



Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

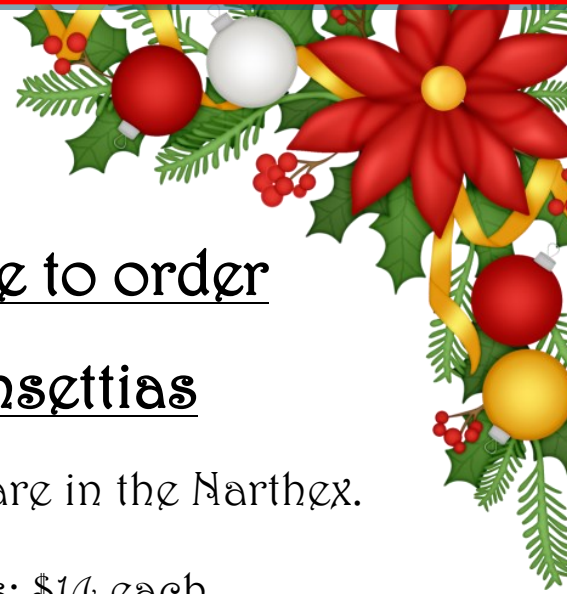
25 East Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701 ~ www.grucc.com

# The Grace Vine December 2023



<b>In this issue:</b>	<b>pg.</b>
Poinsettia Reminder	1
Ornament order forms/ Music news	2
Directory Updates/ Coat and Sock Drive	3
Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Book Club	4
From Pastor Gerry's Desk	5
Calendar	6-7
Daily Readings	8-9
A note from Worship and Education Commission	10
Care notes/follow us	11

## POINSETTIAS



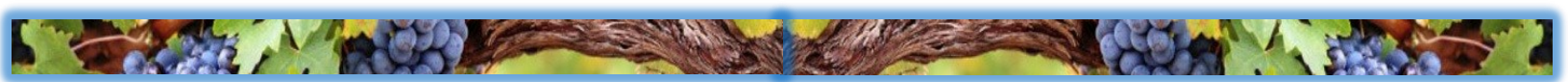
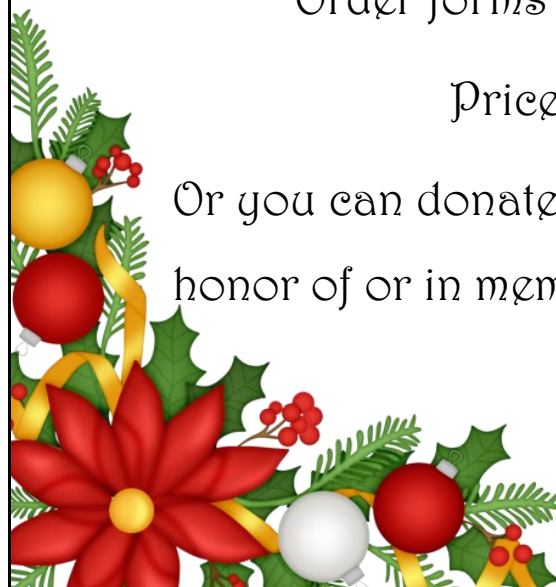
It's time to order

Poinsettias

Order forms are in the Narthex.

Prices: \$14 each

Or you can donate to the chancel fund in honor of or in memory of a loved one.



# COMMEMORATIVE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Ornaments ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

x \$10 = TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: *Grace UCC*

Memo: *Ornament*



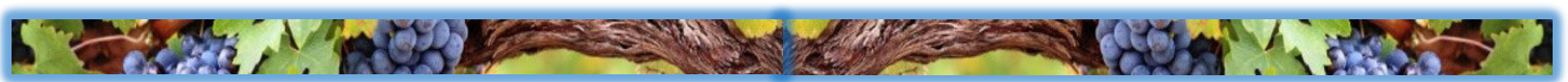
# CHRISTMAS CANTATA

It's hard to believe the last month of 2023 is here! The musical highlight of this month is our long anticipated Christmas cantata which will be at our morning service on December 17th. This year we will be doing Joseph Martin's "Appalachian Winter." This is a really fun one and I hope you will plan to attend and invite many friends and family! On Christmas Eve we'll still have our regular morning service (to cover the observance of the fourth Sunday of Advent), while our traditional Christmas Eve service will be in the evening at 7:30. However, be sure to come early because the prelude starts at 7pm!

As in the past, Grace will participate in the House of Worship tour on the day after Christmas. We have a full musical lineup for the whole evening as follows: 4-5pm, Terry Sparks Studio Recital, Concordia a cappella choir; 5-6pm, One God - One Voice Choir; 6-7pm, Nathan Strite, organ; 7-8pm, Justin Furnia, piano; 8-9pm, singing carols.

The holiday music offerings at Grace are only the beginning of what our community has to offer this season. From church concerts to community choruses to school productions, I encourage you to support local musicians and take a moment to enjoy the sounds of the season this Christmas.

Nathan Strite



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

**A New Year is around the corner!**

**Out with the old,**

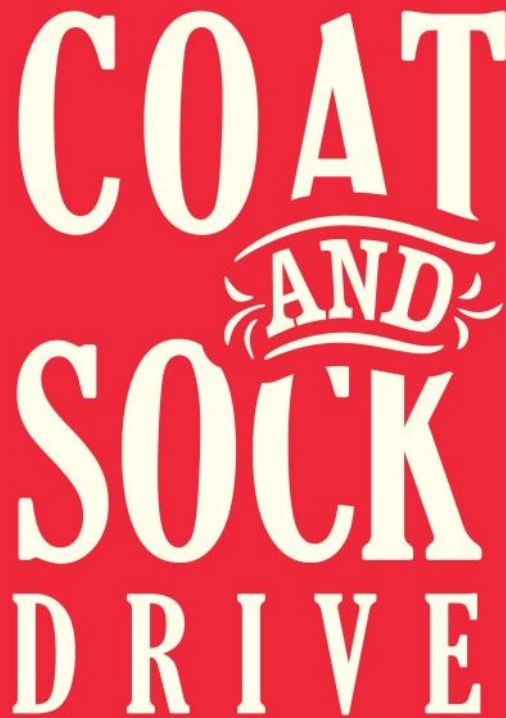
**In with the new!**

## Church Directory and Contact Information Update

Would you like to be added to the distribution list to receive church emails, newsletters, bulletins and special announcements?

Do you have a new address? New phone number? New email? New family member?...  
Keep the church office records up-to-date with your new or updated contact information!

Please contact the church office at [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) We would also like to add your birthday and wedding anniversary dates to the church records!



COAT  
AND  
SOCK  
DRIVE



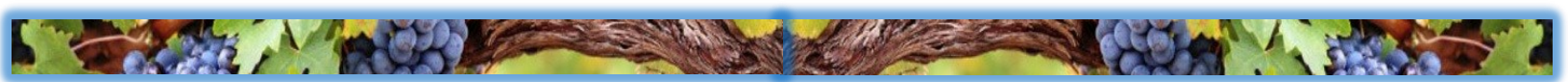
GIVE THE GIFT OF  
WARMTH THIS SEASON

Now through December 17th, 2023

Donate gently used coats and  
new socks in the box in the  
Narthex from now through  
December 17th, 2023.



For Questions contact the office: [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Russell Haak Dec 1

Bob Faylor Dec 14

Jennifer Kaufman Dec 2

Jessica Townsley Dec 20

Greg Travis Dec 3

Jessica Pineda Dec 24

Maddie Harbaugh Dec 5

Kelly Pineda Dec 24

Millie Davis Dec 7

Mary Lou Thomas Dec 24

Dave Keys Dec 7

Carol Garrison Dec 29

Cynthia Wachter Dec 11

Debbie Shores Dec 29

Nathaniel Almendarez Dec.14

Karla Robeson Dec 31

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

# Happy Anniversary!

*Paula and Robert Pendergraft December 21*

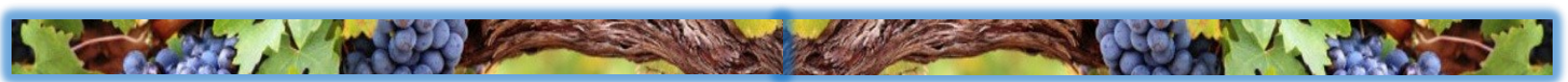
## GRACE UCC ( VIRTUAL) BOOK CLUB

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

**Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind, or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit!**

### **A note from Book Club:**

You are encouraged to join us any time. Invite your Book lover friends and family to join in our Book Club! Contact us for questions at: Doris Moxley: [Dorismoxley@gmail.com](mailto:Dorismoxley@gmail.com), or Missy Moxley: [nehoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:nehoneybee@gmail.com) We can't wait to see you there!



## FROM PASTOR GERRY'S DESK

I am reminded of these sayings, which I have heard numerous times in these fast-paced days of November: “Where did the time go?” “It’s like Winter already, and Christmas will be here before you know it.” “Halloween is hardly over and the stores are already selling Christmas stuff.” And finally the saying: “time flies when you’re having fun.” So, I am wondering if you’re having fun? I have and I haven’t.

I am deeply grateful for the journey we’ve shared this year, a journey that will lead you to a new pastor and the exciting opportunities before you. I am deeply grateful for the trust you’ve placed in me. It’s been FUN!

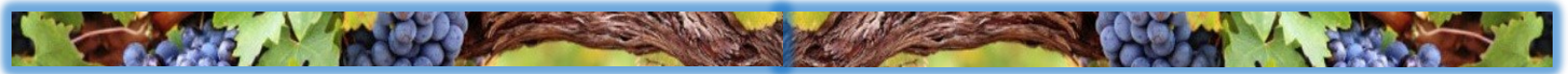
Worship is so special each Sunday at Grace Church. The music, directed by Nathan Strite, is always excellent and inspiring, and the music of Advent and Christmas will be no exception. I am most excited about the Christmas Cantata, December 17 at 11 a.m. The worship team, including the Altar Guild folks as well as others who decorate the Sanctuary will delight us with the beauty of wreaths and poinsettias. Thanks for the FUN.

We in the office, especially Kelly, will work to present all the information you need to fully participate in all the activities of the season. I am grateful for the creative and beautiful ways Kelly presents our worship materials.

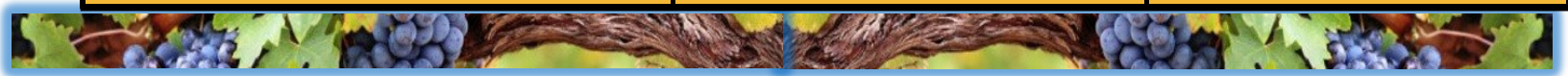
What’s not so much FUN is dealing with the world and local issues that are so traumatic to so many. For example, it is extremely difficult to know what to say about the Israel/Hamas war. Whatever I say about one side the others will be upset and vice-a-versa. What does the church say and do about these horrible events? If I say nothing then folks wonder if I care. It’s not FUN.

I pray, in spite of all the trauma, this Season will be FUN and joyous for you and yours and for Grace Church and the Community in which we live.

Faithfully, Pastor Gerry



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
<b>SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;">3 <b>Worship-11:00 AM</b> First Sunday of Advent 9:45-10:30 Advent Weekly Reflection at GRUCC</p>		
<b>SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;">10 <b>Worship-11:00 AM</b> Second Sunday of Advent 9:45-10:30 Advent Weekly Reflection at GRUCC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 5 7:00 PM Property &amp; Finance Meeting (Subject to change)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">5 12</p>
<b>SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;">17 Third Sunday of Advent <i>Christmas Cantata 11:00 AM</i> (Light Fellowship to follow) 9:45-10:30 Advent Weekly Reflection at GRUCC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">19 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting (Subject to change)</p> 
<b>SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4</b>		
<p style="text-align: center;">24 <b>Worship-11:00 AM</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM</b></p>  <p style="text-align: right;">Fourth Sunday of Advent</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25 <i>Oh come let us adore Him</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">26 4:00 PM Historic Houses of Worship Tour</p>
<b>SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4</b>		



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>December</h1>		1	2 League of Women Voters' Delegation Breakfast 7:30AM
<b>00 PM Weekdays IN GRACE UCC'S Basement Day Shelter</b>			
6 <i>Wonderful Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club  10:00-11:00 Advent Weekly Reflection at Dublin Roasters	7 <i>Health Department Meeting</i> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  7:15-8:00 PM Advent Weekly Reflection Via ZOOM	8	9 
<b>00 PM Weekdays IN GRACE UCC'S Basement Day Shelter</b>			
13 <i>Wonderful Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club  10:00-11:00 Advent Weekly Reflection at Dublin Roasters	14 <i>Health Department Meeting</i> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  7:15-8:00 PM Advent Weekly Reflection Via ZOOM	15	16 Don't Forget your coat and sock donations! Deadline is Tomorrow!  
<b>00 PM Weekdays IN GRACE UCC'S Basement Day Shelter</b>			
20 <i>Wonderful Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club  10:00-11:00 Advent Weekly Reflection at Dublin Roasters	21 <i>Health Department Meeting</i> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  7:15-8:00 PM Advent Weekly Reflection Via ZOOM	22	23
<b>00 PM Weekdays IN GRACE UCC'S Basement Day Shelter</b>			
27 <i>Wonderful Wednesday</i> 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club  	28 <i>Health Department Meeting</i> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM	29	30 
<b>00 PM Weekdays IN GRACE UCC'S Basement Day Shelter</b>			



## DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER

The gospel readings for the month of December, 2023, are centered mostly in Mark, with scattered readings from Matthew, Luke and John. For instance, the first two Sundays draw from Mark, Chapters 13 and then 1: The coming of the “son of man;” and the Proclamation of John the Baptist. The season of Advent offers some of the most beautiful and compelling texts in the Bible. Of course, we read the same texts for Christmas Eve each year: Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, & Luke 2:1-20.

The Hebrew/Old Testament texts for Advent come from Isaiah. Enjoy the variety of readings leading up to and including Christmas Eve.



### Advent 1

01- F Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Zechariah 14:1-9  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

02- Sa Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Micah 2:1-13  
Matthew 24:15-31

03- Su *First Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

04-M Psalm 79  
Micah 4:1-5  
Revelation 15:1-8

05- Tu Psalm 79  
Micah 4:6-13  
Revelation 18:1-10

06- W Psalm 79  
Micah 5:1-5a  
Luke 21:34-38



### Advent 2

07- Th Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Hosea 6:1-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

08- F Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Acts 11:19-26

09- Sa Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
Ezekiel 36:24-28  
Mark 11:27-33

10- Su *Second Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

11- M Psalm 27  
Isaiah 26:7-15  
Acts 2:37-42

12- Tu Psalm 27  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 11:1-18

13- W Psalm 27  
Malachi 2:10—3:1  
Luke 1:5-17



### Advent 3

14- Th Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 2:1-5  
Philippians 3:7-11

15- F Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:2-6  
Philippians 3:12-16

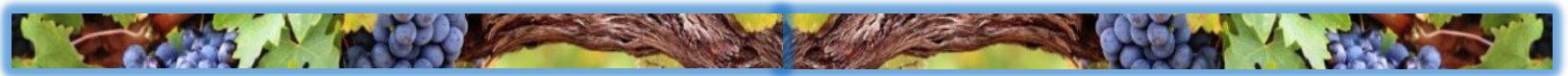
16- Sa Psalm 126  
Habakkuk 3:13-19  
Matthew 21:28-32

17- Su *Third Sunday of Advent*  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126 *or* Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

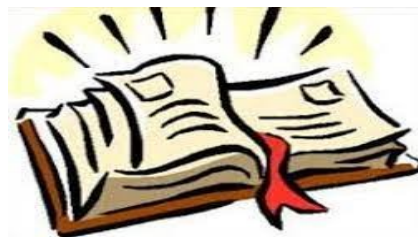
18- M Psalm 125  
1 Kings 18:1-18  
Ephesians 6:10-17

19- Tu Psalm 125  
2 Kings 2:9-22  
Acts 3:17—4:4

20- W Psalm 125  
Malachi 3:16—4:6  
Mark 9:9-13







**Advent 4**

- 21- Th Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 6:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-4
- 22- F Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
2 Samuel 6:12-19  
Hebrews 1:5-14
- 23- Sa Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Judges 13:2-24  
John 7:40-52
- 24- Su *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:46b-55 *or* Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38
- 25- M Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Samuel 1:1-18  
Hebrews 9:1-14
- 26- Tu Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Samuel 1:19-28  
Hebrews 8:1-13
- 27- W Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Mark 11:1-11

**Days around Christmas**

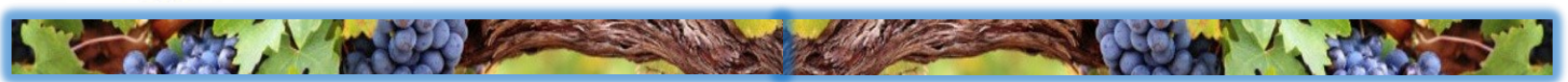
- Dec 22 Psalm 96  
Zephaniah 3:8-13  
Romans 10:5-13
- Dec 23 Psalm 96  
Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Romans 13:11-14
- Dec 24 Psalm 96  
(a.m.) Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
James 1:17-18
- Dec 24 *Nativity of the Lord I*  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]
- Dec 25 *Nativity of the Lord II*  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20
- Dec 25 *Nativity of the Lord III*  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

*First Sunday after Christmas Day,  
December 26-31*

- Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40
- Dec 26 Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15  
Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
- Dec 27 Psalm 148  
Exodus 33:18-23  
1 John 1:1-9
- Dec 28 Psalm 148  
Jeremiah 31:15-17  
Matthew 2:13-18
- Dec 29 Psalm 148  
Isaiah 49:5-15  
Matthew 12:46-50
- Dec 30 Psalm 148  
Proverbs 9:1-12  
2 Peter 3:8-13
- Dec 31 Psalm 148  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
John 8:12-19



○ come • ○ come • Emmanuel



# PASTORAL CARE NOTES

## A PASTORAL CARE NOTE

Due to the current HIPAA (Privacy) laws, hospitals are not permitted to contact churches on behalf of patients. If you know of a church member who is hospitalized, please inform the church office. In the case of an emergency hospitalization (whether yourself or a family member), Call Pastor Gerry at 301-788-6546.

- Millie Davis      801 Pine Ave., Frederick, MD 21701
- Eleanor Free      Citizens Nursing Home Rm 151B  
1920 Rosemont Ave, Frederick, MD 21702  
(Call the office if you'd like Eleanor's phone #)
- Pam Kehne      1632 Wall Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122



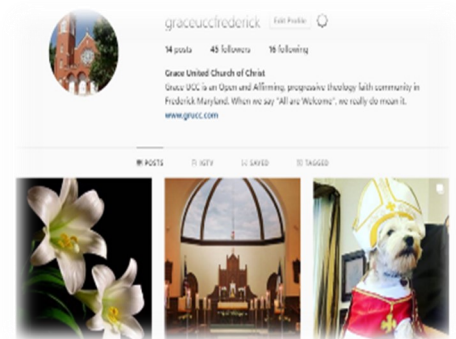
## FOLLOW GRACE ON SOCIAL MEDIA



### We are on Instagram & Facebook!

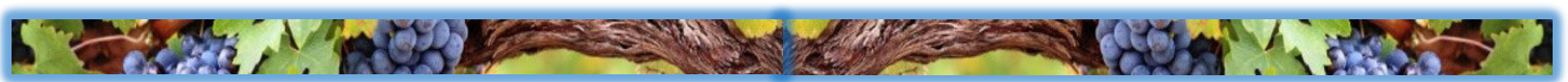
Want to see more of Grace Church Events & Community News? Have a great memory to share?

To see all of Grace UCC Happenings download and Install the app to follow all our photos and videos! If you have any Grace community photos you would like to see featured on the Grace Church **Facebook** or **Instagram** Page, please e-mail them to [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)



@graceuccfrederick

[https://www.instagram.com/invites/contact/?i=1hf0joy0vqhi2&utm\\_content=kvt2rqo](https://www.instagram.com/invites/contact/?i=1hf0joy0vqhi2&utm_content=kvt2rqo)



## ADVENT 2023: A SEASON OF JOY, HEALING, AND COMMUNITY

### Finding Light in Advent: A Time of Joy and Reflection

As we embrace the Advent season, our church community embarks on a journey of spiritual reflection and growth. This year, our focus is on finding joy in the midst of life's challenges. Our sermon series and devotional guide us in understanding how, even in times of grief and uncertainty, we can find solace and happiness in our faith. We draw inspiration from the Holy Family, whose story of chaos and change mirrors our own experiences, reminding us that in the midst of upheaval, there is the incomparable joy of Jesus's birth.

### Special Sermon Highlight: "Jesus and His Healing Love"

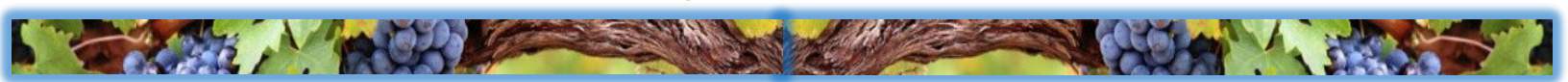
On November 26th, Lucinda and Ken Nelson of the Listen Love Pray Foundation shared their message of "Jesus and His Healing Love." Their work, particularly in Frederick County's sober living homes and with individuals on their recovery journey, embodies the healing power of Jesus's love. Listen Love Pray offers personal healing prayer appointments and hosts virtual healing services, creating a community of support and hope. Additionally, their upcoming 3-day conference in Shepherdstown, WV in June 2024 promises to be a transformative experience for all attendees.

### Join Us in Celebrating Advent and Embracing the Spirit of the Season

In the midst of the Advent hustle, I pray that you find moments to hear God's beckoning voice and rest in His presence. Let's embrace the entire Christmas season, which extends through to the Epiphany season, as a time for deep reflection on the joy Jesus brings into our lives. If you're feeling burdened, remember that the Listen Love Pray Foundation can support you with confidential and compassionate prayer. I also encourage everyone to participate in our Advent devotional study, to connect with our church family and carry this fellowship into an exciting new year.

As we move through this season of Advent, let us come together in faith, hope, and love. May this time be one of joyous anticipation, profound reflection, and strengthening of our community bonds.

Blessings to you and your loved ones during this special season,  
Amy Duray



*Grace United Church of Christ*

25 East Second Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

**Join us every Sunday at 11 AM**

for *Virtual Worship*



live streaming from the



*Grace UCC* sanctuary

Watch Live or at your leisure!

<https://www.facebook.com/GraceUCCFrederick/>



*Grace United Church of Christ*  
An Open and Affirming Congregation



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