

Grace Notes

May 15, 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, May 15

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Confirmation Class
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Youth and Children Pizza Day
- 5:10 pm Human Sexuality w Pastor Tal

Monday, May 16

- 9:00 am Walking group in gym
- 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 17

- 9:30 am Human Sexuality w Pastor Tal
- 11:00 am Rotary Club
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:30 pm Administrative Council

Wednesday, May 18

- 9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics BB practice
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice

Thursday, May 19

- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, May 20

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

Sunday, May 21

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Confirmation Class
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Youth Meetings
- 5:10 pm Human Sexuality w Pastor Tal
- No yoga this week

Youth and Children News

There will be no night program today on the 15th. Instead the youth and children will meet in the gym after church for pizza. The children will participate in games in the gym and the Youth will volunteer to help clean up the children's playground area.

The youth have an opportunity to go to Jacksonville, Florida, this summer the week of June 26th- July 2nd on a mission trip. They will be doing construction-style work. They are currently searching for a male chaperone, so they are able to take this trip. The male must be over the age of 25, have a valid license, and would be willing to help drive the church bus. If you are interested, please contact Jada Martinez jada@gracedowntown.net for any questions!

Sign up for Fellowship Time! Please and Thank you!

The Nurture Committee is asking congregation members to sign up for Fellowship Time beginning June 5 and for every Sunday going forward through August 28. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. If no one signs up for a Sunday, there will be no Fellowship Time for that Sunday. If you have any questions on what and when to do this, see Carole Ellis or Darlene Tyndall. Thank you in advance for your help!

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 5/8/2022

In-person Worship Service:	
8:30 am	23
11:00 am	169
Online Worship Service:	53 views
Operating Funds Given 5/5-5/11	\$ 10,270
Building Preservation	\$ 971
APRIL	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 201,884
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 228,823
Balance	\$(26,939)
APRIL	
Annual Bld. Preservation Receipts	\$ 16,130
Annual Bld. Preservation Fund Expenses	\$ 32,840
Balance	\$(16,709)

Apportionments are paid through April.

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>

Farewell Baskets for Pastors Tal and Patricia

As you all know, both of our beloved pastors are retiring this June. A reception for Pastor Tal will be held after the eleven o'clock worship service on June 12th, even though his last Sunday will be June 19th (Father's Day). We are planning a reception for Pastor Patricia, as well, on her last Sunday, June 26th.

Both Tal and Patricia have served our church with dedication and spirituality during some very difficult times. We are so grateful for their wonderful leadership. A gift basket for cards will be placed in the Welcome Center on Sundays, and in the office area during the week.

For their convenience we ask that you contribute cash or universal gift cards. Please do not submit checks payable to Grace UMC. They both hope to travel and do some well deserved relaxation.

Please join us for both of these receptions in June and send them off in Grace's loving style.
—Nurture Committee

VBS Adventure Coming July 10-14

Join us July 10th-14th from 5:30-7:45 pm, as we go off-road for a "Monumental Adventure" through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. Rising Pre-K through 5th grades are invited to join us on this journey. Grades 6th-12th are encouraged to join our volunteer crew and help make our VBS the best one yet!

We are also in need of volunteers of all ages for many roles to help make this event a success! For those who cannot volunteer, we have a donation list that will be in the Welcome Center on Sundays and in the Children's Wing during the week; thanks in advance! Register to participate or volunteer at vbspro.events/p/growinggrace. Kelsey Keenan (kelsey@gracedowntown.net) will be available to answer questions and assist in the registration process after the service in the Welcome Center.

Big Thanks!

Thank you for your remembrance of us on Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week. The bag of chips with the attached info and bookmark were enjoyed. We appreciate ALL you do to support our school! It means so much!

Claire McFall, MSW

Thank
you!

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Garland Atkins	Izzy & family (Brena Conley's granddaughter)
Joe Beaman	Maggie (friend of Pastor Tal's mom)
Merlyn Crawford	Tom McCarthy & Judy
Mac Cunningham	Charlie McCarthy
Mark Farmer and his wife Terry	Susan Michaels
Joan Florea and Joe Florea	Mike (Mary Tyndall's brother)
The family of Lori Gaffney	Rev. Benny Oakes and fam
Patrick and Bonnie Gallagher	Steven Powers
Justin George	Amy Roth
Linda Hoover	

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

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	LCpl. Seth Mack, 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	
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC	



Confirmation Class Continues

Pastors Tal and Patricia are offering Confirmation Class for youth who are rising 6th graders and older. The class is designed for those interested in being confirmed as full members of Grace UMC. This class will continue in W202 (Wesleyan Classroom in Walsh Hall), May 15, and May 22 (four sessions). We are skipping Mother's Day week.

Upcoming topics

Session 3 -- (May 15, taught by Tal) John Wesley and the rise of Methodism. What does being a United Methodist mean? What's at the center of what United Methodists believe?

Session 4 -- (May 22, taught by Patricia) May 22 -- What commitments are you asked to make when you become a full member of a United Methodist Church? What are the three general rules that all United Methodists are asked to follow?

Confirmation Sunday at the 11am service of worship. All confirmands who choose to become full members will be received into membership during the service. All who have never been baptized will be by placing a handful of water on his/her head.

If this date doesn't work for any who want to be confirmed, the family can make arrangements with Tal or Patricia for another Sunday.

There is no pressure for young ones to take the vows of membership. The decision to take the vows of membership is most impactful when it is freely chosen.

Study On UM Stance on LGBTQ Matters

The United Methodist Church is reviewing its stand on ordination of LGBTQ+ persons and performing marriages for same gender persons. We're offering a study on this matter and it has now begun.

This study builds across the five sessions, each about an hour in length. It is held on both Sunday evenings and Tuesday mornings, and you can switch between them, if you choose.

Remaining Sunday evening sessions are at 5:10 pm May 15, May 22, and May 29. (Note: we will skip this Sunday, May 8 for Mother's Day.) Childcare will be provided by the Children's Ministry as they meet on Sundays during this time.

Tuesday morning sessions meet at 9:30 am on May 17, May 24, and May 31. (Note, we skip May 10 to keep the same schedule.) No childcare will be offered for the Tuesday sessions.

The expectation is that participants will discuss these matters while respecting one another's viewpoints.

Landscaping Begins!

Weekly Landscaping will resume on Thursdays at 6 pm, beginning on May 19. We will be cutting grass, edging, trimming, weeding, blowing etc.



All are welcome! Tools and equipment will be provided.—Marvin Evans

Grace UMC future pastor named

Bishop Leonard Fairley of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has announced that the Rev. Benton W. "Benny" Oakes will be the new senior pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington.



The Rev. Benton W. "Benny" Oakes

Oakes will succeed the Rev. Tal Madison, who is retiring and his appointment here begins June 29. Oakes is currently senior pastor of First United Methodist Church in Elizabeth City.

A native of the Raleigh-Durham area, Oakes had a business career before answering the call to ministry. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University and is pursuing a doctorate in ministry through Duke's off-campus program.

Oakes and his wife Monica have four children, one of whom still lives at home. He and Harbor District Superintendent Tara Lain visited Grace recently, and met with members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Social Media Ambassadors needed

Grace United Methodist Church wants to reach out to the greater community so that more people know about us and feel welcomed and encouraged to attend. One proven way to help people feel comfortable attending somewhere or something new, is through pictures and videos on the internet and social media. This helps them know what to expect. They might watch a service video and then look at our Facebook account or website or vice versa.

Anyone can help. If you enjoy taking pictures or creating videos, send them to us at either Mary@gracedowntown.net or Ginny@Gracedowntown.net.

We may not use each one immediately, but they also become a resource for us in the future. You will be considered part of our Social Media ambassador team! Also, you can help by sharing our posts and adding your reflections on why you are part of GRACE.

We particularly need some photos of our regular events such as Sunday School classes like the Friendship Class and our special classes and events coming up such as confirmation, and VBS. You can help by following our pages as well!

If you have questions or need more information, please let us know. Thank you for all the ways you help us be AMAZING Grace.