

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

OCTOBER 2016

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Important Dates at a Glance

Saturday, October 1st

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Details on page 4

Sunday, October 2nd

Free blood pressure screenings
after worship

Details on page 6

Saturday, October 15th

Pet Blessing Service

Details on page 11

Sunday, October 16th

Grace volunteers serve at the
Soup Kitchen

FROM THE PASTOR

A Christian like Joey

Recently I saw that it was National Dog Day. I never knew there was such a day. It is the day we celebrate the love and companionship we have with our canine “fur-babies.” You know, those drooling, shedding, jumping, licking little balls of fur that find their way into our hearts and soon end up running our homes? Yeah that’s them.

It also reminded me that I forgot my dog’s birthday! It ok because he’s gone now. He would have been 21 years old. How I still miss that sweet boy. He was more than a dog, if you know what I mean. He was my children’s childhood pet. He was our guardian, protecting us from untold numbers of very menacing squirrels and rabbits in the yard. He made sure everyone who walked down the street knew in no uncertain terms “Hey, my family lives here! I’m protecting them.” (At least that’s what I think he was saying.)

One time I preached a sermon about him called “A Christian like Joey.” Now I know that dogs can’t technically be Christians, but as far as actions go, that dog was a better Christian than this pastor will ever be.

He was kind and gentle. Sure, he barked to let people know he was in control, but he would have sooner kissed you to death than bite you. But no matter how bad my day, when I came home, he made me feel like king of the castle.

He was forgiving. If he did something wrong and I corrected him, he couldn’t wait to make nice again. He never held a grudge or refused to forgive.

He was compassionate and loving. I know, all dogs love attention. But when someone was sick, he was there to make you feel better, with a nuzzle or a cuddle or a sweet little kiss on the cheek. It was the only way he could, but it was clear that he knew something was wrong and wanted to make it better. His company was his medicine.

As for me? I would do better to be a lot more like him. My words could be softer, and gentler. Sure there are times I have to protect those I love, but

too often I have let anger take control. I could be more forgiving. Others are struggling too. Bitterness and resentment course like poison through our veins if we let them.

Compassion is sorely lacking in our world these days. Just to be present to those in need. Maybe my words won't make a difference. Maybe there is nothing I can say or do to help someone's pain, but there are times the best medicine I can offer is the gift of my presence: holding a hand, sitting watching TV by a bedside, reading a card that came for them in the mail. These are small gifts, but they can make a huge difference. Sometimes the most important gift I can give is the gift of my presence and love.

So yeah, I know dogs can't technically be good Christians, but if I could be more like him, I think maybe I would be.

So today I celebrate the gift of my canine children. There are two other adorable fur-babies who bless my life today. But I remember the gift of one boy who still touches my heart even 6 years after he left us. Today I lift a glass to toast him on his 21st Birthday. Happy Birthday Joey...I hope I can be half the man you thought I was. You taught me well.

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



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 updates, please call or email the church office to be added to the list.

Keep in mind that the church calendar is also available on our website - www.grucc.com.

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

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!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Greeters and Fellowship Hosts

We have 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.

However, **we do still need greeters for every Sunday**

morning. 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.





Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, October 1st

9:00 a.m.

Bob Evans on Route 40
(the Golden Mile)

All men are welcome to join us!

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.



Now that the weather is cooling off, our drop-in Zumba classes have resumed! Join Nikki on Thursday evenings at 6pm for a fun hour of fitness. Men, women and teens of all fitness levels are welcome to drop in to this **FREE** class!

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.

SAVE THE DATE for

our 4th Annual *Christkindlmarkt!*

Saturday, December 3rd • 12:00 noon - 9:00 p.m.

(Our event coincides with downtown Frederick's First Saturday festivities.)

Vendor registration is now open! Spaces are \$30 each, and each paid space includes a coupon for a free meal in our German café. Contact Teddi Garrison at t_garrison19@comcast.net for a vendor application. **Please save the date and help us spread the word!**

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	Lloyd Hoover 7401 Willow Rd. AL 237 Frederick, MD 21702
Dr. Noel Lester 717 Wyngate Dr. Frederick, MD 21701	Pat Lowry 12 Rothschild Ct. Gaithersburg, MD 20878	Pam Kehne 1632 Wall Dr. Pasadena, MD 21122
Bill Failor Meadows Health Ctr. 7407 Willow Rd. Frederick, MD 21702	Jean Gaver Meadows Health Ctr. 7407 Willow Rd. Frederick, MD 21702	Karlene Kaufmann 2501 Driftwood Ct. Apt. 1B Frederick, MD 21702

Faith Community Nursing Returns to Grace

Mike Stockman, CRNP

I've volunteered to serve Grace as a Faith Community Nurse (FCN). Also known as "Parish Nurses," FCNs serve their churches by leading health and wellness ministries, helping individual members to move toward physical, mental and spiritual wholeness and supporting them as they face health challenges. They do not provide direct care, but serve as educators and health counselors, facilitating ministries of health and wholeness.

Below, I've listed some of the typical functions of Faith Community Nurse (Parish) Nursing programs along with some specific activities that FCNs have led or supported in other congregations:

Health assessment: *Helping to identify health-related strengths and challenges for both individuals and the congregation as a whole.*

Health screening events to help identify diabetes, high cholesterol and depression. Community HIV screening events. Blood pressure screening after church. ***NOTE: Blood pressure screenings will be held on the first Sunday of every month during fellowship.***

Health education: *Increasing health awareness in the congregation and providing health information.*

Promoting national health awareness events like Heart Attack Awareness Month with posters, literature, etc. Leading informational seminars on topics like family caregiving and end of life decision making.

Health counseling and consultation:

Providing individual counseling and consultation regarding health and wellness issues.

Serving as a health advocate and referral source: *Helping to raise awareness regarding health issues affecting the community and society at large and connecting congregants with healthcare resources.*

Speaking to church groups on topics related to current community health issues (“Obamacare,” opiate addiction, Zika). Coordinating and supporting church volunteers who help older or homebound members. Assisting members having difficulty accessing health resources or dealing with insurance/Medicare.

Helping to integrate of faith and health: *Facilitating an understanding of the connection between spirituality and health.*

Participating in services of healing and prayer. Speaking with Sunday School classes or other church groups.

As for my qualifications: In 2004 I completed a 150 hour Parish Nurse Training Course offered by Frederick Community College and the Frederick Health Department, and I’ve previously served as Parish Nurse at another church. I’m a licensed RN and Nurse Practitioner with over 30 years of health care experience.

I look forward to serving our church.

October 2016

2 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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)

3

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

4

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

9 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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)

10 Columbus Day

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

11

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

16 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

17

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

18

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

23 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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)

24

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

25

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

30 Reformation Sunday

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)

31 Halloween

6:00 p.m. - Trunk or Treat (Veritas UCC)
 7:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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

1
 9:00 a.m. - Men's
 Breakfast
 6:00 p.m. - A.A.
 event (DR)

5
 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth
 Group (DR)
 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG
 (Room 3)

6
 6:00 p.m. - Zumba
 (GSR)
 6:30 p.m. - GAM-
 MA (Room 13)

7
 8:30 p.m. - N.A.
 meeting (DR)

8

12
 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth
 Group (DR)

13
 6:00 p.m. - Zumba
 7:00 p.m. - TFC
 board (Room 3)

14
 8:30 p.m. - N.A.
 meeting (DR)

15
 3:00 p.m. - Blessing
 of the Animals

19
 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth
 Group (DR)
 7:15 p.m. - Church &
 Ministry (Homewood)

20
 6:00 p.m. - Zumba
 6:00 p.m. - FCHD
 Support Grp. (DR)
 6:30 p.m. - TFC
 Support Grp (3)

21
 8:30 p.m. - N.A.
 meeting (DR)

22

26
 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth
 Group (DR)

27
 6:00 p.m. - Zumba
 (GSR)

28
 8:30 p.m. - N.A.
 meeting (DR)

29



FINANCE AND PROPERTY



A LOOK at the BUDGET

Treasurer's Report

August 2016

Income: \$14,188.00
Expenses: \$15,143.34
Difference: - \$955.34

Year-to-date (as of 8/31)

Income: \$123,043.98
Expenses: \$154,693.83
Difference: - \$31,649.85

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 next to the envelope number that you've chosen.

If you would rather skip the checks and envelopes and give electronically, we now have **2** options:

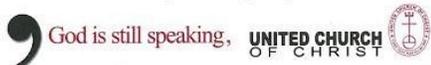
1. You can sign up for our super-convenient *UCC e-Giving* program and have a regular, recurring donation drafted out of your checking or savings account, or charged to your credit card. (To get started, simply pick up an authorization form in the Narthex or the Library, or call the church office.)

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!

Giving Card

Part of my worship is giving back to God – with joy and gratitude – from all that I have received.
I have already given for this period, so today I celebrate this commitment, using this card as a reminder of my act of giving.



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.

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!

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

The Good Samaritan Fund is designated for emergency financial relief to members and friends of Grace Church. Only the pastor and person in need know who receives assistance from the fund.

Donations to the Good Samaritan Fund can be made at any time, in any amount. If you would like to help, please place a check in the offering plate made out to Grace Church with "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!

If you or someone you know from our church family is in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Rob directly.

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION



Pet Blessing Service

Saturday, October 15th

3:00 p.m.

On the sidewalk in front of Grace Church

All types of pets are welcome, but the City of Frederick requires that they be on a leash or in a carrier. This service is open to the Frederick community.

Help Wanted

We are looking for a substitute teacher for the Youth Sunday School class, as well as additional leaders for our Children's Church program.

The Youth class meets each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. and has a great group of teens. Children's Church leaders will share in a rotation, volunteering less than once a month, and will lead our elementary-aged kids in various activities during the worship service. The curriculum is easy and fun!

Please see Pastor Rob or John Brehmer if you are interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities.

For all the Saints

John Woolman
October 7th (1772)

John Woolman — preacher, writer, mystic, and social reformer — was the fourth child and eldest son of thirteen children born to Samuel and Elizabeth Burr Woolman. As he was growing up on a Quaker plantation near Burlington, New Jersey, the Quakers were undergoing a trial "by favor and prosperity," finding, like their Puritan neighbors, virtue in worldly success and wealth.

Woolman's life and faith were profoundly shaped during his youth through his experience of God in nature's beauty on the Woolman plantation. As a youth he came to understand himself moved by an inward principle to love God, and by the same principle, to love all of God's creatures in the visible world.

Though his formal education was confined to a country Quaker school, his parents encouraged him to read and learn trades. Working as a clerk in Mount Holly during 1740-41, Woolman was stirred to begin a public ministry as he became aware of the conditions of others in the larger world.

Recognized as a preacher in 1743 by the Burlington Quarterly Meeting, Woolman began that year his first of numerous preaching journeys. Beginning with his first preaching trip under the tutelage of Abraham Farrington, he began a long campaign against slavery, constantly traveling among the Quaker communities in defense of black rights. By 1749, as a property owner, a successful tailor and shopkeeper, he married Sarah Ellis. Their first child, Mary was born in 1750. The Woolman's only other child, William, died three months after birth.

Perhaps best remembered as a herald of the antislavery movement, some propose that the central evil Woolman opposed was the exploitation of labor, his ideal a society in which no person should profit by the degradation of another. His ministry of gentle yet forcible action was a liberation movement of influence, an appeal to the conscience of all professing Christians.

Woolman's mystical connection with God's inner light was seamlessly interwoven with a bold ministry of action aimed at freeing the spirit of persons from material bondage. He substantially decreased slave ownership, particularly among the Friends in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He fought for equitable treatment

of Native Americans. He revitalized the practice of pacifism among Quakers while restoring their dependency upon the Light within.

R. Brooks

OUTREACH



THANK YOU!

*Our September Grace Groceries collection totaled **49** items!*

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

UCC Special Offering for October: *Neighbors in Need*

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, which we will receive on Sunday, October 2nd, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through www.ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Please give generously. And remember, contributions to Neighbors In Need can be made online at anytime: www.ucc.org/nin.

Exciting News from the Grace Church Senior Choir!

We have been invited to perform in Wittenberg, Germany at the World Reformation Exposition on August 25, 2017! As you may know, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and Wittenberg is the place where Martin Luther nailed the *Ninety-five Theses* to the door of the cathedral, beginning the Reformation. It is a HUGE honor to be a part of this celebration!!

Over the next several months, we will be holding fundraisers to help us pay for our airfare to Germany. Choir members are currently selling candles and handcrafted soaps (see any member of the choir to order) and on October 9th and 16th after worship, Carrie Minnick will be hosting a Thirty-One Gifts fundraiser. Why not start your holiday shopping early? All of these items would make great Christmas gifts!!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6 Ryan Howe
9 Drea Malasky
Liz Tabbachino
10 Miriam Himes
14 Joan Hankey
Michael Shores



19 Abigail Taylor
21 Betty Linton
22 Lynne Leatherman
23 Rob Apgar
29 Jean Barrick
30 Mollie Snyder

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Sarah and Bill Drenning
October 1st

Terry and Jennifer Kaufman
October 1st

Cass and Ronald Hammond
October 6th

Richelle and Mark Schmitz
October 25th



Grace Church Leadership Directory

COUNCIL OFFICERS

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

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Administrative	Earl Bartgis	301-695-4695
Congregational Life	Matt Bonin	845-326-7468
Finance and Property	Eric Black	724-910-9295
Outreach	Carol Garrison	301-606-1347
Worship and Education	John Brehmer	301-514-0182

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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