

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701 ~ www.grucc.com

The Grace Vine March 2023



In this issue:	pg.	WE HAVE A DATE (TENTATIVELY)
Youth Ministry Trip/follow us!	1	Sunday, March 12th, 2023 after church service.
Pastor's note	2	We are going SNOW TUBING at Snow Riders in Harpers Ferry West Virginia. Please pick up a waiver from Kelly if your child wishes to participate. Bring warm clothes they can change into after service. (it will be cold). If we cannot go due to the unpredictable weather this winter, there will be an announcement and a backup plan prior to the 12th.
Music News	3	If you need a ride for your child, please email the office so alternate transportation plans can be made.
Grace Church turns 125!	4	<div data-bbox="505 1367 927 1472" style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 2px;">Food and drinks will be available for purchase on site.</div> <div data-bbox="927 1367 1349 1472" style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 2px;">RSVP as soon as possible admin@grucc.com</div> 
February Birthdays & Anniversaries	5	<div data-bbox="505 1472 1624 1577" style="background-color: #d8bfd8; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">FOLLOW GRACE ON SOCIAL MEDIA</div> 
Lenten Worship Series	6	<p style="text-align: center;">We are on Instagram & Facebook!</p>
Worship and Education News	7	Want to see more of Grace Church Events & Community News? Have a great memory to share?
Calendar	89	To see all of Grace UCC happenings Install the app to follow all our photos and videos or click the link below! If you have any Grace community photos you would like to see featured on the Grace Church Facebook or Instagram Page, please e-mail them to: admin@grucc.com
Daily Reading List	10-11	<p style="text-align: center;">https://www.instagram.com/graceuccfrederick/ www.facebook.com/GraceUCCFrederick</p>



INTERIM PASTOR'S COLUMN FEB 2023

Last night (Monday before Ash Wednesday, 2023), waiting for sleep to come, I was thinking about this Lenten season—starting with Shrove Tuesday (Feb 21) and Ash Wed. (Feb 22) and how it could be different, more spiritual, more honest this year. All I could think of was the oft quoted declaration: “Lent is a journey.” That’s got something to do with the journey Jesus takes as he preaches and teaches and heals his way to Jerusalem. What other way is there for Lent to be more spiritual than to think of the time in these days as if you are traveling with Jesus. Then, indeed, Lent is a journey, but what kind of journey?

Also, in my head, in the middle of the night, I am playing with the theme for this coming Lent and while ‘journey’ is strong, the idea that the Lenten scriptures include a number of powerful stories of Jesus’ life, final journey to Jerusalem and his trial, crucifixion, death and resurrection and that these are our stories too. Big Question: Where does my story fit into those Jesus-Lenten stories?

I finally did get to sleep only to be interrupted by weird dreams, dreams which turned eventually into being wide awake with all the symptoms of the winter/cold related blahs, tiredness and even a little depression...what followed is way too much information for this public column. Needless to say, I hope the way the night turned out is no indication of how my Lenten journey will turn out.

As the scampering noises of our cat, Elwood, (half of the Blues Brothers – Jake escaped through a window last year), “whined” me awake this morning, I remembered: Journey takes our feet a-walking; journey stories move us; stories inspire us to improve; stories involve memory and witness. Upright but steadying myself on the bedpost, I looked at Pat, my wife, in her early morning deep sleep and I remember: the big story of our love and lives together. I remember the big story of my own life’s transformations.

As sleep cleared from my eyes, I remembered: these are the days of our lives. They are all that we have; let’s make good use of them. Let’s find the way our stories merge with the stories of God’s saving actions in our lives.

I suppose the ultimate hope is that we will travel along in the footsteps of Jesus – from his journey from his baptism by John to 40 days in the desert, to the temple, to the garden in desperate prayer, to the hill called Golgotha, and ultimately to resurrection morning. For sure, the footprints we leave behind will tell the story of our shared journey this Lent. May the journey bring us—each of you and all of us—closer to the One who gives us the journey in the first place. Indeed, may you find your story in HIS Story.

Faithfully, Pastor Hanberry



MUSIC NEWS



Here we are in March already! As you may know, the main church season at this time of year is Lent. The music of Lent is often more introspective and darker in tone as we contemplate and prepare for Holy Week and Easter. The choir will sing several beautiful anthems this month, including John Stainer's famous "God So Loved the World" from his 1887 oratorio *The Crucifixion* and contemporary composer Dana Mengel's haunting and dramatic "Kyrie Eleison."

There is also a lesser known but very important musical observation happening this month that I would like to highlight. March 5th is Women Composer Sunday, an annual observance started in 2021 by the Royal College of Organists and Society of Women Organists. Their aim is to bring more awareness to the works of women composers and to support women who are currently organists. You might be wondering, is this something we need in the 21st century? Absolutely! As I reflect on the many classical concerts I have attended, the vast majority of the music performed was composed by men. Looking over my music library, most of what I see is composed by men. Among recent compositions there are more contributions from women, but the further back in time we go the harder we must look. So, on the first Sunday of March I heartily join my colleagues by playing the works of women composers. The prelude and offertory will be arrangements of hymn tunes by contemporary composers Janet Linker and Brenda Portman. The postlude will be by Clara Schumann. Clara lived from 1819 to 1896 and was actually a concert pianist, which was uncommon for women in the 19th century. Despite also being a prolific composer, she is often overshadowed by her husband Robert (also a musician), and even today when you mention music composed by "Schumann" the assumption will be that you mean Robert.

I hope you will be blessed by the music this month as we make our way to Easter. Stay tuned for the April newsletter to see what to expect Holy Week and Easter day. As always, feel free to come say hello after the postlude!

Nathan



GRACE CHURCH AT 125: OUR FIRST PASTOR



REV. EUGENE L. McLEAN, D. D.
First Pastor, Grace Church, Frederick
1898-1913.
Now Treasurer Board of Ministerial Relief.

Grace Reformed Church of Frederick was officially founded on March 6, 1898, as part of the Reformed Church in the United States (RCUS), also called the German Reformed Church. The Evangelical Reformed Church on West Church Street had simply grown too crowded, so the permission was granted to start a second English-language congregation in Frederick with the Evangelical Reformed Church as its mother church. At the time there was a divide in the RCUS between English-speaking and usually more conservative German congregations, with German speakers in Frederick attending the now-defunct St. John's German Reformed Church.

Grace Reformed Church was organized in 1898 with forty-six charter members. Until a new pastor was called, the new church remained

under the leadership of the venerable Rev. Dr. Edmund Eschbach, who at this time had spent a combined 35 years as pastor of the First Reformed Church of Baltimore and then the Evangelical Reformed Church of Frederick. Grace Church also had no fixed home; the cornerstone of our beautiful building was laid in 1902, and the first service was held in October 1903, with the original pipe organ installed in 1907.

Grace's first pastor, the Reverend Eugene McLean, began service in May of 1898. A Pennsylvania native from the Boyertown area, he graduated from Franklin & Marshall College and then Lancaster Theological Seminary, an institution to which Grace Church has sent an annual donation for many years. After five years as pastor in the town of Everett near Bedford, McLean was unanimously called across the border to Grace Church at age 28. He oversaw a tenfold expansion of Grace Church's congregation; the building of our church building for a cost of \$30,000; and the purchase of a parsonage in 1908 for \$4,700, now the rental building behind the church on Third Street.

After 15 years, as one of Frederick County's most respected ministers, Rev. McLean returned to Pennsylvania, succeeded by Rev. John Ditzler who would be our pastor until 1921. Rev. McLean later served for many years as treasurer for the Board of Ministerial Relief, the agency providing support for retired and impoverished ministers. In this position he worked from the Schaff Building in Philadelphia, which was built by the RCUS but served as a home for offices of many Christian denominations. This building is now part of the Drexel School of Medicine.

Rev. Eugene Lorah McLean had three daughters with his wife, born Mary Neff, and was a member of the Knights of Pythias and an Ancient Free & Accepted Mason, belonging to the still-existing Columbia Lodge #58 in Frederick. He passed away in 1957 and is buried at Arlington Cemetery, in the Philadelphia suburb of Upper Darby.

Michael L. Davies



MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Lisel Powell	March 02
Gwen Edwards	March 03
Laura Tinney	March 03
Patti Flanders-Lombardi	March 04
Colleen Street	March 15
Melody Slick	March 18
Daniel Travis	March 18
Andria Snyder	March 20

Happy Birthday

Anita Bartgis	March 21
Joan Princler	March 22
Earl Bartgis	March 24
Lily Pineda	March 24
Sarah Travis	March 24
Donna Johnson	March 27



Happy Anniversary!

*Sue and Patti Flanders-Lombardi
March 9th*

*Doug and Vonnie Crum
March 18th*



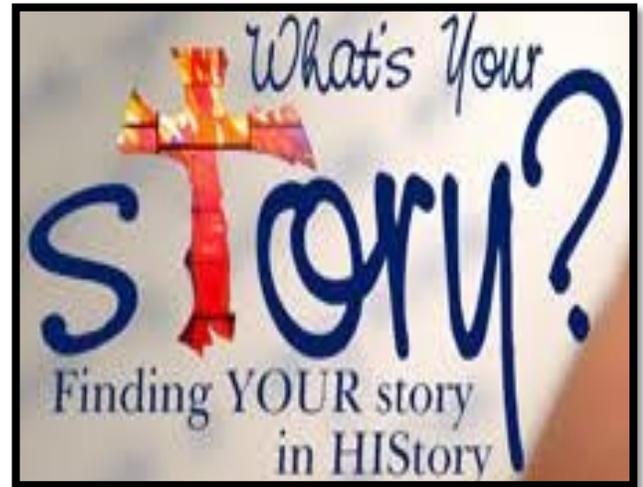
GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

GRUCC Worship Series – Lent and Easter 2023

February 22 – April 9, 2023

Finding Our Place in the Story Too:

Lent is an early-church practice meant to prepare followers of Jesus for celebrating Easter. It remains a life-giving tradition that has the potential to transform the weeks leading up to Easter from a time of busy chaos into a season of beautiful connections with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent has taken many shapes and forms throughout history. There's no one way to do it.



The stories of the Lenten Bible passages are powerful and inspiring. These stories, especially the ones from the gospel of John are unusually long (check out the lessons from the gospels in the next page of the schedule of worship in Lent 2023). Their length requires some careful reading and study. During Lent 2023 we will explore these gospel texts with care and openness for what they can say to us in these days.

We will also discover that these ancient stories about Jesus—and the people Jesus encounters along the way—can be our stories too. Indeed, they are our stories. We are tempted. We receive gifts of grace, abundant grace. Our spiritual thirstiness is often quenched. In being open to new spiritual insights, we are renewed and inspired for a better life...indeed, a more spiritually meaningful life.

LENT



Worship Plus a LENTEN Study Series via Zoom
Starting Thursday, March 2nd, 2023.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654486377?pwd=T1VGSWWh2NFVkrRHhVVFk1cm1BUUppZz099> (passcode is 726495 if needed)

For more information, please contact Pastor Gerry at
Pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com



WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

March 1st is the beginning of the meteorological Spring. (That could explain a lot.) Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, and Easter is April 9, which means this year the entire month of March falls during the season of Lent. We travel “to Jerusalem”, arriving there on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Lent begins the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring the temptations by Satan. It ends at sundown, Holy Thursday (April 6). Through our worship services, sermons and Bible Study, we will prepare ourselves for a period of reflection and grief that ends with the great celebration of Easter (April 9). Some people fast and/or give up something personal. Some perform acts of good will such as volunteering once a week. Or pledge to go to church each Sunday morning. If you restart a bad habit, or forget to do a new one, relax. Tomorrow is a new day.

Fall wreaths of gold and crimson adorn a front door; red and green twinkling lights accent winter windowsills; and bouquets of purple irises and yellow daffodils stand tall and cheerful on springtime tables. As humans we have the impulse to decorate each season. We look for visual ways to acknowledge changing weather and holidays, secular and sacred, that mark the calendar year. Colors are one way the church connects to a significant season or event.

Throughout the month of March, the sanctuary will be bedecked in purple (altar cloth, lectern and pulpit). Purple symbolizes sorrow and suffering – sorrow as the faithful await the arrival of the Savior, suffering to mark Jesus’ 40 days in the desert. (Note: The color purple once came to symbolize wealth, power and royalty because in the ancient days purple dye was very expensive.)

As I hope most of you have heard, Pastor Gerry will be leading a Bible Study on “Short Stories by Jesus: A Lenten Study of Five Parables of Jesus” A “small” book by Amy-Jill Levine is available to purchase BUT is not necessary to participate in the group. This study started the Thursday after Ash Wednesday, February 23; however, each week is a different, stand-alone story, so feel free to join at any time. If you need more information, let me know, or contact Pastor Gerry or Kelly in the office.

Starting the Sunday after Ash Wednesday, you probably noticed a change in the order of our worship service. In order to provide out children more Sunday School time, the Children’s Message has been moved to earlier in the service. And the choir anthem will be the new segue into the pastor’s sermon. I have been told by a number of pastors that Lent is a great time to make changes in the traditional service. It’s a time of change, but its temporary, which basically means that if something we tried doesn’t work, it’s temporary- we can always go back to pre-Lent time.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to drop in recently, I invite you to come on in and say “hi” - Our greeters love to see visitors. Today as I was walking into the church, I heard birds, saw daffodils and smelled the fresh air. Perhaps you could combine your visit to Grace with a lunch on the Creek or a walk on Market Street. In any event, I hope to see you soon.

Teddi Garrison



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
  		
<p align="center">SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4:30 PM</p>		
<p align="center">5 <i>Worship-11:00 AM</i></p>	<p align="center">6</p>	<p align="center">7</p>
<p align="center">SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4:30 PM</p>		
<p align="center">12 <i>Worship-11:00 AM</i> 12:15PM P&F Meeting </p>  	<p align="center">13</p>	<p align="center">14</p>
<p align="center">SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4:30 PM</p>		
<p align="center">19 <i>Worship-11:00 AM</i></p>	<p align="center">20 </p>	<p align="center">21</p>
<p align="center">SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4:30 PM</p>		
<p align="center">26 <i>Worship Service -11:00 AM</i></p> 	<p align="center">27</p>	<p align="center">28 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting </p>
<p align="center">SALVATION ARMY DAY CENTER PROGRAM 8:30 AM—4:30 PM DAILY</p>		



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club</p> 	<p>2 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 PM (zoom)</p> <p>Health Dept Meet 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>30 PM DAILY (Sunday through Saturday) IN GRACE UCC'S</p>			
<p>8 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club</p> 	<p>9 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 PM (zoom)</p> <p>Health Dept Meet 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>30 PM DAILY (Sunday through Saturday) IN GRACE UCC'S</p>			
<p>15 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club</p> 	<p>16 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 PM (zoom)</p> <p>Health Dept Meet 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p>
<p>30 PM DAILY (Sunday through Saturday) IN GRACE UCC'S</p>			
<p>22 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club</p> 	<p>23 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 PM (zoom)</p> <p>Health Dept Meet 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>30 PM DAILY (Sunday through Saturday) IN GRACE UCC'S</p>			
<p>29 Wonderful Wednesday 7:00 PM Virtual Book Club</p> 	<p>30 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 PM (zoom)</p> <p>Health Dept Meet 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM</p>	<p>31</p>	
<p>(Sunday through Saturday) IN GRACE UCC'S GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM</p>			



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR MARCH 2023

The gospel readings for the portion of the season of Lent in the month of March 2023, are centered in John. Starting with the 2nd Sunday of Lent, 2023, we have the story of Nicodemus visiting Jesus. Then we find the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, followed by Jesus healing a blind man. The last most dramatic story on March 26 is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. These are some of the most dramatic and amazing stories involving Jesus in the gospels. Daily Bible Readings for March, 2023

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3-1 W Psalm 32	Lent 3	Lent 4
Lent 2	3-9 Th Psalm 95	3-16 Th Psalm 23
3-2 Th Psalm 121	Exodus 16:1-8	1 Samuel 15:10-21
Isaiah 51:1-3	Colossians 1:15-23	Ephesians 4:25-32
2 Timothy 1:3-7		
	3-10 F Psalm 95	3-17 F Psalm 23
3-3 F Psalm 121	Exodus 16:9-21	1 Samuel 15:22-31
Micah 7:18-20	Ephesians 2:11-22	Ephesians 5:1-9
Romans 3:21-31		
	3-11 Sa Psalm 95	3-18 Sa Psalm 23
3-4 Sa Psalm 121	Exodus 16:27-35	1 Samuel 15:32-34
Isaiah 51:4-8	John 4:1-6	John 1:1-9
Luke 7:1-10		
	3-12 Su <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	3-19 Su <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>
3-5 Su <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 95	Psalm 23
Psalm 121	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41
John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9		
	3-13 M Psalm 81	3-20 M Psalm 146
3-6 M Psalm 128	Genesis 24:1-27	Isaiah 59:9-19
Numbers 21:4-9	2 John 1-13	Acts 9:1-20
Hebrews 3:1-6		
	3-14 Tu Psalm 81	3-21 Tu Psalm 146
3-7 Tu Psalm 128	Genesis 29:1-14	Isaiah 42:14-21
Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Corinthians 10:1-4	Colossians 1:9-14
Romans 4:6-13		
	3-15 W Psalm 81	3-22 W Psalm 146
3-8 W Psalm 128	Jeremiah 2:4-13	Isaiah 60:17-22
Ezekiel 36:22-32	John 7:14-31, 37-39	Matthew 9:27-34
John 7:53—8:11		



Lent 5

3-23 Th Psalm 130
Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8—3:3
Revelation 10:1-11

3-27 M Psalm 143
1 Kings 17:17-24
Acts 20:7-12

3-31 F Psalm 31:9-16
Job 13:13-19
Philippians 1:21-30

3-24 F Psalm 130
Ezekiel 33:10-16
Revelation 11:15-19

3-28 Tu Psalm 143
2 Kings 4:18-37
Ephesians 2:1-10



3-25 Sa Psalm 130
Ezekiel 36:8-15
Luke 24:44-53

3-29 W Psalm 143
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41
Matthew 22:23-33

DAILY BIBLE READING

the key to spiritual health

3-26 Su *Fifth Sunday in Lent*
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Lent 6

3-30 Th Psalm 31:9-16
1 Samuel 16:11-13
Philippians 1:1-11

*The foundational premise of these daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday and festival lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings. The first citation listed in each daily set is the suggested psalm or other scriptural canticle, followed by the two suggested readings for the day. (Additional daily readings are not provided for Sundays and festivals.) Consult Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings (Augsburg Fortress, 2005) for a fuller explanation of the background and principles of this daily lectionary, together with brief reading descriptors and complete indexes. Permission is granted to individual congregations and similar non-profit, non-commercial groups to reproduce excerpts from the table of readings, provided the reproductions are for the group’s own onetime, local worship and educational activities and are not for sale. Please include this copyright notice on all reproductions: Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings, copyright © 2005 Consultation on Common Texts. www.commontexts.org

GRACE THANK YOU & CARE NOTES

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 contact Pastor Gerry at 240-217-2768.



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Millie Davis | 801 Pine Ave., Frederick, MD 21701 |
| Eleanor Free | Citizens Nursing Home Rm 151B
1920 Rosemont Ave, Frederick, MD 21702
(Call the office if you'd like Eleanor's phone #) |
| Pam Kehne | 1632 Wall Dr., Pasadena, MD 21122 |



Grace United Church of Christ

25 East Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701

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for *Virtual Worship*



live streaming from the



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