

Grace Notes

May 1, 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 1

Holy Communion

- 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 Study on LGBTQ+ Matters

Monday, May 2

- 9:00 am Walking group in gym
- 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Group

Tuesday, May 3

- 9:00 am Organ practice
- 9:30 am Study on LGBTQ+ Matters
- 1:00 am Rotary
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp

Wednesday, May 4

- 10:00 am staff meeting
- 4:00 pm Organ practice
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics BB practice
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice

Thursday, May 5

- 10:30 am United Methodist Women (gym)
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, May 6

- 9:00 am Grace In Motion Walkers (gym)
- 1:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
- 5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, May 7

- 5:00 pm Musselwhite/Betwieser Wedding

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am (no Confirmation Class)
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service

No evening classes or programs today

No Yoga until further notice

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.

Oakes will succeed the Rev. Tal Madison, who is retiring. His appointment 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 last week and met with members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Join The Fun!

Senior Game Day is Wednesday, May 11th. Participants can sign up by emailing: outreach@gracedowntown.net or by calling the church at: 910 763 5197.

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 4/24/2022

In-person Worship Service:	
8:30 am	35
11:00 am	167
Online Worship Service:	72 views
Operating Funds Given 4/ 21-4/27	\$ 8,349
Building Preservation	\$ 447

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>

Confirmation Class Continues

Pastors Tal and Patricia will offer a four session 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 1, (skip Mother's Day May 8), May 15, and May 22 (four sessions).

Upcoming topics:

Session 2 -- (May 1, taught by Tal) -- New birth -- what does it mean? How do I get it? Also baptism and the Lord's Supper - what do they mean? (Skip May 8, Mother's Day)

Session 3 -- (May 15, taught by Tal) John Wesley and the rise of Methodism. What does being a Methodist mean?

Session 4 -- (May 22, taught by Patricia) church membership -- what are we committing to when we become a member of a UM Church? What are we promising to do when we join? What does the church promise to us?

Important notes for parents:

Once youth are confirmed, they become full members of Grace United Methodist Church.

In the United Methodist Church, baptism is required for membership. Therefore, any youth who want to become full members will need to be baptized. If any were baptized as infants, they meet this requirement for membership and will not be rebaptized. If they were baptized in another denomination, so long as they were baptized in the name of Jesus, they meet this requirement and will not be rebaptized.

In the UMC, we only baptize someone once in their life. If someone is baptized at any point in their life, even as an infant, they are then not rebaptized at confirmation or at any other point in their life. People can retake their baptismal vows as often as they like, but they do not have the waters of baptism placed on them ever again. God got it right the first time.

As part of the confirmation service, only those who have not received baptism will be baptized. It will be explained to the congregation why some are being baptized and others are not.

Youth taking part are highly encouraged to attend all four classes.

Confirmation, taking vows of membership in the church, is a big deal! My approach has always been to not pressure young ones to take the vows of membership. The decision to take the vows of membership is most impactful when it is freely chosen.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Susan Atwell	Mike (Mary Tyndall's brother)
Russell Buskirk	Jeffrey Morefield
Mike Corleto	Steven Powers
Dale Cromartie	Amy Roth
Leslie Ego	Sonya Rowe
AC English	Melissa Sesi
Lori Gaffney	Will Sibley
Patrick Gallagher	Nicolas Smith
Justin George	Tanner
Family and friends of Jeanne Hadaway	Tori Thornton and newborn son, Kaiser
Linda Hoover	
Elaine Hubbard	
Megan Mabee	
Tom McCarthy & Judy	
Charlie McCarthy	

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	

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



Join Grace In Motion Walkers

Come join a group of us each Monday and Friday at 9 am to walk in Grace's gym. We walk for an hour and talk the whole time!

Some of us walk fast and some slow; some take a rest break, some forge on. The most important things are that we keep moving and enjoy fellowship with each other. Men and women are both welcome. We hope to walk with you!

Nurture Committee Volunteer Fair

The Nurture Committee is having a Job Fair on May 1 in the Welcome Center. We need some enthusiastic, committed members from the Grace Congregation to help us with our services to the congregation.

We know many of you love Fellowship Time, and that you like the receptions we have had for retirees. We know that you love Social Graces (Dinners of 8), that when a loved one enters eternal life, you call the Bereavement Team to do a reception or dinner. We know that when you or a loved one is sick or recuperating from an operation, you like a meal to be delivered (Martha's Ministry and Loaves and Fishes). Many of you participate in Sweet Sunday, and Seniors especially like the outings we conduct to plays, the Ports Authority, and Christmas at Brookgreen Gardens.

It takes people to plan and carry out these events. We want YOU and we need YOU to join us! Come see us in the Welcome Center on Sunday, May 1!

Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!

Our Grace Family continues to be faithful and generous for our legal migrants that are working in our area and harvesting food for all of us.

Through your generosity, we have been able to prepare and fill 25 bags with essential toiletries for the migrant worker mission.

This donation will certainly help those much less fortunate. Well done, faithful servants!

—UMW

Inner Grace

Saturday, May 7th @ 5:00 pm
Bring food to share, your choice of beverages, and chairs. If anyone has spare firewood to burn, bring that too. 4633 Trafalgar Rd, Wilmington, NC 28405.

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'll offer a study on this matter this spring, beginning late April.

This study, led by Tal, will explore the scriptures that speak overtly to this matter. We'll see why Christians read these passages in differing ways. The goal of this study is not to tell you what to think, but to give you tools to clarify your own thinking. Be advised that this class will deal with adult topics.

We will also look at the leading proposal being brought before General Conference regarding these matters. What decisions will each church have to make? When will they have to make them?

This study builds across five sessions, each about an hour in length. It will be offered both on Sunday evenings and Tuesday mornings.

Sunday evening sessions will be offered at 5:10 pm on April 24, May 1, May 15, May 22, and May 29. (Note: we will skip 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 will meet at 9:30 am on April 26, May 3, May 17, May 24, and May 31. (Note we skip May 10.) No childcare will be offered for the Tuesday sessions.

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

Mother's Day Gift Ideas!

For Mother's Day, why not spoil your mother, grandmother, aunt, or daughter with our Equal Exchange Fair Trade organic chocolate bars! Our milk chocolate bar has a delicate, smooth flavor. The mint chocolate bar has a subtle hint of mint and crunch. Choose one or more now, as they don't ship between May and October. Come to the June UMW Meeting to sample new flavors of tea and chocolates, as well as a coffee that supports women brewers in Africa! As always, thanks for your support of Fair Trade! —Carolee Doty

May Birthdays

5/1	Chuck McCarthy Gary Atwell Frank Henry	5/11	Bob Hardyman Brooke Baldrige Jan Allen	5/16	Barry Hartzell John Thompson	5/25	James Ross Gene Patton
5/2	Ben Steelman	5/12	Debbie Cole	5/17	David Russ	5/27	Darlene Troup
5/4	Emma Walsh		Sally Barnes	5/18	Elizabeth Hyde	5/29	Valoree Shinn
5/7	April Lester	5/13	Marion Little	5/19	Laurie Burrous	5/30	Jamie High
5/8	Wayne Blalock		Vicki Alexander	5/24	Frances Walters Laura Patterson Ernie Allen		

Did You Know?

After the rebuilding, Grace's membership grew. The E.L. White education wing was constructed, adding a fellowship hall, kitchen, parlor, office area on the first floor, and additional classroom space on the second floor.

In 1960, the Atlantic Coastline moved its headquarters to Jacksonville, Florida. That move took many of our active young families.

Grace struggled to keep pace with our demands. By 1966, Wilmington began to grow. Soon new commercial plants and businesses moved to the area with large numbers of employees and their families. Grace gained new members and new life. In 1968, with the union of The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church, the name of our church became Grace United Methodist Church. A new change came to the church in 1998 with the merger of Sunset Park United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church. The latest addition to Grace was the construction of the John Bullock Activity building. This addition added the Welcome Center, kitchen, storage areas, restrooms, and an office complex on the second floor. The old fellowship hall and kitchen were converted to the Music Suite; housing the Music Director's office, music library, bell choir, chancel choir rehearsal rooms, and robe rooms.

The past 225 years have not been easy for the "Mother Church of Methodism" in Wilmington. Grace UMC has proven that by witnessing through meaningful worship services, an excellent music program and never changing and growing children and youth programs, and a far-reaching mission program many lives have been touched by this church.

Grace will celebrate its 225th anniversary on Dec. 24th, 2022.

Ukraine Disaster Response Gifts



You may support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift (towards this effort). When giving, please make your check to Grace UMC and designating it "Relief For Ukraine."

The Beauty of Grace

The "Beauty of Grace" is a ministry to revitalize the gardens around our beautiful church. One way to fund this effort is through the purchase of an engraved memorial paver to be placed in the gardens around Grace. Help us beautify Grace for the glory of our Lord and honor a loved one at the same time.

To place your order, please visit:
<https://polarengraving.com/graceunitedmethodistchurch>
 or contact: Karen Evans or Sally Barnes at outreach@gracedowntown.net

United Methodist Women to Meet this Week

The May meeting of UMW will be Thursday, May 5 in the Bullock Activity Center.

Our speaker will be Isabela Hinds representing the Guardian Ad Litem volunteers. These trained volunteers are court-appointed persons who investigate and determine the needs of neglected or abused children and advocate for them in court. Come and learn more about this work.

For our mission emphasis this month, we will collect and assemble gift bags for our homebound ladies on the visitation list.

Memorials and Honorariums

Giving a memorial or honorarium to the church is a special recognition. When giving a gift, we ask that you include information helpful to the committee. If your gift is in memory, please add a note with your name and address, the amount given, who the gift is in memory of, the name and address of a family member to receive an acknowledgment card, and where the gift is to be designated. If the gift is in honor, please add a note with your name and address, the amount given, who is being honored and their address so they may receive an acknowledgment and where the gift is to be designated.

All donors receive a note of appreciation if the committee has the correct information. Gifts may be donated to a number of areas: memorial fund (to be used at the discretion of the committee), budget, music ministry, children and youth, preservation fund, memorial garden, missions, handyman ministry, etc. Thank you for your continued support of GUMC by remembering someone with special recognition.

- 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: _____

