

Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

OCTOBER 2017

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Important Dates at a Glance

Sunday, October 1st

World Communion Sunday

11:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion
Join us in welcoming 8 new members
into our church family!

Thursday, October 12th

Top Shelf Theology begins

See page 12 for details

Sunday, October 15th

Volunteers from Grace Church
serve at the Soup Kitchen



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

This past month was a whirlwind at Grace Church. The choir trip to Germany was worth every minute! We sang 5 concerts in 5 venues, from small rural churches to a huge cathedral dating from the 12th Century. We visited a High school and sang for and with a music class and talked with them about life in America and we learned about the German school system.

We walked through many small towns and cities and learned the history of the area. To say we walked was an understatement! At one point we walked 49 miles total! We were walking fools, but that was a good thing, because beer, bread and cheese were never in short supply. I think it's fair to say we needed to walk to burn off the carbs and calories from the meals. But it was all delicious!

We met some extraordinary people as well. Local church folk proudly showed us their churches and towns and told stories of what it was like to be a Christian in Soviet occupied East Germany. We toured Marienborn, the soviet checkpoint along the autobahn and learned about the oppression and control that the East German government used to keep people from escaping to the west. We travelled in two 9 passenger vans which was an experience on the autobahn, where speed limits do not exist. (Pastor Rob and Cop Rob had fun driving!)

Most of our overnight accommodations, while very nice, were in small villages, so nightlife was lacking to say the least. One night we did locate a bowling alley and had a great time! Bowling is not too popular in Europe, but this bowling alley was nicer than any I have seen in America.

From the small private Bakeries to the beer gardens and food stands, we ate our way through Germany. To say it was a positive trip would be an understatement. We had so much fun and I do think we represented Grace Church and the Central Atlantic Conference greatly.

We have said it many times but I want to repeat it here: On behalf of the choir, I thank all of you for your generous gifts and support which made this experience possible. It was a trip we will never forget!

Have a blessed month!

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 OFFICE

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.

Mark your calendar now! The submission deadline for the November issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, October 23rd. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, October 29th.

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 & MINISTRY

The annual pastoral survey is included with this newsletter. Please take the time to give us your thoughts about this past year with Pastor Rob. Please place your completed survey in the collection box in the Library or the Narthex (or mail it to the church office) by Sunday, October 29th. You do not need to include your name. Thank you for your participation!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



JOIN US!

Oktoberfest Open House at Pastor Rob and Rob's

Saturday, September 30th • 2:00-5:00 p.m.
422 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown

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

Karlene Kaufmann
2100 Whittier Dr. Apt. 405
Frederick, MD 21702

Jean Gaver
7407 Willow Rd. AL 250
Frederick, MD 21702

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 Lynn Leatherman
23 Rob Apgar
29 Jean Barrick

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*



IT'S BACK! Join Nikki on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Good Shepherd Room for this FREE drop-in class! Zumba is a fun way to exercise, and is appropriate for men and women of all fitness levels. Please join us!

**Free
Blood Pressure
Screenings**



On the first Sunday of every month, our Faith Community Nurse, Mike Stockman, provides free blood pressure screenings during fellowship.

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 Appgar (“Cop Rob”).

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

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.

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.



God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





Treasurer's Report

August 2017

2017 Year-to-Date

Income: \$16,746.90
 Expenses: \$13,874.16
 Difference: \$2,872.74

Income: \$126,109.69
 Expenses: \$157,121.11
 Difference: - \$31,011.42

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!

OUTREACH

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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>1 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time World Communion Sunday 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)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Young Adults (2nd)</p>
<p>8 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 6:30 p.m. - Man Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p>15 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 5:00 p.m. - Soup Kitchen 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>16 7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 3) 7:00 p.m. - TFC Mrktg Comm. (3)</p>	<p>17 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>
<p>22 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR) 7:00 p.m. - Council meeting (Rm. 3)</p>
<p>29 Reformation Sunday 9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S) 1:00 p.m. - Frederick CROP Walk (Calvary UMC) 5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Halloween 500th Anniversary of the Reformation 6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)</p>

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

<p>4</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR) 7:00 p.m. - PFLAG (Room 3)</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba class (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (Room 13)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - Top Shelf Theology 7:00 p.m. - TFC (3)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:00 p.m. - FCHD support grp (DR) 6:30 p.m. - Top Shelf Theology</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - RCC Event (GSR) 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (DR)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 a.m. - RCC event (GSR)</p>
<p>25</p> <p>6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - Top Shelf Theology (Wegman's Café)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>28</p>

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

October 2017

DID YOU KNOW...

- Grace Church hosts the **Emergency Family Shelter** four times a year. The remaining host dates for 2017 are **November 11th-18th**. 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 trained volunteers who work with the shelter guests, we welcome anyone who would like to help with the set-up before the families arrive, and the clean-up after they have gone.
- 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! **Our next service date is October 15th**. Won't you join us?
- 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!

Special Offering for October: *Neighbors in Need*

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, one of our 5-for-5 UCC special mission offerings, will be received on Sunday, October 1st (World Communion Sunday). NIN 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 (JWM) to support a variety of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national JWM 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), JWM continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of NIN funds support the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations, and one urban, multi-tribal 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.

Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need! Donations can also be made online at any time - www.ucc.org/nin

THANK YOU!

Our Grace Groceries collection for September was **43** items!

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

Food Drive



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.

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Top Shelf Theology returns October 12th!

Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. beginning October 12th, for discussions surrounding current social issues:

- October 12th - End of Life
- October 19th - Faith, Justice, and the Poor
- October 26th - Caring for our Earth
- November 2nd - Caring for the Prisoner: Restoration or Retribution?

For this session, we will be meeting at a non-bar location (with lots of parking available!) in order to be more inclusive. So please plan to join us in the café area at Wegman's in Frederick - 7830 Worman's Mill Road.

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). We are hoping to get a list of 5-6 volunteers who can serve on a rotating basis.

Please speak to Jean Barrick or Pastor Rob if you would like to help. Thanks!

Did you know...

Elementary-aged kids at Grace 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 DeepBlue (www.deepbluekids.com), 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.

From the Worship & Education Commission: *We are always happy to have additional volunteers to help lead our Children's Church using a pre-planned, easy-to-use curriculum. Teachers will take turns on a rotating basis and hopefully not serve more than once a month. Please help with this amazing way to reach our kids and make a real difference in their lives! Please speak with Pastor Rob or Jean Barrick to help.*

For All the Saints

Luke

October 18th

I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

(Luke 1:3-4)

Here we have the clear intention of the writer of the third Gospel and Acts to be careful, comprehensive, and orderly as he sets out to narrate the story of Jesus and the early Christian community. Taken together, Luke - Acts comprises a full quarter of the New Testament, renders a fluid narrative of the rise of the Christian Church out of the life and ministry of Jesus, and gives Christians their most compelling and systematic picture of their origins. To see the importance of these books for Christian life and worship, it is necessary only to mention some of the stories which appear there but nowhere else: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Christmas story of angels, shepherds and the stable, the Presentation, young Jesus teaching in the Temple, the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, Lazarus and Dives, Zacchaeus in the sycamore, the resurrection appearance at Emmaus, the Ascension, Pentecost, Peter's release from prison and his vision of the blanket let down from heaven, and details of Paul's journeys, his defense before the authorities, and his shipwreck and arrival in Rome. In many ways, the Church's story *is* Luke's story.

By the latter half of the second century, the writer of these remarkable books was widely identified as Luke the "beloved physician," a sometime companion of Paul (see Phlm 24; Col 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11), and a native of Antioch. Although this is difficult to prove, several passages in the later stages of Acts are written from the first person plural (the famous "we" passages), indicating that the writer may well have been an eyewitness to the events described there.

Luke's writings reveal recurring themes that appeal to contemporary spirituality: concern for the poor, the place of women in society, reconciliation between Jewish and Gentile believers, and an emphasis on liturgical prayer. The evangelist's

symbol is the ox, perhaps a reference to the fact that the Gospel begins with Zechariah's sacrificial duty in the Temple. Luke is considered the patron of physicians and, because of an ancient apocryphal tale of his having painted an icon of the Virgin Mary, of artists.

C. F. Guthrie

SAVE THE DATES - Advent Group Study

Join us on 4 consecutive Thursday evenings (beginning November 30th) at 6:30 p.m. for pizza and discussion on Adam Hamilton's book, "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph."

Please RSVP to the church office (301-662-3312 or admin@grucc.com) if you plan to attend, so that we can order enough books. Thanks!

Volunteer Opportunities at Grace Church

Are you ready to get more involved in your church? We have plenty of opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and interests (see the list below), but **at this time we are especially looking for volunteers to serve in the Nursery**, so that we always have 2 adults supervising the children. We hope to get 6 people so that each person only has to miss church once every 6 weeks. Please speak to Pastor Rob or Jean Barrick if you can help. Thanks!

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Children's Sermon volunteers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Scripture readers, Ushers, and Youth Ministry - *please speak to Pastor Rob*

Stewardship Committee - *please speak to Eric Black*

Senior and Joyful Noise Choirs - *please speak to Jonas Dawson*

Lay Caring Ministry - *please speak to Mike Stockman*

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*

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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