

Grace United Church of Christ 25 E. Second St. Frederick, MD

January 14, 2018

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word
January 14, 2018
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Welcome! It is a pleasure to have you with us this morning.

This morning we will use the *New Century Hymnal* (NCH).
It is the black hymnal found in the pew racks.

**Indicates when people are invited to stand.*

We Gather

Prelude: "Lord, Be Glorified"

- words and music by Bob Kilpatrick, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Greeting

Please sign the red Friendship Book in your pew

Call of the Engelbrecht Memorial Bell

Choral Introit: "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word"

- words by Robias Clausnitzer (1663), arr. Roger Summers

**Call to Worship (based on Psalm 139):*

Leader: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

People: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

Leader: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

People: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

Leader: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

People: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works!

*Prayer of Confession

(silence)

Almighty God, We confess to you that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not cared for creation as your gift. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves or heard the cry of the needy. We have strayed from your wills and broken your laws. We have failed the vows and the promises of our baptism. Heal us and restore us ,O God. Restore in us the image of our Lord Christ, for our sake and to the glory of your name, we pray, through Christ the Lord. Amen.

*Pardon and Assurance

*Opening Hymn: “Here I Am, Lord” *(see insert)*

*Opening Prayer

*Passing of the Peace

We Listen

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

- Lloyd Taylor

Choral Anthem: “Love Grows Here”

- words and music by Don Besig

*Gospel Reading: John 1:43-51

- Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Children’s Message

- Carol Garrison

Following the Children’s Message, children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us in the fellowship hall for Children’s Church - a time of Bible lessons, crafts, songs and other fun activities. For children 5 years and younger, our Nursery is available during the worship service.

Sermon: “Taking the Call”

- Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

Call for Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: “Reflection on ‘Royal Oak’”

- 17th Century English melody, arr. Robert J. Powell

*Doxology

#780, NCH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

Our Father 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.

We are Sent

Announcements

*Closing Prayer (*in unison*):

**O Creator and mighty God,
You have promised strength for the weak,
rest for the laborers, light for the way,
grace for the trials, help from above,
unfailing sympathy, undying love.
O Creator and mighty God,
help us to continue in your promise. Amen.**

- *Traditional Pakistani prayer*

*Closing Hymn: #593 “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction: "Grace to You" - words and music by Lloyd Larson

Ringling of the Engelbrecht Memorial Bell

Postlude: "Spanish Trumpet Joy"

- by Francisco de Peraza, arr. Patricia Lou Harris



The yellow rose on the altar is presented by the Altar Guild in memory of deceased war veterans and in honor of those who have served our country, as well as those currently on active duty.

Welcome to our Guests!

We are delighted that you joined us for worship this morning. Please be sure to sign the red Friendship Book in your pew.

If you have any difficulty hearing the service, one of our ushers can provide you with a hearing assistance device. We also have large print bulletins and hymnals available.

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for Children's Church - a time of Bible lessons, crafts, songs and other fun activities. We leave the Sanctuary following the Children's Message. For children 5 years and younger, our Nursery is available during the worship service.

Welcome to Grace Church!

AED Training

As you may know, the church has an AED in the Good Shepherd Room for use in medical emergencies. The Finance and Property Commission is looking for interest from the congregation for a free AED training class in February or March. Additionally we are considering a First Aid/CPR course and certification (this would require a class fee). If you are interested in either or both of these opportunities, please speak to Mark Edwards **before February 1st** or email him at mse103@mac.com

It's that time of year again...

Wondering if church events and activities are canceled due to the weather? There are several ways that you can find out:

CALL the church office (301-662-3312) and press 7 for the Inclement Weather Hotline. This voice mailbox will be updated as soon as a decision is made to cancel any services or activities.

CHECK your email. (Make sure we have your current email address!)

VISIT the church's website, www.grucc.com or our Facebook page.

We will make every effort to get these methods of communication updated as early as possible. Please be aware that power outages affect ALL of these methods of communication.

Special Offering for January: CWS Blankets Program

Both internationally and in the U.S., CWS focuses particular attention on reaching the most vulnerable disaster survivors. After a disaster, we quickly make contact with affected communities to offer CWS Kits, Emergency Cleanup Buckets and Blankets. Our goal is to ensure that everyone – regardless of economic or social status – has a chance to recover. *(from www.cwsglobal.org)*

In 2016, CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world. We can be part of an even greater response in 2017. At Grace Church we will hold our annual Blanket Fund drive throughout the month of January. Please see Sarah Travis if you have any questions.

Let's keep in touch!

Each week, the Grace Church eNews is sent out to our members and friends to keep everyone up-to-date on upcoming events. If you haven't been receiving these emails, please contact the church office to be added to the list.

Upper Room Devotionals

Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a resource for daily prayer. There are regular and large-print versions, and there is no cost for the booklets, although donations are gladly accepted.

Puerto Rico: After the Hurricane
A Benefit Concert to Aid Puerto Rico
Sunday, January 21st
3:00 p.m.
Brodbeck Music Hall at Hood College

Known as the Island of Enchantment, Puerto Rico was exposed to the fury of Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017. It left the entire island devastated. We invite you to join us for an unforgettable fund-raising concert at Hood College.

Donations will be collected at the concert. As we are unable to process credit cards, please make your tax-deductible donations by check. As an alternative, you may make contributions directly to the following charitable organizations currently helping Hurricane Maria devastated areas:

PROJECT HOPE

<http://www.projecthope.org>

WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION (World Society for the Protection of Animals)

<https://www.worldanimalprotection.us.org>

All performers and organizers are donating their time and services for this special event, hosted by Hood College.

For information please contact: Nancy Roldán (nancy.roldan@ymail.com) or RoseAnn Lester (roseannlester@gmail.com).

A friendly reminder from Pastor Rob:

Are you planning an event at Church? If so, PLEASE remember to call Tara in the church office and make sure to get on the calendar ASAP. This means BEFORE you make plans, invite people, advertise, etc... The Church is getting increasingly busy throughout the week and we need to avoid embarrassing double-bookings by making sure there are no conflicts with the building usage. Thanks so much!!



Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/GraceUCCFrederick

Offering Envelopes and Electronic Giving

Offering envelopes for 2018 are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like to use envelopes for regular giving. Simply pick up a box and write your name on the sign-up sheet next to the number that you've chosen.

Please discard any remaining envelopes that you have from 2017!

If you prefer to give electronically, we offer 2 options:

(a) the *UCC e-Giving* program allows you to have a regular, recurring donation drafted out of your bank account, or charged to your credit card. *(To get started, simply pick up an authorization form in the Narthex, or contact the church office.)*

(b) make donations through our website using PayPal! Simply click the button at the bottom of the home page - www.grucc.com.

If you decide to participate in our electronic giving programs, you can pick up some "I give electronically" cards to place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Volunteer Opportunities at Grace Church

Are you ready to get more involved in your church? We have plenty of opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and interests:

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Children's Sermon volunteers, Lay Caring Ministry, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Scripture readers, Ushers, and Youth Ministry - *please speak to Pastor Rob*

Senior and Joyful Noise Choirs - *please speak to Jonas Dawson*

Fellowship Hosts and Greeters - *please speak to Rob Apgar*

Congregational Life activities - *please speak to Matt Bonin or Rob Apgar*

Children's Church leaders, **Nursery volunteers**, and Sunday School teachers - *please speak to Jean Barrick*

Offering Counters - *please speak to Lloyd Taylor*

Outreach and Missions - *please speak to Sarah Travis*

The Frederick School of Religion announces its 35th year of classes. The School is an ecumenical teaching organization that provides a 'Learning for Life' experience for both laity and clergy. The six-week series of classes includes a broad range of religious topics appealing to diverse faith groups.

The location this year is Brook Hill United Methodist Church, 8946 Indian Springs Rd., Frederick, MD 21702.

Mondays - February 12th through March 20th:

- 1:00 p.m. - *The Book of Daniel as Anti-Gospel*, with Larry Eubanks, will discuss this book's message and why the New Testament writers feel the need to stand against it.
- 1:00 p.m. - *Wrestling For a Blessing from the Parables of Jesus*, with Anabel Proffitt, will offer the opportunity to discuss contemporary interpretations and to understand the Jewish context into which a number of Jesus' parables were spoken.
- 7:00 p.m. - *Miracles of The Galilee*, with Jordan Hersh, looks at an area ripe with miracle stories from our sacred literature and this course will take a critical exploration of these miraculous tales to help us better understand our own religious traditions.
- 7:00 p.m. - *Banned Questions About the Bible: Paul, Revelation, & the Rest of the New Testament* (continued from 2017), with Carl Gregg, will explore questions mainstream scholars ask about the Bible and that aren't always asked in our religious communities.

Tuesdays - February 13th through March 21st:

- 1:00 p.m. - *Augustine of Hippo*, taught by Julie Wilberding, will explore the conversion, spirituality and teachings of early Christianity's most formidable figure, St. Augustine.
- 1:00 p.m. - *The One Percent vs The 99 Percent*, led by Gerry Hanberry, will explore ethical and moral dimensions of inequality, connections between poverty and income inequality and the role of religion in critiquing economic systems.
- 7:00 p.m. - *The Spirit's Call to Evolve*, taught by Toni Fish, will take a look at the stages, states, and perspectives of Christianity as it has evolved, and continues to evolve, through an understanding of God, the role of the Bible and other sacred texts, Jesus, and prayer.
- 7:00 p.m. - *Faith and Art in the Christian Tradition* with Charles Harrell. We invite you to come and join us for a survey of some of the major trends and influences in Christian art and architecture, symbology and illumination through the centuries and in different parts of the world.

All courses are eligible for up to 1.2 Continuing Education Units. For more information or registration forms, please visit www.frederickschoolofreligion.org or call 240-651-1865 or 240-490-5657.

Daily Bible Readings for this Week

Our list this month centers on the celebrations of the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord and then leads us into a very brief stint of Common Time. Epiphany in the Western Church (Catholics and Protestants) centers around the visitation of the Magi. The word Epiphany means “manifestation” and refers to the manifestation of the Messiah as God’s gift to all people. The Magi (who came from the East) were thought to be Zoroastrians from Iran and thereby were not Jewish. In the Eastern part of the Church (Eastern Orthodoxy) the Epiphany is the manifestation of the Glory of God at the Baptism of Jesus, when the dove descended and Jesus was declared to be the Beloved son of God, with whom God was well-pleased.

The daily Bible readings are clustered into weeks with Sunday being the center of each week. The lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary. The readings for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week orient our prayer and preparation for the Sunday lessons. The readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday reflect on Sunday’s lessons. In the worship of Grace Church we normally read only two lessons. However, many Sundays the Psalm for the day is also incorporated into the service as a Call to Worship or prayer.

Second Week after Epiphany

Jan 14 *2nd Sunday after Epiphany*
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan 15 Psalm 86
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Jan 16 Psalm 86
1 Samuel 15:10-31
Acts 5:1-11

Jan 17 Psalm 86
Genesis 16:1-14
Luke 18:15-17

Third Week after Epiphany

Jan 18 Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 19:1-15
Revelation 18:11-20

Jan 19 Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:7-13
2 Peter 3:1-7

Jan 20 Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:14-18
Luke 10:13-16

Jan 21 *3rd Sunday after Epiphany*
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Worship Assistants

January 21st:

Greeter: OPEN

Scripture Reader: Trish Abell

Children's Message: Earl Bartgis

Children's Church: Elizabeth Damazo

Fellowship Host: OPEN

January 28th:

Greeter: OPEN

Scripture Reader: Beth Warren

Children's Message: Trish Abell

Children's Church: Oi Kettavong

Fellowship: *January birthday party*

If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host the fellowship time after worship, please sign up in the Good Shepherd Room.

Caring and Sharing

The following are members and friends of our church family who are currently ill, hospitalized, or home-bound. Please keep them in your prayers and perhaps send a note or a card. Addresses can be obtained from the church office, or you can pick up a church directory from one of the ushers. If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, please call the church office.

Millie Davis, Joe Free, Jean Gaver, Paul and Miriam Himes, Karlene Kaufmann, Pam Kehne, and Betty Linton.

Please note that hospitals are no longer permitted to contact churches on behalf of their patients. If you know of a church member who is hospitalized, please inform the church office. If you or a family member is hospitalized in an emergency situation, please call Pastor Rob at 240-217-2767.

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

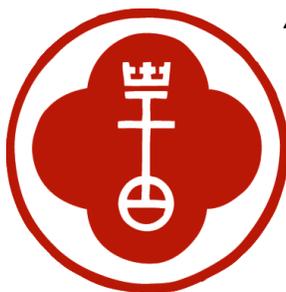
25 East 2nd Street

Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312

admin@grucc.com

www.grucc.com



Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor
Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

pastorrob@grucc.com
music@grucc.com

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE CHURCH

Sunday, January 14 - Second Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes for adults and youth

11:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

6:30 p.m. - The Frederick Center young adult group (2nd floor)

Tuesday, January 16

6:30 p.m. - ManKind Project (Basement)

Wednesday, January 17

6:30 p.m. - The Frederick Center youth group (Basement)

Thursday, January 18

6:00 p.m. - FREE drop-in Zumba class (Good Shepherd Room)

6:00 p.m. - Frederick Co. Health Dept. support group (Basement)

Friday, January 19

8:30 p.m. - N. A. meeting (Good Shepherd Room)

Sunday, January 21 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes for adults and youth

11:00 a.m. - Worship (Sanctuary)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church worship (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, January 23

6:30 p.m. - ManKind Project (Basement)

7:00 p.m. - Church Council meeting (Room 3)

Wednesday, January 24

6:30 p.m. - The Frederick Center youth group (Basement)

Thursday, January 25

6:00 p.m. - FREE drop-in Zumba class (Good Shepherd Room)

