



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Church and Winter Streets, Hagerstown, Maryland
Church Office: 712 Church Street Phone: 240-850-2934
Website: www.graceumchag.org
Email: graceumchagerstown@gmail.com

Reverend Dionne T. Hall, Pastor
Email: pastordionne.hall@gmail.com

Music Director, Jonathan Leonard
Email: jleonard.graceumc@outlook.com

Church Administrator, Cindy Tedrick
Email: graceumchagerstown@gmail.com

If you are on Facebook, "like" our page at www.facebook.com/graceuntoyou

Third Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026
Sermon Series: *Renewed in Mercy*

Greeting

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: May your Lenten journey into wilderness unfold honestly.

People: Honesty is God's gift to us.

Leader: And may you know that in this wilderness God has been expecting us,

People: To grant us mercy.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, I welcome you to worship this third Sunday in Lent as we journey into 40 days of wilderness and reflection. May God grant us grace as we journey through Lent with our hearts and minds centered on Jesus.

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude 'Cantabile' – Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
The Light of Christ Enters the Sanctuary

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: Come, let us worship God!

People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

People: We are the sheep of God's pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

Leader: Come, let us open our hearts!

People: We receive God's love poured into our hearts through the Spirit

Leader: Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

1. Come, thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

Opening Prayer (in unison)

Holy, Creating, Creative God, we sing from the depths of our sorrow. We sing from the abundance of our joy. We sing in voices separate and unique. We sing with one voice as your body. May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song, and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry, be pleasing in your sight. *Amen.*

Children's Message

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1 – 7

A reading from Exodus

Water from the Rock

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink."

Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Psalter: Psalm 95

A reading from the psalms

The rock of our salvation

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

People: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Leader: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

People: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Leader: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

People: Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness

Leader: when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

People: For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways." Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

Epistle Reading: Romans 5:1 – 11

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Reconciled to God by Christ's death

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Here ends the reading of the Word.

Gospel Hymn "Blessed Assurance"

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Prayer of Illumination (unison)

Living God, through the reading of the Scriptures and by the power of your Spirit, may we hear for ourselves the good news, and believe, because of your Word, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: John 4:5 - 42

A reading of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

The woman at the well

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, **"Give me a drink."** (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, **"How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?"** (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered her, **"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."**

The woman said to him, **"Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"**

Jesus said to her, **"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."**

The woman said to him, **"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."**

Jesus said to her, **"Go, call your husband, and come back."**

The woman answered him, **"I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"**

The woman said to him, **"Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."**

Jesus said to her, **"Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."**

The woman said to him, *"I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."*

Jesus said to her, **"I am he, the one who is speaking to you."**

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, *"What do you want?"* or, *"Why are you speaking with her?"*

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, *"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"*

They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, **"I have food to eat that you do not know about."**

So the disciples said to one another, *"Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"*

Jesus said to them, **"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you,**

look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may

rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, *"He told me everything I have ever done."* So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word.

They said to the woman, *"It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."*

Pastor: "The word of God for the people of God."

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation: *We've come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord, Trusting in His holy Word, He's never failed us --yet. Singin' oh, oh, oh, can't turn a-round, We've come this far by faith. Don't be discouraged with trouble in your life. He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife. That's why we've come this far by faith. Leaning on the Lord. Trusting in his holy word. He's never failed me yet. God of our wilderness journeys, open our hearts and minds to hear and be your good news. Amen.*

"Companion for the Journey"
Romans 5:1 – 11 Psalm 95

Rev. Dionne T. Hall

Response to the Word: *We've come this far by faith, Leaning on the Lord, Trusting in His holy Word, He's never failed us --yet. Singin' oh, oh, oh, can't turn a-round, We've come this far by faith. Don't be discouraged with trouble in your life. He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife. That's why we've come this far by faith. Leaning on the Lord. Trusting in his holy word. He's never failed me yet.*

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

world without end. Amen. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

We thank you, O God, that you have given us an enduring hope—one which cannot disappoint us or mislead us. We thank you, that through our faith in you and in your Son Jesus Christ, you enter into every believing heart and make us new...

Liturgist: Lord, hear our prayer.....

We pray today, O God, that those believers who are asleep may awake and know that salvation is nearer now than when they first believed. Help them, and us, to lay aside the works of sin and to put on the armor of salvation that you bestow upon those who actively seek your grace. Grant that their faith and ours may be fully alive....

Liturgist: Lord, hear our prayer.....

We ask today, O God, for those who have lost hope and for those who have never had it. Grant to us and to those we lift before you in our hearts a new and abiding vision of what you have done, and what you are doing, and what you will do, to save and redeem your people and indeed creation itself. Grant, O God, that all might see and believe and discover their purpose and the purpose of all that is and all that is yet to be....

Liturgist: Lord, hear our prayer.....

We ask all this of you, O God, knowing that you are our hope and our salvation, a very present help in times of trouble, and the One whose purpose is to grant new and abundant life to us and our world. Praise be to your name.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call to Confession

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Trusting in God's overflowing grace, let us confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, from the beginning of time, you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own way and

refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you and of recognizing your reign among us, through Jesus Christ, bringer of your good news. Amen.

Words of Assurance (responsive)

Leader: This is the good news of God's grace: Though we were sinners, Christ died for us. Though we were enemies of God, God loved us. Once we were lost and dead – now Christ has become our life and salvation. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Passing of the Peace (responsive)

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

People: And also with you.

Invitation to the Offering

See how the fields are ripe for harvest! Already, God is gathering fruit for eternal life. With rejoicing, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem 'O Lord God' – Clifford Harker (1912-1999)

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Go now in the blessing of God's mercy that companions us all on the journey, opening our hearts to receive and share God's steadfast love until all creation resonates with the joy of new life. Amen.

Closing Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

Postlude 'Fugue in G' – Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)

The Light of Christ goes into the world.

Charge

The hour is coming and is now here. Go forth to worship the Lord your God in spirit and in truth, I all that you say and do.

Benediction

Go now in the blessing of God's mercy that companions us all on the journey, opening our hearts to receive and share God's steadfast love until all creation resonates with the joy of new life. Amen.

Grace Notes

March 8, 2026

Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

From the Pastor: The questions continue. This week, both the Romans and the Psalter readings call us to introspection. Here's what we're asking ourselves this week: What are the ways our community might boast in hope of God's provision and guidance? How might we boast or rejoice in our reconciliation to God and one another? How do we express the joy of reconciliation in a world full of chaos and division? These are questions we can ask to help our church and begin to answer as we continue on the Lenten journey of encountering mercy anew together.

Pastor Dionne

Membership Reports: As faithful members of Grace UMC, we faithfully strive to remember our membership vows to support the church by upholding the church with our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

Prayers - Persons listed on Joys & Concerns will appear for two weeks. Please fill out a request card if you would like your request shared on Sunday morning and listed in Grace Notes. You may call or email the church office Monday thru Wednesday (**by 10am**) with those you would like to include or remove. If a person requires additional time, or has a long-term illness, request they be added to the "Long-term" list. The joys and concerns will list first name and last initial; no details will appear.

Joys & Concerns

Mar. 1: Shelby B.

Feb. 22: Mike P., Rosalie R.

Prayers (Long-term): John S., Paul H., Ron S., Robin G., Lucy K.; Bill S., Erin B., Doris K.; Bill H., Wendi C., Margie C., Bev. B., Connie M.; Vickie S., Rhonda and Tony W., Harriett H.; Mike and Angel P.

The Daily Scripture Lessons

Sunday, March 08, 2026: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Monday, March 09, 2026: Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13;

Tuesday, March 10, 2026: Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4;

Wednesday, March 11, 2026: Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39;

Thursday, March 12, 2026: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32;

Friday, March 13, 2026: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9;

Saturday, March 14, 2026: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9;

Presence – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.

Worship: 75 Sunday School: 31 Facebook Live: 158 Ladies T4U: 14

GIFTS – Your gifts offer HOPE to Grace Church and the community. When we tithe, we follow the example given to us in Genesis 28:10-22 by giving at least 10% to the **General Fund**. United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving, one we encourage our members to move toward and, once achieved, move beyond. We believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity the deeper the joy. The **General Fund** is responsible for ensuring all the needs of the church are met; this includes all of the ministries, missions, and operational costs of Grace Church. The One Board (as of May 14, 2023) asks that all tithes and offerings be placed in the General Fund except those for T.H.R.I.V.E., Micah's Backpack & Building for the Future. Separate envelopes are provided for these ministries and located by the lectern. This is the only way to donate to these ministries. This will allow Grace Church to move towards fully funding all ministries and missions of the church. This will bring us up to date with current UMC budget practices.

General Fund: \$3,020.12

Endowment Withdrawal: \$

Estate Gift:

Music Fund: \$0.00

Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500

Building for the Future: \$45.00

T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah's Backpack: \$105.00

Service and Witness:

Ushers: J.C. Martin, Bill Thompson, Donna and Roy Shoop, Madison Shoop, Lucas Shoop, Ella Sholty, Justus Osuji

Greeter: Daisy Wolfensberger

Lay Readers: John Hess, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Kurt Zimmerman

Media Managers: Donnie Bryan, Roy Shoop

Choir: Becca Bryan, Donnie Bryan, Patti Hull, Hannah Kamseh, Polly Martin, Peace Osuji, Ryan Wetzel

Congregational Care Committee/Communion Stewards: Chris Jeter, Krista Zimmerman, Cindy Tedrick, Ruth Smith, Patti Hull, Helen Gilliam, Daisy Wolfensberger, Polly Martin, Rose Shank, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Donna Bolinger, Amy Bryan, Becca Bryan, Jane Staley, Rhonda Weaver, Wanda Stouffer, Ruth Thompson, Pastor Dionne, Sonja Shearer, Cindy Swales, Patty Frazier, Caroline Jenkins and Vivienne, Margaret Hess

T.H.R.I.V.E. (Thankful, Hopeful, Revitalized, Intentional, Victorious, Educated). Continued needs are non-perishables, dry goods, feminine care products, hand soap, shower gel, razors, shave cream, individually wrapped paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, laundry detergent, etc. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted, and please use the indicated envelopes located by the lectern. **Closet 712** Volunteers are always appreciated. Donations drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **fall and winter clothing ONLY**. Both T.H.R.I.V.E and the clothes closet are open on Saturday, **March 14, 2026**, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Pastoral Care and Emergency Contact Information: In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Dionne at (240) 347-2345 (cell), Facebook Messenger, or pastordionne.hall@gmail.com. The church office number is (240) 850-2934. Please inform the hospital and/or funeral home that Pastor Dionne is the Pastor at Grace. **The Pastor and church should be notified of any illness or death of a member or family member first.** The Pastor will confirm availability dates for Services of Death and Resurrection with the funeral home director.

CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 8	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Mar. 10	11:00 am 6:30 pm	Third Tuesday in Lent Bible Study in Rider Hall Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Mar. 11	1:30 – 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Pop Up Pantry Third Wednesday in Lent Service – Grace UMC with Rev. Steve Humphrey (meal begins at 6:00 pm)
Thurs., Mar. 12	10:30 am	Senior Citizens featuring Ron Twenty speaking on the Fort Ritchie Museum (Ritchie Boys), and the Korean War
Sat., Mar. 14	9:00 – 11:00 am	Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Sun., Mar. 15	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>

	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Mar. 17	11:00 am	Fourth Tuesday in Lent Bible Study in Rider Hall
Wed., Mar. 18	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Pop Up Pantry
	7:00 pm	Fourth Wednesday in Lent Service – Emmanuel UMC with Rev. Dionne Hall (meal begins at 6:00 pm)
Fri., Mar. 20	7:30 pm	Maryland State Boychoir performance
Sat., Mar. 21	9:00 – 12:00 pm	The Chosen (Episodes 5 & 6)

Easter Egg Hunt (*date to be announced*) - Donations of individually wrapped candy that fit in the plastic eggs would be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donations to Chris Jeter's Primary Sunday school room. Blank envelopes are available in the narthex for your monetary donation and placed in the offering plate. NO plastic eggs are needed. Any questions, please see Charissa Hose. Thank You!

"Souper" Bowl Results

The Grace Winner for the Football Teams is the **Seattle Seahawks** with 37 cans of soup and \$20.00.

The New England Patriots had 10 cans of soup and \$7.00.

Thank You everyone for your participation in this contest. -- Wanda Stouffer

30 Pieces of Silver – for your convenience, extra labeled bags are available in the Narthex, Rider Hall or can be picked up at the church office. Your *"Thirty Pieces of Silver"* will be used towards our Missions & Ministries for the community. ***If able, please consider using cash or a check in place of coins.*** The offering can be placed in the offering plate on Palm Sunday.

The Chosen – Join us on Saturdays, March 21 (Episodes 5 & 6) and April 18 (Episodes 7 & 8) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for Chicken, Waffles, and The Chosen.

Easter Sunday Flowers –If you purchase your own flower/lily, please contact the church office **NO LATER than Monday, March 30th** calling 240-850-2934 or email graceumchagerstown@gmail.com for the information to be included in the bulletin insert, and the time you are dropping off your flower/lily. **If you drop off your flowers earlier than Saturday, please do not place them in the sanctuary.**