

The Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

MAY 2018

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Important Dates at a Glance

Saturday, May 5th

3:00 p.m.

Cabaret Concert Fundraiser

Details on page 12

May 12th - May 19th

Grace Church hosts the
Emergency Family Shelter

Details on page 10

Sunday, May 20th

Veritas and Grace combined
outdoor worship service

Details on page 6

Monday, May 28th

Memorial Day
Church Office closed

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This month we welcome Sarah Petermann as our new Administrative Assistant at Grace Church. Sarah brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in local church ministry. She was the administrative assistant at Rockville United Church as well as Christ Reformed United Church of Christ in Middletown and most recently served as interim Executive Administrative Assistant for the Central Atlantic Conference offices in Catonsville. She is experienced in every aspect of Church administration, from financial to the daily running of a church office. We are so sad to see Tara leave Grace Church and we are again so thankful for all the things she has done to make this a better place. That being said, we are excited to have Sarah on board and are looking forward to the gifts she will bring to Grace Church. Welcome, Sarah!

I also want to publically thank Linda Grone, who has decided that family obligations make it necessary for her to back away from the Altar Guild. Linda has been our sole Sacristin for the past 5 years, having learned from our beloved Kotty Houff, who died a few years ago. Linda has singlehandedly and very quietly set up for worship every week, including baking the communion bread! She is very timid about public affirmation and really doesn't want any great thanks for her work, but I would be remiss in not telling you that the altar and worship areas of Grace Church are always perfectly set, and it is because of Linda's love and care for the Church. Thanks, Linda!!

A new altar guild has been formed with a group of people who are going to be on rotating schedules to care for the worship space. If you have a heart for worship and would like to be a part of this very important ministry, please let me know or speak to Jean Barrick, the Chair of Worship and Education.

Please also remember that James Taylor has come on staff as our Hand Bell Choir director and is looking for people to join the bell choir. He already has 5 or 6, but can use more. So if you are interested, please speak to James or email him at bells@grucc.com.

There are so many good things happening at Grace and we are so excited for the many ways God is at work among us! Thanks to all of you for your faithfulness to Christ and the Church.

Have a wonderful May!

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

Farewell...

As I leave Grace Church to embark on a new chapter in my life - or really, return to a former chapter :) - I just want to take a moment to thank you all for making me feel so loved and appreciated during my years here. Who would have ever thought when I was hired by a church that was contemplating closing its doors that I would still be here 7 years later?! What a great testament to your faith and determination.

There are so many people at Grace who deserve my thanks and gratitude for making me feel like part of the family from the moment I arrived - but they are too many to list here. I wish all of you the very best and I hope to run into you around town sometime! Take care!

-Tara

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.



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.

A friendly reminder from Pastor Rob:

Are you planning an event at the Church? If so, PLEASE remember to call the church office and make sure to get on the calendar ASAP. This means BEFORE you make plans, invite people, advertise, etc... The church building is getting increasingly busy throughout the week and we'd like to avoid embarrassing double-bookings. Thanks so much!!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the June issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, May 21st. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, May 27th.

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!

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY COMMISSION

The Administrative Ministry Commission would like to thank each of the church members who have assisted in all of the activities and operations of the church at the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018. As we update and make changes at Grace United Church of Christ, we hope many members who have not been able to join with us will soon have the opportunity to participate.

If you would like to join the Administration Ministry Commission please speak to me at church or give me a call.

Steven Robeson Sr.
Administrative Ministry Commission Chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

New Members Class

Our next membership class will be held on Sunday, May 6th and Sunday, May 13th at 9:45 a.m., with a make-up class on Sunday, May 20th. Those who wish to officially join the church after completing the class will be received into the congregation during worship on May 20th. Please speak to Pastor Rob if you have any questions.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5 Terry Fowler
8 Peter Abell
22 Catherine Bartgis
24 Mark Edwards



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*



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast scheduled for May 12th has been cancelled. Instead, we hope that the men will join us at the church that morning as we set up for the arrival of the Emergency Family Shelter.

Veritas UCC/Grace UCC Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic

Sunday, May 20th

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Family Recreation Park, 21036 National Pike, Boonsboro

Veritas UCC and Grace UCC will be participating in a combined outdoor worship service at the Family Recreation Park in Boonsboro. It will be a time of fellowship and fun as we worship, eat, and play mini-golf. If anyone is interested after all of that fun, there are other activities available at Family Rec such as go-karts, ice-cream, paintball, and water wars for additional fees.

This gathering will also be a send-off celebration for Pastor Rob's upcoming sabbatical to India, so we hope everyone will be able to join us. Bring a dish and bring a friend!

.....
: **Host Families needed** for the German Church delegation that will be visiting :
: us this Fall (Oct. 24th-Nov. 1st). If you have space in your home to host 1 or :
: 2 (or 10!) adults, please speak to Pastor Rob for the details. Thanks! :
:

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
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

Greeters and Fellowship Hosts Needed

If you would like to serve as a greeter or host the fellowship time one Sunday, after worship please sign up on the sheet on the refrigerator in the Good Shepherd Room or speak to Rob Apgar (“Cop Rob”).

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 we can celebrate you!)

FINANCE AND PROPERTY



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Treasurer's Report

March 2018

Income: \$12,916.77
Expenses: \$18,455.60
Difference: - \$5,538.83

2018 Year-to-Date

Income: \$38,296.77
Expenses: \$60,205.92
Difference: - \$21,909.15

Offering Envelopes and Electronic Giving

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. *(Contact the church office to get started.)*

(b) make donations through 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.

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY**

May 2018

1

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

6 Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

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

8

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

13 Seventh Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - New Members Class
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

14**EMERGENCY FAMILY**

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

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

15

6:30 p.m. - Man Kind Project (13)

20 Pentecost

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 9:45 a.m. - New Members Class
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
 2:00 p.m. - Veritas/Grace Outdoor Worship Service and Picnic
 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

21

6:30 p.m. - TFC Young Adult Group (2nd floor)

22

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

27 Trinity Sunday

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

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

28 Memorial Day

Church office closed

29

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>2</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba class (GSR)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (2nd floor)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:00 p.m. - Cabaret rehearsal (S, Rm. 12)</p> <p>3:00 p.m. - Cabaret concert (S)</p>
<p>9</p> <p>12:00 p.m. - Catoclin Ministerium (GSR)</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>10 Ascension Day</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba class (GSR)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - TFC Youth Comm. and Board mtg. (3)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - EFS set-up (DR)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - EFS arrives (DR)</p>
<p>16</p> <p>SHELTER AT GRACE</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (GSR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba class (GSR)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (13)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - N.A. event (DR)</p> <p>2:00 p.m. - Private voice recital (S)</p>
<p>23</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba class (GSR)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3:00 p.m. - Piano student recital (S)</p>
<p>30</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - FREE Zumba class (GSR)</p>	<p>DR = Dining Room</p> <p>GSR = Good Shepherd Room</p> <p>S = Sanctuary</p>	

OUTREACH

Food Drive



Our Grace Groceries collection for April was **64** items!

THANK YOU for your continued generous support of the Frederick Food Bank!

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 and canned meats.

The Frederick Soup Kitchen, also operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency, is in need of volunteers to staff the soup kitchen and serve food to homeless individuals and needy families. Volunteers are needed M-F, 5-7pm to serve prepared meals and then clean up. It is an enjoyable and rewarding volunteer activity that does not require any special skills. For more information, please contact Sarah McAleavy at 301-600-6263.



The Emergency Family Shelter returns to Grace **May 12th-19th**. 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 vetted and trained volunteers who work directly with the shelter guests, we need folks to help us with set-up and clean-up. If you are able, please join us:

- after worship on Sunday, May 6th to move furniture in the basement
- on Saturday morning, May 12th for setup
- on Saturday morning, May 19th for clean-up

Thank you in advance!

Special Offering for May: *Strengthen the Church*

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Learn more or donate online at www.ucc.org/stc.

Mission Opportunities at Grace

DID YOU KNOW...

- ⇒ 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. During our last day of service (April 15th), we served dinner to 92 people! **Our next service date is June 17th.** Won't you join us?
- ⇒ Grace Church hosts the **Emergency Family Shelter** four times a year. 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.
- ⇒ 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!
- ⇒ The Good Samaritan Fund of Grace Church is designated for emergency relief to members and friends of Grace Church. Only the pastor and person in need know who receives assistance. Donations to the fund are welcome at any time, in any amount. If you can help, please place a check in the offering plate made out to Grace Church with "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Nursery Rocker

Some of you may remember, when you were a little child, attending the Grace Church Nursery with your Mother. (Some of you “baby boomers” will also remember that our Mothers always stayed in the nursery with us.) At that time, there was a special little rocking chair in the Nursery. During the past year, unfortunately, it fell into disrepair and took a bad beating. But never fear, Sarah Drenning is here!!! Sarah has volunteered to make our “baby rocker” a real rocker once again.



This picture shows our poor baby rocker. In the near future, we will be celebrating the return of our rocker to the Nursery with before and AFTER photos.

Jean Barrick

Music Notes

The Grace Church Senior Choir presents



A Cabaret Concert Fundraiser for Puerto Rico

Saturday, May 5th
3:00 p.m.

This concert is FREE; a love offering will be collected to benefit the men, women and children of Puerto Rico who are still without food and electricity 6 months after the devastation of their home by Hurricane Maria. Please plan to join us!

For All the Saints

St. Monica of Hippo

May 4th (387 A.D.)

St. Monica was born in Tagaste, northern Africa and she was the mother of St. Augustine. She was brought up as a good Christian. Her strong training was a great help to her when she married Patricius the pagan.

Patricius admired his wife, but he made her suffer because of his bad temper. Still Monica never answered back and never complained about him to anyone. Instead she prayed for him fervently.

God heard her prayer and Patricius finally agreed to become a Christian in 371. He was baptized on his deathbed in 372. His mother, too, became a Christian.

St. Monica's joy over the holy way in which her husband had died soon changed to great sorrow. She found out that her 19 year old son Augustine was living a bad, selfish life. This clever young man had turned to a false religion and had formed wicked habits.

Monica prayed and cried and did much penance for her son. She begged priests to talk to him. Augustine was brilliant but very stubborn. He did not want to give up his sinful life. But Monica would not give up either.

When he went to Rome without her, she followed him. At Rome, she found he had become a teacher in Milan. So Monica went to Milan. And in all those years, she never stopped praying for him.

What love and faith! After years of prayers and tears, her reward came when Augustine was converted. He not only became a good Christian, as she had prayed; Augustine also became a priest, a bishop, a great writer and a very famous saint.

St. Monica died in Ostia, outside Rome, in 387 with her son Augustine at her bedside.

Her faith reminds us to never stop praying for the love and support of our children and of the faithfulness of a mother's love which reminds us of the love of God for us.

HOMEWOOD NEWS

HUGE Indoor Yard Sale

Homewood at Crumland Farms
7407 Willow Road, Frederick

Friday, May 4th - 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 5th - 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Small appliances • Books • Crafts • Decorations • DVDs • Electronics
Small furniture items • Jewelry • Linens • Puzzles • Tools • Toys
and much more!!!

Refreshments for sale. Cash or check only.
For information and directions, please call 301-644-5600.
www.homewoodfrederick.com

Special Offering for the Homewood Benevolence Fund

On Mother’s Day, May 13th, we will once again collect a special offering for the Homewood Foundation and the Benevolent Endowment Fund.

Quality care, dedication, and loving attention are Homewood’s hallmarks. Regardless of income level or assets, everyone at Homewood is treated with dignity and respect. Long life can become challenging for some residents, causing them to outlive their financial resources. The cost of medical care is much more than what is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance.

That’s where the Homewood Foundation and the Benevolent Endowment Fund step in. Last year, Homewood subsidized more than \$11 million in care, and the need grows every year. We need your help.

Your gift at Mother’s Day helps Homewood live its mission of providing compassionate, professional and caring service to enhance the quality of life for residents, clients, and co-workers.

Thank you for your continued support of Homewood.

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		
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
James Taylor, Bell Choir Director
Tammy Eyler, Nursery Attendant
Tom Tobery, Caretaker
Sarah Petermann, 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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