

Grace Notes

January 23, 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, January 23

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 SPRC and YOUTH Parents
9:45 Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, January 24

7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 25

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

Wednesday, January 26

10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:15 am Yoga class
2:00 UMW Leadership Team
4:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 27

9:30 am UMW Bible Study (movie)
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, January 28

9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary

Sunday, January 30

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Children/Youth Programs

REV. KELLEY AHLERS ACCEPTS NEW APPOINTMENT

Rev. Kelley Ahlers has been offered and has accepted a new appointment. It was announced both in worship and in email on Dec. 19 that she is being sent to start a new United Methodist congregation in Wilmington.

We are grateful for the energy, passion, and commitment Kelley has given us over the past 5 years, all of which has borne fruitful ministry among us. Between now and the time of her departure we will send Kelley forward to this new field of work with our blessings, well wishes, prayers, and gratitude.

FAREWELL FOR REV. KELLEY, JAN. 30

Rev. Kelley's last Sunday at Grace will be Jan 30. She will preach for us on that Sunday.

We will offer a farewell reception for Kelley that day as well. This will be offered during the Sunday School hour (9:30am - 10:20am) in the Bullock Activity Center (gym).

Let's gift Kelley well on her departure. A gift basket will be in the Welcome Center. Place in the basket your gift of a check to her, a gift card (we recommend the 'use anywhere' variety), or cash. Please put these in a greeting card expressing your appreciation for the ministry Kelley has offered among us.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS? (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 1/16/2022

In-person Worship Service: 8:00 am - 13
In-person Worship Service: 11:00 am - 71
Online Worship Service: 57

Operating Funds Given 1/12-1/24 \$ 8,152

December

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 659,715.13
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 697,141.69
Balance \$ (37,426.56)
2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

December

Building Preservation Fund
Received 2021 YTD \$ 50,762.28
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 December

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>

Dear Grace congregation,

Hopefully you had a nice Christmas and New Year's holiday. Just a quick word of thanks to everyone for helping Grace Church end 2021 in much better financial condition than we experienced back in October. Just prior to Thanksgiving, I asked you for help with more offerings to ensure Grace Church would end the year in good financial standing. During the holidays, many of you gave more. Grace Church finances are now in better shape as we kick off the new year. Thank you!

Throughout this winter, please continue to give gifts of offerings, time, service, and prayers to Grace Church to ensure Grace stays fully operational with finances in good standing. For the latest Grace budget status, please reference the finance data in both the bulletin and Grace notes. Additionally, copies of the Grace budget for 2022 will be available in the visitor center for any Grace congregation member that wants one.

Again, THANK YOU for your support of Grace Church. Everything Grace Church is able to do, is because of you!!

Best Regards and Happy New Year!

Mike Mabee
Grace Finance

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Angie	Billy Lyndon
Jim Ballard	Fred Merritt
Jay & April Bradford & Family	Mary Neal
	NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/Staff
Alan Broadwater	Susan Pasquale
John Calandro	George Patterson
Sherry Carter	Ann Payne
Rod Caulder	Joan Pence
Christians in Haiti	Derek Phipps
Miller Cox	Rosiland
Jerry Cribbs	Kathy and Barry Roberts
Janie Hardison	Mary Sloan
Heaven	Tori Thornton and newborn son, Kaiser
Mary Huppman	Jessica Wilson
Laura	Katie & Michael Voulgaris
Laura Howard	Bill Young and his sons
Rodney & April Lester & Family	

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

HUMAN INTIMACY STUDIES

Study on the matters of Human Intimacy is coming this winter. The United Methodist General Conference (the highest decision making body in our denomination) will meet in Aug-Sept 2022. The Conference will be voting on the denomination's stand regarding ordination and marriages of/for LGBTQ+ persons.

In preparation for this Tal will lead a study on this matter. The study will last for 5 one hour sessions. We will come to understand the proposals before the conference, and we'll explore the scriptures that speak overtly to this matter. Dates and more information to be released in the coming weeks.

RETIREMENT RECEPTION POSTPONED

Debbie Ashe has been a gift to Grace Church for twenty-nine years. She has dropped whatever she was doing to help us and has treated us with kindness and respect throughout those years.

The Covid spike has caused us to postpone her retirement celebration until Sunday, February 13th. Please continue to place your cards with cash, check or gift cards in her basket on Sundays or bring or mail them to the church.

We want Grace well and healthy to give her a wonderful send-off on February 13th after the eleven o'clock service.

Grace Nurture Committee

UMW MONTHLY MEETING WITH PASTOR KELLEY

Our speaker will be Kelley Ahlers who will be speaking to us on "New Beginnings", i.e., her new beginnings as she goes about forming a new church, her goals and direction. We'll all want to be here for this meeting to congratulate Kelley on her new appointment and send her on her way with lots of encouragement and love that Grace UMW can give. Refreshments will be provided by Joanne Hamilton, Vicki Stanfield Switzer and Linda Snider.

As well, we had a very successful Sewing Day on Monday, January, 17. The five ladies who attended prepared twenty-two kits for dresses of warmer materials. These will be sent to young girls in the Methodist Children's Home Program. If you have one or more dresses ready, please bring to the Welcome Center on or by February 3 to be placed in the collection bin. These warmer fabric dresses need to be sent as soon as possible to help out during this winter season.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who attended our first Game Day. We had such a good time we are planning another! Our next game day will be 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"

SUPER SOUPER SUNDAY IS BACK

Super Souper Sunday - February 13 — From 9:30 am service until after the 11:00 am service, our UMW Ladies will be selling their delicious soups. Various recipes and flavors; 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 13.

Grace Name Tags

Please wear your Grace name tags on Sunday mornings to help visitors and new members get to know you better. The tags are hanging on the hooks outside the sanctuary. If you don't have a name tag or need a new one, please call or email Ginny in the church office.

THE CHOSEN SERIES CONTINUES

Pat Goodman with UMW will continue showing *The Chosen* - Season One on the following weeks. This is a highly acclaimed movie depicting the life of Jesus.

Movie/Meeting Dates:

January 27, February 10, 17
9:30-11:30am in the Bible Study Room

February 3 is UMW meeting only

Come join the UMW Morning Movie.

OPEN TO ALL!

If you missed a session, join in anyway, it isn't hard to follow and you also find it free of charge via streaming on

GRACE UMC WEBSITE

The Grace UMC website is currently being updated. **Do you have any updates for the following topics?**

- Sunday School Classes of all ages
- Women's Groups
- Men's Groups
- Mission Programing
- Outreach

If so, please contact Mary Tyndall at mary@gracedowntown.net or mdjay2001@yahoo.com. Check out our website at www.gracedowntown.church to review the current and needed information.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth will meet (today) Sunday, January 23

There will be a meeting at 9:30 am in the gym for SPRC and Parents of Youth and Children to discuss future plans of the program as well as the transition from Kelley's departure. All parents with youth are encouraged to attend!

FAMILY PROMISE WEEK COMING UP



Once a quarter, Grace serves meals for families at Family Promise. Before COVID, we also housed the families in our church with overnight hosts (church members) staying with them. Our time of service is coming up on Jan 30-Feb 5. We need dinner providers each night, who deliver to the Day Center off of Covil Avenue between 5:30-6pm.

The families who are served by Family Promise are homeless, often due to medical or housing emergencies. There are sometimes two parents, sometimes one and often a grandparent, but always there are children! The program provides a place to

stay, meals (through us) and financial and other education plus support to help them become independent once again. Parents are required to be working or looking for work, children are in school or day care. The food and support we offer them makes a huge difference in nurturing them in body and soul! There are 12 or more churches who participate in this program in Wilmington.

If you are interested in serving these families on one of the nights between January 30 and February 5, please contact Jane Spicer at jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910 622-1211. And THANKS!

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: _____

MASKS EXPECTED AT YOUTH EVENTS

The Administrative Council of Grace UMC has voted to go back to masks expected at all events at Grace for those in grades K-12. This expectation will go into effect Sun Jan 16. This is in response to the rapid rise of the omicron variant and is in keeping with the recent decision by New Hanover Schools to require masks of all students in all grades. This proposal was made to the Ad Council by Grace's Covid19 Task Force.

This mask expectation at Grace will lift as soon as New Hanover County Schools lifts their mask requirement. It is our hope that the current surge will pass quickly.

The Covid19 Task Force is reviewing the status of the virus and making recommendations to Grace's Admin Council monthly.

We are excited about the presence of children and youth taking part in the life of Grace UMC.