



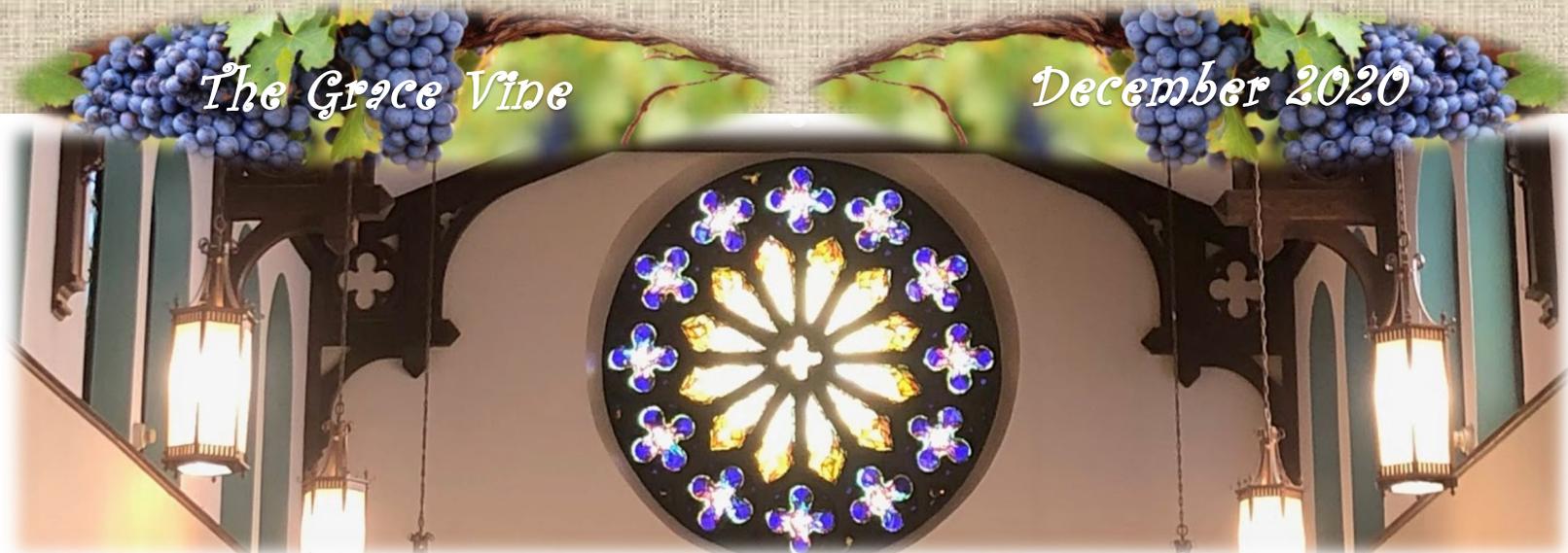
Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

The Grace Vine

December 2020



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Virtual Advent Study

Making Room by Ed Robb
Thursdays @ 7 PM via Zoom
(find zoom link on website or all church email)
Dec 3rd, 10th, and 17th

This four-week study explores the warmth of welcome at Christmas following interactions with the Holy Family, The Shepherds, and the Magi. Learn how to make room in your heart for God and neighbor this Christmas. The book can be found at cokesbury.com or on Google Playbooks. Join us and invite a friend!

Zoom instructions

Time: Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Thu, 3 occurrence(s)

Dec 3, 2020; Dec 10, 2020; Dec 17, 2020

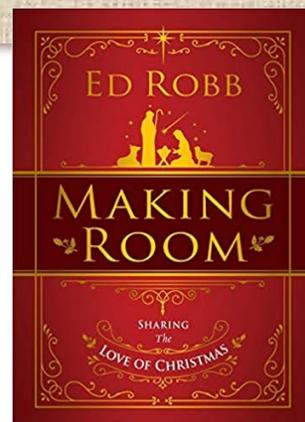
Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630222210?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630222210?pwd=UHJaR1pOMjMxUjF2aGVrSEJZa3VlQT09)

[pwd=UHJaR1pOMjMxUjF2aGVrSEJZa3VlQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85630222210?pwd=UHJaR1pOMjMxUjF2aGVrSEJZa3VlQT09)

Meeting ID: 856 3022 2210

Passcode: 968920



From Pastor Rob's Desk

Dear friends,

I'll be honest, I'm in kind of a "place" right now. I'm not really in the mood to be perky about Christmas. Maybe I should pretend so that you will feel better. Maybe I should smile and be pastoral to lift you all. I put on Christmas music, but its not really doing the trick. This year has been hard...for all of us. We opened up to have people in worship only to close again 5 weeks later. We have been so faithful, and everyone has done so very much to make our church thrive. And we have. It's really been amazing. We truly took lemons of 2020 and made something beautiful. I am so very grateful to you all and to God, I really am. But like you, I am just getting emotionally fatigued by the distance, the masks, the fear, the everything that 2020 has been.

And so, here I sit in trying to write to you, my church. Trying to offer some kind of hope and cheer as we enter the advent season. And I reflect on the words of the prophet Isaiah: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (9:2) It's easy to get excited about Christmas when life is shiny, pretty and fun. But what about when there is an empty place at the table or the new baby you expected to celebrate isn't here? When jobs are in jeopardy or you can't be with people you love? Or when you fear for your own health or the health of those you love? My while mind tells me one thing, but my spirit tells me another.

What my spirit tells me is that this is EXACTLY the time we need Advent the most. We all love Christmas. But Advent is tough. It's the waiting, the watching. Where is God for a struggling people? Where is God when we have lost our smile and our "it is what it is" attitude, and when our souls can only cry out "How long O Lord?" This is precisely the world into which God came in the form of a helpless child. This is the world...these are the same people... scared about an uncertain future, faith rocked by loss, waiting and hoping (what seemed at times like against hope) for a new word to break through. And then into their world, in the brokenness of their own world, hope was born.

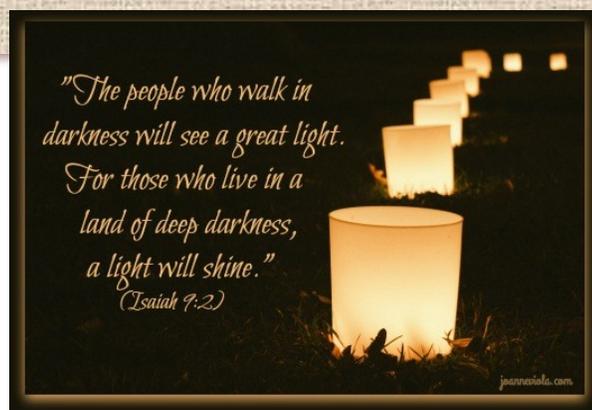
And so, my spirit tells me that I need Advent more than ever. We all do. I need to be reminded that it was precisely into a world like ours that God chose to dwell. And like the Passover reminds the people of Israel, so I can let this holy season remind me: God *has been* faithful and so God *will* be faithful. And amidst the uncertainty of 2020, that's the one thing I know in my depth of my being to be true. God has always been faithful, and that faithfulness is my hope.

And so, we will decorate the church. We will light the candles, sing the songs and observe a holy Advent. Because this year, we need the sacred reminder of a God who holds us close and calls us Beloved. Into a world like ours God chose to be born anew. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, be born in us today!

Wishing you a blessed month.

Pastor Rob +

Pastor Rob+



Virtual Book Club

Virtual Book Club

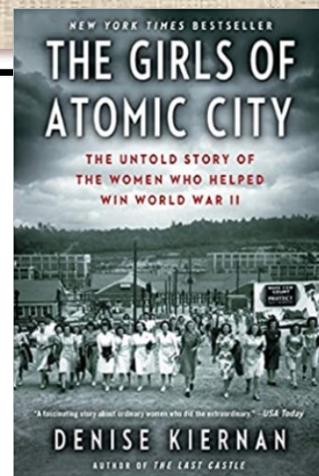
every Wednesday at 7PM

New Book beginning Dec 2nd

TITLE: The Girls of Atomic City by Denise Kiernan

The group plans to read the first 4 chapters for discussion on Dec 2nd.

An incredible true story of the top-secret World War II town of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the young women brought there unknowingly to help build the atomic bomb.



At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, and consumed more electricity than New York City, yet it was shrouded in such secrecy that it did not appear on any map. Thousands of civilians, many of them young women from small towns across the U.S., were recruited to this secret city, enticed by the promise of solid wages and war-ending work. What were they actually doing there? Very few knew. The purpose of this mysterious government project was kept a secret from the outside world and from the majority of the residents themselves.

Drawing from the voices and experiences of the women who lived and worked in Oak Ridge, The Girls of Atomic City rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of World War II from obscurity. Denise Kiernan captures the spirit of the times through these women: their pluck, their desire to contribute, and their enduring courage

Find Zoom link on church website or in the weekly all church email.

Community Happenings

CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HISTORIC HOUSES OF WORSHIP

This year's annual Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship in Downtown Frederick will not take place in the same way it typically would. However, Visit Frederick is excited to share that a special encore presentation of the tour's anniversary special will be available on this page beginning on **December 14, 2020!** This special tour celebrates Frederick's tradition of religious diversity, local history, and the holiday season. This is a free virtual presentation and is a great opportunity to peek inside some of its most beautiful buildings.



The Candlelight Tour of Historic Houses of Worship is made possible through the generous support of: The Plamondon Companies, Tourism Council of Frederick County, Inc., Bella Trattoria, Pistarro's, Ayse Meze Lounge, Brewer's Alley, Isabella's Taverna & Tapas bar, PNC Bank, and Everedy Square & Shab Row.

<https://www.visitfrederick.org/events/annual-events/historic-houses-of-worship/>



Annual Meeting Update!

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 15th after worship. It was entirely by zoom and went really well. Our church officers were elected and the budget was adopted. We also voted unanimously to explore the possibility of incorporating Frederick Gives Back as a separate 501c3 non-profit, related to the Ministries of Grace UCC. The reason for doing this would be to attain mission monies from various sources that are not available to religious but would be available to other non-profits. Those funds would then be used by Frederick Gives Back for local mission work in the community. We are not sure if this is something we are ready to do, but we did feel like it was time to start asking the right questions and see where God is leading us.

Thanks again to everyone!

Council Officers for 2021:

President:	Missy Moxley
Vice President:	Jerry Princler
Secretary:	Elizabeth Damazo
Treasurer:	Lloyd Taylor
Administrative:	Sam Swann (2021)
Congregational Life:	Tony Hemler (2022)
Property and Finance:	Doris Moxley (2021)
Mission and Outreach:	Mike Davies (2022)
Worship & Education:	John Brehmer (2022)
At Large:	Carrie Minnick (2022)
At Large:	Karen Kehoe (2021)

Mission and Outreach: Food Bank Collection

FCAA Food Bank "Grace Groceries" COLLECTION CONTINUES!

Please drop your food bank items in the 3rd street entrance vestibule.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS NEEDED.

For EXAMPLE: **PEANUT BUTTER~PASTA ~ RICE ~ CEREAL ~ CANNED FISH & MEATS
~ CANNED SAUCES ~ And other non-perishables.**

Food Drive



Community Happenings

Allview Drive Christmas Lights Food Drive

Dates: Dec 4-5, 11-12 & 18-19 Time: 6-10PM

Address: Allview Drive, Frederick, MD 21701

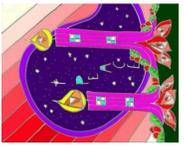
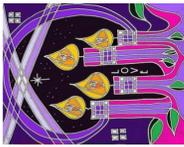
From Missy Moxley:

In my friend's community (cul-de-sac) located close to Rt 26, just outside of Mt. Pleasant, the neighborhood has the Allview Drive Lights Food Drive where people drive thru and "vote" for their favorite light display by putting canned goods into the stocking on the mailbox of their favorite house. Dates for this year are Dec 4-5, 11-12 & 18-19 and time is 6-10pm on each of those dates. They usually list this event in the Frederick 48 hours also.



December 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	2 *TBD/6:30PM TFC Youth 7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY	3 *TBD/6:30PM GAMMA 7PM/VIRTUAL ADVENT STUDY	4	5
SALVATION ARMY DAY PROGRAM 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM DAILY M-F						
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 11 AM Worship & Communion 2PM—Zoom w/St. Nicholas 	7 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults	8 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	9 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth 7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY	10 *TBD/6PM TFC Youth Cmte Mtg *TBD/7PM TFC Board Mtg *TBD/7PM MKP21 7PM/VIRTUAL ADVENT STUDY	11	12
SALVATION ARMY DAY PROGRAM 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM DAILY M-F						
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 11 AM Worship 	14 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults 7 PM Finance & Property Meeting	15 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	16 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth 7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY	17 *TBD/6PM FCHD 7PM/VIRTUAL ADVENT STUDY	18	19
SALVATION ARMY DAY PROGRAM 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM DAILY M-F						
20 4th Sunday of Advent 11 AM Worship 	21 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults	22 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR) 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	23 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth 7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM VIRTUAL SERVICE 	26	
SALVATION ARMY DAY PROGRAM 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM DAILY M-F						
27 First Sunday of Christmas 11 AM Worship	28 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults	29 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	30 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth 7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY	31 *TBD/6:30 PM GAMMA	*Outside Groups/Facility Users: Grace Church building use TBD	
SALVATION ARMY DAY PROGRAM 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM DAILY M-F						



Dedicate a Poinsettia for Advent or make a donation to the Frederick Food Bank

ORDER and DEDICATE a POINSETTIA

6.5" Pot Single Plant/Multi-Bloom Poinsettia - \$11.00

To pay go to <http://www.grucc.com/giving.html>
and Email your information to admin@grucc.com or **MAIL THIS PAGE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK**

Name: _____

email: _____ ph# _____

How many? _____ 6.5" pot(s)
at \$11 each = \$ _____ TOTAL

Dedicated to: _____

by: _____

*BUT...this year has caused great hardship for people in our community. What I am recommending is that instead of poinsettias, **you donate the cost (or more) of the poinsettia to the church** and we will make a donation in that amount to the*

Frederick Food Bank

<https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/462/Food-Bank-Program>

To PLEDGE and DEDICATE your DONATION
email your information to admin@grucc.com and
Go to <http://www.grucc.com/giving.html> to donate or MAIL
THIS PAGE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH YOUR CHECK

Name: _____

email: _____ ph# _____

Food Bank Donation amount: \$ _____

Dedicated to: _____

by: _____

Flowers are lovely, but we can easily give \$400 to help feed people this way. And this year there is such need.

So if you'd like a poinsettia, by all means!
But, if you really don't care about a poinsettia and you'd like to still donate, **we will gladly make the donation in memory or honor of your loved one.** Thank You!

As we look to the advent and Christmas season, we normally look to poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one. This year has been a different year so we are doing things a bit differently. **We will have a limited number of poinsettias in the chancel (probably 12 or so);** but, with restrictions the way they are, it seems silly to order 40 poinsettias for a nearly empty church with no Church tour and frankly no way to deliver them to shut-ins afterward. If you would like a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you are welcome to have that be one of our 12.

December Birthdays

- Russell Haak 1-Dec
- Jennifer Kaufman 2-Dec
- Greg Travis 3-Dec
- Thomas Dutrow 6-Dec
- Mildred Davis 7-Dec
- David Keyes 7-Dec
- Adam Kerns 8-Dec
- Cynthia Wachter 11-Dec
- Robert Failor 14-Dec
- Theodore Haas 17-Dec
- Jessica Townsley 20-Dec
- Mary Lou Thomas 24-Dec
- Carol Garrison 29-Dec
- Deborah Shores 29-Dec
- Karla Robeson 31-Dec

December Anniversaries

Paula and Robert Pendergraft
December 21, 1969
51 years



For All the Saints: Karl Barth (December 10th)

Karl Barth was a Swiss theologian and pastor's son, born in 1886 in Basel. Studied at the most prestigious universities in Switzerland and Germany, Barth was a preeminent voice in liberal Protestant theology.

Barth first began his commentary *The Epistle to the Romans* (Ger. *Der Römerbrief*) in the summer of 1916 while he was still a pastor in Safenwil, with the first edition appearing in December 1918. On the strength of the commentary, Barth was invited to teach at the University of Göttingen. Barth argued that the God who is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus challenges and overthrows any attempt to ally God with human cultures, achievements, or possessions. The book's popularity led to its republication and reprinting in several languages.

In 1934, as the Protestant Church attempted to come to terms with the Third Reich, Barth was largely responsible for the writing of the Barmen Declaration which rejected the influence of Nazism on German Christianity by arguing that the Church's allegiance to the God of Jesus Christ should give it the impetus and resources to resist the influence of other lords, such as the German Führer, Adolf Hitler. Barth mailed this declaration to Hitler personally. This was one of the founding documents of the Confessing Church, a group of faithful Christian pastors who worked against the Nazi Reich.

He was forced to resign from his professorship at the University of Bonn in 1935 for refusing to swear an oath to Hitler. Barth then returned to his native Switzerland, where he assumed a chair in systematic theology at the University of Basel. In the course of his appointment, he was required to answer a routine question asked of all Swiss civil servants: whether he supported the national defense. His answer was, "Yes, especially on the northern border!" The newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* carried his 1936 criticism of the philosopher Martin Heidegger for his support of the Nazis. In 1938 he wrote a letter to a Czech colleague Josef Hromádka in which he declared that soldiers who fought against the Third Reich were serving a Christian cause.

Barth's theology found its most sustained and compelling expression in his five-volume magnum opus, the *Church Dogmatics*. Widely regarded as an important theological work, the *Church Dogmatics* represents the pinnacle of Barth's achievement as a theologian. *Church Dogmatics* runs to over six million words and 9,000 pages – one of the longest works of systematic theology ever written.

Karl Barth, theologian, educator, and prophetic voice against the Nazi Reich died in Basel, Switzerland on December 10th 1968 at the age of 82.



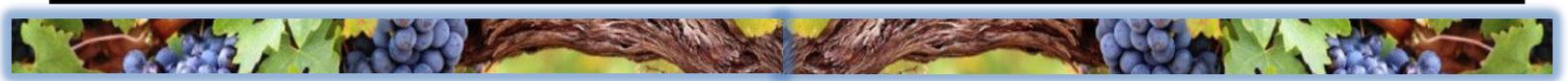
Caring and Sharing



Millie Davis	801 Pine Ave., Frederick, MD 21701
Joe Free	Citizens Nursing & Rehab Center
Miriam Himes	Edenton, Orchard Terrace, 5905 Edenton Court, Room #705, Frederick, MD 21702
Pam Kehne	1632 Wall Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122
Betty Linton	Sunrise Senior Living 990 Waterford Dr., Unit 206, Frederick, MD 21702

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.



Grace United Church of Christ

25 East Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

It's almost here!!

Join us this Advent as we explore
how people around the world
await the coming of

Hope in their world!

**Advent Around
the World!**

Worship with us

virtually

Sundays at 11 AM

Grace United Church of Christ

First Sunday of Advent

November 29th

will focus

on Africa!

Join us at www.Youtube.com/gracelivefrederick



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