

Grace Notes

July 10, 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, July 10

Rev. Benny Oakes—first Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- VBS begins! 5:30 pm

Monday, July 11

- 9:00 am Grace In Motion Walkers (gym)
- 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee

Tuesday, July 12

- 9:00 am Organist Practice
- 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Comm.

Wednesday, July 13

- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:15 am Yoga
- 4:00 pm Organist Practice
- 4:30 pm Worship Committee
- 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School

Thursday, July 14

- 2:00 pm Nurture Committee
- 5:30 pm Vacation Bible School
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp

Friday, July 15

- 9:00 am Grace In Motion Walkers (gym)
- 9:00 am Organist practice

Sunday, July 17

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Family picnic for the Oakes family

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering For July 3

In-person Worship Service:	
8:30 am	15
11:00 am	98
Online Worship Service: N/A	
Operating Funds Given	\$ 8,831
Building Preservation	\$ 580

June

Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 292,703
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 345,374
Balance	\$ (52,671)

June

Annual Bld. Preserv. Receipts	\$ 22,305
Annual Bld. Preserv. Fund Exp.	\$ 26,602
Balance	\$ (4,297)

Apportionments are paid through June.

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>

Grace United Methodist Church

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by using this QR Code
(point your phone camera
at the box and click on the link that
appears).



TODAY IS THE BIG DAY!

The Rev. Benny Oakes has been named senior pastor for Grace United Methodist Church by Bishop Leonard E. Fairley of the church's North Carolina Conference and today is his first day preaching here at Grace.

Previously, he had been senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City.

Born in Durham, Pastor Benny grew up in Raleigh and graduated from Western Carolina University. He spent 14 years in sales and marketing for IT services, environmental consulting and software businesses before entering the ministry.

Pastor Benny said his faith grew at Apex United Methodist Church, where his wife Monica served as director of children's ministries and where he was a youth counselor, Sunday school teacher and bible studies leader.

He earned a master's degree from Duke Divinity School and is completing work on a doctorate in ministry from Duke.

He has also been a pastor at Apex United Methodist Church and the Buckhorn-Ebenezer charge in Chatham County.

Benny and Monica Oakes have four daughters; the youngest, Carter, still lives at home. Monica and daughter Abi will be helping with VBS this week.

Those who have known Pastor Benny testify to his powerful preaching and his leadership skills in the community.

Let's all make an effort to come to the potluck "picnic" for the Oakes family after church on Sunday, July 17, in the church's Bullock Activities Center. **Sign up today on the form on the back page.**

Graduation Basket time

It is the custom at Grace to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors with a gift basket of items to help them start their college life. This year we have two graduates, Preston Olinger, who will attend NC State and Colin Tucker Tuttle who will attend University of Alabama.

The Nurture Committee has placed baskets decorated with school colors in the Welcome Center. Some suggested items are towels, shower caddy, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, school supplies, microwave popcorn, gift cards (i.e. Walmart, Target, gas cards), or anything else you think would be helpful. Thank you for helping encourage our graduates in their new journeys.

Sunset Park children receive math awards

Our partner school Sunset Park Elementary recently made the news with its first graders math achievements. They beat out 20,000 other classrooms to win an online competition, SplashLearn's SpringBoard Math Challenge. It was a 10-week competition that included 400,000 students across the country.

Classes competed against each other over 10 weeks as a fun, motivating way to practice math standards ahead of the end of the school year, according to the SplashLearn website. Read the article in Star News at this link: <https://www.starnewsonline.com/story/news/2022/06/28/wilmington-first-graders-take-first-place-national-math-challenge/7650709001/>.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Ava Kathryn Alban	Sandie Moore and family
Margaret Batchelor	Rev. Benny Oakes and his family
Family of Barbara Bloom	Karen Schwartz
Celeste	Marjorie Sears
Mike Conelly	Brent Upton
Larry Florea	Peggy Wardell
The family of June Gallagher	
Adam George	
Amelia Gifford	
Carl Humphrey	
Family of Garrett Kelly	
Barbara Jackson's daughter	
Tom McCarthy & Judy	
Charlie McCarthy	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETN1 Anthony Augustine, USN	LCpl. Seth Mack, USMC
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, 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
SFC Letty Long, USA	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC	



If you have a prayer request, please contact Marilee Tremlett at mtrem3@icloud.com.

VBS, Youth and UMW to host a Diaper Drive

Vacation Bible School, Youth Ministry, and United Methodist Women are partnering during the month of July in a drive to collect items for the Lower Cape Fear Diaper Bank. Per their director Julie Bowling, there is a current need for:

- Diapers (for premies, newborn, and size 5)
- Pullups (size 4T and 5T)
- Baby wipes
- Diaper cream
- Breast milk bags
- Brand new pacifiers

*Open packages will be accepted.

We are also scheduling a day to wrap diapers at their warehouse located at 915 S. 16th Street, Wilmington.

Tentative dates are:

Wednesday, July 27, 12:00-2:00 and

Monday, August 1, 12:00-2:00.

To sign up for either of these days, please contact Marie Allison at alli7173@hotmail.com.

Letter from Pastor Patricia

Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you for one of the most memorable days of my life, as you showered me with love and blessings as I begin my much anticipated and "well deserved" retirement (to use your words). The reception was wonderful! Last Sunday afternoon, I started opening your cards filled with loving thoughts and generous gifts. I had to stop in the middle of them and tell God it was too much--I was so overwhelmed. I am so grateful to each one of you who took the time to write messages, send gifts, and sign the giant "We Will Miss You" card!

Several of you are telling me to REST! And when I read the daily devotion in "Jesus Calling," for today, the first words were: "Rest with Me awhile." Then it continued: "You have journeyed up a steep rugged path in recent days. The way ahead is shrouded in uncertainty. Look neither behind you nor before you. Instead, focus your attention on Me, your constant Companion. Trust that I will equip you fully for whatever awaits you on your journey." (A God Wink?)

I believe this applies not only to me but also to all of us. We have all been on a rugged path for the past couple of years and I pray that, as we focus on Jesus, He will clear the way ahead of us and equip us with everything we need for our future journey. May we all know with assurance that God is with us and that He will carry us into the future and all the way home. May He always be honored and praised by all of us, His family.

I love you all so much and will continue to pray for God to bless you, as I hope you will do for me.

--Patricia

Did You Know?

Grace UMC has a connection with the Wilmington Opossum community. Opossums have been spotted on the grounds of the church several times, but the real kicker was the one found in the church dishwasher on a Sunday evening. Not knowing what to do, the group left him there. When secretary, Ruth Lehrshhall arrived on Monday morning, the first thing she heard was "don't open the dishwasher."

Her first call was to Animal Control and she was told they don't take care of wild animals. Ruth then called the New Hanover Agricultural Extension service and was referred to Animal Control. She next tried an 800 number for NC Wildlife Service. A recording asked the caller to leave a message reporting illegal hunting.

Ruth's next step was to call two church trustees, who didn't answer their phones. She called her sister, who told her to lure it out with food and swoosh him out the door with a broom. No one was brave enough to do it. Finally, a call was made to the Wilmington Fire Dept. Three firefighters were dispatched. Firefighter, Darrell Wolf, lifted him by the tail and put him in a large kitchen pot and asked, "Where are the carrots and potatoes?" Mr. Wolf took the opossum, dubbed Jesse, to an isolated spot where he was released.

Church opossum number two wasn't so lucky. He somehow got into the Fallout Shelter and couldn't find his way out. He was found by his odor and removed.

December 24, 2022 will mark the 225th anniversary of GUMC.

Beauty of Grace installation

- The Beauty of Grace brick fundraiser is awaiting our first delivery. Please consider placing your engraved brick order in memory or honor of a loved one soon.
- It's easy. Visit polarengraving.com/
- graceunitedmethodistchurch or pick up a brochure in the Welcome Center.

Does This Sound Like You?

"I've been wanting to volunteer at Grace but I don't know of anything that wouldn't require a lot of time or physical effort."

If so, do we have an idea for you! You can be a volunteer at the reception desk in the Welcome Center. You will be able to meet some church members, make new friends, and maybe even have a good time. You can spend as little as one four-hour shift per month at the desk. More if you like, and all you need to do is answer the phone and open the door to let visitors and members in. You will need to spend a few minutes learning the "how-tos," and then you may start. Please call the church office, (910) 763-5197, or email Ginny at Ginny@gracedowntown.net to sign up or ask questions. See you soon!



New Pastor Picnic on July 17; sign up today!

Come one, come all to meet and greet our new pastor on July 17 after the 11 am service. The church will provide fried chicken and beverages, but each church family is asked to bring their favorite side dish (enough to serve 8 people) to complement the fried chicken. The Gracelettes will provide desserts! Each family must sign up on the registration slip provided or call the church by July 10 so that we know how much chicken to purchase. Please take this opportunity to meet our new minister and his family as well as to enjoy some good Methodist food and fellowship.

(PUT REGISTRATION SLIP FOR COVERED DISH IN OFFERING PLATE, OR CALL THE CHURCH WELCOME DESK BY JULY 10.)

Family Name _____

Number attending _____

July Birthdays


7/1 Doris Lopez	7/14 Sammy Stanley	7/24 Dean Olinger	7/30 Cheryl Tripp
7/2 David Woodbury	7/14 Dot Ballard	7/24 Teresa Biddle	7/31 Vivian Carter
Brooke Benton	Katie Voulgaris	7/25 Mark Holcomb	Delaine Lester
7/3 Marilee Tremlett	Patricia DiGiuseppe	Judy Williams-Cerjak	
7/5 Jeanne Gore	7/15 Sandie Moore	7/27 Tom Guthrie	
7/8 Joyce Edwards	Barbara Downing	Barrett Crow	
7/10 Bill Booth	7/17 Tom Snider	7/28 Jan Sutton	
7/11 Ginny McCarthy	7/21 Keith Layton	Susan Michaels	
Beatrice Vaughan	7/22 Leigh Mabee	7/29 Brian Little	
7/13 Krystal Rogers	7/23 Katie Coggins		

- 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: _____



Yoga returns!

All are invited to yoga at 11:15 in the Bullock Activity Center (gym), on Wednesday, 7/13. Bring a friend!

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard needs volunteers

As of June 25th, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is serving roughly 300+ households each week on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We were unable to open this past Saturday, July 2 because we didn't have enough volunteers signed up. Please consider volunteering on a Saturday to help collect information, put together boxes of food, or shop for the guests. They are still not allowed to shop for themselves inside the cupboard. We arrive at 11:00am and stop promptly at 3:00pm. You can sign up on the website, www.motherhubbardsnc.com. If you sign up and don't hear back within a week contact Donna "Duckie" Dawkins dmdawkins@twc.com. I volunteer every Saturday.

Grocery stores are not buying as much fresh produce and meat. Therefore donations are slim and the cupboard sometimes has to purchase these items. You can make financial donations directly to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard at: www.motherhubbardsnc.com or mail a donation to PO Box 76, Wilmington, NC 28402.