

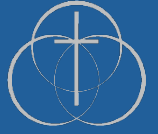


Spring 2026 Edition
April - May

GRACE METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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From the Pastor's Desk ...

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

"I hope you recognize that the Holy Spirit is doing something new here."

We had just concluded Sunday worship. I'd pronounced the benediction and was greeting folks near the exit when Pastor Harold approached with that gentle observation. There was a palpable sweetness in the air—congregants lingered in joyful conversation with their brothers and sisters in Christ. A few new smiling faces mingled among us, and I sensed the Lord's presence in a fresh way.

Pastor Harold has a gift for encouragement, so I smiled, nodded in agreement, and moved on to the next person eager to share a word. But as nearly everyone had left and I climbed into my truck, his question stayed with me: *Am I truly recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit?*

Do I see Him in the genuine unity among our members at Grace? In the warm, welcoming arms extended to strangers? In hearts increasingly shaped to love and serve our neighbors? In the fruit the Spirit is producing through the faithful teaching of our lay servants? Am I deeply grateful for the improvements to our beautiful church building—accomplished without despair or endless anxiety? And when a message I preach lands well, do I humbly acknowledge that it's His inspiration opening ears and hearts, not any inflated sense of my own abilities?

By God's grace, I can answer with humble confidence: **Yes**. God is good—all the time—and He is unmistakably at work among us.

So where do we go from here? I don't have a five-year strategic plan or a detailed roadmap. What I do have is the deep assurance that if we set our minds on things above, continue to love God wholeheartedly and our neighbors as ourselves, and obey whatever He places before us—then we can live in hopeful expectation. The Head of the Church, Jesus Himself, will lead us precisely where we need to be and supply everything required to fulfill the work He has prepared in advance for us.

This summer, we're stepping out in faith with new dreams: launching a youth group and a young adult ministry. These will require abundant prayer, enthusiastic support, and our shared commitment to one another. Above all, we must keep encouraging and strengthening each other, just as we already are.

As Paul urged the Thessalonians: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, NIV).

With gratitude and anticipation,

Pastor Chris

Upcoming Events / Meetings

**Maundy Thursday Sedar
and Holy Communion**




April 2 / 6:00 p.m.
Cambridge Wesleyan Church
801 Race Street | Building behind church

**W.I.G.G.L.E.S
WOMENGROUP
MEETING**
Wednesday, April 1
6:00 p.m.
Dr. Hines Rm.



Good Friday
Tenebrae Service
Friday, April 3, 7pm
Grace Methodist Church



Tuesday, April 14
7:00 p.m.



HE IS NOT HERE
HE HAS RISEN,
JUST AS HE SAID.
MATTHEW 28:6

Easter Sunday
10:30am Worship
Grace Methodist Church of Cambridge

**YOUTH GROUP
KICK-OFF**

Cookout at
Pastor Chris' Backyard



Sunday, May 3 • 3pm
Middle-High Grades
Grace Methodist Church
Cambridge, MD

contact Pastor Chris for address at 410-739-4364

JOIN US FOR OUR
**BIBLE
STUDY**
AGES 18-40

EVERY SATURDAY STARTING
JUNE 6, 2026



**LOTS OF FUN &
FELLOWSHIP!**

7:00PM- 9:30PM
GRACE METHODIST CHURCH
501 RACE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND



**Men's Drop-In Burgers &
Bible Study w/Pastor Chris**

NEW NIGHT, NEW TIME!
Every Thursday at **6:30 pm** at RAR

NOTE: Cancelled April 2 for Holy Week

**Nursing Home
Bible Study**



Tuesdays, April 14 & 28
and May 12 & 26
2:00 p.m.

Mallard Bay Nursing and
Rehab Facility
520 Glenburn Avenue
Cambridge

W.I.G.G.L.E.S Friday, May 29
5:30 p.m. / Dr. Hines Rm.

Potluck & Praise



Finance Committee

Bob Cowin, Chair

Your Finance Committee extends its blessings to our Grace Church brothers and sisters in Christ.

As of this writing, we have not reached the end of the first quarter of calendar 2026, so we don't have detailed quarterly financial data to report at this time. That said, we can provide a high-level snapshot of where we stand in terms of receipts and disbursements through the two-month period ended February 2026.

Receipts: White envelope giving through the end of February 2026 was \$43,794, which is 5.5% or \$2,548 less than the same period in 2025. Total receipts (i.e., including Memorial donations, Missions giving, Church Sunday School receipts, etc.) through the end of February 2026 was \$50,585, which is slightly greater (3.4% or \$1,666) than the same period in 2025.

Disbursements: Total disbursements (excluding about \$23,000 of expenditures associated with the completion of the Fellowship Hall renovation) through the end of February 2026 were \$59,377 vs. \$58,081 for the same period in 2025: an increase of 2.2% or \$1,297. Disbursements are in line with 2026 budget expectations except for some emergency plumbing issues that increased Repair & Maintenance expenses during the period.

Grace Church continues to be blessed with a joyful and giving congregation. We remain humbled and extremely thankful for your continued and generous financial support.

Trustees Committee

Kerry Walters, Chair

Praise God! I'm humbled by the opportunity to serve you as the Trustee Chair. Thank you, Lord, for Ben Doyle, Bill Gore, Wayne Towers, Billy Twilley, Barney Fairall, and all the others who have come before me in this role. I have so much to learn from them and am blessed to have them close by my side! I offer additional thanks and praise for the talented and dedicated Trustee team God has called forth.

Behold, I myself have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the Lord, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting. - Numbers 18:6

This winter has been a flurry of activity with many projects – both large and small – in various stages of planning and execution. Our team met in early March to establish a preliminary list of all the projects ahead of us this year. And we commissioned the “Trustee Resource Center” as a home for meeting, praying, planning, monitoring, and executing these projects. This will also be a place to consolidate tools, building materials, and records archive.

Speaking of projects – the stained-glass restoration is proceeding on schedule and Epiphany Studios is doing a beautiful job! The street-level windows are completed. There is a noticeable glow and intensity of the colors as the morning light shines through. And now the taller scaffolding sections are being used to reach the large round windows on each façade.

Renovation work has begun on the adjacent 503 Race Street building where part of the work is restoring the flood damage from the broken water pipe last year, along with re-imagining the lower level as the new home for a familiar ministry partner. Additional work may be required for roof and HVAC repairs. More to follow on that.

Several larger projects await such as repair or replacement of the slate roof on the sanctuary, plaster repair in the back hall, power washing, and repair of the architectural terracotta masonry. My personal favorite will be a church wide “spring cleaning” to get rid of discarded, abandoned, broken, and unwanted items throughout the church, and to re-organize those items we want to keep, followed by a good cleaning of each space. This will be a fun-filled and gratifying opportunity for all the Trustees and many of the congregation to worship the Lord and honor his church through our sacrificial service.

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” - Colossians 3: 23 - 24

Missions Committee

Vicki Hayden

- The Campaign got Grade Level Reading (TCFGLR) will host a Welcome gathering for Volunteer readers, date to be determined. Wayne Winterling is working on an outdoor reading area for the kids behind the YMCA so they can meet there every other Thursday.
 - We are adding a bible study at Mallard Bay to the Nursing Home Ministry. We plan to start with 2 Tuesdays a month at 2 p.m. We would love to have 4 to 6 more volunteers. Please see Kerry Walters or Vicki Hayden if you are interested.
- We continue to go to Mallard Bay on the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. to sing hymns, share a devotion, have Holy Communion, and pray with the residents. They enjoy our visits and thank us repeatedly. All are welcome to join in this ministry.
- Missions will continue to provide dinner for the Dorchester Temporary Shelter on the first Sunday of the month. In a month's time the Temporary Shelter provides 1,750 meals between the shelter and the hotel. That is breakfast, dinner and an occasional lunch. Beginning April 1st, 2026, the Salvation Army will take over management of the shelter.
 - Pastor Chris and Kerry Walters are still participating in Prayer and Share at Eastern Correctional Institute in Princess Anne, two Tuesdays per month.

Thank you for your generous donations each month on Missions Sunday. As you can see, they help fund a large variety of worthy causes. We couldn't serve God's people without your help.



Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Vicki Hayden

“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands”. Psalms 90:17

You may have heard that Pastor Chris will be assisting Milton Church in Woolford, Maryland. He will provide a sermon two Sundays per month, visitation services, and attend Council meetings. This is a temporary situation until they can find a full-time pastor. Let's send some extra prayers his way as he steps up to this increase in his pastoral duties.

We are moving forward in the hiring of a part-time Worship Leader. We'll start by advertising on Face Book and Indeed the beginning of April. Please pray for Grace and the SPRC as we seek the perfect individual to serve Grace in this capacity. Beverly Elliott and Charlie Borcharding will take turns playing for our Sunday services until we hire a Worship Leader. A big Thank You to both of them.

If you have any concerns relating to Graces' staff, the congregation, or housekeeping, please share them with me or another member of the SPRC. We are here to work for you and Grace to make this the best church family we can, in honor the Lord.

Members: Allen Nelson, Charlene Stagg, Carol Colburn, Celeste Bennett, Penny Wheatley, Gene Skinner, Cindy Love, Susan Walters.

Nursing Home Ministry

Vicki Hayden

We are adding a bible study at Mallard Bay to the Nursing Home Ministry. We will go on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 PM. We will begin in April with the 14th and 28th. We would love to have 4 to 6 more volunteers. Please see Kerry or Vicki if you are interested.

We continue to go to Mallard Bay on the third Tuesday of the month at 10AM to sing hymns, share a devotion, have Holy Communion, and pray with the residents. They enjoy our visits and thank us repeatedly. All are welcome to join in this ministry.

What a joy to enter the Baraca classroom each Sunday and fellowship and learn with the Body of believers! During Lent, we engaged in a thought-provoking study on Easter. Through the book of Matthew, we were challenged to consider how Jesus was betrayed, forsaken, accused, punished, and finally **alive** for each of us. Beginning on April 12th we will embark on an exploration of the Old Testament with a video series entitled The Epic of Eden. We will gain a better understanding of our Christian heritage that will lead us to fresh depths of New Testament faith for everyday life in the real world. We'd love to have you journey with us!

W.I.G.G.L.E.S Valentine Day H.I.G.H. Tea

Kristi LaClair

On Saturday, February 14th, the Women's Ministry of Grace, WIGGLES (Women In God, Growing, Laughing, Encouraging, Serving), held its first ever H.I.G.H. Tea (Hearts in God's Hands). About forty women from Grace and beyond came together to celebrate the Sacred Romance of God's love for each of us. What a beautiful celebration it was! Some of us dressed for the occasion with fascinators, dresses, and gloves and some of us came as we are, but we all enjoyed an afternoon of faith, food, and fellowship.

We were met at the door and escorted to beautifully decorated tables with white tablecloths and fine china. The tables were laden with a variety finger sandwiches and sweet treats of all kinds. Assorted teas were also available. If you didn't like Earl Gray, you could be adventurous and try Mint, Honey and Lemon, or Jasmine. All were delicious! Throughout the Tea door prizes were given to the lucky winners.

After the lovely meal, we entered into a time of worship through song; singing praises and offering ourselves to the One who loved us first. The message was brought by Rev. Karen Handy, Presiding Elder for the Maryland East District of the Global Methodist Church and Pastor at Centreville Methodist Church. Her message reminded us that God loved us first and loves us best. His love is displayed in the extravagant beauty of sunsets, and wildflowers and snow blanketed landscapes and sunrise skies that are here one day and swept away by a new and equally beautiful creation the next. No matter whether we had a special someone on Valentine's Day, we all knew we have a Special Someone who loves us beyond comprehension. Our day ended with each woman receiving a beautifully, handmade Valentine card signed by Jesus. Our hearts were touched and refreshed.

Our next WIGGLES event, *Potluck and Praise*, will take place on May 29th at 5:30 p.m. Everyone who attends is encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share. The meat will be provided. We'll have a time of praise through song, and a message of testimony will be shared. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



W.I.G.G.L.E.S Valentine Day H.I.G.H. Tea

(continued)



Jesus Asks

By Butch Hachemeister

Jesus said, "Put your hand in mine." Would Jesus ask YOU this question? Do you need to feel the scars in His hands and the wound in His side to believe? Do you realize that for over 2,000 years, what Jesus did is still causing people to believe? How can you NOT believe?

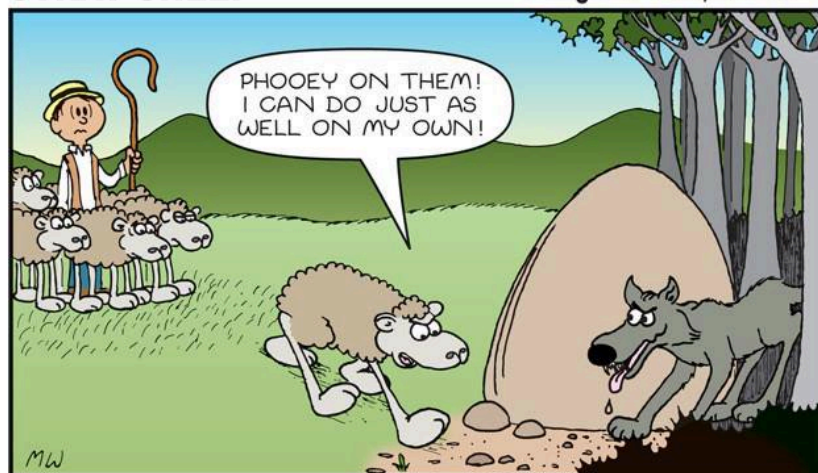
Read the Good News and you will learn how to live, following the two most important commandments that Jesus gave. First, love God with your whole heart. Second, love your neighbors the way you want them to love you.

Jesus said he was leaving us a comforter. If we have the faith to follow His teachings and to show others the love He has shown us, we will be rewarded.

God gave his only begotten son who had done nothing wrong. Jesus was persecuted for our sins. He died, was buried, and rose from the grave to show us who He is, the Son of God. There has been no other person in the world to accomplish such miracles. All God asks is to believe and accept Jesus as your personal savior and you will have eternal life.

STRAY SHEEP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

— HEBREWS 10:25 NIV



April 2026



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School Class 10:00 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship			1 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N WIGGLES meets at 6 p.m.	2 Maundy Thursday Service / 6:00 p.m. Cambridge Wesleyan Church / Rear Bldg.	3 GOOD FRIDAY Tenebrae Service 7 p.m. in Sanctuary	4
5 Mission Sunday Communion 	6	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED TUES / WED.	8 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	9	10	11 Women's Community Prayer Breakfast—8 a.m. Salvation Army 200 Washington St.
12 Communion 10:30 a.m.	13	14 Mallard Bay Bible Study 2 p.m. Trustees Mtg. 7p.m.	15 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	16	17	18
19 Communion 10:30 a.m.	20	21 Mallard Bay Nursing Home Ministry 10:00 am	22 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	23	24	25
26 Communion 10:30 a.m.	27	28 Mallard Bay Bible Study 2 p.m.	29 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	30	OFFICE HOURS Tues—Thurs. 10:30 a—4:30 p	



May 2026



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School Class 10:00 a.m.—Coffee Fellowship 10:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship		OFFICE HOURS Tues—Thurs. 10:30 a—4:30 p			1 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	2
3 Mission Sunday Communion 10:30 a.m.	4	5	6 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	7	8	9
10 Happy Mother's Day Communion 10:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	14	15	16 Women's Community Prayer Breakfast 8 a.m. Bethel A.M.E. 623 Pine St.
17 Communion 10:30 a.m.	18	19 Mallard Bay Nursing Home Ministry 10:00 am	20 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	21	22	23
24 Communion 10:30 a.m.	25 Memorial Day	26	27 Prayer Warriors for Cancer 12 N	28	29 WIGGLES Potluck & Praise 5:30 p.m. Dr. Hines Rm.	30
31						