

*But as for what was sown on
good soil, this is the one who
hears the word and
understands it, who indeed
bears fruit ...*

Matthew 13:23, NRSV



GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church and Winter Streets, Hagerstown, Maryland
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Reverend Christopher Serufusa, Pastor

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Music Director, Jonathan Leonard
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July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday of Easter
***Liturgist:* John Hess**
****Please stand in body or spirit.***

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering Music 'Cantique' – Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Welcome and Announcements

The Sounds of Our Praise "As the Sun Doth Daily Rise"

1. As the sun doth daily rise, brightening all the morning skies, so to thee with one accord lift we up our hearts, O Lord.

2. Day by day provide us food, for from thee come all things good; strength unto our souls afford from thy living bread, O Lord.

3. Be our guard in sin and strife; be the leader of our life; lest from thee we stray abroad, stay our wayward feet, O Lord.

4. Quickened by the Spirit's grace all thy holy will to trace while we daily search thy Word, wisdom true impart, O Lord.

5. Praise we, with the heavenly host, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; thee would we with one accord praise and magnify, O Lord.

Call to Prayer and Reflection *(read responsively)*
Leader: We enter this house today with hearts of praise and love
People: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty.

Leader: We thank you for the opportunity to stay in your house.
People: Join us, hear us and accept our offering of worship.

Opening Prayer *(in unison)*
God, who gave the good shepherd, gather your people today as the sheep of your meadow. Rescue us from danger and guide us into the sheepfold. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Responsive Reading
Leader: Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which thou hast given us; for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us.
People: O most merciful Redeemer, friend, and brother, may we know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, for thine own sake. Amen.

Silent Reflection and Prayer *(read responsively)*
Pastor: Your sins are forgiven
People: Your sins are forgiven! Go in peace!
All: Thanks be to God! AMEN! HALLELUJAH!

Prayers of the People for the People Joys and Concerns

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.

Children’s Message

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

HYMN “Wonderful Words of Life”
1. Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life; let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life; words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
2. Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life; sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life; all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
3. Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life; offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life; Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life. Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Scripture Reading Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The parable of the sower and the seed

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

"Listen! A sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

If you have ears, hear!" "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Pastor: "The word of God for the people of God."
People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sermon "Listening, Learning, Discipleship" Rev. Serufusa

Worship Through Giving Tithes, Offerings, & Gifts

Offertory Voluntary 'Voluntary in F' – C.V. Stanford (1852-1924)

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.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE

Closing Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, till all this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

Closing Prayer (in unison)

We leave today with the realization of God's plumb line in our life. We'll seek to be measured to God's standard for life. Amen.

Closing Music 'Postlude in B-flat' – Clifford Harker (1912-1999)
The Light of Christ Goes into the World

Passing the Peace

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

July 5:
June 28: All spoken and unspoken

Prayers (Long-term): John 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., Shelby B., John S., Bobbie B., Dan. M.

The Daily Scripture Lessons July 12 – July 18.

Presence – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.
Worship: 70 Sunday School: 25 Facebook Live: 254 Ladies T4U:

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: \$ Income for June: \$10,229 Income for May: \$9,518 Income for April: \$7,958
Endowment Withdrawal:
Music Fund: \$0.00
Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500
Building for the Future: \$0.00
T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah’s Backpack: \$0.00

Service and Witness:
Ushers: J.C. Martin, Bill Thompson, Donna and Roy Shoop, Madison Shoop, Lucas Shoop, Ella Sholty,
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 Kamseuh, Polly Martin, 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, 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. **Clothes Closet** Volunteers are always appreciated. Donations drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **spring and summer clothing ONLY**. Both T.H.R.I.V.E and the clothes closet are open on Saturday, **July 11, 2026** 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

Pastoral Care and Emergency Contact Information: In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Chris at (410) 340-2453 (cell) or cserufusa@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., July 5

8:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
9:00 am Sixth Sunday after *Pentecost*, *Communion*

10:15 am Sunday school for all ages

Mon., July 6

12:00 pm T4U meeting for lunch at Western Sizzlin

Wed., July 8

1:30 – 3:00 pm Pop-Up Pantry

Thurs., July 9
Sizzlin

12:00 pm Senior Citizens meet for lunch on your own at Western

Sat., July 11

9:00 – 11:00 am Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

Sun., July 12

8:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall

9:00 am Seventh Sunday after *Pentecost*

10:15 am Sunday school for all ages

Wed., July 15

1:30 – 3:00 pm Pop-Up Pantry

Sun., July 19

8:30 am Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall

9:00 am Eighth Sunday after *Pentecost*

10:15 am Sunday school for all ages

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