

Grace Notes

November 28, 2021

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, November 28

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

Tuesday, November 30

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

Wednesday, December 1

11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class
4:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 2

10:30 am UM Women in gym alcove
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, December 3

9:00 am Organist in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 4

2:00 pm Hull Memorial Service

Sunday, December 5

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

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>

LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP WITH THE OUTREACH OF GRACE?

We have ideas for outreach at Grace but they require many hands and feet to be successful! Would you like to be a part of expanding our prayer partner program, to help start a monthly fellowship and game night at Grace, to enable Grace to have a presence at parades and festivals, to conduct a Christmas fundraiser, or to restart the Welcome table? These opportunities, and more, will be a part of the new year!

There are exciting times ahead for Grace! If you would like to be a part of these events, please contact **Karen Evans**, at

evans493@gmail.com or 757-871-3763,

or **Sally Barnes**, at

sallybarnes11754@yahoo.com or

631-258-3182.

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another."

Romans 12:4-5 ESV



HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 11/21/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 30
11:00 am - 154

Online Worship Service:

Operating Funds Given 11/10-11/17 7,862

October

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 488,018
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 575,850
Balance \$ (87,832)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

October

Building Preservation Fund
Received 2021 YTD \$ 43,557
Building Preservation Fund
Spent 2021 YTD \$ 48,225

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts \$ 67,859
Expenses to date \$ 80,963

Apportionments are paid through October.

Become a Grace Friend

Grace is starting a new program to help new members become connected to our church family.

As new members join, they will be paired with a current member called a Grace Friend. This relationship will last about three months. The Grace Friend responsibilities are:

- Be present when the new member joins
- Get to know the new member
- Take them on a tour of Grace
- Explain the function of different committees, missions, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- Call them several times over the three months

Grace members are known for their warmth and welcoming ways. Please let Pastor Patricia know if you see yourself as a Grace Friend.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome a new member into our Grace family, **Jan Kinney**, who joined on November 21, 2021 by transfer of membership from Wesleyan United Methodist Church in Porter's Neck. Jan and her husband, Marty, have recently moved from the Porter's Neck area to Compass Point in Leland and have both been attending Grace for awhile. While Marty will be attending with Jan, he will not be joining, as he wants to keep his membership in the Catholic Church.

Jan and Marty spent several years in Germany as School Administrators with the U. S. Department of Defense. They have been in Wilmington 20 years. They heard good comments about Grace and decided to visit. They especially enjoy the music program. Their hobbies are painting and the arts, water sports and traveling the world. Jan has been Methodist most of her life and very active at Wesleyan UMC. She is still involved with some of their mission work and also helps at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. We are happy to have her as a new member and Marty attending with her. Linda Pyle is excited to be Jan's Welcoming Friend.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers

Amy	Pam and Kadie
Archer	Joan Pence
Kristen Baker	Sara Ragan
Family of Louise Berry	Tom Schraml
Christian Brothers & Sisters in Haiti	Mary Sloan
Katie Haldeman	Shar Streeter
Lauren Haldeman	Jim Teachey
Family of Rich Holcomb	Pat Thomas
Family of Dick Hull	Lindsay Thompson
Evelyn Madison	Susie Wells
Julie Madison	Barbara Wiley and Family
NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/Staff	Family of Joyce Witherington
	Stew Wolling

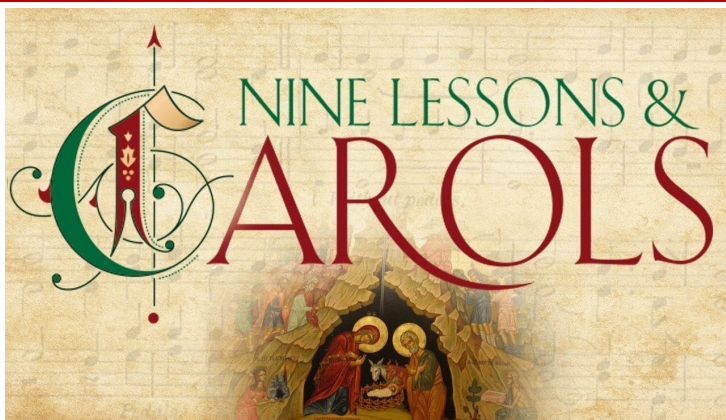
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC	PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
Col. John Delaney, USA	SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Ens. Elizabeth Downing, USN	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	Sgt. James Pritchett, USA
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	E6 Jack Andre Settele, USA
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF	AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
SFC Letty Long, USA	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

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

UMW PRAYER REQUEST

A special prayer request from United Methodist Women (UMW):

Due to the great unrest in the Country of Haiti, we are very worried about our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been working with the orphanage in Croix de Bouquet. Therefore, we the Grace UMW unit asks that you each please pray for Daniel and Kenny and their sewing schools in Haiti whom we have supported through donations to Martha Worsley and for Rebecca, a bright young woman, whom Martha helps to support as she continues to go to school and learn English. For Paula and the orphanage and school Bright Beginnings in the village of Croix de Bouquet, Haiti. They have been the recipients of our pillowcase dresses over the past three years. Martha Worsley has been and is an officer in the Harbor District of United Methodist Women and is a mission worker who has gone to Haiti yearly for a number of years, working with the children at Bright Beginnings and teaching sewing. Last summer the Grace UMW ladies were able to send four sewing machines and many dresses through Martha to this group of workers and children. Please pray for their safety, for the protection of Christians in Haiti and for the county coming together and being able to create a safe place to live."



**YOU
Are invited to attend
Grace UMC's**

***A Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols*
The Third Sunday of Advent,
December 12 at 10:30 a.m**

**To be led by the Chancel Choir &
District Superintendent, Tara Lain**

Come! Hear the story of the events leading up to Christ's birth as reflected through the spoken word of scripture and liturgy, the sung word of carols and anthems, and the expressive music of the organ.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, created by E. W. Benson, was introduced to King's College on Christmas Eve 1918 to offer solace to people who were distressed, exhausted, injured and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of the First World War. During this COVID-19 pandemic many people are experiencing some of these same realities and feelings.

It is hoped this worship service will provide each congregant a sense of peace and comfort during this season of the year.

(Note there will be only one worship service with Sunday School commencing at 9:30 a.m.)

Fellowship Time of Christmas Joy

Following the *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* worship service led by the Chancel Choir on December 12, the Nurture Committee will invite those present in the congregation to taste "Christmas Joy". We plan to have real good goodies and joyful fellowship among and between congregation members to celebrate the season in the Bullock Center.

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Our long term executive assistant **Debbie Ashe** is retiring the end of December.

The Nurture Committee is placing a basket in the office where church members may wish to place cards, gift cards, or a monetary gift to thank Debbie for her many years of service to the congregation.. On **January 16** after the church service we will have a reception for Debbie and at that time we will present her with the thank you basket.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT GRACE

Please join us for Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services on
December 24, 2021. Two
services will be offered at
5:00pm and 7:00pm.



FAMILY MINISTRIES EVENTS

December 5th

The Family Council will have a 2022 planning meeting during the Sunday School hour at 9:45am in the Inner Grace Sunday School Room. This will include focusing on the direction the program will take next year. All families are invited to attend and share their hopes and dreams for the future of the program.

December 12th

The youth have chosen a white elephant party for their last evening event of the year. This will include all ages. Each person is invited to bring one wrapped gift under \$10.

Christmas Break December 12-January 8

Since the school system is updating its vacation period and varies from county to county, evening Bible programs will resume on January 9, but this may change. Please read Grace Notes for any updates.

There will be no Sunday School for children and youth on December 12, December 26, and January 2. Instead prior to the service we will have a gathering in the gym for fellowship. These are the Sundays where we will have one service. Infant and toddler child care will be available.

GAME DAY AT GRACE!

January 12, 2022

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Bullock Center

Want to get together for an afternoon of fellowship and games?

Just contact either:

Sally Barnes, at 631-258-3182 (text or call) or email at sallymbarnes11754@yahoo.com, or

Karen Evans, at 757-871-3763 (text or call) or email at evans493@gmail.com

Please let us know by January 8, 2022 so we can set up enough tables.

Refreshments will be available.



UMW Meeting

December 2, 2021, will be the date for the next UMW meeting, held at 10:30 am in the Bullock Center. April Brose will entertain us with her talent as a ventriloquist and we will be able to sing Christmas Carols accompanied by our own Donna Dawkins. Refreshments will be provided by Michelle Jones and Marie Allison with a special treat. Brena Conley will be bringing us our annual Pledge Service as we make our promises to UMW work for 2022.

Our Mission Goal this month will be to bring an unwrapped toy on that day. These toys will be taken to Sister Isaac Center. Thanks for your donations. Come Ladies of Grace UMC - join us as we prepare for a meaningful and special Christmas season."

Office Staff Changes

With the retirement of Marion Little, Administrative Assistant, on October 29 and the upcoming retirement of Debbie Ashe, Director of Operations, at the end of December, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has taken this opportunity to restructure these two positions into one full-time position, the **Administrative and Operational Director**. This change will require the redistribution of certain tasks and more involvement of volunteers. A new job description has been written and approved by the church lay leadership. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please send inquiries to:

debbie@gracedowntown.net

ATTENTION SEWERS

THE U.M.W. is planning a donation of jumper type dresses for the Methodist children's home. We need at least a yard or more of lightweight warmer fabrics. Flannels, heavy cotton, knits and very light weight corduroy. We will have a cutting day to put kits together. They will be made by the same pattern as our "pillowcase dresses". We will put a cotton, long sleeved tee shirt with each dress, sizes 2-10. Thank you for helping in any way!



NOTE OF THANKS

The Trustees would like to thank the Inner Faith Class for doing a fantastic job repainting their classroom!

Well Done, folks!



As New Hanover County has lifted its indoor mask mandate as of 11/12/21, Grace UMC has changed its Covid safety measures in the following ways:

- *Masks are optional for fully vaccinated adults at the 11am worship service, Sunday School, and all mid-week activities. (Fully vaccinated = two weeks after your final dose of the vaccine.)*
- *Masked expected for all, regardless of vaccination status, at the 8:30am service.*
- *Children and youth follow the guidelines of the New Hanover School System.*

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: _____