

To the Saints and Friends of Gregory Memorial:



THE FALL SEASON AND BIBLICAL HARVEST



Autumn is a favorite season for many. The smell of cinnamon, nutmeg, and vanilla fills a kitchen. The colors of carrots, squash, and green beans are all beautifully arranged on a table. The sound of dried leaves rustling in the wind is like nature's music. Autumn is not only a significant time culturally, but this season also holds biblical significance. We can study Scripture and its theme of harvest to gain a deeper perspective of fall. For those of us who place our faith in Christ, autumn signifies the gospel and the coming of Jesus.

Old Testament Fall Feasts

Scripture introduces gospel hope through the fall feasts among the ancient Israelites. The Israelites were God's chosen people through whom He revealed His plan of redemption. Living in an agrarian society, the Israelites viewed autumn in light of harvest. Harvest refers to a process or period when crops are gathered. To accompany the harvest season, God told the Israelites to celebrate three festivals (Leviticus 23 and Numbers 29). These festivals included the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

As indicated in its name, the Feast of Trumpets began with a blast of a trumpet. Scholars claim that the instrument's sound gathered the people and signified the arrival of God as their King. The Day of Atonement was when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, the place where the glory of God resided. The priest performed animal sacrifices there and then released a goat into the wilderness. These actions symbolized sin's payment and its removal from the people of God. Finally, the Feast of Tabernacles was a time to remember God dwelled with the Israelites during their wilderness journey. The Israelites feasted on harvested produce and rejoiced in God's provision.

When the harvest season was over, however, the Israelites continued in their brokenness. Nevertheless, in the festivals, God revealed that He would have mercy on

His people, save them from sin, and dwell with them forever. Through Christ, the fall feasts have their fulfillment.

The Harvest Mission

In Jesus's life, we see the realization in what the fall feasts symbolized. For instance, the Eternal Son of God came to earth and took on flesh. When He was born, a host of angels announced the arrival of King Jesus. The heavenly beings praised His name, and, like the sound of trumpets, their praises excited shepherds nearby to see. As the Israelites gathered together during the Feast of Trumpets, the shepherds too gathered before the manger.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus lived with His people. The God of the universe was with the lowly and humble. In Christ, He dwelt with us in a way similar to the Lord's presence in the tabernacle but more intimate. The joy of His nearness was foreshadowed in the Feast of Tabernacles. But, in His first coming, His people feasted on His goodness and rejoiced in His salvation. Finally, when Jesus hung on the cross, Jesus embodied the Day of Atonement. As the Banished Goat, He took on our sins and was rejected. As the Spotless Lamb, He offered His body as a perfect sacrifice to pay for our debt. Jesus was also the True High Priest who entered the Holy of Holies and gave us access to God the Father at all times.

Jesus equated bringing people to salvation with the work of the fall season. After preaching the good news about the kingdom and healing people from sin, Jesus said to His disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:35-38). Belief in the gospel is a spiritual harvest. Through our faith in Him, Jesus reaps us for the kingdom of God.

Source: <https://thedailygraceco.com/blogs/the-daily-grace-blog/the-fall-season-and-biblical-harvest/faith-in-the-Word-Nov-2021>.



WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER, 2024

Sunday, 6 October, 2024

“World Communion Sunday”

“20TH Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 13 October, 2024

“21ST Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

Sunday, 20 October, 2024

“22ND Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel

Sunday, 27 October, 2024

“Reformation Sunday”

“23RD Sunday after Pentecost” – Liturgical Color: Green
 Guest Preacher: Ms. Caitlyn Culp



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/hardships 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)</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) Charlie Perkins (health issue) Evelyn Foster (Petersburg Home for Ladies, Rm #22) Family/friends of Marty Mann, brother-in-law of Donald Hunter & Pat Hunter (d. 9/4) Family/friends of Bill & Janet Shill, on loss of Bill’s daughter, Amanda Shill (d. 9/15)</p>
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLED CONGREGATION MEETING (ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025)

A Called Congregation Meeting is announced for **Sunday, November 3, 2024**. The meeting will begin in the Sanctuary immediately after the worship service. This meeting is being called to elect : 3 Elders and 1 Trustee for Class of 2027, and also 1 Trustee to serve an unexpired term beginning January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025.

The Congregation Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of names to be presented at the Called Meeting, and the congregation will be given opportunity to add additional names to be considered for election.

Elders-elect will be examined by Session on **Sunday, November 17**, and the Ordination (for 1st-time Elders) and Installation Ceremony (Rev. Marvin Daniel, Officiant) for all will be held during the worship service that follows.

“THESE DAYS” (Oct.-Dec.)

Now available in the Narthex. *Pick up your free copy now for some inspired daily reading!*

2025 POCKET DIRECTORY

The DRAFT Pocket Directory is available in the Narthex. Please review your info for accuracy: Check your mailing address, email address, and landline and cellphone numbers, then write your initials beside your own info. DRAFT will be given to Faith Committee after worship on Oct. 27.

Congregation copies will be available: Nov. 24.

STATED SESSION MEETING

will convene at **10:30 a.m. (est.) before worship service on Sunday, October 20** (Rev. Marvin Daniel, Moderator) for examination of Elders-elect.



Meeting will adjourn at 11 a.m. for worship service and reconvene immediately after conclusion of the service to conduct remainder of Session meeting. This is the final Stated Session Meeting for 2024.

NEEDED: Gently-used ,old-style wall phone with coiled cord for Church Kitchen. Ours finally bit the dust!

HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

March 4, 2024 April 7, 2024	June 9, 2024 August 4, 2024	October 6, 2024 December 1, 2024
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ANNOUNCERS FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

October 6 Patsy Johnson	October 13 Sandy Hunter	October 20 Larry Johnson	October 27 Susan Shockley
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HOLY HUMOR

Hallowe'en, which literally means "Holy Evening", dates back to the pagan times and is thought to originate with the Celtic pagan festival of Samhain, a celebration of the end of the harvest season, meaning "summer's end." Celts believed this evening was also when the walls between the worlds of the living and the dead were thin and porous, thus enabling spirits to pass through. Celts believed unhappy or vengeful spirits had the power to damage the crops for the next season. As a result of this fear, they would set up places at their dinner tables and offer the spirits food and drink to appease them. Bonfires were also lit to scare off the evil spirits.

Halloween also marks the day before the feast of "All Saints Day" (also known as "All Hallows") ---a day that dates back to the 8th Century to stamp out pagan traditions and convert people to Christianity. On this day, Christians honored the saints and prayed for those spirits who had not yet reached Heaven.

Spirited Halloween... This happened in a little town in Northern Saskatchewan. Even though it sounds like an Alfred Hitchcock tale, it's true.

A man named "Harry" was on the side of the road hitchhiking on a very dark and stormy Halloween night. The night was getting darker and the rain came down harder, and still no cars went by. The storm was so strong Harry could hardly see a few feet ahead of him. Suddenly, he saw a car come toward him. It rolled to a stop.

Without thinking about it, Harry jumped into the car and closed the door. Just as he realized there was nobody behind the wheel, the car started to move. As panic set in, he looked at the road and saw a curve coming his way. Scared beyond belief, he started to pray, begging for his life. Just as the car got to the curve, and Harry thought it was all over for him, a hand appeared out of the dark through the window and moved the wheel.

Harry was paralyzed in terror as he watched the hand appear every time the car got to a curve. Gathering his strength, he jumped out of the car and ran to the nearest town. Wet and in shock, he went into a bar and asked for two shots of rye. He started telling everyone about the horrible experience he went through.

The crowd sat in an eerie silence when they realized that Harry was crying and wasn't drunk.

About half an hour later, two soaking wet men walked into the bar. One pointed to Harry and said to the other, "Look Al, there's that jerk that jumped in the car while we were pushing it."

Graveyard Ghost... Two people were walking home after a Halloween party and decided to take a shortcut through the cemetery just for laughs. Right in the middle of the cemetery they were startled by a tap-tap-tapping noise coming from the misty shadows.

Trembling with fear, they found an old man with a hammer and chisel, busy chipping away at one of the headstones.

"Holy cow, Mister," one of them said after catching his breath, "You scared us half to death -- we thought you were a ghost! What are you doing working here so late at night?"

"Those fools!" the old man grumbled without looking up. "I'm fixing this: They misspelled my name!"

A Bat Story... A bedraggled and weary little vampire bat came flapping in from the night covered in fresh blood and parked himself on the roof of the cave to get some sleep. Pretty soon all the other little bats smelled the blood and began hassling him relentlessly about where he got it. They just would not let up. He told them to knock it off and let him get some sleep, but they persisted until finally he gave in.

"OK, follow me," he said and flew out of the cave with hundreds of little bats flapping their wings behind him. Down through a valley they went, flapping their way across a river and into a forest full of trees. Finally he slowed down, and all the other bats excitedly milled around him. "Now, do you see that tree over there?" he asked.

"**YES, YES, YES!**" all the little bats all screamed at once in a frenzy.

"**Good!**" shouted the first bat, "**Because I DIDN'T!**"



OCTOBER, 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6a Clean church 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 dinner meeting, Fellowship Hall (multi rooms)	4	5 8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room)
6 "WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service & Holy Communion Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel	7	8 1p Circle meeting @GMPC 7p Finance Cmte	9 7p Faith Cmte	10 6a Clean church 7p GSA 5000 dinner meeting, Fellowship Hall (multi rooms)	11	12 8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room)
13 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson	14 6:30p BSA Crater OA Dinner mtg Fellowship Hall (multi rooms)	15	16	17 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter (Nov) articles due in office 6p BSA Cub Pack 910 dinner meeting, Fellowship Hall (multi rooms)	18	19 8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room)
20 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service Guest preacher: Rev. Marvin Daniel 12p Stated Session Mtg Moderator: Rev. Daniel	21	22	23	24 6a Clean church 2p Newsletter (Nov) out	25	26 8p PG Study Group AA (Fellowship Hall, Reception Area, Kitchen, Mtg/Dining Room)
27 "REFORMATION SUNDAY" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service ➤ 5 Cents-a-Meal Offering Guest preacher: Ms. Caitlyn Culp	28	29	30	31 HALLOWE'EN 6a Clean church 2p Cmte reports due		

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Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church
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STAMP

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



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)