

OCTOBER 4, 2026



 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

BUC0105

8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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October 4, 2026 11:00 AM

We come to your Presence, God, with humility and faith. We often deceive ourselves, we speak without thinking, we act selfishly. We fail to listen carefully, and we sometimes turn

away moments where our full attention is needed. Forgive us for failing to love others in the same way we are loved by you. Help us to live deeply into our faith, accepting that we are always beginners when it comes to accepting and giving grace to each other. We ask that you bless us in our brokenness, bless our lack of understanding and help us fully embrace your presence. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for words, are not beyond God's love. God who knows us completely bestows pardon and grace. The past is finished we become new through God's love given to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Sermon

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

+Passing of the Peace

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: Isaiah 5:1-7

Ministry of Music: Christ is With Us Chancel Choir

+The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

Reflection: Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Reflection: A Place at the Table

Verse 1
For everyone born a place at the table
For everyone born clean water and bread
A shelter a place a safe place for growing
For everyone born a star overhead

Chorus

And God will delight when we are creators
Of justice and joy compassion and peace
Yes, God will delight when we are creators
Of justice, justice, and joy

Verse 3

For young and for old a place at the table
A voice to be heard a part in the song
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled
For young and for old the right to belong

Verse 5

For everyone born a place at the table
To live without fear and simply to be
To work to speak out to witness and worship
For everyone born the right to be free

CCLI Song # 4065414

Shirley Erena Murray

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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*

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Words of Institution

We come to this table knowing that Jesus instituted the sacrament of communion at a Passover meal, through his call for us to remember him, and in remembering him we recognize that he revealed to us a God of truth and love, a God of presence, our God of mercy and forgiveness. He took bread, blessed it, and shared it. We have learned that in our sharing, the elements we share become sacred. The bread and drink, through our prayers and blessing, become gifts emblematic of God's abundance and providence.

Blessing of the Elements

Pour out your Spirit on us and these gifts of bread and drink, so in this sharing we recognize Christ in our midst. This offering of praise and thanksgiving is an offering of us to you. Hasten the day when the prophets' dreams come to pass: when justice rolls down like waters and nations no longer threaten each other, neither shall they learn war anymore. This we pray by the authority of Jesus and in your holy grace. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. This is bread and beverage for the journey. In this church community, we share an inclusive communion, which means you need not be a member of this congregation or any community of faith to join us at the table. We believe Jesus Christ sets the table and Christ welcomes all. Likewise, no one is required by the host to participate. Now, let all who wish to share in this meal, partake, for God's table is ready.

Receiving the Bread and the Cup

*Gluten free elements are available
The trays of covenant include – inner circle of grape juice
the outer circles are wine.
Parents, please help your children in selecting.*

Please hold the elements and we will commune together.

*Words for partaking the bread: The bread of life
Words for partaking the wine: A cup to remember
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Please take communion cup and dispose of it in the
Narthex after worship.*

Hymn During Communion: All Who Hunger Gather Gladly
FWS 2126

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks for the gifts we have received during this communion of remembrance. We are sustained by the spiritual power of your presence. Your presence strengthens us, gives us hope, inspires us to share your love. May we grow in love, may we grow in our ability to see and understand your truth. Help us to hold sacred the covenant promised by Jesus that you are in us, and we are in you, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LIVE AND TO SERVE

+Commission and Blessing

Our worship is ended. Our service begins.

What does God need from us?

“Simply do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.”

Continue to serve with faith and love, depart from this time today committed to sharing the best of yourself, through extravagant generosity of time and resources, meeting the needs of others, both spoken and unspoken, seen and unseen, heard and unheard.

We will go now to share loving compassion and hope for justice with the world.

My dear friends in faith, will you to into your worlds to be people of God in Christ's name?

We will. Amen!

+Closing Hymn: In the Midst of New Dimensions NCH 391

+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.



Visitor Badges are available at the Greeter Desk

Help us get to know you and welcome you!

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!

United Church of Christ Offering Sunday, October 4th

Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grant. *Thank you for your generous donations we will forward to meet these needs.*

Connections...

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

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

Mary Weaver
Sandy Duncan
Family of David Yates
Betty Ewing & Bob, Jr.
Rosemary Woods & Janese Murray
Family of Linda Ballard
Family of Nicole Webb
Family of Charlene Stratton
Jessica Hayden
Linda Armacost
Greg Mervis
Carolyn McChesney
Carol Johnson

Serving Our Country

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

Hospice

Assisted Living

Doris Bush
Virginia Hoffman

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events

First Sunday Hospitality	Sun, Oct 4 th	10:00 am	11:00 am
Neighbors in Need Sunday	Sun, Oct 4 th	During service	
Jennings Iamps Restaurant	Sun, Oct 11 th	Noon – 7:00 pm	
Fall Vendor & Craft Fair	Sat, Oct 17 th	10 am – 2 pm	
Ministries Council Mtg	Tues, Oct 20 th	6:30 pm	Zoom
Board of Trustees Mtg	Tues, Oct 20 th	7:00 pm	Zoom
Trunk of Treat!!	Sat, Oct 24 th	12-2 pm	Parking Lot
Congregational Meeting	Sun, Oct 25 th	10:45 am	Sanctuary

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@stjohnsgreaceucc.org.



Notice of Congregational Meeting

Our Fall Congregational Meeting is scheduled for 1045 am Sunday, **October 25, 2026**, prior to worship. We will be voting on new board members and the budget for 2027. The meeting packages and ballots will be available two weeks prior to the meeting.

Your participation is very important to the life of our church.



TAILGATE LUNCHEON – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported our event! Good food, great fellowship, and football! We can report that we brought in more than our \$500 goal. Michele and Laura express their appreciation for an amazing group of people serving on the Fundraising Committee. Thank you!

Next Sunday: Restaurant Fundraiser - Jennings Café

After worship on Sunday, October 11th, our fundraiser is at Jennings Café, 808 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228.

Noon until 7PM Eat in or Carry Out!



Westside Men's Shelter Mission – Now Serving

We will again be serving lunch and dinner to the men at Westside Shelter on **Monday, October 26th!**

We will also be needing donated cakes to be shared with the men.

For serving lunch, arrive at the shelter by 11:30 am.

For serving dinner, arrive at 5:30 pm.

Desserts are due at church by Sunday, October 25th.

The signup sheet is in the Narthex.

CEA: October is for

Ramen Noodles and Mac n' Cheese!

Most varieties welcomed!

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!

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



Craft & Vendor Show

Our annual Fair is coming up soon

Saturday, October 17th.

You can help us get ready:

1. **White Elephant Table:** Donations needed by October 11th. Especially nice holiday items. See Alta Horn or Laura Prinn
2. **Bake Table:** Cake, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, etc. Full items and single serve. See Sandy McCawley
3. **Pick-a-Prize:** Donations from baskets to gift cards. See Laura Prinn or Michele Rolf.

Thank you in advance for your help!

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 2026

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Wisdom for the Way

On this Access Sunday and Disabilities Awareness Week, we pause for a moment to give thanks for the work of the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry (UCCDM). According to their website, “The UCCDM envisions a world in which all people are included in the fullness of life because they are created in the image of God. The mission of UCCDM is to support all settings of the United Church of Christ (UCC) including but not limited to Local Congregations, Associations, Conferences, camps, Historically Underrepresented Groups (HUGs), and national settings, as they seek to recognize and provide access to people with disabilities in all aspects of the church’s life and ministry.

This includes, but is not limited to, affirming and claiming as its own the commitments of the UCC to be a multiracial, multicultural, Open and Affirming, Just Peace, and Accessible to All ministry, recognizing that people with disabilities have a multitude of other identities, and that all justice movements are interconnected; encouraging all settings of the wider church to be physically, socially, and virtually accessible to and welcoming of people with disabilities; encouraging and providing guidance to UCC settings as they work to become Accessible to All (hereafter A2A), and supporting them as they sustain their commitment; participating in denominational and ecumenical conversations related to disabilities and working with the UCC national setting and community partners to promote disability justice through an intersectional framework”.

For many churches, one of the greatest barriers to full participation is their buildings. Many church buildings, erected before a time of greater understanding, are not built to be fully inclusive. With generations of time, attention, and money given to maintain church buildings, it can be hard to think of changing them, even if it means being more inclusive.

And yet, Exodus 20:4 says it clearly. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. That includes the buildings in which we work and worship.

Look around you now. Has this building become an idol, and object to appease and worship rather than a sanctuary of welcome? How can your community join the UCCDM movement of full inclusivity?



ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC
1000 S. ROLLING ROAD, CATONSVILLE, MD 21228
410-744-5700
EMAIL: WELCOME@STJOHNSGRACEUCC.ORG

FALL FAIR

Craft & Vendor Show



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
10AM TO 2PM

**FOOD | RAFFLES | CAKE WALK
AND LOTS OF VENDORS!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO
[HTTPS://STJOHNSUCCMD.COM/FUNDRAISING/](https://stjohnsuccmd.com/fundraising/)**

ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC

1000 South Rolling Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

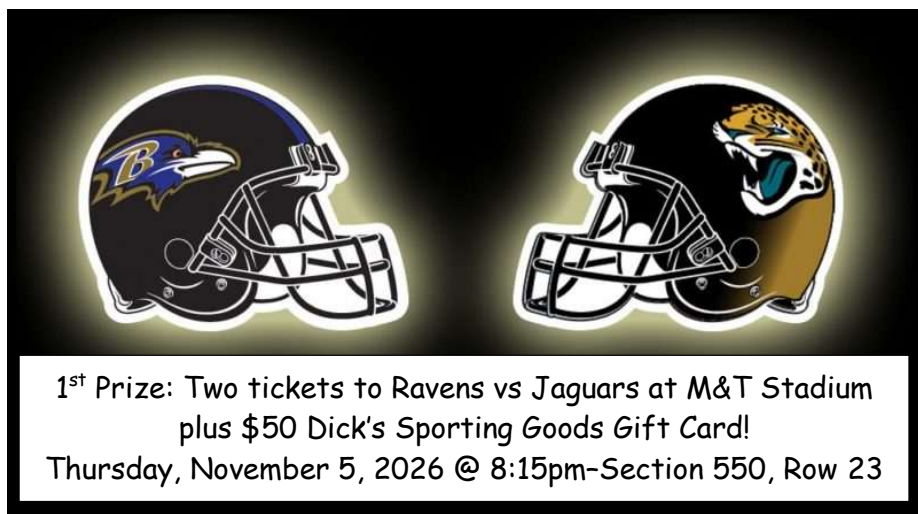
2026 FALL RAFFLE

\$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.



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.



St. John's Grace UCC
1000 S. Rolling Road, Catonsville

Trunk or Treat

Join the Trunk or Treat Fun!
Decorated cars with lots of treats!
Grab your costume and candy bag for
a day of spooky family fun!

Music - Crafts - Hot Dogs,
Popcorn, and more!

October 24 | 12pm-2pm

Interested in setting up at
Trunk or Treat?
Call Jan Austell at 410-257-7907

