



February 14, 2018

Ash Wednesday

A Service of Meditation and Imposition of Ashes

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Ash Wednesday

Welcome! It is a pleasure to have you with us this evening.

This evening we will use the *New Century Hymnal* (NCH).

It is the black hymnal found in the pew racks.

We Enter in Silence

Greeting:

Leader: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O My Soul,

And all that is within me, bless God's Holy Name

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits.**

Leader: Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**People: Who redeems your life from the grave,
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness**

Opening Prayer

Hymn: #211 "Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days"

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Hymn: #188 "Give Me a Clean Heart"

Sermon: "My Funny Valentine"

- Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor

Song: "Bless the Lord, My Soul"

- Taizé

*Bless the Lord, my soul, And bless God's holy name,
Bless the Lord, My Soul, Who leads me into life.*

Call to the Observance of the Lenten Disciplines

Blessing of the Ashes

Imposition of Ashes

Psalm of Confession: Psalm 51:1-12

- NCH, p. 657

Pardon and Assurance

Intercessions

*Response: **Hear us, God of love.***

Offering

"Meditation on 'Martyrdom'" - Hugh Wilson, arr. Craig A. Penfield (b. 1948)

Dedication of the Gifts

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.

Song: "Jesus, Remember Me"

- Taizé

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

Dismissal with Blessing

Depart in Silence

Welcome to our Guests!

We are delighted that you joined us for worship this evening. 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.

Welcome to Grace Church!

Lenten Group Study for Adults:

“What Makes a Hero?” by Matt Rawle

The study begins on Thursday, February 15th with a morning session at Homewood at 10:30, and an evening session at the church (with pizza!) at 6:30. We'll meet every Thursday through March 22nd.

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.



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

Summer Is Coming!!

Well, not for a few months, but when it does, it will mean we are preparing for Pastor Rob's Sabbatical. We have pastors who are going to be with us on Sundays, and for emergencies, but we are also looking to put together a team of lay people who will be willing to visit people in the hospital and nursing homes as we have the need. Gary Johnson has agreed to coordinate this and be the contact person for this ministry while Pastor Rob is away. Before the summer, we will have a time to get together to learn about how to visit people in health care settings, i.e. praying with people, hospital visitation guidelines, etc.

If this is something that would interest you, please let Pastor Rob or Gary Johnson know. Thanks!

Do you get cold in this big drafty church? Please know that there are knit shawls available for you to use as you need. They are spread throughout the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you don't see one near you. Many thanks to Pam Marshall for this idea and for making the shawls!

Offering Envelopes and Electronic Giving

Offering envelopes 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.

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.

Daily Bible Readings for this Week

Two things stick out as we look at our readings list for this month. First, the predominant Gospel reading is from Mark's Gospel. Mark is focused on the cross. Everything in Mark's Gospel speaks of the urgency of the Cross in God's plan of salvation. The importance of Christ was his sacrificial death. And there is *urgency* to this message. The second thing we notice this month is the appearance of the Genesis story, the covenant between God and Abraham. As we begin the Lenten Journey, the readings point us to the very foundation of our faith: Covenant. We are a covenant people. God is a God whose covenant will not be broken. Even when we rebel and turn away, God will remain faithful, even to the point of giving His Son.

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.

First Week of Lent		Feb 18	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
Feb 14	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		Genesis 9:8-17
	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 <i>or</i> Isaiah 58:1-12		Psalm 25:1-10
	Psalm 51:1-17		1 Peter 3:18-22
	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10		Mark 1:9-15
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Feb 19	Psalm 77
Feb 15	Psalm 25:1-10		Job 4:1-21
	Daniel 9:1-14		Ephesians 2:1-10
	1 John 1:3-10	Feb 20	Psalm 77
Feb 16	Psalm 25:1-10		Job 5:8-27
	Daniel 9:15-25a		1 Peter 3:8-18a
	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Feb 21	Psalm 77
Feb 17	Psalm 25:1-10		Proverbs 30:1-9
	Psalm 32		Matthew 4:1-11
	Matthew 9:2-13		

Worship Assistants

February 18th:

Greeter: OPEN

Scripture Reader: Carol Garrison

Children's Message: Carol Garrison

Children's Church: Oi Kettavong

Fellowship Host: Jean Barrick

February 25th:

Greeter: OPEN

Scripture Reader: Trish Abell

Children's Message: Trish Abell

Children's Church: Elizabeth Damazo

Fellowship: February 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

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS AT GRACE CHURCH

Saturday, February 10th - Saturday, February 24th

Emergency Family Shelter (Basement)

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - The Frederick Center youth group (Good Shepherd Room)

7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday worship service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, February 15

10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study (Homewood)

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

6:00 p.m. - Frederick Co. Health Dept. support group (Room 13)

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (Room 3)

Friday, February 16

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

Sunday, February 18 - First Sunday in Lent

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

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

5:00 p.m. - Volunteers from Grace Church serve at the Soup Kitchen

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

Monday, February 19 - Presidents' Day

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

Tuesday, February 20

6:30 p.m. - ManKind Project (Good Shepherd Room)

Wednesday, February 21

6:30 p.m. - The Frederick Center youth group (Good Shepherd Room)

Thursday, February 22

10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study (Homewood)

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

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (Room 3)

