

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:



WALKING BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT

Remember that scene from *Indiana Jones: The Last Crusade*, when Indy's Holy Grail quest takes on a serious tone as his quest to find the Grail promises hope of saving the life of his gravely-wounded father by passing 3 tests? The 3rd test is the hardest: To reach the chamber that holds the Grail, Indy must cross a 30-foot cavern with no obvious way to get to the other side. Although he is the great Indiana Jones, this feat seems impossible. Following the instructions from his father's diary, he must take a "step of faith" where there is no visible bridge, stepping into a void. As Indy speaks the words, "*Leap of faith...*", he plants his foot tentatively forward into space and miraculously it lands on solid ground, proving that a bridge *DID* exist, albeit invisible to him, after all: "**LEAP OF FAITH.**"

No surprise then, that the concept of "*walking by faith, not by sight*" means living according to God's promises and guidance, trusting in the unseen rather than what's seen or understood through human senses. This principle, found in 2 Corinthians 5:7 ["...for we walk by faith, not by sight...", *HOLY BIBLE, NRSV*], encourages believers to have a spiritual perspective and trust in God's plan even when they don't fully comprehend it.

➤ Key aspects of walking by faith:

- **Trusting in God's promises.** This involves believing in God's character, His love, and His ability to fulfill His word.
- **Relying on the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit guides believers and aligns with God's word, leading them towards wisdom and practicality.
- **Embracing the eternal perspective.** Recognizing that this earthly life is temporary and that there is more to life than what can be seen, including eternal rewards with Christ.

- **Making decisions based on faith.** Choosing to trust in God's guidance, even when it may seem illogical or challenging, rather than relying on immediate circumstances or human understanding.

➤ Examples of walking by faith:

- **Responding to challenges with courage.** Trusting that God is working all things together for good, even in difficult situations, and approaching challenges with hope and confidence.
- **Making decisions based on God's will.** Seeking God's guidance through prayer and scripture, and making choices that align with His word, even if they seem unconventional.
- **Living with a focus on the unseen.** Recognizing that the physical world is temporary and focusing on spiritual growth and serving others.

➤ Important considerations:

- **Walking by faith is not reckless or irresponsible.** It doesn't mean abandoning planning, prayer, or seeking God's direction. It's about aligning actions with faith and seeking God's will.
- **Faith involves trusting in God's timing.** It's important to understand that God's timing may differ from our own, and we should trust in His plan, even when things don't happen as we expect.
- **It's important to remember: Faith is a journey.** It's a process of learning to trust God more deeply and relying on Him in every aspect of life.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR AUGUST, 2025

Sunday, 3 August, 2025

“8th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Service by: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

Sunday, 10 August, 2025

“9th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Service by: Rev. John Scholer

Sunday, 17 August, 2025

“10th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Service by: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

Sunday, 24 August, 2025

“11th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Service by: Rev. Nancy S. Clark

Sunday, 31 August, 2025

“12th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
Service by: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME BACK, DR. "KC" JACKSON! Glad that you survived your service as a group leader at Montreat youth conferences (July 12-26), and, prayerfully, none the worse for wear! [No doubt things must seem pretty tame around here since you've returned.]

"BACK TO SCHOOL" BACKPACK SUPPLIES

Don't forget to return your item(s) for the Back-to-School Fair. Each area church is asked to give enough items needed to completely fill 5 Elementary School backpacks. There is a box in the Narthex for receiving your items. All items will be taken to the drop off location on **August. 5, 2025.**

After all is said and done, a special "thank-you" for supporting the "Back to School" Backpack Supplies Drive and Fair. Our county children are our future, and thanks to you, we will be giving them the best possible start to the new school year!



STATED SESSION MEETING – Sunday, August 17, 2025 immediately after worship service.

Rev. Dr. KC Jackson will serve as meeting Moderator.



"BACK TO CHURCH" Sunday – September 7.

We will celebrate "Back to Church" Sunday on September 7 with a covered-dish Potluck Lunch in the Fellowship Hall after worship service. The Potluck Lunch is hosted by the Faith Committee. *Dessert will be "Make Your Own" Sundaes!* Congregation is asked to bring a covered dish to share. Ice Cream with 'Fixins' for the Sundaes and also beverages will be provided. You are welcome to bring a guest! Hope to see you there on **September 7!**

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2025

February 2, 2025 April 6, 2025	June 1, 2025 August 3, 2025	October 5, 2025 December 7, 2025
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ANNOUNCERS, READERS

August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Sandy Hunter	Larry Johnson	Susan Shockley	Rose Scott	Mary Holc

CHIMES

Pat Hunter

ACOLYTE

Wayne Powers

O God, be near: A Lament after the flood

A heartfelt prayer for communities devastated by sudden floods, asking God to comfort the grieving, strengthen first responders, and sustain all who rebuild.

By Teri McDowell Ott, published July 8, 2025



O God,

The waters rose, swift and merciless,
barreling past boundaries,
and sweeping away what once felt safe.

We are aching in the aftermath.

Be present now, O Refuge and Strength,
with [first responders](#) still searching through
debris, still daring to hope for rescue.
Give them courage for the task ahead,
and gentleness for the heartbreak they carry.

Be near to the parents –
mothers and fathers groaning with grief –
who sent their daughters to summer camp
expecting laughter, not loss.

Hold them in the hollow, painful places
no words can reach.

For the camp community –

shaken, stunned, suspended in sorrow –
bind them together in love and lament.
Let their grief be met by your tenderness,
their questions received by your mercy.

***We pray, too, for all who saw the waters rise
and lived through the nightmare.***

For the ones who have lost homes,
lost livelihoods, lost loved ones,
may your mercy meet their needs.

***And for every hand that will lift debris,
every neighbor who shows up with a shovel,
every weary heart bracing for the long work
of rebuilding:***

endurance, grant strength, grant solidarity.

***God, in these days of
devastation,***

be what your Word promises:
a refuge, a help, a very present
Savior. Amen.



Source: Teri McDowell Ott, editor and publisher of
Presbyterian Outlook; <https://pres-outlook.org/2019/05/prayer-for-those-beset-by-tornados-and-floods/prayers-for-the-moment>

AUGUST, 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No Worship Cmte mtg in August.				6a Clean church	1	2 8p PG AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
3 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service & Holy Communion Service by: Rev. Dr. KC Jackson <u>Last day to bring in Backpack supplies</u>	4	5 Backpack supplies delivered to drop-off site	6	7 6a Clean church	8	9 10a Faith Cmte at S. Hunter's; Meal prep & deliveries 8p PG AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
10 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service by: Rev. John Scholer	11	12	13	14 6a Clean church 2p News articles (Sep) due	15	16 8p PG AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
17 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service by: Rev. Dr. KC Jackson 12p Stated Session Mtg Moderator: Rev. Dr. KC Jackson	18 7p Finance Cmte	19	20	21 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter out	22	23 8p PG AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
24 11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ 5¢-a-Meal Offering Service by: Rev. Nancy S. Clark	25 2p Cmte reports due	26	27	28	29	30 8p PG AA Meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
31 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering Service by: Rev. Dr. C.E. Bagwell						

STAMP

A bright yellow beach umbrella stands on the left, casting a shadow on the sand. To its right are two wooden lounge chairs with black and white striped fabric. The chairs are positioned on a sandy beach, with the turquoise ocean and a clear blue sky in the background.

We're on: Facebook.com/gmpcva