

# GRACE NOTES

VOL. 30 No. 12

DECEMBER 2021



## ADVENT - CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Advent-Christmas preaching schedule is below.

This Advent, each Sunday's worship will focus on a beloved carol during this holy season of expectation. We will sing the hymn in worship, learn more about its roots or message, and occasionally hear the hymn in a different form within the service. Join us as we prepare for Christ's birth.

**ADVENT I** - November 28 Rev. Dr. Amy P. McCullough

Hymn: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**ADVENT II** - December 5 Rev. Levon Sutton

We will remember World AIDS Day

Hymn: *Come, Welcome the Lord!* (an original hymn by Mark Gruber)

**ADVENT III** - December 12 Rev. Dr. Amy P. McCullough

Hymn: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

**ADVENT IV** - December 19 Rev. Dr. Amy P. McCullough

Hymn: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24

### **4:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve**

This service includes a reading of the Nativity story, hymns, prayers and Holy Communion.

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

### **9:00 p.m. - Festival Christmas Eve**

This service includes hymns, scriptures, sermon by The Rev. Dr. Amy P. McCullough, music by the Chancel Choir, and Holy Communion

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

We will offer these Christmas Eve services for in-person, sanctuary worship. Both services will be also live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube. Two opportunities to receive Holy Communion and a time of prayer through a drive-by station will be held, between 1:00-2:00 p.m. and 6:00-7:00 p.m.

on December 24. There is NO Christmas Day worship

**DECEMBER 26** Rev. Levon Sutton One Service at 10:00 a.m.

## Advent Study and Devotional Series:

*All Earth is Waiting* by Katie Z. Dawson

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22 at noon

The whole created world waits and hopes for the coming of Christ.

Quite simply, we have a responsibility to care for this earth in preparation for Christ's return. This is the message of *All Earth is Waiting*. Explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy and peace with the heavens and earth in mind and consider how all creation longs for the coming of Christ, taking seriously the notion that the good news of Christ is good news for all the world. Designed for individual or small-group use, each chapter of this Bible study offers questions for reflection and a brief prayer as well as Advent candle lighting liturgies, a call to worship, a prayer of confession, and hymn suggestions.

We will set aside time during this year's Advent study to reflect on the coming of Christ again in our lives and ways we can share in that coming as people of faith. We will gather at the noon hour on Wednesdays beginning December 1, 8, 15 and 22 for reflection with independent reading encouraged between each gathering. If you are interested and would like to participate in this study, please contact Rev. Levon Sutton (levon@graceunitedmethodist.org).



## Grace Community Christmas Caroling

Friday, December 10

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Columbarium Courtyard

Come join Grace friends around the firepit in the Columbarium Courtyard to share in a time of Christmas caroling with hot cocoa and s'mores. All are welcome!

## “Now More Than Ever”

### Stewardship

We thank all of those who have completed and returned a pledge for 2022! We are grateful for your commitment and generosity. If you have not yet returned your pledge, we invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge to the ministries of God through Grace Church.

Pledges can be made online at Grace's website or by returning a printed pledge card to the church office.

Questions can be directed to George Kahl, Financial Secretary, or the pastors.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

following worship

Children's crafts

Greens and materials to create

Advent wreaths

and table decorations

# GRACE CARES!



It is hard to believe that this is our 27<sup>th</sup> year participating in the Angel Tree program, now back again after the pandemic-driven hiatus last holiday season. The Angel Tree program lets us help bring Christmas joy to children in the Baltimore area who have a parent in jail. Through the Prison Fellowship ministry, incarcerated parents complete a form asking for Christmas presents for their children. For many of these parents, this is one tangible way they can tell their children that they love them even when they cannot be with them at Christmas time.

We have received forms for 25 children this year. On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, you may sign up to purchase a requested toy, article of clothing or a book for a child or make a financial donation which we will use to buy a grocery gift card for the caregiver. We ask that you wrap the gift, affix the Angel sticker you receive at sign-up and bring it back to the church by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

We also need volunteers who can help with delivery of the gifts on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please let Barb and Chuck Starkey, the leaders of this ministry for these many years, know if you could be available to help spread the holiday spirit to these families!

We are collecting winter clothing to be given to those in need in Baltimore City.

Needed: hats, gloves and coats that are gently used

Manna House requests new underwear for men, as well as toiletries

**DONATION BOXES**

will be located in the glass entryway and in the Narthex

**December 5 - 19.**

The Mission-Outreach team assures you that your donation will provide warmth to a person in Baltimore City.

**THANK YOU!**



## Additions to the list of Retirement Community residents from the November issue:

Cath and John LaCosta: Oak Crest Village, 8810 Walther Blvd., Apt. 1518, Parkville, MD 21234  
Sue and Thom Rinker, Blakehurst, 1055 W. Joppa Road, Apt. 210, Towson, MD 21204  
Marguerite and Walter Stucki, Pickersgill, 615 Chestnut Avenue, Apt. 1416, Towson, MD 21204



Heartiest  
congratulations to  
those of our Grace  
family celebrating  
birthdays in  
December

- 1 June Peterson, Gini Simmons, Ronald Kyle Spedalere
- 5 Margaret Blackstone, Rebecca Blackstone, Amanda Rombach
- 7 Julia Grasso, Bonnie Tarbert
- 8 Mary Jo Rigler-Martin
- 9 Nicholas O'Dwyer, Jack Smith
- 10 Joseph Aikins-Afful
- 11 Ben Francis, Michael Stetz
- 12 Erin Farrugia, Lauren Green, Anne Griffith, Michelle Harris, Kolten Rhoad, Reagan Rhoad, Scott Stevens
- 13 Debbie English, Sam Friar
- 14 Samantha Frank, Lauren Winship
- 16 Virginia McIntire, Joan Potter, Lindsey Wyatt
- 17 Lydia Everton
- 20 Luke Fishman, Sally Hauf
- 21 Christine Calderon, Timothy Gause
- 22 H. Brooks Hauf, W. Benton Stansbury III
- 23 Chrystal Eickelberg
- 26 David Eicher
- 27 Bettie Crow
- 28 Kaden Greenberg, Rylan Greenberg, Ella Grace Tarbert
- 29 Amy Seitz, Katie Spearman
- 30 Beth Hayes, Wendy Iglehart, Hyesun Stuart
- 31 Meredith Hudkins, Justin Pfeffer, Evan Scheiner, Dane Wood



## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

This year we mark 40 years since the first cases of what became known as AIDS and honor more than 36 million people, including 700,000 in the United States, who have died from AIDS-related illness globally since the start of the epidemic.

After doing a Lenten study in 1988, Grace formed a HIV/AIDS Task Force to do outreach ministries to support those affected by HIV/AIDS. In 1990 the Grace Administrative Board affirmed the following statement:

*As a Christian response to the human pain and suffering caused by AIDS, Grace United Methodist Church affirms a ministry that offers unconditional love and compassion to all those whose lives are touched by AIDS*

This year Grace Church will observe World AIDS Day on Sunday, December 5. As we have done in past years, Grace will be making a contribution to the Quality of Life Retreats which are held four times a year for persons who are dealing HIV/AIDS.

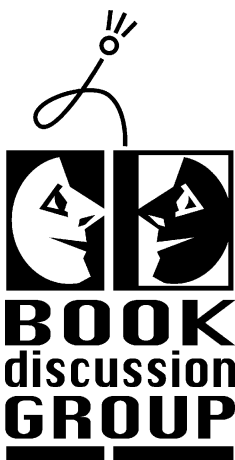
The retreats are sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Conference. Members of the Grace congregation participated in the very first Quality of Life Retreats and have continued to support them over the years. If you would like to support this ongoing ministry, please send a check to Grace with AIDS noted on the memo line.

## GRACE BOOK CLUB

The Grace Book Club will be attending the Three Arts Club of Homeland's Christmas luncheon on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. The program will include luncheon, a book sale, greens sale, and jewelry sale as well as a holiday performance. For additional information, please call Maureen Danz (410-825-6252) or Mimi Corry (410-494-4456).

The Book Club will meet again on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in

the Grace parlor for lunch and discussion. The January book selection is *The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny.



## NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for the December/January issue of *Grace Notes* is November 29 for the issue to be mailed December 13.

There will be no separate January issue.

## Within the Family at Grace

### DEATHS

Lois Catherine Cook Klein  
October 19, 2021

Dr. John Luther Charlton, Jr.  
October 21, 2021



## The Music Ministry at Grace Church welcomes Jennifer Tzu-Jung Wang

Jennifer, our new Second Soprano Soloist, began her service with Grace on Sunday, October 31. She writes: “I am passionate about collaborating with other artists, learning different perspectives to make a thorough interpretation of the music. I have performed with companies including the Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, Taichung Artist Chamber Choir, and Tunghai University Chorus and Chamber Choir. She has performed the roles of Susanna and Barbarina in Mozart’s *Nozze di Figaro*, Bastienne in Mozart’s *Bastien und Bastienne*, and Sandman in Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*.

She says “Artists are sometimes too focused on their mistakes, and forget to live in the moment.” This inspired Tzu-Jung to create a recital *Perfectly Imperfect* in 2019. “I believed what makes music beautiful or even moving is those moments of humanity which form a connection between the audience and the artist.” The repertoire included works by Mozart, Barber, Debussy, Fauré and others. “I have a deep interest in art songs and am passionate about exploring the details in the emotion, the depth of the music and what the composer tries to convey through the pieces.”

Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Voice Performance from Tunghai University and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance & Pedagogy at the Peabody Conservatory at the Johns Hopkins University under the instruction of Ah Young Hong.

## Love to sing?

Consider joining the Chancel Choir! The group rehearses on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 p.m. and in preparation for singing in worship on Sunday morning in the 10:00 service. For more information, please contact Chris Schroeder, our Minister of Music at [chris@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:chris@graceunitedmethodist.org).

## *Music at Grace Concert Series*

### NEW WAVE SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., the New Wave Singers of Baltimore will present its Christmas Concert in Grace’s sanctuary. Their mission states “Through songs of hope, diversity, inclusion and humor, we celebrate all of humanity in its infinite variations and challenge our communities to embrace equality, harmony and understanding.”

Visit [newwavesingers.org](http://newwavesingers.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.

### PITCH PERFECT MESSIAH

**Saturday, December 11, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**

Grace United Methodist Church

The baroque master’s beloved oratorio – our 87<sup>th</sup> year!

Following our unique and successful 2020 live webcast, viewed by more than 4,000, we return to Grace with a full period orchestra.

#### ***Handel Choir of Baltimore***

Handel Period Instrument Orchestra

Julie Bosworth, *soprano*

Monica Reinagel, *alto*

Devin Mercer, *tenor*

Andrew Pardini, *bass*

Brian Bartoldus, *conductor*

Tickets: \$20 Messiah ticket for Grace members - use promotional code: Grace22 (limited to the first 50 standard tickets purchased)

Regular prices: \$47/\$37/\$10 student with ID – Reduced ticket price available on season subscription concerts





DECEMBER 2021

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God and . . .

- December 5 in honor of my husband Paul on his birthday by Janet Ander, and in memory of William O. White by his wife Mary and family
- December 12 in memory of George Getschel and Marian & Karl Mech, M.D. by Constance Mech and Laura & Buzz Getschel, and in honor of David & Annette Beachler's anniversary by Lynn Beachler
- December 19 in memory of her parents by Katie Buffington, and in memory of Edie Gordon on their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary by her husband Tom
- December 24-26 in memory of Norma & Jack Danz by their family, and in memory of Edward & Shirley Eben by Vicki & Al Saxon

Urns: the poinsettias in the urns are given in thanksgiving for all of our friends who continue to enrich our lives by Sue & Thom Rinker, and in memory of our parents, Jean E. & Dr. John Strahan by their daughters, Dr. Susan Strahan, Dr. Nancy S. Blackstone and Sally S. Matthews  
 Organ Bay poinsettias are given in memory of June & George Kahl, Jr. by their children June, George and Stuart.

JANUARY 2022

- January 2 in memory of John A. Franklin, Jr. by his sister Dr. Doris Franklin, and in honor of the anniversary of Beth & Thurston Vargas by her parents Janet & Paul Ander
- January 9 in memory of his mother Adelaide W. Gough by her son Lee
- January 16 in memory of Marian J. & Carl F. Wallace by their daughter Susan
- January 23
- January 30

**Donors are needed for January 23 and 30.** To underwrite the cost of the flowers for a service (\$27 per vase), please contact Claire Greenhouse at 410-337-7407 or [aschoolrn@verizon.net](mailto:aschoolrn@verizon.net)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY 2022

- February 6 Chris Schroeder (1 or 2) and \_\_\_\_\_
- February 13 Kathy Cosgrove (1 or 2) and \_\_\_\_\_
- February 20 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- February 27 Jeanean Wingate and \_\_\_\_\_

Additional donors are needed for February. Please contact Claire Greenhouse.

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

Grace Church remembered with thanksgiving those we have known and loved who by their faithful obedience and steadfast hope, served well in this life and now rest with God in eternity.

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Betty Dempster            | January 15, 2021   |
| Laura Headley             | February 8, 2021   |
| M. Lee Starkey            | February 9, 2021   |
| Mary Frances Manning      | March 14, 2021     |
| M. Edward Skinner         | March 15, 2021     |
| Carol Polk                | July 14, 2021      |
| Betty Inman               | September 20, 2021 |
| Lois Klein                | October 19, 2021   |
| John Luther Charlton, Jr. | October 21, 2021   |

Grace United Methodist Church  
5407 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21210-2024

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BALTIMORE, MD  
PERMIT NO. 642

Address service requested

This issue mailed November 22, 2021  
PLEASE RUSH

### **Theme of Variations: Four Hands, Two Piano Concert**

For those who were unable to attend in person or to watch the live stream, the link below takes you to a recording of the concert for you to enjoy. Special thanks to pianists Kathryn Locke and Chris Schroeder for sharing their talents.

[https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnbASTvfagiCIVX\\_FKMx\\_We5BIMvBV1g](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnbASTvfagiCIVX_FKMx_We5BIMvBV1g)



## **January Youth Retreat** **January 7-9, 2022** **Roland Powell Convention Center** **Ocean City, Md**

The theme for the 2022 youth retreat is  
“Find Your Piece”, based on I Peter 5:7: Cast your  
anxiety on God because God cares for you. Are you a youth

seeking a deeper understanding of God at work in in your life? Are you a parent working to encourage your teen develop a personal relationship of their own with God? This weekend youth retreat may be the beginning of a life-transforming opportunity! “WAVE” (formerly known as ROCK) is a weekend youth retreat in Ocean City, MD designed to share the good news of God’s love to a youth-focused audience. The event is filled with music, worship, and breakout sessions that focus on personal faith from a youth perspective. Registration is currently in progress. If you or your youth would like to attend, please contact Rev. Levon Sutton. ([Levon@graceunitedmethodist.org](mailto:Levon@graceunitedmethodist.org)). Space is limited to please act now!