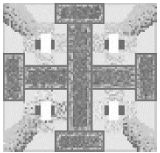


Dear Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial,



*“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your teachings...
Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.”
~Psalm 119:18, 27*

It can be easy, oh so easy to get mired down in the mundane of the day-to-day. And it can be just as easy, if your days are not so mundane, to get caught up in trying to keep your head above water when it seems like everything is going on, and each day is just another attempt at getting through the day. We often do get through the day, exhausted and worried, trying not to get caught up in thinking about tomorrow and if it will just bring more of the same – either frenetic exhaustion, or mind-numbing routine.

Brothers and Sisters, this is no way to live. And yet we fall into this way of living all too often, all too easily. I know, because I am just as guilty of it as any of you, as any in our country.

The Psalmist, in the longest of his works, beseeches God to “open my eyes” so that he might again be aware of the ongoing presence and wonderful works of the Divine in the world around him. Jesus, in John’s gospel, teaches that we children of God are called into Life Abundant, filled with the rich presence and treasure of the Kingdom of God. We are called, in our discipleship, to look for the presence and work of God in every place, every time, that we might joyfully have our hearts lifted. This is the Life Abundant that Christ promises; this is the unshakeable joy that is ours as Christians.

But with all our schedules, meetings, appointments, or even lack thereof, this can be difficult. I know all too well that when I lose sight of the presence and joy of God, my outlook on daily living becomes bleak, and my own sense of joy and wonder does not enter into my conversations and actions. This was just one of the realizations I gained during the first seminar for my doctoral work, and I am determined to keep

my perspective balanced and focused on actively looking for God, actively showing my joy at this wonderful life and ministry which I am privileged to share with each of you.

There is no better time for this effort than Lent. While Lent is many things, and is most often simplified down to ‘what are you giving up for no real reason?’, at its truest form *the season of Lent is a disciplined practice of drawing closer to God and becoming more aware of His presence in our lives and in our world.* And so this is what I will be doing, during Lent this year: Daily working to be more mindful of God’s presence, and to let my conversations and actions be guided by the joy that comes from this awareness.

My eyes have already been partly reopened, and I want to have them opened completely, that I may see our Lord. I want this for each and every one of you, as well, and will do what I can to help you come to this daily awareness and joy. I have ideas of how to do this, but such is the life of faith: It is our entire life, and we will spend it working toward this goal as a community of faith.

I invite you to begin again this work on Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m., as we gather to celebrate the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. May we all draw closer to God in the weeks to come.

With you on the journey,
Pastor Jason



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY, 2016**Sunday, 7 February, 2016**

Transfiguration of the Lord - Color: White

1st Reading: Exodus 34:29-352nd Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: "Brighter Than Diamonds"

Wednesday, 10 February, 2016 - "Ash Wednesday"

Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, 14 February, 2016 - "Scouts Sunday"1st Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: Green1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-112nd Reading: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "Life for Life"

Sunday, 21 February, 20162nd Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: Purple1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-182nd Reading: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: "Untapped Potential"

Sunday, 28 February, 20163rd Sunday in Lent - Liturgical Color: Purple1st Reading: Isaiah 55:1-92nd Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: "Foolish Wisdom"



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
 James Hartsell, Robert Hartsell's brother
 Amy Townson, Josh Ingram's sister
 Doris Karnowski, Josh Ingram's grandmother
 Maryland Blanchard, Grace and Helen Cibula's friend
 Ben Nicely
 Mary Chadwick, Dink Armstrong's sister
 David Childress, Beverly Childress' brother
 Evelyn Lichvar (health issues)
 Martin Bauer, Evelyn Lichvar's brother (health issue)
 Rick Lichvar, Evelyn Lichvar's son (chronic illness)
 Becky Smith
 Chuck Barnes, the Ingrams' friend
 Aida Faries
 Helen Cibula
 Cheryl May, Susan Walker's employee (Cheryl's dad's health issues)
 Elizabeth Scott
 Ruth Figg
 Kenneth Figg

Russell Heiser, Ingrid Phoenix's grandson (health issues)
 Brandon Quinton Lambert, son of Morgan Ingram's coworker
 Kenneth & Sue Andrews, Childress family's friends
 Jimmy Clark
 Philip Harris, co-worker of Morgan Ingram
 Eleanor Jones
 Jean Waymack
 Frank Solesbee
 Terry Robertson, Billy Robertson's son
 Elisha Beverly, Valerie Harsh's daughter (health issue recurrence)
 T. J. Orr, friend of the Bishops
 Valerie Harsh (recov., foot surgery)
 Sharon Maderly, Kaitlyn Hartsell's grandmother (health issue)
 Lucille Link, Patsy Johnson's mother (recov., surgery)
 Peggy Allen
 Anita Arth, Ruby Hasky's sister (health issue)
 The Juliano family, the Cashings' friends (fire/smoke damage to home)
 Berthel & Izzy Garza, Mary Kay Schroeter's friends (health issue)
 Tiffany Portser, Melissa Johnes's cousin (health issue)
 Bobby Allen (weather-related injury)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



GATEKEEPER:

Josh Ingram

WELCOME to Gregory's Board of Trustees's Class of 2018: Morgan Ingram; to our Session's Class of 2018: Marquita Simpson, Valerie Harsh and Blake Bishop, and also Class of 2016: Bobby Allen.

We are thankful for the dedicated service of our officers whose terms ended for 2015: Session members Rose Scott, Glenda Mayhew, and Mary Kay Schroeter, and to Trustee Donald Hunter.

TRI-CITIES WORKCAMP – A Workcamp planning meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for youths interested in participating in **Gregory's 2016 Workcamp week: July 17-23.**

"5 CENTS A MEAL OFFERING" [From Missions Committee:] - Hold on to your pocket change for January's "5 Cents A Meal" Offering (as our worship on the 24th was cancelled due to big snow) and we will combine it with our regular February 28 "5 Cents" collection making it *one big collection!!*

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – 7:00 p.m. on Feb. 10. Please join us!

2016 LENTEN SERVICES & LUNCHEON SCHEDULE -: Lenten services will held at these area churches beginning at 12 p.m., followed by a light lunch:

Feb. 18	GMPC
Feb. 25	Sycamore UMC
Mar. 3	Trinity UMC
Mar. 10	Newville UMC
Mar. 17	Bethlehem Congregational

JUST A REMINDER THAT THE NEW 2016 CLEANING SCHEDULE SIGN-UP SHEET has been placed on the Narthex table, along with an information sheet on what areas are to be cleaned. If you have an hour (or more, depending on your speed) that you can spare for cleaning God's house, please sign up on the day(s) that fit your schedule while they are available.

Our volunteers have saved the church a significant amount of funds by performing these cleaning chores on our alternating cleaning schedules. To those who have served in this capacity, we extend our heartfelt thanks: **Thank you, Volunteers!!!**

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

HOLY HUMOR

By Sandy Hunter

PAINTING THE CHURCH...

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey MacGregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.



As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the local church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings.

Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and stirring the paint and yes, I'm sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke:

**"REPAINT! REPAINT!
AND THIN NO MORE!"**



Blessed are the cracked, for they are the ones who let in the light.


FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

February, 2016

February 7	
February 14	The Hunters
February 21	
February 28	Rose Scott

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

SUNDAY SERVANTS – February, 2016

GATEKEEPER:  Josh Ingram	FEB. 7	FEB. 14 Scouts Sunday	FEB. 21	FEB. 28
Ushers	Jerry Hasky Wayne Powers Glenda Mayhew Les Mayhew	SCOUTS	Robert Hartsell Dianne Overstreet Rose Scott Wayne Powers	Rose Scott Wayne Powers Morgan Ingram Josh Ingram
Announcements	Rose Scott	SCOUTS	Rose Scott	Mary Kay Schroeter
Junior Sermon	Patsy Johnson	SCOUTS	Pat Hunter	Megan Cashing
Junior Church	Jennifer Smyth Austin Smyth	Susan Walker Jared Smyth	Pat Hunter Jamie Meurer	Rose Scott Justin Ellis-Bowman
Counting	Sandy Hunter Mary Kay Schroeter	Morgan Ingram Rose Scott	Donald Hunter Glenda Mayhew	David Johnson Ron Recher

FEBRUARY, 2016

GATEKEEPER: Josh Ingram

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		12:30 pm Circle 6:00 pm Cong. Care 7:00 pm Worship Comm.(for Jan.)	7:00 pm Choir	2:00 pm Session agenda out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship & Holy Communion 3:00 pm Youth Work Camp meeting			<u>Ash Wednesday</u> 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Choir	2-8:00 pm Cleaning 6:30 pm Relay for Life meeting 7:00 pm Stewardship & Finance		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<u>Begin Lent</u> <i>"Scouts Sunday"</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Scouts' reception after worship & mural dedication		7:00 pm Session	7:00 pm Choir	9:00 am News articles in 12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: GMPC) 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		10:00 am-2:00 pm Scrapbooking, Fellowship Hall
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>Third Sunday Lunch</i>	1:00 pm PG Triad, PG Library		7:00 pm Choir	12:00 pm Lenten Service & Lunch (Host: Sycamore UMC) 2:00 pm Newsletter out 2-8:00 pm Cleaning		
28	29					
9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship <i>5 Cents a Meal Offering</i>	2:00 pm Committee. Reports in					

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

STAMP

FEBRUARY 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)