

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our guest preacher today is Mary Holc, Ruling Elder.

September Chimes, Acolyte, Preachers, Announcers* (*Readers, if requested):

Chimes: Maddi Mendoza - Acolyte: Wayne Powers

September 7 "Back to Church" Sunday: Rev. Dr. KC Jackson; D. Hunter, Announcer

September 14: Mr. Tommy Campbell, M. Div., UPSem.; P. Johnson, Announcer

September 21: Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson; S. Hunter, Announcer

September 28: Ruling Elder Mary Holc; L. Johnson, Announcer

Next Sunday – October 5: Called Congregation Meeting. A meeting of the congregation will be held in the Sanctuary immediately after worship next Sunday for the purpose of receiving a slate of nominees and election of 4 Elders (3 for 3-yr. term January 1, 2026-December 31, 2028 for Class of 2028; and 1 Elder for a 1-yr. interim term for Class of 2026) and 1 member, Board of Trustees (3-yr. term, January 1, 2026-December 31, 2028). Be sure to attend and vote!

Next Sunday – October 5: We celebrate "World Communion Sunday" with our "Peace and Global Witness special offering. Monies received from this offering enable the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our communities and across the world. An offering envelope will be provided in the October 5 Sunday bulletin to use. A brochure is enclosed in today's bulletin that details how the funds are apportioned to meet goals.

"THESE DAYS" (Oct. – Dec.) – Copies of this quarterly publication are available in the Narthex. Be sure to pick up your copy today for some daily inspirational reading! *Free to congregation.*

HEADS UP!!! Draft Pocket Directory for 2026 – During October the draft copy of Pocket Directory will be available on Narthex table for congregation to make any changes needed. Please make sure to review your data & change where needed. It will go to Faith Committee after Sunday, October 26 for review. Plans are to make copies available for you ("2 per...") on Sunday, November 30.

Resource: Holy Bible, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Published by Zondervan.

Resource: Hymns, Glory To God, Presbyterian Hymnal, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Resource: "Affirmation of Faith," (from "A Brief Statement of Faith") Book of Common Worship; © 1993 John Knox Press.

Liturgy: "Prayer of Dedication", "Assurance of Pardon", by Rev. Rae Watson, assoc. pastor, Covenant Presby, Church, Staunton, VA, provided to congregations freely for worship use; ©2025 Presbyterian Outlook.

"Prayer of Confession", "Prayer of Illumination", "Offering", "Prayers of the People", "Charge & Benediction" from <https://www.homileticsonline.com>.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Telephone: 804.732.1081 - Office Hours: Tues.-Thurs., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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." Revelation 22:12-13

"16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"

September 28, 2025

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"

September 28, 2025

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ACOLYTE

*Maddi Mendoza
Wayne Powers*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/ SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS

Larry Johnson

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Mary Holc, Ruling Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP *[Responsive; Pastor leads; based on Psalm 130:1-2; Jeremiah 20:9; Micah 6:8]*

One: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord!

All: Hear our voice and answer our prayers

One: The Word of the Lord is like a fire in my bones.

All: I am weary with holding it in.

One: What does the Holy One require of us?

All: To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

All: The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!

* OPENING HYMN # 450 "Be Thou My Vision"

CALL TO CONFESSION *[Pastor]*

* Please stand, as able.



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.

*In the interest of protecting our congregation's personal information,
"Our Prayer in Times of Joy and Concern" is not publicly available.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Back page

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	September 28 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service by Mary Holc, Ruling Elder ➤ <i>5¢-a-Meal Offering</i>	October 5 17th Sunday after Pentecost - SS “World Communion Sunday” 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion By Rev. Dr. KC Jackson ➤ <i>Peace & Global Witness Offering</i> 12p Called Congregation Meeting (Purpose: Elect 2026 Ruling Elders & Trustee)
	M 29	6
	T 30	7
	W October 1	8
	T 6a Clean Church 2 6-8p SA Cub Pack 910 Den (Fellowship Hall)	9
F	3	10
S	4 8p PG Study Group AA membership dinner & meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)	11 8p PG Study Group AA membership dinner & meeting (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)

Attendance	Worship	Service	Sunday	School
	M	V	M	V
September 7, 2025	28	8	8	
September 14, 2025	31	10	6	
September 21, 2025	28	11	11	
September 28, 2025				

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *[In unison]*

Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power, and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in beloved community. Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON *[In unison]*

Friends, who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ prays for us. Christ reaches out with endless love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made ready to love and serve. Alleluia. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN # 581 “Glory Be to the Father”

* PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *[In unison]*

Holy Spirit, prepare us to hear from the Scriptures. Sometimes it can be easy to dismiss a passage that seems familiar. We’ve heard it before and so we disengage. Yet we know that your word is powerful and that it is calling us to live like Jesus. Do not let us turn off our ears so quickly. Help us to listen well and respond with obedience. Let us see what it is you are doing through the Scriptures we hear today. You are working and we want to join you. Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

FIVE CENTS-A-MEAL [“RED WAGON”] OFFERING

SCRIPTURE *[Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]* - New Testament: Matthew 18:21-35

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “What the World Needs Now Is Forgiveness, Sweet Forgiveness”
Mary Holc, Ruling Elder

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN # 835 “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [In unison; Apostle’s Creed]**

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]

Christ Jesus, touch us deeply in our worship and embrace our lives. Move us to generosity and service. Strengthen our faith and direct us into ministries and service for those in need. Rededicate our lives and bless our gifts. May our offerings help renew your church and meet the urgent needs of the day. Amen.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

All that we have is a gift from you. Lord, bless these gifts and inspire us to use them in ways that transform and enliven your people. May they be a blessing to those who need them most. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER [Responsive; Pastor leads]

One: Lord our God, we your people come to you this day fully aware that we need your presence and help in our lives, yet aware that we often fail to stop and turn to you for that help. We get caught up in the turmoil of daily living — busy with goals we set for ourselves and those from our work and our families and friends. We strive to be loving, seeking joy and peace; we desire to be gentle, patient and kind, to show goodness, and self-control. Yet these things too often elude us.

Continued...

One: Help us, Lord, to root ourselves more deeply in you; to seek your will for our lives; to stop and listen for your voice when we are troubled; to fully rely on you when we strive to do what is right; to remember you and trust in you when we are assaulted; to meditate on your goodness and your gracious will when we begin each day, so that like trees that send down roots to the water, we may produce by your power the fruit of your Spirit. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Lord, listen to your children praying.

One: Gracious God, we remember the concerns and prayers that have been lifted up this past week by members of this congregation and our community — concerns and prayers that we now pray for with them: For all those who are lonely, fearful or in pain; For those struggling with addictions and dependencies that cripple their living and harm the world about them. Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Lord, listen to your children praying.

One: We pray too, O Lord, for those who come fresh to our minds and hearts Today: perhaps a family member we have prayed for over many weeks or years, or a friend struggling to find meaning in his life, an acquaintance who needs healing, a stranger who needs the comfort of your Spirit as they grieve. Lord, hear your people as they pray and name those names and concerns before you. *[Pause in silence]* Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Lord, listen to your children praying.

One: Thank you, Lord, for being our God and making us your people. Thank you for growing in us and helping us to grow. Thank you for the ministry you entrust to us. May your will be done in us and by us, both now and forevermore. This we ask in the name of your Son, who taught us to pray, saying, **“Our Father...”**

*** DEPARTING HYMN # 451 “Open My Eyes That I may See”**

*** CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

Let your lives witness to Christ's love. Let your words bring reconciliation. Let your thoughts be of peace. Let your touch bring healing. Let your actions count for justice. Be a sign of hope and a beacon of joy. Go and may God's blessing go with you.

*** POSTLUDE**