

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:

A "BACK-TO-SCHOOL" PRAYER FOR CONGREGATIONS

By Elizabeth H. Doolin
Published: August 21, 2024

Author Elizabeth H. Doolin pens a call-and-response prayer for children, caregivers, teachers, and all those who are living through "back-to-school" days.

The pitter-patter of nervous feet shuffling to classrooms:

Some in shiny new clothes, some in old ones too small.
Some with a box of 100 crayons, some with empty backpacks. All are anxious, excited, scared and hopeful. They yearn for friends, approval, good grades and time to play.

May all students be blessed with enough and know that they are enough.

Marking dates on the calendar, scratching supplies off the shopping list:

They hold little hands by the bus stop or wait in the carpool line. They wave goodbye and watch their hearts scuttle through heavy doors.

Deep breaths to wade through the worries:
Will my child be safe? Will they be loved? Will they follow instructions?

May all parents find peace in you. Setting their fears aside, may they rest in the safety of your love.

Hanging fresh posters on the walls and cleaning out cubbies:

They review lesson plans and check the policy boxes, memorizing new names and faces, wondering who will delight and who will cause trouble. They already feel tired,

knowing the weight of the load and the weight of expectations.

May all educators be blessed with the right resources, finding nourishment and joy in their callings.

For our students, parents, caregivers, teachers, counselors, administrators and coaches – for all who feel the eagerness and anticipation of this season – may they be blessed with the gifts of your love, grace, peace and patience.

May we bless our educational communities as we offer our support and service and uplift the power of learning for all. Amen.

Elizabeth H. Doolin serves as an associate pastor at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines, North Carolina. She parents a wild and wonderful toddler, and tries to read and go outside whenever she can.



Source: <https://pres-outlook.org/2024/08/a-back-to-school-prayer-for-congregations>.

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR SEPTEMBER, 2024

Sunday, 1 September, 2024

“15th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Annabelle Beavers

Sunday, 8 September, 2024

“16th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 15 September, 2024

“17th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 22 September, 2024

“18th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 29 September, 2024

“19th Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. D. 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>First-responders, world-wide Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence Those affected by wars in Ukraine & in Gaza People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine Those in our community 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) Lee Harsh, Valerie Harsh's brother-in-law (health issue) Larry Brown of Chesterfield, Larry Johnson's friend (health issue) Billy Hudson, friend of Dianna L. Flaherty, Mary Lykins' daughter Emily Henry, Mary Holc’s sister (health issue) Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue) Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue) John Carl Allen (recovering, orthopedic surgery)</p> | <p>Moneka Suprenant, Susan Shockley’s & Sandy Eickmeyer’s friend (brain injury) 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 (injured, vehicle accident) Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues; Peggy: Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #18) Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (on-going health issue) Judy Recher (health issue) Shirley MacNeill (health issues; recovering at home) Valerie Harsh, living in Staunton, VA (health issue) Sean Godwin, grandson of Bill & Cheryl Godwin (health issue: MCV-Massey) Marty Mann, brother-in-law of Donald Hunter & Pat Hunter (health issues) Sarah Solesbee, Tara Foster’s mom, (recov. knee surgery) Charlie Perkins (health issue) Evelyn Foster (Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #22) Family/friends of Grace Cibula (d. 8/12) Family/friends of Madonna Schroeter, Mike Schroeter’s mom in TX (d. 8/13)</p> |
|---|---|

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let's All Celebrate: "Back to Church" with Music and Dinner

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 7!

That's when all of us here at Gregory will be getting "back in the swing" of attending church and doing what Jesus has asked of us: Being good disciples. There's no better way of preparing for this than some inspirational music and a delicious dinner!

This feat will take all of us in order to be a success. **We are asking everyone bring a dish (or two) for dinner and invite lots of friends and neighbors.** Flyers are available in the Narthex for you to hand out.

Our musical entertainment will be provided by the group "Wings of Mercy." Some of the members are from Prince George, but most are from Blackstone. They play Gospel, country, rock and bluegrass. With this variety, everyone will enjoy a wonderful program.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall will be from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Concert in the Sanctuary by "Wings of Mercy" will be 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. **All are welcome!**

STATED SESSION

MEETING – 12 p.m.
(est.) after worship service
on **Sunday, September 15;** Rev. Marvin Daniel,
Moderator.



HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| March 4, 2024 April 7, 2024 | June 9, 2024 August 4, 2024 | October 13, 2024 December 1, 2024 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|

ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| September 1 Larry Johnson | September 8 Sandy Hunter | September 15 Susan Shockley | September 22 Rose Scott | September 29 Donald Hunter |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Back to Church – Dine and Shine!

at

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Road, Prince George, VA

5:00 to 7:30 pm

Sat., Sept. 7th

COVERED DISH / CONCERT



**Wings of Mercy
Christian Music
Performance Group**

To reach the Church, call (804) 732-1081
To reach Wings of Mercy, call: (804) 920-1571

SEPTEMBER, 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 1 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Ms. Annabelle Beavers | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 6a Clean church | 6 | 7 5-6p "Back to Church Celebration" Potluck Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6-7:30p Music program by <i>Wings of Mercy</i> in Sanctuary 8-9p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room) |
| 8 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel | 9 | 10 1p Circle meeting @ S. Hunter's 7p Finance Cmte | 11 | 12 6a Clean church | 13 | 14 8-9p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room) |
| 15 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Mtg Moderator: Rev. Daniel | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter (Oct) articles due in office | 20 | 21 7p Faith Cmte (Location: S. Hunter) 8-9p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room) |
| 22 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter (Oct) out | 27 | 28 8-9p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room) |
| 29 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. C. E. Bagwell | 30 2p Cmte reports due | | | | | |

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

STAMP

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



FAREWELL, SUMMER



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)