

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

MARCH 2017

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Important Dates at a Glance



Wednesday, March 1st

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday
Worship Service

Saturday, March 4th

Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Details on page 6

Sunday, March 12th

Daylight Saving Time begins -
Don't forget to set your clocks
FORWARD on Saturday night!

Saturday, March 25th

10:00 a.m.

Ecclesiastical Council for
Guy Johnson
Details on page 4

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

It is March. I say that with a great sense of anticipation. I love March. Not because there is anything in it that is particularly great. It's not a special month in any way. There are no real holidays that get me excited. Why do I love March? Because it's not February! I love March because after what is usually a very long, cold winter, March seems to be the first glimmer of hope. Yeah, I know, it can still snow in March. But at least in March you know if it snows it's not going to last for weeks on end before it gets warm again! If you make it to March, you can make it to spring!

Why do I share this? Because I think many of us have felt like we have been through long, cold winters in life. I was speaking with a friend tonight who said that years after losing a spouse, he finally feels like he is moving on. He is dating again. Sometimes life's winters can be long indeed!

But that's when we have to look for the signs of life wherever we can find them, even if they are small glimmers of hope. I remember after my father died I grieved. He was young and I was not ready to say goodbye. I remember about 2 weeks after his death I got to the evening and thought, "Hey, I haven't gotten teary today!" It was a milestone. Was I over the grief? Not really. There are still times when I think "I really need to tell dad..." and then I stop and think about it a minute. And it's been 21 years! But that day 2 weeks after his death was glimmer of hope. I would always miss him, but I would move on. And on those days when grief did return, it would not be for long.

My friend said something strange to me tonight. He said, "Sometimes I like the grief. It reminds me of him." I totally get it. I don't ever want to NOT miss the ones I have loved. I want it to hurt a little on a birthday or a special occasion. I want to remember them and be reminded how very special they were and how blessed I was to have them. But that's a far cry from being stuck in the long, cold winter of life.

March is a reminder to me that the dark and cold days do in fact come to an end. The brown dead trees do spring forth life. Birds will sing, the sun will warm the earth and spring will come. If I just wait long enough. March is God's way of reminding me that no "dark night of the soul" (as St. John of the Cross called it) will last forever.

This March, may you be reminded of the coming of the spring; the re-birth of hope, and the passing of the long, dark, cold seasons of your life.

Enjoy March!

Pastor Rob†



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: **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

Mark your calendar now! The submission deadline for the April issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, March 20th. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, March 26th.

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!

Just a reminder that we have many outside groups who use space in our church building throughout the week and on the weekends. If you are planning an activity in the church, please remember to check with Tara in the office **before scheduling an event** to make sure the space you need is available. Thanks!



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 call or email the church office to be added to the list.

UCC NEWS AND EVENTS

Ecclesiastical Council
for
Guy S. Johnson
Saturday, March 25th
10:00 a.m.
Grace United Church of Christ

Please join us to support Pastor Guy as he takes his next step toward ordination!

CATOCTIN ASSOCIATION WORK TRIP

April 17-21, 2017

Work will include projects at Franklinton Center at Bricks (North Carolina) as well as work on housing in the community such as rebuilding steps, fixing roof leaks, repairing windows, and more. There are plenty of projects and many will be determined by the skills of the group. We also welcome a person or two to do cooking for the group.

Cost \$175 per person – Includes housing and food (motel-style rooms, 2 people in each room). *Grace Church has mission scholarship funds available; please speak to Pastor Rob or Sarah Travis.*

For questions, please contact Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel (ERUCC): 301-662-2762 or bkdaniel@erucc.org. **Please make payments to ERUCC.**

Youth@Synod

June 30-July 4, 2017

Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore MD

What: Youth@Synod will help integrate youth and their adult chaperones in the business of Synod along with activities designed for youth to connect faith and daily life, issues of justice, and leadership opportunities. We will explore how God dwells with us wherever we go. Our Coordinator is Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel.

How: When the Synod is in plenary, youth will be in plenary. Youth will also be asked to attend committee meetings and hearings on specific topics in order to prepare a youth perspective to the Synod delegates.

Who: Youth who want to participate in Youth@Synod do not have to be part of a formal Youth Group. Any person or group of kids between the ages of 13 and 18 can participate in the Youth@Synod program.

Cost: The registration fee for this age group is \$150 (scholarship funds are available for members of Grace!) which includes lunches for those participating in the Youth@Synod program.

Highlights of Youth@Synod 2017:

- Designated youth area in the convention center
- Welcome to Synod and Synod 101
- Work project with a local state environmental center
- After Hours Dance
- Program with the American Visionary Art Museum
- The Reformation Today – "Make Glad – Youth and Young Adults Transform the Church and the World."
- Opportunities to hear guest speakers and engage on issues of peace and justice.
- Meet international guests attending Synod

Keep checking the website - synod.uccpages.org/youth - for news and exact dates and times!

A Special Request to Catoctin Association Churches

The General Synod planning committee is asking all of the churches in the Catoctin Association to donate snacks for General Synod. Unfortunately, they cannot accept donations of homemade baked goods; all snacks must be pre-packaged, and they would greatly appreciate some gluten-free options. Suggestions are below. If you can help, please bring any items in to church and make sure they are marked “General Synod.” Thank you to everyone who has already brought in snacks!

Regular snacks

Goldfish cracker	Cereal bars	Corn chips
Graham Crackers	Multigrain bars	Doritos
Cracker Jacks	Rice Krispy treats	Cookies
Fruit and grain bars	Garden veggie straws	Pretzels
Smartfood popcorn	Crackers and cheese	Sun Chips

GLUTEN FREE

Live G Free snacks (found at Aldi)	Fruit snacks – Welch’s, Motts
Raisins/Craisins	Skinny-pop popcorn
Snyder’s gluten free pretzels	Fruit crisps

Any questions, please contact Judy Bowman:
301-491-4559 or Jkb1750@aol.com

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Men’s Fellowship Breakfast

(meets the first Saturday of every month)

Saturday, March 4th

9:00 a.m.

Bob Evans on Route 40 (the Golden Mile)

Please join us!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Lisel Powell
3 Laura Snyder
16 Bill Ridgley
18 James Powell
Melody Slick
20 Andria Snyder



21 Anita Bartgis
22 Joan Princler
23 Kevin Conley
24 Earl Bartgis
26 Brandy Baptiste

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



John and Shannon Taylor
March 17th

Doug and Vonnie Crum
March 18th

Anne and Marc Meilleur
March 20th

Greeters and Fellowship Hosts

We have recently made a change to our fellowship schedule; snacks and drinks will be provided by volunteer hosts only 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!)

This change to the fellowship schedule does not affect our Sunday-morning greeters - we still need volunteers to welcome our members and guests to worship every Sunday.

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").

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY****DR = Dining Room****GSR = Good Shepherd Room****S = Sanctuary****March 2017****5 First Sunday in Lent**

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12)
 11:00 a.m. - Worship with Holy Communion (S)
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

6

7:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)

7

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (13)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

12 Second Sunday in Lent*Daylight Saving Time begins*

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12)
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

13

7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 3)
 7:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)

14

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (13)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

19 Third Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12)
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

20

7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (3)
 7:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)

21

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (13)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

26 Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12)
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

27

7:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)

28

6:30 p.m. - Lenten Group Study (13)
 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)
7:30 p.m. - Council meeting (Room 3)

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>1 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth 7:00 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Worship (S) 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG (3)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study (Homewood) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - GAMMA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast (Bob Evans)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 7:00 p.m. - TFC board (Room 3)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Piano recital rehearsal (S)</p> <p><i>Don't forget to set your clocks forward!</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:15 p.m. - Church & Ministry (Homewood)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (13)</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Justin Furnia student piano recital (S, GSR)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study (Homewood) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Ecclesiastical Council for Guy Johnson (S, GSR) 1:00 p.m. - RCC event (GSR, Nursery)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Lenten Group Study (Homewood) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	

Caring and Sharing

The following is a list of members and friends of our Grace Church family who are currently ill, home-bound, or hospitalized. If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, please call the church office or speak to Pastor Rob.

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

Pat Lowry
12 Rothschild Ct.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Bill Failor
Meadows Health Ctr.
7407 Willow Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Pam Kehne
1632 Wall Dr.
Pasadena, MD 21122

Lay Caring Ministry at Grace

Many of the folks on our Caring & Sharing list really miss coming to church and would greatly appreciate cards, phone calls or visits from members of their Grace Church family. If you would like to get involved in the Lay Caring Ministry, please speak to Pastor Rob or Mike Stockman.



Join us on Thursday evenings at 6pm for our **FREE** drop-in Zumba class! Men, women and teens of all fitness levels are welcome! Invite a friend!



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.

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, Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Caring Ministry, 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 Matt Bonin*

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*

FINANCE AND PROPERTY



Treasurer's Report

January 2017

Income: \$14,756.05
Expenses: \$23,665.75
Difference: - \$8,909.70

2016 Year-End

Income: \$241,782.31
Expenses: \$234,233.61
Difference: \$7,548.70

IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING BUILDING SECURITY:

After worship each Sunday, the main doors to the Sanctuary (the Narthex doors) are locked from the inside. If you stay for the fellowship time after worship, please remember to exit by the side doors rather than the Narthex doors. Thank you for your cooperation!

Giving Options at Grace Church

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 would rather skip the checks and envelopes and give electronically, we now have 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 checking or savings 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 now make donations on our website using PayPal!*** Simply click the button at the bottom of the home page - 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

Special Offering for March: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

One Great Hour of Sharing® (OGHS) is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Where There is Water

THINK OF ALL THE WAYS THAT YOU USED WATER TODAY

Did you take a shower this morning? Did you flush your toilet? Or wash your hands? When you made, or ate breakfast, was water used? How about when

you cleaned up after the meal? Now imagine walking each morning to gather water for your family, knowing the water you were collecting was unclean and could make the members of your family sick.

Next, let's imagine that each year for several months you don't have access to water because it was the dry season and your water source had dried up. How would you get by? What parts of your daily routine would you have to abandon? How would you provide water for your family?

Unfortunately, these are realities for many people around the world.

In a rural community in Cambodia, the only water available was from a shallow, hand-dug well. Each day during the rainy season, a grandmother named Som Bee would walk to the well to collect the water for her family. But the water from the well was unclean, sometimes leading to health problems, including diarrhea. Thanks to your support, the community was able to address the unclean water problem by installing a ring well. The members of the community received training on how to filter the water, and to keep it clean for daily use. Because of your support, the members of the community now have access to clean water year-round, and they are sick less often. Because of your support, Som uses the clean water for her garden to help her grow tomatoes, pumpkins, spinach, gourds, cucumbers and mushrooms. Of course, her family eats the vegetables, so they now have a healthier diet!

Som's garden is so bountiful, she is also able to sell some of her vegetables in her local community, earning money to support her family and buy other items that her family needs. Your support has reached 16 villages in central Cambodia with clean, safe water. You were here with Som and her neighbors as they gathered to build their well. Now, you are with Som each time she leaves her home and only walks a matter of yards to the well. You are here when she waters her garden and prepares nutritious meals. You are here as her granddaughter grows healthy and strong.

Where There is Water

You are here





THANK YOU!

On Sunday, February 5th, we collected \$147 and 16 food items for the Frederick FoodBank through the Souper Bowl of Caring!

FOODBANK NEEDS

The Frederick Foodbank, operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency, is in need of non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, pastas, rice, spaghetti or tomato sauce, cereal, canned fish like tuna, and canned meats. The Foodbank provides a 3- to 5-day supply of food to needy families that are experiencing a financial crisis and cannot afford their groceries. The Frederick Foodbank serves 700 to 750 families each month.

THANK YOU for your continued support of this vital local mission!

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION



Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 1st

7:00 p.m.

Through Archie's Eyes: *A Lenten Journey with the Bunkers*

Join us each Tuesday in Lent at 6:30 PM for pizza and a time to look at life issues we all face through the eyes of one of TV's most iconic families. Starting **March 7th** and continuing for 6 weeks of Lent! Join us!!

If Tuesday evenings do not work with your schedule, please feel free to join us at Homewood on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. beginning March 2nd.



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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