



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2020

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FROM PASTOR CHRIS

The Full Gospel

Having wrapped up the Meet & Greets, Krista and I would like to thank all who came out and shared with us their stories and their hopes for Grace UMC. It was good to hear about the various ways Grace UMC has developed disciples in the Word and served the community.

I was reminded in one of my morning devotions of the two halves of the gospel. The first half is summarized by the all too familiar verse of John 3:16, which states *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* This is most definitely Good News that needs to be shared! During one of the Meet & Greets, several folks shared how they felt God had drawn them to the church, and once they arrived, it was the love of the people and the presence of the Spirit that captured them for good. Many of you shared how important the Sunday School classes have been as they provided biblical understanding, but also helped form fellowship. Experiencing the love of God and believing in His Son Jesus through and within the church is a great blessing. Declaring allegiance to God and becoming part of His family through baptism is the great work of grace and for that we celebrate.

But there is also the second half of the gospel to consider. As the writer of my morning devotion shared, Serendipitously, it can be found in 1 John 3:16. *“This is how we know what love is. Jesus Christ laid down his life for us; therefore, we must lay down our lives for one another.”* This is the ongoing work of grace in our lives after we first believe. This is allowing the Lord to shape us and mold us and we die to ourselves and live to serve others. In our meetings, it was good to hear of the various ways Grace has served and continues to serve the community. I look forward to discovering where God is leading us next – how we can share the complete gospel with Cambridge and beyond. Since the Gospel is not just securing eternal life after death, but it is freedom from sin and living as children of God now – I know when we fully live into that truth, Grace will experience even greater days ahead.

Pastor Chris



BRENDA'S CORNER

Brenda Gremillion, Music Director

Autumn will be here before you know it! A new year with new challenges and opportunities! It is amazing to look back and reflect on the last six months and see where we are today. A virus that has killed so many people, economic problems and quarantine restrictions that have isolated so many. But, through all of this, one thing has remained the same! That is God's eternal power and love for each of us. As the words in the hymn read, "And He walks with us and He talks with us.." The Lord is with us always and His strength will get us through this horrific time.

For me, music has been such a source of joy and hope over these last 6 months. I am hopeful that each of you will feel connected to our Lord through the music we sing and the solos and duets our gifted choir members share with us.

I look forward to our choir coming back and sharing their gifts with our congregation. I am planning new anthems for their return, as well as choosing our Cantata for Christmas. Yes, my faith is strong and we will all be back, even stronger than before, with deeper faith and thankful voices. Stay well, stay strong and stay close to the Lord. I look forward to a challenging, powerful year ahead!

GRACE FOR ALZHEIMER'S

Joanne Rue

Alzheimers' Disease is the most common form of dementia. It causes problems with memory, thinking, and behavior. During these past months of shut-downs and slow-downs, we know that diseases like



Alzheimers' have continued to thrive. More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimers'. One in three seniors dies with Alzheimers' or another dementia.

We can continue to help increase research, support caregivers, and raise awareness. The easiest ways are through donations (**made out to the Alzheimers' Assoc.**) and/or joining our team and helping us raise money. This year, those who are able, will be walking safely around our own neighbors on the morning of October 31st. For more information about Alzheimers' Disease or to join our team, please contact Joanne Rue at 443-521-9949 or ruej54@comcast.net Thank you for your generous support!

WINGS (WOMEN IN GRACE SERVING)

Diane Twilley, President

Women of WinGs participated in a fund raiser selling Rada products. We did very well and appreciate all those that bought something. They have wonderful products and are very easy to work with. We hope to do this again.

We also sold polo shirts and sweat shirts with **Amazing Grace** on them. They look really good and I hope everyone was happy with their purchase and the shirts fit well. Let me know if you missed that order and would like one.

WinGS contracted Derek Edge to clean up all the flower beds and do the mulching in the spring. We were very happy with his work. He did a great job!

WinGS hope to start meeting again as soon as restrictions are lifted and we are given the OK. We meet the fourth Thursday of the month from September through May at 5:30 p.m.

Please stay safe, wear your mask!!!!!!!



Women of Grace are united in Christian Fellowship and vow to love God and encourage one another to use our God given gifts and talents in service to Grace United Methodist Church and our community."



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Beverly Mullikin, Chairperson

As we look forward to the fall season, I hope, as members of Grace Church, we can gather, hug and pray together as we once could. It has been a blessing to rejoin with church services in person and welcome Pastor Chris.

Two new members to the Membership Committee are Lynn Tanman and Cheryl Willey. I appreciate their willingness to come on board to serve and support the members and attendees of Grace. We welcome all who would like to become a part of our committee.

Current committee members are Martha Cannon, Nellie Foxwell, Vicki Hayden, Chris Kidd, Joanne Rue, Gail Skinner, Clara Stephens, Bev Travers, Sylvia Trice, and Diane Twilley. These women can give support to church members by calling, running errands, bringing meals or praying with you as you request. Just call to let us know what you need and I will put you in contact with your volunteer member. Call Bev Mullikin at 410-228-3650 or the church office at 410-228-4353.

Let's pray for better days as we care for each other.

TRUSTEES COMMITTEE

Skip Redmer, Chairperson

We hope and pray that our Grace church members have remained safe and well during this trying time. God is faithful, continue to hold fast and remain faithful to Him. He NEVER leaves us or forsakes us.

Even though the virus pandemic has stopped or at least slowed many things down, maintenance issues and keeping items up to date do not take a break.

At our last Charge Conference the trustees were given permission to place the parsonage on the housing market. This was done at the beginning of the year and after several showings the parsonage at 308 Oakley Street was sold. Final settlement took place the end of March. Our many thanks to Val Brown, Powell Realtors for handling and working with us through this process.

Our boiler inspection took place the end of January. A small steam leak was identified as well as a slight water leak in one of the pipes associated with the boiler. Mike Fitzgerald (FitzMechanical) was called and tightened the pipe leak to the boiler. With regard to the steam leak, Bill Twilley contacted several boiler companies and Bill, Gene Skinner and myself met with representatives from each of these companies. Tate Engineering is the contractor that was chosen to rebuild the boiler because they were willing to make the repairs on site. The other contractors wanted to replace the equipment. Rebuilding was also a tremendous savings for the church. They began work on July 22 and about a week later the work was complete.

The church office copier lease has been renewed at a reduced rate and a new copier has been installed and working well.

A fire extinguisher inspection was completed for the church as well as 503 Race Street. No issues were found and we are now up to date.

The office at 503 Race Street required some minor maintenance for stained ceiling tiles which has been remedied.

The Sanctuary AC and the kitchen refrigerator both had some minor maintenance issues. Webster Refrigeration was called in and both issues were taken care of quickly and easily.

A neighbor of Gene Skinner's, Dan Cada, will begin working on the front sanctuary doors soon. The work will be to re-paint and weatherstrip all four doors. Dan will be removing each door, one at a time, and taking them to his shop. A

temporary door will be put in place to maintain safety and security. During the pandemic these two entrances have remained locked and will continue to stay that way until the CDC and conference guidelines are relaxed.

The installation of the new air conditioning system for the choir loft has also been completed.

On a side note, the church is missing their leaf blower and charger. If you, or someone you know, borrowed it and failed to return it, we would appreciate getting it back, so we don't have to buy another one. We have no idea when it went missing and understand completely if you forgot to return it.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bill Brooks, Chairperson

Grace Church continues to have a very giving and generous congregation. Contributions for 2020 are almost identical with 2019 despite the challenges of 2020. And the operating account netted \$2,300 through July. The building fund netted \$3,200 and the net from the rental property was \$16,000 through July. Considering the size and age of our facilities, it is always comforting to have the building fund available for emergencies or planned improvements.

The parsonage has been sold and the proceeds are in the bank. At this time, the money is earmarked for a new parsonage, should the need arise. However, our new shared pastor and his family are living in St. Paul's Parsonage and we are paying St Paul's \$500 per month for our share of those housing expenses. The shared payroll expenses will net a savings going forward.

The church has an automated giving program that can be used rather than writing checks. Check in with the church office for instructions setting up this service.

We are thankful for all those who make our job on the finance committee easy with their generous support.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about church finances or want more details of our accounts or statements.

GRACE CHURCH NEWS

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

John R. (Ricky) Cannon
2/14/20

Vernon Sellers
3/2/20

Peggy Spedden
4/1/20

Barbara Tortello
6/8/20

THERE IS A CHANGE IN OUR CHURCH

Christine Kidd and Vernon Hurley, Co-Chairpersons
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

One day the sun is out; the next day it's raining. You move to a new place. Your favorite teacher retires. You learn that you are being laid off. The store where you always get your groceries rearranges everything. You get a new car. A loved one dies. You learn that your church is getting a new pastor. What is the common denominator? CHANGE! Some changes are minor – no big deal. Others are life changing. But no doubt about it, we will all experience and must adapt to changes in our lives.

As members of a United Methodist Church we are used to pastoral changes. This past spring, in the midst of a pandemic, Grace learned that we were getting a new pastor. It came as a bit of a surprise as Pastor Dan had only been with us for two years. It seemed that it was too soon to be changing pastors. Of course, almost all the time, we come to love and respect whoever is in our pulpit and hate to see that person leave. But God has a plan and He is in control. Change happens and we must adapt!

On July 5th, we welcomed Pastor Christopher Pettit and his family to Grace Church. Pastor Chris is an Eastern Shore man, born and raised in Snow Hill. His wife is Krista and they have two children, Rachel, senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland, and John, just graduated from high school and heading off to the United States Marine Corp boot camp. We are happy to have them with us!

Pastor Chris has "jumped in with both feet." Right away he began meeting with various groups so that he could learn the operation of Grace. He asked us to arrange a series of "meet and greet" sessions so that he could meet and get to know as many members as quickly as possible. His worship services are well thought out and meaningful. He has a wonderful sense of humor. We hope Pastor Chris and his family will be with us for a long time.

On June 5th an introductory letter was sent to our members from Pastor Chris. I'd like to quote part of what he wrote in that letter.

"I desire to lead us in fulfilling the mission that Christ gave us, "...Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20). We make disciples when we follow God's instruction for our lives, which is to love the Lord "with all our heart, soul and mind" and "love our neighbors as ourselves" (Matt. 22: 37-39). That is relational living and it is hard work – but it is the work the good Lord has entrusted us to do and He is with us every step of the way."

"...there is a particular word from the Lord found over and over again in the Bible. "Do not fear." These are interesting times, to say the least, but I am confident that we have great opportunities before us to be the hands and feet of Christ in Cambridge. I believe God is shaking things up a bit, grabbing our attention, calling us to repent and obediently follow Him. He loves us and wants us to share that love with others. My wife and I can't wait to work alongside you to share the Good News!"

Pastor Chris said it best...**DO NOT FEAR!** Change can be very good – a chance to clean out the cobwebs and do something different – new and maybe better than what has been done before. Welcome to Grace UMC, Pastor Chris, Krista, Rachel, and John! We are happy to have you here at Grace and we too look forward to the wonderful things we will do together in Cambridge and wherever we are led.



Prayer Walk & 40 Day Journey of Transformation

Starting this September, Grace and St. Paul's UMC will embark on a journey of transformation as we seek to draw near to our Lord and to pray for discernment and new opportunities to reach our neighbors with the love of Christ.

We will start off with a 'Sanctuary to Sanctuary Prayer Walk' on Sunday, September 13th. The prayer walk will begin in the Grace UMC's sanctuary at **12:15 p.m.** where we will gather and pray. Around **12:30 p.m.**, *those who are able* will depart Grace and begin the Prayer Walk to St. Paul's Sanctuary. As they walk, they will pray for our neighbors and the spiritual awakening of Cambridge. Around **12:45 p.m.**, all are invited to gather at St. Paul's Sanctuary where we will spend time in praying as a body. All are invited to take part in this time of prayer in person or from home.

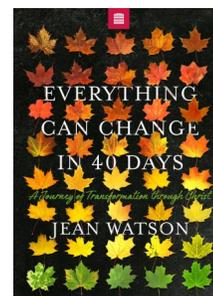
On **Monday, September 14th**, all who are interested will participate in a daily reading and reflection using the book "*Everything Can Change in Forty Days*" by Jean Watson. You do not have to be a member of either church to participate.

On **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** and **Thursday at 6:00 p.m.** (choose one), participants will be invited to meet virtually (via a ZOOM call) to discuss the week's readings and where they see God at work. *If small groups are interested in meeting weekly to discuss in person, please practice social distancing and wear a mask.*

On **Sunday, October 25th**, Jean Watson will speak and perform at St. Paul's and Grace as we celebrate in worship the God who transforms us into the likeness of Christ.

Jean's bio:

Jean Watson is an internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter, violinist, author, and speaker. During a time of great brokenness in her life, her landlord happened to hear her sing and donated the money to record her first CD. Since that time, Jean has had the privilege of sharing her music and story around the world, from prisons to homeless shelters to churches and concert halls. She has a particular heart for Ireland, where she hosts a daily inspirational radio broadcast on UCB Ireland.



REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/40-day-journey-of-transformation-tickets-117759272153>

OR LOOK FOR SIGN UP SHEETS IN THE CHURCH

*BOOKS WILL BE PROVIDED
(\$10 Donation Accepted)*

September 13th at 12:15pm

Sanctuary to Sanctuary Prayer Walk (starting at Grace)

September 14th

Begin Reading "Everything Can Change in 40 Days"

October 25th

Wrap Up Celebration with author/musician Jean Watson!



GRACE CHURCH
MISSIONS
Diane Twilley, Chairperson

We delivered our last dinner for the Cold Weather Shelter on March 22nd. Things had changed up a bit during the month of March. We were not allowed to serve because of the Covid 19 regulations. We prepared the meal and delivered it to be served by the Salvation Army. We look forward to helping again next winter. A big thanks to those of you that helped us out. We would like to welcome a new cook, Teri Custis, to the group of helpers.

Soup N Sweater Day was a huge success! Pleasant Day came by the bus loads. We look forward to sharing the day with them every year. Melissa kept things very lively. We will miss her next year, but wish her luck with the new job. Please keep us in mind when you are cleaning closets this fall. We need warm clothes, coats, sweaters, hats and gloves. Hopefully we will be able to hold this event in January 2021. If not we will do something a little different, maybe outside giveaway.

We continued with backpacks thru the end of the school year. Some were picked up and some were delivered by the acting Secretary of Warwick, Betsy Jones. A big shout out to her for all her help! I have a call into Warwick now to see what we can do this year with the kids starting out doing virtual classrooms.

We continue to help answer the needs of the people that are calling into the office for assistance. These calls have slowed down because of the new Covid-19 policies of NO evictions and NO cut of utilities. I am very concerned about what will happen when this is reversed. I am afraid a lot of people will not be able to catch up and be in desperate need.

We thank everyone for their continued support and ask that you keep us in your prayers. Please continue to donate on Mission Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. May God bless each of you!



 <h1 style="text-align: center;">September 2020</h1> 						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 a.m.—Baraca Class 11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship on Radio Missions Sunday Holy Communion 	7 LABOR DAY 	8	9	10	11	12
13 Holy Communion 12:15 p.m. Sanctuary to Sanctuary Prayer Walk 	14 BEGIN READING DAILY DEVOTIONAL <i>"Everything Can Change in 40 Days"</i>	15	16 10:00 a.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	17 6:00 p.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	18	19
20 Worship on Radio Holy Communion 	21	22	23 10:00 a.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	24 6:00 p.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	25	26
27	28	29				



October 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 a.m.—Baraca Class 11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship					1	2	3
4 Worship on Radio Missions Sunday Holy Communion 	5	6	7 10:00 a.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	8 6:00 p.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	9	10	
11 Holy Communion 	12	13 Church Council One Board Meeting 6:30 p.m. Dr. Hines Room	14 10:00 a.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	25 6:00 p.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	16	17	
18 Worship on Radio Holy Communion 	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	22 6:00 p.m. "Everything Can Change in 40 Days" ZOOM mtg.	23	24	
25 Holy Communion Jean Watson Speaks and Performs 11:00 Service 	26	27	28	29	30	31 	

CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Bonnie McCollister, Director

Hello everyone. I don't have much to report since I haven't been able to practice with the children and they haven't been able to sing for you.

I can tell you that they miss seeing you and singing for you. And they can't wait till they can sing for you again. Until then stay well and God Bless.

A PRAYER FOR EVERY PARENT AND CHILD OF GOD

By Butch Hachemeister

As parents holding their child for the first time . . . the baby is so small, their eyes are not open. The child cannot understand what you say, but you whisper something to them anyway. Your voice trembles as you make a promise, you will do the best you can for them. You will not do everything right, but you will do your best. This is a holy experience. As parents, in loving fear, you are participating in God's blessing. God has placed people in our lives, a wife or children, friends or co-workers, God wants you to bless these people, to protect them and support them, in word and in deed everyday. He chooses to do this through you. Just thinking about it makes you tremble. Can we really love one another as God has loved us? We are not perfect and too often we have strayed from God's ways. Like parents, sometimes it takes all of our strength, just whisper a promise, but God is the one working here. He chose this design and he knows what he is doing. God sent his Son to forgive us our sins and imperfections, and through the Holy Spirit he uses us to bless the lives of others. Just as parents speak to their children, so God speaks to us everyday. We are reminded that we are a blessing when we show our love to others as God loves us. This is a prayer for every parent and child of God. Amen.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LOCAL MISSIONARY?



GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL

Gideons International is looking to start a local chapter in Cambridge and is seeking Christians with a passion for getting God's Word in people's hands. If you want more information, contact David Mills at 410-330-2724.

November 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Holy Communion Worship on Radio Missions Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8 Holy Communion	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15 Worship on Radio Holy Communion	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22 Holy Communion	23	24	25	26 happy thanks giving	27	28	
29 Holy Communion	30	SUNDAY SERVICES 10:00 a.m.—Baraca Class 11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship					

