

The United Endeavor

News from United Evangelical Church

Aug/Sep 2010



The Grace of God



What is Meant by the Grace of God?

I will come at this question in two ways: first, "grace" as it is defined in the *Theological Word Book of the Bible*, edited by Alan Richardson, and second, as I personally understand it and am blessed by it.

In the *Word Book* article written by N.H. Snaithe, it is stated that there is a sharp distinction between the use of the word grace in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, it can be used to designate kindness and graciousness in general, with no particular tie or personal relationship between the individuals involved, and generally shown by a superior to an inferior when there is no obligation to do so. It is also used in the OT, however, to signify a specific kindness that gives pleasure to both giver and receiver, thereby implying some sort of special relationship between them. On the other hand, **in the New Testament, grace indicates quite specifically God's redemptive love, which is always active to save the people and to keep them in relationship with God.** In this way, it implies God's continual, unending faithfulness both to his covenant and to his people forever.

Yet how do we understand, how do we experience grace today? I often think of it in terms of a statement I once heard: "You are accepted." You and I are accepted, fully and totally accepted by God, now, always, without condition, without deserving, without question. To be accepted in this way means to be cherished, to be loved, to be guarded from ultimate evil. It means that who we basically are is valued, honored and respected. It means that we don't have to earn or deserve such care; it is simply there for us, ours as a gift outright. **The grace of God is given to us at God's initiative. It is an expression of God's love for us, of God's desire, of God's unconditional acceptance, an expression of the very nature of God's being.**

The author Frederick Buechner, in his book *Wishful Thinking*, puts it this way: "The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you. There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too."

—The Rev. Margaret Gunness from explorefaith.org

Additional Announcements



Adult Christian Education Classes

Starting Wednesday, May 26th, an evening class entitled "Conversations of Faith" will begin to meet. The focus of the class will be to experience God, learn more about the Bible, and engage in conversations about how faith is relevant in our everyday life. The class will meet every other Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., and will be held at Pasticcio Italian Kitchen, in the Can Company, 2400 Boston St., Suite 120.



Sunday School Summer Vacation

There will be no Sunday School during the months of July and August. Sunday School resumes on September 12.

God's Powerful Word

The Bible contains about 800,000 words, depending on the translation. This is about four times as many words as are found in a book of average length.

Although the Bible is so long and deals with the greatest themes that can engage the human mind, its vocabulary is singularly limited. It uses only 6,000 different words, a very small number compared to the 20,000 words that Shakespeare employed while writing his plays.

Not only is the Bible's vocabulary limited, but the average word in it contains only five letters. However, many of these short words are full of the deepest meanings and are worthy of earnest study. For example, consider these five-letter words: grace, peace, faith, saved, serve, glory and Jesus.



Give It Some Thought...

What Does Worship Do for US?

People obviously believe that worship helps them. Otherwise, why would more Americans be in church every month than go to vote in presidential elections every four years? Why would more Americans attend worship services in a single month than attend any sports event during the entire year? But how, exactly, does worship help?

The short answer to that question: People believe worship strengthens, repairs, and refocuses their lives. The long answer: Worship benefits people in the following ways:

1. **Worship dispels loneliness.** It helps to erase the feeling of disconnectedness that counselors say is one of the most universally reported stresses of contemporary society.
2. **Worship brings hope.** Research indicates that public worship attendance correlates with life satisfaction. That data is surely related to worship's ability to give people a different perspective. Worship helps us to see over the wall of circumstances that restrict our vision.
3. **Worship counters self-centeredness.** One of the best ways to define the biblical word sin is "self-centeredness"—which leads inevitably to the internal conviction that I am my own God. By attending worship, we move beyond that self-reverence. God, rather than self, become the focus of self.
4. **Worship reminds us of important values we tend to forget.** A student's thinking improves in the presence of an excellent teacher. Thinking in God's presence forms character, the central assembly line of human personality. Character manufactures all our values—such as: (a) the importance of loving people, rather than things; (b) the importance of forgiving, rather than resenting; and (3) the importance of serving, rather than seeking only to be served.
5. **Worship strengthens courage.** Someone flying over the North Atlantic Sea noted that the small icebergs move in one direction. This happens because the surface winds drive the small ones, but the deep ocean current move the huge ones. Worship, by keeping us in touch with the deep currents, often helps us move against life's strong surface winds. "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isa. 40:31)

From Connecting with God
by H. Miller

Coming Attractions—Mark Your Calendars!



September 19

All you Can Eat Pancake
Breakfast at UEC
(to help fund Oktoberfest)

Church
Picnic



September 26

Annual UEC picnic
at Chesterwood Park

Please bring a non-perishable dessert to share with
everyone



October 10

Spaghetti Dinner
(to help fund Oktoberfest)



October 24

Oktoberfest III
(rain or shine)



November 12

Family Fun Bingo Night at UEC

Youth Group Schedule



Youth Group Activity Schedule

Any questions, please call Cathy Fifield, 410-879-5121, or e-mail
mrsacdc@comcast.net

So Rich in Mercy...

"But God is so rich in mercy; he loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins, he gave us back our lives again when he raised Christ from the dead - only by his undeserved favour have we ever been saved..."

Ephesians 2:4 - 5

The other morning I woke up thinking that there are more people that have lived in this world than there are grains of sand on the seashore, so how could God know and love each one? But a father can know and love each one of his children in his family, and God our Heavenly Father, knows intimately every one He has made in His image. He showers His love and mercy on all He has created. It's almost too deep to comprehend.

But this one thing I know, that His love and mercy has reached me. I know, not just through faith, but also through the Holy Spirit, whom God has placed deep within me. We may take the step of believing that there is a personal Creator who cares for each child He has made. We may take the step of believing that He has made a way for us to come to Him and be accepted and forgiven through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We may take the step of receiving His love and mercy, but then, He Comes.

He comes to us and makes His presence known in no unsure way, by His Spirit. With a baptism of love, He fills our being with the knowledge of His character, His purity, His kindness, and His love and mercy. And we go on to love Him because He first loved us.

Man has tapped into the riches of this world and yet very often hasn't tapped into the richest and highest treasure there is. It's God's great mercy through Jesus to mankind, through the Holy Spirit.

So yes, our Great God and Father does know each person in this world and can be known to everyone personally through the Lord Jesus Christ. He brings the gentle Spirit within us as the tangible evidence of God's rich love and mercy to those who believe.

PRAYER

Dear God and Father, thank You that You have revealed to us Your rich mercy. Thank You that You came right down to our level on the earth, through Your Son, our Saviour. Thank You that it is possible to know You through Your Holy Spirit. Praise Your Name. Amen.

By Pam Smith (*Christian Today*)

The United Endeavor

Chesapeake Association & Central Atlantic News



United Church of Christ

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Mission Moment—Restore Us

How does your congregation announce that it's ready to welcome everyone?

Generosity: Best Practices

A "practice" is often something you do every day—getting better and better at it. Is it possible to become a more generous person by "practicing"? Of course! In fact, there's really no other way...

Generous giving goes along with generous living. If you're interested in exploring generous living, consider ordering "The Big Secret of Giving: Hidden Treasures in Life and Church," a 30-day devotional with reflections, prayers, and quotes.

(Order from UC Resources by calling 800-537-3394; cost is \$3).

Written especially for church members, you'll find "The Big Secret of Giving,"

by William C. Green, former UCC Executive for Faith and Giving, original and thought-provoking.

And . . . it will help you "practice"!

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Places to Go, People to See, Things to Do....

Ladies Organization Trips & Events

Upcoming Events



Arlene Pate
410-327-3211

Millie Wirsing
410-675-3904

Upcoming events will be announced
in the next issue of Endeavor

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211 or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904

Faith UCC—Frederick, MD \$ 37.00 per person
Saturday, November 6
Leave 10:00 a.m., Return 4:30 p.m.
Stopping at McCutcheon's Jellies & Baugher's Ice Cream
(No shopping this time)

Christmas Get Together
December 15, 12 noon
Williamsburg Inn—1st Floor

Come join the Ladies Organization,
we would love to see you!!

New members are always welcome!

Dues are \$ 10.00 per year

Upcoming Ladies Organization Meetings
first Wednesday of the month.
All Meetings Begin at 12 noon
(unless otherwise noted)

Sept 1 Covered Dish

Oct. 6 Brown Bag



Dear Ladies of United Evangelical,

Our group is getting smaller every year. If you are interested in joining us please come to our next meeting on Sept. 1st. We know of a few members who were hoping to join us. Please keep us in mind so we may keep our group going and growing.



Important Notice—All trips MUST HAVE DEPOSIT TO HOLD SEATS

If you must cancel your seat you need to find someone to take your seat to receive your money back.

Persons to contact:

Arlene Pate 410-327-3211 or Millie Wirsing 410-675-3904

UEC August 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	<p>10</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	11	12	13	14
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	16	<p>17</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Conversations of Faith 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pasticcio Italian Kitchen in the Can Company, 2400 Boston St., Suite 120</p>	19	20	21
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	23	24	<p>25</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	26	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	30	31				

UEC September 2010 Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>1</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Ladies Organization Luncheon Meeting 12 noon</p> <p>Conversations of Faith 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pasticcio Italian Kitchen in the Can Company, 2400 Boston St., Suite 120.</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>Food Bank Donations</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Bible Study</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Conversations of Faith 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pasticcio Italian Kitchen in the Can Company, 2400 Boston St., Suite 120</p>	16	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>UEC Pancake Breakfast</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>Christian Education Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p>	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship Service</p> <p>9:15 a.m. Bible Study</p> <p>UEC Annual Church Picnic</p>	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>Bible Study 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Conversations of Faith 6:00 p.m.</p> <p>Pasticcio Italian Kitchen in the Can Company, 2400 Boston St., Suite 120</p>	30		



To Pray...

"To pray is to seek communion with the very spirit of a holy God. To pray is not primarily to ask for things, but reverently to receive a Presence. To pray is to open our innermost self to the royal entry of the eternal Lord. To pray is to expose one's secret being to the purifying fires of God's holy grace and love."

—John Henry Jowett

United Evangelical Church

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Custodian Paul Polasky

Director of Music Robert Gundlach
robert.gundlach@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor Barbara Matthew
barbmatthew@verizon.net



**A "Hunger Site at the U.N"
on the Internet**

All you have to do is click a button and somewhere in the world some hungry person gets a meal to eat at no cost to you. Corporate sponsors pay for the food. Just go to the site listed below and click.

No gimmicks, no tricks.

You are only allowed one click per day, so spread the word to others.

The site is: www.hungersite.com

**General Mills Boxtops
for Education**



***Just a
Reminder...***

Don't forget to bring in your General Mills Box tops for Education and leave them in the display in the Narthex.

Church Committee/CCA Information

Altar Flowers



The chart for requesting altar flowers is in the Narthex. The offering is \$ 18 per vase.

If you have any questions, please call

Ursula Jacob, 410-679-6163.

Parish Relations Committee

An active Parish Relations/Pastoral Relations Committee continues to exist at United. Are you asking yourself - What is a Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee? The Parish/Pastoral Relations Committee seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation. The group serves as an advisory group to the pastor and as a support group for the pastor's leadership. The group is concerned with all church staff members' well-being. Constructive and caring communication in an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust is essential to the work of this committee.

The committee meets quarterly and reports any questions or concerns to the Council. Committee members consist of:

Rev. Cathy	Carol Rowell
Marge Hurd	Bob Osburne
Lynn Sanders	

Please feel free to approach any committee member with questions, comments or areas of concern. Thank you & God Bless.



Our UEC Bowling League has Openings!

If interested contact
Holly Raddatz
@ 410-285-0894

A New Twist on Coffee Hour

With everyone's busy schedules it can be difficult to host Coffee Hour. So we are going to have a Coffee Hour Collection Carafe in the Narthex, When the collection totals enough for a Coffee Hour than we'll have one.

So look for the Coffee Hour Carafe in the Narthex,

Coffee Hour will resume on September 12.

Canton Community Association Meetings



NEIGHBORHOOD Association

The Canton Community Association meets at our church on a bi-monthly basis. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with free dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Friendship Hall. These meetings are a wonderful way to meet new neighbors and stay informed about the concerns of our community. It also shows that our church thinks being involved in its community is important. Put the meetings on your calendar and come show our neighbors how important our community is to us as a church. Upcoming meetings are on August 24 and September 28.



"Flood insurance is very expensive, Mr. Noah, and besides, it would have to rain 40 days and 40 nights to flood around here."

The Things Kids Say...

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?' 'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied. 'Just say what you hear Mommy say,' the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, 'Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

oops!

From a worship bulletin in Cedar Rapids, Iowa:

EDUCATION NEWS & NOTES

Pray that the children and teachers will be shared suffering from the flu.

Pray for a successful open house weekend.

We hope everyone will be spared from this illness.

Ushers Take Note

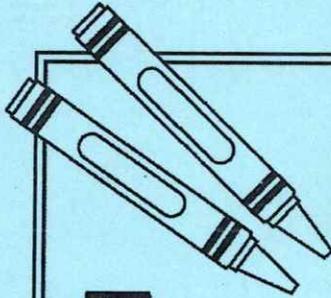
Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church.

Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."



Kids Only!!



Just for KIDS

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that people would starve without physical bread to eat and water to drink. But he also knew they would die spiritually if they weren't fed by him.

Find and circle all the words horizontally. Then, starting on the top line and moving across from left to right, read John 6:35 (NIV) and write the Bible verse on the dashes.

JOHN 6:35

WORD LIST

am and be believes
bread comes I in
he hungry go He
life me me never
to never the of will
who will thirsty who

t e l r s u v w a m x y z a b t h e i
j k l m b r e a d n p o f q r l i f e
d H e e f g h i w h o j k l m n p q r
b c d f c o m e s g h i j t o k l m e
n w l l o p q r s t u n e v e r v w
z y z b c a g o b c d e f g h i j k l
m h u n g r y n a n d o p q r s t u v
w x y z a b c d e f g h i j h e k l m
w h o n o b e l i e v e s p q r s t u
v w x y z i n a b c d e f g h i j k l
m n o p q r s t m e u v w x y z a b c
d e f w i l l g h i j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y n e v e r z a b c d b e
f g h i j k l m n o p q t h i r s t y

“

-----”

Answer: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35, NIV

The United Endeavor

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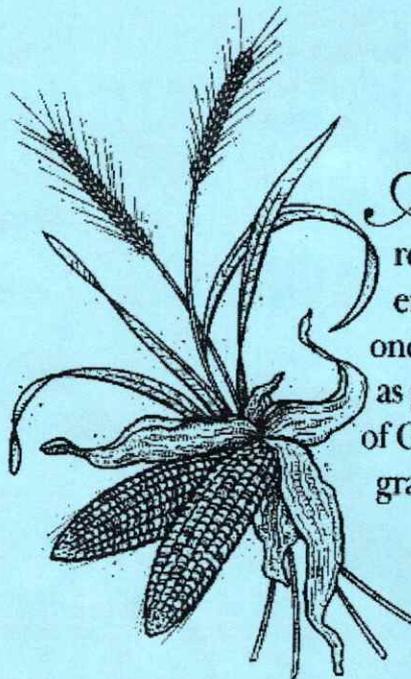
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Address Service Requested

Dated Material

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Churchville, MD 21028

The United Endeavor



As each has
received a gift,
employ it for
one another,
as good stewards
of God's varied
grace.

1 Peter 4:10