

# Grace United Church of Christ



**March 5th, 2023  
Second Sunday of Lent  
Worship**

**Today's Theme:**  
Spiritual Gifts - Bold Blessings

## WE GATHER

(\*Please stand as you are able)

*During this Lenten 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**

Meditation on "Lift High the Cross"

arr. Janet Linker

**Welcome**

**Preparing Our Hearts**

**Ringing of the Bell**

Choral Introit

Seek the Lord

Lloyd Larson

\*Call to Worship

Leader: We are in the presence of God. Leave the places you have known and walk with God. Leave behind thoughts of limitation and imagine what is here for us in this worship.

**ALL: But we are secure where we are.**

Leader: Ahh, but New ways of being in this world are possible for each of us. Bold blessings can be ours to share.

**ALL: Can't God bless us where we are, and as we are?**

Leader: If you trust enough to move from the places you have known, and question the systems around us, you will be blessed for God is our light and our salvation.

**ALL: Lord, we open ourselves to you. Direct our paths and open our hearts and minds.**

Leader: In this place, in every place,

**All: For this time, for all time, let us worship our God.**

\* Opening Hymn

**"We Live by Faith and Not by Sight"**

**# 256**

1 We live by faith and not by sight;  
no gracious words we hear  
From Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke,  
who still we know is near.

2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,  
nor follow where Christ trod;  
but in confessing we rejoice:  
our Savior and our God!

3 Help then, O Christ, our unbelief;  
and may our faith abound  
To call on you when you are near  
and seek where you are found:

4 That, when our life of faith is done,  
in realms of clearer light  
We may behold you as you are,  
with full and endless sight.

### The Psalter Reading

Psalm 121

(See # 704 to say the Psalm and for the congregational sung response)

### Call to Confession+

Pastor: May we confess, as Jesus did in the wilderness, and in his journey with God and the disciples:

**ALL: Gracious God forgive those things we have done which have caused you sadness, and those things we should have done that would have brought you joy.**

Pastor: In both, we have failed ourselves, and you. Bring us back to that place where our journey began, when we said that we would follow you.

*Silence*

Pastor: Let us confess together...

**ALL: Holy One, who is able to make all things new, we are thankful for the gift of each day being an opportunity to do better, to be better. We ask forgiveness for wanting new life without being willing to die to old ways of being. Forgive us for doubting that new life, rebirth is possible. Open our spirits, that we may be born into a new state of consciousness; that we may be born from above.**

### Words of Assurance

Pastor: Even in our reluctance, even in our brokenness, God provides a path to wholeness and renewal. When we confess our shortcomings, God has mercy on us and is generous with forgiveness. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven...and that is good news. **Thanks be to God.**

\* Passing of the Peace (Let us pass the peace with a Covid-Friendly smile, wave or some other sign of Christ's love)

Children's Moment

### We Listen

Readings

#### **Genesis 12:1-4a**

**Introduction:** The Holy Scriptures are filled with "CALL" stories. Our own lives are also filled with "CALL" stories. It is our challenge in the Lenten season to discern from all those stories in our lives to identify where we are being called in the strongest sense. Like Abram, he was being called to leave everything and help God start a new nation, a nation under God's law. Listen to this story and imagine who you might be in the story. This is a reading from Genesis

## Scripture

### The Call of Abram

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran...

## The Gospel:

### John 3:1-17 Nicodemus Visits Jesus

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." 3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above' 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Anthem                                      God So Loved the World                                      John Stainer

Sermon                                      "Living in the Tensions"                                      Pastor Gerry

### We Respond

Pastoral Prayer

Offering                                      Trio on "Wondrous Love"                                      arr Brenda Portman

Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)

**Each one of us has a story of giving from our lives, our treasures, from our very souls. As Rumi says, "when we do {give} something from the heart, it's like a JOY moving in us. O God receive our gifts and our joy as lit our stories give witness to your love. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

**Our Father 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.**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion (quiet music is played)**

Invitation

Blessing the Bread and Pouring the Cup

Sharing the Bread - come to the altar and receive little pieces of bread or gluten-free wafers, given by tongs;

Sharing the Cups - while after receiving the bread, you will then receive cups of white wine or grape juice - baskets are available for disposing of the empty cups.

Music during communion

View Me, Lord

Text, Thomas Campion;  
Music, Charles Wood

Anna Kovacsics - Solo

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We Are Sent**

Announcements

Closing Prayer (In Unison)

**Even as we see the first ray of sunlight outside this sacred space or the space where we live outside our virtual space, lead us to the place where our worship will show through to others. Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn

“How Can I Keep from Singing?  
1. My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far - off hymn  
that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

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2. What though my joys and comforts die?  
My Savior still is living.  
What though the Shadows gather round?  
A new song Christ is giving.  
No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I'm clinging.  
Since love commands both heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

3. When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,  
And hear their death knells ringing.  
When friends rejoice both far and near,  
How can I keep from singing?  
In Prison cell and dungeon vile our thoughts  
To them are winging.  
When friends by shame are undefiled.  
How Can I keep from singing?

4. I Lift my eyes' the cloud grows thin;  
I see the blue above it.  
And day by day this path - way smoothes,  
Since first I learned to love it.  
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am Christ's  
How can I keep from singing?

Pastoral Blessing for the Journey

Choral Benediction

Amen

Lloyd Larson

Postlude

Prelude in D minor (Op 16, no. 3)

Clara Schumann,  
Edited Barbara Harbach

## Grace goes LIVE!

Please know that today's service is being live-streamed for those who can not worship with us in person.

**If you prefer NOT to be in the live stream video, please sit in pews behind the center pillars.**

**NOTE: If today's service contains a processional (check bulletin) and you do not wish to be in the live stream video, please see an AV Team member or an usher.**

The children's moment will be on camera as well. If you would like your child NOT to be on camera, please speak to our AV team or an usher.

(Note: Communion and the offering will NOT be live-streamed for privacy reasons.)



*The yellow rose on the altar is presented by the Altar Guild in memory of deceased war veterans and in honor of those who have served our country, as well as those currently on active duty.*



# Welcome

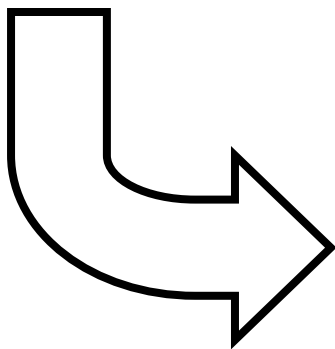
We are delighted that you joined us for worship this morning. Children in grades 1 through 5 are invited to join us for Children's Church - a time of Bible lessons, crafts, snacks and fun activities in room 13. We leave the Sanctuary following the Children's Message. For children 5 years and younger, our Nursery is available during the worship service.



# Grace Announcements

## THIS WEEK AT GRACE UCC:

- Sunday : 03/05:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service  
12:00pm Property and finance meeting
- Wednesday 03/08:** 7:00PM - Book Club (zoom)
- Thursday 03/09:** 7:00PM—Lenten Bible Study (zoom)
- Thursday 03/09:** 5:30-7:30PM Health Department Meeting
- Sunday : 03/12:** 11:00 AM - Worship Service



CASOF

## CATHEDRAL CLASSICS

Transport yourself to Westminster Abbey for the coronation of King George II, and stay for the return of Handel's Messiah to the Hood College Chapel.

Featuring full orchestra, and the combined Choral Arts Society of Frederick and Hood College choirs, treat yourselves to a glorious afternoon of Baroque music, and of course, a surprise or two!



SUNDAY, MARCH 26 @ 3 P.M.  
COFFMAN CHAPEL HOOD COLLEGE  
FREE CONCERT  
CASOF.ORG



# Grace UCC (Virtual) Book Club

Every Wednesday at 7:00pm

Join us if you'd like to socialize, stretch your mind, or just leave the daily grind of life behind for a bit!

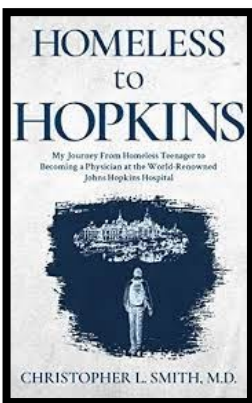
Hi All,

Thanks for a good discussion o our current book, Homeless to Hopkins. We will be finishing the book for next Wednesday's discussion. The following Wednesday, March 15, we will be starting our discussion on our next book, **SOOLEY**, by **John Grisham**.

Thanks,

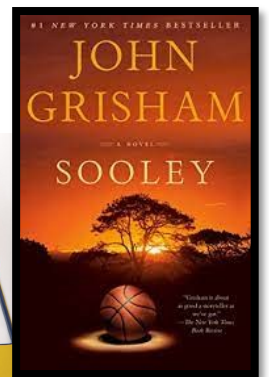
Missy

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654486377?pwd=T1VGSWh2NFVhRHhVVFk1cm1BUUppZz099>  
(passcode is 726495 if needed)



Starting March 1st

And after!



## WE HAVE A DATE

Sunday, March 12th, 2023 after church service.



OFFICAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Snow Riders (tubing in Harpers Ferry) has been canceled. Ms. Kelly, Pastor Gerry and the moms of our youth group have been exchanging emails and narrowing down alternative plans. The kids are very excited and cant wait to go have fun together outside of church.

If you need a ride for your child, please email the office so alternate transportation plans can be made.

# GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TURNS 125!



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.

# Worship Schedule – Lent 2023

## **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 Drama of 'Quenched-Thirst' shared by Anna Kovacsics and Donald Toms

*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?"*

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89654486377?pwd=T1VGSWh2NFVhRHhVVFk1cm1BUUppZz099>  
(passcode is 726495 if needed)



*Don't forget to order  
your Easter Lilies!*


Forms are on the Bulletin Table  
in the Narthex



# Before You Go...

CHECK OUT THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX  
FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Grace United Church of Christ



**LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES**  
February 22, 2023 – April 9, 2023

### Let's Be WISE Survey

1. What are feelings and states that are so distressing that you wish you had community support and help for ways to cope? Please rank your choices by putting a Number 1 by your highest priority, a 2 by your next priority, and so forth.

___ General Anxiety	___ Loneliness
___ Grief	___ Suicidal Thoughts
___ Depression	___ Fear
___ Stress/Overwhelmed	___ Isolation
___ Insecurity, Low Self-Esteem	___ Compassion Fatigue
___ Anger, Impulse Control	___ Social Anxiety
___ Guilt and Shame	
Other: _____	
Other: _____	

2. Following on the feelings you identified in Question 1, what topics would you like us to address? Please rank your choices. Put a Number 1 by your highest priority, a 2 by your next, and so forth.

\_\_\_ Parent Support. If so, for what age range? Circle one: 0-8, 9-12, 13-18.

\_\_\_ Parents and their Adult Children

\_\_\_ Teens in Crisis

\_\_\_ Occupational Struggles

\_\_\_ Chronic Pain and/or Illness

### Church Activities Survey

In this post-Covid era, we face the challenge of bringing our congregation back together through shared activities. Help to fill up our church calendar with activities you would enjoy. Please fill out the survey below and liberally add comments as well. THANK YOU!!

Activity	Date/Time	Location	Yes	No	Comments
Dance lessons	TBD	Grace Church			
Yoga Night	TBD	Grace Church			
Worship Night (at TBD)	TBD	Grace Church			
Travels to Charlestown, WV	TBD	Charlestown, WV			
Travels to Edinburg, VA	TBD	Edinburg, VA			
Eden Movie	Thursday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 7:30pm	Weinberg (downtown Frederick)			
Eden Movie	Sunday, May 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2pm	Spire (downtown Frederick)			
Eden Production	TBD	Grace Church			
Lunch Dinners	TBD	Various Restaurants or Homes of Participants			
Book Club	TBD	Various Restaurants or Homes of Participants			
Walking Tour of Frederick, various types for adults or seniors and kids	TBD	Mark all types that interest you: <input type="checkbox"/> Civil War <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Frederick			

### EASTER LILY ORDER FORM 2023

Order your Easter Lily by Friday, March 10th.

Your lily will beautify the Grace Sanctuary and Chancel on Easter Sunday. Please take your lily home after service.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 email: \_\_\_\_\_

6" Easter Lily — \$15.00

Please fill out the following:

1.	In honor or memory of: _____ Given by: _____
2.	In honor or memory of: _____ Given by: _____
3.	In honor or memory of: _____ Given by: _____

Amount of Lilies ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE: dt pd: \_\_\_\_\_ amt pd: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ check/cash?  ck# \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Grace UCC — Memo: Easter Lily  
 Or via PayPal on our website. Choose "Easter Lilies" from the dropdown menu. Thank you!

Follow us!



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www.grucc.com



*Grace United Church of Christ*



Celebrating 125 years

Follow us!



Gracelivefrederick



GraceUCCFrederick



Have you seen the new banner hanging in the front of the church? Grace United Church of Christ is turning 125 on March 6th!

We would like you to take this opportunity to invite your friends and family to join us for service on Sundays, join our Lenten Bible Study on Thursdays via Zoom, or to join the book club that meets Wednesdays via Zoom.

Our monthly pancake breakfast is an awesome day for you to bring a friend, or during one of our many gathering moments (like Mother's Day and Fathers Day ice cream socials, or our annual picnic service at Rocky Ridge park)

Also be reminded that we have Communion on the first Sunday of each month, plus you can invite a friend to any service!



*You are cordially invited*



TO OUR YOUTH GROUP  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 19th, 2023 Following Sunday Service.

We can't wait to see you there!

Special Guest Stacey Bolovar will be available during pancake breakfast to go over Wills, Advanced directives, amongst other useful information. (no purchase necessary)





# Open and Affirming Statement

As members of Grace United Church of Christ, we seek to respect our individual differences while attempting to understand the barriers which have divided and estranged us, one from the other. We are bound by the love of God through the teachings of Jesus Christ and with the help of the Holy Spirit to love one another as ourselves for we are all God's children. We believe that, as members of this Family of Faith, we are called together in a spirit of Christian love, to honor God through our service to others. In keeping with our Faith and Purpose as stated in the Grace Church Constitution, it is our desire to "strive for righteousness, justice and peace."

Therefore,

We seek to **GUARANTEE** that, as a Family of Faith, we will move past arbitrary labels and see into the true spiritual heart of the individual.

We seek to **RESPECT** all human beings as children of God, just as they are.

We seek to **AFFIRM** the wide and precious diversity of cultures, traditions and practices that have the potential to exist within a congregation of the United Church of Christ.

We seek to **CHERISH** the teachings of Jesus Christ whose table is always open to all.

We seek to **EMBRACE** all who seek to find and learn more about Jesus Christ, regardless of the path they have walked before entering our doors.

We invite all people to share fully in our life together. We welcome into our congregation people of any age, race, ethnic background, ability, economic status, gender identity and/or sexual orientation who acknowledge Christ as our foundation and who seek to embody the mind, heart and Spirit of God and Jesus.

We promise our support to all individuals, couples and families through our continued outreach and advocacy programs.

We pray for God's blessings and grace as we strive for renewal and the realization of our One Human Family.



# Grace United Church of Christ



*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

25 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Frederick, Maryland, 21701

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

[Admin@grucc.com](mailto:Admin@grucc.com) ~ [www.grucc.com](http://www.grucc.com)

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Gerry Hanberry	<u><a href="mailto:Pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com">Pastorgerrygrace@gmail.com</a></u>
Clergy in Residence: Rev. Guy S. Johnson	<u><a href="mailto:Gsj612@aol.com">Gsj612@aol.com</a></u>
Director of Music: Nathan Strite	<u><a href="mailto:Music@grucc.com">Music@grucc.com</a></u>
Bell Section Leaders: Anna Kovacsics, James Taylor, & Donald Toms	
Children & Youth Ministry: Kelly Pineda	<u><a href="mailto:Admin@grucc.com">Admin@grucc.com</a></u>
Nursery Attendant: Joan Princler	<u><a href="mailto:Joan.dancer@comcast.net">Joan.dancer@comcast.net</a></u>
Caretaker: Mat Lutman	<u><a href="mailto:Trainhouse13@gmail.com">Trainhouse13@gmail.com</a></u>
Church Admin: Kelly Pineda	<u><a href="mailto:Admin@grucc.com">Admin@grucc.com</a></u>

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

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Liturgist: Jerry Princler

Children's Message: Trish Abell

Children's Church: Kelly Pineda, Joan Princler

Altar Guild: Joan Princler

Greater: Liz Tinker

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

