

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

NOVEMBER 2017

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Important Dates at a Glance

Sunday, November 5th

Daylight Saving Time ends

Stewardship Sunday

Ministries Fair

Sunday, November 12th

Annual Congregational Meeting

Details on page 4

Sunday, November 19th

Grace's Annual

Thanksgiving Dinner

Tuesday, November 21st

Multi-faith Community

Thanksgiving Worship

Details on page 12

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I love Halloween. I always have, as a kid, but now even as an adult. I love watching the kids. It is the one night that seems to be just for them. The costumes, the candy, the attention the kids just seem to love. I am a bit disappointed this year to learn that our new home gets very few kids for trick or treating. In my last house we would buy candy for 600 children and still run out every year! And I loved it. This is the day a kid can be anything he or she wants. The nerd can be a superhero. That awkward kid can be a princess. This is the day a child gets to live their dreams. And that's as it should be!

This year Halloween is particularly special as it is also the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was on October 31st 1517 that Martin Luther called the church to dialogue about various abuses that he felt were pulling the church further from being a faithful witness to the Gospel. "Semper Reformanda!" is the phrase we use: Always Reforming. The church is Reformed and Reforming. That process is continual and will, quite frankly, never stop as long as the Church exists on earth. The Spirit of God continues to be revealed to us in new ways that challenge and enlighten us. The inclusion of women in full participation of Leadership, leading in dialogue about racism and justice for people of color, being honest about the role the Church has played in the oppression of minorities, the poor and LGBT people, call the church to faithful stewardship of the earth and its resources. These are all ways the Church continues to reform itself. Sometimes we do it willingly, and sometimes we are dragged kicking and screaming by the culture around us. But either way, the Church is called to listen for the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit calling us to be ever more faithful to the way God is at work around us.

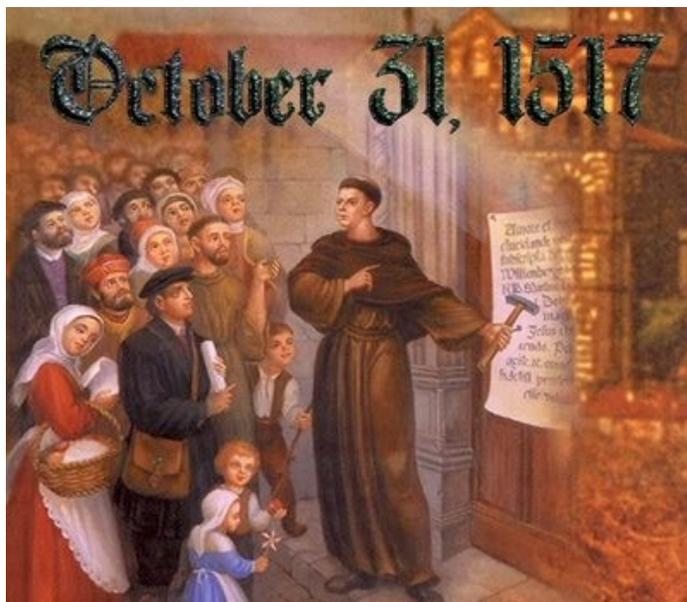
Where are the areas in which you think that God is calling us to be more faithful? One of the tenets of the Reformation was that the Mass needed to be in the vernacular, that is, the language of the people. The Mass was historically in Latin because in the early church Latin WAS the language of the people. But as time went on, Latin died out - everywhere but in church! What are

the ways we in the church need to be able to speak a language the people around us understand in our world today? Perhaps through music, or service projects, or the language we use in church services? Are we presenting the Gospel in a language that is able to be understood by those who need to hear it? This is just one of many ways the Church needs to continue the reforming acts of the Holy Spirit.

So this month we remember and celebrate that we are a Reformed and Reforming Church. And we pray for ears to hear the ways God continues to speak to us. May we be ever faithful to the call of God in our lives and attentive to the way that call gets lived out in our Church, our homes, and our lives.

May the courage of Blessed Martin Luther and the reforming power of the Holy Spirit be yours this month and always!

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.

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 COUNCIL

The Church Council of Grace United Church of Christ has called the **Annual Congregational Meeting** for Sunday, November 12, 2017, following worship. During the meeting, the 2016-2017 Annual Report will be presented, along with the 2018 Budget, and new Council members will be elected to serve in the upcoming year. It's important to get as many members in attendance as we can; please mark your calendar now and plan to join us for the meeting and lunch.

WIDER CHURCH NEWS

Our nation and particularly our southern neighbors have been enduring catastrophic weather conditions that have led to loss of homes, property, lives and hope. Join others within the UCC to make a difference. As you offer your prayers, please also consider a financial gift to help. You may place a check in the offering plate (designated "Disaster Relief") or donate online at www.cacucc.org (click the "Donate" button at the bottom of the page).

Incarnation UCC will be purchasing and filling Clean-Up Buckets as a response to the two recent hurricanes that made landfall in the US. If you would like to contribute items for the buckets, please drop them off at the church (124 W. Main Street, Emmitsburg). A list of needed items can be found on the Church World Service website (www.cwsglobal.org). Contact Rev. Chris Spruill, 301-524-9447 or cspruill1964@gmail.com, with any questions.

Saturday, November 11th

Catoctin Association Fall Meeting

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Christ Reformed UCC, Middletown
Please contact the church office by November 3rd to register.

November 17th and 18th

Central Atlantic Conference Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites - Inner Harbor, Baltimore

Please contact the church office ASAP to register. Space is limited!

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 December issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, November 20th. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, November 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!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

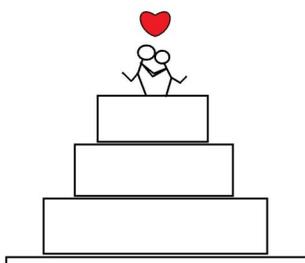
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Rick Buske
11 Bob Davis
14 Karen Miller
20 John Brehmer



23 Madelyn Ford
Alyscia Meggitt
25 Sarah Drenning
28 Traci Keyes

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



Tammy and Dale Eyles
November 2nd

Jess and Garrett Kehler
November 7th

Dave and Traci Keyes
November 30th

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.

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
Karlene Kaufmann 2100 Whittier Dr. Apt. 405 Frederick, MD 21702	Jean Gaver 7407 Willow Rd. AL 250 Frederick, MD 21702	

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 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 Apgar ("Cop Rob").

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.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY



A LOOK *at the* **BUDGET**

Treasurer's Report

September 2017

Income: \$13,872.56

Expenses: \$13,429.75

Difference: \$ 442.81

2017 Year-to-Date

Income: \$139,982.25

Expenses: \$170,550.86

Difference: - \$30,568.61

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. You can pick them up in the Narthex.

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.

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!

November 2017

<p>5 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Stewardship Sunday 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship and Communion Following worship - Ministries Fair 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Young Adults (2nd)</p>
<p>12 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) Following worship - Annual Congregational meeting (GSR) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 6:30 p.m. - Man Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p>19 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) Following worship -Thanksgiving dinner 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>20 7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 13) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (3)</p>	<p>21 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR) 7:30 p.m. - Thanksgiving Worship (Beth Sholom)</p>
<p>26 Reign of Christ 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (13) 7:00 p.m. - Council meeting (Rm. 3)</p>

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>1</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG (Room 3)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - Top Shelf Theology 6:30 p.m. - GAMMA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Time to "Fall Back" Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour tonight!</p>
<p>8</p> <p>12:00 p.m. - Catoctin Ministerium (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 7:00 p.m. - TFC board meeting (3)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. - Catoctin Assn. Fall Meeting (Christ Reformed UCC)</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>6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (DR)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - CAC Annual Meeting (Baltimore) 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - CAC Annual Meeting (Baltimore)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - Advent Study (Hmwd) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - Advent Study (Room 13)</p>	<p>DR = Dining Room GSR = Good Shepherd Room S = Sanctuary</p>	

OUTREACH

Thanksgiving is a time for getting together with family and friends to enjoy good food and fellowship. As you count your blessings, think of how you can share those blessings with others. While out shopping for food, pick up some extra non-perishable items to give to the needy. There is a little red wagon in the Narthex where you can drop off donated food items. Every third Sunday we bless them and send them off to the Frederick Food Bank.

While you are going through your closets and drawers, switching out warm weather clothing for heavier items, set aside the items that no longer fit, or of which you have too many. Seriously, who needs five blue sweaters? These clean, gently used clothing items can be donated to the Frederick Rescue Mission or Goodwill Industries. Look especially for extra hats, mittens, scarves, and coats for our homeless neighbors who are out in all kinds of weather.

As Christmas quickly approaches, you may want to “adopt” a child or family for the holidays through the Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program. You can find the Angel Trees at FSK Mall and Walmart starting in mid-November. Getting your kids and grandkids involved in the Angel Tree program is a great way to teach them about stewardship.

Whatever you do this holiday season, please remember those who are not as fortunate as we are. Sometimes the greatest blessing we can receive is the knowledge that we have been a blessing to someone else.

Sarah Travis
Outreach Commission Chair

Food Drive



THANK YOU

for your continued generous support of
the Frederick Food Bank!

Volunteer Training for the Year-Round Emergency Shelter

The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs is seeking volunteers, 18 years and older, who are willing to serve at the Year-Round Shelter. The shelter is open 7 days a week and there are 2 shifts: 6-8 pm and 8-10 pm.

Volunteer duties include greeting and checking in guests, assigning beds, handing out needed supplies, and assisting staff. A Religious Coalition staff person is on duty all hours that the shelter is open.

The remaining volunteer training session is Saturday, November 4th at 10am at the Alan P. Linton Jr. Emergency Shelter (27 DeGrange St., Frederick).

To register for the training, please call the Shelter at 301-631-2670 ext. 113.

FREDERICK SOUP KITCHEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Frederick Soup Kitchen, operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency (FCAA), is desperately in need of volunteers to staff the soup kitchen and serve food to homeless individuals and needy families. The Frederick Soup Kitchen serves a free evening meal, seven (7) days a week to as many as 110 hungry people a night.

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to serve prepared meals and then clean up. It is an enjoyable and rewarding volunteer activity that does not require any special skills. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and volunteers are especially needed on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings. Most volunteers serve meals 2 to 4 evenings per month.

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer, please contact Sarah McAleavy, Supervisor at 301-600-6263 or smcaleavy@cityoffrederick.com.

Special Offering for October: *Neighbors in Need*

THANK YOU!!! We collected a total of \$745 for the Neighbors in Need offering. One of our 5-for-5 UCC special mission offerings, Neighbors In Need supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Thank you for your generosity!

Donations to the fund can be made any time at www.ucc.org/nin

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Multi-faith Community Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 21st

7:30 p.m.

Beth Shalom Congregation, 1011 N. Market Street, Frederick

Christian Education Opportunity for Adults: Advent Group Study

Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning November 30th for pizza and discussion on Adam Hamilton's book, "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph." If you've attended the Advent Group in the past, you already know how much fun we have and how much we learn, with open discussions and lots of laughter. If you haven't attended, why not give it a try this year? *(If you are not able to meet in the evenings, please join us at Homewood at 10:30 a.m. for the same study.)*

Please RSVP to Pastor Rob or Tara if you plan to attend at either location, so that we can order enough books. Thanks!

Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

Our Youth Class (for grades 6-12) meets at 9:45 on Sunday mornings during the school year. Susan Custer leads the class, and they meet on the 2nd floor on the "comfy couches" outside of the church office.

Younger children have their own "mini-Church" during the second part of our 11:00 worship service. We call it Children's Church, and we use a curriculum called Deep Blue Kids One-Room Sunday School, which incorporates Bible lessons, crafts, songs and other fun activities. Each Sunday, all elementary school kids (K-5) are invited to join us as we leave the Sanctuary after the children's sermon.

Nursery volunteers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as the "2nd Adult" in the Nursery on Sundays (per the requirement in our "Safe Sanctuary" policy). Please speak to Jean Barrick or Pastor Rob if you would like to help. Thanks!

For All the Saints

St. Andrew, the Apostle

November 30th

St. Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a Christian Apostle and the older brother to St. Peter. According to the New Testament, Andrew was born in the village of Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee during the early first century. Much like his younger brother, Simon Peter, Andrew was also a fisherman. Andrew's very name means strong and he was known for having good social skills.

In the Gospel of Matthew, it is said Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee and saw Andrew and Simon Peter fishing. It is then he asked the two to become disciples and "fishers of men."

Little else is said about Andrew in the Gospels, but it is believed Andrew was one of the closer disciples to Jesus. It was he who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes, according to John 6:8. When Philip wanted to speak to Jesus about Greeks seeking him, he spoke to Andrew first. Andrew was also present at the last supper.

Per Christian tradition, Andrew went on to preach the Good News around the shores of the Black Sea and throughout what is now Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion in Patras. He was bound, rather than nailed, to a cross, as is described in the Acts of Andrew. He was crucified on a cross form known as "crux decussata," which is an X-shaped cross or a "saltire." Today this is commonly referred to as "St. Andrew's Cross." It is believed Andrew requested to be crucified this way, because he deemed himself "unworthy to be crucified on the same type of cross as Jesus."

Andrew's remains were originally preserved at Patras. However, some believe St. Regulus, who was a monk at Patras, received a vision telling him to hide some of Andrew's bones. Shortly after Regulus' dream, many of Andrew's relics were transferred to Constantinople by order of Roman emperor Constantius II around 357. Regulus later received orders in a second dream telling him to take the bones "to the ends of the earth." He was to build a

shrine for them wherever he shipwrecked. He landed on the coast of Fife, Scotland.

In September 1964, Pope Paul VI had all of St. Andrew's relics that ended up in Vatican City sent back to Patras. Now, many of Andrew's relics and the cross on which he was martyred are kept in the Church of St. Andrew in Patras.

His saltire cross is featured on the flag of Scotland and is represented in much of his iconography. He is commonly portrayed as an old man with long white hair and a beard, often holding the Gospel book or a scroll.

St. Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen and singers. He is also the patron saint to several countries and cities including: Scotland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Patras and his feast day is celebrated on November 30.

HOMEWOOD NEWS

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Become a member of the Homewood Auxiliary

We are called to help each other - a friendly smile, a helping hand, a light in the darkness. For Homewood health care center residents, the Homewood Auxiliary is a light that brings joy and compassion - above and beyond the care they receive. And it's been that way since our very beginnings.

Many auxiliary members serve as volunteers or plan and participate in fund-raising events; while others simply join for the satisfaction of knowing their membership lets their light shine for Homewood residents.

Grace's Homewood Auxiliary Representative, Sarah Drenning, will be renewing memberships and adding new memberships during the month of November. Please consider giving a donation of \$3 (or more!) to add your name and support to the thousands who serve Homewood's residents. Please see Sarah after worship to join. Let your light shine at Homewood!

To learn more about the Homewood Auxiliary, please speak to Sarah, or visit homewood.com/about/auxiliary-volunteer.

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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