

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Nancy S. Clark to Gregory Memorial's pulpit today!

December Preachers:

December 1 – Communion: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson; L. Johnson, Announcer

December 8: Rev. Nancy S. Clark; S. Shockley, Announcer

December 15: Service at 3 p.m.: Rev. Marvin Daniel; R. Scott, Announcer

December 22: Rev. Marvin Daniel; Mary Holc, Announcer

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service: Rev. Dr. Katherine C. Jackson

December 29: Rev. Marvin Daniel; D. Hunter, Announcer

Our Advent Candle Lighters:

Dec. 1: 1st Sunday of Advent:

David & Lauren Togger

Dec. 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent:

Barbara Taliaferro & Mary Lykins

Dec. 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent:

Jonathan & Maddi Mendoza

Dec. 22: 4th Sunday of Advent:

Mary & Sarah Webber

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve:

Rose Scott & Wayne Powers

Christmas Cards – Cards will be sorted and given out after today.

Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Please let Rose Scott know by Sunday, December 15 if you have a child or youth that wants to be in the Christmas pageant, which will be shared at the beginning of worship on December 24. We need names and ages. [Rev. K.C. Jackson]

Circle will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 17; Location: Susan Shockley's.

Christmas Cantata and Worship Service at 3 p.m. on Dec. 15: The combined choirs of Trinity UMC and Gregory Memorial PC will present the Christmas Cantata, "Celebrate! The Joy and Wonder of Christmas" at Trinity UMN at 11 a.m. Then, at 3 p.m. the choirs will perform a repeat performance of the Cantata at Gregory Memorial with a brief worship service. Please mark your calendar for 3 p.m. on Dec. 15. Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Angel Tree – This year, we are sponsoring the ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation. Every time a child comes in for a cancer treatment, they have an opportunity to select a toy from a "Treasure Chest." Please take a card from the Angel Tree that is in the Narthex. Each card has a description of the toy, along with its picture and the Aisle Number where it can be found. (EVERY TOY can be purchased at the Colonial Heights Target store.) We have the entire month to shop, **so your not-wrapped toys don't have to be brought to church until Dec. 22!**

In abundance of caution for safety and privacy of persons on "Prayers & Concerns", moving forward the bulletin will not include address specifics. Please refer to the Directory or call the church office at (804) 732-1081 for info.

Resource: Holy Bible, (NRSV) © 1989 by Div. of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Pub. by Zondervan.

Resource: Hymns, Glory To God, Presbyterian Hymnal, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.

Resource: AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: "The Apostle's Creed"; "ASSURANCE OF PARDON", Book of Common Worship.

Resource: Liturgy by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett, Crescent Springs PC in No. Kentucky, and provided to congregations freely for worship use; © 2024 Presbyterian Outlook

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*

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT”

December 8, 2024

11:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Sandra Perkins, Organist
Gail Hare, Pianist

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

Susan Shockley

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Nancy S. Clark

CALL TO WORSHIP [Pastor; responsive; Isaiah 40:1-5]

One: Comfort, O comfort my people!

All: We welcome God’s tender words to us today.

One: Prepare the way for your God!

All: We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ’s coming.

One: Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

All: Thanks be to God for this good news!

Candle Lighter: *We light this candle as a
symbol of the peace of
heart only God can bring.*

Barbara Taliaferro
& Mary Lykins

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***OPENING HYMN #83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [Pastor]

Scripture reminds us that repentance is part of our preparation to meet Christ. Let us therefore confess our sins together, trusting in his mercy and love.

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)
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 (health issue)
Mary Kay & Mike Schroeter (health issues)
Dr. Joseph Hillier of Matoaca, Lykins family friend (health issue)
Peggy & Dennis Allen (health issues)
Corey Whelan, Pat Hunter’s grandson (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)
Evelyn Foster
Michael Evans, former son-in-law of Nancy & A. W. Adams and son of
Bobby & Sandra Tipton and Ray Evans (health issue)
Frank (“Butch”) Reiter (health issue)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Back page

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

S	DECEMBER 8 "2nd Sunday of Advent" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship Service By: Rev. Nancy S. Clark <i>Angel Tree gift tags are ready for selection (Deadline for return of not-wrapped gifts is Dec. 22)</i>	DECEMBER 15 "3rd Sunday of Advent" NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 3p Worship service By: Rev. Marvin Daniel Christmas Cantata: "Celebrate! The Joy of Christmas" Refreshments in Fellowship Hall
M	6:30-9p BSA Crater OA (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)	
T		12p Circle @ S. Shockley's
W		5:30-9p BSA Tr 900 Honor Court (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
T	6a Clean church 7-9p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)	6a Clean church <i>Poinsettia delivery today</i> <u>Payment is due on delivery</u> 2p Newsletter (Jan) articles due in office 6-8p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall, Kitchen)
F		
S	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)	8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Attendance	Worship		Service		Sunday		School	
	M	V	M	V	M	V	M	V
December 1, 2024	20	8			11			2
December 8, 2024								
December 15, 2024								
December 22, 2024								
December 29, 2024								

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Holy God, we confess we prefer the crooked paths where we think we can hide from you. We'd rather you didn't examine us too closely, all we do and fail to do. Yet you are coming not to judge, but to save us from our sins and our love of sinning. So come, Lord, by crooked path or straight, to enter our aching hearts. In the certainty of your grace we make our prayer. Amen.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]

One: Hear the good news! Christ is our peace.

All: Through him we have forgiveness and new hope.

One: He comes to break the power of sin and set us free again.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

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

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

Jesus Christ, Word of God, dwell in us as we turn to these pages, holy ancient stories that proclaim your truth. In the Spirit, give us ears to hear and hearts to believe. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING [Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]

New Testament: Luke 1: 68-79 [p. 832] Reader: Susan Shockley
 Luke 3: 1-6

SERMON "Why Wait and Prepare?" Rev. Nancy S. Clark

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN #96 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

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]

With gratitude for all God has given us, let us return our offerings to God, passing the plates along the aisle as we remember that it takes all of us together to make this church strong.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION [In unison]**

Generous God, we thank you for all our blessings, and offer these gifts back to your service, that this church might continue to shine your light into the world. Amen.

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

One: Holy, beloved God, we come before you seeking strength and comfort, someone to help us bear the load or to give us a load worth bearing. In our praying, give us open ears to hear your assurances and open hearts to feel your peace, even as we say together:

All: God of peace, hear our prayers.

One: We pray for the church, marked by a willingness to work in kindness and not count the hours or the cost. As the world darkens and the days grow short, may Christ's light in us shine with a steady flame, bringing light, healing, reconciliation, and peace. We pray for common sense, and faithful humility that marked the life of your son, our Savior, that we may live lives of kindness and grace.

All: God of peace, hear our prayers.

One: God of faithfulness and truth, we pray for the world around us, for those whose names we do not know yet whose hurts fill the news, whose afflictions touch us not nearly long enough. Send them your Spirit, that those who do have power to make changes may use their power or wellbeing of all.

All: God of peace, hear our prayers.

One: In this season of Advent, where many watch and wait, be with those waiting by a hospital bedside, or watching for return of a loved one. May all who wait with anxiety find your peace, and all who watch with fearfulness be calmed by your steady heart.

All: God of peace, hear our prayers.

One: We pray for those close to our hearts: *[Pause for silent prayer...]*
And now we pray as Jesus taught us, saying, **"Our Father ..."**

***DEPARTING HYMN #355 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

POSTLUDE