

Grace Notes

November 30, 2025

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 30

First Sunday in Advent

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
No Youth Meetings

Monday, December 1

8:45 am Grace in Motion
10:00 am Senior Basketball
1:30 pm Caregivers Support

Tuesday, December 2

7:00 am Young Women Bible Study
9:00 am Organist Rehearsal
10:30 am UWF
5:30 pm Bootcamp
7:15 pm Chorale (Nutcracker rehearsal)

Wednesday, December 3

10:00 am Yoga
10:00 am Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Organ Practice
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, December 4

5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:45 pm Basketball

Friday, December 5

8:45 am Grace in Motion
9:00 am Organ practice

Saturday, December 6

Sunday, December 7

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 w/Children's music

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering For 11/23/2025

In-person Worship Service

8:30 am 24
11:00 am 174
Online service 41

Operating Funds Received \$ 13,655
Average Receipts Needed Weekly \$ 17,671
Building Preservation Funds Received \$ 270

Apportionments Paid Through October

October Financial Report

YTD Building Preservation Receipts \$ 36,226
YTD Building Preservation Expenditures \$ 62,736
Balance \$ (26,510)

YTD Budget Receipts \$ 574,312
YTD Expenses (2025) \$ 697,054
Balance \$ (122,742)

Organ Fund (YTD balance) \$ 11,926

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 above.



THE HYMNS WE SING- On this first Sunday of Advent the tunes to the liturgical responses we sing each week will change. Both the Gloria Patri and the Doxology have a Trinitarian structure. We will focus today on what we think of as the "traditional" doxology, *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* (tune: *Old Hundred*) written by Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Doxology comes from the Greek words doxa, meaning glory and logos, meaning word. We sing doxologies to give glory or praise to One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thomas Ken was orphaned as a child and raised by his sister Anna and her husband Izaak Walton. You may recognize Walton's name because he was the author of "The Compleat Angler", a book on fishing that quickly established itself as a standard work and is still available today. They enrolled Thomas in an all-boys school at Winchester College. Later, ordained as an Anglican priest in 1662, he returned to Winchester as a chaplain. Thomas wrote three hymns to encourage the devotional habits of the boys.

One hymn was to be sung upon waking, another at bedtime, and a third at midnight if sleep didn't come. All three hymns ended with a common stanza, which has become the most widely sung verse in the world: Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow/Praise Him, all creatures here below/Praise Him above, ye heavenly host/Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

This particular acclamation of praise is one of numerous doxological declarations that appear in many hymns, often in the final stanza. "Of the Father's Love Begotten", "All Creatures of Our God and King" and "Now Thank We All Our God" are familiar to us. The pattern for many mainline Protestant congregations has been to sing the "Gloria Patri", another doxological acclamation, early in the worship service and Ken's stanza at the time of the offertory. The cosmic character of Ken's praise- "all creatures here below" and "above ye heavenly hosts"-calls on the entire cosmos to praise God.

Leslie Bergbower, Organist

Poinsettia Mission Envelopes today

On November 30 and December 7, the worship bulletin will contain special envelopes for donations to the Poinsettia Mission Project. Please use these envelopes to name a person or persons you wish to honor or memorialize on December 21, when the altar will be decorated with beautiful poinsettias. A listing of all the names will be included in the bulletin that day. A donation of \$5.00 per name is suggested. After the Christmas Eve service, the plants will be delivered to Grace Members who are no longer able to attend church services. The deadline for submissions is Monday, Dec. 15.



Next UWF meeting with holiday-themed entertainment—Dec. 2

United Women in Faith will be celebrating the season with their next meeting to be held Dec 2nd at 10:30am in the Bullock Center (church gymnasium). We will be enjoying the songs of Christmas offered by our talented, Don Bowers. Refreshments will be served. In service to others, we will be bringing unwrapped toys for the Sister Issac Center and canned or boxed food for a families Christmas table which will be delivered to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Grace United Methodist Church Chancel Choir

What Sweeter Music:

Lessons and Carols

Composed by John Leavitt

Accompanied by Chamber Orchestra



Sunday, December 14
10:30 am, Sanctuary

Family of Betty Arnette

Dot Ballard

Joyce Blauvelt

Lindsey Brown

Joan Camarigg (Susan DiAnthony)

Audra Florea

Eric Holloway (Jennifer Rasmussen's father)

Joseph Huppmann

Jasmine

Pastor Jack Jones

Maria King

Sherry Layton

Delaine Lester

Brian Lewis

Frank Licari

Family of Marilyn (friend of Belinda Mayhew)

Billie Jean Millard

Jamie Pittman (Lisa Dawkins)

Paul Sipson

Louise Thompson

Judah Traylor

Dan Walters

Debra Walters

Dean & Sue Windgassen

Grace Staff and Volunteers

All those whose lives are affected

Prayer Requests



Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETNC Anthony Augustine, USN

PO1 Sean Baker, USN

Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA

LCpl. John Capwell, USMC

Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC

Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN

E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN

E6 William Chase Dubel, USA

E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF

E3 Taylor Folmar, USN

Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC

SFC Woodrow Long, USA

Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF

SFC Letty Long, USA

Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC

SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF

Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA

SSgt. James Pritchett, USA

CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN

SSgt. Andrew Ross, USMC

Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC

Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC

Michael Tate, USA

E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard update

As of November 22nd, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard has given food to 1507 households for the month of November. Thank you for helping to make this possible! In December we will continue to collect Mac & Cheese, Knor Rice or Pasta, Tomato Sauce, Spaghetti, Peanut Butter, and anything in small pop-top cans.

The following items are also needed to provide bags for shut-ins, which will be delivered by Wilmington police officers in December: Soup in a box, and individual portions of vegetables and fruits.

Children's Ministry Upcoming Events– Mark your calendars

We're excited to share some fun and festive events coming up for our Children's Ministry!

Parent's Night Out

Date: December 11th/ Time: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Take a break and get your holiday shopping done while we take care of the kids! Drop off your children for a night of pizza, crafts, and fun activities. This is a great opportunity for parents to enjoy a little free time, knowing their kids are having a blast in a safe and welcoming environment. RSVP: Please let us know if you're planning to attend. Contact Kelsey Keenan at 910-599-5290 or via email at kelsey@gracedowntown.net to RSVP and for more information.

Family Fun Day Christmas Party & Ornament Exchange

Date: December 14th / Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Islands Tacos (off Gordon Road)

Celebrate the season with us! Join us for a festive Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange at Islands Tacos. Bring your family, your favorite holiday cheer, and an ornament to exchange. It's sure to be a fun evening filled with food, laughter, and holiday spirit! RSVP: Please RSVP by contacting Kelsey Keenan at 910-599-5290 or kelsey@gracedowntown.net. For any questions, feel free to reach out to Kelsey!

Children's Ministry Special Performance

Date: Sunday, December 7th / Time: 11:00 AM Service

Join us for a special moment of worship as our children take the stage to sing during the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, December 7th! It's sure to be a beautiful and uplifting performance as our young ones share their voices in praise. We invite you to come and support them as they lead us in worship!

Looking forward: Special Activities and Dates

Sunday, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 2 #GivingTuesday Text "MyGift2Grace" to 73256 on your cell phone

Thursday, December 4, 6:00 pm Divine Grace holiday trip to Lake Linda

Sunday, December 7, 11 am Children sing in worship with flute and piano

Monday, December 8 Angel Tree gifts deadline

Sunday, December 14 10:30 am What Sweeter Music Cantata, Lessons & Carols

4:30pmYouth Gift Packing

5 pm Children's Ministry-Family Fun Day and Ornament Exchange (Islands)

Sunday, December 21 Poinsettias in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 24 - Communion services at 5 & 7 pm; Office closes at 12:00 noon

December 25 & 26- Christmas Day and office closure

December 25 Christmas meal (Warming Shelter friends)

December 29 Office closed

December 30 Normal office hours

December 31 New Year's Eve, office closes at 12:00 noon

January 1 & 2 New Year's Day holiday, office closed



Divine Grace December Event

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, December 4th. We will meet at the church at 6:00 PM and take the church van to Lake Linda's Christmas Lights in Hampstead. The van seats 15, including the driver, so please RSVP.

Bring a sandwich to eat along the way or eat before you come. There is a Christmas Shop where we can purchase sweet snacks, merch and more. Let us celebrate the season with fun and fellowship.

*Please RSVP Mary Tyndall at mary@gracedowntown.net by Tuesday, December 2nd to secure an accurate headcount.

December Birthdays

12/1 Reagan Phillips	12/9 Kim Olinger	12/18 Joan Cunningham	12/26 Avery Phillips
12/3 Vic McKoy	12/11 Monica Oakes	Tommy Dail	12/27 Jane Phipps
Gene Powell	Jean Starke	12/20 Debbie Hartzell	12/28 Nancy Zigler
12/5 Lennie Collins	12/12 Bev Holcomb	12/22 Debbie Earley	Braden Lester
Carol Gardner	12/15 Nolan Layton	Helen Dillon	Michele Jones
Gary Miller	Nancy Licari	12/23 Jean Ballard	12/31 Meg Guthrie
12/8 Jennifer Rasmussen	12/16 Rob Ross	12/25 Jim Conley	Judy Smith
	12/17 John Peck	Judy Heath	