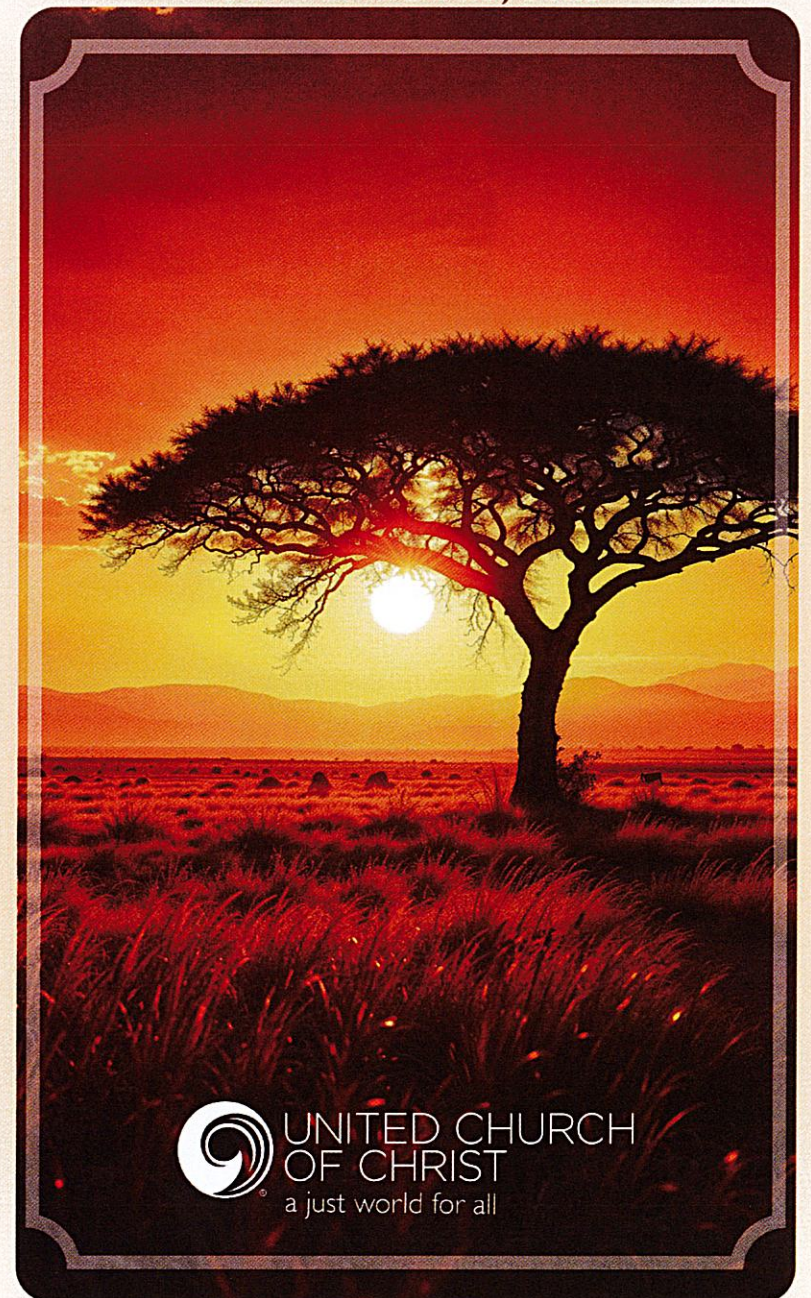


SEPTEMBER 20, 2026



 UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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BUC0103

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

1000 S Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026 11:00 AM

Vision Statement:

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

Mission Statement:

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.

www.stjohnsuccmd.com

Nursery care is available during service for young children.

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome and Announcements

Centering Prayer and Silence

You are present with us, Holy One, encircle us with your love. May your presence sustain us and fill us with grace. Draw us into your living Word, Jesus Christ, and bind us to one another as disciples. We welcome the transformation that you bring us. Amen.

Silent Meditation

Lighting of the Presence Candle

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

+Opening Hymn: Sing Praise To God Who
 Reigns Above

CH #97
v.1,2

+Invocation and Call to Worship

God's Spirit calls to us,

Inviting us to worship.

God's Spirit calls to us,

Inviting us to love.

God's Spirit calls to us,

Calling us by name,

Calling us to grow in faith,

Calling us to be made new.

Prayer for Transformation *(from the First People tradition)*

From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

From the North comes the cold and might wind, the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

From the Heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of your breath and messages from your winged creatures.

From the Earth we come and to the earth we will return.

May we walk good paths, O God, living on this earth as brothers and sisters should; rejoicing in one another's blessing, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.

The Prayer for New Life

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray:

We are here, we bring our struggles and our hopes. We bring our broken hands and weeping hearts. Help us, O God, to open our minds, to open our hearts, to open our spirits to the bright potential that you give us in each moment of life. And when we stumble, may we open ourselves to forgiveness and grace. In your name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

God always meets us in our need, rising up in Spirit, from a fountain of love and mercy always present, always restoring us, and making us new. You are never separated from God's love; rejoice in the power of that Love. 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: Exodus 16:2-15

Ministry of Music: For The Glory of the Lord Chancel Choir

+The Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

Reflection: Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Reflection: Come to Tend God's Garden NCH #586

Prayers for the Church and for the People

The Lord's Prayer

*Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom*

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

*For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.*

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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: Great Is the Lord CH #140
v.1,2

+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!

*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*

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

Hospice

Assisted Living

Doris Bush
Virginia Hoffman

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Tailgate Luncheon	Sun, Sept 27 th	Noon	Hall
Westside Men's Shelter	Mon, Sept 28 th	Lunch	Dinner
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	11:00 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@stjohnsgnuce.org.



Notice of Congregational Meeting

Our Fall Congregational Meeting is scheduled for 11:00 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.
Thank You!



Westside Men's Shelter Mission – Now Serving

We will again be serving lunch and dinner to the men at Westside Shelter on **Monday, September 28th**!

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, September 27th.

The signup sheet is in the Narthex.

We will be serving again on Monday, October 26th!

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!

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!

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!

Join Us for a Tailgate Luncheon

After worship on September 27th we will be having our own 'Tailgate Party' with plenty of time to make it home before the 4PM Ravens game. We will have football on TV. Eat-in or carry out. Orders can be placed ahead – forms are in the narthex.

**ST. JOHN'S GRACE UCC**

TAILGATE MENU

Combo Meals

includes one main entree with side, pickles and drink

- Meatball Sub \$ 10.00
- Hot Dog \$ 7.00
- Chili Dog \$ 8.00
- Bowl of Chili \$ 9.00
- Veggie Wrap \$ 7.00

For main entree only, deduct \$1.00

Sides

- Potato Chips \$ 1.00
- Tostitos Chips \$ 1.00
- Potato Salad - 5oz \$ 1.00
- Pickles - 2 oz \$ 1.00

Drinks

- Root Beer or Birch Beer \$ 1.00
- Apple Cider \$ 2.00
- Bottled Water \$ 1.00

Sweet Treats

- Cookies (2 pack) \$ 1.00
- Ice Cream \$ 2.00



St. John's Grace UCC Tailgate Party
Sunday, September 27 after worship in Fellowship Hall - eat in or carryout

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/)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

“...We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers.

As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God’s mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one’s calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

- ⌘ First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders & the renewal they may need.
- ⌘ Second, we encourage you to give permission & blessing for 2 consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in practices of self-care, necessary for sustained & life-giving ministry.
- ⌘ Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

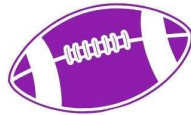
“...Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you.”



ST JOHN'S GRACE UCC

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST TAILGATE FUNDRAISER

TAILGATE LUNCHEON



Wear your favorite team jersey!

FOOD ✦ DRINKS ✦ FELLOWSHIP

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

★ **12 NOON** ★

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**WE WILL HAVE THE EARLY FOOTBALL GAME ON TV
DURING OUR TAILGATE! THE RAVENS PLAY AT 4PM.**

**EAT-IN OR CARRYOUT
MEATBALL SUBS * HOT DOGS
CHILI DOGS * BOWL OF CHILI
SWEET TREATS * AND MORE TO PURCHASE**

See Michele Rolf or Laura Prinn for more info

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.