

Grace Notes

February 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, February 23

Interfaith/Family Promise Families Arrive

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:30 am Stewardship Meal
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 12:00 am Stewardship Meal
- 5:00 pm Family Worship **BLAST**
- 5:15 pm Mustard Seed Nursery Time (ages 2-3)
 - Powerful Play (PreK-grade 2)
 - Sonshine Singers (grades 3-5)
 - Compassion Bible Study, Grace 3:16 (grades 10-12)
 - Compassion Bible Study, (grades 6-9)
- 5:45 pm Compassion Bible Study (age 3-grade 5)
 - Solid Rock Singers (grades 6-9)
 - Youth Hot Topics (grades 10-12)

Monday, February 24

- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Basketball
- 6:30 pm General Conference Information Session
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 25

- 10:00 am General Conference Information Session
- 6:30 pm Basketball

Wednesday, February 26 - Ash Wednesday

- 11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 5:30 pm Pancake Supper
- 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 27

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Welcome Table

Friday, February 28

- 1:00 pm Staff Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Saturday, February 29

- 9:00 am Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Sunday, March 1

Interfaith/Family Promise Families Depart

- 8:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion
- 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/Holy Communion
- 3:00 pm Dementia Friendly Worship Service

New Consecration Program

We conclude our Stewardship Emphasis Month for Grace's 2020 Operating Budget, today with **New Consecration Sunday**.

You will be given your Estimate Of Giving Card during worship today. The cards ask that we share our intended giving calculated weekly. However, you are free to indicate on the card if you prefer to give monthly, quarterly, etc. Please be prepared to indicate this clearly on the card.

There will be a special fellowship meal after each worship service. You don't have to bring anything. Just come and enjoy fellowship with your Grace Family.

Our guest preacher today is Rev Jim Bell. Jim is the Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Rocky Mount.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Maria Agrillo	Joann McCloskey
Jean Ballard	Raelyne Michel
Bob Bauman	Family of Spc. Antonio Moore
Julie Best	Peter Moreale
Alan Biddle	Mike O'Brien
Brice Borowicz	Steve Pacello
Betty Brown	Frank Pasquale
Bruce Celeto	Jim Pasqualette
George Collins	Muriel Pearson
Ruth Conner	Larry Phipps
David Cooper	Alma Rivenbark
Zach DeForge	Noah Roberts
Patricia DiGiuseppe	Barbara Robertson
Gail Gibbs	Ryan's Family
Mary Ginocchio	Fern Schussler
Catherine Leigh Gold	Priscilla Shirer
Joan Greene	Jonathan Sloan
Family & Friends of Jennifer Harter	Cozette Southerland
Ron Hickmon	Kathy Spitzner
Dick Hull	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Natalie Humphrey	Roger Swilley
Janice	Donna Tripp
Kathleen	Pete Williams
Donnie Lane	Laura Witherington
Margaret Lane	Rich Van Gorder
Charlie Leighton	Will Vereen
Will Lindsey	Caroline Vincent
Jessica Martin	

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

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.

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support Cinderella's Closet at the Masquerade Ball this past Saturday. We had a fabulous time and raised about \$7,000 to support this outreach ministry.

Cinderella's Closet Team

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: _____

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper!

Bring your family, friends and anyone who loves syrup for Grace's Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper, **Wednesday, February 26.**

Supper will start at 5:30 pm and pancakes will be served until 6:30 pm.

Recommended donations are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children, and under age 3 eat for free. All monies raised will go toward the Youth Costa Rica Mission Trip this July and provide building materials for the orphanage where we will serve. As we go into the season of Lent, join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner!

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 26, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This is the time in the church year that we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

There will be a traditional worship service with the imposition of ashes on the forehead in the form of a cross, an old practice in the Christian Church. The words and music in the service speak to a cleansing and renewal of spirit during the 40 days of Lent.

Childcare will be available for children 3 and under.

Empty Bowls Returns on March 20, 2020!

11 am – 1:30 pm

First Baptist Church Activities Center
1939 Independence Blvd, Wilmington, NC
(Overflow parking and shuttle will be available in the Independence Mall parking lot.)

This bi-annual event will celebrate 10 events in 20 years in 2020~can you believe it!? We hope you'll join us for this wonderful day to support the work of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Good Shepherd Center. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Tickets on sale now in the Grace Office or visit EmptyBowlsILM.org

Lenten Awakening Event 2020

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am
Bullock Activity Center

A Conversation with Dusty Casteen

The Awakening Event will be different this year. Dusty Casteen, a member of Anchor UMC and the leader of their Switching Gears ministry, has had a life of twists and turns.

Dusty's life has included a period of drug addiction and time in prison. Along the way, he was captured by the grace of Jesus Christ. It turned his life around.

You are invited to come hear his story of God's *Amazing Grace*. How he went from being so far down, to being named by the *Star News* as one of the 40 People Under 40 to watch in Wilmington.

A light breakfast will be served (donations accepted). Please sign-up in the Welcome Center so we'll know how much to prepare and who might need childcare.

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 pm

Grace: Dementia Friendly Worship

This special worship service will include many, old familiar hymns, a short message, and familiar Scripture readings. The purpose of this service is to minister to those with Alzheimer and other forms of dementia, their caregivers and families. Everyone is invited to participate.

Please invite friends and family that you think would enjoy this service. Notices are being sent to the District Office and other churches in the area.

Envelopes for Costa Rica

Grace's Mission Team to Costa Rica is starting their fund raising *Envelopes for Costa Rica* campaign this Sunday. Stop by the Welcome Center where you will find a table of envelopes with monetary amounts printed on them ranging from \$1-\$300. These donations will help with travel expenses, but most of the money is for the materials that will be used to build extra rooms and repair parts of our Methodist Orphanage in San Isidro (Grace's team will provide the free labor).

To support this trip, simply choose one of the envelopes and place the amount requested, or more, in the envelope and write your name or group's name on the front. Then place the envelope in the offering plate or in the box on the table.

Inside each envelope you will find a thank you note from one of our missionaries that has pictures on it of the children they will be serving. You are asked to pray for that team member.

Individuals, families, Sunday school classes and other groups may choose an envelope to collect together. Our hope is to have each envelope filled by the end of March.

Please take the time to prayerfully consider what you can give. If you would like a receipt, please write that on the back of the envelope. Thank you for your support and prayers as the Mission Team prepares for this July trip.

Information Sessions Regarding:

World General Conference - May, 2020

There is a lot of misinformation floating around the media and elsewhere regarding the process ahead for the United Methodist Church. Pastor Tal will be holding 4 sessions to offer solid information about this subject. You are invited to come to the one that best suits your schedule.

- All sessions will be held in the Bible Class Room.
- Please use the **sign-up sheets** on the bulletin board in the Welcome Center. This will help us plan for childcare and also make sure there is adequate seating available.
- Parking for the daytime sessions is available in the church parking lot, the grassy lot, and 2-hour timed parking along 4th Street.
- It would be helpful for the evening sessions if those of you who are able would park in the bank parking lot or along 4th Street. This will keep our parking lot spaces available for those with walking difficulties .

The dates/times are as follows:

Monday, February 24, 6:30 pm (childcare provided)
Tuesday, February 25, 10:00 am
Monday, March 2, 6:30 pm (childcare provided)
Tuesday, March 3, 1:15 pm

These are the parameters for all sessions.

- The goal will be to offer sound information regarding the process ahead and possible outcomes.
- Please refrain from copying information from the internet or drafting positions papers to hand out. That will only serve to divide.
- There will be no speeches putting forward one position or another. Again, that will only divide.
- At Grace, we will stay focused on one goal: pointing people to the cross of Jesus. To accomplish this, we will continue to welcome all who come in our doors.

From the Grace Treasurer

Thank you for all your gifts to Grace UMC. We try very hard to make sure that your gifts are promptly and properly credited to the account you designate. Accordingly, here are some requests from the counters, who count and deposit the weekly offerings. We ask that you please follow these guidelines in order to ensure that your gifts are credited properly.

- Make out a separate check for each gift (operating budget, \$20 Fellowship, altar flowers, etc.). Grace uses an automated scanner to process the checks. Checks with combined amounts have to be processed manually; which increases the likelihood of errors.
- Indicate **legibly** where the money is to go. Checks received without a clear designation request automatically (per church policy) go to the general, operating budget.
- Use black or blue ink. The scanner does not read pastel colors.
- **Please write legibly.**
- If you are contributing via checks submitted on your behalf by a bank, brokerage, or other financial institution, be sure they indicate on the check where it is to be credited; i.e. budget, \$20 Fellowship, etc.
- Do not submit a second party check. All checks must be made payable to Grace UMC.
- When submitting cash, you must **legibly** write on the envelope your name and where the donation is to go.
- If the contribution is a memorial or an honorarium, please indicate if you have a specific designation for your gift, i.e. Music Dept., Children's Ministry, Nurture, etc. Also include who we should acknowledge and thank for the gift and their address. The more information we have the better.
- Parents—we applaud your efforts in developing good giving habits in your children. When they submit an envelope with money, please clearly indicate your name(s) so that proper credit can be given.

Again, we thank you for your gifts and offerings. If you have a question, feel free to contact Debbie Ashe in the office or me, Jim Ballard.

Jim Ballard, Treasurer

Thank You Note

Dear Grace UMC Members,

Chuck and I wish to express our deepest gratitude for your thoughts and prayers during Chuck's illness. We truly felt every prayer and we are grateful to be a part of this loving church family.

Please know you are in our prayers as well!

God Bless You,
Chuck & Ginny McCarthy

Equal Exchange Coffee

The Missions Committee invites you to check out the Equal Exchange sales table today in the Welcome Center, which displays coffee, tea and chocolate products. These items are available on a continuing basis at the steps leading to Walsh Hall.

Equal Exchange is a US co-op that provides small-scale farmer co-ops in many countries with fair trade prices for their products sold in the US. It also donates a portion of sales back to faith partners, such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

Cinderella's Closet Prom Shopping Event Dates Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28

We are a little over a month away from our 2020 Cinderella's Closet Prom Shopping Event. This is our fourth year holding events for girls in New Hanover County, and the Cinderella's Closet committee has always appreciated the wonderful support and encouragement that the members of Grace have given to us and the young ladies that come to our event.

This year we will be holding our events on one weekend to allow girls that work or have other responsibilities on Saturdays to benefit. The dates are Friday, March 27, 3pm-9pm and Saturday, March 28, 9am-5pm. We would like to open the volunteer sign-up to only the women of Grace Church through Saturday, February 29, before opening it up to our community supporter list. You can go to the following link to sign up for this year's event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090444acad22a5ff2-2020>

We are in need of Fairy Godmothers, greeters, and seamstresses. If you have any type of sewing ability, we would love to have you in our seamstress room - we guarantee only very minor alterations for our princesses; such as hems, straps and small repairs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Hope Inman at 646-202-3520 or cinderellasclosetilm@gmail.com.



Family Promise/Interfaith

In Tal's most recent sermon, he spoke about really living by giving. We would like to offer you an opportunity to really live by helping host our WIHN/Family Promise families! We will have 3 families come to us February 23 through March 1: 2 single mothers and one couple, with a total of 5 children, ages 1-9. They will eat dinner, spend their evening and sleep at Grace. During the day, the families go out to school and work or to job hunt. On the weekends, they have the option of staying at the church all day and night. Rest assured that you will get far more out of helping these families than what you put into it!

We need help in the following areas:

Dinner providers and hosts (dinner served at 6pm) on Sat., Feb. 29.

Overnight hosts (7:45pm-6am and potentially until 7am if you drive the van) on Sun., Feb. 23; Fri., Feb. 28, and Sat., Feb. 29.

Day Hosts, job same as ambassador but on Saturday, Feb 29. Needed from 11am-2pm and from 2-5pm

To volunteer or to find out more about these jobs, please call, text or email Jane Spicer at 910 622-1211 or jdspicer@ec.rr.com Thank you!

March Birthdays

3/1	Dave Vaughan Scott Fiddler Helen Monk	3/7	Jennifer Fiddler Katie Mintz Jill Chidester	3/15	Judy Holden Milton Kreger	3/24	Bev McDow
3/3	Jane Spicer	3/10	Heddy Reichardt	3/16	Martha Wofford	3/26	Gary Godwin William Lindsey
3/5	Grace Dunmire Amanda Ladd Barbara Jackson	3/11	Anne Lewis	3/17	Patty Rowe Pat Thomas	3/28	Ryan Gibbs Henry Cichoracki
3/6	Sue Flora Sarah Voulgaris	3/13	Ross Inman Laura Witherington Kelley Ahlers	3/20	Lillian Edwards Jamie Cline Mike Mabee	3/29	Preston Olinger Sarah Layton
		3/14	Ed Hickmon Deborah Kelly	3/22	Meredith Ross Jen Stenerson		

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 pm - **Ash Wednesday Worship Service**

Friday, March 20, 11 am-1:30 p, - **Empty Bowls 2020** - See article for details.

Friday, March 27 & Saturday, March 28 - **Cinderella's Closet Prom Dress Shopping Event**

Sunday, April 5, 8:30 & 11:00 am - **Palm Sunday Worship Services**

Friday, April 10, 7:00 pm - **Good Friday Worship Service**

Sunday, April 12, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am - **Three Easter Sunday Worship Services**

Sunday, May 10-Sunday, May 24 - **Interfaith/Family Promise**

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**