

Grace Notes

February 6, 2022

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, February 6

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Youth Meetings

Monday, February 7

- 1:30 pm Caregiving Group Meeting
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtg
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 8

- 9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary
- 9:30 am Knitwerks @ Grace
- 11:00 am Rotary Club in gym
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

Wednesday, February 9

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 1:00 pm Senior Games Day
- 4:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 10

- 9:30 am UMW Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, February 11

- 9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary

Saturday, February 12

- 9:30 am Coastal BUDS mtg
- 10:00 am Reception Set up, gym

Sunday, February 13

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Debbie Ashe Reception

PASTOR KELLEY AHLERS SENDS HER GRATITUDE

Dear wonderful church family,

This past Sunday was such a beautiful send-off. I want to thank you all for the kind cards and notes, the generous gifts, and the wonderful reception. You have shown me so much love and kindness over the past five years, and I will always have a special place in my heart for each of you! Grace has been a blessing. I look forward to watching how you grow and continue to share God's love with others. My hope is that I can take what I have learned from my time with you and carry it into my future ministry.

Pastor Kelley Ahlers

GAME DAY, FEBRUARY 9

We had such a good time at our first Game Day, we are planning another! Our next game day will be this Wednesday, February 9 from 1-3 (ish) in the Grace gym and we will continue each month on the 2nd Wednesday. Light snacks will be available. Please call the church office to sign up to play or you can call:

Karen Evans 757.871.3763 or
Sally Barnes 631.258.3182

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 1/30/2022

In-person Worship Service: 8:00 am - 20
In-person Worship Service: 11:00 am - 131
Online Worship Service: 98

Operating Funds Given 1/26 - 2/02 \$ 9,310.00
Building Preservation Fund \$ 690.00

January

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 41,137.05
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 57,888.23
Balance \$ (16,751.18)

January

Building Preservation Fund
2022 YTD \$ 3,280.00

Building Preservation Fund
2022 Expenses \$ NA

Apportionments are paid through January

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/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzGq>

THE FOURTH CROSS BUS TRIP PLANNED

Grace is planning a bus trip to the production, "The Fourth Cross", at the Narrowway Theater in Fort Mill, SC. The bus will accommodate 15 passengers and the trip is first come-first seated. In addition to the dinner-theater, we plan a visit to the Billy Graham Library, before returning to Grace.



The trip would leave Grace on Friday, March 18, 2022 around noon. We would go to the Holiday Inn Express in Charlotte to check in and then drive a few miles to the Narrowway Theater for the dinner-show at 5:00 pm. After the show we will return to the hotel.

On Saturday, March 19, we will have breakfast at the hotel (included) before driving a few miles to the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte (admission is always free but they do accept donations). We will spend the morning at the library, have lunch, and then return to Grace, arriving around 5:00 pm.

The costs include \$40 per ticket for the theater, hotel room is \$113.06 double occupancy; and a donation to cover the gas for the bus. Dinner on Friday and breakfast on Saturday are included.

To make this trip work, we need a very quick response as tickets at the theater are filling fast! We still have available seating for both left and right center. Hotel rooms must also be confirmed fairly quickly.

If you would like to join this venture, please send an email directly to Marvin Evans, at gumctrustees1@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Should more than 15 people want to join this trip, the first 15 will be on the bus and we can car-pool the remainder, or plan for a second trip!

New Consecration Sunday is Coming, February 27

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During the one combined morning worship at 10:30 am on New Consecration Sunday (2/27), we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events on February 27th.

Tom Guthrie
Governing Board Chairperson

February Birthdays

2/1	Jessica Wilson	2/9	Helen Younger	2/16	Brenna Keenan	2/20	Ron Moore
2/2	Mike Burrous	2/10	Jenny Colvard		Don Bowers	2/23	George Braun
2/4	Amy Holcomb	2/11	Jerry Cribbs		Marv Rowe	2/26	Mamie Hutnick
2/5	Martha Vann	2/12	Betty Hooten	2/17	Lisa Dawkins		
	Maxine LeFever	2/14	Virginia Skillman	2/18	Kris Florea		
2/6	Miller Coggins		Don Cole		Asher Wilson		
2/7	Justin Phillips			2/19	Jess Phillips		

MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD NEWS

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard continues to be open on Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:00 - 3:00, providing groceries to our neighbors in need. Please consider volunteering. Food was given to 120 households January 15, 165 households January 19 and 50 households on icy cold January 22. On Wednesday, January 26, they served their highest total yet, another 185 households.

Go to www.motherhubbardsnc.org. Click on Volunteers at the top. You will see a description of all the jobs needed each time they're open. Scroll to the bottom of the page and complete the form to volunteer.

You may choose how often you want to volunteer. Please feel free to text or call Donna Dawkins (Duckie) at 919-741-3037 to leave a message or ask questions.

YOUTH NEWS

Great News! The Youth and the Nurture Committee are spearheading a float for inclusion in the Azalea Festival Parade, which is Saturday, April 9th this year. Youth will be working on the floats on Sunday evenings a few weeks leading up to the parade. Could you assist these fantastic young persons with the construction of the float? For more information or if you are willing to help, contact Sally Evans or Karen Barnes.

Speaking of Youth, the Children and Youth will continue to meet at the church each Sunday in Feb. from 5-6pm. The only exception to this will be next Sunday, February 13, Super Bowl Sunday.

EQUAL EXCHANGE MINISTRY NEEDS YOU

Equal Exchange is a missions ministry of Grace United Methodist Church. Through sales of products such as coffee, tea and chocolate, made possible by the Equal Exchange Co-Op, small scale farmers sell their products at a more fair price, eliminating the middlemen and enabling them to stay on their land and contribute to their communities. **Would you like to serve with this mission opportunity?** A new coordinator is being sought. For more information about the duties, email Sally Barnes, sallymbarnes11754@yahoo.com or Karen Evans, evans493@gmail.com for more information.

This is a project of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which joins with 13 other faith based organizations to help make this possible. Your help by purchasing available products is also greatly appreciated.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Angie	Fred Merritt
Beth Barboza	Mary Neal
Bebe	NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/ Staff
Bob (Pat Goodman's brother-in-law)	Susan Pasquale
Jay & April Bradford & Family	George Patterson
John Calandro	Ann Payne
Sherry Carter	Joan Pence
Rod Caulder	Joan Penny
Jackson Cobb	Rosiland
Christians in Haiti	Kathy and Barry Roberts
Felix	Gary Rowe
Jeanne Hadaway	Mary Sloan
Mary Huppman	Sue and Dean (Brena Conley's sister and brother-in-law)
Laura	Tori Thornton and newborn son, Kaiser
Theresa Harrell	Bill Young and his sons
Laura Howard	Jennifer and Chris Walker
Billie Lyndon	

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	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Letty Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	

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



SUPER SOUPER SUNDAY IS BACK

Super Souper Sunday is February 13! From 9:30 am until after the 11:00 am service our UMW Ladies will be selling their delicious soups. Various recipes; all \$10.00 for a quart, plus four pieces of cornbread or four cornbread muffins. Your dinner is ready as you may be preparing to watch the Super Bowl later that evening! Funds raised from this sale go to help further the UMW Missions throughout the year. We have missed doing this for you for the past two years and will be excited to be back in the Welcome Center on February 13th.



WEBSITE UPDATES

The Grace UMC website and social media pages are being updated with fresh information and pictures! Let's show our Grace family and our community all of the wonderful things that happen within and outside our walls. Mary Tyndall is in need of pictures from all of our Grace activities.

These include:

- Game Day
- Youth and Children Groups
- UMW & Movie Day
- Sunday School Classes
- Altar Committee-Altar Preparation
- Nurture Committee Meetings & Events
- Missions
- Any pictures that show our vibrant church life!

Please send pictures to Mary Tyndall at mary@gracedowntown.net.

Family Promise Wish List

If you would like to donate these items to Family Promise, please leave items labelled in the Welcome Center or deliver them to the program at the Harrelson Center (call 769-4730 to arrange).

- body wash
- hand soap
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- disinfectant wipes
- gas gift cards
- gently used lamps
- brooms with dust pans
- shower curtain liners
- bathroom trash cans
- kitchen trash cans

If you are interested in being an outreach ambassador with this mission, please contact Karen Evans evans493@gmail.com or phone 757.871.3763, or Sally Barnes sallymbarnes11754@yahoo.com, 631.258.3182 for more details.

NEW CAREGIVER GROUP FORMING

Are you a caregiver for a spouse, parent or other family member? Although it is certainly rewarding at times, caregiving can be challenging, frustrating, and isolating. Would you like the opportunity to meet with other caregivers to share feelings in a safe environment, to swap tips and ideas, and to encourage and pray for each other? This new group will have its initial meeting on Monday, February 7 at 1:30 pm at the church. It will be facilitated by Stephen Ministries Leader, Brena Conley. Questions? Call Brena at (301-802-5408) or email: brenagibson@gmail.com. We are here for you!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Over the last year or so with the pandemic, your email or contact information may have changed. If this applies to you or you are currently not getting the Friday Grace Notes email each week, please email Ginny, at Ginny@Gracedowntown.net. She can check or update your records. We are finding that phone numbers and mailing addresses have also changed. All updates are much appreciated. Thank you very much!

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: _____