

Our sole purpose is to glorify God, proclaiming through word and deed the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. We trust God's Spirit to lead and nurture us in all our community and congregational endeavors. We desire that all who come through our doors find deeper faith, larger hope, and more complete love.

**Service For The Lord's Day
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
10 September 2017**

We Assemble to Worship

RINGING OF THE BELLS
BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN

** PRELUDE "The Bond of Love" with "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
arr. Ron Sprunger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

** THE CONGREGATION GATHERS
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP
"Come and Sing the Praise of the Lord" HAL'LUHU

RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 149 (NRSV) Allison Brock
Congregation Responses in **Bold**

Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise to God in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their Sovereign.

Let them praise God's name in the dance;

let them sing praise to the Lord with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in the chosen people and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

Let us pray together: **God our Maker, you crown the humble with honor and exalt the faithful who gather in your name. Because you have favored us with life, we dance before you in our joy and praise you with unending song for Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Now let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us,
Our Father Who Art in Heaven

* HYMN 396 "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" HOLY MANNA

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Rev. Dr. José Abraham De Jesús)

Let us pray: **Eternal Creator, we come to you seeking to fill the emptiness in our lives and in our ministries. Many times as a community of faith we have forgotten to follow you. We have been selective in what we teach and we have been selective in the justice we seek for others. There is in all of us the "null" curriculum we do not want to teach or confront, because we are afraid of the consequences. Help us identify what it is you are calling us to do. Help us to be faithful to that call in all we do and in all we say.**

* Silent Confession

* KYRIE ELEISON *Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.*

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON (John 3:16 BBE)

Leader: God had such love for the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever has faith in him may not come to destruction but have eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI (Hymnal) No. 581

** PRESENTATIONS:

-Recognition of Our Teachers and Leaders (Insert)
-Gifts to Acolytes Entering Ninth Grade
-Children's Bibles to First Graders

We Proclaim the Word

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14 (Rev. Joe Ward) OT 58

** HYMN 188 "Jesus Loves Me!" (first verse)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: "Blow the Shofar"

(Children age 4 - grade 1 depart for worship readiness with leader Tami Warren)

ANTHEM "Let Us With a Gladsome Mind" J. Milton/G.H. Richolson

SECOND LESSON: Matthew 18:16-20 NT 20

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE Sermon on Matthew 18:16-20 Rev. Joe Ward

* HYMN 316 "Where Charity and Love Prevail" TWENTY-FOURTH

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From a Brief Statement of Faith)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one true God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PASTORAL PRAYER

We Respond to God

OFFERTORY "In the Presence of Jehovah" arr. Tom Fettke
"In the presence of Jehovah, God almighty, Prince of peace; Troubles vanish, hearts are mended in the presence of the King."

(*Visitors, please fill out cards in pew rack and place in offering plate.*)

* DOXOLOGY (Hymnal) No. 606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We Go Forth to Serve

* HYMN 377 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON

* BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

"Farewell, Good Friends!" SHALOM, CHAVERIM

* TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

* POSTLUDE "Fantasy in D Minor" Lani Smith, 1974

* Those who are able, please stand

** Seating of worshippers

We welcome our visitors today. If you wish more information about this congregation or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), please speak with the minister. New members are received by 1) Re-Affirmation of Faith; 2) Transfer of Membership; and 3) by Profession of Faith and Baptism.

We are delighted to welcome to our pulpit today Joseph Ward, D.Min. Rev. Ward is a newly retired PCUSA minister, having served churches in Warsaw, Raleigh, Pennsylvania & Indiana where he was raised. Joe has studied extensively and has published writings about Jewish-Christian relations, and he is a regular presenter in synagogues as well as churches. He and his wife, Susan, live in Raleigh. Their adult sons, daughter and grandson live in NC, Minnesota and California.

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF MR. AND MRS. JAMES M. JOHNSTON, JR. AND MRS. JENNIFER DENNING HOCUTT BY MR. AND MRS. JIM JOHNSTON

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS: **REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

HOSPITAL/ASSISTED LIVING

Doc Fields – Southwood; Rm. 109

Frances Hubbard - GlenAire

Margaret Faircloth – Mary Gran; Rm. 715

Betty Heaton – Mary Gran; Rm. 105

OTHERS:

Angie Prucha – (Daughter of Edwin Danford)

Betty Hair – (Mother of Vickie Pope)

Juaweese Franklin – (Mother of Melissa Nimmo)

Joe Butler – (Brother-in-law of Penny Horne)

Jim McGuirt – (Former GMPC member)

Margaret Williamson – (Mother of Kermit Williamson, Dale Purcell & Wanda Coleman)

SYMPATHY TO: Rev. Jerry Bron and family on the passing of his nephew, John Michael Bron.

September ushers are: David Brock, Hampton Brock, Rick Green, Sim Green, Mark Harrell, Allison Martin

September: (Wednesday's: Handbells 6:00 p.m./Choir at 7:30 p.m.)

- 10 - 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group Kick-off: Fun, Fellowship & Food
- 11 - 7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Combined 1st Meeting/Quarterly Gathering
- 12 - 6:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
- 13 - 1:45 p.m. - Staff Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. - PresbyCrew; PresbyMusic: 4:30 Youth, 5:00 Children's
- 17 - 11:00 a.m. - Worship (*Sunday School weekly 9:45 a.m.)
- 5:00 p.m. - Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. - Diaconate Meeting
- 18 - 6:30 p.m. - Friends in Faith Leaders Meeting
- 19 - 9:30 p.m. - Prayer Quilts (Begin) / Newsletter Deadline

OTHER CONCERNS / LOOKING AHEAD . . .

Beginning Sunday, September 3, 2017, **Membership Rosters** of those eligible to serve as officers of GMPC will be made available for the upcoming elections. **Nomination Forms** will be included as bulletin inserts on September 17th, 24th and October 1st.

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held on November 5th for Elder and Deacon elections. *Individuals who wish not to serve should annually declare their unwillingness to the office.*

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Out of Chaos, Hope, for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Historic flooding has forced rivers and streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads, stranding thousands of people. The Presbytery is relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with these communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors. The needs for the response are great and God's people are once again called to fill in the "GAP" – Give. Act. Pray. For more information please visit <http://pda.pcusa.org/>.

The Designated Pastor Nominating Committee continues its weekly meetings. Ten Pastor Information Forms (PIF) have been referred to the committee by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. As we have examined these PIF's, certain ones have been eliminated from consideration, others have elected to withdraw their names from deliberation, and the committee has asked others to submit additional information. The committee will continue to review PIF's as they are received. Members of the committee include the following: Bill Aiken, Chair, Darby Scott, Secretary, Amelia Surratt, Paul Viser, Justin Lockamy, Lauren Perry, Brenda Nordin.

PW Circle Meetings will resume with a Quarterly Gathering on Monday, Sept. 11th, at 7:00 p.m. The 2017-2018 P.W. Handbooks and P.W. Horizon Bible Study Books will be distributed.

PresbyCrew resumes September 13th. PresbyCrew meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month from 3 – 5 p.m. for Kindergarten – 5th grade. Plan to join us & bring a friend!

PresbyMusic: Cherub Choir (Prek-1st Grade:1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 4-4:30); **Children's Choir/Handbells** (2nd-5th Grade: Wednesdays, 5-5:30); **Youth Choir/Handbells** (6th-8th Grade: Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30). *Welcome back letters and registrations have been mailed.

An **Installation Service for GMPC Presbyterian Women Officers and Leaders**, for the upcoming 2017-2018 program year, will be held on September 17th during Worship.

The Balcony Team is crafting devotionals to share with the congregation over the coming year. The devotionals are centered on the ideas of promoting peace, unity, and purity of God's church here at Graves Memorial. If you have a passage of Scripture that inspires you on this subject, we invite you to craft a brief devotional around it. The Balcony Team (Amelia Surratt, Anne Price, Linda Williamson, and Justin Lockamy) will provide the template and feedback for the devotional. We will then share it with the church family. And don't worry, no one will know who wrote what devotional – these are by the people of GMPC, for the people of GMPC.

CAKES NEEDED: for the September 14th First Baptist Soup Kitchen. We ask that all cakes be delivered to the GMPC kitchen by 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13th. *Please contact Linda Williamson to sign up/ place your name on the September list. We thank you in advance.

MISSION OPPORTUNITY: Christian Food Bank of Salemburg, every third Saturday, monthly, bags of food are given to those in need beginning at 9:00 a.m. What you can do to help: *Volunteer Your Time! Donate Food Items!* **Next Food Bank: September 16, 2017.**

GMPC Prayer Quilt Ministry (Third Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.) resumes September 19th in the Fellowship Hall. **Volunteers Needed!** Four quilts are prepared at each meeting, than sent home with a sewer to complete at home. The idea behind these quilts is simple, yet powerful. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered and symbolically tied into each quilt. Each "comforter" is a gift of love, a statement of faith and a testimony to our belief in God and the power of prayer. **If you know how to sew, and would like more information on how you can be of service to this wonderful ministry, contact Bill Scott, Missions Chair, cell #990-3474 or the church office.**

Wes and Nancy Cowand and Boy Scout Troop 80 cordially invite you to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Wesley Cowand on Sunday, September 17, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church. Reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.