

Grace United Church of Christ



Sunday, June 9, 2024
Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

Today's Theme: Where Are You From?

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 - Fantasia in C (BWV 570) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Welcome

Passing the Peace

Ringing of the Bell

Choral Introit - This is the Day– Les Garrett

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We are from north and south.

All: We are from tiny apartments and expansive homes.

Leader: We are from this city and from others far away.

All: We are from big families and dinners made for one.

Leader: We are from stages of grief and stages of love.

All: We are from hot summers and cold winters.

Leader: We are from kitchens with passed down recipes,
and front porches with old, familiar swings.

All: We are from the dust of the earth and the stars of the sky.

Leader: We are from a lot of places, but today we are here.

All: Today we are together.

Leader: Holy God, gather us in. Amen!

Gathering Prayer (In Unison)

Holy God, we don't always know how to pray, but you find us anyway. We don't always know how to listen, but you are in our ears all the same. We don't always know how to believe, but you surround us with beauty and we find ourselves held together in love. Where we come from there are so many distractions. Where we come from there is so much noise. Find us. Hold us. Be in these words. Help us hear. Amen.

* **Opening Hymn** "You Servants of God" NCH 305

1 You servants of God, your Sovereign proclaim,
and publish abroad that wonderful name:
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
who, sovereign and glorious, now rules over all.

2 God rules from on high, almighty to save;
and still God is nigh, whose presence we have.
The great congregation God's triumphs shall praise,
ascribing salvation to Jesus always.

3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud for what God has done.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim;
still veiling their faces, they worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore and render God's right,
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

Prayer for Renewal and Healing:

Pastor: Let us offer our prayers for renewal:

Pastor: When Nathaniel heard that Jesus was from Nazareth,
he asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"

All: We confess, God of beginnings, that we have asked the same question.

Leader: Can anything good come from that side of town?

All: From a school with poor test scores?

Leader: From a criminal history?

All: From the opposite political party?

Leader: From a history of addiction?

All: From a faith with doubt?

Leader: From a church with faults?

All: Holy God, forgive us for doubting that you are in all things at all times. Open our eyes to see your goodness, not as something that resides here or there, but as the expansive grace that it is.

Leader: Can anything good come from there?

All: Yes. Always yes. Amen!

Pastor: Family of faith, if you ever ask yourself, “Can anything good come from this messy and human life of mine?” Remember this: God is always whispering, “Yes.” You were created in the image of God.

Your origin story is one of goodness and love from the very beginning.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God is here. God is at work among us. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for a love like that. **Amen.**

We Listen

Children’s Moment

Scripture Readings

Introduction: Today’s gospel reading is found in the Gospel of John and it is the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. Notice that he didn’t scan the area for the best dressed, most educated, elite of his day, he chose fishermen, laborers. He invites them to “come and see” regardless of where they are from. I invite you now to hear our reading from John 1:35-51 as recorded in the New Revised Standard Version-Updated Edition.

John 1:35-51 (NRSV-ue)

35 The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, **36** and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” **37** The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. **38** When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” **39** He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. **40** One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. **41** He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed. **42** He brought Simon[b] to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter. **43** The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” **44** Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. **45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” **46** Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” **47** When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” **48** Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” **49** Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” **50** Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” **51** And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you,[e] you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

Anthem - Come Find His Rest - Dan Forrest

Sermon: The Rev. Chance Martinez

Sermon Title: “I’ve Been Meaning to Ask...Where Are You From?”

We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

(Please 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 - He Leadeth Me - arr. Albin Whitworth

*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: God of new life, out of the abundance of our lives we offer these gifts to you. Through your blessing and our willingness to share, may these offerings become a source for hope and love in this church family, and in the community beyond us, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Brief Order of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

For those who are worshiping online, we encourage you to gather pieces of bread and something to drink (whatever you have such as juice, lemonade, etc) before worship and place it near you as service begins.

Invitation to the Table

Blessing the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Communion Prayer

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Music during Communion - Just as I Am - arr. Dale Wood

We Are Sent

Announcements

*Closing Hymn “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” W&S 3104

1 Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
Was blind but now I see

2 Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace my fears relieved
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed

Refrain:

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing Grace

3 The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

Refrain:

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing Grace

[Repeat Refrain]

4 The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The Sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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.

Choral Benediction - God Be With You - text and music, Thomas Dorsey and Artelia Hutchins

Postlude - Toccata Brevis - Daniel Gawthrop

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



June represents Pride

All Month

Let's Celebrate!!!

*Join us for Interfaith Pride
Services On June 22nd*



Wear Orange.....We can end gun violence

June 7-9, 2024

This year in Maryland.... Maryland is rank as having the eighth-strongest gun laws in the nation but continues to have an unacceptable rate of gun deaths. Gun violence in Maryland disproportionately impacts communities of color in Baltimore, nearly 65% of the guns recovered by law enforcement are bought across state lines. During the 2024 Legislative session the following bills passed: The Gun Industry Accountability Act of 2024 Creates a public nuisance law in Maryland to hold gun industry members accountable for illegal or unreasonable conduct. Requires gun companies doing business in Maryland to put in place reasonable safeguards to prevent their guns from ending up in the hands of people who shouldn't use them. Attorney General, County attorney, Baltimore City Solicitor can bring lawsuits Takes effect on June 1, 2024 The Center for Firearm Violence Prevention & Intervention Center will be in the Department of Health It's purpose is to reduce firearm violence and misuse of firearms by partnering with federal, state and local agencies and affected communities. Takes a public health approach to firearm violence reduction. Takes effect on October 1, 2024 Active Shooter Drill Notification – PASSED Directs the Maryland Center for School Safety to study the effectiveness and psychological impact of active shooter safety drills; identify best practices for active shooter safety drills. Authorizes the State Department of Education to adopt regulations to incorporate active shooter safety drills or trainings in the schedule of drills for local school systems. Requires local school systems to take certain actions regarding active shooter safety drills or trainings, including collecting and reporting certain data to the Center, and providing notice to parents, students, and school personnel; to distribute safe storage content to parents at the beginning of each school year. YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR ORANGE with us. **The year June 7th, will be the 10th National Gun Violence Awareness Day. A time of recognition and a major social media promotion of #WearOrange.** We once again anticipate buildings, churches and skylines across America, including Maryland and Fredrick County, turning orange Friday night and remaining orange all weekend as we reflect and remember. So, we invite you to join us and turn a little Orange this weekend as well. Please feel free to take a picture with your Orange on this weekend and then post it on your social media outlets tagging it, #WearOrange. Frederick's Mom's Demand team will be helping to decorate Downtown businesses and churches on Friday. We invite other faith communities to #WearOrange as well. **Saturday, June 8th , from 10:00 am – 11:30 pm at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ [downtown Frederick] our #WearOrange awareness event** will be a Round Table event focusing on the impact of Gun Violence on survivors and how we as a community can meet the needs. Make plans to join us. Let's be good neighbors together! Please check Frederick Moms Demand Action Facebook page for more information.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

Sunday 6/9: 11:00 AM - Worship Service – Third Sunday of Pentecost

[Tie Dye Party immediately after service on Patio](#)

Mondays: 7:00PM Virtual Bible Study (zoom)

Mondays: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Nar-Anon Meeting

Monday - Saturday: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA Meeting

Mondays + Wednesdays: 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM AA Meeting

Wednesday 6/12: 7:00 PM Book Club (zoom)

Thursday 6/13: 7:00PM In- Person Bible Study

Thursday 6/13: 7:00 PM—NA (Woman and Children Meeting)

Sunday 6/16: 11:00 AM– Worship Service- Sunday, June 16, 2024
Text: Mark 5:21-43
Sermon: The Reverend Chance Martinez



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 Pastor 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.

Important Announcements !

June 9– After Service– Tie Dye Party on Patio

June 9– Sunday Summer Concert Series at Baker Park 7pm.

June 15– Bike ride on the Ballenger Creek Park Trail.

June 16- Join us for Father’s Day with Hot Dogs & Ice Cream Social.

June 16- Grace UCC volunteers at Community Table.

June 22– Interfaith Pride Services.

June 22- Frederick Pride Festival to follow.

July 14– Church Annual Picnic at Mt Tabor in Rocky Ridge, MD. Worship Service at 11am, Lunch will follow.

***Every Sunday in July, Pastor’s sermon will be a “Fun Summer Series”.**

GUCC’s Awesome Adventurers and Outings Club

Grace UCC’s awesome adventures are kicking off their first outing with the Sunday Summer Concert . Series at Baker Park. **On June 9th at 7pm** bring your chair, blanket, and snacks and we’ll gather at Baker Park to enjoy the first concert of the Summer! The concert starts at 7pm and ends at 8:30 and features Max Rosado and the 7th Street Band (salsa music).

If you are interested in joining, please let Liz Tinker know with an email to liztinker2@yahoo.com or text/call:301-693-0511.

Our next awesome adventure outing is a bike ride on the Ballenger Creek Park Trail on **Saturday, June 15th at 2pm**. Our adventure starts with a bike ride at Ballenger Creek Park Trail (4.2-mile-long trail) and then stops at Bruster’s Ice Cream, then back to the trail and back to the park. If you are interested in joining, please let Liz Tinker know with an email liztinker2@yahoo.com or text/call:301-693-0511. If you don’t have a bike but would like to join, want to walk instead of bike, or just come for ice cream please join us and let Liz Tinker know. If you have any adventure or outing suggestions or want to get on the email list of the GUCC GUCC’s Awesome Adventurers and Outings Club contact Liz Tinker.

Save the date for NYC Day Trip on December 11th. Leave Frederick at 6am & return at Midnight. Price: \$80 per person.

Seating Limited.

Contact:Tonyhemler0@gmail.com or Tricia at admin@grucc.com

Pride Month Bible Study

You are invited to join us for our Pride Month Bible Studies beginning June 6 and we hope you will invite your friends and neighbors to join us as well. The Bible Study will be offered at the following days and times in June:

Mondays: Virtual Bible Study via Zoom at 7:00pm on the following dates: June 3; June 10; June 17; June 24

Thursdays: In-Person Bible Study at 7:00pm on the following dates: June 6; June 13; June 20; June 27

Zoom Link for Virtual Bible Study: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8039587568>

Address for In-Person Bible Study:

Grace United Church of Christ 25 East 2nd Street Frederick, MD 21701

(Meet in the Primary Classroom at top of stairs)

Please call the church office if you need further information (301)662-3312

Study Plan

Week One: But the Bible says it's a sin-common Bible passages and different interpretations.

Main Topic: How the Bible is used to vilify and discriminate against LGBTQ people

Main Texts: Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:26-28, I Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:10 (feel free to also read a little bit before and after each passage)

Week Two: Who weeps for the sodomite? Re-reading biblical stories in less violent ways.

Main Topic: Re-interpreting/challenging biblical stories

Main Text: Genesis 19:1-29

Week Three: Neither male nor female-trans*cending gender in the bible

Main Topic: Biblical examples of breaking gender open and gender-nonconforming people

Main Texts: Narratives surrounding eunuchs in Matthew 19:10-12 and Acts 8:26-40; Galatians 3:23-28

Week Four: "Loving him as his own soul"-David and Ruth

Main Topic: Interpretation of same-sex covenants in the bible and the question of representation

Main Text: Ruth 1, 1 Samuel 18:1-5, 19:1-7, 20, 23:15-18; 2 Samuel 1

Join us for our Tie Dye Party



After worship on June 9 join in the fun as the congregation will be Tie Dying shirts that will be for members to wear during community events or just as a colorful addition to your wardrobe! All shirts and supplies for the activity will be provided. We encourage wearing your "not so good clothes" or wearing protective clothing to do this activity. Also, pray for good weather so we can do this activity on the front patio of the church! Hope to see you all there!



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

Admin@grucc.com ~ www.grucc.com

Pastor Chance Martinez

pastorchance.graceucc@gmail.com

Director of Music: Nathan Strite

Music@grucc.com

Bell Choir Director: James Taylor

Bells@grucc.com

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:

Amy Duray

Children's Message:

Pastor Chance

Children's Church

N/A

Altar Guild:

Joan Princler & Karen Kehoe

Greeter:

Amy Duray

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