

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

JULY 2017

Important Dates at a Glance

Tuesday, July 4th



Church office
closed

Sunday, July 9th

Annual Outdoor Worship Service
and Potluck Picnic
at Mt. Tabor Park

Details on page 5



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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I'm feeling sappy and sentimental today. This weekend we married off our last daughter. It was the 4th and last time I got to walk a daughter down the aisle. The last Daddy-Daughter dance. I know it sounds stupid, but it felt like I walked a 12 year old down the aisle in a white dress! How did she get to be a grown woman so soon? And today my granddaughter came to stay for a few days with Opa and Ampa for her summer vacation. Soon she will go home and her brothers will come to stay too.

Where does the time go? Someone recently told me "Don't cry because its over, smile because it happened." That's so true isn't it?

But the key to life, I think, is to be present in the moments. It really does go by too quickly. And these moments are ones to be savored. We get so busy with the stuff that doesn't really give us meaning or happiness. We let the business of life consume us, and before we know it, we have missed the moments that matter most! I am reminded of the scripture where the prophet Isaiah writes, "Why do you spend your money on bread that does not satisfy?"

Maybe that's the key: spending our money and time on things that really do satisfy. Truly focusing your attention on the moments that are the most life-giving. Throwing a ball in the yard, rocking a sleepy child, walking your baby girl down the aisle. Enjoying a simple cup of coffee on a beautiful morning with a loved one.

I know it's sappy and sentimental but I hope you take it to heart. Work hard... but play hard too! Don't build your life so that you are a slave to bills and paychecks and debt. Trust me, you will be happier in a modest home that is full of laughter and memories. Be present in the moments that matter... truly present. And let those be the moments that give your life meaning and pleasure.

Enjoy July!

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



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.

Mark your calendar now! The submission deadline for the August issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, July 24th. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, July 30th.

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 so that we can save the postage. Thank you!

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 have had a few events that did not get cleared through the office. Luckily none of them conflicted with scheduled events, but they came pretty close! Let's avoid embarrassing double bookings by making sure there are no conflicts with the building usage. Thanks so much!!

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.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Charles Kehne
5 Justin Kula
6 Gloria Gafney
8 Frank Erwin



15 Loretta Hamilton
Richard Hough
21 Trish Culler
25 Teddi Garrison



JULY ANNIVERSARY

Earl and Anita Bartgis
July 12th

Greeters and Fellowship Hosts

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 the church office has your birthday on file so that we can recognize you!)

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 Apgar ("Cop Rob").



dreamstime.com

Free Blood Pressure Screenings

On the first Sunday of every month, our Faith Community Nurse, Mike Stockman, will provide free blood pressure screenings during fellowship.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Grace Church's Annual Outdoor Worship Service and Potluck Picnic

Sunday, July 9th

Mt. Tabor Park- 13544 Motters Station Rd., Rocky Ridge, MD

Worship begins at **10:30 AM** in the "Tabernacle" pavilion

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share - hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages will be provided by the church. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Good Shepherd Room; RSVPs are appreciated so that we can be sure to have enough hamburgers, hot dogs and paper goods.

DON'T dress up, and *DO* come prepared to get dirty! Adults and children alike can enjoy the GIANT WOODEN SLIDE.

Carpooling may be available. Please call or email the church office (301-662-3312 or admin@grucc.com) if you need a ride, or to volunteer as a driver.

Hope to see you there!

Volunteer Opportunities at Grace Church

Are you ready to get more involved in your church? We have plenty of opportunities for you! With only 5 part-time staff members, Grace Church relies heavily on volunteers to keep the church running smoothly.

We have many volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and interests, such as:

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Children's Sermon volunteers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Scripture readers, Ushers, and Youth Ministry - *please speak to Pastor Rob*

Senior and Joyful Noise Choirs - *please speak to Jonas Dawson*

Fellowship Hosts and Greeters - *please speak to Rob Apgar*

Children's Church leaders, Nursery volunteers, and Sunday School teachers - *please speak to Jean Barrick*

Offering Counters - *please speak to Lloyd Taylor*

Outreach and Missions - *please speak to Sarah Travis*

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY**

July 2017

2 Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion (S)

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

3**4 Independence Day**

Church office closed
 7:00 p.m. - TFC
 Young Adults (2nd)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

9 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship and Potluck Picnic (Mt. Tabor Park)

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

10

7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 3)

11

7:00 p.m. - Man Kind Project (DR)

16 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

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

17

7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (3)

18

7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

23 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

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

24**25**

7:00 p.m. - Council (Room 3)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

30 Seventeenth Sunday in Ord. Time

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

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

31

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

DR = Dining Room
GSR = Good Shepherd Room
S = Sanctuary

1

5

6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)

6

6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)
 6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (2nd floor)

7

8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)

8

12

6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)

13

6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)
 7:00 p.m. - TFC board meeting (3)

14

8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)

15

11:00 a.m. - Bob Hartman memorial service (Homewood)

19

6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)

20

6:00 p.m. - Zumba
 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (DR)

21

8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)

22

26

6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)

27

6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)

28

8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)

29



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. If you would like to get involved in the **Lay Caring Ministry** by sending cards, making phone calls, or visiting anyone on the list, please speak to Mike Stockman.

Harold Wenner 615 Biggs Ave. Frederick, MD 21702	Millie Davis 801 Pine Ave. Frederick, MD 21701	Joe Free 1117 Rocky Springs Rd. Frederick, MD 21702
Betty Linton 814 Trail Ave. Frederick, MD 21701	Paul and Miriam Himes 9810 Masser Rd. Frederick, MD 21702	Pam Kehne 1632 Wall Dr. Pasadena, MD 21122
Bill Failor Meadows Health Ctr. 7407 Willow Rd. Frederick, MD 21702	Karlene Kaufmann 2501 Driftwood Ct. Apt. 1B Frederick, MD 21702	Jean Gaver 7407 Willow Rd. AL 250 Frederick, MD 21702

FINANCE AND PROPERTY



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Treasurer's Report

May 2017

Income:	\$14,178.18
Expenses:	\$14,623.96
Difference:	- \$445.78

2017 Year-to-Date

Income:	\$78,830.90
Expenses:	\$98,437.49
Difference:	- \$19,606.59

IMPORTANT SECURITY REMINDERS:

The side and back doors will be locked during worship on Sunday mornings, in order to prevent people walking through the building while everyone is in the Sanctuary.

Following the fellowship time on Sundays, please be sure to exit through the side doors, as the Narthex doors are locked after worship. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes and Electronic Giving Options

Boxes of offering envelopes are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like to use envelopes for regular giving. Simply write your name on the sign-up sheet next to the number that you've chosen.

If you would rather give electronically, we offer 2 options:

1. You can sign up for our super-convenient *UCC e-Giving* program and 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 the Library, or call the church office.)

or

2. You can make donations through our website (grucc.com) using PayPal!

If you decide to participate in our electronic giving programs, we offer "I give electronically" cards to place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

OUTREACH

DID YOU KNOW...

- Grace Church hosts the Emergency Family Shelter four times a year. The remaining host dates for 2017 are August 12th-19th and November 11th-18th. 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 Sarah Travis for an application.) In addition to the trained volunteers who work with the shelter guests, we welcome anyone who would like to help with the set-up before the families arrive, and the clean-up after they have gone.
- Volunteers from Grace Church serve at the Frederick Community Action Agency's Soup Kitchen on the 3rd Sunday of even months. It's a rewarding mission experience and we always have fun! Our next service date is August 20th. Won't you join us?
- On the third Sunday of every month, we dedicate the "Grace Groceries" that have been collected in our little red wagon, and then deliver them to the Frederick Foodbank. Thank you for your continued generosity!

For All the Saints

James the Elder

July 25th

The James commemorated today is not to be confused with James the brother of the Lord (October 23). The person we remember today was a fisherman, the brother of John and a son of Zebedee. This James is the only apostle whose death the New Testament records: "About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword" (Acts 12:2). Thus his death probably occurred around the year 42 C.E. The date of his feast probably is connected with the translation of his relics.

Jesus gave the name Boanerges to James and John; Mark records that the name means "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). Along with Peter and John, James is portrayed as one of the inner circle of Jesus' disciples: only they are present at the raising to life of Jarius' daughter (Mark 5:21-43), and at the transfiguration (Mark 9:2-8). At the same time, Mark portrays James and John as radically misunderstanding the nature of discipleship: they ask Jesus to place them at his right and left hand when he comes into his kingdom (Mark 10:35-45).

The fourth-century historian Eusebius of Caesarea records in his Ecclesiastical History a tradition concerning James' martyrdom taken from a lost work of Clement of Alexandria. In this story, James' prosecutor is converted and willingly martyred alongside him:

he who brought him to the court was so moved at seeing him testify as to confess that he also was himself a Christian. "So they were both led away together," he says, "and on the way he asked for forgiveness for himself from James. And James looked at him for a moment and said, 'Peace be to you,' and kissed him. So both were beheaded at the same time."

- G. S. Sperry-White

Grace Church Leadership Directory

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Patti Flanders-Lombardi	301-865-2984
Vice President	Jerry Princler	301-898-3877
Secretary	Vonnie Crum	301-898-5755
Treasurer	Lloyd Taylor	301-898-9259
At-Large	Donald Toms	240-446-7378
At-Large	Lisel Powell	240-651-5380

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Administrative	Steve Robeson	301-639-7039
Congregational Life	Matt Bonin	845-326-7468
Finance and Property	Eric Black	724-910-9295
Outreach	Sarah Travis	
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
Web Site: 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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