



# Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

The Grace Vine

September 2020



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## FALL IMPORANT DATES

Sunday, Oct 11, 18, 25: **Stewardship Moments**

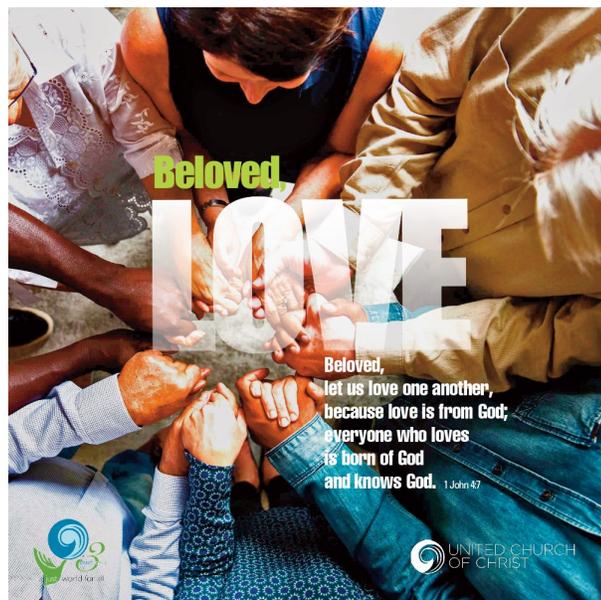
Sunday, Oct 12: **Stewardship Mailing**

Sunday, Nov 1: **Stewardship Sunday  
and 2019-2020 Annual Report to Congregation**

Sunday, Nov 15:

**Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting**

**Following Worship  
(In person &  
live streaming)**



## From Pastor Rob's Desk

Dear friends,

Today is the first day of Fall, and its traditionally a new start in our year. Back to school or back to regular life as we know it after a summer of activities. Even in church, autumn brings with it a return to worship of many people who spent a lot of time camping or at their beach houses for the summer months. This is usual. But this year our autumn season brings a new meaning to a church homecoming, doesn't it? We are literally ALL regathering (as we feel comfortable) for the first time in 6 months! Churches are starting to reopen for public worship, albeit a bit differently than we wish. Restaurants are starting to open, even movie theaters are back in limited numbers. Life as we know it is seeming to return.

But frankly, I'm not sure this is a good thing and I want to challenge that. During this time, we experienced emotions and reactions that we never before experienced. We were not able to spend Mothers or Fathers Day with our parents. I, for one, missed both Mother's Day AND her Birthday this spring. Not the end of the world I know, but my mom is older. What if I missed the last birthday and Mother's Day we had? That's serious stuff to think about. Some of us at church even lost loved ones and couldn't bury them the way we wished we could have had we been able to be together as a family.

My point is this: The pandemic has changed us. All of us. We have been forced to give things up and go without and miss important days together. It has forced us to rethink our priorities and the way we value both our time and our relationships. As bad as this time has been, it has given many of us the gift of clarity.

And so, I challenge us as we begin to see things return to the way we were NOT to let them return completely. Remember those things you longed to do when you were in quarantine? Make them a priority! Those people and events you wished you could have seen or done? Make those visits a priority. Start doing the things you always wish you had made time for. Remember how it felt to have some down time? To eat dinner as a family? To read a book for fun and not just for work? Continue those things. Make yourself and those important to you a priority so that you are more well rounded and less burned out. Remember the priority of your faith too. We are continuing our online worship presence so there is no reason to miss worship anymore! Just watch it later if you can't be with us.

As we look to the return of a shred of normalcy, let's NOT just be so eager to return to the way things were. We need to care for self. We need to tend to our relationships. And we need to nurture our faith. These were in many ways the hidden gifts of this time. Let us not forget them.

Enjoy October!

Pastor Rob +

Pastor Rob +



**Congregational Meeting: Sunday, November 15th**

Thats right!! It's that time of year that we all look forward to with great joy! It's **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TIME!!!!** (I know, it's hard to contain the excitement!)

Keep your eyes and ears open for the signs of the season all around us: Budget preparation, Stewardship Sunday, Commission Reports, Nominations, and finally the big day itself Sunday, November 15th: The Annual Congregational Meeting So bake those cookies and get the Wassail ready! And if you are responsible for a report for this year's meeting, they will be **due by October 1st!**



**Mission and Outreach: Snacks for Officers & Food Bank Collection**



A new project is underway here at Grace.

**SNACKS FOR OFFICERS or TREATS FOR POLICE**

As you know, we are a church that is committed to social justice. Each week we affirm that Black Lives Matter. We are concerned about the disproportionate rate at which people of color face violence at the hands of law enforcement. BUT... being anti racist does not mean we are anti law enforcement! You can support good police and work for justice for all people. So....

*Join us as we show **support for the fine officers of Frederick Police department by bringing in snacks for officers to take with them on their shifts around town. Granola bars, little bags of snacks, etc... Or send a check and we can purchase it for you! Let's demonstrate to our community what compassionate social justice looks like!***

**All items can be dropped in the BACK VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH.** (Back entrance to the church is accessed via 3RD Street, enter through the Grace UCC wrought iron gate beside of 26th 3rd street apartment building, use the sidewalk through the garden. The vestibule is open.)

Food Drive



**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.**



## Grace Reopening!

*Good News!!! At the beginning of the month, Gov Larry Hogan announced that Maryland was moving into Phase 3 of the pandemic response. Grace Council decided to wait a few weeks and see if there was a rise in numbers after Labor Day. Well, it seems stable at the moment, so beginning September 27th, we opened for in-person worship.*

*Covid precautions are still in place, but please do join us as you feel comfortable. Live Streaming is NOT going away. You will be able to worship via our youtube channel from now on. (but we still want to see your pretty little face - as grandma used to say!)*

*What to expect when you return to worship in person?*

*CDC guidelines will be followed:*

1. *There will be a welcome table in the narthex. Your temperature will be taken, there will be hand sanitizer and masks available as well. Masks are required. If you don't have one, we will happily give you one!*
2. *Prayers will NOT be spoken aloud during worship. We cant use a common mic and passing prayer cards is not advised. There will be a prayer list in the narthex. If you have a prayer need either text it to the prayer number on the screen or add it to the comments on YouTube. You may also write your prayers on the prayer sheet in the narthex before worship each week. There are 2 baskets of pens: please take a fresh pen from the basket and put it in the USED PENS basket when you are finished. Pens are sanitized after worship.*
3. *Seats will be socially distanced. Families may of course sit together. )Just don't sit in the pews that are taped off and you'll be fine. It'll be obvious.)*
4. *Passing of the peace will not be physical; Instead, give a smile, a nod, a respectful bow of the head or an exuberant wave.*
5. *Hymns will NOT be sung by the congregation. A cantor will sing the hymns so we can enjoy the words. If you'd like to participate, please mouth the words or hum along!*
6. *Ushers will be releasing people row by row as worship ends. Please just leave the building without congregating together. We need to minimize in person contact. Pastor Rob will NOT be at the door greeting people.*
7. *The bathrooms and building are sanitized prior to each service. There are hand sanitizer stations outside the bathrooms. Rubber gloves are there as well if anyone prefers to use those to touch the faucets, etc...*
  - a. *Trashcans are outside the bathroom so people can use a paper towel to flush or close the door and then dispose of the towel in the trash can.*

*I know it sounds like a lot, but it's really fine and we will navigate these new waters with ease!*

*We are Grace Church! We can do it with ease!*

*~ Pastor Rob +*



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>October 2020</b>						
4 <b>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 11 AM Worship & Communion 18th Sunday after Pentecost: Wisdom for the Way	5 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults	6 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	7 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth <b>7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY</b>	8 *TBD/6:00 PM TFC Youth Cmte Mtg *TBD/7:00 PM TFC Board Mtg *TBD/7:00 PM MKP2	9	10
11 11 AM Worship 19th Sunday after Pentecost: Praiseworthy Living	12 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults <b>7 PM Finance &amp; Property Meeting</b>	13 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	14 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth <b>7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY</b>	15 *TBD/6 PM FCHD support group	16	17
18 11 AM Worship 20th Sunday after Pentecost: Living Messages	19 *TBD/6:30 PM/TFC Young Adults	20 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR)	21 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth <b>7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY</b>	22 *TBD/7:00 PM MKP2	23	24 UNITED NATIONS DAY
25 11 AM Worship 21st Sunday after Pentecost: The Compassionate Life	26	27 *TBD/6:30 PM MKP (DR) <b>7:00 PM Church Council Meeting</b>	28 *TBD/6:30 PM TFC Youth <b>7PM VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY</b>	29	30	31 REFORMATION-RECONCILIATION DAY  HALLOWEEN



**Congregational Life News**

**October Birthdays**

Ryan Howe	October 06
Elizabeth Tabbachino	October 09
Miriam Himes	October 10
Joan Hankey	October 14
Michael Shores	October 14
Betty Linton	October 21
C. Leatherman	October 22
Robert Apgar	October 23
Jean Barrick	October 29

[About her legacy](#), she said,

*"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you, that's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for one-self but for one's community."*

*~Ruth Bader Ginsburg*

**October Anniversaries**

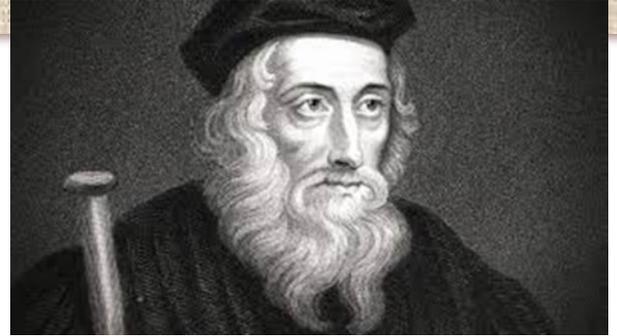
Drenning, Sarah & Bill	October 01, 1949
Kaufman, Jenn and Terry	October 01, 2011
Hammond, Cass and Ronald	October 06, 2006
Robeson, Steve	October 07, 1978
Brehmer, John & Carol	October 19, 2019
Schmitz, Richelle & Mark	October 25, 2008

*"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience by which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.'"*

*-Eleanor Roosevelt*



## For All the Saints: John Wycliffe (1330-1384)



John Wycliffe (1330-1384), a member of the faculty of Oxford University, was an early crusader for Christian reform in England. He argued that secular and ecclesiastical authorities were given earthly dominion in their respective spheres by the grace of God as understood through Scripture. Implicit in this argument was the idea that these dominions could be lost through sin and that all earthly possessions would be forfeited. Wycliffe further argued that the church had sinned because it had lost its biblical moorings and had become corrupted by earthly concerns of wealth and power. He advocated a return to biblical poverty either voluntarily or through confiscation of church property by civil authorities. Kings and nobles found much to admire in Wycliffe's argument, but for very different reasons.

Wycliffe's central tenet was his belief in the Bible as the only source of Christian doctrine. No earthly ecclesiastical authority, he felt, could augment or change what was in the Scriptures. Additionally, he found no scriptural support for the papacy or the many monastic and other religious orders. He further maintained that the host of problems found in these orders necessitated reform by civil authorities.

Wycliffe's belief in the supreme authority of Scripture led him to translate the Bible into English and make plans for its dissemination through a network of preachers. His efforts contributed to the formation of the Lollards, the heretical proclaimers of his beliefs. Lollardism was to play an important role in English religious life for the next several centuries, and Wycliffe's influence helped prepare the way for the Protestant Reformation. His teachings continued to inspire his remaining supporters at Oxford, and he was cited by many other reformers, including Jan Huss (1372-1415), as a leading authority.

## Caring and Sharing



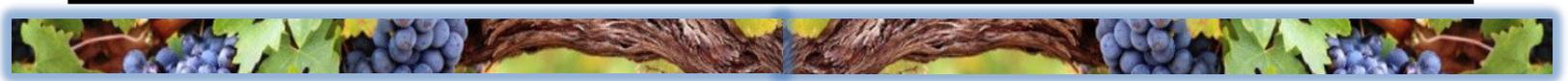
Following is a list of members and friends of our Grace Church family who are in nursing communities, home-bound, recovering from an injury or surgery, or hospitalized. Contact the church office at [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) to add others to the list.

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 or call the church office.



*Grace United Church of Christ*

25 East Second Street  
Frederick, MD 21701

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE LABEL HERE

# Grace Reopens!

Join us as you feel comfortable.

We ask that you PLEASE WEAR MASKS and practice social distancing.

NO spoken prayers or singing. Seating will be socially distanced.

We will continue to LIVE STREAM the service and you may continue to worship virtually through our YouTube channel.



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25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701  
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