

The Grace Vine

Grace United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

25 East 2nd Street

Historic Downtown Frederick, Maryland

MARCH 2018

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Important Dates at a Glance

Saturday, March 10

9:00 a.m.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Details on page 5

Sunday, March 11

Daylight Saving Time begins

Be sure to set your clocks

FORWARD on Saturday night!

March 25 - April 1

Holy Week

See page 12 for details



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I have to write this. I don't want to, but the newsletter needs to get printed, so I can't wait any longer. I am at a loss of things to say to you. As I write this, there is yet another school shooting, the 18th since the beginning of the year and it is only February. Our government is in turmoil, our president is under investigation. Experts predict foreign interference in upcoming elections will continue. Tensions with North Korea continue to mount. I don't have any more words.

I'm tired of the "Thoughts and Prayers" from leaders who are more concerned with protecting their own power than their own people. I'm tired of a government that is hell bent on catering to the rich even if it means stepping on the faces of the poor to do it. I'm just tired and I'm sad. And I'm tired of feeling this way. I want someone to just make it better, take us back to a better time or wake up and have it be behind us. And I know that many of you, good people on both "sides of the aisle," feel the same way.

And then I am reminded that it is Lent. Not just a season of reflection and penitence, but a season in which the Church walks a dark and lonely road. As Jesus descended the mountain and walked the long road to Jerusalem, so we, too, walk that road with him. Lent is a time to be reminded that we do not walk the road alone. The psalmist said it this way:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?*

*My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore. (Psalm 121)*

So when I have no words, except anger and fear, God walks the road with me. When I don't know what the future holds, or how those in control will use that control, God walks that road with me. And so, in the face of dead school children, rising conflict, and government dysfunction, I have few words of hope. But the ones I have are the only ones I need: God walks the road with me. From where does my help come? Where do I look to find hope? My help comes from the Lord. Let us in these troubled times, unite as one people and keep our eyes on the hills, from whence comes our help. And may God continue to walk this Lenten road with us.

Pastor Rob†

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 call Pastor Rob at 240-217-2767.

Summer Is Coming!!

Well, not for a few months, but when it does, it will mean we are preparing for Pastor Rob's Sabbatical. We have pastors who are going to be with us on Sundays, and for emergencies, but we are also looking to put together a team of lay people who will be willing to visit people in the hospital and nursing homes as we have the need. Gary Johnson has agreed to coordinate this and be the contact person for this ministry while Pastor Rob is away. Before the summer, we will have a time to get together to learn about how to visit people in health care settings, i.e. praying with people, hospital visitation guidelines, etc.

If this is something that would interest you, please let Pastor Rob or Gary Johnson know. Thanks!

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

It's that time of year again...

Wondering if church events and activities are canceled due to the weather? There are several ways that you can find out:

CALL the church office (301-662-3312) and press 7 for the Inclement Weather Hotline. This voice mailbox will be updated as soon as a decision is made to cancel any services or activities.

CHECK your email. (Make sure we have your current email address!)

VISIT the church's website, www.grucc.com or our Facebook page.

We will make every effort to get these methods of communication updated as early as possible. Please be aware that power outages affect ALL of these methods of communication.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The submission deadline for the April issue of the *Grace Vine* newsletter is Monday, March 19th. The newsletter will be ready for pickup from the Narthex on Sunday, March 25th (Palm Sunday).

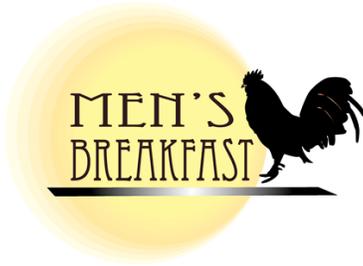
If you currently receive a paper copy of the *Grace Vine* newsletter, but would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, or read it online, please call or email the church office. Thank you!

Let's keep in touch! Each week, the Grace Church *eNews* is sent out to our members and friends to keep everyone up-to-date on upcoming events. If you haven't been receiving these Friday updates, please email the church office to be added to the list.

A friendly reminder from Pastor Rob:

Are you planning an event at the Church? If so, PLEASE remember to call Tara in the church office and make sure to get on the calendar ASAP. This means BEFORE you make plans, invite people, advertise, etc... The Church is getting increasingly busy throughout the week and we'd like to avoid embarrassing double-bookings. Thanks so much!!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Men's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, March 10th

9:00 a.m.

Bob Evans on Route 40 (at the end of the Golden Mile)

All men are invited to join us!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 Lisel Powell
3 Gwen McGee
Laura Snyder
4 Patti Flanders-Lombardi
15 Colleen Street
18 Melody Slick
Daniel Travis
20 Andria Snyder



21 Anita Bartgis
22 Joan Princler
24 Earl Bartgis
Sarah Travis
26 Brandy Baptiste
27 Donna Johnson
28 Gary Johnson

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES



Eric Black and Matt Bonin
March 5th

Doug and Vonnie Crum
March 18th

Anne and Marc Meilleur
March 20th

Church Directories

Do you need an updated copy of our member directory? Please contact the church office or speak to an usher on Sunday morning. Due to privacy concerns, we do not publish our directory on the church website.

Greeters and Fellowship Hosts Needed

Volunteer greeters are needed every Sunday morning to welcome our members and guests to worship. Volunteer fellowship hosts provide snacks and drinks after worship on the first and third Sundays of each month.



On the last Sunday of every month, the Congregational Life Commission will host a birthday party for everyone who celebrated a birthday during that month. (Please be sure that your birthday is on file with the church office so that you can be recognized!)

If you would like to serve as a greeter or host the fellowship time one Sunday, please sign up on the sheet in the Good Shepherd Room or speak to Rob Apgar ("Cop Rob").

Do you get cold in a big drafty church? Please know that there are knit shawls available for you to use as you need. They are spread throughout the Sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you don't see one near you. Many thanks to Pam Marshall for this idea and for making the shawls!

Caring and Sharing

The following is a list of members and friends of our Grace Church family who are currently ill, home-bound, recovering from an injury or surgery, or hospitalized. If you know of anyone who should be added to this list, please call the church office or speak to Pastor Rob.

Millie Davis
801 Pine Ave.
Frederick, MD 21701

Joe Free
1117 Rocky Springs Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Pam Kehne
1632 Wall Dr.
Pasadena, MD 21122

Betty Linton *NEW*
990 Waterford Dr.
Unit 206
Frederick, MD 21702

Karlene Kaufmann
2100 Whittier Dr.
Apt. 405
Frederick, MD 21702

Jean Gaver
7407 Willow Rd.
AL 250
Frederick, MD 21702

Paul and Miriam Himes
9810 Masser Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Treasurer's Report



January 2018

Income: \$12,315.63
Expenses: \$24,587.01
Difference: - \$12,271.38

2018 Year-to-Date

Income: \$12,315.63
Expenses: \$24,587.01
Difference: - \$12,271.38

Offering Envelopes and Electronic Giving

Boxes of offering envelopes are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like to use envelopes for regular giving. Simply pick up a box and write your name on the sign-up sheet next to the number that you've chosen.

If you prefer to give electronically, we offer 2 options:

(a) the *UCC e-Giving* program allows you to have a regular, recurring donation drafted out of your bank account, or charged to your credit card. *(Contact the church office to get started.)*

(b) make donations through our website using PayPal! Simply click the button at the bottom of the home page - www.grucc.com.

If you decide to participate in our electronic giving programs, you can pick up some "I give electronically" cards to place in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Giving Card

Part of my worship is giving back to God – with joy and gratitude – from all that I have received.

I have already given for this period, so today I celebrate this commitment, using this card as a reminder of my act of giving.



God is still speaking,

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



IMPORTANT REMINDER REGARDING BUILDING SECURITY:

After worship each Sunday, the main doors to the Sanctuary (the Narthex doors) are locked from the inside. If you stay for the fellowship time after worship, please remember to exit by the side doors rather than the Narthex doors. Thank you for your cooperation!

SUNDAY**MONDAY****TUESDAY**

DR = Dining Room
GSR = Good Shepherd Room
S = Sanctuary

March 2018

4 Third Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship and Holy Communion (S)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

5

6:30 p.m. - TFC
 Young Adult Group
 (2nd floor)

6

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

11 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time begins

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

12

7:00 p.m. - Finance & Property (Rm. 3)

13

6:30 p.m. - Man Kind Project (DR)

18 Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

19

6:30 p.m. - TFC
 Young Adult Group
 (2nd floor)

20

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)

25 Palm Sunday

9:45 a.m. - Christian Education classes
 11:00 a.m. - Worship (S)

5:00 p.m. - Redemption City Church (S)

26**27**

6:30 p.m. - Man-Kind Project (DR)
 7:00 p.m. - Council meeting (Rm. 3)

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 10:30 a.m. - Lenten Study (Hmwd) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - GAM-MA (2nd floor)</p>	<p>2 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>7 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>8 10:30 a.m. - Lenten Study (Hmwd) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:00 p.m. - TFC (3) 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Study (Rm. 13)</p>	<p>9 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>10 9:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast (Bob Evans) "SPRING FORWARD" tonight!</p>
<p>14 12:00 p.m. - Catocin Ministerium (GSR) 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (GSR)</p>	<p>15 10:30 a.m. - Lenten Study (Hmwd) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:00 p.m. - FCHD 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Study (Room 13)</p>	<p>16 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>
<p>21 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>22 10:30 a.m. - Lenten Study (Hmwd) 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Study (Room 13)</p>	<p>23 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>28 6:30 p.m. - TFC Youth Group (DR)</p>	<p>29 Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m. - Zumba 7:00 p.m. - Worship</p>	<p>30 Good Friday 8:30 p.m. - N.A. meeting (GSR)</p>	<p>31 Holy Saturday</p>

OUTREACH

Special Offering for March: *One Great Hour of Sharing*

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners and other Christian denominations to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming, and the remaining 5 cents is used to create interpretation materials. Administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.



Almost 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster-related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. Nearly one-third of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

Words cannot capture the anguish of people when they lose everything in a disaster or have to leave it behind while fleeing war or conflict. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more. Please give generously during worship on March 11th, or online at any time at www.ucc.org/oghs. Thank you!



THANK YOU!!!

We collected a total of \$111 and 57 food items for the Frederick Food Bank through the 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring.

The Emergency Family Shelter

Thank you to all those who helped out during the TWO weeks that we hosted the family shelter in February!

New volunteers to this program are always welcome. Volunteers must be over the age of 18, and a background check is required. Please contact the church office or speak to Sarah Travis or Carol Garrison for an application.

In addition to the trained and vetted volunteers who work with the shelter families, we welcome anyone who would like to help with the set-up before the shelter comes, and the clean-up after its departure. Our next host dates are May 12th - 19th.

Food Drive



THANK YOU

for your continued generous support of the Frederick Food Bank!

Our Grace Groceries collection for January was **82** items!

The Frederick Foodbank, operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency, is in need of non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, pastas, rice, spaghetti or tomato sauce, cereal, canned fish and canned meats.

The Frederick Soup Kitchen, also operated by the Frederick Community Action Agency, is in need of volunteers to staff the soup kitchen and serve food to homeless individuals and needy families. Volunteers are needed M-F, 5-7pm to serve prepared meals and then clean up. It is an enjoyable and rewarding volunteer activity that does not require any special skills. For more information, please contact Sarah McAleavy at 301-600-6263.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

The Good Samaritan Fund is designated for emergency financial relief to members and friends of Grace Church. Only the pastor and person in need know who receives assistance from the fund.

Donations to the Good Samaritan Fund can be made at any time, in any amount. If you would like to help, please place a check in the offering plate made out to Grace Church with "Good Samaritan Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!

If you or someone you know from our church family is in need of assistance, please contact Pastor Rob directly.

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION

Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 25th

11:00 a.m.

Procession of Palms and Worship

Thursday, March 29th

7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 30th

7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship

at Veritas UCC

(530 N. Locust St., Hagerstown)

Sunday, April 1st

11:00 a.m.

**Easter Worship with
Holy Communion**

For All the Saints

Richard Allen

March 26th (1831)

First Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Richard Allen (1760 – 1831) was a minister, educator, writer, and the founder in 1816 of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church, the first independent black denomination in the United States. He opened its first church in 1794 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was elected the first bishop of the AME Church. Allen had started as a Methodist preacher but wanted to establish a black congregation independent of white control. The AME church is the oldest denomination among independent African-American churches.

Richard Allen was born on February 14, 1760, in Germantown, Pennsylvania into slavery. In 1777 Richard Allen bought his freedom and that of his brother.

In 1786, Allen became a preacher at St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia, but was restricted to early morning services. As he attracted more black congregants, the church vestry voted to build a segregated gallery for the use of blacks. Allen and Absalom Jones, also a Methodist preacher, resented the white congregants' forcing them to a segregated section for worship and prayer. They decided to leave St. George's to create independent worship for African-Americans. This brought some opposition from the white church and the more established blacks of the community. In 1787 Allen and Jones led the black members out of St. George's Methodist Church.

They formed the Free African Society (FAS), a non-denominational mutual aid society, which assisted fugitive slaves and new migrants to the city. Over time, most of the FAS members left with Absalom Jones to form a new congregation, which opened its doors as an Episcopal parish on July 17, 1794 as the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas.

Allen and others wanted to continue in the Methodist practice. Allen called their congregation the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Using a converted blacksmith shop which they moved to the site on Sixth

Street, they opened the doors of Bethel AME Church on July 29, 1794, and were affiliated with the larger Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1799, Allen became the first black Methodist minister, ordained by Bishop Francis Asbury, in recognition of his leadership and preaching.

In 1816 Allen united four African-American congregations of the Methodist Church. Together they founded the independent denomination of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), the first fully independent black denomination in the United States. On April 10, 1816, Allen was elected its first bishop.

Bishop Allen died at home on March 26, 1831.

Upper Room Devotionals

Devotional booklets are available in the Narthex for anyone who would like a resource for daily prayer. There are regular and large-print versions, and there is no cost for the booklets, although donations are gladly accepted.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Free Concerts

Chad Bowles, *pianist*

Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 p.m.

Calvary United Methodist Church, 131 West 2nd Street, Frederick

For more information, please visit www.calvaryumc.org

The Frederick Chorale presents

Amazing Grace: Music of Saints and Sinners

Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 p.m.

and

Monday, March 19th at 7:30 p.m.

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church, 8428 Opossumtown Pike, Frederick

For more information, please visit www.frederickchorale.org

Grace Church Leadership Directory

COUNCIL OFFICERS

President	Missy Moxley	301-695-3852
Vice President	Jerry Princler	301-898-3877
Secretary	Vonnie Crum	301-898-5755
Treasurer	Lloyd Taylor	301-898-9259
At-Large	Oi Kettavong	240-457-2042
At-Large	Gary Johnson	240-460-0411

COMMISSION CHAIRS

Administrative	Steve Robeson	301-639-7039
Congregational Life	Matt Bonin	845-326-7468
Finance and Property	Mark Edwards	202-361-1559
Outreach	Sarah Travis	304-993-7233
Worship and Education	Jean Barrick	301-663-1203

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert Apgar-Taylor, Pastor
Jonas Dawson, Director of Music and Organist
Tammy Eyler, Nursery Attendant
Tom Tobery, Caretaker
Tara Plyler, Administrative Associate

Telephone: 301-662-3312
Email: admin@grucc.com
Web Site: www.grucc.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
11:00 a.m.

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

HOLD FOR BACK PAGE