

Dear Gregory Memorial, Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
~Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4*

It's likely that, as you're reading this, Advent has just begun (the First Sunday of Advent this year was November 29). For those of you who were able to attend our Third Sunday luncheon a few weeks back, you heard some tips on how to keep this season of Advent – both wholly and holy. For anyone who wasn't able to make it, here's a quick recap, because it bears repeating, and I know that we all need all the reminder we can get to keep ourselves focused on what is truly important in these days!

It is all too easy to see the season of Advent – the weeks leading up to Christmas – as little more than liturgical space between now and December 25, space that is quickly filled up with shopping, planning, wrapping, more shopping, and the occasional get-together – all thrown on top of the everyday schedule we already keep. In short, it gets hectic, chaotic, and overwhelming in short order. We see this as preparation for Christmas Day, but the truth is that this season is not preparation for the arrival of a calendar day, but is preparation for us to reconnect and welcome again God-with-us, Immanuel. We mark this season with the four Sundays of Advent, but this is a daily endeavor.

It's hard to think of adding *one more thing* into an already overbooked and exhausting schedule, but the reality is that the practices of Advent are not just one more obligation to get through, but are in fact the practices that can help us keep our sanity, and more so, our focus on what is truly important in this season: the imminent arrival of Christ, entering our world and our lives again and again in surprising and unexpected ways.

So in these days, I encourage you to: make time, to devote, to look with awareness and expectation, and above all, to breathe.

Make Time in your day (or repurpose time) to put aside all other thoughts and demands on your energy, and remind

yourself, “Jesus is coming; what do I need to do to be ready? How shall I greet him?” Even a few moments each day doing this can help you remain grounded and focused on what Christmas truly represents.

Engage a devotional. This can go along with the first tip to make time. By utilizing a devotional (pick up the one offered by the church, if you'd like), you are engaging in a conversation with other believers, with others who similarly hope for and look for Christ's presence and arrival.

Look around you in this world, wherever you may be, with awareness and expectation. Where do you see the Spirit of God at work? Where do you see an opportunity to lend a helping hand, reminding others of the goodness of God's Kingdom, present here and now? If you expect to see it, you will likely find it.

And finally, breathe. In the beginning, the Spirit of God...the breath of God, hovered over the formless deep and chaos, and brought about Light and order. The Light has not been overcome, and never shall be. Breathe, and thank God for this Divine Spark which has entered fully into our world, drawing us into its warmth and leading us closer to the source of Life. This is the Christmas miracle, which we celebrate.

May this Advent season indeed be a blessing to you and yours. We'll see you on Sundays throughout this season, and we'll come together to celebrate the most joyous birth, shared by millions through the ages, on Christmas Eve (6:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.). Peace be with you.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2015**Sunday, 6 December 2015***Holy Communion*2nd Sunday in Advent - Liturgical Color: Blue1st Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 & 2nd Reading: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: "Being Prepared"

Sunday, 13 December 20153rd Sunday in Advent - Liturgical Color: Blue1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20 & 2nd Reading: Luke 3:7-18

Sermon: "Prince of Peace"

Sunday, 20 December 20154th Sunday in Advent - Liturgical Color: Blue1st Reading: Micah 5:2-5a & 2nd Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Sermon: "Humble Beginnings"

Tuesday, 22 December 2015

"Darkest Night" Service - Liturgical Color: Blue

Thursday, 24 December 2015

"Christmas Eve" Services & Holy Communion - Liturgical Color: Blue

6:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, 27 December 20151st Sunday after Christmas Day - Liturgical Color: White1st Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 & 2nd Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Sermon: Guest Preacher, Rothea Kornelius



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.

Don Vtipil
 Marion McDonald
 Ben Nicely
 Peggy Allen
 Mark Chariton
 Becky Smith
 Aida Faries
 Helen Cibula
 Jimmy Clark
 Jean Waymack
 Frank Solesbee
 Elizabeth Scott
 Ruth Figg
 Eleanor Jones
 Valerie Harsh (foot injury)
 Billy Robertson (recov., heart attack)
 Evelyn Lichvar (health issues)
 Chuck Barnes, the Ingrams' friend
 Frances Sebera (recovering, health issue)
 Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram
 James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell's brother
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother

Bob Hogsett, father-in-law to the Rechers' daughter
 Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)
 Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's coworker
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Maryland Blanchard, Grace and Helen Cibula's friend
 Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)
 Rick Lichvar, Evelyn Lichvar's son (chronic illness)
 Joanne Overstreet (health issue)
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Robert Hartsell (recov., health issue)
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 T. J. Orr, youth friend of the Bishops (home)
 Mila Campen, Ann Hartsell's mother
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Cheryl May, Susan Walker's employee (Cheryl's dad's health issues)
 Sharon Maderly, Kaitlyn Hartsell's grandmother (health issue)
 H. Martin Robertson (health issues) & wife Carol
 Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother (recov., surgery)
 Family/friends of Ernest Cibula, Emmett Cibula's brother (d. 11/19)
 Family/friends of Naomi Evans, Victoria Evans' grandmother

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY


DECEMBER, 2015

December 6	Rose Scott
December 13	Poinsettias
December 20	Poinsettias
December 27	

For assistance with this list,
please call Church office at 732-1081
(9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday*)

**See Holiday office hours for December.*

SUNDAY SERVANTS – December, 2015

 GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber	DEC. 6	DEC. 13	DEC. 20	DEC. 27
Ushers	Sheila Fields Janet Swinton Marguerite Bishop Valerie Harsh	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram	Bobby Allen Donna Allen Velma Allen Rose Scott
Acolytes	COMMUNION	Breeana Hunter Owen Hunter	Chayse Hartsell Justin Ellis-Bowman	
Announcements	Dianne Overstreet	Rose Scott	Mary Kay Schroeter	Rose Scott
Junior Sermon	Megan Cashing	Minister	Susan Walker	Valerie Harsh
Junior Church	Pat Hunter Kaitlyn Hartsell	Mary Holc Breeana Hunter	Marguerite Bishop Kevin Foster	Tara Foster Madison Foster
Nursery	Ruby Spain	Rose Scott	Susan Walker	Glenda Mayhew
Counting	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	Kevin Foster Rose Scott	David Johnson Pat Hunter	Sandy Hunter Ron Recher



“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.” Luke 2:14



GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber

Christmas Card Mail Box – Save postage! Send your Christmas greetings to each other by using the mail box in the Narthex. All cards must be in by Dec. 13.

Christmas Poinsettias – Time to order!

Cost: \$11 each. Deadline: Nov. 29. Use form enclosed in bulletin to order and place it with payment in collection plate.

Advent Kick-off is Dec. 3 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Sign up to bring your favorite Tex-Mex food to share. This will be a fun evening as we gather in this special time. Sign up by Nov. 29.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gregory's Cookies & Cocoa –

Gregory will again serve refreshments (cookies and cocoa) after the PG Christmas Parade, this Sat., Dec. 5 and we need our volunteer bakers to bring cookies! Sign up to bring cookies on sign-up sheets (in Narthex and Fellowship Hall). To be a server, contact Judy Recher or Brenda Bond. Cookies may be brought to the Fellowship Hall kitchen **Thursday afternoon or after 12:30 p.m. on Saturday (day of parade).**

2016 Work Camp Planning Meeting

– A planning meeting for parents and youth who plan to attend the 2016 Work Camp will be held at the church at 7:00 p.m. on Tues., Dec. 8.

Angel Tree! Remember to select your Angel from the Angel Trees in the Narthex and return your gifts by Dec. 20.

All are invited to attend Gregory's Christmas Eve Holy Communion Services at 6:30 p.m. and also at 11:00 p.m. on Thurs., Dec. 24.

Holiday Office Hrs. – 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon., Tues., Wed. (12/21-23) and Mon., Tues., Wed. (12/28-30).

If you wish to receive the newsletter by email, sign up for this service on the form in the Narthex, or, indicate on the form that you prefer reading the newsletter directly from the church website.

HOLY HOMORI

By Sandy Hunter



May love and laughter light your days,
And warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours
Wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world,
With joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons
Bring the best to you and yours.

---- An Irish Blessing



Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!!!

DECEMBER, 2015

GATEKEEPER: Gregg Webber

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care	7:00 pm Choir 5:45 pm Midweek Advent Service	2:00 pm Session agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Advent Kickoff (Tex-Mex food) & Raffle		3:00 pm GMPC "Cookies & Cocoa" after PG Christmas Parade
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Holy Communion</i> 1:30 pm Choir	11:00 am PG Churches Outreach/PG Food Bank Christmas gathering, Fellowship Hall	7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance 7:00 pm Work Camp 2016 Planning Meeting (parents & youth)	9:00 am-1:00 pm Preschool Holiday Field trip to Swift Creek Mill Playhouse 7:00 pm Choir 5:45 pm Midweek Advent Service	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 1:30 pm Choir	1:00 pm-9:00 pm Scouts Christmas gathering (1:00 pm setup; 6:00 pm gathering) 12:00 pm PG Triad, PG Rec. Ctr., Old Stage Rd.	7:00 pm Session	12:00 pm -9:00 pm Scouts Court of Honor, Fellowship Hall (12-5:30 pm, setup; 6:00 pm, dinner) 7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 12:00 pm Preschool Christmas program 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 5:45 pm Midweek Advent Service		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> 4:00 pm Choir Christmas Program	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN 7:00 pm "Darkest Night" Service	OFFICE OPEN 7:00 pm Choir 2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning	OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm 1 st Christmas Eve service & Holy Communion (intinction) 11:00 pm 2 nd Christmas Eve service & Holy Communion (intinction)	<u>Christmas Day</u>	
27	28	29	30	31		
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	OFFICE OPEN 7:00 pm Christian Ed.	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN 7:00 pm Choir	OFFICE CLOSED 2-8:00 pm Cleaning 2:00 pm Committee reports due in		

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

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



COME AND JOIN US!
Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Worship 11:00 A.M.

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