

Grace United Church of Christ



Sunday, September 01, 2024

WE GATHER

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude - Largo - Elizabeth Stirling

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 15)

Leader: I invite you to stand as you are able in body and/or spirit and join me in our Call to Worship.

Leader: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who want to journey with you, who may have missed a turn, and who may struggle with rocky patches and rough terrain.

Leader: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who seek and search for you and for community with doubts and hopes, joys and fears, smiles and tears.

Leader: O Holy One, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

All: Those who try and those who sometimes give up. Those who are beautifully, wonderfully, and imperfectly human—all of us! Thanks be to God!

***Gathering Prayer (In Unison)**

Loving God, we rejoice to be with you and with one another. You are the God who makes all things new and who redeems our past. In life, we find the fullness of life—from joy beyond measure to despair that consumes. Your presence sustains us through the depths and the plateaus. We acknowledge your sovereignty and express our bold trust that hope is our portion and assigned position in your everlasting and incomparable realm. Amen.

***Opening Hymn “Just as I Am” NCH 207**

We Listen

Children's Moment

Scripture Reading: Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

Sermon: The Rev. Chance Martinez

Sermon Hymn: "God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" NCH-531

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 - Lord, I Want to Be a Christian - arr. Diane Bish

***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, bless these gifts that we share for the flourishing of the kingdom. Prosper the work of our hands, order the steps in our days, and align the balance of our resources. In our time, talent, and treasure, may you be glorified. Amen.

Brief Order of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

For those who are worshipping online, we encourage you to gather pieces of bread and something to drink (whatever you have such as juice, lemonade, etc) before worship and place it near you as service begins.

Invitation to the Table

Blessing the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Communion Prayer

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Music during Communion - Beautiful Jesus - arr. David Johnson

We Are Sent

Announcements

*Closing Hymn “Beautiful Jesus” NCH 44

Pastoral Blessing for the Journey

Postlude - “Allegro Maesoto” from *Water Music* - G. F. Handel

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

Important Announcements !

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for our potluck meal on September 8. If you can bring a dish or two please sign up so that we know what to expect.

If you are willing to host fellowship hour on a Sunday. Please sign up using the calendar on the refrigerator

We are beginning to accept donations of candy for Halloween this year. If you are out shopping and are able, please consider purchasing a bag or bags and bring them with you on Sunday Mornings. This candy will be distributed during the downtown trick-or-treating event this year...and we need all that we can get!

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)

FANTASY FOOTBALL SEASON IS BACK! The Grace Gridirons Fantasy Football league is forming again for our second year. Drafting of teams will be on the afternoon of Sunday, September 1.

Please let Missy Moxley, nehoneybee@gmail.com, know if you would like to join the league. No knowledge or experience is necessary to play!

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 8 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!



Exciting News!

We will be having a “New Member Explorer Class” following worship on Sunday, September 15. Lunch will be provided. This is open to anyone who would like to explore the idea of joining the membership of Grace UCC so don’t hesitate to sign up if you would like to know more about the life and ministries of this amazing community of faith.

The sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex (lobby).



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

pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com

Director of Music: Nathan Strite

Music@grucc.com

Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

Bells@grucc.com

Children & Youth Ministry: Amy Duray

worshipgraceucc@gmail.com

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Custodian:

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:

Carol G.

Children's Message:

Pastor Chance

Children's Church

N/A

Altar Guild:

Karen K.

Greeter:

Carol G.

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www.grucc.com

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

