

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

MAY 2017

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Important Dates at a Glance

Saturday, May 6th

Outdoor Clean-up Day

Details on page 9

May 13th - May 20th

Emergency Family Shelter at Grace

Monday, May 29th

Memorial Day observed

Church office closed



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

Are you ready for perhaps the "cheesiest" pastor's letter ever? Here goes!

I am getting tired of the rain. It's been days now and we have had nothing but grey skies and chilly rain. My kitchen floor is full of wet dog prints! I just want to see a little sun and feel some warmth on my skin. And I know...we really do need the rain.

We sometimes need the rain in life as well. The dark, wet, cold moments in life serve a purpose I think, if we let them. In one way they help me appreciate the sun. I have never lived in San Diego, but I have friends who do. The weather is amazing. The average temperature year round is 76° and the sun shines almost every day. (Why don't we live there?) But I wonder if in some way it gets easy to take that weather for granted. Do you stop being amazed by the beauty if it's that beautiful every day? I am amazed by the beauty of a warm, sunny, spring day. I think that's in part because I have experienced the darker, nastier days that came before. The dark moments in life help me appreciate the times when life seems warm and bright.

I spent my week off after Easter planting a garden and grass seed at our house. I did it and it has rained every day since. It needs the rain and I am excited to see how it responds when the sun does eventually come out and warm up. My life is like that too. Sometimes those tough moments become places that prepare me for new growth in the future. I may not see it at the moment, but sometimes I can look back and see the blessings of the rain. And it's that hope that sees me through the rain.

Have a wonderful month and may May bring you a month of spiritual sunshine!

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.
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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!!

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 June issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, May 22nd. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, May 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 so that we can save the postage. Thank you!

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

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.



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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5 Terry Fowler
8 Peter Abell
16 Bill Failor
22 Catherine Bartgis



23 Roxanne Saloky
24 Terry Kaufman
27 Anna Winegar
30 Anne Meilleur

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

*Joey and Dave Light
May 5th*

*Eric and Lisel Powell
May 5th*

*Lucien and Anna Winegar
May 9th*

*Linda Grone and Marta Tomlinson
May 13th*

*Scott and Sarah Malasky
May 16th*



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").



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
<p>DR = Dining Room GSR = Good Shepherd Room S = Sanctuary</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Young Adults (2nd)</p>
<p>7 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12) 11:00 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion (S) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 3) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (13)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p>14 Fifth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 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)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>EMERGENCY FAMILY SHELTER</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Man Kind Project (13)</p>
<p>21 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12) 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) Following worship - Silent Auction 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Council (Room 3) 7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p>28 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 9:45 a.m. - Choir rehearsal (Room 12) 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) Following worship - Silent Auction 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day</p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG (Room 3)	4 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (2nd floor)	5 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	6 9:00 a.m. - Outdoor Clean-up Day
10 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	11 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 7:00 p.m. - TFC board meeting (3)	12 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	13 8:00 a.m. - EFS set-up (DR) 2:00 p.m. - Piano student recital (S) 6:00 p.m. - EFS arrives (DR)
17 AT GRACE ----->	18 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support group (13)	19 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	20 8:00 a.m. - EFS pack-up (DR)
24 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)	25 6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR)	26 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)	27
31 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:15 p.m. - Church & Ministry (Homewood)			

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

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Music Notes

An Update from the Grace Church Choir

Thank you to all those who came out on April 1st to support our Broadway Cabaret fundraiser concert! Stay tuned for news about a possible encore performance...

And save the date for another "Dough-Raiser" at Uno Pizzeria and Grill on Saturday, June 10th. Flyers are available now in the Narthex, the Library, and the Good Shepherd Room; they will also be included with the June newsletter. Please plan to join us, and don't forget to invite your friends - you can give away as many flyers as you'd like!

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Please join us!

Outdoor Clean-up Day at Grace Church

Saturday, May 6th

9:00 am until ?

Grab your gloves, brooms and gardening tools and come help us spruce up our outdoor spaces!



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 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 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.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Treasurer's Report

March 2017

Income: \$18,116.80
 Expenses: \$20,333.43
 Difference: - \$2,216.63

2017 Year-to-Date

Income: \$47,292.83
 Expenses: \$60,078.77
 Difference: - \$12,785.94

OUTREACH



THANK YOU!

Our Grace Groceries collection for April was
34 items!

*Thank you for your continued support of this
vital local mission project!*

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 Frederick Foodbank serves 700 to 750 families each month.



The Emergency Family Shelter returns to Grace May 13th-20th. We would love to have some extra volunteers to help with moving furniture in the basement after worship on Sunday, May 7th, as well as setting up dividers and cots on Saturday, May 13th and cleaning up on Saturday, May 20th. Please speak to Sarah Travis or Carol Garrison if you'd like to help. Thank you!

Volunteers needed for 2017 Frederick Pride Festival

We are looking for volunteers from Grace to man our booth at Pride on Saturday, June 24th. The Pride worship service takes place at 11:00 a.m. here at Grace, followed by the festival along the Carroll Creek Linear Park. Please speak to Pastor Rob if you would like to help.



The only catch? Pastor Guy's ordination service is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. (also here at Grace) the same day. More information on that coming soon...

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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