

GRACE NOTES

VOL. 31 No. 3

MARCH 2022



ASH WEDNESDAY – March 2

Grace will offer drive-by ashes and Holy Communion at 7:30-8:30 a.m.; 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.; and 6 - 6:30 p.m. The Ash Wednesday worship service will be at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with Rev. Levon Sutton preaching.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, March 6	Lent I	Rev. Amy P. McCullough preaching
Sunday, March 13	Lent II	Rev. Amy P. McCullough preaching
Sunday, March 20	Lent III	Rev. Amy P. McCullough preaching
Sunday, March 27	Lent IV	Rev. Levon Sutton preaching

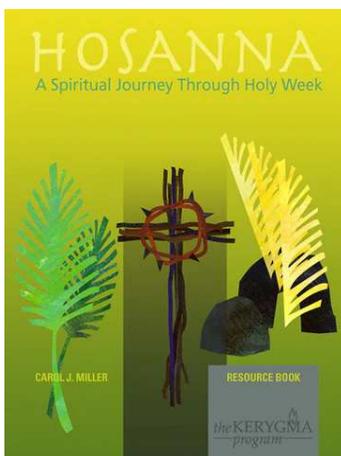
Also on Sunday, March 27, we will have a Taizé Healing Service at 5:00 p.m. in the Courtyard Columbarium. It will be a simple, contemplative service with songs from the Taizé community, sermon by Rev. Amy McCullough, and a time of anointing with oil as a symbol of God's healing presence.

Sunday, April 3	Lent V	Rev. Amy P. McCullough preaching
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LENTEN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING

Lenten Study – *Hosanna: A Spiritual Journey through Holy Week*

This year's Lenten study will explore the main texts in all four Gospels and in Paul's writings that deal specifically with the last week of Jesus' life and with the resurrection. Led by Rev. Amy McCullough, the group will meet for four consecutive weeks on both Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. (in person) and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (via Zoom) starting the week of Wednesday, March 16th. Wednesday dates are March 16, 23, 30 and April 6. Thursday classes will be March 17, 24, 31 and April 7. To sign up, email Rev. McCullough directly.



Celebrate Wonder! Children's Sunday School

In-person Sunday School beginning Sunday, March 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate God's love for us and our world. We share good news - singing songs - stories - sign language - games and more! All children must wear masks, and all safety protocols will be practiced.

YOUTH CLASS will resume in-person on Sunday, March 6.

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends for pancake breakfast and class!



Heartiest birthday greetings to the following of our Church family celebrating in March:

- 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, Joanie Stetz
- 14 Peggy Ruppertsberger, Shannon Schmidt
- 15 John Tydings
- 16 Thom Rinker
- 17 Jim Hackley, W. A. Niermann, Jr., Rachel Rhoad, Mason Wilhide, Meghan Zviman
- 19 Matthew Adams
- 20 Lynn Reichhelm, M. Edward Skinner, III
- 21 Frances Northington
- 22 Linda Cameron
- 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
- 30 Alexis Melin
- 31 Valerie Adams, Peggy Rogers, Karen Schaefer



DAY OF SERVICE AT GRACE

April 24, 2022 @ 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we engage in several mission projects as a congregation - projects for all ages

1 Corinthians 12:14

"For the body is not one member, but many."

GRACE BOOK CLUB

Join us at 12:30 in the parlor on Monday, March 14th to share thoughts about *When the Stars Go Dark* by Paula McLain.

NURSERY OPEN

Sunday mornings from 8:30-11:15

We are staffed with teachers who love kids! Ages 6 weeks to 2 years are welcome for age-appropriate activities. All health and safety protocols enforced.



GUMC Bedtime Story Time

Children's Ministry offers a virtual bedtime story time each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. We need YOUR help! If you have a favorite bedtime story or children's book to read, we would love to hear it. To learn more, contact our director, Carolyn Young: carolyn@graceunitedmethodist.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It will soon be time for VBS. This year's theme is *Food Truck Party*. Dates are June 27 - July 1, 2022, for ages 3 to 12 years.

Online registration begins March 1.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Calling all church members and families! Grab your hot chocolate, bowl of popcorn and join the Youth and Children's Ministry for fun and fellowship on the 4th Friday of every month, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Zoom. March 25th is the next date. All game suggestions are welcome. For monthly sign-up and more information, contact Carolyn Young or Rev. Levon Sutton.

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT AWARD!

To Sunday School parents, Curtis and Valerie Adams. While away in Florida on vacation, Cece, James and little Matthew still attended virtual Sunday School!

One Year in the Bible: Family Reading Plan

Develop a lifelong love of the Bible by spending time together reading and talking about key people and events in the Holy Book. For a copy of the plan, contact

Carolyn@graceunitedmethodist.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS

March 2022

The flowers are given to the glory of God and . . .

- MARCH 6 in memory of H. Carroll Gough by his son Lee
MARCH 13 in memory of our parents by Claire and Walter Greenhouse
MARCH 20 in memory of Billy Lynn, Jr. by his brothers Tom and Jim
MARCH 27 in memory of Edith Gordon on her birthday by her husband Tom and sons C. T., Chris and Steve and their families

Looking head to April 2022

- APRIL 3 Pat Volker, Robert Cantrell
APRIL 10 PALM SUNDAY: Maureen Danz
Palms: Thom and Sue Rinker
APRIL 17 EASTER SUNDAY - 4 arrangements
Tom Moore, Starkey Family, Francette Boling, Vicki Saxon
Hydrangeas - Tom Moore
Palms - Kitty Allen and Barbara Bond
Paschal Candle - Kitty Allen
APRIL 24 Lynn Beachler, Jeanette Cospier
Please contact Claire Greenhouse at 410-377-7407 or aschoolrn@verizon.net
with any additions or corrections.



Easter Memorials

What more appropriate time than Easter to remember those who are special to us
by making a gift in memory of in honor of to:

_____ Lilies

_____ Music

_____ Outreach

in honor of _____

in memory of _____

NAME: _____ Envelope No: _____

(Please print name as you wish it to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin)

Mail to Grace United Methodist Church, 5407 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210
Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022

CREATION CREATIVITY



This summer Rev. Amy, along with Grace Church member Biz Shaner, will be leading a week of camp at the West River United Methodist camp!

"Creation Creativity" will combine all of the wonderful, typical camp activities with some special creation-focused art projects. There will be time for swimming, kayaking, archery and the giant swing, plus painting, sculpting, wet felting and photography. **CAMP WEEK:**

Sunday, July 24 (afternoon) - Friday, July 29 (early evening pick-up)

The camp is designed for rising 4th through 6th graders. The group will share a cabin together; the camp is operating at 50% capacity due to the pandemic.

West River is a wonderful place for children to explore nature, have fun and build friendships.

<https://www.bwccampsandretreats.com/westriver/>

Scholarships are available.

Questions? Please reach out to Rev. Amy or Biz Shaner



Why the Gender, Race and Ministry Project Matters: A personal reflection

By Amy P. McCullough

[Rev. Amy McCullough is serving as the chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The Board is conducting a study exploring how gender and race intersect with person's experiences of ministry. Rev. McCullough's reflection piece was recently shared on the conference website in an effort to promote the study.]

One evening while unloading the dishwasher together, I told my mother I wanted to be a minister's wife. Even then, at the age of seven, I sensed the Spirit moving me toward set-apart ministry. But having never encountered a female minister, I assumed ordination was not a path open for me. Being a spouse of a minister, which itself is a vocation, seemed the next best option. My mother, whom I would learn later had nurtured her own dreams of ministry, suggested I consider becoming an ordained minister myself.

A few years later a woman was appointed as one of the associate pastors at my home congregation. While she played a more minor role in my growing sense of call, her presence widened the images I held of what a pastor might look like, speak like, or be. Her presence then, and mine today, come from the efforts of so many women who fought for the right for ordination, preached when their witnesses were not recognized as preaching, and absorbed the suspicions, ridicule and rejections of others. They blazed the trail for female pastors and built the legacy upon which we all depend.

But the nearly seven decades of women's ordination in The United Methodist Church have not eliminated instances of sexism from my experience as a pastor who is also female. I have been questioned by credentialing committees about my self-identification as a feminist, asked to equate an offer for an unpaid internship with the paid ones male colleagues received, and been assessed as someone who would serve with "quiet distinction," a designation I experienced as implicitly minimizing my skills, passion, and potential.

Early in ministry, my pastoral leadership at a wedding and a funeral were refused by the families involved, in each case on the basis that I was female. In the latter instance I spent an afternoon calling other male colleagues trying to find a replacement for the duty I had been trained and authorized to do. I have received comments about my voice, my hair, and my clothes, as well as unsolicited advice about how I might make my preaching more like a man's. On more occasions than I can count, my pastoral presence has been met with the response "but you don't look like a minister."

However kind the intent, this comment conveys "you do not fully embody this sacred vocation." While none of these encounters created an insurmountable barrier between myself and pastoral ministry, moments such as these do take a piece of one's flesh. They caused my confidence to falter, my self-consciousness to be heightened, and my passion for ministry to be deflated. Sexism objectifies women, turning a flesh-and-blood person into a thing, the locus of someone else's prejudice, fears, or preconceptions. Feeling this external gaze, one becomes alert to being watched and judged rather than attentive to one's embodied truth. Furthermore, these are my experiences as a white woman. I share them, deeply aware that women of other races and ethnicities encounter the double burden of racism and sexism and feel the impact of both amid their service in the church.

While naming the ways sexism has affected my years in ministry, I also must proclaim that being a woman in ministry is one of the deepest joys, most generative gifts, of my life. I have been blessed with mentors, both men and women, who have encouraged me, prayed for me, and supported my journey. I have been welcomed by congregations who have embraced me as their pastor and nurtured by Staff Parish Relations Committees who worked to ensure I was affirmed as a pastoral leader and given opportunities for growth. On that day I was searching for someone else to preside at the funeral, two colleagues returned my calls, saying in essence, "I'm always happy to help another minister in need, but I am not comfortable participating in this moment, stepping into a role that is rightfully yours." Their solidarity offered me courage; their kindness has never been forgotten. When I was pregnant with my second child, a parishioner in the congregation said to me, with shining eyes, "Last night I told my husband that my pastor has a crib in her office." I felt from her words the deep wonderment she held at having a minister whose embodiment mirrored hers. If God sought closeness with us through the Incarnation, then ministry can and does happen in those moments when our fleshly particularity conveys something of God's presence to another.

In a 2018 study, researchers found that having a significant experience of a female clergy leader while growing up increased the self-esteem of women by eighteen percent.¹ While I would categorize my experiences of sexism as stumbling blocks rather than full-blown barriers, there are thousands of instances where sexism is death-dealing. There are millions of girls and women around the world who lack access to education, healthcare, bodily safety, and self-determination. Representation in leadership, especially in the sacred class called clergy, matters. It expands our collective vision of who God is and how the Spirit moves in the world. It tells a young girl that she, too, reflects God's image. She, too, can embody God's power and love within her life and her community.

The Board of Ordained Ministry of the Baltimore-Washington Conference has launched the Gender, Race, and Ministry Study because we believe there is more to know about how race and gender play out across ministry. We want to hear your stories. We seek to learn your truth, so that we can work together to build the strongest, most life-giving system possible to shepherd persons called to this holy task and to be good stewards of the lives of all who serve.

¹Benjamin R. Knoll and Cammie Jo Bolin, *She Preached the Word: Women's Ordination in Modern America* (New York: Oxford University, 2018), 130-31. Cited from Leonora Tubbs Tisdale, *How Women Transform Preaching* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2021), 52.



Music at Grace Concert Series:

THE HANDEL CHOIR OF BALTIMORE returns to Grace's sanctuary on Saturday, March 5th at 7:30 p.m. for its *Made in Baltimore* concert featuring contemporary pieces by Baltimore composers, including a world premiere of *Houses of Peace* and repertoire by faculty at Peabody, UMBC and Morgan State University. The concert also includes a piece entitled *The Bells* by Sergei Rachmaninoff, transcribed for 4 Hand Organ by Brian Bartoldus to be played by Tom Hetrick and Christopher Schroeder. Ticket information can be found at handelchoir.org

ORGAN RECITAL. On Friday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Grace Church in collaboration with the Baltimore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will welcome **DR. MARILYN KEISER**, Professor Emerita from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN as she presents an organ recital on Grace's newly refurbished pipe organ. Dr. Keiser taught organ and church music courses to our Minister of Music, Chris Schroeder, for five years when he attended IU to complete his undergrad and masters degrees in Organ Music and Church Music. This recital is free and open to the public. Please watch Enotes or check the church's website for information on how to access by live stream.

BACH MARATHON CONCERT will take place at St. David's Episcopal Church on Sunday, March 20th from 1 to 5 p.m. Our Minister of Music and Organist, Chris Schroeder, has been invited to play a 20-minute segment in this marathon. Watch for details in Enotes regarding his exact playing time.

SUPPORT FOR THE MUSIC AT GRACE CONCERT SERIES

As we continue to learn to live with this pandemic, we have increased our in-person concerts this year and have need for financial support as we have not requested assistance for the past two years. Thanks to those who have already contributed. If you would like to make a donation to support our upcoming performances, you may either mail or drop off a check to the church office indicating on the memo line that the gift is for "Music at Grace Concerts" or you may make a donation online through our website by visiting graceunitedmethodist.org and clicking on the "Give" tab on the far right; select "online giving" and then choose the fund "Concert Series at Grace".

Your generosity and support of the concert series at Grace Church is so very much appreciated!



Empty Bowls Service Project

Sunday, April 3rd at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Empty Bowls began as a grassroots movement by artists and people in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food-related charities. Persons purchase a ceramic bowl, paint or decorate it, then donate it to a charity which auctions off the bowls to raise money to fight poverty, homelessness and hunger. Grace Church is partnering with Amazing Glaze in Mt. Washington to sponsor an afternoon of painting bowls which then will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul's annual Empty Bowls auction.

<https://www.vincentbaltimore.org/ways-to-give/emptybowls/>

The cost of a bowl is \$16. To sign up to participate, use the link on Enotes or call the church office by March 28th. Everyone will pay at the door by cash, check or charge.

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

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PLEASE RUSH



Highlights of a super sweet February

The **twos** classes were busy on 2/2/22, discovering the number 2!

Our **threes** classes were busy on Groundhog's Day, making predictions about whether or not the groundhog would see his shadow.

Our **fours** classes are busy at this time of year with their post office in dramatic play, where they create kind notes and pictures for friends, to take them to the "post office" to "purchase" stamps and send to friends in class.

Our **kindergarten** is continuing to travel the world, and has most recently "traveled" to Nigeria, where they learned how to create a modified resist/batik technique on cloth.

Our **first graders** read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, and are currently researching different animals from the story and writing research paragraphs. They also made time capsules on 2/2/22 to be opened when they are seniors in high school on 3/3/33.

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 year is quickly filling up!

