

Grace Notes

December 5, 2021

Mission Statement

To draw people to Christ,
nourish their spirits, and
prepare them for service to God,
the Church, and the world.

OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK

Sunday, December 5

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

Tuesday, December 7

9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary
11:00 am Rotary Club in gym
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:00 pm SPRC

Wednesday, December 8

11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class
4:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
4:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 9

5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, December 10

9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 11

9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 12

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Service of Lesson & Carols

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

The service will be available Sunday starting at **4:00 pm**
This is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg>

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH THE OUTREACH OF GRACE?

We have ideas for outreach at Grace but they require many hands and feet to be successful! Would you like to be a part of expanding our prayer partner program, to help start a monthly fellowship and game night at Grace, to enable Grace to have a presence at parades and festivals, to conduct a Christmas fundraiser, or to restart the Welcome table? These opportunities, and more, will be a part of the new year!

There are exciting times ahead for Grace! If you would like to be a part of these events, please contact **Karen Evans**, at

evans493@gmail.com or 757-871-3763,

or **Sally Barnes**, at

sallybarnes11754@yahoo.com or

631-258-3182.

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Romans 12:4-5 ESV



HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 11/28/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 35
11:00 am - 156

Online Worship Service: 59

Operating Funds Given 11/17-11/24 15,840.00

November

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 563,960.13

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 633,048.66

Balance \$ (69,088.53)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

November

Building Preservation Fund

Received 2021 YTD \$ 47,947.28

Building Preservation Fund

Spent 2021 YTD \$ 48,225.95

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts \$ 67,859

Expenses to date \$ 80,963

Apportionments are paid through November

Become a Grace Friend

Grace is starting a new program to help new members become connected to our church family.

As new members join, they will be paired with a current member called a Grace Friend. This relationship will last about three months. The Grace Friend responsibilities are:

- Be present when the new member joins
- Get to know the new member
- Take them on a tour of Grace
- Explain the function of different committees, missions, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Call them several times over the three months

Grace members are known for their warmth and welcoming ways. Please let Pastor Patricia know if you see yourself as a Grace Friend.

UMW MORNING MOVIE

Beginning on Thursday, **January 13**, Pat Goodman with the UMW will be showing **The Chosen** - Season One on a weekly basis for a total of five weeks. This is a highly acclaimed movie depicting the life of Jesus.

Movie/Meeting Dates:

January 13, 20, 27

February 10, 17

9:30-11:30am

Bible Study Room

(January 6 and February 3 are both UMW Meeting Days.)

Come join the UMW Morning Movie.

Open to all!



BIG THANKS!

The Landscaping Committee wishes to send a big "Thank You" to Cooper, Katie, Bruce, Elizabeth, Lydia, Bea, Ellie, Braden L and Braeden D for their help cleaning up the Grace UMC gardens on 11/21/21. You were all so fun to work with and we appreciated your help!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Amy Archer	Julie Madison
Kristen Baker	NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/ Staff
Family of Louise Berry	Susan Pasquale
Tonna and Robbie Bowen	Ann Payne
Jean Bullock	Joan Pence
Vivian Carter	Sara Ragan
Debbie Cole	Tom Schraml
Family of Francis Dail	Mary Sloan
A. C. English	Shar Streeter
Wade Fox	Jim Teachey
Julie Godwin	Pat Thomas
Christian in Haiti	Laura Weaver
Family of Rich Holcomb	Susie Wells
Family of Dick Hull	Family of Barbara Wiley
Brian Little	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers

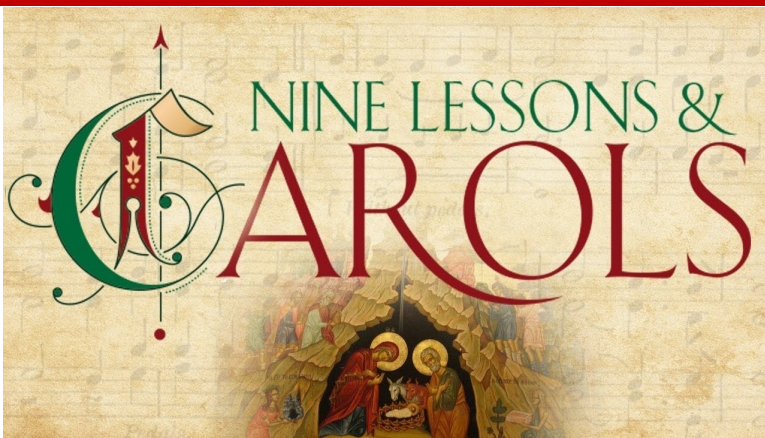
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC	PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
Col. John Delaney, USA	SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Ens. Elizabeth Downing, USN	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	Sgt. James Pritchett, USA
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	E6 Jack Andre Settele, USA
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF	AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
SFC Letty Long, USA	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Patricia at patricia@gracedowntown.net or 910-470-6310

UMW PRAYER REQUEST

A special prayer request from United Methodist Women (UMW):

Due to the great unrest in the Country of Haiti, we are very worried about our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been working with the orphanage in Croix de Bouquet. Therefore, we the Grace UMW unit asks that you each please pray for Daniel and Kenny and their sewing schools in Haiti whom we have supported through donations to Martha Worsley and for Rebecca, a bright young woman, whom Martha helps to support as she continues to go to school and learn English. For Paula and the orphanage and school Bright Beginnings in the village of Croix de Bouquet, Haiti. They have been the recipients of our pillowcase dresses over the past three years. Martha Worsley has been and is an officer in the Harbor District of United Methodist Women and is a mission worker who has gone to Haiti yearly for a number of years, working with the children at Bright Beginnings and teaching sewing. Last summer the Grace UMW ladies were able to send four sewing machines and many dresses through Martha to this group of workers and children. Please pray for their safety, for the protection of Christians in Haiti and for the county coming together and being able to create a safe place to live."



YOU
Are invited to attend
Grace UMC's

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
The Third Sunday of Advent,
December 12 at 10:30 a.m

To be led by the Chancel Choir & District Superintendent, Tara Lain

Come! Hear the story of the events leading up to Christ's birth as reflected through the spoken word of

scripture and liturgy, the sung word of carols and anthems, and the expressive music of the organ.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, created by E. W. Benson, was introduced to King's College on Christmas Eve 1918 to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. During this COVID-19 pandemic many people are experiencing some of these same realities and feelings.

It is hoped this worship service will provide each congregant a sense of peace and comfort during this season of the year.

(Note there will be only one worship service with Sunday School commencing at 9:30 a.m.)

OFFICE STAFF CHANGES

With the retirement of Marion Little, Administrative Assistant, on October 29 and the upcoming retirement of Debbie Ashe, Director of Operations, at the end of December, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has taken this opportunity to restructure these two positions into one full-time position, the Administrative and Operational Director. This change will require the redistribution of certain tasks and more involvement of volunteers. A new job description has been written and approved by the church lay leadership.

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send inquiries to: debbie@gracedowntown.net

Fellowship Time of Christmas Joy

Following the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* worship service led by the Chancel Choir on December 12, the Nurture Committee will invite those present in the congregation to taste "Christmas Joy". We plan to have real good goodies and joyful fellowship among and between congregation members to celebrate the season in the Bullock Center.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT GRACE

Please join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on December 24, 2021. Two services will be offered at 5:00pm and 7:00pm.



GAME DAY AT GRACE!

January 12, 2022

1:00 - 3:00 pm in the Bullock Center

Want to get together for an afternoon of fellowship and games?

Just contact either:

Sally Barnes, at 631-258-3182 (text or call) or email at sallybarnes11754@yahoo.com, or

Karen Evans, at 757-871-3763 (text or call) or email at evans493@gmail.com

Please let us know by January 8, 2022 so we can set up enough tables.

Refreshments will be available.



PRAYER REQUESTS / PRAYER TEAM



Our prayer team members and also members of our church family have been on our knees a lot recently. It's wonderful that so many people are bringing requests for themselves or for people they care about to us for prayer. And I know God is pleased with the diligence of our Grace family to pray. Because of the increase in requests and the decrease in staff, we are not able to follow up on requests as well as we would like. Therefore, we are going back to our original policy of keeping names on the prayer list for 3 weeks and then removing them. Since you know the situation, you can send me an email to add them back on if needed. We will be happy to add them back. Unfortunately, we just don't have the time to follow up on each one. So we will count on the person who gives us the request to follow up and let us know.

Also, please send me an email if you would like to be added to the prayer team (patricia@gracedowntown.net). It's a great way to get closer to our church family. You would just be added to the list to receive an email whenever anyone has a prayer need. I'm sure that all of us pray for each other, but being on the prayer team ensures that you receive more detailed information about the needs for prayer. And be sure to let us know when you have a prayer need! Thank you all for praying without ceasing, God is surely listening and answering!

Patricia DiGiuseppe

FAMILY MINISTRIES EVENTS

December 12th

The youth have chosen a white elephant party for their last evening event of the year. This will include all ages. Each person is invited to bring one wrapped gift under \$10.

Christmas Break December 12-January 8

Since the school system is updating its vacation period and varies from county to county, evening Bible programs will resume on January 9, but this may change. Please read Grace Notes for any updates.

There will be no Sunday School for children and youth on December 12, December 26, and January 2. Instead prior to the service we will have a gathering in the gym for fellowship. These are the Sundays where we will have one service. Infant and toddler child care will be available.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Our long term executive assistant **Debbie Ashe** is retiring the end of December.

The Nurture Committee is placing a basket in the office where church members may wish to place cards, gift cards, or a monetary gift to thank Debbie for her many years of service to the congregation.. On **January 16** after the church service we will have a reception for Debbie and at that time we will present her with the thank you basket.

December Birthdays

12/1 Reagan Phillips	12/11 Jean Starke	12/23 Debbie Earley	12/28 Nancy Zigler
12/3 Ron Downing	12/12 Beverly Holcomb	12/24 Jean Ballard	Braden Lester
Vic McKoy	12/15 Nolan Layton	12/24 Manaline Gibson	Michele Jones
Linda Gorham	12/16 Rob Ross	12/25 Jim Conley	12/30 Grant Cline
12/4 Jennifer Wright	12/18 Joan Cunningham	Judy Heath	
12/5 Carol Gardner	Tommy Dail	Jesus	
Cindee Stetson	12/19 Harper Fiddler	12/26 Dick Hyde	
Rebecca Lee	12/20 Debbie Hartzell	Avery Phillips	
12/8 Jennifer Rasmussen	12/22 Zachary Edwards	12/27 Jane Phipps	
12/9 Kim Olinger		Sam Gorham	

On Nov 16 the Administrative Council, on recommendation of the Covid19 Task Force, altered Grace's Covid19 safety measures in the following ways:

- *Masks optional for full vaccinated folks at the 11am service, Sunday School, and all mid-week gatherings.*
- *Masks expected for all at the 8:30am service regardless of vaccination status.*
- *Youth in grades 6 and above who are fully vaccinated can treat masks as optional everywhere but the 8:30am service.*
- *Youth and children in grades 5 and below are expected to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.*
- *Children ages 2 yrs and younger should not wear masks.*
- *Food and drink can now be served self service..*

Please check the appropriate box or boxes and place in the offering basket.

- Would like to join Grace United Methodist Church.**
- Need Grace UMC name tag(s).**
- Change of address, phone number, or email.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____