

Grace Notes

February 17, 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, February 17

Family Promise/Interfaith Week Starts

- 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
- 3:30 pm Financial Peace University

Monday, February 18

- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 6:30 pm PAL Wrestling
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting
- 7:00 pm Board of Trustees
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 19

- 10:00 am Le Leche League
- 3:00 pm CFCC Basketball Practice
- 4:00 pm Spartans Basketball
- 6:00 pm Basketball
- 6:30 pm Administrative Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 20

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 10:00 am Staff Meeting
- 11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
- 5:00 pm Family Dinner
- 5:45 pm Grace 3:16 Bible Study (gr. 6-12)
- 5:45 pm Sonbeams Bible Play (pre-K-gr. 2)
- 5:45 pm Sonshine Singers & Solid Rock Singers
- 6:00 pm Boot Camp
- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 6:30 pm High School Hot Topics (gr. 9-12)
- 6:30 pm Kids for Christ Bible Study (gr. 3-5)
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 21

- 9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
- 12:00 pm Welcome Meal
- 4:00 pm Spartans Basketball
- 6:00 pm PAL Wrestling

Friday, February 22

- 1:00 pm Staff Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Saturday, February 23

- 9:00 am Cape Fear Chorale/Music Suite

Sunday, February 24 - New Consecration Sunday

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Consecration Sunday Meal
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 pm Consecration Sunday Meal
- 3:30 pm Financial Peace University

February's ONE THING

Love and Laundry Detergent!

Let's share the love this month by helping homeless and displaced families do their laundry. The Switching Gears bicycle ministry allows use of their washers and dryers so families just need to provide their own detergent. Any detergent in any size will be helpful (from Dollar Tree brand to Tide pods).

Thank you for sharing the love of Christ ♥

Questions?

Contact Melissa Cline at melissacline78@gmail.com

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

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.

Betsy Adkins	Jessica Martin
Shelley Atwell	Ernie Mayhew
Family of Keith Carter	Abby & Cooper Penney
Family of Joan Chason	Lily Phillips
Deborah Cutting	Larry Phipps
A. C. English	Sara Ragan
George Gardner	Family of John Ringle
Mal Garrison	Sarah Rogers
Brittany Gifford	Family of Gary Sebastian
Family of Tazi Hardyman	Family of Frank Skillman
Judy Heath	Don & Kathy Spitzner
Clyde Hillburn	Cathy Shipman
Beth Humphrey	Elaine Vonhatten
Family of Sarah Johnson	Family of James E. Weekly
David Keefe	Madison Williams
Patricia Kimmel	Gary Wrenn
Jimmy Lanier	Dana Zigler

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

- Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
- Capt. Hanson Causbie, USA
- Maj. Tim Collins, USMC
- Col. John Delaney, USA
- 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
- SFC Letty Long, USA
- SFC Woodrow Long, USA
- Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
- LCDR Nicholas Madren, USN
- SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
- Pvt. Steven Patterson
- Maj. Brian Potts, USMC
- LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
- Lt. Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
- Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
- AB Michael Sloan, USAF

Lenten Awakening Service

Guest Preacher: Bishop Hope Morgan Ward
(Bishop of the North Carolina Conference)

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

5:00 pm - Wednesday Catered Meal

6:00 pm - Bishop Ward will share what the actions taken at the Feb. 2019 General Conference will mean for Grace UMC.

7:15 pm - Lenten Awakening Service

This mid-Lent service will remind us to 'awaken' to the things we are called to do. We followers of Christ sometimes fall asleep. Come and be challenged and renewed.

All are invited to take part. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center bulletin board for the catered meal. The cut-off day is Friday, March 22.

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: _____

New Consecration Sunday

February 24, 2019

8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services

A Celebration Meal Following Each Service

Guest Preacher: Rev. Reggie Ponder

Among other appointments, Reggie was served as Superintendent of the New Bern District, Raleigh District and the Fairway District. He was the Executive Secretary of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Assembly (Lake Junaluska), and as President of the Methodist Retirement Homes in the NC Conference.

The meal after each service will be catered.....no covered dishes needed! Our thanks to Ryan & Kristin Gibbs for making these meals happen for Grace. The menu will be:

Meat and Egg Casserole
Pancakes with Butter & Syrup
Biscuits and Gravy
Fresh Fruit
Orange Juice & Apple Juice

Vegetable and Egg Casserole
Sausage
Variety of Bagels & Pastries
Salad (11:00 only)
Coffee

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Throwback Prom a HUGE Success!

The Cinderella's Closet Throwback Prom was a HUGE success! Thank you to those of you who came out to support our mission.....you all brought your dancing shoes!

The event exceeded our expectations and we hope to be able to hold this event again in the future. Because of all your support and the community's support, we were able to raise around \$8,000 to further expand this ministry of Grace Church.

District Superintendent Coming to Grace

The Harbor District Superintendent, Reverend. Edith Gleaves, will preach at Grace on Sunday, March 17, at both worship services.

As the Harbor DS, she oversees the ministry of Grace and 99 other United Methodist Churches in southeastern NC. You will enjoy listening to what she has to say.

Graceful Seniors

Smart Phone/Social Media Class

Do you want to know more about your smart phone and it's applications? How about Social Media? Kelley Ahlers and the Grace 3:16 youth group are here to help!

There will be 2 classes held as follows:

Wed. February 20, 6 pm - iPhone/Android Basics
Wed. February 27, 6 pm - Social Media Basics

Classes will be held at the church. Please sign up using the sheet on the Welcome Center bulletin board. *Space is limited.*

You will need to bring to class your phone, tablet or iPad; charger and cord; and your password(s).

Questions? Contact John Thompson at:
johniebrit1@gmail.com

Sign-up Now!

Graceful Seniors Lunch
Tuesday, March 19, 2019
12:00 noon

Larry Phipps and Kelley Ahlers will review the work carried out in the community by GUMC as a consequence of Hurricane Florence. They will also highlight the continuing needs.

Additionally, Kelley will review her work as Director of Family Ministries.

A catered lunch will be provided at a suggested minimum donation of \$8. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. The cut-off date for signing up is Friday, March 15.

ALL seniors are welcome to join the group.

General Conference Approaching

The United Methodist Church will have a special General Conference February 23-26, 2019. At this conference delegates from all around the globe will vote on matters put forward at the Council of Bishops request from the work of the Commission on a Way Forward. You may learn more about the Commission's work by going to umc.org and typing 'way forward' in the search engine.

If you would like to talk with Tal regarding the upcoming General Conference, feel free to call the church and set up an appointment with him. **A packet of information regarding the General Conference has been prepared by Grace's Way Forward Communications Team. They are available in the Welcome Center.**

You can email your views on this to members of the NC Conference Delegation, who will be voting members of the General Conference. Thanks for expressing only your personal opinion. You can find the email address of the delegation at this link:

<https://nccumc.org/gc2016/delegation/>

Stephen Ministry

People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care and support we can offer. That's why our congregation has Stephen Ministers. These committed individuals are God's representatives who bring his love to those who are hurting.

Grace had **five** active Stephen Ministers during 2018. They spent **139 hours** visiting with and listening to seven different care receivers. They also spent over **fifty hours** in continuing education and group supervision.

The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. They listen, care, support, encourage, and pray with and for a person who is hurting. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through.

If someone you know is facing a crisis—large or small—and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to Brena Conley or Patricia DiGiuseppe, our Stephen Leaders.

Prayer Requests

Prayer is an important part of the life of Grace Church. Your prayers make a difference in the lives of this congregation and its extended family, friends and community. The volume of prayer requests received is increasing, which is good. We want to support everyone in need of our prayers.

To keep up with the volume of these requests, Sandy Smith, a faithful member of the Grace Prayer Team since its start, has agreed to help Pastor Patricia with the distribution of requests to the Prayer Team, to Marion Little (for publication in the weekly *Grace Notes*), as well as keeping a record of all requests. Sandy understands the confidentiality of this information and is pleased to serve the congregation in this role.

Pastor Patricia will still see all requests, contact the people involved, pray with everyone, and make announcements as needed on Sunday mornings.

To ensure all requests are disseminated correctly and in a timely manner, we ask that you submit requests in the following ways:

- By email to both Pastor Patricia (patricia@gracedowntown.net) and Sandy Smith (sandysmithgrace@gmail.com). This is an email address Sandy has set up just for prayer requests.
- By filling out a prayer request form and dropping it in the locked prayer request box that will be located just inside the gym. Pastor Patricia and/or Sandy Smith will check the box after each worship service.
- If there is an urgent prayer need on Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer request form and hand it to Pastor Patricia. This will ensure that the information is passed on correctly.
- In an emergency, you will still be able to contact Pastor Patricia by phone.

For all prayer requests, please indicate whether the request is to be shared just with the Prayer Team or can be put in the *Grace Notes*.

We think these changes will make the process of receiving and distributing prayer requests run more smoothly. Thank you all for your faithful prayers and loving support.

New Bible Study

Now Offered on Thursday Morning and Wednesday Night

New Adult Bible Study - Study the book of James with us this fall. We'll meet for five sessions starting **Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm and Thursday, February 21, 10:00 am**. Childcare will be provided for the Wednesday night session by the Children's Ministry that will be going on during that time. Leader: Tal Madison. Among the things we'll explore are:

- Who do scholars say wrote the book of James? When was it written, and why?
- What do we make of James' stronger emphasis on good works than we find in the writings of Paul?
- How does James help direct our following Jesus today?

Sign-up on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center.

Early Bread Ministry

Early Bread is a cooperative effort with Grace UMC, Wesley Memorial UMC, and several other county churches. Each Sunday volunteers go to Church of St. Peter the Fisherman to cook, serve, minister, and clean. The Early Bread ministry started in May of 1999, and has fed more than 25,000 people since then. We "feed the soul and spirit" of an average of 120-150 people each Sunday. Approximately 90 percent of those served are men; many are veterans. Our van and those of our partner churches, pickup from Grace, Good Shepherd, Mercy House, the downtown library, and other locations.

Each Sunday morning at around 6:30 volunteer drivers from Grace use our van to pick up 7 to 10 people from our church and other locations and drive them to St Peters for breakfast. After breakfast they are returned to their pick-up location.

Grace is in need of additional drivers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Robert High at 910-395-2430 or rshcch@gmail.com.

For more information on Early Bread's mission, visit: http://www.cecwilmington.com/Church/Early_Bread.html

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Wednesday, March 6 - ***Ash Wednesday***, 5:30-6:30 pm Pancake Supper; 7:00 pm Worship Service

Friday, March 22-Sunday, Mark 24 - ***Calming the Rough Waters Family Retreat***

Sunday, March 17, 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services - ***Guest Preacher, District Superintendent, Edith Gleaves***

Wednesday, March 27, 7:00 pm - ***Awakening Service***, guest preacher will be Bishop Hope Morgan Ward,
Bishop of the NC Conference of UMC

Good Friday, April 19, 7:00 pm - ***The Seven Last Days, a Tenebrae Cantata***

Sunday, April 21 - ***Easter***

Sunday, June 23—Thursday, June 27 - ***2019 Vacation Bible School***