

*To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:*

## INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW: **WHAT ARE “EASTER PEOPLE”?**



*Resurrection of Christ, oil on wood panel by Raphael, 1499–1502*

### EXACTLY WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “EASTER PEOPLE?”

***“We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our hymn of praise!”*** Do you know who said this? Do you know that the great St. Augustine was the first to proclaim this fact in an Easter Sunday sermon to the Catholic people of his Diocese of Hippo?

With the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead and after keeping the discipline of Lent of intense prayer, active good works of charity and the doing of sincere penance, is this great proclamation ours? If we say yes, then for this yes to be true and sincere, we must actually live like Easter makes a difference in our lives. That

is what St. Augustine was preaching in that Easter Sunday sermon.

If we say no to this proclamation, that is truly a great sadness. We have literally wasted Lent and more. We have wasted the time the merciful God has given us to use His grace to correct our faults and to conform our very lives and persons more closely to Jesus. In essence, we have admitted that Easter does not really matter in our lives; we prefer to go the way of the world rather than follow faithfully Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

However, no matter what, the Lord does not abandon us but continues to offer us the opportunity to return to Him with our whole hearts. If we neglected the discipline of Lent, we could still do it if we choose. We can still go to confession and receive worthily Holy Communion and be faithful to our obligations as Catholics.

What St. Augustine meant in that Easter Sunday sermon when he taught his people what it means to be “Easter people,” was simply this:

***Their faith in Jesus Crucified and Risen must be lived by imitating Him in daily life by the way they spoke, thought and acted.***

Anything else was a betrayal of Jesus and their faith. It was true then and is just as true today and will always be true.

Pope Benedict XVI put Easter Sunday this way: “God lives!” This should help us understand what St. Augustine was preaching. We have a hope that only the Risen Savior can reveal to us and to the world. With this faith and hope what else could we possibly need?

**Have a most Blessed and Holy Easter and Easter Season!**

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL, 2025

### Sunday, 6 April, 2025

"5<sup>TH</sup> Sunday in Lent" – Liturgical Color: Purple

Service by: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

### Sunday, 13 April, 2025

"Palm Sunday" – Liturgical Color: Purple

Service by: Rev. John Scholer

### Thursday, 17 April, 2025

"Maundy Thursday Service – Liturgical Color: Purple

Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

7 p.m.

### Sunday, 20 April, 2025

"Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day" – Liturgical Color: White

Service by: Rev. Marvin Daniel

### Sunday, 27 April, 2025

"2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Easter" – Liturgical Color: White

Service by: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell



**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.

First-responders, firefighters, search & rescue personnel, world-wide  
All persons and their pets affected by Santa Ana  
wind-driven wildfires in California  
Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families  
Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters  
& gun violence  
All families affected by war & civil unrest in Africa & the Middle East  
People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine  
Those 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)  
Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue)  
Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)  
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)

Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)  
Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley's & Sandy Eickmeyer's  
friend (health issue)  
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)  
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue)  
Alex Courtney of Florence, SC, business associate of Dianna L.  
Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter  
Dennis Allen (health issue)  
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter's grandson (health issue)  
Judy Recher (health issue)  
Shirley MacNeill (health issues)  
Sean Godwin, Bill & Cheryl Godwin's grandson (health issue)  
Charlie Perkins (health issue)  
Evelyn Foster  
Michael Evans, former son-in-law of Nancy & A. W. Adams  
and son of Bobby & Sandra Tipton and Ray Evans  
Marcus O'Neill, husband of Wayne Powers' niece, Ashley  
(health issue)  
Marguerite Bishop (health issue)  
Family/friends of Frank ("Butch") Reiter, Jr. (d. 3/25)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON – APRIL 6

Gregory Memorial has been blessed with many special people these past few years. People that have shared their talents at the pulpit, the organ, the piano, an office, or just anywhere help was needed. We could not have kept the church doors open without them.

The Faith Committee has planned a covered-dish luncheon to say “Thank You” to the people that have given so much. Congregation is asked to bring a side-dish. Chicken and dessert will be provided. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 6, 2025. We hope to see you there!

**SUNRISE SERVICE – APRIL 20 at 7 a.m.**  
Easter morning; breakfast follows, in the Fellowship Hall.

**CHURCH TRIVIA - EASTER LILIES**

The Easter lily or *lilium longiflorum* is native to Taiwan and Japan. The Easter lily has existed in Catholic and Protestant church history for centuries. Hosea, an Old Testament prophet, and Christ referenced lilies in Hosea 14: 5 and Luke 12:27, respectively. (Bible.com) According to Todayscatholic.org, the lily symbolizes the Pascal season (Easter and Passover holidays). Its trumpet shaped flowers symbolize Christ’s triumph at the Resurrection. White symbolizes purity and rebirth. According to Countryliving.com. the bulbs symbolize Christ’s death and resurrection. Church legend says that white lilies grew in the Garden of Eden from Eve’s anguished tears, the Garden of Gethsemane from Christ’s sweat droplets during prayer and at the foot of His cross at his crucifixion.

*Next time- the color purple*

References: Bible.com; Todayscatholic.org; countryliving.com

**2025 LENTEN ECUMENICAL PRAYER & LUNCHEON**

**Thursdays MARCH 13 – APRIL 10**

**Come join us in  
Lenten Prayer and Fellowship!**

**Prayer begins at 12 noon with  
a simple lunch to follow at 12:30 p.m.**

**All are welcome!**

**March 13 - 12 noon**  
**Church of the Sacred Heart**  
9300 Community Lane, So. Prince George VA

**March 20 - 12 noon**  
**Gary’s UMC**  
13501 Sunnybrook Road, So. Prince George

**March 27 - 12 noon**  
**Gregory Memorial Presbyterian**  
6300 Courthouse Road, Prince George

**April 3 - 12 noon**  
**Newville UMC**  
9014 Hines Road, Disputanta

**April 10 - 12 noon**  
**Bethlehem Congregational**  
10501 Pole Run Road, Disputanta

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

February 2, 2025	June 1, 2025	October 5, 2025
<b>April 6, 2025</b>	August 3, 2025	December 7, 2025

APRIL ANNOUNCERS/READERS\* (\*if requested by pastor)

<b>April 6</b>	<b>April 13</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>April 27</b>
Mary Holc	Donald Hunter	Patsy Johnson	Sandy Hunter

**FOR APRIL: CHIMES - Sandy Hunter / ACOLYTE - Donald Hunter**

*"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your -paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." ~ Psalm 25:4-5*

## BE INSPIRED

### LENTEN PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

God, heavenly Father,  
 Look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit. Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus. Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass. Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will. Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.  
 Amen

### LENTEN PRAYER

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
 You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility. He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man and giving His life on the Cross. Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.  
 Amen.

### COUNTRY PRAYER FOR LENT

Dear Lord,  
 We are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin to realize anew that these are the days of salvation, these are the acceptable days. We know that we are all sinners. We know that in many things we have all

offended Your infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert. Help us now, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sin. Bless our efforts with the rich blessing of Your grace. Make us realize ever more our need of penance and of mortification. Help us to see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up for past infidelities. Every day we are so often reminded in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless generosity to us. Help us to realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over. Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning.  
 Amen.

### A LENTEN PRAYER CALLED "THE PASSION"

Dear Lord Jesus,  
 By Your Passion and Resurrection You brought life to the world. But the glory of the Resurrection came only after the sufferings of the Passion. You laid down Your life willingly and gave up everything for us. Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross, Your clothing became the prize of soldiers, your blood ebbed slowly but surely away, and Your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple. Stretched out on the Cross, deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid, You cried out to Your Father that the end had come. You had accomplished the work given You, and You committed into His hands, as a perfect gift, the little life that remained to You. Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example You have given. Let me place my death in Yours and my weakness in Your abandonment, Take hold of me with Your love, that same foolish love that knew no limits, and let me offer myself to the Father with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life. Amen.

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*Lenten Prayers, Collected by the Church in the 21st Century Center, Boston College*

# APRIL, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>No Worship Cmte meeting until June 2</b>  <b>No Faith Cmte meeting in April</b>  <b>Finance Cmte meets on 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7 p.m.</b>		1	2	<b>3</b> <b>6a</b> Clean church  <b>12p</b> <u>Lenten service @Newville UMC</u> [9014 Hines Rd., Disputanta] followed by lunch at 12:30p  <b>6-8p</b> SA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall)	4	<b>5</b> <b>8p</b> PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
<b>6 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service w/Holy Communion by Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson  <b>12p</b> Appreciation Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)  <b>Last day to order Easter lilies!</b>	7	<b>8</b>  <b>11a</b> <u>Deadline to place Easter Lilies order w/florist</u>  <b>1p</b> Circle meeting (@ GMPC)	9	<b>10</b>  <b>6a</b> Clean church  <b>12p</b> <u>Lenten service @Bethlehem Cong.</u> [10501 Pole Run Rd., Disputanta] followed by lunch at 12:30p  <b>7-9p</b> GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hal)	11	<b>12</b>  <b>8p</b> PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
<b>13 Palm Sunday Begin Easter Week</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service by Rev. John Scholer	<b>14</b>  <b>5:30-9p</b> SA Crater OA (Fellowship Hall, kitchen)	15	16	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b>  <b>6a</b> Clean church  <b>2p</b> Newsletter (May) articles due in office  <b>6-8p</b> SA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall)  <b>7p</b> Maundy Thursday service @ GMPC by Rev. Dr. K.C. Jackson	<b>18 Good Friday</b>  <u>Easter lilies delivered</u> <u>Time: TBA</u>	<b>19 Holy Saturday</b>  <b>8p</b> PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
<b>20 Easter Day</b>  <b>7a</b> Sunrise Service by Rev. Marvin Daniel followed by breakfast  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service by Rev. Marvin Daniel  ➤ One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	<b>21</b>  <b>7p</b> Finance Cmte	22	<b>23</b>  Fellowship Hall reserved	<b>24</b>  <b>6a</b> Clean church  <b>2p</b> Newsletter (May) out	25	<b>26</b>  <b>8p</b> PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
<b>27 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Easter</b>  <b>9:30a</b> Sunday School  <b>11a</b> Worship service by Rev. Dr. C.E. Bagwell  ➤ 5¢-a-Meal Offering	28	29	<b>30</b>  <b>2p</b> Cmte reports due			

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church  
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## ***APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER***



*"We are an Easter people." ~ St. Augustine*



**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)