LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday, March 4  Saleem Gauhar, Executive Director of Manna House
Sunday, March 11 Rev. Amy McCullough
Sunday, March 18 Rev Amy McCullough

PALM-PASSION SUNDAY - March 25  8:30 and 10:00 a.m.  Rev. Amy McCullough
  Worship includes a palm procession, music by the Youth and Sunday School Choirs, and the
Easter Egg Hunt following [see form inside]

HOLY THURSDAY - March 29  7:00 p.m.
  Our Holy Thursday service will include a series of prayer stations that invite the congregation to enter
into Jesus’s last night with his disciples. Redesigned last year, the service is accessible for all ages. We begin
in Fellowship Hall and move to foot washing, art work, private prayer, and a celebration of Holy Communion.
The service concludes in the sanctuary with the solemn stripping of the altar.

GOOD FRIDAY - March 30  3:00 p.m.
  The Chancel Choir will present the moving and reflective Choral Meditation A Service of Darkness by
Dale Wood. [see article inside]
  7:00 p.m.
  A contemplative service around the cross. Come enter Jesus’s passion told
through word, song, silence and candlelight.

HOLY SATURDAY - March 31  5:00 p.m.
  “Run to the Tomb” and Prayers for Easter Eve. A growing tradition
at Grace, this is a short walk or run through the neighborhood followed by
Prayers for Easter Eve in the courtyard. All ages and abilities are welcome

EASTER - April 1  7:00 a.m.  Easter Sunrise Service in the courtyard
  10:00 a.m.  Festival Service with Holy Communion
  Music by the Chancel Choir accompanied by
  organ, brass quintet and timpani
  Rev. Amy McCullough preaching, both services
Two groups forming to read

*The Blood of Emmett Till*

by Timothy B. Tyson

This Lent, you are invited to join a study group as we read together *The Blood of Emmett Till* by Timothy B. Tyson. Groups will meet on Tuesday or Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The Tuesday group begins February 27 and runs through March 20. The Sunday group will begin March 4 and run through March 25th.

Please indicate your interest by completing the Doodle poll at [https://doodlepoll/ag2cdzbwbvwbw4364h](https://doodlepoll/ag2cdzbwbvwbw4364h). You can also contact Rev. McCullough directly at amy@graceunitedmethodist.org.

**FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**Unfinished business**

Hopefully you have had an opportunity to participate in an activity in the remodeled Fellowship Hall, or at least have gone up and taken a look at the lovely new space. There is still a little more work to be accomplished, particularly with the audio-visual equipment aid equipment, as well as some additional finishing in the foyer near the elevator immediately outside and main entrance to the hall. All of this is expected to be completed shortly.

A special note of thanks to all who have so generously provided financial support to complete the project. You may recall that the original estimate for the renovation project was $400,000, with the congregation being asked to contribute $200,000 over a three-year period and the Trustees matching that amount. The final cost of the renovation now totals $456,000 and the Trustees have agreed to cover the additional charges. While many pledged over the three-year period ending in 2018, the congregational portion is still short $35,000 of the amount asked. The Trustees would like to encourage members to continue to make contributions toward the Capital Fund designated for Fellowship Hall so that we may achieve the congregational goal.

We welcome your gifts and give thanks to all of the Grace United Methodist family for your generous support of this project. We as a church all benefit from the hall’s updates and its welcoming beauty.

**GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 30**

3:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir will present the moving and reflective choral meditation “A Service of Darkness” by Dale Wood. This work is based upon the seven last words of Christ and is an adaptation of the ancient Tenebrae service.

The word *Tenebrae* comes from the Latin meaning darkness. Tenebrae is an ancient Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus’s burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus’s death and of hopelessness in the world without God.

The service concludes in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. Worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ’s death and await the coming Resurrection.

The service will include prayers and a congregational hymn. Please join us as we reflect on Christ’s crucifixion on our journey toward Easter.
Reconciling Committee announces dates to save
The Reconciling Committee would like to call two future dates to your attention.
May 6 will be Reconciling Sunday at Grace Church. Many of you will remember The Rev. Roberta Scoville, our former associate pastor, who will return and be our guest preacher.
Baltimore Pride will be celebrated on June 16 and 17. Grace members are invited to join with other members of the Reconciling and Faith Communities of Baltimore for the annual Pride Parade taking place the afternoon of Saturday, June 16.
Watch for more details on both of these events as the dates get closer.

From Wesley to Weiss
Grace member Tom Moore shared a letter from William Ault, a missionary to Ceylon in 1814, that he came to own through a circuitous connection of his late wife, Flora Jane Weiss Moore, to a relative of Rev. Ault and back to John Wesley and the influence of missionaries bringing Methodism to that part of the world. A booklet containing the letter, an article offering historical context, and a brief genealogical connection linking Flora Jane to this past, has been prepared and copies are available on literature tables at the entrances of the church.
Should you wish to connect with Tom Moore, his email is tmoore3809@gmail.com.

Secret Life of Muslims
Documentary film screening and panel discussion
Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m.
Watch several short films that use humor and empathy to reveal the truth about American Muslims: fascinating careers, unexpected talents and inspiring accomplishments. ICJS Scholars will moderate a discussion with the series’ producer.
ICJS
Institute for Islamic-Christian Jewish Studies
956 Dulaney Valley Road, 21204
Tickets: $10
Information: 410-494-7161

Grace Book Club
The selection for reading and discussion for March 12 has been changed and is now Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance.
The book group meets at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor on second Mondays and welcomes those who enjoy reading.

Dr. Robert E. Yim, above, author of Sleeping with Mae West, attended the February meeting of the Book Club and delighted the group with readings from this and a future book in progress. Marcia Gleckler and Dr. Yim met at a writer’s group they both attend.
The frame chapel to the left was the first home of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and Sunday School built on a lot at Lafayette Ave. and Carrollton Ave. in 1868, and opened and dedicated in 1869. It was replaced by a stone chapel in 1872. On the right, “the imposing stone structure with its Gothic grandeur, its stately proportions, its warmth of interior, its magnificent sanctuary and its churchly lines” was opened for service in 1876. Grace Methodist Church, now on Lanvale and Carrollton, was “one of the handsomest ecclesiastical edifices in the City” [Scharf’s History of Baltimore City and County]

Watch for other bits of our history!

150 Years of Grace Reflections
by Kitty Allen

Remarks during worship - January 28, 2018
I’m holding a copy of A History of Grace Methodist Church - 1868-1957 written by George W. Dexter. Our family always called him “Cousin George” and with a little research, I verified that a niece of my grandfather, W. C. Scott, a former head of the Official Board in the early days of Grace, was married to George Washington Dexter. We really are cousins of some sort, so who better than me to attempt to write the next volume of “A History of Grace United Methodist Church” but from 1951 to 2017.

Our anniversary committee has been meeting and planning a variety of services, concerts, speakers and events to mark our 150th anniversary. Today’s guest preacher (Dr. Wm. Lawrence below) was our choice to help us kick off this special year!

As a part of our celebration, over the past two months I have researched worship bulletins and Grace Notes newsletters from 1951, the year Grace moved to this location, through 2017 – 66 years of announcements and news articles. I have been editing Grace Notes since the late 1970's, so much of what I reviewed I had actually written! My binder is now jam-packed with notes and information sorted by clergy, worship, Christian education, music, outreach, programs, groups, Trustees, budget, and other areas, and I am beginning to create a draft, chapter by chapter. Please pray for me!

An editorial I penned in 1995 began with a quote I had found: “It’s not so much where we are, but in what direction we are going.” When writing a history of this church, its past is a major part of where we are. If you do the New Math, take 1 church plus 1 church plus 1 church, it equals 1 church. And then after the move to Charles and Northern Parkway, you take this church and add 1 more church, we still get the same total: 1 church, a very special and active church. This is where we are, the blended history of four churches representing all historic branches of Methodism.

Grace is my church, but moreover, it is YOUR church. We continue to honor our responsibilities as a church leader, especially in Baltimore City, and beyond. But our story is not finished. “It’s not so much where we are, but in what direction we are going.” The opportunities are before us, the challenges are ahead of us, and with God leading us, future chapters of Grace’s history will continue to unfold.
Heartiest birthday greetings to the following of our Church family celebrating in March:

2 Nancy Brannan
3 Liam Harris, Susan Hodges
4 Elizabeth Ottinger
5 Douglas Schmidt
6 Phoebe Schillinger
7 Abbi Wicklein-Bayne
8 Kimberly Barnes
9 Reinhard Nottrodt
10 Norma Faby
12 Stephen Achuff, Teri Bickham, Joanie Stetz
14 Peggy Ruppersberger, Shannon Schmidt
15 John Tydings
16 Thom Rinker
17 Jim Hackley, Meghan Mullan, W. A. Niermann, Jr., Rachel Rhoad, Mason Wilhide
20 Lynn Reichhelm, M. Edward Skinner, III
21 Frances Northington
22 Linda Cameron, Steven R. James
23 Rebecca Madsen
25 Jeremy Hickey, McCabe Millon
26 Jenna Marie Roth
27 Abigail Benfer, Christopher Covington, Walter Stuart, Jeffrey S. Underland
28 Larry Brown, Bruce Eicher, Marcia Gleckler, Thomas Hicks, Kathie Metz
29 Cory Schreier Mian, Linda Siglin
30 Jackie Gordon, Alexis Melin
31 Peggy Rogers, Karen Schaefer

Special Gifts
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts:
In memory of
Gwen Wayson by
Kitty Allen

Within the Family at Grace

BAPTISMS
Curtis, Cecelia and James Adams
February 4, 2018

Abbey Sinfield
February 11, 2018

The death of a loved one leaves an unfillable void. The journey through grief is different for every person, but can include memories, tears, laughter, gratitude and regret. For some, finding a space in which to share with others on their own journey through grief can be a consolation.

A Grief Support Group is forming this March. It is open to anyone interested, whether the loss is recent or not so recent. The group will meet on Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. beginning March 6. It will be led by Julie Cain, MSW, a psychotherapist who works with Inspirit Counseling Services.

The cost for each participant is $10 per meeting, for a total cost of $40. Scholarships are available.

To sign up for this group, please contact Rev. McCullough at amy@graceunitedmethodist.org or through the church office.

Columbarium update

During the past year several individuals have made inquiry regarding the purchase of a niche in the Memorial Columbarium. However, they found the one-time purchase cost difficult to work into their budgets. One couple said they would like to purchase a niche if it could be paid for over a period of time. At the last Trustees meeting, the decision was made to permit a purchase with extended payments. Arrangements may be made at the time of inquiry.

The Memorial Columbarium, Garden and Labyrinth is a beautiful and peaceful area within the church compound. How blessed we are to have such a space where one can come when they wish to seek refuge and a place for meditation. When you look up at the sky from the columbarium, you see the gleaming spire topped by the cross and are reminded that we are people of God.

For more information about the columbarium, please contact George Kahl in the church office.
Easter EGGstravaganza

Palm Sunday, March 25 at 11:15 a.m

An Egg Hunt will be held for children and toddlers through Grade 3

If you’d like to bring your own basket, please do so!

Parents, please plan to hunt for eggs with your children.

A Scavenger Hunt will be held for older children, Grade 4 and higher.

We hope your family will join us for this wonderful event to celebrate the Easter season. We are in need of adult volunteers for the morning. Please indicate if you can assist or contact Diana Gause at 702.355.3159 (leave a message).

Yes! My child(ren) would like to participate in the Easter Eggstravaganza.

____ My child is between the ages of 0 and 4
____ My child is between the ages of 5 years and 3rd grade
____ My child is in 4th grade or above.

Child(ren) names: ______________________________________________________________

I can volunteer that day. Name ________________________
Phone or email ____________________________________________

Please RSVP by Wednesday, March 21 so that we will have enough eggs and activities for all.

Easter Lilies and Memorials

What more appropriate time than Easter to remember those who are special to us. You can do this by placing a lily in the Chancel for Easter Sunday services or by contributing to the special music for that morning.

Please return the order form to the church office with your check no later than Friday, March 23. Thank you.

EASTER LILIES

I/We wish to order ___ lily(ies) at $12.00 each (total $_______)

in honor of ________________________________________________________________

in memory of _____________________________________________________________

EASTER MUSIC

I/We wish to make a gift of $_______ to Easter Music

in honor of ________________________________________________________________

in memory of _____________________________________________________________

NAME: _______________________________ Envelope No: _______
(Please print name as you wish it to appear in bulletin)
Rolling River Rampage invites children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories will help kids know that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of amazing grace!

**June 24-30, 2018 -- 9:00-12:00 pm**

*Children ages 3 years and older*

Extended Day 12:00-4:00 available for an additional cost

Wildlife Adventures will return as part of the VBS program! Each day kids will have the opportunity to be up close and personal with a different animal - God’s amazing creatures!

+ + +

**Vacation Theatre School**

**August 20-25**

*Children ages 5 years and older*

Watch for coming details as to registration