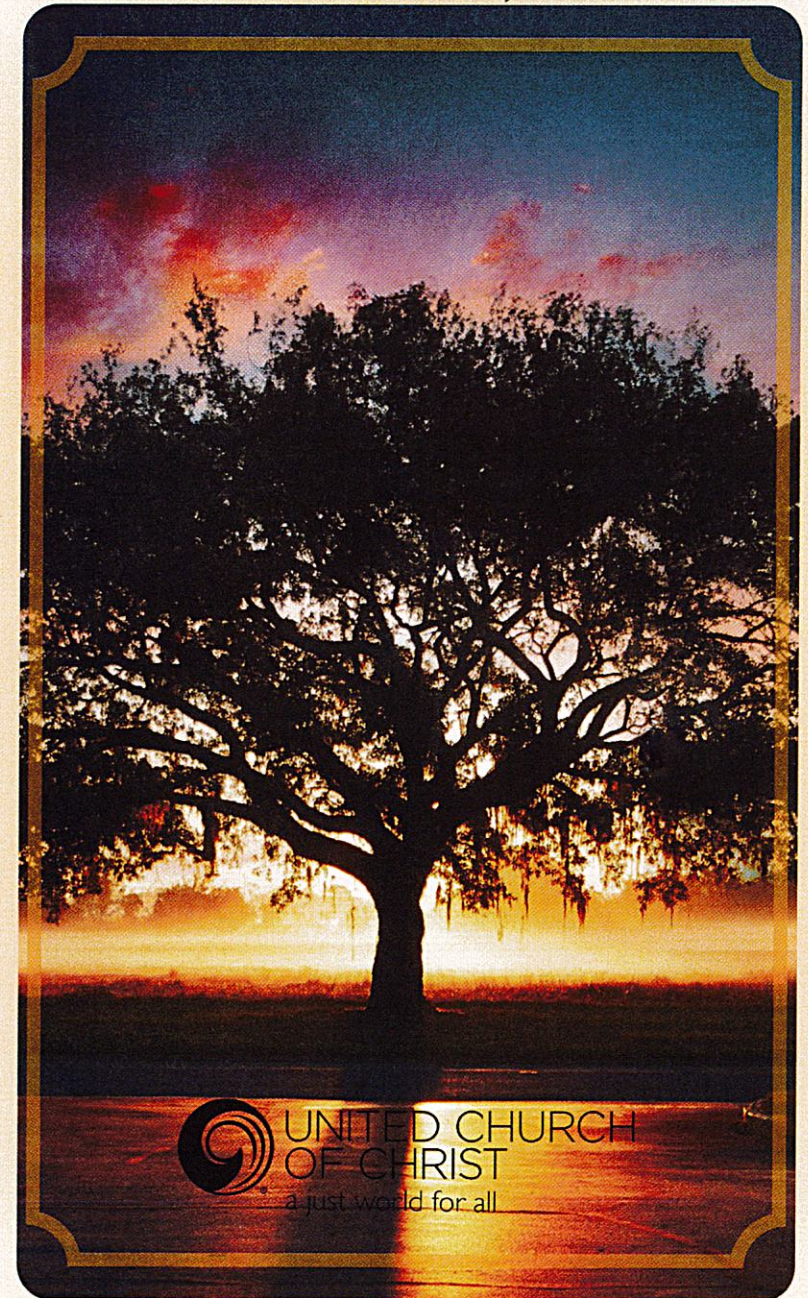


SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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BUC0104

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

1000 S Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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: I Love to Tell the Story NCH #522
v.1,3

+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 17:1-7

Ministry of Music: God Will Make a Way CH #704

+The Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

Reflection: Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Reflection: Great Is Your Faithfulness NCH #423
v.1,2

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: He Lives CH #368
v.1,3

+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

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	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@stjohnsgraceucc.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: 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. Great time to donate 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 carryout. 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/)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 2026

Exodus 17:1-7

God's Sustaining Presence

...I would like to beg you dear Sir, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903, in, "Letters to a Young Poet".

Today's Bible story, as God's people wander in the wilderness and begin to be disgruntled and fractious, is packed full of questions.

Moses first asks, "Why do you quarrel with me?" and immediately after, "Why do you test the Lord?"

The people chorus back with a question of their own, asking, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our livestock and our children with thirst?"

Finally, Moses, fearful he will be killed, pleads to God, "What shall I do with the people?"

In the end, the area where they are wandering brings up so many questions that they decide to name the place after the question they all keep asking, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

A century and a couple of decades ago, the poet Rilke urged his young correspondent to "live the questions." Moses and his people certainly lived the questions in this story. But are they the kind of questions that deepen relationships or cause more alienation?

Are we willing to ask questions of God, of our leaders, and of each other that draw us into better conversations? And what would it mean to consider the questions on our minds, rather than just ask them? What would it mean to sit with the questions over time? How might the questions deepen and enrich our faith? What questions strengthen and empower our faith communities? Which questions encourage and support community leaders? Which questions are worth living? Can we begin asking those questions, here and now?



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.