

Grace Notes

December 22, 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 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

Monday, December 23

5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Basketball

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

5:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service/Holy Communion
7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service/Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

12:00 pm Welcome Table

Friday, December 27

1:00 pm Staff Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Sunday, December 29

9:30 am Chancel Choir
10:00 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 there are 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,**

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.

Childcare will be available for children age 5 and under.

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

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	Jeffrey Morefield
Brice Borowicz	Mike O'Brien
George Braun	Ms. P
Bruce Celeto	Jim Pasquarette
Lynn Childers	Tom Pasquale
Jim & Dale Cromartie	Joan Pence
Zach DeForge	Noah Roberts
Mary Ginocchio	Barbara Robertson
Catherine Leigh Gold	Jack Ross, Jr.
Donald Gore	Carlson & Uta Rowe
Courtney Hayden	Family of Earnest Shelton
Ron Hickmon	Jonathan Sloan
Melia Jefferies	Cozette Southerland
Eddie Jones	Kevin Stott
Maria King	Stephen Toth
Charlie Leighton	Pete Williams
Jessica Martin	Caroline Vincent

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

Starting December 30, while Pastor Patricia is on medical leave, please direct prayer requests to Sandy Smith at: sandysmithgrace@gmail.com 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.

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.

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: _____

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

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.

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.

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

Turning Anxiety into Passion

Winter Bible Studies
Starting Sunday, January 5, 5:00 pm

There will be a series of short bible studies on anxiety, fear, and understanding yourself better. Each month we will have a new discussion that will lead to a deeper understanding of ourselves, our friends and family, and the gifts God gave us.

The first two-part study is on January 5th and 12th from 5:00-6:30. The study looks at how we approach life, process information, make decisions, and what energizes us. In understanding the way God created each of us, we learn what triggers anxiety and how to calm our fears. Childcare is provided for all ages. Kelley Ahlers, Director of Family Ministries, will lead this series.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

2020 Operating Budget Approved

The Administrative Council has approved the Operating Budget for Grace for 2020. The Operating Budget supports the staff salaries, the day-to-day operating of the church, and the Grace's many ministries. The Operating Budget for 2020 is \$747,178. This is \$495 less than the 2019 budget.

Thank You Notes from the Grace Staff

Grace UMC,
Julie and I wish to thank you for the generosity you have shown to us and to the staff during this Advent/Christmas season. You are generous people. It is a privilege to serve among you.
Pastor Tal

Dear Grace congregation,
Thank you for the wonderful gift each staff member received. Christmas is a wonderful time of year to share gifts and we so appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.
Debbie Ashe

D
ear Church Family,
Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Philippians 1:3 (NLT)

When I think of the friends and family we have found at Grace, I understand Paul's feelings towards the church in Philippi. He was inspired and energized when he watched the work of the church and was grateful for them. I feel the same when I think of you all.

I am constantly overwhelmed by your support and kindness. I feel that so many of you have helped both my family and ministry in so many ways this year. You have inspired me, walked with my family through challenges, and given of your time to work beside me. On top of all of that, you have been so generous in your gift this Christmas. I appreciate it and as we head into the Holidays, it has helped us make Christmas special for our family.

Every week I am in awe of how much this church shows love and service. The way I witness you caring for other members, reaching out into the community, and doing the millions of small things that keep a church moving forward grows my faith and gives me hope. When I think of you, I can not help but give thanks to God for bringing us here. Thank you again for the gift and for all you do!

With Love,
Kelley Ahlers

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. It is a joy to minister with a church family who care about each other and go overboard to show love and encouragement. You are the best!
Patricia

Dear Grace Family,
I really appreciate the Christmas gift you so graciously gave. It's a pleasure working in such a friendly and cooperative environment.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Charles

Dear Grace Congregation,
Thank you so very much for your generous love gift. Your thoughtfulness and continued support for the staff and for the missions and programs of the church are greatly appreciated. It is my great honor and pleasure to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ, at Grace UMC with such kind and gracious children of God.

I wish you safe and love-filled Advent and Christmas seasons,
In Christ,
Jerry

Dear Grace Congregation,
Thank you so much for your very generous gift. Your love and support for the staff throughout the year is a wonderful part of working for this body of Christ. May each of you have a blessed, peaceful and joy-filled Christmas and New Year.
In Christ,
Marion

Thank you for the Christmas gift! A special surprise. Your generosity went above and beyond. The joy of music, the love and support of the people at Grace is my real Christmas blessing. I am touched.
Love you all,
Judy

Dear Grace congregation,
Thank you so much for the blessing of your gift. It has been extremely helpful and relieved a lot of my stress this holiday season. The generosity and support of this church is overwhelming.
Thank you, Merry Christmas, and God bless!
Amanda

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***