

Grace Notes

August 16, 2020

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 Worship Service — August 16

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gumcwillmington>

YouTube:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

Sunday School Class—10:30 am

Grace is holding a Sunday School for everyone. Pastor Tal will continue his class series this week. See page three for details. To log in to Sunday School:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

A Message from Our Bishop

For 20 years, Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries (DBOM) has engaged in prison ministry by offering sound biblical teaching and Christian hope to inmates and by linking local churches with prison facilities.

Now DBOM is revisioning, expanding their mission to meet current, urgent needs. In addition to volunteer ministry in our prisons, DBOM will engage in advocacy, education and prison reform. DBOM thrives as a result of support from our churches.

A recipient of DBOM's ministry recently said: *"While cement walls, razor wire and locked gates remind us daily of our past mistakes, your ministry reminds us that the chains of failure need not bind us from the redemption of Jesus Christ."*

Let us remember the words of Jesus: **"As you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."**

Thank you for your generous support of the DBOM for those incarcerated in the prisons of North Carolina.

With hope and confidence,
Bishop Hope Morgan Ward

Note: To make a donation to this ministry, make your check payable to Grace UMC and write DBOM on the memo line.

Dementia Friendly Worship

Grace will be offering an on-line Dementia Friendly Worship Service on **Sunday, August 23, starting at 3:00 pm.** A link to the YouTube video will be posted to the Grace UMC website: <https://gracedowntown.church>

Please tell those you know who might benefit from this ministry about this service of many familiar hymns and Scripture. In these times of isolation, it may provide solace to someone who struggles to remember their worship experiences.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS? (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

Online Attendance & Offering for 8/9/2020

Worship Service:	159 views on YouTube
Operating Funds Given 8/5—8/12	\$ 12,370
July	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 479,312*
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 420,589
Balance	\$ 58,723

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

July

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD	\$ 35,757
\$20 Fellowship Spent 2020 YTD	\$ 37,486**

Apportionments are paid through July.

*includes PPP Loan of \$62,500

**includes funding and expenses related to hurricane repairs

Continuing Grace's Mission

Our giving enables Grace to continue to provide support for work within the congregation and for its missions in the world.

Here are the ways to continue to give and support Grace with your tithes and offering:

- You can mail your check to Grace at the following address: Grace UMC, 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
- On-line banking (Many banks allow you to set up checks to pay) The address is (Grace Address)
- Auto draft. Grace can debit your account and can be set up with Debbie. You can determine the amount and frequency of the draft.
- Go to the Grace UMC website (gracedowntown.net) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

Drive-Through Blessing of Backpacks and Briefcases

August 19, 2020, 6-6:30 pm

As our children and youth, teachers and administrators, and all school employees, get ready to go back to school, we would like to take time to bless them. If you are a student, teacher, or work in our local school system, we invite you for a Drive-Through Back-to-School Blessing!



On Wednesday evening, August 19, drive through the Grace portico to receive a Back-to-School blessing and a Fall Studies Bag for the students and a prayer shawl with tag for teachers/administrators. This is a chance to see each of our families with children, teachers/administrators, and pray over the year ahead.

Masks will be worn by staff and extra care will be given to materials shared with the families.



Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Corey & Rachel Alban	Lia Mason
Mayleigh Allen	Luke McCahan
Keith Ballinger	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Louise Berry	Margaret Merritt
Robert Bowen	Heather Meyer
Steve Cleary	Pam Miller
Don Cole	Kirk Mitchell
Mary Cole	Ronnie Monroe
Becky Cummings	Family of Mike O'Brien
Wendy Cupps	Carolyn Pope
Pat DiGiuseppe	Jason Powers
Delayne Frye	Jeffrey Powers
Julie Godwin	Tim Powers
Sid Goode	Jeff Price
Linda Gorham	Steve Ragan
Darcy Guthrie	Barry Roberts
Hank	Kathy Roberts
Haselden-Mintz Family	Shawn, Kelsey & Skyler
Jimmy Hauk	Solomon
Ron Hickmon	Roger Swilley
Rick Holloway	Rebecca Taylor
Steve Hooper	Jim Teachey
Jeanette Houston	Laura Upchurch
Dick Hull	Lizzy Voulgaris
Jackson & Avery	Michael Waddell
Jerrel	Cameron Wallace
Kaye	Family of Tom Wallace
Family of Moo Saw Kefauver	Linda Wengerd & Family
Maria King	Ruby Williams
Family of Bill Lane	Diane Woodberry
Larry	Barry Zigler

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC
Col. John Delaney, USA
E2 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN
E5 William Chase Dubel, USA
WO3 Jonathan Finch, USA Reserve
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC
Capt. Jason T. Hill, USAF
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC
SFC Letty Long, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
CDR Nicholas Madren, USN
PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Pvt. Steven Patterson
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
Lt. Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
AB Michael Sloan, USAF
Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Michael Tate, USA
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

Also, please pray for:

The demise of the coronavirus pandemic
All medical personnel
All those working with the public
12 noon Prayer Explosion

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Sandy Smith** at sandysmithgrace@gmail.com or 910-233-0310.

Help Available

Through the generosity of this congregation, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is well funded at present.

If anyone in the Grace Church family is having financial hardships due to the coronavirus, we might be able to offer assistance.

Please contact Pastor Tal at:

tal@gracedowntown.net

On-line Devotions with Tal

Tal is offering online devotions on a set scripture passage every Thursday. Two sessions are offered: one at 10 am, the other at 8:15 pm.

These devotions are offered online via Google Meet, so we get to see and hear one another in real time! Marion sends out an email early each week containing the Google Meet link for both gatherings for the current week. The emails also contain the scripture that will be our focus for the current week's sessions.

Note: Directions for Google Meet are printed on the last page of this *Grace Notes*. If your computer/smart phone/tablet doesn't already have the Google Meet app, you'll need to download it. It's free.

Grace Church – You Are So Generous!

Each week, your donations go to the Cupboard and onto the diabetic shelves. They are being used and appreciated, as the number of folks coming in and the size of each family increases. Thank you for your continued sharing with your neighbors who need this food to survive and to thrive in these times!

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard specific food needs:

Boost or Ensure for diabetics
Brown Rice
Quaker Instant Oats

Corn Flakes
Cheerios
Canned chicken or tuna

These are specific step by step instructions on how to make them at this link: <https://www.nhrmc.org/-/media/covid-19/adult-instructions-face-mask-creation.pdf?la=en>

All donations can be dropped off at Grace United Methodist Church Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm and someone will transport them to the hospital and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Simply ring the bell at the portico door and you will be buzzed in. Leave your donations at the volunteer desk.

What a wonderful (and safe!) way to share the love of Christ in a time when so many people need it.

Sewing Ministry Needs Your Help for Methodist Home for Children

Thanks to all who made face masks for the Methodist Home for Children. Please continue to make these, as many of the children will be starting school soon and the need for masks is great. You may continue to drop them off at the Welcome Center.

There is a second need for the pillowcase dresses and pants we've been sending to Haiti. Many times the children coming into the foster care system (Methodist Home for Children) leave home with only the clothes on their backs. So when MHC came to pick up the completed masks, they were given several completed dresses to clothe these children.

A bin in the Welcome Center **contains kits for making more pillowcase dresses and pants**. Sue Michaels, who received a large donation of fabric, made 20 dresses and prepared around 40 kits for others to pick up. So if you are looking for a way to pass your time while staying close to home, come by the Welcome Center and pick up a kit or two. Just return the completed garments to Welcome Center.

Grace Summer Sunday School

August 2—August 30 - Encounters with Jesus

Each class will look at an interaction Jesus had with a person or a group as recorded in the gospels. Pastor Tal will walk you through some background for each passage. You'll each class with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, what many of those he interacted with thought, and what it means to follow Jesus today. Questions pertinent to that week's passage will be posted ahead of time for you to ponder. There will be time to discuss the questions in each class session.

These are the passages that will be included in this series:

- Aug. 16: Luke 14:12-24 Unlikely dinner guests
- Aug. 23 Luke 14:25-33 The cost of following Jesus
- Aug. 30 Luke 18:9-14 You'll never guess who is right before God!

Join Pastor Tal on Zoom, Sundays, August 2—August 30, 10:30 am

WIHN/Family Promise

Family Promise/WIHN is so very grateful for the support of Grace UMC!! To date, our congregation has given over \$800 to help them out with costs! Thank you so very much!

We were scheduled to host families during the first week of August and we missed hosting a two-week rotation in May. So it would be very helpful if we could provide some meals to the families who are still living in separate apartments due to the virus. If you would like to do that, here are some options:

- Bring a meal to the apartments
- Buy a gift card and give to the program
- Offer to pay for a meal they order at a take out

If you would like to offer help in one of those ways, please let me know (622-1211) and I will coordinate/communicate with the program or deliver any gift cards. Anyone who would like to continue supporting financially can go to the website at <http://familypromiselcf.org/> or leave a check made out to FPLCF in the church office. The church's mailing address is 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. Thanks again for the love and support you show to these young families!

Jane Spicer

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Sunday, August 23, 3 pm - ***On-Line Dementia Friendly Worship Service*** - The YouTube link will be available on the Grace website.