PREACHING AND WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2 (Last Sunday of a single service at 10:00 a.m.)
Pastor Dane Wood

SEPTEMBER 9
Rev. Amy McCullough
Blessing of Backpacks (10:00 a.m.)
Recognition of Sunday School Teachers and Shepherds

SEPTEMBER 16
Homecoming Sunday
Rev. Amy McCullough

SEPTEMBER 23
Pastor Dane Wood

SEPTEMBER 30
Rev. Amy McCullough

HOMECOMING SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 16 at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations we invite all past and present members, as well as former pastors and friends to come home for a special morning of worship, recognition and remembrance. Following worship we will host the annual Fall Picnic on the front church lawn. To complete the day’s celebration, the book A History of Grace United Methodist Church 1951-2018 authored by our own Kitty Allen will be released.

For the picnic, please bring a side dish or dessert to share! You may sign up with your expected dish in advance on the bulletin board outside the church office or by contacting the Grace Family Fellowship Chair, Diana Gause, at 702-355-3159 or at dgfixit@yahoo.com.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD TO THOSE WITH A CONNECTION TO GRACE OVER THE YEARS!

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND - OCTOBER 6 and 7

The capstone weekend of our year-long commemoration begins with a celebration dinner on Saturday evening, October 6, in Fellowship Hall. This formal catered dinner will feature speeches highlighting various aspects of Grace’s history as well as musical entertainment. The festivities will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are to be be purchased in advance for $50. On Sunday, October 7, Grace will worship together in a single service at 10:00 a.m. The Reverend Dr. James Howell, Senior Pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC will be the guest preacher. A special commissioned anthem, with text by Marcia Gleckler, for choir, organ and brass will be premiered. A reception will follow, with activities for all ages.
Thursday Morning Women’s Bible Study

A new Bible Study group is forming this fall, designed especially for women interested in delving more deeply into scripture and reflecting upon their faith. This group will meet on Thursday mornings, beginning at 9:30 a.m. during the month of September. The first meeting date is Thursday, September 6.

Our topic is “knowing God,” recognizing that people of faith throughout the centuries have wrestled with questions about God. These questions range from “What is God’s true nature? Can we trust God to be loving, fair or just? to How can we know the unknowable God?” Each participant is provided with a study guide, weekly reading and reflection questions.

If you are interested in joining the group, please speak with Rev. Amy McCullough or call the church office.

Adult Class Study

For thousands of years, parables have been great teaching tools. Parables convey moral and spiritual concepts in such a way that they become more understandable to us. Moreover, parables are designed to raise questions. Like a brilliantly cut diamond, there are often many facets of meaning within a parable that can be discussed and explored.

For three months beginning September 8th, the Adult Class will be reading and discussing parables of many faiths. We meet one half hour following the 10:00 a.m. service in the Heritage Room, Room 116. All are welcome to join us. If you have questions, please see Jack Danz.

Sunday School Breakfast

Please join us for the first ever "Kick Off Sunday School Breakfast" on September 9th. We will be having a potluck breakfast in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a breakfast item for all to share. Grace will provide drinks and setups. We will eat as a Grace family from 9:00-9:30 and then have a short meeting and time for Sunday School Registrations before heading to the 10:00 a.m. service. Sunday School will start on September 16 at 10:00 in Room 26!

FROM THE TROOP ROOM...

Boy Scout Troop 612 is celebrating 65 years of scouting at Grace Church! We are a boy-led troop with a very active outdoor program and many opportunities for advancement. We meet on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. and have monthly camping trips. Come and join us!

For more information about our troop, please contact Jamie Hardin at 410-978-8426.
Congratulations to those of the Grace Church family celebrating birthdays in September:

1. Dr. Emora T. Brannan, Kemp Heath, Steve Mullan, Joyce O’Dwyer
2. Brian Blalock, Cory Farrugia, Patrick Onley
3. Jack Grandsire, Tyler Wellener
4. Kimberly Stansbury
5. Scott Bayne, Virginia Green, John Harris, Cath LaCosta, Bradley Reppert
6. Avery Paul, Ann Kaiser Stearns
7. Gail Roche
8. Devan Muhly, Kacey Mullan, Kathleen Phelps, Nick Stetz
9. Stephen Frank, Jr., Ray Howington, Susan Wallace
10. Kendall Hayes
11. Nathan Ander, Howard Francis, Cyndi Greenberg, Lawrence Griffith, Paul Redline
12. Laura Gamble, Hawon Lee, Sharon McIntire, Ben Starkey, Tyler Wasylak
13. Elizabeth Bissett, Rebecca Guth
14. John Casey
15. Melayn Dorfler
16. Trey Heath III, Jonathan Perry
17. Mari Berzins, Virginia Starkey-Stephen, Gordon Stetz, Ethan Weidner
18. Terry Kneip
19. John G. Danz, Jr.
20. Jennifer Covington, Ilva Doggett, Butch Sharpe
21. Bettie Jean Howard
22. Sean Harris, Irene Moses, Betty Jean Tyler, Josh White
23. Edith Scouten
24. Susan Clark, Michael Madsen, Greg Wasylak
25. Heather Grandsire, Diane B. Topper

Rev. Nancy Webb receives award

At the international meeting of the United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities held the first week of August at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, Rev. Nancy Webb, a past co-chairperson of the organization, was awarded “The Unsung Hero Award” for her years of service and advocacy work.

Rev. Nancy served as an Associate Minister at Grace from 2005-2012.

Our congratulations and appreciation for the contributions to ministry that she made during her years with us.

During August, our steeple was painted
2018-2019 Choir Season begins

If you enjoy music and singing/ringing, please consider being a member of Grace’s Music Ministry by joining one of our many choirs! We are always interested in having new singers and bell ringers to support Grace’s worship and music experience!

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. with rehearsals beginning September 6th. The choir is made up of youth and adults and serves as the principal musical leadership for the 10:00 worship experience. The choir also presents several concerts throughout the year for the Grace community, including the return of our annual Christmas Concert on December 9th as well as the popular Patriotic Concert scheduled for Sunday, June 30th. All are welcome to sing with the Chancel Choir and no audition is necessary. Please contact Chris Schroeder at chris@graceunitedmethodist.org for more information.

The Handbell Choir is open to youth and adults. All are welcome to join; music reading ability is necessary. Please contact Chris Schroeder at chris@graceunitedmethodist.org if you are interested in ringing.

The Youth Choir rehearses on Sundays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon with rehearsals beginning September 16th. The Youth Choir, grades 7-12, is directed by Mr. Robert Cantrell. The choir sings once a month throughout the year and occasionally combines forces with the Chancel Choir in special services and concerts. For for information, please contact Robert at robert_cantrell@hotmail.com.

The Sunday School Choir rehearses at the end of Sunday School from 10:50 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. beginning September 16. All Sunday School children are part of this choir. The choir sings several times in worship throughout the year. This choir is directed by Miss Mairin Srygley. Please contact Mairin at mairinsrygley@gmail.com for more information.

Many thanks to the many volunteer musicians who commit their time and talents to the music ministry here at Grace Church. You are VERY MUCH appreciated!

Welcome!

NEW TENOR SOLOIST
We are pleased to welcome Brendan McCoy as our new Tenor Soloist and section leader! Brendan has a beautiful voice and is very musical with lots of great energy and excitement! We are delighted that he has joined the Music Ministry here at Grace Church. Welcome Brendan!

A Baltimore native, Brendan is a 2018 graduate of Morgan State University with a B.A. in Music. He is known for his versatile vocal abilities in a wide range of musical genres including classical, opera, musical theater, gospel, Christian rock, etc. He is mentored by Lester Lynch and Kevin Short.

He has performed with the Morgan Choir under the direction of Dr. Eric Conway as principal for Verdi’s Requiem, Handel’s Messiah, and others, and sang with the choir which accompanied the BSO’s production of Porgy and Bess. Other appearances include with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Lincoln Center Orchestra. With the Morgan University Singers, he has performed in Argentina, Cuba, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria and Slovakia.

Thank you!

THANK YOU to Kathie Metz for her leadership with The Handbell Choir these past three years. Kathie has decided to step down as Handbell Choir Director, cutting back on some of her activities, and is looking forward to returning to a more relaxed retirement with her family and friends. Kathie did a wonderful job with the Handbell Choir, sharing her vast knowledge and experience with the group to create some beautiful playing by the ensemble on a regular basis.

THANK YOU, Kathie, for your great leadership!
DEATHS
Edith G. (Mrs. C. Thomas) Gordon
August 1, 2018
A Memorial Service will be held at the church on September 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Bettie Radcliffe August 7, 2018

BAPTISM
Daphne Juniper Alexopulos
daughter of Nick and Quinn Alexopulos
July 15, 2018

Special Gifts
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gifts
In honor of the baptism of Daphne Alexopulos by Florence Kendall Tyler
in memory of Neva Roth by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Andreychek
Mr. and Mrs. John Kerchner
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Zeller
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Boehl
Henry Miller

The book for the September 10th meeting of the Grace Book Club is Circle of Friends by Maeve Binchy, and for October 8th Breakfast with Buddha by Roland Murullo. If you like to read and enjoy exchanging thoughts about the book afterwards, please consider joining the group. They meet on second Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor.

* * *
If you don’t enjoy what you have now, how can you be happier with more?

It is greatness to do little things well.

Grace Notes - why is delivery so late?
Many church members have asked why it takes so long to receive their monthly Grace Notes mailing. The answer is simple. If you live in zip codes that begin with 212 or 217, you will receive your newsletter within 1 or 2 days of the mailing. Any other zip code may take several weeks! Why? Bulk mailing is the answer.

The 4th Monday of each month is Grace Notes mailing day. Mailing labels have been printed and sorted into required zip code order. A small team of loyal workers then meets at 9:00 a.m. to place security seals on each piece of mail (the Post Office has rigid standards for this process) and then the address labels are affixed. Zip codes must be kept in very specific order.

Once labeled, the mailing goes into two separate mail crates. Walt Greenhouse then takes the mail and begins the process of weighing, calculating the cost and completing the paper work. There are different postage rates for different zip codes. Once he completes his task, he and Claire head to the main post office on Fayette Street. Periodically, additional postage must be added to the Grace Church account. This requires a visit to the window service area of the post office. Then it is back to the car and around a long block to the bulk mailing area. Here we register our arrival, carry the mail crates in and wait for additional instructions. Some days this process proceeds very quickly. Other days require long waits due to other customers or the computer randomly indicating that the mailing must go through the entire process while we wait. It is then back to Grace to drop off the paper work and replace some empty mailing cartons for the next large mailing.

Zip codes 212 and 217 remain at the Main Post Office and are delivered within 1 to 2 days. All other zips are sent to Southern Maryland where they begin their slow journey back to you. We have no control over this process and because of the cost of postage, we must use bulk mailing rates. We wish that 160 plus church members in these other zip codes would not have to wait so long. To keep from missing out on programs listed in Grace Notes, come to church and pick up a copy each month. There are copies throughout the church complex that can be yours to take and read. You may also read Grace Notes in color on our website.

Special thanks go to Kitty Allen who so faithfully and skillfully writes Grace Notes each month. We are most appreciative of her loyalty.

– Claire Greenhouse

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Seven days without church makes one weak.
Please note ... Date change

A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH and THE WAY FORWARD

In the August Grace Notes, we announced a program to take place after church services on September 23rd. Because of the importance of this issue before the United Methodist Church, Rev. Amy and Pastor Dane requested that we reschedule. This will give us the opportunity to receive the latest information from the General Church and those groups that are working to keep the church united or split over the issue of homosexuality.

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On Sunday, October 28 at 5:00 p.m. the Reconciling Committee will be hosting the viewing of a presentation made by the Rev. Tom Berlin to the 2017 Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference concerning the report coming from the Commission on the Way Forward. This is the commission that was created by the Bishops at the 2016 General Conference. The commission’s focus was on homosexuality and the unity of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Berlin is a member of the Commission on the Way Forward.

The commission has made three recommendations for the Bishops to consider. The Council of Bishops has now made its recommendation of the ONE CHURCH PLAN. This is what will be considered at the Special General Conference being held in St. Louis, MO in February of 2019.

We encourage you to come and view this special 45-minute presentation that will be followed by a discussion while a light supper is being served. The Ravens are out of town that weekend and the game should be over before our start time. We will begin with the video promptly at 5:00 p.m. and our time together should conclude by 6:30 p.m.

Please contact the church office if you plan to be with us so that we might plan the dinner.

Come see why the United Methodist Church of the future may look very different from what it is today.

MUSIC AT GRACE CONCERT SERIES

presents

All Debussy Piano Recital by Robert Dvorkin

Saturday, September 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Pianist Robert Dvorkin was born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, and began studying piano at the age of nine. He graduated with both a Bachelor and Master’s degree in Piano Performance from the Indiana University School of Music where he studied with Enrica Cavallo-Gulli. After residing in New York City for many years, he returned to Canada in 2014, establishing a teaching studio in Ottawa.

Renowned for his interpretations of the music of Claude Debussy, Robert is playing a series of concerts this year to commemorate the centenary of the composer’s death. In addition to this afternoon’s concert, his all-Debussy recitals have taken place in New York, NY and Waterloo, ON. Upcoming performances include Middlebury, VT, Newark, DE and Halifax, NS.

James Irsay of WBAI Radio on New York said Robert was “born to play Debussy.” Menachem Pressler said Robert’s performance of Debussy’s Images was “Beautiful ... utterly convincing.”

Robert is a long-time student of John Bloomfield, co-founder of the Golandsky Institute. He is one of the very few Canadians certified by the institute to teach the Taubman Approach. More information: www.robertdvorkin.com.
The 150th Anniversary Committee is pleased to offer a custom made ornament to celebrate the rich heritage of Grace United Methodist Church. In addition to hanging it on your Christmas tree, the ornament can be displayed in your home or office throughout the year.

Each ornament – $8.75 – comes with a red ribbon and is gift-boxed, perfect for holiday giving or a special occasion for your family members or those with a connection to Grace Church over the years.

I would like to pre-order ____ Ornament(s) @ $8.75 $ _____ enclosed ________ will pay upon delivery

NAME: __________________________ ADDRESS: __________________________

PHONE: ______________________ EMAIL: __________________________

ORDER DEADLINE: Monday, September 17; delivery by end of November