

# The Grace Vine

**Grace United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

## JANUARY 2018

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### Important Dates at a Glance

Monday, January 1  
Church Office closed



Saturday, January 13  
Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
*Details on page 4*

# JANUARY



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

January brings new beginnings. Fresh starts and resolutions abound! I was speaking with a friend recently who loves to work out and she said she purposely avoids the gym for the first 2 weeks of January every year because she knows that by Week 3, most of the new members have already stopped coming! (I have to admit being in this group...)

This is a wonderful time to year to give something up. Maybe you're going to give up smoking or junk food in an attempt to be healthier. That's a good thing. Maybe you're going to give up frivolous spending on little things so that you can pay of some credit cards and get a bit more financially healthy. That's a very good thing. It's also a great time to take on something new: Perhaps you want to start volunteering at an animal shelter or to help the homeless. Or maybe you want to pay more attention to your spiritual life and start a daily devotional reading. Maybe you should start paying real attention to your relationships at home. (This is a real issue for many of us!) Have a date night on a regular basis. Start eating together as a family at least once a week. Do something to bring your family together.

I recently saw a Facebook meme that had some real truth. It included some rather salty language, so I'll clean it up for the church newsletter! It read: *Love your life! Take pictures of everything. Tell people you love them. Talk to random strangers. Do something you're afraid to do because so many of us die and no one remembers a thing we do. Take your life and make it the best story in the whole world! Don't waste it!*

So remember, this is the only life you get! There is no dress rehearsal. This is the one and only performance. And frankly, it doesn't last nearly long enough!! So...live with joy, love extravagance, take chances and risks and be silly and make people laugh and smile until your face hurts!

We spend far too much time living our lives for others. January is a wonderful time to reorder our priorities. As the sign says: Live, Love and Laugh. Focus on the blessings that God has given you and be intentional about blessing others! That's how you make it a great New Year.

Blessings!

Pastor Rob†

**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 call Pastor Rob at 240-217-2767.

## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### 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](http://www.grucc.com) or our Facebook page.

We will make every effort to get these methods of communication updated as early as possible.

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the February issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, January 22nd. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, January 28th.

If you currently receive a paper copy of the *Grace Vine* newsletter, but would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, or read it online, please call or email the church office. Thank you!

**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 Friday updates, please email the church office to be added to the list.

### Church Directories

Do you need an updated copy of our member directory? Please contact the church office or speak to an usher on Sunday morning. Due to privacy concerns, we do not publish our directory on the church website.

### **A friendly reminder from Pastor Rob:**

Are you planning an event at the 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'd like to avoid embarrassing double bookings. Thanks so much!!

## **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION NEWS**

The Administrative Ministry Commission is responsible for oversight of personnel functions and the coordination and review of church policies for a number of areas and, through the Church & Ministry Committee, pastor and parish relations. As of this date there are no policies or other issues in review.

Steven Robeson, Sr. serves as the chair of the Administrative Ministry Commission. He is retired from Washington Gas and the United States Marine Corps and now enjoys working on carpentry projects in his home woodshop.

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**



It's back! Our **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** resumes on Saturday, January 13th. We will meet at the Bob Evans on Route 40 at 9:00 a.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month. All men are invited to join us!

A special thanks to everyone who pitched in to decorate our Sanctuary in preparation for Christmas and the annual Historic Houses of Worship Candlelight Tour. Speaking of the tour, we would like to also thank all of you who volunteered your time and talents in making this year's tour another success!

Don't forget our monthly birthday celebrations during fellowship! Please see Cop Rob if you are interested in helping the members of our congregation celebrate their birthdays.

Matt Bonin  
Congregational Life Commission Chair

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Norine Haas  
15 Mary Walsh  
16 Lester Slick III  
17 Jerry Princler



18 Debbie Kula  
26 Robin Haak  
30 Karlene Kaufmann  
31 Doris White

## **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 will host 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 the fellowship time one Sunday, please sign up on the sheet in the Good Shepherd Room or speak to Rob Appagar ("Cop Rob").

## **Caring and Sharing**

The 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 anyone who should be added to this list, please call the church office or speak to Pastor Rob.

Millie Davis  
801 Pine Ave.  
Frederick, MD 21701

Joe Free  
1117 Rocky Springs Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

Pam Kehne  
1632 Wall Dr.  
Pasadena, MD 21122

Betty Linton \*NEW\*  
990 Waterford Dr.  
Unit 206  
Frederick, MD 21702

Karlene Kaufmann  
2100 Whittier Dr.  
Apt. 405  
Frederick, MD 21702

Jean Gaver  
7407 Willow Rd.  
AL 250  
Frederick, MD 21702

Paul and Miriam Himes  
9810 Masser Rd.  
Frederick, MD 21702

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p><b>DR = Dining Room</b>  <b>GSR = Good Shepherd Room</b>  <b>S = Sanctuary</b></p>	<p><b>1 New Year's Day</b>   Church office closed</p>	<p><b>2</b>   6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p><b>7 First Sunday after Epiphany, The Baptism of Christ</b>  9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes  11:00 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion (S)   5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p><b>8</b>   7:00 p.m. - Finance &amp; Property (Rm. 3)</p>	<p><b>9</b>   6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p><b>14 Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes  11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)   5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p><b>15 MLK Jr. Day</b>   6:30 p.m. - TFC Young Adult Group (2nd floor)  7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (3)</p>	<p><b>16</b>   6:30 p.m. - Man Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p><b>21 Third Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes  11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)   5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b>   6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)  7:00 p.m. - Council meeting (Rm. 3)</p>
<p><b>28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b>  9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes  11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)   5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>   6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>3</b> 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG (Room 13)	<b>4</b> 6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba Class (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (2nd floor)	<b>5</b> 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	<b>6 Epiphany</b>
<b>10</b> 12:00 p.m. - Catoclin Ministerium (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	<b>11</b> 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:00 p.m. - TFC Youth Comm. & Board (3)	<b>12</b> 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	<b>13</b> 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast (Bob Evans on Rte. 40)
<b>17</b> 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	<b>18</b> 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (DR)	<b>19</b> 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	<b>20</b>
<b>24</b> 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	<b>25</b> 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)	<b>26</b> 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	<b>27</b>
<b>31</b> 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	<h1>January 2018</h1>		

## FINANCE AND PROPERTY

As a "newly minted" member of Grace UCC, I'm humbled to be serving on council and chairing the Finance and Property Commission. My Fiancé Gwen and I started attending Grace about a year ago, and quickly fell in love with the people of Grace the openness, and the celebration of diversity. I manage a Scientific Computing Support Section at National Institutes of Health and have experience in several home renovation and improvement projects, particularly on older homes, and its fair to say construction management and handyman projects are a minor hobby of mine. At work I've been responsible for coordinating the construction and management of two IT Data Centers that support scientific computing for Neuroscience Research. While I am still coming up to speed on the Finance and Property Commission, I wanted to highlight a few projects from the last several months: Repair of the exterior wall between the church and neighbors, preparation for and rental of vacant 3rd street apartment, repair of several aspects of the steam heating system, as well as other minor repairs of exterior lighting and kitchen refrigerator.

I welcome everyone to contact me via email, or before or after weekly church services if you have any other areas of concern, have any questions, or just want to say hi, especially if we haven't interacted much. It takes a while to start to meet everyone in the church and start to remember names and faces. I may not have the answer to your questions immediately, but I promise to find out!

Mark Edwards, Commission Chair  
[mse103@mac.com](mailto:mse103@mac.com)

### Treasurer's Report



#### November 2017

Income: \$13,470.91  
 Expenses: \$15,525.71  
 Difference: - \$2,054.80

#### 2017 Year-to-Date

Income: \$166,963.85  
 Expenses: \$211,126.12  
 Difference: - \$44,162.27



## Offering Envelopes available in the Narthex

Boxes of 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](http://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.

## OUTREACH

### Food Drive



### THANK YOU

for your continued generous support of  
the Frederick Food Bank!  
Our combined Grace Groceries collection for  
October and November was **97** items!

### ***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](http://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.

## WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

I would like to thank all those who volunteer to help with Worship and Education throughout the year; you know who you are, whether its working with the children, keeping our sanctuary beautiful or helping in the many ways that you do. Thank you!!!

Jean Barrick, Worship and Education Commission Chair

### *For All the Saints*

#### **Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton**

January 4th

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was born in New York City, USA. Her father, Richard Bayley, was a well-known doctor. Her mother, Catherine, died when Elizabeth was just three years old. As a teenager, she did many things to help poor people. When Elizabeth was nineteen she married William Magee Seton, a rich merchant who owned a fleet of ships. Elizabeth, William and their five children had a happy life together. But ten years later, William lost his fortune and his good health within a short time. His wife heard that the weather in Italy might help him get better. Elizabeth, William and their oldest daughter, Anna, traveled there by ship. But William did not get better and finally died of tuberculosis.

Elizabeth and Anna remained in Italy as guests of the Filicchi family. The y were very kind and tried to make Elizabeth and Anna's sorrow easier by sharing their own deep love for the Roman Catholic faith. When Elizabeth returned home to New York she decided to become a Roman Catholic. To support her family and make sure her children received a proper education, Elizabeth opened a school in Boston and ran it like a religious community. A few years later, the archbishop invited Elizabeth to come and open a girls' school in Baltimore. It was there that Elizabeth decided to live as a sister. Many women came to join her, including her sister, sister-in-law and her own daughters, Anna and Catherine. They became the American Sisters of Charity and Elizabeth was given the title "Mother Seton."

She started many Catholic schools and a few orphanages. She made plans for a hospital, which was opened after her death. Elizabeth loved to write, and she also translated some textbooks from French to English. But Elizabeth was loved most for her care of the poor and the sick. Mother Seton died on January 4, 1821, in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

## Grace Church Leadership Directory

### COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Missy Moxley	301-695-3852
Vice President	Jerry Princler	301-898-3877
Secretary	Vonnie Crum	301-898-5755
Treasurer	Lloyd Taylor	301-898-9259
At-Large	Oi Kettavong	240-457-2042
At-Large	Gary Johnson	240-460-0411

### COMMISSION CHAIRS

Administrative	Steve Robeson	301-639-7039
Congregational Life	Matt Bonin	845-326-7468
Finance and Property	Mark Edwards	202-361-1559
Outreach	Sarah Travis	304-993-7233
Worship and Education	Jean Barrick	301-663-1203

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert Apgar-Taylor, Pastor  
Jonas Dawson, Director of Music and Organist  
Tammy Eyler, Nursery Attendant  
Tom Tobery, Caretaker  
Tara Plyler, Administrative Associate

Telephone: 301-662-3312

Email: [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com)

Web Site: [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

### SUNDAY WORSHIP:

11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

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