

Grace United Church of Christ



Sunday, June 30, 2024
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

"I've Been Meaning to Ask..."

Today's Theme: Where Do We Go From Here?

WE GATHER

*During this service of worship, we encourage you to know and to remember that this is a **Quiet Meditative Space**, that this is a **Safe and Loving Place, a Sanctuary**, for worship, praise and reflection; and to remember that **'No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!***

Prelude - Lotus - Billy Strayhorn, arr. Alec Wyton

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Ringing of the Bell

***Call to Worship**

Leader: If you come into this place with the hope of growing deeper, with the hope of connecting, with the hope of glimpsing God, and if all of those things take place, and your spirit is moved, and you swear God is near, and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith, and then the service comes to an end, and it's time for you to leave, and you ask yourself, "Where do we go from here?" Then I would say to you, "Go out into the world to love and to share and to learn, but come back soon, because this is the beginning. This is only the beginning.

All: So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here." Let us worship Holy God.

Gathering Prayer (In Unison)

Holy God, we know that you are always speaking—through strangers and friends, through sunrise and sunset, through random acts of kindness and feelings that stir hope awake in us. We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and bursts of overwhelming joy. We know that you are always speaking, but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.

2 O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hungering ones without delay.

3 O fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.

4 O use me, God, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.

Prayer for Renewal and Healing:

Pastor: Let us open the deepest parts of our souls to the loving forgiveness of God.

All: Holy God, we are naturals when it comes to stalling out. We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall. We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher. Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter. Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection. Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here. With hope and honesty we pray, Amen.

Pastor: Family of faith, we are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God. No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

All: God is with me on the mountain top, and God is with me on the plateau. I am loved, claimed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

We Listen

Children's Moment

Scripture Readings

Introduction: Today's scripture lesson is found in the book of Philippians. This is a letter written by Paul (from prison) to the church that he planted in Philippi. He is encouraging them to continue striving toward their goals. I invite you now to hear our reading from Philippians 3:12-14 as recorded in the New International Version.

Philippians 3:12-14 (New International Version)

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Musical Meditation - Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart - arr. Joe Utterback

Sermon: The Rev. Chance Martinez

Sermon Title: "I've Been Meaning to Ask...Where Do We Go From Here?"

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

We encourage you to pray this prayer using the words that are closest to your heart.

Our (Father/Mother/Creator) 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.

Offering - Here I Am, Lord - arr. Janet Linker

*Doxology (music #780, text #778)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor: Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Grace Church;

ALL: As we offer our gifts to you, Holy God, may we remember those who are forgotten by us too many times – the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, the vulnerable – yet are important citizens in your kingdom of grace, justice, and hope. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

We Are Sent

Announcements

*Closing Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory” NCH 436

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
crown your ancient church’s story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 From the evils that surround us
and assail the Savior’s ways.
from the fears that long have bound us—
free our hearts for faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children’s warring madness,
bend our pride to your control.
Shame our reckless, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
make our broken spirits whole,
make our broken spirits whole.

4 Set our feet on lofty places;
gird our lives that they may be
armored with all Christ-like graces
in the fight to set us free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
in the quest for liberty,
in the quest for liberty.

5 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Pastoral Blessing for the Journey

Family of faith, as you leave this place, may God grant you the curiosity to counter assumptions, the vulnerability to befriend, the bravery to speak your truth, the wisdom to listen, the strength to ask for help, the resiliency to choose love, even when it's hard, and the awareness of the Holy Spirit always beside you. In the name of the Great Connector—Love itself,
go in peace.

Postlude - Rigaudon - André Campra, ed. Janet Linker

~ The Postlude is still part of our worship; we invite you to sit and quietly reflect as we prepare to depart. ~

THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

- Sunday 6/30:** 11:00 am Worship Service
"Stuff the Bus" Donations Accepted
2:00 pm-5:00 pm Korean Church
7:00pm-8:30pm Summer Concert Series in Baker Park
- Monday 7/1:** **Tricia on Vacation**
7:00 am-4:30 pm Salvation Army
11:30 am-1:30 pm NA Meeting
7:00 pm-9:00 pm NarAnon Meeting
6:30 pm-9:30 pm AA Meeting
- Tuesday 7/2:** **Tricia on Vacation**
7:00 am-4:30 pm Salvation Army
11:30 am-1:30 pm NA Meeting
7:00 pm-8:30 pm Safe Sanctuary Committee Meets
- Wednesday 7/3:** **Tricia on Vacation**
7:00 am-4:30 pm Salvation Army
11:30 am-1:30 pm NA Meeting
6:30 pm-9:30 pm AA Meeting
7:00 pm Book Club (zoom)
7:00 pm-10:00 pm Iglesias De Dios Church
- Thursday 7/4:** **Tricia on Vacation**
Church Office Closed
11:30 am-1:30 pm NA Meeting
7:00 pm- NA (Woman and Children Meeting)
- Friday 7/5:** **Tricia on Vacation**
Church Office Closed
7:00 am-4:30pm Salvation Army
- Saturday 7/6:** 8:30 am-10:00 am Women's NA Meeting
10:00 am-11:30 am Men's NA Meeting
3:00 pm-5:00 pm Korean Church
7:00 pm-10:00 pm Iglesias De Dios Church
- Sunday 7/7:** 11:00 AM Worship Service- Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Text: 2 Corinthians 9:8
Sermon: The Reverend Chance Martinez
Title: "You Are Ready! The World is Waiting."

Important Announcements !

Friday, July 12- Frederick Keys Baseball Game
Sunday, July 14- Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Mt. Tabor
Sunday, August 11- Blessing of Teachers/Staff/Students
Sunday, August 18- Volunteer at Community Table
Sunday, September 8 - Rally Day/Homecoming
Saturday, September 14- Grace Booth at In the Streets
Sunday, September 15- Frederick County Fair
Friday, September 20- Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00 pm)
Thursday, September 26- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry Kick-Off (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)
Friday, October 18- Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00 pm)
Thursday, October 24- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)
Saturday, October 26- Downtown Frederick Trick or Treating
Friday, November 15- Grace UCC Coffee House (8:00 pm-10:00pm)
Thurs, November 21- Grace UCC Young Adult Ministry (7pm-9 pm)
Wednesday, December 11- Grace Bus Trip to New York City
Friday, December 13- Grace UCC Coffee House (8pm-10pm)
Thursday, December 19- Young Adult Christmas Party (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)
Sunday, December 22- Christmas Cantata at Grace UCC
Thursday, December 26-Tour of Historic Churches

GUCC's Awesome Adventurers and Outings Club

Grace Goes to The Frederick Keys

July 12 Get ready to shake your keys! Grace church is planning a night out at the Keys Baseball Game on Friday, July 12 at 7pm. Stay after the game to enjoy the scheduled fireworks display! We will be seated in the Reserved Section (comfy chairs behind the netting to protect those of us who don't watch every pitch!). Cost of the tickets, which will be purchased prior to game day, will be \$13 for adults, \$10 for Seniors (60 years and above), Youth (3-13 years), Military (with military ID), and free for kids under 3 years. Please feel free to invite family and friends outside of our church community as well. The more, the merrier! Please send in payment by Sunday June 30 with names and contact info for those purchasing tickets. Checks can be made out to Grace UCC or payment can be made online at the church website grucc.com (please put in notes that the payment is for the Keys baseball game). Anyone missing the deadline can purchase tickets from the Keys box office directly. Note that ticket prices on game day are \$3 more for each category. Please contact Missy Moxley if you have any questions, comments at nehoneybee@gmail.com

REFUGEE WELCOMING COMMITTEE

In 2024 Grace Church is starting a team to help a refugee family, under the guidance of the Refugee Welcoming Coalition of Frederick (<https://www.rwcfrederick.org/>). The RWC is an alliance of faith communities, civic organizations, and individual volunteers founded in 2021 in recognition of the influx of refugee families who need help establishing themselves in our area. Assistance indeed includes transportation, furnishing household items, and assistance with bureaucracies like school enrollment and health services.

Interested in making a difference? Contact Michael Davies (fluidmosaic@gmail.com) and Missy Moxley.

Until we form our team, you can make donations!

- Certain items are on their Amazon wishlist, for shipping directly to the RWC: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/8F1P1KKUOUZH>

- If you wish to donate furniture, or supplies that are in urgent need (shower curtains and bathmats; pillows, sheets and blankets; and almost any type of kitchen supply): please email us at info@rwcfrederick.org to arrange pickup

- To donate cash, you may send a check to **AACF: 45 E. All Saints St., Frederick, MD 21701**, with a note on the memo line that the funds are for RWC.

Alternatively, you can donate through PayPal on their website,

<https://rwc.frederick.org>.

Security Alert

As many of you are aware, a scam text message was sent to many of the members and friends of Grace UCC this week. The text was an “urgent message” claiming to be from Pastor Chance, but it was not him, and it was not sent from his phone number. Many of you reached out to the office or to Chance directly and we thank you for doing that. A couple of you even sent screenshots of the message and that was very helpful as well. Unfortunately, this thing happens to churches frequently, sometimes by text and other times by email. We just want to reassure you that Pastor Chance, or any staff member, will not reach out to you via text message from an unknown number or email. If there is an urgent matter, please know that Pastor Chance will contact you via a phone call and not a text or email. If you ever receive a text or email from an unknown number or email address that looks suspicious, you are encouraged to call the church office or Pastor Chance directly for confirmation and notification. Thank you all again for making us aware and may we all stay alert to this type of activity.

Stuff The Bus

Grace UCC is a community partner for this year's United Way Stuff the Bus program!

Kids in our community need the tools and support to learn - now more than ever.

The goal of the Stuff the Bus program is to ensure that every student in Frederick County has the tools and support they need to learn. This program provides FCPS students with the supplies they need to start the school year through generous donations from our community.

Any school supplies for elementary, middle or high schoolers are welcome! Please place supplies in and around the bin in the narthex. They will be collected at the end of the drive on Tuesday, July 30th.

In addition, Grace UCC has our own page for the virtual drive which allows for cash donations to purchase school supplies. Go to this unique link and donate between today and Friday, July 12th when the virtual drive is collected.

<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/StuffTheBus24/team/GraceUCC>

<https://www.unitedwayfrederick.org/stuffthebus>

Donations of any amount are most appreciated. Here are some examples of what different cash donations might purchase:

\$15 buys pencils, markers, and crayons for one kindergarten student

\$50 supports one elementary student with basic supplies

\$125 provides a middle school student with all necessary supplies

\$200 buys a high school student basic supplies, including a graphing calculator

\$500 provides 10 pre-k students with all necessary supplies



STUFF THE BUS

2024 Elementary School Supply List

- Two-Pocket Folders
- Glue Sticks
- Scissors
- Markers
- Ziploc Bags
- Dry Erase Markers
- Kleenex
- Pencil Boxes
- Earbuds (with Microphone)
- Pencil Sharpener
- Composition Notebooks

DONATIONS DIRECTLY SUPPORT FCPS STUDENTS!

LEARN MORE: [UWFREDERICK.ORG/STUFFTHEBUS](https://www.uwfrederick.org/stuffthebus)

Questions? Contact Joyce Kwamena-Poh at jkwamenapoh@uwfrederick.org.



STUFF THE BUS

2024 Middle School Supply List

- Two-Pocket Folders
- Loose Leaf Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Pens
- Markers
- Highlighters
- Composition Notebooks
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Calculators
- Binders
- Rulers
- Glue Sticks
- Earbuds (with Microphone)
- Scissors
- Dividers

DONATIONS DIRECTLY SUPPORT FCPS STUDENTS!

LEARN MORE: [UWFREDERICK.ORG/STUFFTHEBUS](https://www.uwfrederick.org/stuffthebus)

Questions? Contact Joyce Kwamena-Poh at jkwamenapoh@uwfrederick.org.



STUFF THE BUS

2024 High School Supply List

- Highlighters
- Two-Pocket Folders
- College-Ruled Paper
- Spiral Notebooks
- Pens
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Calculators
- Binders
- Rulers

DONATIONS DIRECTLY SUPPORT FCPS STUDENTS!

LEARN MORE: [UWFREDERICK.ORG/STUFFTHEBUS](https://www.uwfrederick.org/stuffthebus)

Questions? Contact Joyce Kwamena-Poh at jkwamenapoh@uwfrederick.org.



New York City

HOLIDAY

BUS TRIP

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Explore the Big Apple on your own!

Bus departs Frederick at 6 a.m. and returns at midnight

\$80 per person, limited seating

Pay with QR code below or mail check

Contact admin@grucc.com to register

ORGANIZED BY
GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
FREDERICK, MD



Father's Day Social



Interfaith Pride Service



A Picture is worth a Thousand words





Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

301-662-3312 ~ Office Hours: 9AM-2PM/M-F

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Pastor Chance Martinez

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Director of Music: Nathan Strite

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Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

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Children & Youth Ministry: Amy Duray

worshipgraceucc@gmail.com

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Custodian: Hunt Hughes

Admin@grucc.com

Church Admin: Patricia Baptiste

Admin@grucc.com

Choir Section Leaders: Anna Kovacsics, James Taylor, & Donald Toms

SUNDAY WORSHIP — 11:00 AM — Virtual and in person

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

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist:

Lloyd Taylor

Children's Message:

Pastor Chance

Children's Church

N/A

Altar Guild:

N/A

Greeter:

Jerry Princeler

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OF CHRIST**

