

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell to our pulpit today!

September Guest Preachers:

September 1: Annabelle Beavers; L. Johnson, Announcer

September 8: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Hunter, Announcer

September 15: Rev. Marvin Daniel; S. Shockley, Announcer

September 22: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, Announcer

September 29: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell; D. Hunter, Announcer

Guest preacher for Sunday, Oct. 6 “Holy Communion”: Rev. Marvin Daniel

“World Communion Sunday” is Oct. 6, and we will receive the “Peace & Global Witness” Special Offering during worship service. Please refer to the enclosed brochure (*“Sowing the Seeds of Peace”*) for info on how the funds will be spent. Offering envelopes will be provided in the Oct. 6 bulletin.

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 and “Apostle’s Creed”, *Glory to God, Presbyterian Hymnal*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Resource: Liturgy by Rev. Dr. Whitney Wilkinson Arreche, pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford, TX. and provided to congregations freely for worship use; © 2024 *Presbyterian Outlook*.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

6300 Courthouse Rd. / P. O. Box 182, Prince George, VA 23875

www.gregorymemorial.org www.facebook.com/gmpcva

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

Pastor: As announced

Secretary: Nancy Adams (office@gregorymemorial.org)

Organist: Sandra Perkins Pianist: Gail Hare

Treasurer: Susan Shockley Financial Sec.: Sandy Hunter

Session Members

*(Term = 3 yrs.; * indicates a partial term)*

Rose Scott (2024); Blake Bishop* (2024); Susan Shockley (2024)

Doug Holc (2025); David Johnson (2025); Patsy Johnson (2025)

Mary Holc (2026); Sandy Hunter (2026); William Shill (2026)

Donald Hunter (Clerk of Session (2024)

Trustees

Donald Hunter (2024); Ron Recher (2025); Gail Hare (2026)

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.” Revelations 22:12-13

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS** Donald Hunter

PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell
Guest Preacher

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive reading; from Psalm 34: 1-4*]

One: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

All: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

One: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

All: I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

***OPENING HYMN # 625 "O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor*]

We long to gloss over the messy parts of our stories: the deceit, the anger and the heavy grudges. But nothing is hidden from God. We come before God and one another with complete honesty, naming our sins that we might reclaim our name as God's beloved children.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [*In unison*]

God, Forgive us for our failure to speak out and speak up for the victims of violence in our midst and around the world. Open our ears and hearts to hold space for your voice to return to us: the voice of a better way of healing and hope for all people. Show us this faithful path and give us the courage to walk in it, even if for the very first time. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**Please stand, as able.*

OUR PRAYERS & CONCERNS

First-responders, world-wide
Our deployed U.S. service personnel & their families
Families, persons, communities affected by weather disasters & gun violence
All families affected by the Israeli-Gaza Strip war
People & Sovereign Country of Ukraine; Russian citizens conscripted into war
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
Renee' Renier, Diana Flaherty's long-time friend (health issue)
Emily Henry, Mary Holc's sister (health issue)
Charlie Perkins (health issue)
Paula McDaniel, Pam Elder's sister (health issue)
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)
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)
Valerie Harsh, living in Staunton, VA (health issue)
Sean Godwin, grandson of Bill & Cheryl Godwin (health issue: MCV-Massey)
Sarah Solesbee, Tara Foster's mom, (recov., knee surgery)
Evelyn Foster (Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #22)
Family/friends of Bill & Janet Skill, on the loss of Bill's daughter, Amanda (d. 9/15)

ANNOUNCEMENTS ... See back page.

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

	SEPTEMBER 29	OCTOBER 6
S	19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service ➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell	20th Sunday after Pentecost "World Communion Sunday" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service & Holy Communion ➤ <i>Peace & Global Witness Offering</i> Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel
M	30	7
T	OCTOBER 1	8
	1p Circle meeting @ GMPC 7p Finance Cmte	
W	2	9
	7p Faith Cmte	
T	3	10
	6a Clean church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall: multi rooms)	6a Clean church 7p GSA Tr 5000 dinner meeting (Fellowship Hall: multi rooms)
F	4	11
S	5	12
	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Room)	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Meeting/ Dining Room)

Worship Attendance	M	V	M	V
September 1, 2024	19	9	7	1
September 8, 2024	18	4	7	
September 15, 2024	19	7	11	
September 22, 2024	18	5	6	
September 29, 2024				

M=Members V=Visitors

[Pause for a moment of silent confession.]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [In unison]

Hear the good news: our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. We are a people set free from the harmful patterns of the past for a future God builds in our midst even now. We are whole people who are called to make this world whole, with God's help.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #581 "Glory Be to the Father"**

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [In unison]**

If we are uncertain and weary, speak to us, O God. If we are grounded and hopeful, speak to us. If our faith feels solid and steady, speak to us, and if our faith feels shaky and tentative, speak to us. Keep speaking through your holy Word, O God, that we may find our voice in yours. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING [Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]

Old Testament: Psalm 128: 1-8 [p. 499]

New Testament: Mark 10:46-52 [p. 823]

SERMON "What Do You Want...?" Rev. Dr. Charles E. Bagwell

***REFLECTIVE HYMN #418 "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"**

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]

We make our offering before God, not as payment for a grace we could never afford, but as an act of commitment and gratitude for the God who builds a new world in our midst, even now. We do not give out of guilt or pride. We give out of joy, trusting that God will use these gifts for the good of all people.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [Pastor]**

Accept all that is offered in this place this day, O God. Accept our material commitments to build a more peaceable family on this earth and in our own communities. Accept our personal commitments to become a people who break cycles of hatred and retaliation, in both large-scale and everyday ways. Use these gifts, and use us messy people, for the rebuilding of a world of hope and healing in your name, Amen.

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

One: God our creator, Christ our friend, Spirit our guide, we spend so much time straining to hear your voice, picturing a booming baritone from the heavens startling us with words of power. But that is not how you often speak to us, is it? You speak in the cry of a child who has lost her homeland. You speak in the desperation of a mother who feels the thunder of bombings, and who finds it in herself to sing a song of calm to her children. You speak in the terror of parents receiving alerts on their phones that their child's school is on lockdown.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: We pray for our nation as we approach elections. Grant our leaders and candidates the humility to serve rather than to be served. May they seek the wisdom that comes from above — pure, peace-loving and full of mercy. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. We lift up to you the conflicts and crises in our world. [Specific world events can be mentioned here]. Bring your peace to areas of strife, comfort to those who suffer, and justice to the oppressed.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: You speak in teachers putting their bodies on the line when they should never have to. In all the heartbreaking moments of human history, in the illness, in the poverty, in the racism, in the bigotry, in the injustice, in the terrible cycles of violence, you are there.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: You speak not as a booming voice, but in the quietness of tears falling on stunned cheeks. You speak in the quiet resolve of not one more lost life. You speak in the quiet everyday heroism of people who act for policies and protections against unfettered violence and weaponization.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: You are still speaking in it all, just as you were speaking in the time of Esther and Vashti. Speak to us all a word of building a new world, where tears and violence and even death are no more. Where life is for all people, not in a vague spiritual sense but a material life of enough and safety for all of your children. Speak to our hardened hearts, O God. We will listen and act.

All: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

One: Hear these prayers from your people, God, as we pray the prayer our Savior taught us, "**Our Father....**"

***DEPARTING HYMN # 269 "Lead On, O King Eternal"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

POSTLUDE