

GRACE NOTES

VOL. 31 No. 4

APRIL 2022

APRIL WORSHIP AND PREACHING

Sunday, April 3

Rev. Dr. Amy McCullough



APRIL 10 PALM SUNDAY

Rev. Levon Sutton - preaching

Easter Egg Hunt following the 10:00 am service for all ages

APRIL 14 HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 pm - Experience Jesus' final evening with his disciples through a series of prayer stations, celebration of Holy Communion, and the solemn stripping of the altar

APRIL 15 GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 pm - Service with the Chancel Choir accompanied by David Brock presenting a reflection on Christ's Seven Last Words with various hymns and anthems

7:00 pm - **Tenebrae Service** with a reading of Jesus' passion

APRIL 17 EASTER SUNDAY

Rev. Dr. Amy McCullough - preaching

7:00 am - **Sunrise Service** (gather on the portico)

Our soloists will lead us in celebrating Christ's Resurrection

10:00 am - **Festival Service**

Our children will sing and sign the Easter hymn "He Lives" under the direction of Michael Bevard and Biz Shaner. The Chancel Choir will present several Easter anthems and our hymns and service music will be enhanced by the Carrollton Brass



APRIL 24 SUNDAY OF SERVICE

One service at 10:00 am led by Rev. Levon Sutton

followed by A Day of Service at 11:00 am. Join us in several mission projects together as a congregation - for all ages

General Conference postponed again until 2024

The first week of March, the General Commission charged with preparing for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church announced that the next General Conference will be held in 2024. The 2020 General Conference has been delayed twice amid the general pandemic. After thoughtfully considering the plans to hold the rescheduled session in August 2022, the commission opted to cancel the plans for this year and look toward a 2024 General Conference.

To read the announcement, log onto <https://www.bwcumc.org/news-and-views/general-conference-further-postponed-to-2024/>.

For many persons, the delay in holding the conference is disappointing news. The United Methodist Church continues to navigate the effects of the 2019 Special General Conference and the divisions reflected in its rulings. The 2019 rulings affirmed, and even strengthened, prohibitions related to ordination and marriage for LGBTQ members of the church. From these rulings, conversations about the future of the denomination, and the possibility of separate expressions of Methodism continued.

Amid these challenges, Grace United Methodist Church remains a vital, active and Reconciling congregation. Our ministries of worship, Christian formation, music, and service to those in need continue. The pandemic has sharpened our desire to be in community with one another and a commitment to being a place of support, welcome and hope for all. If you have any questions about the General Conference delay, please feel free to reach out to either one of our pastors. Know also that your church leaders will continue to remain abreast of these developments and committed to our life in faith together.

Rev. Amy McCullough, lead pastor

More Reconciling news

Save the date for Pride Weekend in Baltimore—
June 24-26.

The Reconciling Church members will be walking with the Faith Communities of Baltimore in the Pride Parade.

Plan to walk with us!



On Sunday, February 13, Grace Church received 3 new members into our church family.

ALEX CARNEY

DANELL GILL

ASHLEY JACHENS

Her husband Brian, recognized as a friend of Grace, stood with Ashley during the liturgy.

We welcome them, grateful for their presence and the gifts that they bring to our ministries.

Lenten Crosses



On Sunday, March 6 our children were welcomed back in person to attend worship. During the Children's Moment, they came forward to meet with the clergy.

Each was given a cross to color and write a Lenten word on and then come forward during the sharing of Holy Communion to hang it on a white dogwood tree that would soon be planted on the church grounds. The crosses will hang in the chapel until Easter.

Newsletter to change to new format

Grace Notes will transition to a new format in coming months. After much discussion and discernment, we are moving to a quarterly *Grace Notes* magazine, which will replace our monthly newsletter. The magazine will include in depth articles from our pastors and church leaders, updates from ministry areas, upcoming events, and many of the cherished features of birthdays and member news. Kitty Allen will continue as editor.

Information about ongoing church activities will be communicated through our twice-weekly E-notes and Sunday morning announcements. If you have not signed up to receive E-notes, please call the church office. Stay tuned for news of the birth of the re-fashioned *Grace Notes*!



Warmest

wishes to those of our Grace family celebrating birthdays in April:

- 2 Thomas E. Green, Jr.
- 3 Omar Calderon, Elise DeFilippis, Zachary Green
- 4 Ryan Riddle
- 6 Eva Metz, Mary T. White
- 8 Wonwoo Lee
- 9 Josefina Mian, Nila Murray, Bruce S. Rice
- 11 Diana McGraw
- 12 Hayes Hudkins, Missy Laytham
- 13 Robin Benfer
- 15 Georgia Barnes, Quinn Bathory-Gimigliano, Riley Bathory-Gimigliano
- 16 Becky Farace
- 17 Brian Pflaum, Allegra Schmidt
- 18 Sheldon Gruber-Lebowitz, Lely Yanega
- 19 Richard Brooks
- 20 Nancy S. Blackstone, Todd Canter, Lindsay Cheek
- 21 Maggie Grandsire, Peggy Thorne, William Wilkerson
- 22 Dick Fulton
- 23 Jeffrey Keenan, Earline Patenaude, Wilma Starkey
- 24 Thomas A. Green, Leigh Howe, Margot Wittich
- 26 Campbell Barnes, Marin Heath, Sara Nichols, Bryce Schmidt
- 27 Amy G. Pflaum, Kate Scott
- 28 Bob McIntire
- 29 Caroline Breeden
- 30 Elisabeth Dahl (Davis), Emily Riddle, Hayden White

Within the Family at Grace

DEATHS

Arthur Cocco, MD
February 2, 2022

John Kessell
February 28, 2022

Mary Lou (Mrs. Albert) Beehler
March 2, 2022

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Gratitude is the memory of the heart.

- Massieu



Altar Flowers

(For additions or corrections please contact Claire Greenhouse at 410-337-7407.)

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

April 3 in memory of his loving mother, Thelma Jean Cantrell and brother Timothy Eugene Cantrell by Robert Cantrell; Milton Volker by his wife Pat.

April 10 Palm Sunday: in memory of Hilde and Earl Collins by their daughter and son-in-law Maureen and Jack Danz

Palms: in honor of our friends, long standing and new by Sue and Thom Rinker.

April 17- Easter - *the altar and urn flowers* in memory of: Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lee Moore and Mr. & Mrs. Frederick A. Weiss by Tom Moore and grandsons Bill and Thomas Lee; Lee Starkey, Charles & Mildred Hatter and Maurice & Odo Starkey by the Starkey Family; Rev. Mark Boling by his wife Francette.

Hydrangeas: in memory of Flora Jane Moore by her husband Tom and sons Bill and Thomas Lee.

Palms: in memory of our parents Mr. & Mrs. M. Nelson Bond, Jr. and grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Scott by Kitty Allen and Barbara Bond

Paschal Candle: in honor of her children Lisa, Susan and Malcolm, and in memory of Katherine by Kitty Allen

April 24 -in honor of Diane & Don Topper on their anniversary by Lynn Beachler; and in memory of Marie E. Spann by her daughter, Jeanette Cosper.

LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY

May 1 - Bruce Eicher (1) and -----

May 8 - Mother's Day - Kitty Allen and Barbara Bond

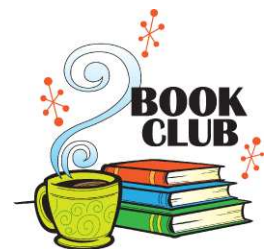
May 15 - Marilyn Workman and Claire Greenhouse

May 22 - Carl Weber and Amy Pflaum

May 29 - Vickie Leshinski (1) and -----

GRACE BOOK CLUB

The book for April 11th is *The Survivors* by Jane Harper. Please join us in the Parlor at 12:30. For more information, please contact Maureen Danz maur.danz@verizon.net.



Trustees – New name but same job

As many of you are aware, by congregational vote in June 2021, the former Committee on Finance and the Board of Trustees were combined into a single umbrella group known as the Stewardship of Resources Committee (SOR). The new committee has assumed the functions of both previous committees and oversees the general Operating Budget of the church as well as the expenditures to maintain, repair and upgrade our buildings and grounds. Because of the limited opportunities for in-person worship over the last two years however, you may not know of some of the improvements to our facilities that have occurred. Here's a short rundown of some of the major projects that have been undertaken:

Of course, everyone knows we now have the ability to live-stream worship services and other activities in our sanctuary. It is what has enabled us to reach out to the congregation and stay connected over these last two years. The idea of video-taping our services had been discussed for several years, and we were in the process of upgrading the speakers in the worship space and installing visual screens when the pandemic made it mandatory that we install full audio/video streaming capabilities. We are continuing to upgrade our systems with the purchase of new assisted listening devices and the installation of additional microphones in the chancel area for additional clarity in our live-streams and recordings.

Grace Church was constructed in 1951 with the educational wing addition following in 1960. Except for some upgrades from incandescent to fluorescent fixtures in the educational wing implemented in 2001, the lighting throughout the building still relies on energy inefficient mid-twentieth century technology. We are in the process of upgrading the lighting throughout the building to brighten up our hallways and meeting rooms, get rid of those nasty shadows on our videocasts, and take advantage of considerable energy cost savings with more energy efficient fixtures.

Grace Church has arguably one of the best organs in Baltimore City. The five manual pipe organ with 60 ranks of pipes and 67 digital stops has been completely renovated, with a current replacement value of \$1.5 million. A rededication concert was held March 18. If you missed that, all you have to do is come to church any Sunday to hear this magnificent instrument.

Zoom meetings have become the bane of existence for many of us over the last two years. Committee meetings and virtual Sunday School classes have been at the mercy of slow unreliable wi-fi service. Although we are hopefully transitioning back to in-person experiences, we recently contracted for highspeed fiber optic internet service which will give us fast reliable wi-fi throughout the building for our future needs.

The pandemic resulted in increased demand for childcare, and our Grace Preschool has seen a significant increase in enrollment. Two classrooms in the lower level of the building have been renovated with the addition of bathrooms for the Preschool, and other areas have been upgraded to help eliminate dampness and serve as multi-use spaces.

Add to this the usual maintenance issues like roofing repairs, drain maintenance, grounds maintenance, snow removal, painting, etc. and you can see that, although you may not have been here to see it, the Trustees have been busy. We hope you will soon return to in-person worship and take advantage of the wonderful facilities we are privileged to have here at Grace Church.



**Building
&
Grounds
Ministry**



*The Children's
Ministry is
Abuzz with
Good News!*

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Children's Ministry is back in person! The first Sunday of each month, all children are in morning worship and participate in Children's Moments along with Pastor Amy and Pastor Levon. Mask wearing will be optional. The first Sunday of each month, the lesson will be emailed to each registered family. Other Sundays, all children will report to the chapel for in person Sunday School. 9:55 -10:00 AM Shepherd Walt will meet and greet all children in the lobby and escort them to the Chapel; 10:00 – 10:20 AM: Devotions, Good News, Music with Ms. Biz; 10:20- 11:15: Sunday School Lesson and Activities in the Art & Soul classroom; 11:15: Dismissal to parents. All children must wear masks and all safety protocols will be practiced.

NURSERY IS AVAILABLE 8:30AM TO 11:15AM: We are staffed with teachers who love kids! We are enthusiastic about partnering with families to reach even the youngest children in our church. When your child comes to the nursery they will be surrounded by music, engage in an age-appropriate Bible lesson, and playtime. Our welcoming staff is looking forward to surrounding children, 6 weeks to 2 years of age with love. All health and safety protocols are strictly enforced.

ONE YEAR IN THE BIBLE; A READING PLAN FOR FAMILIES:
The Children's Ministry wants to get all families reading (and talking about) the Bible with a one-year plan that offers an overview of key events and people in God's exceptional story. We all want kids to develop a lifelong love for reading the Bible—and what better way than to make it a wonderful opportunity for families to spend time reading, talking, and bonding? When families commit to this plan, they will discover an overview of key people and events in the Bible. Together they will build skilled reading habits and learn to think more

deeply about God's Word. If you are interested in getting a copy of the plan Contact Director of Children's Ministry, Carolyn Young, to learn more.

GUMC BEDTIME STORY TIME

Children's Ministry presents a virtual children's bedtime story time every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm. We need YOUR help! If you have a favorite bedtime story or children's book to read, we would love to hear it. Contact Director of Children's Ministry to learn more.

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 fourth Friday of every month 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. All ages are welcome. Connect with God and each other while playing games! All game suggestions are welcomed. For monthly sign-up and more information, contact Carolyn Young or Rev. Levon Sutton.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: *It's A Food Truck Party.* Dates are June 27- July 1, 2022, ages 3 to 12

years. Online registration now open. [Grace United Methodist Church Baltimore · My Cokesbury VBS](#)

VIP (VERY INCLUDED PEOPLE) MINISTRY within SUNDAY SCHOOL

At GUMC we work hard to make all children an integral part of our church. We do this by offering an inclusive Sunday school at our 10:00am service. If a child has a sensory disorder, we will work with you and your child to help make GUMC a home for all families. We believe every child's story should involve Christ. We do everything in our power to make every child feel a part of our church family. The more we know about a child's needs, the better we can help them find Christ in the midst of their story.



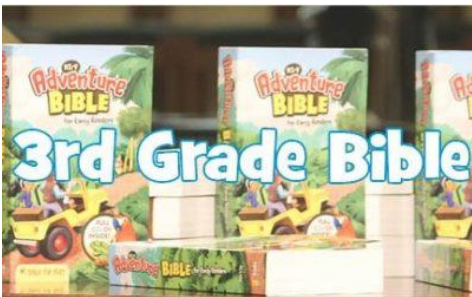
April is "Autism Awareness Month". Beginning the second Sunday in April, we will implement "Inclusion and Accepting" sessions for our children and teachers. New to

our Sunday School team is Registered Behavioral Therapist, Mercedes Mosby. These sessions will be conducted by Ms. Mosby. Jesus called us to reach out to people from every nation. To build the Body of Christ we should be empowered to minister to families of children with hidden disabilities. A lack of understanding and knowledge has presented major barriers for children and their families to attend a church, and to grow in faith. As an inclusive Sunday School, our goal is to help children with differences to grow in understanding of God's great love.



FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT ON PALM SUNDAY
following 10 am service

Ages 2-10 will enjoy songs, stories activities, and the big hunt for eggs. Masks are optional. In the event of rain, activities will be held in the Fellowship Hall.



BIBLE BLESSING CEREMONY
Sunday, May 1

Our traditional 3rd Grade Bible Blessing. If you are interested in your third-grade child receiving a Bible, please contact the Director of Children's Ministry, Carolyn Young.



Special Shout Out Award: to our Sunday School teachers, Amy Madsen, Kristen Campbell-McGuire, Signing/Music leader, Biz Shaner and Shepherd, Walt Greenhouse, for their faithfulness, genuine care and energy they continuously put in this ministry. During these past two years

planning lessons and teaching the children virtually was not easy. Thank you for all your hard work, time commitment and planning that you have put forth for this Ministry. You are the best and very much loved and respected.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, CONTACT Carolyn Young:
carolyn@graceunitedmethodist.org

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Congratulations to long-time member of Grace UMC, **Peggy Ruppensberger**, on her 100th birthday, celebrated on March 14th (family) and 15th (Grace family at Edenwald) as well as on the "Today" Show!

UKRAINE SUPPORT

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made by sending a check payable to Grace UM Church and designated for UMCOR Ukraine, or online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450>.

One hundred percent of all contributions go to the designated cause.

SPECIAL GIFTS

We acknowledge with gratitude the following special gift to the Endowment Fund in memory of Carol and Bill Polk by Henry Perry

Grace United Methodist Church
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PLEASE RUSH



March fun at "busy-bee" Grace Preschool

Our twos classes hosted a PJ Day to celebrate the 100th day of school. Lots of comfy friends joined in the fun.

Our threes classes have been working on their dinosaur unit where they dug for fossils and incorporated numbers and letters.

Our fours classes were preparing for Spring Break by creating an airport in their dramatic play center where they can check passengers in, create passports, fly a plane and travel to far off destinations.

Our Kindergarten and First Grade celebrated the 100th day of school by dressing as 100-year-old people, and participating in activities that revolve around the number 100.

We've also begun welcoming new families with children from 12-24 months to our FREE 'My Grownup and Me' classes on Tuesdays and

Thursdays. Each class provides families with art, sensory and social activities for toddlers and their caregivers to complete together, and gives everyone a chance to meet new friends. If you know someone who would be interested in joining us, signups can be found at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044caeea2ea5fb6-mygrownup>

Our winter Auction Teacher Experiences are including tea parties, movie nights, director for the day, gingerbread house creations, dinosaur crafting and other exciting opportunities for children to engage in with their teachers outside of school hours. Lots of fun and smiles!