

The Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

April 2019



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Season of Lent and Easter

~

Lenten Book Study

"Simon Peter"

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11

10:30 AM - Homewood

6:30 PM - Grace UCC

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 14

11:00 AM



Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion



Thursday, April 18

7:00 PM

Good Friday Worship
Adoration of the Cross

Friday, April 19

7:00 PM



Easter Sunday

Worship

and Holy

Communion

Sunday, April 21

11:00 AM



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!

From Pastor Rob's Desk



Dear Friends,

There was some recent discussion in the news about a comment a newly elected congresswoman made that was thought to be anti-Semitic in nature. It was contrasted with similar comments made by the current president. The discussion was about whether she should need to apologize for her comments. Well, it is Lent and that got me thinking about the nature of apologies and repentance. It's a good thought to have this time of year.

Sometimes I apologize and I did nothing wrong. Well, at least not intentionally. Maybe I said something that you misunderstood. Or maybe I said something and it sounded a very different way than I intended. My point is that I never intended on causing you distress, but sometimes it happens. So here's the question: Should I apologize when I did nothing wrong? Sometimes, yes!

First, I think this reflects a culture that has a problem with weakness. Don't ever show people your vulnerable side. This means you are weak. Why?? Being vulnerable and weak are a part of being human. It's who we are. We are born vulnerable and weak and we will most likely die vulnerable and weak. As a matter of fact there is something innate in us to protect the weak among us, isn't there? We know down deep that you don't hurt animals or the elderly or children. To do so shows a real break in moral judgment, a lack of character. So what if we are vulnerable or weak? Is that our problem or society's? So apologies are few and far between because if I apologize, I admit guilt and give you the power. Heaven forbid....

Second, sometimes we need to apologize for the other person's feelings, not ours. I never intended to hurt you. I didn't mean it the way you took it. But if you took it that way, "that's your problem not mine. Stop being so sensitive!" Really??? That response simply demeans a person's feelings and tells them they are not valued. Case in point: I made a comment a few years ago on a Facebook post about a trip to Germany and my enjoyment of showing people "The Fatherland." A friend, who happens to be a Rabbi, called me out and said he was offended by that term because it has negative baggage for Jewish folk. I never intended it that way. I certainly never meant it to offend anyone. Was he being overly sensitive? Maybe. Would he say the same thing if I were in Russia and said Motherland? Russia also has a history of Jewish slaughter, after all. Maybe not. But arguing that wasn't the point. What mattered is that someone I respected and liked was offended. It didn't push my buttons because frankly...I'm not Jewish! They aren't my buttons to be pushed. It's not about me. I responded by apologizing and explaining that that phrase is a commonly accepted term and is in fact in the first line of the German National Anthem! It was never meant to offend anyone and I'm sorry that he felt that way. I never saw it the way he did. I thanked him for sharing his thoughts openly with me and said I would be more aware of that in the future. We are friends to this day and I value that. I'm far from perfect, (as you well know!), but here's my point. Sometimes we apologize, not because we did anything necessarily wrong, but because the other person has feelings that are worth being valued. It's not important to me, but it's important to YOU and YOU are important to me. Your feelings matter more than my pride.

So there is our Lenten lesson for the month. Sometimes it's important to remember it's not about us. Somethings, while not important to me, become important because they are important to you....and YOU are important to me.

Have a great month!

Pastor Rob +

Youth Group News!



WHAT: Grace Youth Group Meeting

WHEN: April ? - TBA

WHAT: Rock & Bowl

*Peace, Jessica M. Townsley, Pastoral Associate/Youth Leader
Contact me at Jessica.townsley@ctschicago.edu*



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Russell & Robin Haak	April 7, 1988	Yrs. Married: 30
Gloria & Raymond Gafney	April 20, 1968	Yrs. Married: 50
Joe & Debbie Kula	April 29, 1995	Yrs. Married: 23



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Steve Robeson	April 4
Michael Taylor	April 21
Austin Miller	April 23
Elizabeth Damazo	April 26
Jean Munshour	April 27
Tammy Eyler	April 29

Monthly Birthday Celebration

On the last Sunday of every month, the Congregational Life Commission hosts a birthday party for everyone who celebrated a birthday during that month.

(Please be sure that your birthday is on file with the church office so that we can celebrate you!)

FEBRUARY 2019 Treasurer's Report

	FEBRUARY 2019	2019 Year-to-Date
Income:	\$ 25,306.42	\$ 28,197.92
Expenses:	\$ 17,138.88	\$ 37,223.51
Net:	+\$ 8,167.54	-\$ 9,025.59



Caring and Sharing



CALLED TO CARE - GRACE FOLKS IN NEED OF A VISIT

Following is a list of members and friends of our Grace Church family who are currently ill, home-bound, recovering from an injury or surgery, or hospitalized. If you know of other folks who should be added to this list, please contact Pastor Rob at 240-217-2768 or call the church office.

Kevin Chapman	1403 Orangetip Ct, Frederick, MD 21703
Millie Davis	801 Pine Ave., Frederick, MD 21701
Debbie Donohue	PO Box 55, Keymar, MD 21757
Joe Free	Citizens Nursing & Rehab Center
Jean Gaver	3/2019: FMH Hospital - recuperating from broken femur (7407 Willow Rd., AL 250, Frederick, MD 21702)
Paul and Miriam Himes	9810 Masser Rd., Frederick, MD 21702
Charlotte Hoover	7404 Willow Road, AL 237, Frederick, MD 21702
Pam Kehne	1632 Wall Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122
Betty Linton	Sunrise Senior Living 990 Waterford Dr., Unit 206, Frederick, MD 21702

JOIN THE PRAYER CHAIN

If you are interested in being part of the Grace Prayer Chain to hold up those in need of prayer throughout the congregation and beyond; please contact Pastor Rob or add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.



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), please contact Pastor Rob at 240-217-2768 or call the church office.

Caring and Sharing



Hello Church,

As most of you are aware I had emergency open heart surgery. I did well and am recuperating. My issue at this time is that it takes 3 months to fully heal. There are many restrictions that involve using my arms and lifting. I have a new business that is a wedding venue. I need to get that up and running for the first wedding. We need help with cleaning, painting weeding and planting etc. If any of you are available to help that would be greatly appreciated. We wanted to ask people to come on any of the following dates:

Saturday April 6, 2019 anytime from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

Saturday April 13, 2019 anytime from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM

or Any day during the week of Monday April 8- Friday April 12 anytime from 9:00 AM- 5:00 PM.

If you would be able to help please let us know what day and time by either calling or emailing at:

443-350-8100

Insuranceinvestigations@hotmail.com

*Great thanks for your consideration,
Debbie Donohue*

Congregational Life



Greeters and Fellowship Hosts Needed

Volunteer greeters are needed every Sunday morning to welcome our members and guests to worship. Volunteer fellowship hosts provide snacks and drinks after worship on the first and third Sundays of each month. On the last Sunday of every month, the Congregational Life Commission hosts a birthday party for everyone who celebrated a birthday during that month. (Please be sure that your birthday is on file with the church office so that you can be recognized!)

If you would like to serve as a greeter or host fellowship time one Sunday, please sign up with Richelle (Rickie) Schmitz at swimmer5153@comcast.net. Rickie will be making calls as well to recruit volunteers.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Young Adult Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM ManKind Project (DR)</p>
<p>7 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:45 AM Christian Educ. (2nd fl) 11 AM Worship & Holy Communion (S)</p> <p>5 PM Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7 PM Finance & Property Mtg. (Rm 3)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 PM ManKind Project (DR)</p>
<p>14 PALM SUNDAY 9:45 AM Christian Educ. (11 AM Worship (S)</p>  <p>5 PM Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE</p> <p>6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults (2nd fl)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 PM ManKind Project (DR)</p>
<p>21 EASTER SUNDAY 9:45 AM Christian Educ. 11 AM Worship (S)</p>  <p>5PM Grace serves at Soup Kitchen 5 PM Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>22 EARTH DAY</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 PM ManKind Project (DR) 7 PM Council Meeting (rm 3)</p>
<p>28 SECOND SUNDAY 9:45 AM Christian Educ. (2nd fl) 11 AM Worship (S) 5 PM Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 PM ManKind Project (DR)</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 AM Lenten Study at Homewood</p> <p>6:30 PM Gamma (2nd fl)</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Study at Grace</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1 PM Coffee w/COIPP (GSR)</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>10</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:30 AM Lenten Study at Homewood</p> <p>6:30 PM Lenten Study at Grace</p> <p>6 PM TFC Youth Cmte Mtg</p> <p>7 PM TFC Board Mtg</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1 PM Coffee w/COIPP (GSR)</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>17</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>18 MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>6 PM FCHD support group</p> <p>7 PM Maundy Thursday Service</p> 	<p>19 GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>1 PM Coffee w/COIPP (GSR)</p> <p>7 PM Good Friday Service</p> 	<p>20 HOLY SATURDAY</p>
<p>24</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1 PM Coffee w/COIPP (GSR)</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>1</p> <p>May 2019</p> <p>6:30 PM TFC Youth Group (GSR)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:30 PM Gamma (2nd fl)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1 PM Coffee w/COIPP (GSR)</p>	<p>4</p>



Maifest

Celebrate with us!

Saturday, May 4th, 2019

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

at Grace UCC

25 E 2nd St, Frederick, MD



THE FREDERICK SISTER CITIES
ASSOCIATION &

Grace United Church of Christ



Grilled Bratwurst ~ Knockwurst ~ Pretzels
Maibowle (May Wine) ~ Beer ~ Desserts

Join us! Go to www.grucc.com for directions and more info.

Mission, Outreach, and Volunteer Opportunities:



FREDERICK COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY'S

SOUP KITCHEN: Our next service date is April 21

Volunteers from **Grace Church** serve at the **Soup Kitchen** on the 3rd Sunday of even months. It's a rewarding mission experience and we always have fun. Won't you join us?

Or, you can go on your own...The Soup Kitchen is always in need of volunteers to staff the soup kitchen and serve food to homeless individuals and needy families. Volunteers are needed M-F, 5-7pm to serve prepared meals and then clean up. It is an enjoyable and rewarding volunteer activity that does not require any special skills. For more information, please contact Sarah McAleavy at 301-600-6263.

FCAA - FOOD BANK

On the third Sunday of every month, we dedicate the **"Grace Groceries"** that have been collected in our little red wagon (in the narthex), and then deliver them to the Frederick Foodbank.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

**Over 50
"Grace Groceries" were
collected in February.**

Food Drive



NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS NEEDED.
FOR EXAMPLE: PEANUT BUTTER ~ PASTA ~ RICE ~ SPAGHETTI ~
TOMATO SAUCE ~ CEREAL ~ CANNED FISH ~ CANNED MEATS



**THE RELIGIOUS COALITION'S
EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER**

is hosted by Grace Church four times a year. Our next host week is **April 13 - 19.**

New volunteers to the program are always welcome! Volunteers must be over the age of 18, and a background check is required. Please contact the church office or speak to Carol Garrson for an application. In addition to the vetted and trained volunteers who work directly with the families, we also need people to help set up and clean up for their visit - no experience or training necessary!

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND is designated for emergency relief to members and friends of Grace Church. Only the pastor and person in need know who receives assistance. Donations to the fund are welcome at any time, in any amount. If you can help, please place a check in the offering plate made out to Grace Church with "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!

For All the Saints

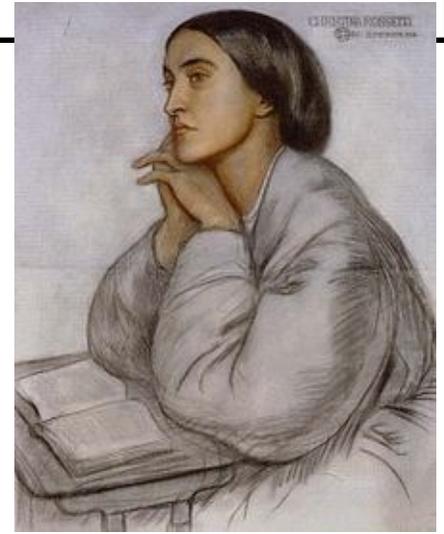
Christina Georgina Rossetti

On December 5, 1830, Christina Rossetti was born in London, one of four children of Italian parents. Her father was the poet Gabriele Rossetti; her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti also became a poet and a painter. Rossetti's first poems were written in 1842 and printed in the private press of her grandfather. In 1850, under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne, she contributed seven poems to the Pre-Raphaelite journal *The Germ*, which had been founded by her brother William Michael and his friends.

Rossetti is best known for her ballads and her mystic religious lyrics. Her poetry is marked by symbolism and intense feeling. Rossetti's best-known work, *Goblin Market and Other Poems*, was published in 1862. The collection established Rossetti as a significant voice in Victorian poetry. *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems*, appeared in 1866 followed by *Sing-Song*, a collection of verse for children, in 1872 (with illustrations by Arthur Hughes).

By the 1880s, recurrent bouts of Graves' disease, a thyroid disorder, made Rossetti an invalid, and ended her attempts to work as a governess. While the illness restricted her social life, she continued to write poems. Among her later works are *A Pageant and Other Poems* (1881), and *The Face of the Deep* (1892). Rossetti also wrote religious prose works, such as *Seek and Find* (1879), *Called To Be Saints* (1881) and *The Face of the Deep* (1892). In 1891, Rossetti developed cancer, of which she died in London on December 29, 1894. Rossetti's brother, William Michael, edited her collected works in 1904, but the *Complete Poems* were not published before 1979.

Christina Rossetti has been compared to Emily Dickinson but the similarity is more in the choice of spiritual topics than in poetic approach, Rossetti working within the forms established in her time. Recent speculations are that due to her strong feminist writings and some homoerotic themes in her secular poetry, Christina Rossetti may well have been lesbian, but in Victorian England would never have been spoken about. Christina Rossetti may best be known to church goers for her lyrics to two beloved Christmas Hymns: *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *Love Came Down at Christmas*.



Christina Rossetti,
by her brother
[Dante Gabriel Rossetti](#)

IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT THE CHURCH BUILDING

On March 28, 2019, Pro Services began working in the church basement and will be on site for 30-40 business days.

Pro Services has sealed off the entire basement. No entry will be allowed to anyone but Pro Services workers for the duration of the demolition and renovation job. All stairways and entrances to the basement floor of the building will be sealed and clearly marked with signage.



Also, there will be no entry to the building allowed via the back entrance door for anyone (including Council, staff, congregation, and building users).

Everyone must enter the building using one of the two front entrance doors.

BASEMENT IS OFF-LIMITS TO EVERYONE!

It is very important that no one enters the basement area for safety reasons.

Please spread the word:

- DO NOT ENTER THE SEALED BASEMENT AREA
- Enter the building from the front entrances only.

NOTE: If you normally meet in the basement; please choose another room in the building to meet. Normally no more than 2 groups are meeting at the same time. So, there are plenty of other rooms for your group to meet.

Call the church office with any questions.

To Everyone Using the Church Facility ...

Please be good stewards of our church building. **If you are the last one leaving the building;** please make sure all lights are turned off in all rooms, hallways, entry ways and that doors are firmly closed and locked. If you see something that may need to be addressed by the Church Finance and Property Commission please contact the church office.

Pastor Rob +

~ Thank you in advance for helping to take care of our church facility!



WEEKLY Grace Vine E-News

The Church Office sends out the Grace Vine E-News to members and friends every Friday, sharing upcoming news and events. Please email the church office at admin@grucc.com to add your email address to this distribution list!

Grace United Church of Christ

25 East Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

Join us for
Easter Sunday Worship
and Holy Communion
Sunday, April 21
11:00 AM



ALLELUIA!

CHRIST IS ALIVE!



Grace United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701
301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F
www.grucc.com ~ admin@grucc.com