

Grace Notes

December 15, 2019

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, December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Worship Service
9:30 am Fellowship Time
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
5:00 pm BLAST Programs Christmas Party

Monday, December 16

5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Basketball
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting
7:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

10:00 am Le Leche League

Wednesday, December 18

9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
5:30 pm Bootcamp
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 19

12:00 pm Welcome Table

Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent

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

Luminaries

One of the wonderful Grace traditions is the use of luminaries to line the walkways to the church for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.

Today and Sunday, December 22, there will be special envelopes in the morning worship bulletin for donations to this mission project. Please use these to name the person or persons you wish to honor or memorialize on Christmas Eve. A list of all the names will be included in the bulletin that evening.

A donation of \$5 or more per name is suggested. This project is being led by the Grace Youth. The funds raised will be used by the Youth Ministry for their 2020 Mission Trip to Costa Rica.



The deadline for submissions is **Monday, December 23, 10 am.**

No Administrative Council Meeting

The Administrative Council Meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, has been cancelled.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 6:30 pm.

Volunteers Needed Christmas Eve

Ushers are needed for the 5 pm service. Please see Bob or Cheryl High if you are willing to help.

Security Teams are needed for both the 5 pm and 7 pm services. We need four people for each service. Please contact the church office.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Alan Biddle	Mike O'Brien
Brice Borowitz	Ms. P
George Braun	Jim Pasquarette
April Brose	Tom Pasquale
Bruce Celeto	Joan Pence
Lynn Childers	Joan Penney
Jim & Dale Cromartie	Wallace Riddle
Zach DeForge	Noah Roberts
Mary Ginocchio	Jack Ross, Jr.
Catherine Leigh Gold	Carlson & Uta Rowe
Donald Gore	Family of Earnest Shelton
Courtney Hayden	Cozette Southerland
Ron Hickmon	Kathy Spitzner
Melia Jefferies	Stephen Toth
Eddie Jones	Pete Williams
Maria King	Jonathan Workinger
Jaxson Kyler	Caroline Vincent
Charlie Leighton	
Jessica Martin	
Joyce MacIvergan	

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
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
PFC Nathan Watson, USA
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Patricia at patricia@gracedowntown.net. In order to keep the prayer list current, names will be kept on the list for 4 weeks and then removed, unless you instruct us otherwise.

Help Replenish Our "Stash"

Everyone appreciates the wonderful array of goodies on Sunday mornings to go with our coffee, but Nurture's Fellowship Time "treat stash" has become depleted.

We would love to have additional treats that can be stored in the freezer until needed. They can be home-made or bought items, but freezable. If you can help with this, it will be greatly appreciated by everyone.

Please leave your items in the kitchen and mark them "Fellowship Time." Thank you so much!

Please check the appropriate box or boxes and place in the offering plate.

- 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: _____

Worship at Grace on Christmas Eve

Grace UMC will hold its traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Our beautiful sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias and candlelight. There will be special music starting about 30 minutes before each service and Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

Invite your family, neighbors and friends to join you as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

One Worship Service on December 29

On Sunday, December 29, Grace will hold one worship service at 10:00 am. Our Director of Family Ministries, Kelley Ahlers, will bring the message.

At our Annual Conference in November, Kelley was approved as a candidate for pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church.

Special Holiday Fellowship Time

The Nurture Committee will provide a special, holiday Fellowship Time on TODAY, at 9:30 and 10:30 am.

Please come by the Welcome Center to enjoy a holiday treat and visit with your Grace Church family.



2020 Altar Flower Chart

The 2020 sign-up chart for altar flowers is in the Welcome Center. You may sign up for one or both sides for any available Sunday.

The cost is \$45 per side. Checks should be made payable to Grace UMC, with "altar flowers" written on the memo line, and may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the office. Marion Little will contact you about the dedication wording for the bulletin the week prior to your selected date.



Armor of God Youth Retreat **January 17- 19, 2020**

When you have to face the hard parts of life, make sure you are dressed appropriately. We will spend the weekend looking at Ephesians 6:10-18 and learning how we can face any battle when we have the right outfit on. Through scavenger hunts, costume design contests, pillow jousting and more we will find out how God arms us head to toe.

The group will be staying at Hampton Inn at Broadway at the Beach, so there will be free time to play putt-putt, shop, and more. Friday night we will visit Dave and Busters for dinner and games, Saturday night will be dinner at Medieval Times Dinner Theater. Sunday morning we will have a special worship service and head back to Wilmington.

Cost per person - \$95.00 Price includes hotel, van, Medieval Times, dinner and breakfast each day. Tweens/teens will need money for lunches and any shopping money. We have a few full and partial scholarships available to cover cost if you have more than 1 child going. Ages 11 and up may attend without parent. Younger children may attend if parents are chaperoning.

If you have questions, contact Kelley Ahlers: Kelley@gracedowntown.net

Beth Moore Conference

Bible teacher Beth Moore will be in Wilmington at Trask Coliseum on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, for an exciting time of worship. The Worship Leader will be Travis Cottrell, and classes will be taught by Beth Moore.

Sign up by Sunday, December 15, to join a group from Grace. With a group of 10 or more, we can get a group pricing of \$65/person. Individual Early Bird pricing is \$75/person (valid through 1-2-2020).

The conference schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 24 --- 5:30 pm Doors open
7:00-9:30 pm Event begins
Saturday, April 25 ---7:30 am Doors open
8:30 am Event begins
10:00 am Break
10:45 am Event Resumes
12:15 pm Event concludes

A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. For more details or for questions - contact Linda Snider (snidersnc@gmail.com) or Linda Russ (lindapruss@hotmail.com).

Angel "Tree" Deadline Extended

This year, instead of the usual Christmas angel tree, we have cards in the Welcome Center on a table, listing children and families with their wishes (and sometimes their needs). You can purchase some of those things to give them some joy at Christmas, leaving them UNWRAPPED under or near the table. You may see cleaning supplies and basic household things on a parent's list, because they are so impoverished that those are things they can only wish for! You do not need to buy every gift on the list!!!!

Please try to have all gifts and cards at the church by **Wednesday, December 18th!** (Ignore the date on the cards!) If shopping is not your thing, you can write a check to Methodist Home for Children (put Christmas in the memo line) and put it in the offering or at the Welcome Center desk and the staff will do your shopping! A special box will be on the Welcome Center desk for gift cards and checks!

Methodist Home for Children works to provide a safe and stable home for the children and families they serve. Sometimes this is in a non-traditional home, like a foster home or a group home. Sometimes it is a traditional home which is working hard to provide a safe and nurturing place for their kids in crisis. These children and their families typically lack financial resources, so our helping them at Christmas is one great way to support them.

Thanks in advance for helping those in need celebrate Jesus' Birthday joyfully!
Jane Spicer, Board Member, Methodist Home for Children

Graceful Seniors for January

Tuesday, January 14, 10:00 am
Bullock Activity Center

The speaker at the January meeting will be Sonia Vieregge Kennedy, who is a registered Dietitian and owner of Nutrition In Motion based in Wilmington. Sonia was recommended as a speaker by the New Hanover Hospital. The topics covered will include those essential elements needed to adopt a healthy lifestyle in 2020.

Check out the web site for more info at:
nutritioninmotion.com

Interested in Being a Liturgist?

Liturgists have an important role in our worship services. They help set the tone of the service and lead the congregation through the opening liturgy. They also read the week's selection of God's Word.

If you would like to serve Grace and our Lord in this way, please contact Rick Zigler at either 910-341-5726 or rzigler@aol.com.

Community Host Program

UNC Wilmington has a Community Host Program to help their foreign students adjust to life in Wilmington. They are looking for volunteers to be partnered with a student. The student does not live with you. The goal is to get together once a month with the student and be available to offer assistance.

The school is expecting 40 new students to arrive on January 9, 2020. If you are interested in participating, contact Maria Elena Gaborov Jones, Program Coordinator, at: gaborovjonesm@uncw.edu

Alan and Bettye Broadwater have participated in this program for many years and would be happy to talk to you about their experiences.

Operating Budget Need

Grace needs your help to meet expenses from our operation budget between now and the end of the year (Dec. 31).

Your giving 1) honors Jesus Christ and 2) helps the many life giving ministries of Grace happen. If all our pledges that were made to the operating budget are made good, we will be right on top of where we need to be.

Please check to see where you are in meeting your pledge. Behind in your pledge? Thanks for doing all you can to help catch up. Current with your pledge? Please consider doing a bit more. We pray you are blessed in your generosity.

Bring the full tithes (one tenth) into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.

Malachi 3:10

Thank You!

Grace Church Members:

Thank you so much for everything you do for Sunset Park Elementary School. We sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness.

The Sunset Park Staff

Grace Lay Leadership for 2020

Grace's Charge Conference was held on Tuesday, November 19, and the slate of lay leaders for 2020 was submitted and approved.

If you received a phone call in the last couple of months and agreed to serve on a committee or team for 2020, you have officially been elected to that position. Your tenure will start January 1, 2020, unless otherwise discussed.

Thank You from Interfaith

Last week, Grace was home to 3 families struggling with homelessness. There were a total of 7 children and 3 adults who received delicious meals, shelter, support and hospitality! One family has moved to an apartment and another is to do so shortly!

Thanks to these generous people who took time out of their Advent season to help out:

Ambassadors: Marilee Tremlett, Bettye & Alan Broadwater, Renate & David Cooper, Connie & Rod Caulder (who worked extra hours!), Gary Atwell, Valoree Shinn

Dinner hosts: Dawn Hale, Cindee Stetson, Hope, Ross, Cash & Austin Inman, Jessica Wilson

Overnight hosts: Chris Stenerson, Tom Jones, Judy and Darrell Davies

Washing all the laundry: Janice Fladd, Maxine LeFever, Pat Thomas

Transportation: Bill and Emily Booth

Set up and organization beforehand: Amanda Ladd

The following people offered to work weekend shifts, but were not needed: Jane and Larry Phipps, Karen and Charlie Reap, Leigh Mabee.

We will host other families during the last week in February (Feb 23-March 1), so be on the lookout for the sign-up sheet on the Mission bulletin board and reserve your time to help out (or contact Jane Spicer at jdspicer@ec.rr.com). The rewards far outweigh any inconvenience.

Thanks again to all those who helped make last week a success!

Jane Spicer 910 622-1211

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Tuesday, December 24, 5 pm & 7 pm - ***Candlelight Christmas Eve Services***

Saturday, February 8, 2020 - ***Cinderella's Closet Fundraiser - A Masquerade Ball*** at the Brooklyn Arts Center

Sunday, June 21—Thursday, June 25 - ***Vacation Bible School 2020***

July 8-14, 2020 - ***San Isidro, Costa Rica Mission Trip*** - Watch coming *Grace Notes* for more details

Saturday, September 12, 8:30 am—2:45 pm - ***Annual Chancel Choir Retreat***