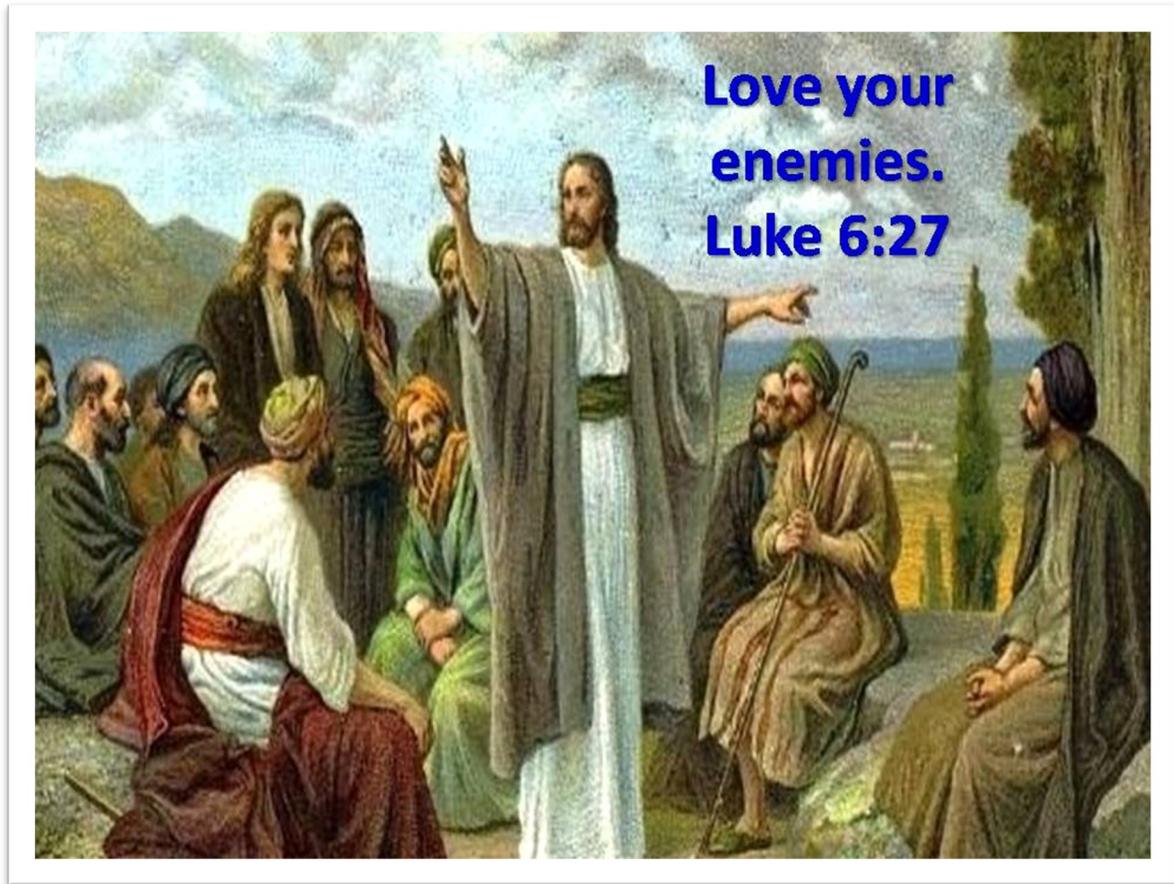


# Grace United Church of Christ



**The Seventh Sunday After Epiphany  
Sunday, February 20th , 2022  
Worship Service**

## ***We Gather***

10:45am Pre Live Stream Video Loop

Prelude "Agincourt Hymn", John Dunstable

*(During our prelude, please take your seat and enjoy the music as we center ourselves for worship and invite God's presence into our hearts.)*

Welcome

Ringling of the Bell

Preparing our Hearts for Worship

\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 37)

L: Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

**P: Take delight in the LORD, who will give you the desires of your heart.**

L: Commit your way to the LORD; trust in God, who will act.

**P: And will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**

L: Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for God.

All: Let us worship God

Let's walk together for a while  
and ask where we begin  
to build a world where love can grow  
and hope can enter in,  
To be the hands of healing  
and plant the seed of peace, singing,

Refrain:

Welcome, Welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here;  
all are welcome in this place.

Let's talk together for a time  
when we will share a feast,  
where pride and power kneel to serve  
the lonely and the least  
and joy will set the table  
as we join our hands to pray. Singing,

[Refrain]

Let's dream together of the day  
when earth and heaven are one;  
a city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem.  
Where our mourning turns to dancing  
every creature lifts its voice.  
Crying,

[Refrain]

\* Confession

**We confess that we have sinned against our neighbor. We have not fully loved them. We have entertained hateful thoughts and actions, we have not shown mercy and forgiveness. Forgive us we pray and show us the way of humility and reconciliation.**

**Empower us to turn away from our anger, refrain from hurtful words, lay down our weapons, and embrace with love and compassion even those who call us enemies. Let us grow so strong in our love for you and one another that your Name will be glorified in all the world. Break down the barriers of discrimination and bigotry among us.**

**Teach us on this day to follow the Way of Love which you revealed to us through your Son Jesus. Through your Spirit, unite us through the love of Christ. Amen.**

\* Pardon and Assurance

\* Gloria

# 756

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!\*  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

\*Passing the Peace

*(Let us pass the peace with a Covid-Friendly smile, wave or some other sign of Christ's love)*

**We Listen**

First Reading

Genesis 45:1-15

Special Music

"Canzona", Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Lani Smith

\* Gospel

Luke 6:27-31

Children's Sermon

Sermon

You've GOT to be kidding!!

## ***We Respond***

Pastoral Prayer

Offering

**\*Doxology Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all Creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## ***We are Sent***

Announcements

Closing Prayer

**\*Benediction: Blessings Upon You**

(Adapted from a prayer by Margaret A. Davidson)

Blessings upon you, upon those you love  
and those you shall never know.

Blessings upon your steps  
and upon the vision of your eyes.

Blessings upon you in all circumstances;  
joy and sorrow, for wisdom rests in them,  
twin experiences with different faces.

Blessings be upon what lies before you,  
the challenges and decisions,  
the pain and the relief.

Blessings upon you, my friends in Christ.

\*Closing Hymn

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth  
The peace that was meant to be.

With God our Creator  
We are family  
Let us walk with each other  
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me  
Let this be the moment now.

With every step I take  
May this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live  
Each moment in peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.  
Let there be peace on earth  
And let it begin with me.

\*Dismissal

Postlude

"Postlude on St. Denio", Walter C. Smith, arr.  
Richard A. Williamson

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*Grace goes LIVE!*

*Please know that today's service is being live-streamed for those who can not worship with us in person. **If you prefer NOT to be in the live stream video, please sit in pews behind the center pillars.***

*~~~~~The children's moment will be on camera as well.*

*If you would like your child NOT to be on camera, please speak to our AV team or an usher.*

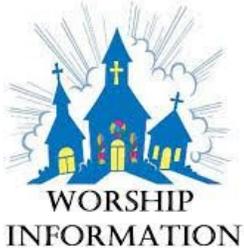
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*(Note: Communion and the offering will NOT be live-streamed for privacy reasons.)*

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# Grace UCC Updates

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE:



- Sunday 02/20:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service (Virtual)
- Monday 02/21:** Presidents Day
- Tuesday 02/22:** 7:00PM - Grace UCC Council Meeting
- Wednesday 02/16:** 4:00 PM - Grace UCC Afterschool Program  
7:00 PM - Grace Book Club (Zoom)
- Sunday 02/27:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service (Virtual)

Grace Family!

The giving statements for 2021 have been mailed. If you do not receive yours in a timely fashion, please reach out to us and we can email it to you!

*~Thank you for your generosity!*



## GRACE UCC AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

We are beginning an afterschool program for kids up through elementary school. Join us each Wednesday at 4 PM for a time of music, videos, Bible lessons and crafts. We are meeting via Zoom under the leadership of Kelly Pineda, our new Director of Children and Youth Ministry. To know more, please contact Kelly at [Youthministry@grucc.com](mailto:Youthministry@grucc.com)!

**Topic:** After school Program

**Time:** 4:00 PM (EST) Every Wednesday, until Dec 21st, 2022

**Weekly:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/82819697212?pwd=bFhKd1hSQ2tyU2JyVVBFCmNjSWIxQT09>



**Join Zoom Meeting**

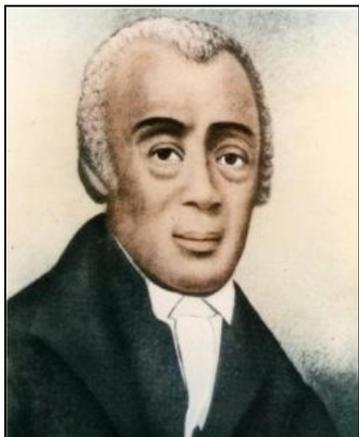
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82819697212?pwd=bFhKd1hSQ2tyU2JyVVBFCmNjSWIxQT09>

**AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Meeting ID:** 828 1969 7212  
**Passcode:** 137541



## BLACK CHURCH HISTORY SPOTLIGHT – RICHARD ALLEN



Richard Allen and his associate Absalom Jones were the leaders of the black Methodist community in Philadelphia in 1793 when a yellow fever epidemic broke out. Many people, black and white, were dying. Hundreds more fled the city. City officials approached Allen and asked if the black community could help serve as nurses to the suffering and help bury the dead.

Allen and Jones recognized the racism inherent in the request: asking black folks to do the risky, dirty work for whites. But they consented—partly from compassion and partly to show the white community, in one more way, the moral and spiritual equality of

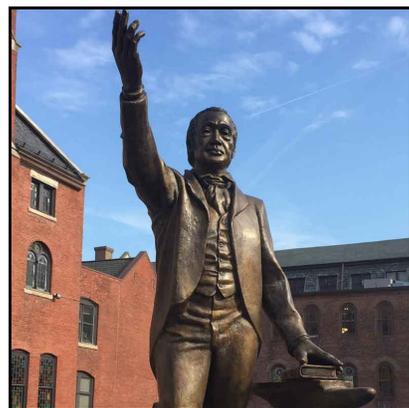
black people.

Allen was born into slavery in Philadelphia in 1760. He was converted at age 17 and began preaching on his plantation and at local Methodist churches, preaching whenever he had the chance. "Sometimes, I would awake from my sleep preaching and praying," he later recalled. His owner, one of Allen's early converts, was so impressed with him that he allowed Allen to purchase his freedom.

In 1781, Allen began traveling the Methodist preaching circuits in Delaware and surrounding states. "My usual method was, when I would get bare of clothes, to stop travelling and go to work," he said. "My hands administered to my necessities." Increasingly, prominent Methodist leaders, like Francis Asbury, made sure Allen had places to preach. In 1786 the former slave returned to Philadelphia and joined St. George's Methodist Church. His leadership at prayer services attracted dozens of black people into the church, and with them came increased racial tension.

By 1786 black people made up about 10 percent of the Methodist church in the United States, and though whites and blacks often worshiped together, blacks enjoyed no real freedom or equality. Segregated seating was typical; the area reserved for blacks was usually called the "Negro Pew" or the "African Corner."

St. George's had no history of segregated seating, at least until the later 1780s. Then white leaders required black parishioners to use the chairs around the walls rather than the pews. During one service in 1787, a group of blacks sat in some new pews that, unbeknownst to them, had been reserved for whites. As these blacks knelt in prayer, a white trustee came over and grabbed Absalom Jones, Allen's associate, and began pulling on him, saying, "You must get up—you must not kneel here."



## BLACK CHURCH HISTORY SPOTLIGHT ( CONT.)

Jones asked him to wait until prayer was over, but the trustee retorted, "No, you must get up now, or I will call for aid and force you away." But the group finished praying before they got up and walked out.

Allen had for some time thought of establishing an independent black congregation, and this incident pushed him over the edge. Nonetheless, he had no desire to leave Methodism or the local Conference: "I was confident," he later wrote, "that there was no religious sect or denomination would suit the capacity of the colored people as well as the Methodist; for the plain and simple gospel suits best for any people." Still, he recognized that blacks needed a place they could worship in freedom.

Though Methodist leaders resisted Allen and Jones, threatening them with expulsion from the Methodist Conference (while at the same time pleading for their help during the 1793 epidemic), Allen went ahead and, in 1794, purchased an old frame building, formerly a blacksmith's shop, and created the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Francis Asbury dedicated the building and, in 1799, ordained Allen as a deacon.

For the next 15 years, white Methodist leaders in Philadelphia tried to keep Allen's congregation and property under its jurisdiction. But on the first day of 1816, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the church belonged to Allen and his associates.

A denomination quickly came together. In April, delegates from several black Methodist churches convened in Philadelphia and drew up an "Ecclesiastical Compact" that united them in the independent African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Allen was ordained an elder and then consecrated as bishop—the first black to hold such an office in America.

Blacks in Baltimore, Wilmington, Attleboro, and Salem followed Allen's example and established independent African Methodist churches. Allen oversaw the rapid growth of the AME's mother church in Philadelphia, which grew to 7,500 members in the 1820s. The denomination became by all accounts the most significant black institution in the nineteenth century, and today has over 6,000 churches and over 2 million members.



(Reprinted from Christianity Today <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/denominationalfounders/richard-allen.html>)



# Grace UCC (Virtual) Book Club

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

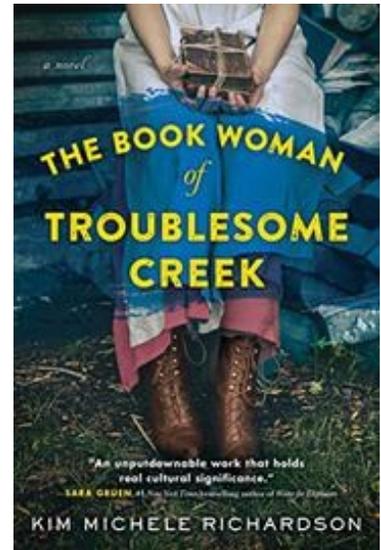


**Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind, or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit!**

## **Message from Missy Moxley:**

We are starting the book *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson this week, reading through Chapter 29. That book will be followed by a book about the Fort Ritchie Boys, the title to be determined later after some research since there are a few various books, both non-fiction and fiction based on that subject. Thanks and hope to see you all next Wednesday!

~Missy~



## **Summary of *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*:**

*In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands.*

Below is the recurring Zoom link which is also on our church website, [grucc.com](http://grucc.com), and Facebook page.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654486377?pwd=T1VGSWh2NFVvRHRhVVFk1cm1BUUppZz09>

Questions? Contact Missy Moxley at: [nehoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:nehoneybee@gmail.com) or Doris Moxley at:

[Dorismoxley@gmail.com](mailto:Dorismoxley@gmail.com). Please Email the church office at [admin@grucc.com](mailto:admin@grucc.com) to be added to the list for email notices.

# Grace United Church of Christ



*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-3PM/M-F

[Admin@grucc.com](mailto:Admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

Rev. Dr. Rob Apgar-Taylor, Pastor

[Pastorrob@grucc.com](mailto:Pastorrob@grucc.com)

Jonas Dawson, Director of Music

[Music@grucc.com](mailto:Music@grucc.com)

James Taylor, Bell Choir Director

[Bells@grucc.com](mailto:Bells@grucc.com)

Choir Section Leaders: James Taylor, Taylor Whidden,

Jennie Huntoon, & Donald Toms

Joan Princler, Nursery Attendant

[Joan.dancer@comcast.net](mailto:Joan.dancer@comcast.net)

Mat Lutman, Caretaker

[Trainhouse13@gmail.com](mailto:Trainhouse13@gmail.com)

Careen Walker, Church Admin

[Admin@grucc.com](mailto:Admin@grucc.com)

## SUNDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 AM — Virtual

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of every month.

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### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist: N/A

Children's Message: Pastor Rob

Children's Church: N/A

Altar Guild: N/A

*If you would like to serve as a greeter, or host fellowship time after worship,  
please add your name to the sign up sheet in the Good Shepherd Room.*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

