

AUGUST 30, 2026

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**



Schumacher, Joe. Burning Bush, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55954> [retrieved August 25, 2026]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jschumacher/6386697855>.

August 30, 2026 11:00 AM

Our vision is to be a community of faith and a voice of hope following Jesus' way of love and service.

We serve God as Christ called us, to love our neighbor and minister to everyone. We welcome you to join us no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

During the school year, Church School is offered during service after the Passing of the Peace

+ Please rise in body or in spirit Congregation reads text in ***bold italic***.

Listen well, O peoples of the earth. To inner promptings of the Spirit; let silence enter your house that you may hear! For within your heart Love speaks: not with words of deceit, but of spiritual truths to guide you upon the paths of peace.

In lighting this candle, we acknowledge that:
God is here, now, everywhere, always.

+Opening Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory NCH #436
v.1,2,4

Silent we bow our heads and feel your presence everywhere.

Come, O Creator, O Immensity of love, O Eternity of mercy.
Come, and be with us and in us and beside us and over us. Be as
hands upon us, and fashion us for shining. Be as warmth within
us and fire us for caring. Be as strength beside us, and shape our
lives for healing. Abide in your prayers, the spoken and the
unspoken and make your Word come true in our flesh; through
Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we are to pray, always willing to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour upon us the abundance of your mercy; forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving to us those good things which we are not worthy to ask. In the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and guide. Amen.

God's love is eternal, and nothing can separate us from God's love. Receive God's love and honor that love by giving love to others and to life in the same way revealed to us by Jesus Christ. Amen.

All children are invited to come to the front of the church for a special conversation.

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
In my soul.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The Hebrew Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Ministry of Music: Holy Ground Chris Dixon

+The Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

Reflection: Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Reflection: The Servant Song FWS #2222
V. 1-3

Prayers for the Church and for the People

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.

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS

Invitation to Generosity:

God calls us to be a light to the world. We make our offering as witness to God's love at work among us. In gratitude for the gifts we have received, and in hope for the light God is still bringing into the world. Amen.

Your generous offerings are appreciated and used for continuing the missions of this church.

For electronic giving, a QR code is available in the pews or in your bulletin at the end of the printed worship service.

+Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen*

WE GO OUT TO LIVE AND TO SERVE

+Commission and Blessing

Jesus said, "You ought always to pray and not to faint."
*We do not pray for easy lives,
We pray to be stronger human beings.
We do not pray for tasks equal to your powers,
We pray for power equal to your tasks.
Then, in doing your work will be no miracle,
You will be the miracle.
Every day we will look with wonder and give thanks for the richness of life which has come to us by the Grace of God.*

+Closing Hymn: We Are Called FWS #2172

+Benediction

We welcome you this morning, and invite you to return, and worship with us every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM

For your convenience you can scan our QR code to contribute electronically.



Connections...

Connecting our community through prayers, thoughts, and actions
– no matter where we are today!

Name Tags for Members and Friends!

Members and friends are asked to wear name tags for worship time because they help other people. It is also helpful for folks who may know the face but not the name of another. Wearing a name tag is voluntary but shows that you care about others.

If you need a name tag, please ask a greeter or usher at the welcome desk to fill out a badge request slip!

Visitor Badges also at the Greeter Desk

Help us get to know and welcome you!

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ
Stjohnsuccmd.com
410-744-5700
welcome@stjohnsgraceucc.org

Senior Pastor and Interim Minister: Rev Jeff Munnis
Email: revjeffmunnis@stjohnsgraceucc.org
Office Manager: Barbara Burck
Email: barbara@stjohnsgraceucc.org

WE HOLD in LOVE and PRAYER:

Please keep these friends and loved ones in your prayers! If there is someone you would like added to our list, let Pastor Jeff or Barbara know. The church email is welcome@stjohnsgraceucc.org.

Those added to the prayer list will remain for three months before being removed. If prayers need to be continued for another three months, please let Barbara know your request.

Continuing Prayers

Family of Nicole Webb
Family of Charlene Stratton
Jessica Hayden
Linda Armacost
Linda Ballard
Greg Mervis
Carolyn McChesney
Carol Johnson
Judy Saul
Ken Mowery
Danny Waltemyer
Mary Weaver

Serving Our Country

Michael Barbarino Joe Clark
Andrew Robey Jon Fuller
Ty Smith Jay Robey
Tom Myers Josh Tullius
John Howard Jason Shoemaker

Hospice

Assisted Living

Doris Bush
Virginia Hoffman

Sympathy and prayers for the friends and family of Charlene Stratton, the sister of Ken Mowery, who passed away at the beginning of August.

Sympathy and prayers for the friend and family of Nicole Webb, who passed away recently.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

First Sunday Hospitality	Sun, Sept 6 th	10:00 am	11:00 am
Transition Team Mtg	Tue, Sept 8 th	6:30 am	Meeting Rm
Ministries Council Mtg	Tues, Sept 15 th	6:30 pm	Zoom
Board of Trustees Mtg	Tues, Sept 15 th	7:00 pm	Zoom
Fundraising Mtg	Wed, Sept 16 th	6:00 pm	Zoom
Tailgate Luncheon	Sun, Sept 27 th	Noon	Hall

Governing Body Minutes

Our governing body consists of the Board of Trustees and the Ministries Council. Meetings are held monthly via Zoom. Interested parties are welcome. Contact the office if you would like a paper copy or email copy.

View Past Services on our Website

If you missed a worship service here at St. John's Grace, you can now view the service on our website!

Go to www.stjohnsuccmd.com Worship/ Online Worship tab and scroll down to the service you would like to view.

They are on our YouTube channel so you can subscribe if you like.

Deadline for Submitting Announcements

Announcements or changes to announcements need to be submitted by noon on Tuesday prior to the Sunday service to be included in the bulletin. Email to barbara@stjohnsgraceucc.org.



NEW - Candle Fundraiser

Light up your life! Share with family and friends!

See Michele to view the selection or visit our online store at

<https://abc.launchfundraising.com/FundraiserHomeInfo/0/FGG4VF> or use the QR code. **Deadline is Sunday, September 13th.**



There are **order forms available** that you can use to get orders from your family, friends, neighbors, or work colleagues! Cash and checks (made out to St Johns Grace UCC) can be collected. See Michele or Barbara in the office.



Join Us for First Sunday of the Month Hospitality

Monthly hospitality time begins next week, Sunday, September 6th at 10:00 am in the parlor. Join us for hot or cold drinks and snacks. Time to get to visit with members and friends!

CEA: September is for Desserts!

**Boxes of brownie mix, cake mix,
bags of cookie mix!**

As usual, CEA welcomes ANY food, at any time!

CEA can use any donations so please pick up whatever you can for our neighbors!

When Faith Goes to Market – It Always Takes a Basket!

Always available ways to help CEA:

Include a donation marked 'CEA' in the offering plate.

Go to the 'Donations' page on our website and use the CEA button to donate via credit/debit card.

Gift cards are accepted to enable CEA to purchase needed foods.

Please stop by our new website: www.catonsvillehelp.org for lots of information about CEA and your community!



Mission & Outreach Transitional Hold-Alls

The National Capital Treatment and Recovery Center (a nonprofit organization based in Arlington & Alexandria, VA) provides substance abuse and mental health treatment to those who need these services. One of their programs is an 84-bed residential treatment center for men who are in need. When admitted, men usually have their belongings in paper bags. ***Help them feel prouder when they leave with the donation of gently used or new backpack, duffle bag, or piece of luggage.***

Please forward donations for Ken or Charlene Mowery.



Westside Men's Shelter Donation Needs

There is an ongoing need for shower shoes (flip flops) and these can be given and collected at any time into the bin in the Mission Hallway.

ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC

1000 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

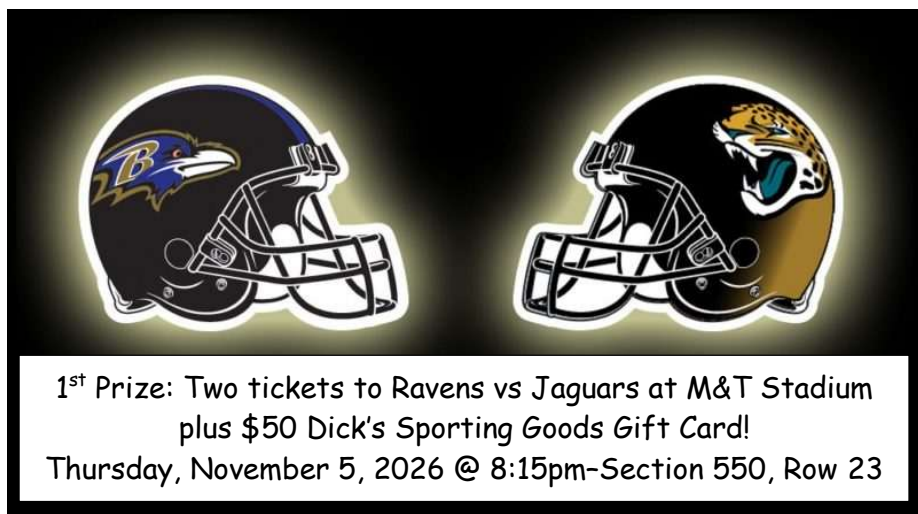
2026 FALL RAFFLE

\$5.00/Donation

**Win 2 Tickets to Baltimore Ravens vs Jaguars Game
or Matthews' 1600 \$100 gift card!**

Drawing Sunday, October 18, 2026

Winners do not need to be present.



1st Prize: Two tickets to Ravens vs Jaguars at M&T Stadium
plus \$50 Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Card!
Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 8:15pm-Section 550, Row 23

2nd Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate to "Matthew's 1600"
1600 Frederick Rd in Catonsville, MD

Raffle tickets can be purchased from Laura Prinn, call 410-897-2534 using Zelle, PayPal, or Venmo. And you can call the church office at 410-744-5700 to schedule a time to stop by St. John's Grace Church to purchase raffles.

Thank you for supporting St. John's Grace fundraiser.

TIME for END-OF-SUMMER



CLEAN OUT

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed

Sponsored By:

St John's Grace United Church of Christ
With the help of Turnkey Enterprises, LLC

Location:

**1000 S. Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228
(Parking Lot)**

Items Accepted:

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys.
(Your donation **will not** be cut up or shredded)

(Please – **no** rags, fabric scrapes, toys, or household goods,
**please understand that the above-mentioned items are a
hardship and expense to dispose of.**)

Turnkey Enterprises, LLC:

Turnkey Enterprises LLC is a for-profit company that partners with non-profit organizations in communities to help support their fundraising needs by recycling unwanted clothing. The clothing collected is used as clothing, **not cut into rags**. Turnkey services each location and pays the sponsoring organization by the pound for the unused items.
www.turnkey-enterprises.com

Help us keep your donation clean and dry
Please put your donation in plastic bags. Thank you.

There are receipt forms in a slot in the mailbox in the hallway outside the office