it succeed in the thing for which you sent it. Open our ears and hearts to your Word that we may live as your children and heirs. Amen.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS [NRSV]

Old Testament: Isaiah 9: 1-7 p. 555 Reader: S. Hunter
 New Testament: Romans 8: 11-17 p. 919
 Gospel Lesson: John 1: 1-12 P. 862

SERMON "Family of God" Rev. Charles Philips

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #630 "FAIREST LORD JESUS"**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison]

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]

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. Let us give thanks to the Lord as we continue our worship and bring our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]

Gracious and giving God, we give thanks to you for you are good. Your steadfast love endures forever. We thank you for the blessings of the past year and for how you have guided us in difficult times. We give thanks that you will stand with us and guide us in the year to come. Bless these offerings that they may be used to your glory and in service to others in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Help us to have grateful hearts and to live as the joyful people of God; through Jesus Christ, the greatest gift of all. Amen.

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

One: Eternal God, in you we live and move and have our being. As you have always guided your people by your grace and mercy, we seek your guidance in the new year. When we worry about life, help us to put our trust in you and strive first for your kingdom and righteousness. In our failures, let us look to you for forgiveness and correction. In our successes, may we give glory to your name rather than brag about our accomplishments.

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

One: God of all wisdom, we often do not pray as we ought. We thank you that your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, for there is much in our world about which to sigh. Lord, in your mercy we pray for peace, for justice, for reconciliation, for healing, for truth, for new hearts, and for clear vision to see you at work in our world. We pray for the courage to commit ourselves again to Jesus Christ as Lord. May we seek your will in all things, even as Jesus always put your will above his own.

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

One: Lord of all time and space, as we mark another year, remind us that in your sight one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Your steadfast love and mercy are the sure foundation for our lives. We thank you for the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of your Son, our Savior. As your children and heirs, may we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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

One: **Heavenly Father**, as your children and heirs, may we lead lives worthy of the calling to which we have been called, with all humility and gentleness, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Hear our prayers, O Lord, incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace as we pray the prayer our Lord taught us: **"Our Father"**

***DEPARTING HYMN #119 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

As we leave the old year and enter the new, go with these assurances: The risen Lord says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**