

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

January's Guest Preachers:

January 7: Rev. Marvin Daniel; L. Johnson, Announcer

January 14: Rev. Katherine C. Jackson; S. Shockley, Announcer

January 21: Rev. Charles Philips; R. Scott, Announcer

January 28: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson; D. Hunter, Announcer

Stated Session Meeting - today at 12 p.m. (est.) in Session Meeting Room:
Rev. Charles Philips, Moderator.

"THESE DAYS" Magazine (Jan.-Mar.) is available in the Narthex. Pick up your free copy now for some inspired daily reading!

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 Rev. Stephanie Sorge, Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, VA, 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: Susan Shockley 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)

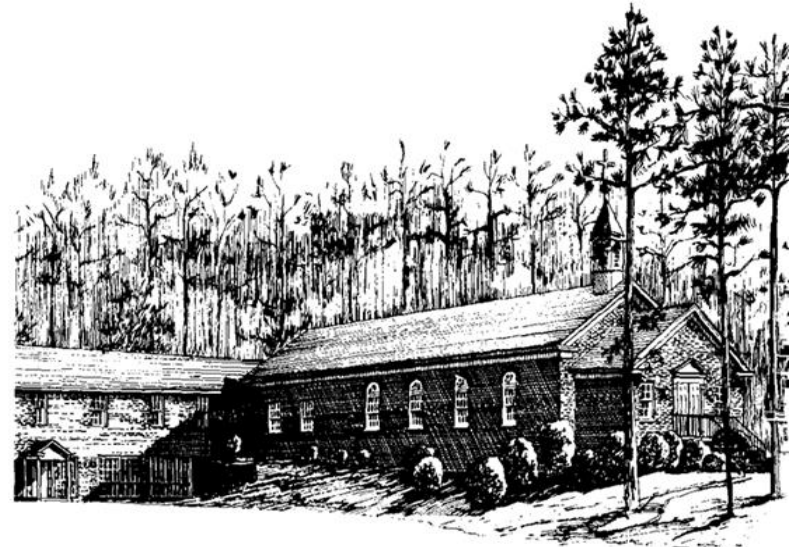
Mary Holc (2026); Sandy Hunter (2026); William Shill (2026)

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*

“3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY”

**JANUARY 21, 2024
11:00 a.m.**

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“3RD Sunday after Epiphany”

January 21, 2024

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Rose Scott

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Charles Philips
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor]

One: Silence your scattered thoughts and lay down your distractions. God calls us here to worship.

All: We are here to worship.

One: Drop your nets and leave your boats. God is with us. Jesus calls us.

All: We are here to worship.

One: Let us worship God together.

*OPENING HYMN #269 “Lead On, O King Eternal”

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

Jesus calls to us: change your hearts and change your lives! Repent, and believe the good news. The mercy and forgiveness we have already received enables us to be honest about the places in our lives in need of transformation. Let us confess our sin together.

**Please stand, as able.*

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

First-responders, world-wide

Our deployed U.S. service personnel their families

Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence

All families affected by the 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)

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)

Family/friends of Clinton B. (“CB”) Faison, attorney in Surry County, long-time friend of David & Patsy Johnson (d.1/8)

Family/friends of Reese Etheridge, Wayne Powers’ uncle (d. 1/7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	"3rd Sunday after Epiphany" 21 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. Charles Philips	"4th Sunday after Epiphany" 28 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson
M	22	29
T	23	30
W	24	31
T	6a Clean Church 25 2p Newsletter out	FEBRUARY 1 6a Clean Church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall multiple rooms)
F	26	2
S	27	3

ATTENDANCE:

WORSHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

	M	V	M	V
January 7, 2024	19	5	7	
January 14, 2024	29	7	12	
January 21, 2024				
January 28, 2024				

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

God of mercy, we confess that we have settled down in Nineveh. We have gotten comfortable in our categories: haves and have-nots, makers and takers, bigots and bystanders, self-starters and subordinates, law-abiders and illegals, the perpetrators and the innocent. We confess that we are comfortable living under systems of injustice and exploitation. We confess our discomfort in speaking truths that unmask idolatries. Make us ready to follow Jesus, ready to repent, and eager to change our hearts and lives. Call to us again, and show us your mercy. Let us hear your good news again. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer of confession.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Pastor]

God desires relationship with us, and reconciliation for all of creation. Jesus comes bearing the good news of forgiveness and transformation. Receive the good news of God's grace: We are forgiven!

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

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

God who creates us and calls to us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, enable us to hear your Word, and embolden us to respond faithfully as we seek to follow Jesus Christ. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS [NRSV]

Old Testament: 1st Samuel 3:1-21 p. 215-216 Reader: R. Scott
 New Testament: Philippians 3: 7-14 p. 955
 Gospel: John 1: 43-51 p. 863

SERMON "Under the Fig Tree" Rev. Charles Philips

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #463 "How Firm a Foundation"**

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]*

With open hearts and open hands, we let go of the things that possess us, we offer our gifts to God, and we dedicate our lives in service to Jesus Christ. Freely we have received, now freely let us give.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *[In unison]*

Holy God, change our hearts and our lives. Renew us by your good news. Use the gifts we bring for your holy work of transformation, as we seek to go where Jesus leads us. Amen.

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

One: Eternal God, we come to you again to pray for the church, the world, and all of the people and situations on our hearts. Hear us as we lift our prayers to you, aloud or in our hearts. We thank you that you care for those who are distant from us in relationship, for those people and communities, we pray ...

All: Heavenly Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: God of all wisdom, we pray for all that we wish to erase: Wars, and atrocities that are beyond what most of us can imagine; places on the brink of humanitarian crisis, and those already past it; senseless gun violence; climate change; inequalities of wealth and access; economic despair; hunger and thirst; and more.

All: Heavenly Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: We thank you for your faithfulness. When we see all the evil and suffering in our world, it can be easy to feel overwhelmed and to give up, but we are grateful that you have not given up on us. We offer our prayers now for the situations that seem to be beyond repair, healing, and hope

All: Heavenly Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: We thank you for continuing to invite us to be partners in your transforming, reconciling and redeeming ministries in our communities and beyond. We pray for the church universal, and for the work of Presbyterians around the globe. We pray for the work of this community of faith, and for ministries that are sharing your love and care in our community and beyond ...

All: Heavenly Father, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

One: We thank you for the gift of relationship: for colleagues, friends, family and the communities to which we belong. When one rejoices, we all rejoice, and when one suffers, we all suffer. We offer our prayers of thanksgiving and our petitions and laments, for those who are on our hearts today ...

All: Send us your Holy Spirit of comfort and peace!

One: We thank you for hearing our cries, for knowing what we need before a word is on our lips, and for holding in your loving care those people and situations known only to you. Unite us in our prayers and embolden us to follow Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, "Our Father...."

***DEPARTING HYMN #275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

***CHARGE & BLESSING** *[Pastor]*

The God who called us here today is calling us out from this place and into the world. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, let us follow where Jesus leads, sharing God's love and grace with a world that is groaning for redemption. As we go, may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of our parent God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, today and always. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**