

St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

1000 S Rolling Road, Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 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.

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

O Holy One, may we be united with you in our silence, may our few words bring illumination and peace, may our presence reflect your presence, may our practice of silence strengthen our ability to love each other and the world.

Silent Meditation

Lighting of the Presence Candle

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

+Opening Hymn: How Majestic Is Your Name Celeb #121

+Invocation and Call to Worship

God, you have searched us and known us.

You know when we sit and when we rise, you know our thoughts.

You know our strength and our weakness.

Before our words rise in prayer you have already heard our hearts call to you.

We yearn to come to you in love to learn of your mercy and wisdom.

Search our hearts and help us face the darkness in us, so we may be enlightened.

Prayer for Transformation

We give kindness through the gift of your Grace, through the working of your power. Everything that is done is completed through a divine order created by you, this was also accomplished in Christ Jesus, in whom we have placed our confidence and faith. Because of this we bend our knees to you, from whom each family in the heavens and on earth is named. We pray that from the abundance of your glory, and through spirit, you may grant to us all the confirmation of our inner being and our heart's faith. We are rooted and grounded in your love and we pray that we may have the power to understand the breath, the length, the height, and depth that love spans. This love surpasses knowledge and through the life given to us by you we are filled with the fullness of love. By grace we have been saved through faith, not from our earthly works, therefore we hold no pride. We are your word, transformed and re-born in Christ, and we have been prepared for good works, so that in love we might live. Amen.

The Prayer for New Life

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray:

Through Jesus Christ we see revealed the union between your divine essence and the world in which we live and move. Help us to be mindful and thankful, aware that our knowing and seeing depend on the life that you give. May we wake to the light of each day with our heart and our mind clear, open, and ready to be a channel of your love and understanding, to each other, and in the work we perform. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Eternal Silent One we receive from you healing and wholeness. We are restored when we acknowledge your presence. You are the love from which our love comes, and you are the power from which we become grounded in your Grace. We are blessed by you; we give thanks to you. 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: Revelations 7:9-17

Ministry of Music: Gentle Voice Chancel Choir

+The Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Reflection: Rev. Jeff Munnis

Hymn of Reflection: O How Shall I Receive You NCH #102 *v. 1,2 & 3*

SERVICE FOR ALL THE SAINTS

We remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died over the past year. May the light and love of their lives, live in our hearts always.

The Tolling of the Bells

Prayer of Thanksgiving for All the Saints

Holy God, help us to remember with gratitude that great cloud of witnesses in whose unseen presence our lives are lived:

For the apostles and martyrs and saints of every time and place, who in life and death have witnessed to truth, doing justice and loving mercy – we praise you, O God.

For those we have known and loved, for teachers and colleagues and friends, for parent and grandparents, husbands and wives, brother, sisters, for all who by their faithful obedience and steadfast hope have shown us the love of Jesus – we praise you, O God.

Keep them forever in our hearts.

We thank you for all who, in choosing to follow Jesus, remained faithful and true:

In the midst of trial, they help our hope;
In the midst of hatred, they kindled love;
In the midst of persecution, they witnessed to your power;
In the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.

We thank you for the Gospel truth they held to and passed on to us:

That by becoming weak we shall be strong;
That by loving others we shall know joy;
That by offering ourselves God's realm will unfold;
And, that by dying to self we shall inherit life everlasting.

O God, keep us grateful for their witness, and like them, eager to follow in the way of Jesus. Then, at the last, bring us all home to share together in joy the everlasting banquet prepared for all your saints. 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. 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: Come We Who Love God's Name — NCH #382 *v. 1,3,5*

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

May God bring you joy and awaken your hearts.
May love and blessings pour through all of our being.
Free us from attachments and desires.
That we may become good neighbors,
Giving of ourselves and offering God's love to the world.

+Closing Hymn: For All The Saints — NCH #299 *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!

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

Family and friends of Christina Thomas
Ken and Charlene Mowery
Family and friends of Doris Bush
Family and friends of 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

Serving Our Country

Joe Clark
Jason Shoemaker
Michael Barbarino
Josh Tullius

Assisted Living

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

All Saints / Totenfest	*Sun, Nov 1st*	*11:00 am*	*Sanctuary*
Jennings Café Outing	*Sun, Nov 1st*	*Noon – 7PM*	*Catonsville*
Transition Team Mtg	*Tues, Nov 10th*	*6:30 pm*	*Meeting Rm*
Ministries Council Mtg	*Tues, Nov 17th*	*6:30 pm*	*Zoom*
Board of Trustees Mtg	*Tues, Nov 17th*	*7:00 pm*	*Zoom*
Hanging of the Greens	*Sun, Nov 29th*	*After worship*	

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.

Restaurant Fundraiser - Jennings Café – Nov 1st

After worship on Sunday November 1st, our fundraiser is at Jennings Café, 808 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228.
Noon until 7PM Eat in or Carry Out!

Stewardship Sunday is November 8th

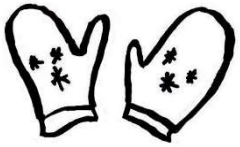
"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also…"
Matthew 6:21

Enclosed in your bulletin today is a pledge offering card for your 2027 commitment. Next Sunday, the cards will be collected. Please prayerfully consider your offerings and commitment to the church.

New Member Class:



If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming of member of St. John's Grace, a new member class will be coming up. Please see Rev. Jeff directly; in person or via email, to discuss.



Halethorpe Elementary School Winter Mission

Our winter school mission is
"HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES AND SOCKS"

School age children to young adult – no toddlers or babies.

Please drop off donations in the mission bins by Sunday, November 15th. Monetary donations can be given to Tina Hamilton.

Attention Shoppers: Dollar Tree has warm socks, gloves, and hats for $1.50!



Our Live Nativity is Coming!

Calling all angels, shepherds and magi!

Our annual Drive Thru Live Nativity event will be Saturday, December 19th between 5-9pm.

Volunteers of ALL AGES are needed! See Michele Rolf to find out how you can help. Behind the scenes help is needed also.

Donations this year will be going to SWES – Southwest Emergency Services in Arbutus.



CEA: November is for Salmon!

Cans or Single Serve packets welcome

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!

Attention Shoppers: Aldi's has salmon. Walmart has small cans of salmon and salmon in pouches. ($2.25-2. 54)

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!

Helping Hands Needed – CEA Donations



Our CEA donations are picked up on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month – so on those preceding Sundays, accumulated goods need to be packed up and left by the narthex door.

Connie has been the point person and is very grateful for all the help so far. She will be having hand surgery in November and would like to alert folks to be extra aware to help out.



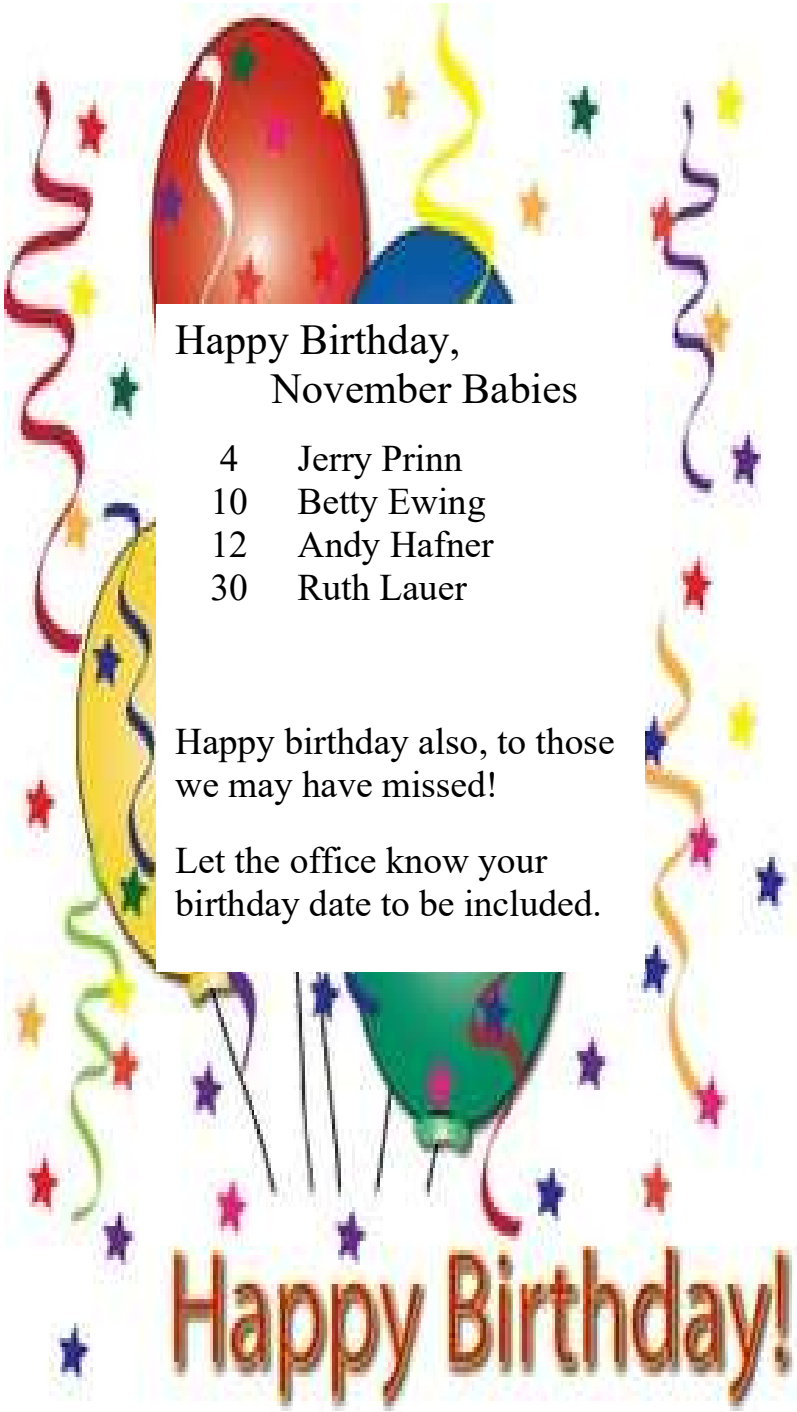
Westside Men's Shelter Donation Needs

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.



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.



TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 1, 2026 **Matthew 23:1-12**

Partners in Service

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith.

Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors.

Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many.

Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned.

Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself.

In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.

ALL SAINTS/TOTENFEST

Sunday, November 1st

2026

Today we celebrate the lives of all Christians who have met God face to face this past year, for they are our everyday saints. "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" praising God and encouraging us to run our own race of faith (Hebrews 12:1).

All Saints Day carries on the tradition of Totenfest. Totenfest is a German word meaning "Festival for the Dead," and serves the same purpose in that it is a time to remember departed loved ones. It comes to us through the German Evangelical and Reformed churches and carries a deep tradition of remembering those people of faith who have gone before us and have witnessed to us through their faith.

Members, Family and Friends of St. John's Grace United Church of Christ

Name	*Birthdate*	*Death Date*	*Name*	*Birthdate*	*Death Date*
Margaret M. Lee	January 1947	November 2025	**Robert Eder**	September 19,1935	May 24, 2026
Amy L. Poole	September 6, 1986	November 25, 2025	**Sabrina C. Beam**	January 31, 1978	June 12, 2026
William 'Billy' Weirich	September 29,1973	November 27,2025	**Catherine Hall-Snead**	January 8, 1958	June 25, 2026
Juda 'Judy' Kaiser	October 30, 1948	January 2, 2026	**Charlene M Stratton**	February 8, 1946	August 1, 2026
Sharon Janet Hamilton	April 30, 1939	January 31, 2026	**Robert Albert Thompson**	January 14, 1937	August 24, 2026
Mary 'Tessie' Behrens	December 10, 1958	February 12, 2026	**Nicole Webb**	December 26, 1973	August 29, 2026
Audrey Sears Knofski	March 24, 1952	March 8, 2026	**Linda Ballard**	May 3, 1947	August 29, 2026
Kathy Collins	September 15,1958	March 24, 2026	**David Paul Yates**	August 14, 1959	September 7, 2026
Herb Dement	September 9, 1944	March 27, 2026	**Ruth Anne Seaman Smith**	September 16, 1935	September 25, 2026
Ella Scannello	June 29, 1945	March 29, 2026	**Mary Lee Weaver**	March 2, 1949	October 4, 2026
Jermaine Stubblefield	March 18, 1999	March 31, 2026	**Doris Bush**	February 14, 1925	October 11, 2026
Athena McElroy	October 20, 2006	April 22, 2026	**Christina Thomas**	August 5, 1944	October 18, 2026