

Grace United Church of Christ



Sunday, August 11, 2024



WE GATHER

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude - "The peace may be exchanged" from *Rubrics* - Dan Locklair

Time of Centering

I invite you now to sit back, plant your feet firmly on the floor and take some deep breaths as I share with words written by Chip Roush:

Gathering Prayer (In Unison)

God our teacher, who helps us to understand the world around us, thank you for the privilege of education. You have blessed our communities with teachers who take new skills and concepts and pass them along to each new class of young people. God who came to us as a child to show us how to be fully human, to show us how to be children of God, you have given our children minds that grow and develop in unique ways, at unique speeds, and we are astounded by that miracle. You speak to us through the words, actions, play, and feelings of children. You call us to listen to the Spirit speaking through our young siblings in Christ. We celebrate the beginning of this school year and ask for your blessing upon the children, the educators, and the families who support them all. But in this celebration of education and learning, we do not forget there are children and families and teachers who do not have the resources they need. When systems are unjust, the outcomes are unacceptable. Today we remember those who are beginning school this year: those who have what they need to learn and grow in safety, and those who lack supplies, teachers, safe buildings, and accommodations for all needs and abilities. We come to worship together, to lift up our young people and all those who care for them and teach them. Open our hearts to what you are saying to us today. Amen!

***Opening Hymn**

"We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear"

NCH 74

We Listen

Children's Moment

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon: The Rev. Chance Martinez

Sermon Title: "Too Bright to Hide"

Sermon Hymn: "Renew Your Church" NCH-311

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

We invite you to pray this prayer using the words that are closest to your heart.

Our (Father/Mother/Creator) who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offering - The Lord is My Light - Mary Frances Allitsen

***Doxology** (music #780, text #778)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor: Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Grace Church;

ALL: Generous God, creator, redeemer, sustainer, at your table we present this money, symbol of the work you have given us to do; use it, use us, in the service of your world to the glory of your name. Amen.

We Are Sent

Blessing of Teachers/Students/Staff

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** “This Little Light of Mine” NCH 524

Pastoral Blessing for the Journey

Postlude - Marche Triomphale - Bruce Steane

~ The Postlude is still part of our worship; we invite you to sit and quietly reflect as we prepare to depart. ~

Important Announcements !

Thanks to Donald Toms from our choir for today's vocal solo. The choir will be back next month! If you are interested in singing with them in the future, talk to Nathan.

There will be a special congregational meeting following worship on Sunday, August 25 to discuss and vote on our WISE Covenant. Please make your plans to stay for that meeting.

Sunday, August 11- Blessing of Teachers/Staff/Students

Sunday, August 18- Volunteer at Community Table

Sunday, September 8 - Rally Day/Homecoming

Saturday, September 14- Grace Booth at In the Streets

Sunday, September 15- Frederick County Fair

Friday, September 20- Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00 pm)

Thursday, September 26- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off- 7:00 pm

Friday, October 18- Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00 pm)

Thursday, October 24- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)

Saturday, October 26- Downtown Frederick Trick or Treating

Friday, November 15– Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00pm)

Thursday, November 21- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry (7pm-9 pm)

Wednesday, December 11- Grace Bus Trip to New York City

Friday, December 13- Grace UCC Coffee House (8pm-10pm)

Thursday, December 19- Young Adult Christmas Party (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)

Sunday, December 22- Christmas Cantata at Grace UCC

Tuesday December 24– Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm)

Thursday, December 26-Tour of Historic Churches (3:00 pm—8:00 pm)

REFUGEE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

In 2024 Grace Church is starting a team to help a refugee family, under the guidance of the Refugee Welcoming Coalition of Frederick (<https://www.rwcfrederick.org/>). The RWC is an alliance of faith communities, civic organizations, and individual volunteers founded in 2021 in recognition of the influx of refugee families who need help establishing themselves in our area. Assistance indeed includes transportation, furnishing household items, and assistance with bureaucracies like school enrollment and health services.

Interested in making a difference? Contact Michael Davies (fluidmosaic@gmail.com) and Missy Moxley.

Until we form our team, you can make donations!

- Certain items are on their Amazon wishlist, for shipping directly to the RWC: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8F1P1KKUOUZH>

- If you wish to donate furniture, or supplies that are in urgent need (shower curtains and bathmats; pillows, sheets and blankets; and almost any type of kitchen supply): please email us at info@rwcfrederick.org to arrange pickup

- To donate cash, you may send a check to **AACF: 45 E. All Saints St., Frederick, MD 21701**, with a note on the memo line that the funds are for RWC.

Alternatively, you can donate through PayPal on their website,

<https://rwc.frederick.org>.

Security Alert

As many of you are aware, a scam text message was sent to many of the members and friends of Grace UCC this week. The text was an “urgent message” claiming to be from Pastor Chance, but it was not him, and it was not sent from his phone number. Many of you reached out to the office or to Chance directly and we thank you for doing that. A couple of you even sent screenshots of the message and that was very helpful as well. Unfortunately, this thing happens to churches frequently, sometimes by text and other times by email. We just want to reassure you that Pastor Chance, or any staff member, will not reach out to you via text message from an unknown number or email. If there is an urgent matter, please know that Pastor Chance will contact you via a phone call and not a text or email. If you ever receive a text or email from an unknown number or email address that looks suspicious, you are encouraged to call the church office or Pastor Chance directly for confirmation and notification. Thank you all again for making us aware and may we all stay alert to this type of activity.



Sunday, September 18 has been designated “Rally Day” here at Grace UCC and we are excited to welcome our students and teachers back to Sunday School that day. In addition to Rally Day, we are also designating this day as “Homecoming Sunday” and are inviting everyone who has ever been a part of Grace UCC to join us for worship. We will be having a potluck meal following services that day as well.

We will be sending out invitations via US Mail but are also encouraging you to invite folks as well. Maybe you know someone who was a part of Grace in the past, or someone who may be looking for a wonderful community like Grace...invite them! We hope this day will be a wonderful way to re-introduce Grace UCC to the community!



Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-2PM/M-F

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Pastor Chance Martinez

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Director of Music: Nathan Strite

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Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

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Children & Youth Ministry: Amy Duray

worshipgraceucc@gmail.com

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Custodian: Hunt Hughes

Admin@grucc.com

Church Admin: Patricia Baptiste

Admin@grucc.com

Choir Section Leaders: Anna Kovacsics, James Taylor, & Donald Toms

SUNDAY WORSHIP — 11:00 AM — Virtual and in person

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist:

Trish V.

Children's Message:

Pastor Chance

Children's Church

N/A

Altar Guild:

N/A

Greeter:

Trish V.

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OF CHRIST**

