

# Grace Notes

August 23, 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 23

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.

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

### Dementia Friendly Worship

Grace will be offering an on-line Dementia Friendly Worship Service **This 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.

### New Zoom Sunday School Class

*"Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God-Given Passion for Ministry"*

In his study book, What You Do Best in the Body of Christ, Bruce Bugbee helps you discover your God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, and ministry passion. He shows how these gifts point to your unique role and purpose in the body of Christ when they are expressed together. Across nine sessions you'll discover:

- How your God-given spiritual gifts indicate what you are equipped to do in ministry,
- How your God-given personal style indicates how you can serve with energy and genuineness, and
- How your God-given ministry passion indicates where you are motivated to serve

The first session is Sunday, September 20, 10:30am. All nine sessions will be on Zoom (the meeting link will be emailed each week). Tal will lead the class.

You'll need a copy of Bruce Bugbee's book What You Do Best in the Body of Christ. The books are \$10 each.

You can order it one of two ways:

1. You can place an order on Amazon and have it shipped to you, or
2. You can call the church office to place your order and either mail in your check or use PayPal on the Grace website. The deadline to place an order is September 4. Your book will be available to pick up in the Welcome Center prior to class start.

### HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### Online Attendance & Offering for 8/16/2020

Worship Service: 184 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 8/12—8/19 \$ 9,905

#### 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](https://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### 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.

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Corey & Rachel Alban	Luke McCahan
Mayleigh Allen	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Keith Ballinger	Margaret Merritt
Chris Beahan	Heather Meyer
Louise Berry	Pam Miller
Joyce Blauvelt	Brad Mischler
Robert Bowen	Kirk Mitchell
Steve Cleary	Ronnie Monroe
Don Cole	Family of Mike O'Brien
Becky Cummings	Carolyn Pope
Wendy Cupps	Jason Powers
Betsy Foreman	Jeffrey Powers
Pat DiGiuseppe	Lillian Powers
Delayne Frye	Tim Powers
Brittany Gifford	Jeff Price
Julie Godwin	Steve Ragan
Sid Goode	JC Riggs
Linda Gorham	Mary Ellen Riggs
Darcy Guthrie	Barry Roberts
Hank	Peggy Sawyer
Jimmy Hauk	Valoree Shinn
Ron Hickmon	Shawn, Kelsey & Skyler
Rick Holloway	Solomon
Steve Hooper	Roger Swilley
Dick Hull	Rebecca Taylor
Jackson & Avery	Jim Teachey
Jerrel	Brian Tripp
Kaye	Laura Upchurch
Family of Moo Saw Kefauver	Michael Waddell
Maria King	Family of Tom Wallace
Family of Bill Lane	Linda Wengerd & Family
Larry	Ruby Williams
Lia Mason	Barry Zigler

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](mailto:sandysmithgrace@gmail.com) or 910-233-0310.

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

### 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](mailto: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 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. 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!

## Catching Up on Missions at Grace

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard** continues to serve food twice weekly. Many of their expenses are related to cleaning and masks for workers who are receiving, sorting and stocking food and then giving it out to people, who are served in their cars or as they stand on the sidewalk.

The average volunteer used to be 70-75 years, but that has changed! The Cupboard now seeks younger volunteers under the age of 55 who can work the hours of 11:30-3:30 on Saturdays. These folks pack and give out boxes of food to the families who come to the Cupboard. Masks and gloves are used for safety. Some training is needed and it helps if workers can consistently work each week or at least a few times a month! If you are interested in knowing more, contact Jane Radack at [booradack@gmail.com](mailto:booradack@gmail.com).

Grace members have faithfully donated items for diabetics who come for food and this need continues. The following items are requested: Boost or Ensure for diabetics, brown rice, unsweetened instant oats, unsweetened corn flakes, Cheerios, canned chicken or tuna. Thank you for your continued generosity!

**Family Promise/WIHN** continues to serve families. They are so grateful for the continued support of Grace Church! We are not yet able to house them in the church due to COVID restrictions. They are housed in separate apartments still. Many of the parents are essential workers since they are often in food service, custodial or childcare jobs, so their lives are busy as they strive toward financial independence.

There is a continuing need for meals for them that can be donated as gift cards, financial donations or the old fashioned way of bringing meals to them (the staff can do the distribution if need be). Financial donations can be mailed to Grace at 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, with checks made out to FPLCF. Gift cards can be left at the church office, labelled FPLCF. If you would like to personally cook a meal, please contact Jane Spicer to help out with arrangements at 910 622-1211.

If you have gently used furniture or linens, they can be used to help families starting out in their own housing. Please contact the office at 769-4730 about this type donation. Thank you!

**Methodist Home for Children** continues with its work with troubled children, youth and families during the pandemic. The staff have the added challenges of remote learning in the group homes. Some of the young adults are the essential workers at our fast food restaurants. Social distancing changes the ease of communicating, counselling and other important features of helping these kids and families.

Ordinarily, we would be gearing up for one of the major fund-raising events, the Epicurean Evening, held right here in Wilmington! It is typically an evening of good food, fellowship, exciting auction items. But due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 event was cancelled. Methodist Home is now asking that, instead of attending the evening, supporters consider financially donating this year. If you would like to support their amazing work with at risk children in our community, you can send a check to Grace at 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401, made out to Methodist Home for Children. Your prayers are also gratefully received by both families and staff!