

Grace Notes

May 8, 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 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

Monday, May 9

- 9:00 am Walking group in gym
- 6:30 pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, May 10

- 9:00 am Organ practice
- 10:30 am Knitwerx @ Panera
- 11:00 am Rotary
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations (SPRC)

Wednesday, May 11

- 1:00 pm Game Day
- 4:00 pm Organ Practice
- 4:30 pm Worship Committee
- 6:00 pm Special Olympics BB practice
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice

Thursday, May 12

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

Friday, May 13

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

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 Youth and Children Pizza Day

Yoga is expected to return May 18

Youth and Children News

There will be no night program 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!

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 service in the Welcome Center.

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 5/1/2022

In-person Worship Service:	
8:30 am	35
11:00 am	167
Online Worship Service:	50 views
Operating Funds Given 4/27-5/4	\$ 11,136
Building Preservation	\$ 905

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>

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

(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.

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.

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 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.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Garland Atkins	Elaine Hubbard
Susan Atwell	Izzy & family (Brena Conley's granddaughter)
Joe Beaman	Megan Mabee
Russell Buskirk	Tom McCarthy & Judy
Mike Corleto	Charlie McCarthy
Merlyn Crawford	Susan Michaels
Dale Cromartie	Mike (Mary Tyndall's brother)
Mac Cunningham	Jeffrey Morefield
AC English	Rev. Benny Oakes and fam
Joan Florea and Joe Florea	Steven Powers
The family of Lori Gaffney	Amy Roth
Patrick and Bonnie Gallagher	Sonya Rowe
Justin George	Melissa Sesi
Family and friends of Jeanne Hadaway	Tori Thornton and newborn son, Kaiser
Linda Hoover	

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!

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

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

Sign up for Fellowship Time! Please and Thank you!

The Nurture Committee is asking congregation members to sign up now 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 Carolee Ellis or Darlene Tyndall. Thank you in advance for your help!

Honoring Moms!

This Mother's Day, are you looking for a way to honor or memorize your Mother, Grandmother, or loved one? The Beauty of Grace brick fundraiser is your opportunity. Please contact Sally Barnes or Karen Evans at outreach@gracedowntown.net.

Or, place your order by visiting:
<https://polarengraving.com/graceunitedmethodistchurch>.

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, led by Tal, explores 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 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.

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

Join The Fun!

Senior Game Day is Wednesday, May 11th. Participants can sign up by emailing: outreach@gracedowntown.net