



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

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 21, 2025
Sermon Series: I Will Call Upon the Lord

Greeting (responsive)

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

People: And also with you.

Leader: God sees us.

People: God knows us by name.

Leader: God calls us Beloved.

People: We are the beloved children of God.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Prelude ‘The Peace May Be Exchanged’ – Dan Locklair (b. 1949)
The Light of Christ Enters the Sanctuary

Call to Worship (responsive)

Leader: When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

People: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

Leader: When we question which way to go and how to follow God’s path for us...

People: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

Leader: When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God’s embrace...

People: Help us, God, for the glory of your name.

Leader: Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God’s help that meets us right where we are.

People: Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name. Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH “Marching to Zion”

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.
2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.
3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.
4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Opening Prayer (unison)
Loving and Gracious God—Holy one of Israel—tender one to all who call upon you with repentant and believing hearts: bless us, we pray, with your presence this day. Teach the little ones who have gathered to learn your ways, inspire those who seek your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak. Indeed, O God, fill all of our hearts with your praise and lead us in holiness and righteousness in this hour and in the hours to come. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Children’s Message

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick. Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: “Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”
 (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Psalter: Psalm 79:1-9 (read responsively)
Leader: O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
People: they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
Leader: They have given the bodies of your servants
People: to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.
Leader: They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.
People: We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.
Leader: How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?
People: Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name. For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.
Leader: Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

People: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.

Epistle Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7
First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Here ends the reading of the Word.

Gospel Hymn UMH “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!
2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me; shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me. Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!
4. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home, come home; you who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Prayer of Illumination

God of life, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. Plow our hearts with your living Word until we who are broken become fertile with your love, for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. *Amen.*

Gospel Lesson: Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples,

"There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property.
So he summoned him and said to him,
'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'

Then the manager said to himself,
'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'

So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'
He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'
Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'

And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

"For the Glory" Rev. Dionne T. Hall

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

Holy One, you are beyond our imagining, beyond our control, beyond our comfort. You will not be bound by our schemes.

Even as we maintain appearances, and we jockey with our neighbors, even as we make idols from our fears. But your ways are not our ways. You are not a god of tidy balance sheets or weekly appointments; your love is too

deep, your claim too pervasive. You are there when tempers fray and anger erupts. You are here when anxiety overwhelms, and we withdraw. You are here in every bruised ear, every calloused hand, every tangled dream.

Move among us now. Receive our broken spirits as the offerings we bring this day. Merciful God, breathe your reconciling love, your holy expectation into this room. Allow us now to see the faces of those we have harmed and those we have kept at a distance. Work in us, Lord, until our hearts are softened and we dare to seek our neighbor's good. Teach us to pray with our hands and our feet and our voices.

We lift to you now all that seems irreconcilable in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our nation, in your church, in your world.

We pray for those we identify as leaders in every sphere of life. We pray for our government and all those who make decisions for our communities and the world.

Even so, Lord, give us the courage to name ourselves as those whose responsibility is great. *Teach us to tend the world you love: to sow more than we reap, to heal more than we wound, to make room for others as you made room for us.*

We pray with hearts both eager and reluctant, trusting that you will meet us – and call to us – just where we are, in the name of Christ. **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.

Call to Confession
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful, washes us clean. With one heart and voice, let us pray,

Prayer of Confession (unison)
God, do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors. Forgive us, merciful God, for our history of violence. Let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought low. With haste come to us, for we are bent beneath the weight of war-making. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name. Rescue us, O Wind of the Spirit, from the sea of despair. Deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your name's sake. Jesus, have mercy on our nation, for the sake of God's reign. Amen.

Words of Assurance (responsive)
Leader: Beloved of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. It cannot be contained, but must be poured out. Nothing you have done, nothing you will ever do is enough to separate you from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. I declare in the name of the risen Christ that our sin is forgiven and our lives are made new.
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
God longs for us to bring everything that we are, everything that we have, to this relationship; God loves us that much. May the offerings we bring this day be tokens of our reciprocal desire.

Offertory Voluntary 'Pastorale' – Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Offertory Prayer (unison)
Unshakable and merciful God, you meet us in the ruins just as surely as in times of rejoicing. When all feels lost, you are not. When we stumble for answers, you remain our refuge. Receive these gifts, given not from abundance alone but from hearts that still dare to trust. Let them be signs of your presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope, and grace in a hurting world. Help us live our praise, even in lament, as your people who believe in your goodness—still. Amen.

Closing Hymn “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us; unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Postlude ‘Verset 10 from Onze Improvises’ – Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
The Light of Christ goes into the world.

Charge

Sisters and brothers, however dark the night gets – whatever you have squandered – know that you are held by a love like this: the Creator who made you still claims you in covenant love; the Redeemer who died for your sake, lives again by the Word of God; the Sustainer of all creation, yet breathes courage into your heart.

Benediction

Go, now, and serve boldly, for God’s desire encompasses the whole of creation. Go now, in the blessing of God who covers you, protects you, delivers you, and helps you that you might reflect God’s glory as you love and serve others. **Amen.**



*Today’s Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God,
and in honor of Doris Bussard’s birthday today.
Placed by her family.*

Available Sundays to sponsor flowers is October 12, 26 and November 2, 16, 23, 30.

Grace Notes
September 21, 2025
Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

From the Pastor: We can learn a lot from Psalm 79 about how to address the difficulties of our world in worship. We must tell the truth about the pain, suffering, and dysfunction in our communities, our nation, and the world. Worship is not an escape from the world but a place where we are edified and equipped to live as the people of God in the world. We must not stop at telling the truth about our world, because God’s truth has and will set us free from the chaos and pain that surrounds us. The Psalms show us how to tell the truth about the world in the context of the truth about God. And the truth about God is that God shows up for us.
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/i-will-call-upon-the-lord/fifteenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes>
In His Joy,
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

- Sept. 14:** All spoken and unspoken
- Sept. 7:** Larry H., Donna M., Michael L., Pam K., Weller Family

Prayers (Long-term): John S., Paul H., Ron S., Joann M.; Kenny 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.

Our Condolences – We offer our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Keith Bowen who passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2025. Keith is the brother of Chris Jeter.

The Revised Common Lectionary – A service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

- Sunday, September 21, 2025:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-1
- Monday, September 22, 2025:** Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 9:12-26; Acts 4:1-12;
- Tuesday, September 23, 2025:** Psalm 106:40-48; Jeremiah 10:1-16; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23;
- Wednesday, September 24, 2025:** Psalm 12; Jeremiah 10:17-25; Luke 20:45-21:4;
- Thursday, September 25, 2025:** Psalm 12; Jeremiah 23:9-22; 2 Corinthians 8:8-15;
- Friday, September 26, 2025:** Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; Jeremiah 23:23-32; Ephesians 2:1-10;
- Saturday, September 27, 2025:** Psalm 146; Jeremiah 24:1-10; Luke 9:43b-48;

Presence – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.
Worship: 65 Sunday School: Facebook Live: Ladies T4U: 11

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: \$1,126.00
Endowment Withdrawal: \$
Estate Gift:
Music Fund: \$200.00
Needed for Weekly Budget: \$4,500
Building for the Future: \$55.00
T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah’s Backpack: \$75.00

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 Kamseuh, 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, **October 11, 2025**, 10:00am – 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., Sept. 21 Hall	8:30 & 10:00 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
	9:00 am	<i>Worship</i>
	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Sept. 23	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal/Pizza Party
Wed., Sept. 24	2:30 pm	Pop Up Pantry
Sun., Sept. 28 Hall	8:30 & 10:00 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
	9:00 am	<i>Worship</i>
	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages
Tues., Sept. 30	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Wed., Oct. 1	2:30 pm	Pop Up Pantry
Sun., Oct. 5 Hall	8:30 & 10:00 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall
	9:00 am	<i>Worship, Communion</i>
	10:15 am	Sunday school for all ages
Mon., Oct. 6	12:00 pm	T4U Luncheon and meeting
Wed., Oct. 8	2:30 pm	Pop Up Pantry
Thurs., Oct. 9	10:30 am	Senior Citizens meeting in Rider Hall
Sat., Oct. 11	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Sun., Oct. 12	4:00 pm	Sarah DeLacy Organ Concert
Sun., Oct. 19 forthcoming)	9:00 am	Golden Membership Sunday (details forthcoming)
Sun., Oct. 26	4:00 – 6:00 pm	Trick or Treat

Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday September 23rd with a Pizza Party at 6:30 p.m. We would be happy to welcome new members. If you have an interest in singing and joining the choir, please talk to Jonathan.

The Chosen – Season 3 Kick-off is: Saturday, September 27 from 9 - 12 p.m.
Weekdays: Tuesdays, October 6th - 27th from 5:30 - 7 p.m.

The Chosen is based on the true stories of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialog have been added. However, all the bible and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures.