

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the Rev. Marvin Daniel 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; Donald Hunter, Announcer

Next Sunday's Preacher (Jan. 5) - Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson.

Omitted from January Newsletter Calendar: Worship Committee and volunteers will meet at the church on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 1 p.m. to take down the Advent/Christmas decorations.

Epiphany Luncheon, Jan. 5 - Rev. Jackson, in conjunction with the Faith Committee, will be hosting an Epiphany Luncheon immediately after Worship on January 5, 2025 (Menu: soup, sandwiches and a special dessert). You can count on having lots of fun, and you may even learn some facts about Epiphany that you didn't know!! What a wonderful way to kick off the New Year. No cooking required; just come and enjoy. As always, please take this opportunity to invite a friend to join you! *All are welcome at Gregory Memorial!*

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

Resource: AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, "Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God", A Declaration of Faith, Published March 17, 2010, the Presbyterian Church USA.

Resource: ASSURANCE OF PAR.ON, Book of Common Worship; © 1993 John Knox Press.

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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

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS"

DECEMBER 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GREGORY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS”

December 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. Marvin Daniel

CALL TO WORSHIP [*Responsive; Luke 1:46*]

One: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

All: So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

One: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

All: Teach us, O Lord, how to lead lives of holiness and godliness while, in accordance with your promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

***OPENING HYMN # 15 "All Creatures of Our God and King"**

CALL TO CONFESSION [*Pastor; Acts 3:19*]

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, “Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

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 & civil unrest in Syria
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)
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; he’s now at home)
Frank (“Butch”) Reiter, Jr. (health issue)
Family/friends of Peggy Allen, wife of Dennis, mother of Morgan Ingram & grandmother of Rigsby Ingram (d. 12/26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Back page

THESE TWO WEEKS AT GREGORY

| | DECEMBER 29 | JANUARY 5 |
|---|---|---|
| S | "1st Sunday of Christmas" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service by: Rev. Marvin Daniel ➤ Local Emergency Aid Offering | "2nd Sunday of Christmas" 9:30a Sunday School 11a Worship service By: Rev. Dr. K. C. Jackson 12p Epiphany Luncheon (Fellowship Hall; Menu: soup, sandwiches & a special dessert!) <i>Feel free to bring a friend!</i> <i>All are welcome!</i> |
| M | 30 | "Epiphany of the Lord" 6 |
| T | New Year's Eve 31 | 7 |
| | Church office open | |
| W | New Year's Day 1 | 7p Faith Cmte 8 |
| | Church office open | |
| T | Church office open 2 | 6a Clean church 9 |
| | 6a Clean church | 7-9p GSA Tr 5000 (Fellowship Hall) |
| | 6-8p BSA Cub Pack 910 (Fellowship Hall) | |
| F | 3 | 10 |
| S | 1p Worship Cmte & volunteers Un-decorate the church 4 | 8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall) 11 |
| | 8p PG Study Group AA meeting (Fellowship Hall) | |

| Attendance | Worship | Service | Sunday | School |
|-------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|
| | M | V | M | V |
| December 1, 2024 | 20 | 8 | 11 | 2 |
| December 8, 2024 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 2 |
| December 15, 2024 | 24 | 28 | --- | |
| December 22, 2024 | 30 | 11 | 14 | |
| December 29, 2024 | | | | |

M=Members V=Visitors

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In unison]

Holy and merciful God, we confess we neglect to seek your wisdom for our lives. Lord, have mercy. We let the cares and concerns of this world crowd out the promise of your Word, that you are with us always. Christ, have mercy. We confess we face the future with uncertainty and misgivings. Help us put our trust in you so we may live faithful and obedient lives, depending on the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the love of Christ to shape our lives and actions. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

[Pause for a moment of silent confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON [Responsive]

One: The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

All: He fulfills the desires of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and and saves them.

One: Friends, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

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

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

God of Wisdom, as the Scriptures teach us, truly it is the spirit in a mortal, the breath of the Almighty, that makes for understanding. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we hear your Word read and proclaimed, that we may be encouraged and strengthened to live lives worthy of our calling as your people. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING [Holy Bible, NRSV Trans.]

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26 [p. 214]

Psalm 148 [p. 508]

Reader: D. Hunter

New Testament: Luke 2: 41-52 [p. 833-834]

SERMON

"Finding Jesus"

Rev. Marvin Daniel

*** REFLECTIVE HYMN # 140 "Once in Royal David's City"**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH [fr A Declaration of Faith, Ch. 6, Sec. 2,
"Jesus Christ is the living Word of God"]**

The Word which was with God from the beginning was embodied in Jesus Christ. We hold that what God says to us and does for us centers in Jesus Christ our living Lord as he is remembered, known, and expected. In Christ God's Word of acceptance takes flesh: by grace through faith we are set right with God, adopted as children of God, not because of anything we have done, but because of what Christ has done. In Christ God's Word of demand is lived out: to love God and neighbor as he did is what God requires of us. The Spirit adds no different Word from God, but leads us deeper into the truth of God uttered in Jesus Christ.

CALL FOR OFFERING [Pastor; Hebrews 13:15]

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: "Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

OFFERING, OFFERTORY

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

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

Good and gracious God, in this season of giving and receiving many gifts, we thank you for the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus Christ. In response to your love and mercy, we bring our tithes and offerings to you. Bless them and us, they may be multiplied and our hearts may be generous as we seek to do good and share what we have; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

One: Almighty and everlasting God, in this Christmas season, we thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus Christ. As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we rejoice that we serve a risen Savior who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End, who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Amen.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: Sovereign God, help us trust in your Word that you are making all things new. Open our eyes to your powerful works all around us. As we look ahead to 2025, we are tempted to see nothing but more of the same. Inspire and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: Lord of all nations, we humbly pray for peace throughout the world. Hasten the day when weapons of war will no longer be needed. Comfort the afflicted and oppressed. Shelter all who suffer the devastation of ongoing conflicts.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: Loving God, during this Christmas season, may we not forget to share the love you have so freely given in Jesus Christ. Guide us in all we do that we may respond with compassion to those in need. Help us be a church that takes the good news of Jesus Christ beyond the walls and traditions and safety of our buildings. Help us always to put our trust in our Lord who says, "Follow me."

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

One: We offer these and all of our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, "**Our Father ...**"

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

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION [Pastor]**

May you be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. Amen.

POSTLUDE