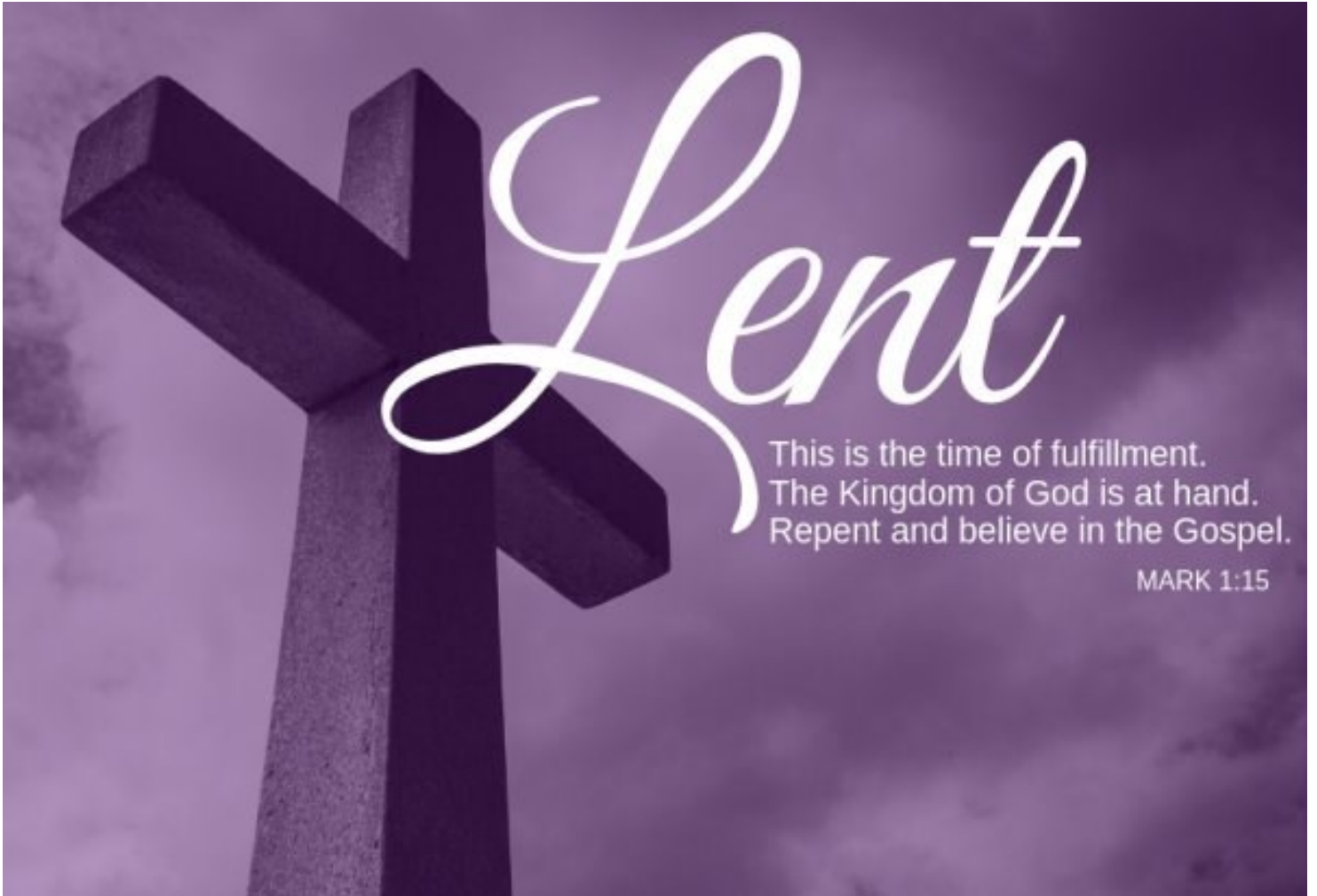


Grace United Church of Christ



LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

February 22, 2023 – April 9, 2023



**A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY Offered by
Grace United Church of Christ
Frederick, MD**

**SHORT STORIES BY JESUS: A Lenten
Study of Five Parables of Jesus
Led by Pastor Gerry Hanberry**

Five Thursdays in LENT:
March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 2023

Evening Sessions: 7:00 p.m. Parable Study Offered by Zoom
Weekly Zoom Link:

Invite Link [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81039732471?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81039732471?pwd=RzZnaWRkWFNSOTRIK2txOUx1bGZNdz09)
[pwd=RzZnaWRkWFNSOTRIK2txOUx1bGZNdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81039732471?pwd=RzZnaWRkWFNSOTRIK2txOUx1bGZNdz09)

“The Enigmatic (Mysterious, Hard-to-Understand) Parables of Jesus”

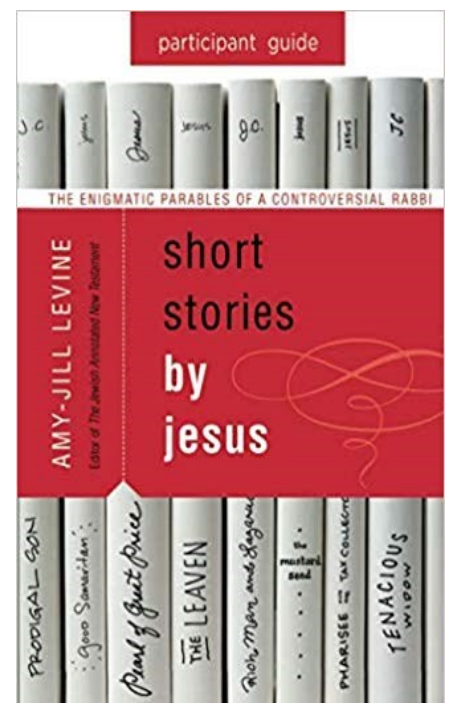
Jesus is a storyteller, extraordinaire! His stories or parables are not only mysterious, they are challenging to both understand and to live by in these days of our lives. These parables “challenge us to look into the hidden aspects of our own values, our own lives.” During these five Thursday evening sessions, we will explore the hidden truths and translations of these five parables:

- ▶ Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son
- ▶ The Good Samaritan
- ▶ The Pearl of Great Price
- ▶ The Mustard Seed and
- ▶ The Laborers in the Vineyard.

The ONLY HOMEWORK will be to read the parable before coming to the session. Using a brief video and small-group discussion, Pastor Gerry Hanberry will lead us in an interactive, inspiring, and informative experience of Bible study and spiritual growth.

A “small” book by Amy-Jill Levine is available to purchase BUT not necessary for your participation.

***CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF
BOLD MINISTRY IN FREDERICK!***



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...a more meaningful life.

Worship Schedule – Lent 2023

February 22—Ash Wednesday – 7:00 pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sacrament of Holy Communion; Imposition of Ashes & a brief Homily
by Pastor Hanberry

February 26—Lent 1: Wilderness -- Abundant Grace

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19;

Matt 4:1-11 (The story of Jesus' Temptation in the wilderness)

A Story of 'Temptation Overcome'

Sermon: "Faith Found in the Wilderness"

March 5 – Lent 2: Spiritual Gifts -- Bold Blessings

Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;

John 3:1-17 (Nicodemus Visits Jesus)

A Story of 'Being Born Again'

Sermon: "How Many Times Can I be Born Again?"

March 12 – Lent 3: Thirsty Voices -- Living Water

Exodus 17:1-7; Ps 95; Romans 5:1-11;

John 4:5-42 (Samaritan Woman at the Well)

A Story of 'Quenched-Thirst'

Sermon: "Come, Drink Deep – Quenching Our Spiritual Thirst"

March 19 – Lent 4: Blindness -- Sight Restored

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ps 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;

John 9:1-41 (A Man Born Blind Receives Sight)

A Story of Seeing in New Ways

Sermon: "Wow! I Can See Again"

March 26 – Lent 5: Death – Breath of Hope

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11;

John 11:1-45 (Jesus Raising Lazarus from the Dead)

A Story of Resurrection

Sermon: "Hope Out of Darkness – Renewed Belief"

April 2 -- Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2:5-11;

Matthew 27:11-26 (Jesus and Pilate)

Sermon: "Accomplice OR Active Defender?"

April 6-- Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; I Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (The Upper Room)
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Homily: "Please, Let Me Wash Your Feet"

April 7 – Good Friday

Local Frederick events to be announced

April 9 -- Easter Sunday Celebration

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4;
John 20:1-18 (The Resurrection of Jesus)
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Sermon: "Seeing Jesus Again for the First Time"

Lenten Sundays: Feb. 26 – March 26 11:00am
Palm Sunday worship, April, 2, 11:00am
Maundy Thursday service, April 6, 7:00pm
Good Friday, April 7
Opportunities in the
community to be announced
Easter Sunday, April 9, 11:00am

LENTEN STORIES ARE
OUR STORIES TOO:
FINDING OUR
PLACE IN THE
STORIES OF JESUS



If you are looking for warm people who will love you just as you are, consider worshipping with us. As a long-time “OPEN AND AFFIRMING’ congregation, Grace United Church of Christ has been welcoming seekers for years, and we invite you to be part of our long tradition of **WELCOME!** Worship at Grace Church is participative, held in a beautiful traditional sanctuary with inspiring sermons and diverse musical offerings from our choir and congregation.

Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not. We believe in God’s continuing testament. This is why we are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. We try to remain attentive to God’s creative movement in the world. Religion and science are not mutually exclusive, and your head and heart are both welcomed into our places of worship. We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in ministry in the present and future church, and we embrace all kinds of communities and new modes of thinking. Why? Because God is still speaking.

Within and Beyond our Walls. Grace is committed to the community within and beyond our walls on East 2nd Street in Frederick, MD. We are involved in a variety of outreach efforts in the name of Christ. We share our facilities with the Salvation Army-Operated Day Shelter. During these winter months, we support the sock and coat drive for not only the homeless people that use our building for food and shelter during the day, but also donate extra hats and socks to other organizations around Frederick County. Lutheran Social Services also calls Grace Church home. They help refugees settle into their new life in America. Grace regularly donates to food banks, and members of our congregation volunteers at a local soup kitchen too. We support the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs amongst many other local and global mission efforts.

Email for more information:

pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com

Office: 301-662-3312

Website: <http://grucc.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceUCCFrederick>

The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry

Interim Pastor

Grace United Church of Christ



An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

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

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry

Pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com

Clergy in Residence: Rev. Guy S. Johnson

Gsj612@aol.com

Director of Music: Nathan Strite

Music@grucc.com

Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

Bells@grucc.com

Children & Youth Ministry: Kelly Pineda

Admin@grucc.com

Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler

Joan.dancer@comcast.net

Caretaker: Mat Lutman

Trainhouse13@gmail.com

Church Admin: Kelly Pineda

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.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

