

Grace Notes

January 11, 2026

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, January 11

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Kids for Christ
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
4:30 pm Youth mtg. & Spaghetti Dinner (5pm)

Monday, January 12

9:00 am Grace in Motion
10:30 am Lay Leadership
6:30 pm SPRC
7:00 pm Chorale
7:15 pm Basketball (Juice team)

Tuesday, January 13

9:00 am Bible Study (Ephesians study)
1:00 pm Welcome Table
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
4:30 pm Worship Committee
5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:30 pm Finance
7:00 pm Chorale board MTG (Friendship room)
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 14

10:00 am Yoga
10:00 am Staff Mtg

Thursday, January 15

11:00 am Nurture mtg. (BS)
5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:45 pm Basketball

Friday, January 16

9:00 am Grace in Motion

Saturday, January 10

12:30 pm Grace Chancel Choir and Ringers Social

Sunday, January 11

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Kids for Christ
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
4:30 pm Youth Meeting

ACH draft information and financial info for 2026

If you have a ACH monthly draft donation to Grace coming out, you likely will see a receipt change on your bank statement in January. We also might need to reach out for a new voided check.

Statements: We plan to BOTH **mail and email** end-of-year statements late next week. If you prefer not to receive by email, please let Ginny know by calling the office or emailing Ginny@gracedowntown.net.

Nurture meeting Thursday, come join us!

The first Nurture Meeting of 2026 will be Thursday, January 15 at 11:00 in the Bible Class room. New members are always welcome - come join us and see what Nurture is all about. Questions see Beth Stuber or Judy Smith. Hope to see you there!

Welcome Trinity UMC staff!

Trinity UMC will be temporarily sharing some office space here at Grace in the History Room (mostly during their office hours-Monday through Thursday from 9-2). If you run into Lead Pastor Brock and his Administrator, Janine Taylor, please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome them. This is to assist Trinity as they undergo a campus renovation, likely lasting to the end of this year. They have relocated other parts of their operations at other churches including Winter Park. Originally the upfit was supposed to happen in phases, but they had to go to plan B all at once, hence the short notice.

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering

For 1/04/2026

In-person Worship Service

8:30 am	29
11:00 am	156
Online service	46

Operating Funds Received	\$	8,005
Average Receipts Needed Weekly	\$	17,671
Building Preservation Funds Received	\$	120

Apportionments Paid Through December

December Financial Report

YTD Building Preservation Receipts	\$	42,901
YTD Building Preservation Expenditures	\$	80,221
Balance	\$	(37,320)

YTD Budget Receipts	\$	711,612
YTD Expenses (2025)	\$	830,206
Balance	\$	(118,594)

Organ Fund (balance)	\$	14,171
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Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

This is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg>

Grace United Methodist Church

401 Grace Street

Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

Ph/910.763.5197

website: gracedowntown.church

Use the QR code at right.

Or text: MyGift2Grace to 73256
Gifts may also be mailed to the address



Grace UMC nominated for Church of the Year!

Please see in the notification below that we have been nominated for the Church of the Year Award by New Hanover Branch of the NAACP and invited to attend the 18th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on January 24. Tickets are available at this link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/>

Dear Pastor Oakes and Members of Grace UMC:

On behalf of the New Hanover County Branch of the NAACP, it is our great honor to inform you that **Grace United Methodist Church has been nominated for the 2025 Church of the Year Award** to be presented at our **Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast**.

This nomination recognizes your church's steadfast commitment to service, justice, and community uplift. Your continued efforts to address the needs of our neighbors, foster unity, and champion the values of equity and compassion reflect the enduring legacy of Dr. King. Grace United Methodist Church stands as a beacon of faith in action, and we are proud to acknowledge the meaningful impact you have made throughout New Hanover County.

We look forward to celebrating this distinguished nomination with you during our Annual MLK Breakfast 2026 which will be held on **January 24th at 10AM**. Thank you for your dedication, your ministry, and your ongoing partnership in the work of advancing civil rights and human dignity.

With sincere appreciation,

Teddy Howell, Chair

Ivy Murrain, Co-Chair

Prayer Requests

Joyce Blauvelt
Lindsey Brown
Joan Camarigg
(Susan DiAnthony)
Wendy Cupps (Gail Braun)
Joseph Huppmann
Pastor Jack Jones
Sherry Layton
Delaine & Ray Lester
Brian Lewis
Frank Licari
Billie Lyndon
Courtney Moeller
Amanda Newell
(Marie Allison's niece)

Jim Routh (friend of Don Cole)
Paul Sipson
Kerri Hyatt-Springs
Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Louise Thompson
Judah Traylor
Dan Walters
Joanne Walters

Grace staff and volunteers
Those whose lives are affected
by war and natural disasters

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



Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETNC Anthony Augustine, USN	Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF
PO1 Sean Baker, USN	SFC Letty Long, USA
Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA	Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN	SSgt. James Pritchett, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	SSgt. Andrew Ross, USMC
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

Youth Spaghetti Dinner

The Youth Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for this Sunday at 5pm and tickets can still be purchased for \$10 and are also available at the door. **Please note: if we have inclement weather and the Warming Shelter opens, it will be rescheduled for the following Sunday, time TBD.**

All proceeds will go towards our summer mission trip to Atlanta for M25. Contact Gracie or a youth for tickets and more information.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
help send Grace Youth to M25 for mission camp this summer! Each ticket purchased will go towards our trip

\$10
to buy a ticket please find a youth member or Gracie



January 11th 5pm-7pm

A New Bible Study, Same Time!

You are invited to join a new Bible study on the book of **Ephesians**, beginning **Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** in the Bible classroom (2nd floor). Together we will explore Paul's letter and reflect on what it means to live as the body of Christ, rooted in grace and called to unity and love. This study is open to all, whether you are new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years. As a companion to the Scriptures in Ephesians, Pastor Benny is utilizing New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright's new book, *The Vision of Ephesians: The Task of the Church and the Glory of God, as a companion in our study*. You do not have to purchase or read the book to be a part of our weekly gathering! Come grow in faith and fellowship as we listen for God's word among us!

Cinderella's Closet Call for Volunteers

Our 10th annual Cinderella's Closet Prom Shopping events are scheduled for March 20-21st and April 17-18th. This year, we are asking for help with the tasks leading up to the event such as setting up our rooms, contacting schools, taking appointments, among other things. Most of these activities can be done from home. If you would like to help, please contact Hope Inman at 646-202-3520 or email cinderellasclosetilm@gmail.com.

Communion Server Link

If you are able to help with Communion, please sign up by scanning this QR Code to see the dates available on the sign up form. We need you!



Choir Entrance Door Code to change

The code for the door will change on January 17. If you need access, please contact Ginny. She will be contacting folks who requested the access code soon after it is tested.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard—Helping Those in Need

Thank you for your help providing emergency food to families in need. Your donations helped provide food to 9,513 households during the months of August through December, 2025. For January we are collecting healthy nonperishable food items in standard size cans/boxes and pop top single serving cans:

- ◆ SOUP,
- ◆ MAC AND CHEESE,
- ◆ FRUIT

Bathroom Tissue is always welcome.

Please note: The collection baskets have been moved to the lower History Hall.

Scholarship opportunities

In addition to the scholarships that Grace UMC offers, scholarships are also available from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. Here's the link.
<https://umhef.org/scholarships/>

Deadline is March 1, 2026.

But wait, there's more! Check out General Board of High Education and Ministry

<https://www.gbhem.org/scholarships/>

Deadline is March 31, 2026

Homeless Task Force update

Grace has been host to the Warming Shelter for two nights this winter, Dec. 14 and Dec 15 with a total of 255 people. Five meals were prepared for 200 people at each meal. The food was donated.

There were only a couple of issues, one concerning placement of the Port-a-potties and the other with supply issues and toilet back-ups. The Trustees have addressed the issues.