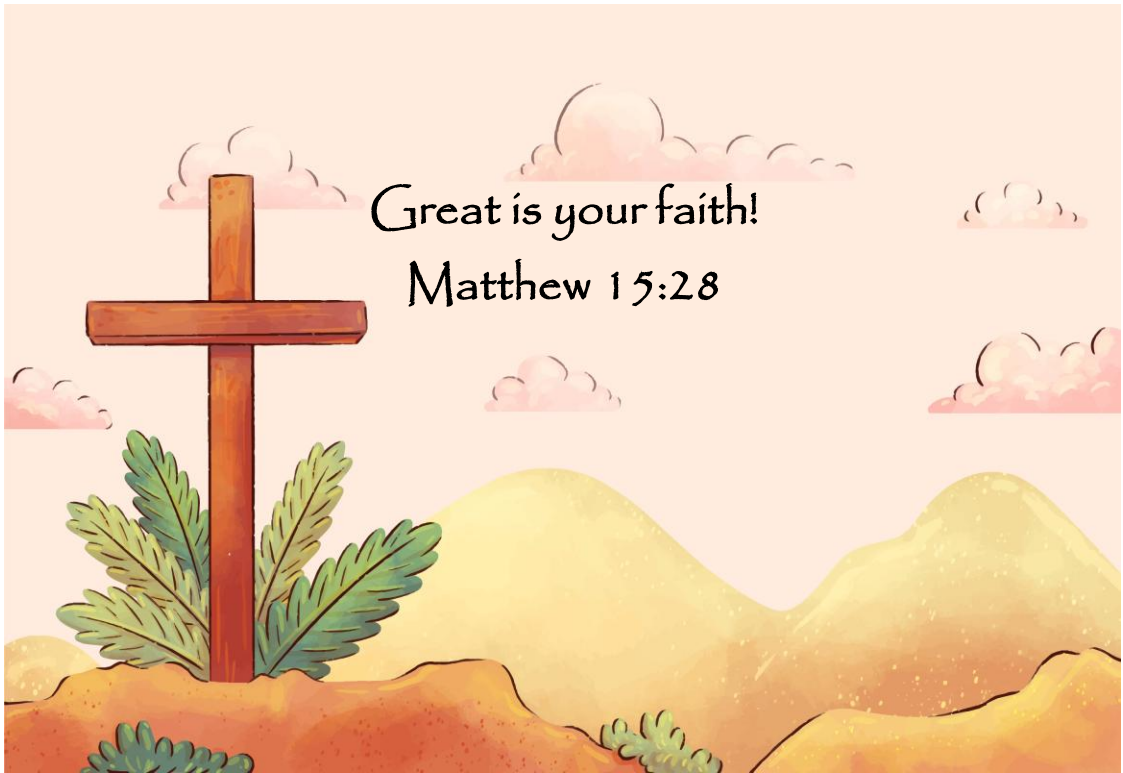




Great is your faith!
Matthew 15:28

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

August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Gathering Music 'Prelude and Fughetta' – Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Welcome and Announcements

The Sounds of Our Praise “Victory in Jesus”

1. I heard an old, old story, how a Savior came from glory, how he gave his life on Calvary to save a wretch like me; I heard about his groaning, of his precious blood's atoning, then I repented of my sins and won the victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood; he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him; he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

2. I heard about his healing, of his cleansing power revealing, how he made the lame to walk again and caused the blind to see; and then I cried, "Dear Jesus, come and heal my broken spirit," and somehow Jesus came and brought to me the victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood; he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him; he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

3. I heard about a mansion he has built for me in glory, and I heard about the streets of gold beyond the crystal sea; about the angels singing and the old redemption story, and some sweet day I'll sing up there the song of victory.

O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever! He sought me and bought me with his redeeming blood; he loved me ere I knew him, and all my love is due him; he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.

Call to Prayer and Reflection *(read responsively)*

Leader: One comes by night.

People: One is the light in the night.

Leader: One places hope in signs.

People: One is the sign of hope.

Leader: One must be born first.

People: One is the first Born.

Come let us worship Jesus, the Light, the Sign, the First Born.

Opening Prayer (*in unison*)

God of us all, we celebrate your presence among us this morning. We ask you to bless us as we partake the bread of life. Help us never to be satisfied with the bread the world offers. May we remember and be thankful for the bread of heaven that you sent to us, even your son, Jesus Christ. 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 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall, hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all. Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the gall, go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all. Go spread your trophies at his feet, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball, to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all. To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

5. Crown him, ye martyrs of your God, who from his altar call; extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all. Extol the Stem of Jesse's Rod, and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.

Scripture Reading Matthew 15:10-28

The Canaanite woman's daughter is healed

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, "***Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.***"

Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "***Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.***"

But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "***Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.***"

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "***I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.***"

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, ***"It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."*** She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, ***"Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."*** And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

Sermon ***"Table of Fellowship???"***

Rev. Serufusa

Worship Through Giving Tithes, Offerings, & Gifts

Offertory Voluntary 'Chorale' – 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 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine!

2. May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire! As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

4. When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

The Light of Christ Goes into the World

Closing Prayer (in unison)

Now Lord, dismiss us with your peace. Fill us with your living bread. May we go forth to share the Good News that we have found the bread that satisfies our every need, and may we share this bread with others. May it sustain us to eternal life. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Closing Music 'Finale Jubilante' – Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Passing the Peace

Grace Notes
August 16, 2026
Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

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 want 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

Aug. 9: Brooke A.

Aug. 2: Kim K., Julee D., Linda T., Daisy S., Daisy W., Dan M.

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.

The Daily Scripture Lessons August 16 – August 22

Sunday: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:10-28

Monday: Psalm 130; Genesis 43:1-34; Acts 15:1-21;

Tuesday: Psalm 87; Genesis 45:16-28; Matthew 8:1-13;

Thursday: Psalm 87; Genesis 49:1-33; 1 Corinthians 6:1-11;

Friday: Psalm 124; Genesis 49:29-50:14; 2 Corinthians 10:12-18;

Saturday: Psalm 124; Genesis 50:15-26; Matthew 16:5-12;

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

Worship: 61 Sunday School: 27 Facebook Live: 136 YouTube: 14 Ladies T4U: 19

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: \$ 2,636.00
Music Fund: \$350.00
Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500
Building for the Future: \$76.00
T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah's Backpack: \$60.00

Income for July: \$11,342	Income for June: \$10,229	Income for
May: \$9,518		
Expenses for July: \$27,610	Expenses for June: \$25,820	Expenses
for May: \$13,592		

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

Food Pantry - 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. Donation drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **fall and winter clothing ONLY**. The food pantry/clothes closet is open on Saturday, **September 12, 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 Chris 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., Aug. 16	8:30 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
	9:00 am	Twelfth Sunday after <i>Pentecost</i>
	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages
Wed., Aug. 19	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Pop-Up Pantry
Sun., Aug. 23	10:00 am	Worship & Picnic at Doubs Woods There will be no worship or Sunday school at Grace
UMC today		
Tues., Aug. 25		<i>Back to School - Everyone have an amazing school year!</i>
Wed., Aug. 26	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Pop-Up Pantry
Sun., Aug. 30	8:30 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
	9:00 am	Fourteenth Sunday after <i>Pentecost</i>
	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages

CHURCH PICNIC - St. Andrews/Grace UMC

Sunday, August 23, 2026, 10:00 am

Doubs Woods

Enter at the South Potomac St. entrance by E. Russell Hicks Middle School,

and drive back to the pavilion.

Worship begins at 10:00 with the picnic and fellowship to follow!

Note: There will be NO worship or Sunday school at Grace UMC this Sunday.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and fried chicken is supplied.
Please bring a covered dish/food item to share.