December 23 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m. - Regular worship service with Pastor Dane Wood preaching
10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 - Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. Family Service featuring a retelling of the Christmas story, a message designed for children, Christmas carols, candles and Holy Communion; music by the Sunday School Choir and Youth Choir
9:00 p.m. Festival Service featuring the Chancel Choir, soloists and string quartet, sermon, Christmas carols, candle lighting and Holy Communion.
The Gathering Music beginning at 8:45 p.m. by organ and string quartet

December 25 - Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. A simple joyous service with carols, sermon, soloist and Holy Communion

December 30 - First Sunday of Christmas
10:00 a.m. Single Worship Service

January 2019 preaching schedule

January 6    Epiphany Sunday - Pastor Dane Wood preaching
January 13   Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
January 20   Rev. Amy McCullough preaching
January 27   Pastor Dane Wood preaching
Childhood Memories of the Holocaust: a Cantata: *We Will Not Be Bullied Again*

On **Sunday, January 20** at **3:00 p.m.** Grace Church will host *Childhood Memories of the Holocaust - a Cantata: We Will Not Be Bullied Again*. This powerful musical offering will be presented by teens and adults from the Baltimore area. This production commemorates the anniversary of the tragic events of November 9, 1938 known to history as Kristallnacht or “the night of broken glass” - “the Nazi regime’s first act of widespread, planned violence against the European Jewish community.”

The cantata tells the story of a child who brings a book to her grandfather: it’s his brother’s Holocaust-era diary. The grandfather reads passages aloud and the child asks questions about the Holocaust. A black-clad choir, comprised of children and adults, then joins the two on stage to dramatize the diary’s words. Each passage introduces the next song, allowing the choir to lead the audience down the dark path to genocide. The songs describe the experience of living and dying through the pogrom, the forced labor, the separation of families and the camps. The mood vacillates between hopeful and hopeless, with lyrics such as “the streets are paved with black despair” counter-balanced with the mother’s lament: “I believe people are good.” The grandfather’s closing line punctuates the cantata’s directive of remembrance: “To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time.”

Written and used with permission by Stephanie Gurwitz Zurier; adapted and directed by Toby Orenstein; musical direction by Ira Singer and Doris Sugar.

There is a suggested donation of $10, but all will be welcome regardless of financial ability. Please join our Jewish brothers and sisters for this powerful message - a message so very needed in these challenging days.

**Hymn Festival: The Peaceable Kingdom**

Sunday, February 17th at 3:00 p.m.

The Chancel Choir of Grace Church will be joined by the Choir of Christ Lutheran Church and their Music Director/Organist Daniel Aune for a concert of hymns and spoken word on this issue of migrants, refugees and displaced persons. No admission fee; free will offering.

**AIDS BENEFIT VARIETY SHOW**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3rd at 1:00 p.m.**

Start thinking about ways in which you can participate in the AIDS Benefit Variety Show!

Various acts of music, poetry reading, drama and other forms of art are welcome to participate for this worthy cause.

**PIPE ORGAN PROJECT**

Grace Church recently signed a contract with Dan Angerstein at Angerstein Organ Works, Inc. in Hendersonville, NC for work to be done on the organ in 2019. Most of the work will be done over the summer, but some work will begin as early as January.

The entire organ will be tonally refinished to provide solid, warm choruses with good balances and colors. All of the reed stops will be cleaned, repaired and revoiced for greater warmth and stability. New slide tuners will be installed on all flue pipes. All chestwork and chambers will be vacuumed and cleaned with new lighting installed in the chambers.

Be watching *Grace Notes* for my details as the work progresses. We are grateful to the Trustees for supporting this much-needed work.

**Sunday, December 23**

**10:00 Worship Service**

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, now celebrating its 100th year, was first presented at King’s College in Cambridge, England. This solemn and moving worship service will feature nine scripture readings followed by either an anthem by one of the choirs or by a congregational hymn. The choirs participating include the Sunday School Children’s Choir, the Youth Choir and the Chancel Choir, accompanied on the organ by David Brock. Come celebrate Christmas with us as we share in this meaningful worship experience.
Stewardship 2019

Thank you to all those who have returned a financial pledge for 2019. We are grateful for your faithful and generous commitment to Grace Church. If you have not yet pledged for the year ahead, we hope you will return a pledge card soon.

If you need additional information about this year’s stewardship campaign, “A Grace-Filled Past, A God-Shaped Future,” brochures can be found throughout the church and a minister is always available for conversation. If you would like to pledge online, you may do so at: www.graceunitedmethodist.org/donate/stewardship.

Our new and improved website!

Thanks to the hard work of the Communications Committee and the Grace Church Staff, we have a redesigned website. It’s the same address - www.graceunitedmethodist.org - with a whole new look.

Be sure to take a look on or around December 12!

A Warm Welcome

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee
announces the appointment of Diane Cole to the church staff serving as the Administrative Assistant. She has a background working in religious communities, most recently as an administrator and event coordinator at Beth El Congregation.

Diane began her orientation the last week of November. Currently the Administrative Assistant’s hours are 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Parsonage Kitchen Renovation

During the past two years, the Trustees of Grace have been looking at renovations to the parsonage kitchen. At the recent meeting of the Trustees, plans for the renovations were approved.

The plans include removal of the existing wall between the kitchen and the dining room, shifting some of the appliances, adding an island with sitting space, and a small “mud room” type area at the backdoor entrance. The redesign has gone through several review stages by the Trustees, as well as solicitation of multiple contractor bids. Work is expected to begin in the winter/early spring and will take approximately six weeks.

The cost of this project will be covered by funds that have been set aside over the years for parsonage capital expenditures. An open house for the congregation will be held once the work is complete.

A Message from the Staff-Parish Relations Committee

On Sunday, November 18, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee held a listening session in response to concerns raised about the recent staff change and the proposed staffing plan. We hope the conversation was a helpful one for those who attended. We recognize the departure of Christina Rushing, who served as Grace’s Administrative Associate since September 1999 and know this is a significant transition in the church staff. We thank Christina for her work and pray God’s blessings upon her. One of the concerns voiced has been about Grace’s care of Christina as she makes this transition. The committee heard the concern and at its last meeting added to the provisions made for her. As the liaison committee between the congregation and the staff, we thank you for your feedback and assure you that we are always available to field your questions and concerns.

The Church Council met on Wednesday, November 28 for its final meeting of 2018. Agenda highlights included: the Trustee presentation about the Master Plan Study to begin in January 2019, a preview of the redesigned website, affirmation of Wayne Schmidt as the incoming chair of the Mission-Outreach Committee, and an update by the Finance Committee on the recent stewardship campaign.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, January 13 at 11:15 a.m. when Walden Studios will present an introduction to the master planning process for the congregation.

The meeting concluded with a thank you to outgoing members Katie Spearman, Mission-Outreach chair, and Suzanne Stevens, Church Council chair, from January 2016 - December 2018.

The McCullough family at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade: A HUGE thank you for the Gala/Auction gift of tickets to sit in the grandstand of the Macy’s parade! Chris, Amy, Luke and Suzanna had a fantastic (and cold!) morning of watching the parade close up and in person. It was amazing!
Birthday Greetings

to those of our church family celebrating in January

1 Misako Fukushima, Kurt Hoffman
2 Hojoon Lee, Kelly Topper
3 Mary Jane Demarest, Wes Gilbert, Jr., Elaine Schaefer, Lyla Schmidt
4 Riley Schmidt, Arlie Shaw
5 Tom Gause, Ian Murray, Leigh Thomas
6 Abbey Murphy, Benjamin Murphy
8 Ben Holt, Maxwell Wiseman
9 Christopher A’Hern, Janet Ander, Cianna Ferrante
10 James Scouten
11 Marianne Corry, Frances Eger
12 Adrienne Hackley, Jacquelyn Meadors, Claire Stevens
13 Thomas Adolph, Wyatt Friar, Justin Hickey
16 Robyn McGowan, Matt Sinfield, Margaret Stuart, Kara Thorne
17 Bryan Howe, Samuel King, Milt Siglin
18 Edward Fields, Charles Starkey, John A. Tyler
19 Angus Everton
20 Michael A’Hern, Andrew Greenland
22 Carol Gamble, Cassandra Plitt
23 Jeane Santamaria, Trisha Wetzelberger
24 Carolyn Benfer, Eleanor Grasso
25 Wayne Schmidt, Alastair Valentine, Laird Wilhide
26 Tina Bathory, Barbara Daneker, Jeff Gamble, Mark Gruber
27 Ken McCabe, Walter Stucki
28 Phillip Kessell
29 Lucas Calderon
30 Natalie Riddle, Alan Seitz, Matthew Strobel
31 Walter Hudson, Marilyn Workman

Cookies and Canvas

This exciting event is open to all young-minded people ages 5 to 105 years old. Come and enjoy some cookies and juice while painting a beautiful picture under the leadership of Biz Shaner.

On Sunday, January 13 at 12:15 p.m. we will gather and enjoy great fellowship and fun. This wonderful event is bring offered at the nominal fee of $5.00 per person which covers the art supplies. Please RSVP to Trisha at trisha@graceunitemethodist.org by January 6th.

The Church Office will have an abbreviated schedule to allow the staff time away to celebrate the holidays with their families.
MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 - 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - closed
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26 - closed
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28 - 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon
MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 - closed
TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 - closed
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 - 8:30 a.m. reopening with normal office hours

GRACE BOOK GROUP

For its meeting on Monday, January 14th at 7:00 p.m., the Grace Book Group is reading and discussing Sunburn by Laura Lippman.

New lovers of reading are always welcome. Join the group in the parlor.

Within the Family at Grace

BAPTISMS
Mia Elizabeth Marzilli and Emma Mae Marzilli daughters of John and Jill Marzilli November 18, 2018

MARRIAGE
Sara Mullan and Pedro Navarro November 24, 2018
Nominations for Lay Leadership 2019 (approved by Charge Conference)

**Church Council:** Chair: Marie Yeh  
Vice-Chairperson: David Klindienst  
Secretary:  
Lay Leader: Henry Perry  
Finance Chair: Amy Madsen  
SPRC Chair: Michelle Riddle  
Trustee Chair: Dick Frank  
Missions and Outreach: Wayne Schnidt  
Worship Chair: Kathie Metz  
Communications Committee: Diane Lesman  
Children’s Ministry Rep: Amy Madsen  
Treasurer: Lynn Beachler  
Financial Secretary: George Kahl  
Youth Representative: Kelly Topper  
Lay Member to Annual Conference: Doug Schmidt

At large members: Mary Aikens Afful, Christina Campbell, Allison Ferguson, Thomas Gaeng, Amanda Graham, Claire Greenhouse, George Kim, Irene Moses, Lyn Phelps, Karl Schillinger

**Staff-Parish Relations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ann Dahl</td>
<td>Michelle Riddle, chair</td>
<td>Valerie Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Onley</td>
<td>Chuck Starkey</td>
<td>Suzanne Stevens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Trofatter</td>
<td>Gordon Stetz</td>
<td>David Haile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Leader: Henry Perry</td>
<td>AC Rep: Doug Schmidt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Trustees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Frank, chair</td>
<td>Scott Stevens</td>
<td>Thomas Franklin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cath LaCosta</td>
<td>Linda Cameron</td>
<td>Curtis Adams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Cosgrove</td>
<td>Ed Caster</td>
<td>Barbara Starkey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Leader: Henry Perry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Finance Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amy Madsen (chair)</td>
<td>John Gillan</td>
<td>Sue Williams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billie Jo McIntire</td>
<td>Mike McGuire</td>
<td>Larry Griffith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Keenan</td>
<td>Jane Benson</td>
<td>Jim Heckman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnie Caster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nominations and Lay Leadership**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lay Leader: Henry Perry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Williams</td>
<td>Lynne Sharpe</td>
<td>Heather Grandsire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barb Starkey</td>
<td>Wendy Iglehart</td>
<td>Glenn Simmons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Beachler</td>
<td>Carl Hickey</td>
<td>Barbara Bond</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Topper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Investment Advisory Board**

Michael Madsen  
Katherine Allen  
Robert McIntire  
Mike McGuire  
Gordon Stetz (chair)  
Charles Starkey  
Linda Cameron  
Dave Beachler  
The Trustees

**Adult Education Coordinators:** Amanda Graham and Kristen Turner
**Worship Committee:** Chair: Kathie Metz

Chair: Kathie Metz
Claire Greenhouse (Altar Guild) Barb Starkey (Chancel Choir)
Amanda Graham Kevin Shaner
Burt English (Ushers) Judy Gillan
Jean Smith Deborah English Lani Sinfield
Staff Members: Chris Schroeder, David Brock, Amy McCullough, Dane Wood

**Outreach and Mission Committee:** Chair: Wayne Schmidt

Chair: Wayne Schmidt
Lynn Beachler Jean Smith Katie Spearman
Diane Topper Kristen McGuire Henry Perry
David Beachler Deborah English Barbara Bond
Wilma Starkey Kelly Jackson Doris Franklin
Staff: Dane Wood

**Reconciling Committee:** Chair: George Kahl

Chair: George Kahl
Kristen McGuire Ann Dahl Michelle Riddle
Doris Franklin Barb Starkey Doug Schmidt
Ellen Stokes Andrew Trofatter Anne Griffith
Andrew Trofatter Chris Schroeder Diane Lesman
Staff: Dane Wood

**Shepherding Committee:** Chair:

Chair: Paul Gaeng
Pastoral Care Representative: Coordinator of Bereavement: Debbie English
Coordinator of Prayer Ministry: Coordinator of Grace Cares:

**Children’s Ministry Team**

Linda English Jody Wiseman Biz Shaner
Abbi Bayne Michelle Riddle Wayne Schmidt
Staff: Trisha Wetzelberger

**AIDS Task Force:** Chair: Barbara Bond

Chair: Barbara Bond
Bruce Eicher Anne Griffith George Kahl
Diane Lesman Alice Mack Frances Northington
Bruce Rice Susan Rice Henry Perry

**Grace Community Fellowship**

Matt Sinfield Janet Ander Diana Gause

**Communications Committee:** Chair: Diane Lesman

Chair: Diane Lesman
Kitty Allen Jennifer Gillis-White Maggie Grandsire

**Social Justice Committee:** Chair: Thomas Gaeng

Chair: Thomas Gaeng
Priscilla Newton Claire Greenhouse Dianne Van Sciver Chris Schroeder

Warm clothing needed

Brrr! The temps are colder and we are all reaching for coats, gloves and hats! Unfortunately many children in Baltimore City go without things to keep them warm during the winter. Once again this year, Grace will partner with A Heart’s Place at St. John’s UMC to collect and distribute items for children in need. Please donate new or used coats, gloves and hats - all sizes - in the collection box in the glass entryway.

Questions? Please contact Kristen McGuire, kristen519@gmail.com.

Interested in an ASP trip?

Pastor Dane and Mission-Outreach Committee chair, Wayne Schmidt, will host an Interest Meeting on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. for those who desire to learn more about an upcoming mission trip with Appalachia Service Project. The trip is looking to go mid-summer for 4-7 days to West Virginia, Virginia or Tennessee. It is open to persons age 14 and up. Please come if you have any interest. Scholarships and assistance will be available.

Contact Pastor Dane for more information: dane@graceunitedmethodist.org.
Special Gifts
We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gift in memory of Rev. Amy McCullough’s Father, Mr. Peed, by Ruth Bell
to MUSIC in memory of Ruth Ann Beachler by Ken and Peggy McCabe

New Member Class
Saturday, January 12
9:30 a.m. to 12 noon
This class is open to anyone exploring membership at Grace Church and anyone who would like the opportunity to reflect on their vows of membership and Christian journey. Childcare is provided. To register, contact the church office, either by phone or email admin@graceunitedmethodist.org.

Holy Communion Classes
Have your children ever asked questions about “What is Communion?” or “Why do we take bread and grape juice during service?” On January 13, 20 and 27 the children’s Sunday School classes, children 3 years old through 5th graders, will be learning about Holy Communion. Each week there will be a different presenter and various activities and lessons to help all age groups understand this special sacrament. Please plan to bring your children for Sunday School every week but especially these three weeks!

Interested in Cub Scouting?
If you have a son or daughter who might be interested in forming a Cub Scout Pack, please plan to attend an Interest Meeting on January 16th at 7:00 p.m. There has been growing interest at church recently and we have the full support of our Scouts, BSA Troop 612 and Pastor Dane on behalf of Mission-Outreach. The pack would not be a separate organization just using our space, but a part of our ministry and outreach. Pastor Dane will be sharing information and begin sign-ups for boys, girls and their parents. For more information, contact Pastor Dane at dane@graceunitedmethodist.org.

Taizé and Spirituality
Each month Grace hosts a simple Taizé service of prayer, scripture and singing, the next one being Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to know more about Taizé, the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary’s is hosting an evening prayer service on January 18 and a workshop on January 19. See http://www.stmarys.edu/experience-spirituality-hospitality-taize/ for more details.