

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

**CHRISTMASTIDE, TWELFTH NIGHT & EPIPHANY:  
(EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW & (MAYBE) WERE AFRAID TO ASK)**

➤ **Let's start with "Christmastide."** In Western Christianity, the Christmas season is traditionally synonymous with "Christmastide", which runs from December 25 (Christmas Day) to Epiphany January 5 or 6, explained below, ("Twelfth Night" or "Epiphany Eve"), a time popularly known as "The 12 Days of Christmas" and ending with celebration of the Feast of the Three Kings.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the Twelfth Night as "the evening of January 5, the day before Epiphany, which traditionally marks the end of Christmas celebrations."

No doubt you are familiar with an English Christmas folk carol written by Fredrick Austin and published in 1780 entitled, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" that commemorated the Christmas tradition of celebrating the 12-day period between Christmas and Epiphany in Dickensian England. The carol soon became popular in England, and its popularity extended into Canada and the United States.

➤ **What is Twelfth Day?** The day preceding Epiphany is called "Twelfth Day." The evening before Epiphany is marked as "Twelfth Night", which falls either on January 5 or January 6, depending upon the Christian traditions and the starting point used for counting the Twelve Days of Christmas.

The time between December 25 and January 5/6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

➤ **About Twelfth Night.** Twelfth Night in 2024 will fall on Saturday, January 6, assuming that we follow the analysis of Professor Nick Groom. He is associated with the English Department of the University of Exeter (England) who, through extensive research, has concluded that (in his words): "Twelfth Night is Twelfth Day's Eve; we still talk about Christmas Eve as being Christmas Night."

➤ **And Epiphany?** The Christmas Season officially ends with the Day of Epiphany, the day noting the visit of the wise men ("Magi") to the infant/toddler Jesus in

Bethlehem. This day is celebrated as the "manifestation" of Christ, often described as being associated with light, particularly the light of the star that guided the wise men to Jesus' location.

Other terms for Epiphany are: Theophany, Feast of Epiphany, and Three Kings' Day, depending on the prevailing tradition, and how Epiphany (or "Feast Day") is celebrated worldwide depends on cultural beliefs, traditions, and the churches they follow. Epiphany in many countries is marked by the baking of special pastries and children receive small gifts in their shoes in honor of the Magi's gifts to the infant Jesus. Many traditions also include water as a reflection of Jesus' baptism, and the blessing of houses with holy water.

➤ **So, why such emphasis on removing Christmas decorations on the Twelfth Day?** It is believed that Christmas trees and decorations should be put away by the Twelfth Day to avoid bad luck. We can thank the Victorians and the Industrial Revolution of Great Britain for this. During the reign of Queen Victoria (of German heritage) it was the ambitious Victorians who decided that all Christmas decorations should be put aside after 12 days because they wanted to "get everybody to work", giving rise to "Boxing Day" on December 26 in Great Britain, the day after Christmas. Many believe that "Boxing Day" is the "First Day" of The Twelve Days of Christmas and count forward, while others hold to the belief that Christmas Day is the "First Day." Regardless, in many countries, Epiphany is not only a day to eat well, but also is a day to "box up" all Christmas decorations.

**So, there you have it---everything you wanted to know about these Christmas traditions, but were (maybe) afraid to ask!**

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Source: "Twelfth Night" def., Oxford English Dictionary  
Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/epiphany-twelfth-night-and-how-they-are-celebrated>

To share an article in THE HERALD, please email it to: office@gregorymemorial.org or drop it in the church office mailbox.

**WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR JANUARY, 2024**

**Sunday, 7 January, 2024**

“Baptism of the Lord” - Liturgical Color: White  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

**Sunday, 14 January, 2024**

“2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Katherine C. Jackson

**Sunday, 21 January, 2024**

“3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Charles Phillips

**Sunday, 28 January, 2024**

“4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany” – Liturgical Color: Green  
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Katherine C. Jackson



**OUR PRAYER IN TIMES OF JOY AND CONCERN...**One of our great joys and responsibilities to each other and to God here at Gregory Memorial is the regular practice of praying for each other and our community. Please let the church office know if any updates to this list are needed.

<p>First-responders, world-wide                  Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters &amp; gun violence                  Those affected by the October 2023 Israeli-Hamas War in Gaza                  People &amp; 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 &amp; Clara Smith                  Eddie Frankenstein                  Etta Holc                  Jerry &amp; 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)</p>	<p>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 &amp; Sandy Eickmeyer’s friend (brain injury)                  John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)                  Mary Kay &amp; Mike Schroeter (health issues)                  Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca (dentist, ret.), Lykins family friend (recovering from fall)                  Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins’ daughter (injured, vehicle accident)                  Peggy &amp; 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)</p>
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2024 Leadership of Gregory Memorial (Term = 3 yrs.; \* indicates a partial term)

#### Session Members

Class of 2024: Rose Scott; Blake Bishop\*; Susan Shockley  
 Class of 2025: Doug Holc; David Johnson; Patsy Johnson  
 Class of 2026: Mary Holc; Sandy Hunter; William Shill

Clerk of Session (2024): Donald Hunter  
 Clerk of Session *pro tempore* (2024): Susan Shockley

#### Trustees

Class of 2024: Donald Hunter  
 Class of 2025: Ron Recher  
 Class of 2026: Gail Hare

**Annual Congregation Meeting for 2023** – 12 p.m. (est.)  
 after worship service on Sunday, Jan. 14 (weather-permitting; alternate date: Jan. 21, same time)

**Stated Session Meeting** – 12 p.m. (est.) after worship service on Sunday, Jan. 21 (if date is not used as alternate date for Annual Congregation Meeting).

**These Days” (Jan.-Mar.)** Copies are in the Narthex. Pick up yours while they are available. Copies are free of charge to Gregory Memorial congregation.

*Let’s pause to be thankful.*



## HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

**February 4, 2024**  
 April 7, 2024

**June 9, 2024**  
 August 4, 2024

**October 13, 2024**  
 December 1, 2024

## ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

<b>January 7</b> Larry Johnson	<b>January 14</b> Susan Shockley	<b>January 21</b> Rose Scott	<b>January 28</b> Donald Hunter
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## THOUGHTFUL HOLIDAY LEFTOVERS

### They say honesty is the best policy...

Well, the inevitable finally happened: Gabriel, a nine-year-old, heard some rumors at school that Santa wasn't real. That evening, he approached his father with the Big Question: "Dad, tell me the truth. Is Santa real?"

Hearing this, his father decided to come clean and break the news to him, telling him it was his parents who had bought his latest Nintendo Wii game.

What a surprise to hear his son's reply: "Really, Dad? You should have let Santa bring it. That way, it would have been free."

### The art of forgiveness...

Sorting out how Santa fits in with the religious meaning of Christmas can often be confusing for kids. A two-year-old was pretending to read from a children's book she had received at Christmas: "Then Santa forgave them their trespasses."

### A wish come true...

My mom is a bit of a pack rat. Recently she went digging under her stairs for some holiday decorations and came across a birthday card I had sent her 30 years earlier. She called me to say my wish for her had come true.

"What wish?" I asked.

"You wished me a happy 30<sup>th</sup> birthday," Mom replied, "and hoped I'd live for another 30 years—and I did!"

### Stocking stuffers, one should know better...

One Christmas a well-meaning husband put an assortment of beauty products in his wife's stocking.

Eagerly, she tried one of the facial masks, and was about to wash it off when her eight-year-old son walked in. She explained to him that it was a present from his dad and that it would make her beautiful.

He patiently waited by her side as she rinsed and patted her face dry.

"Well, what do you think?" she asked.

"Oh, Mom, it didn't work!" the eight-year-old replied.

### To be worn religiously...

When my niece was a student, her class of six-year-olds sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" at a Christmas concert. However, the line "God and sinners reconciled" proved to be a tricky one for this age group.

One little boy, with a voice that completely drowned out the rest of the choir, happily belted out, "God and sinners dressed in style!"

### The Immaculate Enunciation...

On a drive home from visiting family in Wisconsin over the holidays, a mother with two young children took a break from their long drive and stopped off at a corner store near the state line.

The cashier turned to her four-year-old daughter and quickly asked, "Was Santa good t'ya?"

Her five-year-old brother, not used to the Wisconsin accent, loudly piped up, "Her name's not Tia!"



*"Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."*

*Joseph Addison*

**JANUARY, 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6a Clean Church  6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Epiphany</b>  1p Worship Cmte removes Advent/Christmas Décor
<b>7 "Baptism of the Lord"</b>  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	<b>8</b>  6p BSA Crater Order of Arrow (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	<b>9</b>  7p Finance Cmte	<b>10</b>  7p Faith Cmte	<b>11</b>  6a Clean Church	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  Guest preacher: Rev. K C Jackson  12p Annual Congregation Meeting  Moderator: Rev. Jackson	<b>15 ML King Birthday</b>	<b>16</b>  12p Circle (Location: G. Cibula's)  6p GSA Tr. 5000 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6a Clean Church  2p Newsletter articles due  6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service  Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips  12p Session Meeting  (Also Alt. date for Ann. Congreg. Mtg)  Moderator: Rev. Philips	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6a Clean Church  2p Newsletter out	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:30a Sunday School  11a Worship service ➤ 5 Cents Meal Offering  Guest preacher: Rev. Katherine C Jackson	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 2p Committee reports due			

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
6300 Courthouse Road ~ PO Box 182  
Prince George, VA 23875-0182

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## ***JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER***



***COME AND JOIN US!***  
*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.*  
*Worship 11:00 A.M.*

*We're on: [Facebook.com/gmpcva](https://www.facebook.com/gmpcva)*