

# Grace Notes

February 3, 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 3

- 8:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion
- 9:30 am Fellowship Time
- 9:30 am UMW "Souper" Bowl/Welcome Center
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service/Holy Communion

#### Monday, February 4

- 11:00 am Nurture Committee
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm PAL Wrestling
- 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

#### Tuesday, February 5

- 10:30 am United Methodist Women
- 3:00 pm CFCC Basketball Practice
- 4:00 pm Spartans Basketball
- 6:00 pm Basketball

#### Wednesday, February 6

- 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 7

- 12:00 pm Welcome Meal
- 4:00 pm Spartans Basketball
- 6:00 pm PAL Wrestling

#### Sunday, February 10

- 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

### **Cinderella's Closet Throwback Prom**

Saturday, February 9, Brooklyn Arts Center

**Tickets on Sale  
TODAY!**

Grace Welcome Center  
9:30-11:00 am

Tickets: **\$50/person or \$85/couple**



### **Reminder!**

Sunset Park Prayer Partners are reminded that their cards/notes for February are due in the basket by next Sunday, February 10.

Thanks!

### 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](mailto: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 Atkins	Patricia Kimmel
Shelley Atwell	Jessica Martin
Family of Charles Baker, Jr.	James Pasquale
Kristen Baker	Abby & Cooper Penney
Janice Bobbit	Lily Phillips
Windi Boham	Larry Phipps
Barbara Brown	Sara Ragan
Lynn Burney	Family of John Ringle
Family of Keith Carter	Sarah Rogers
Family of Joan Chason	Marilyn Schildt
Deborah Cutting	Family of Gary Sebastian
Claude Davis	Frank Skillman
Beth DiGiuseppe	Mary Sloan
A. C. English	Don & Kathy Spitzner
Mal Garrison	Cathy Stepman
Katie Haldeman	Mark & Becca Sudduth
Judy Heath	Darlene Tyndall & Family
Clyde Hillburn	Elaine Vonhatten
Beth Humphrey	James Edward Weekly
Carl Humphrey	Madison Williams
David Keefe	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  
LCDR Colleen Fagan, USN Reserve  
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

### **Annual UMW "Souper" Bowl Sunday**

**TODAY!**

**9:30-10:50 am**

**Welcome Center**

The price this year will be \$10.00 for a quart of soup and 4 pieces of cornbread.

The proceeds from this UMW fundraiser will go to UMW missions projects throughout the year. These projects include the Methodist Home for Children, our Grace Youth mission trip, and others.

Thank you for your support and enjoy your homemade soup!

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.**
- Will be attending the Prospective Member Class on Sun., January 27, 2019**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Consecration Sunday Is Coming**

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

*New Consecration Sunday* is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

New Consecration Governing Board Chairperson,  
Tom Guthrie

#### **Graceful Seniors' Thalian Outing**

All those who signed up to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on February 16, are reminded that their **payment is due by next Sunday, February 10**. The cost is \$33/person.

If paying by cash, please put it in an envelope and put your name and "Thalian Outing" on the outside. If paying by check, make it payable to Grace UMC and write "Thalian Outing" on the memo line. Either form of payment may be placed in the offering plate or brought by the church office.

On February 16, everyone will meet in the lobby at 7:00 pm, where Carole Ellis will hand out the tickets.

#### **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.

#### **From the Grace Treasurer**

If you are donating stock to Grace, please **do not** use the Wells Fargo brokerage. That account has been closed.

Please contact Debbie Ashe in the church office for new instructions for stock donations. Thanks.

#### **United Methodist Women**

Tuesday, February 5, 10:30 am  
Grace Gym

Program: Mandy Houvourus  
Domestic Violence Center

Hostesses: Linda Pyle, Jean Hadaway,  
Joan Cunningham

All ladies are welcome! Lunch will be provided for \$5.

### New Website Address

Grace has a new website and new website address.

[www.gracedowntown.church](http://www.gracedowntown.church)

Committees, groups, event coordinators, ministries, etc., are asked to look at the website and contact Olivia Walsh (Olivia@gracedowntown.net) with any changes and/or updates to your information.

Thanks!

### Conversations

Please do not discuss issues before the upcoming General Conference within earshot of children and youth while at Grace UMC. This is to respect the right of parents to decide when and how such matters are brought to their children. Before discussing these matters anywhere at Grace, be sure there are no young ears present.

Thank you,  
Tal Madison

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### 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.

### Book of Revelation

On Sunday, February 10, 9:45 am, Room W202, the Bible Fellowship Sunday School Class will begin a brief study of Revelation. This study will be for the beginner. We will learn together.

### Agape Circle

Please join the women of UMW Agape Circle on **Monday, February 11, 7:00 pm**, as we discuss which missions and programs we will support in 2019. Previously contributions have gone to: Sister Isaac Center, Ashley Home for Bets, Sunset Park Elementary, UMCOR, Sierra Leone Hospital, Haitian Orphanage, Cinderella's Closet, Grace's Youth Program, and more.

The group normally meets in a member's home, but will meet in **the Bride's Room** on the second floor of Walsh Hall in February. Please call Cindee Stetson (256-617-2693) for more information.

All ladies are welcome! Come for fellowship and leave with lasting friendships!

### 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.

### Welcome Meal

We are currently offering the Welcome Meal **every** Thursday through the end of March. Folks come from all walks of life. Folks come who have no home. The meal is given away: no one is charged a dime. It's a great opportunity to build bridges and to share Jesus Christ with others.

Grace partners with the Hope Center in offering this meal. You are welcome to come take part: be a table server or be one who sits at the table and eats with whoever shows up.

The meal starts at noon. Come be a part of this.

### 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](http://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/>

## UMVIM Team Visit for Disaster Relief

Thanks to the following individuals and groups for their help with this effort in the wake of Hurricane Florence.

Assessment Team - Bill Booth, Frank Pasqual, Justin Phillips and Waylon Lynch

Those who provided a warm welcome, hospitality and meals to the visiting team from Marshall University of Huntington, VA. We had 15 students, a graduate student, and the Methodist Minister from the University.

Darlene Tyndall, The Travelers and Bible Study Sunday School Classes, UMW, Kelly Ahlers, Hope Innman and the Gracelettes for the meals provided

We had six homes that needed repairs, 4 were repaired or partially repaired. Two have been deferred.

Of the 4 homes repaired, work included one or more of the following tasks:

- removed wet insulation from the crawl space
- mucked out a garage
- replaced ceiling drywall
- replaced wall drywall
- replaced doors and hardware
- replaced a storm door

One of the deferred homes was repaired by a team hosted by Wesley Memorial the week of January 20. I would also like to thank Justin Phillips for arranging to have a local contractor provide the materials and labor to blow in the insulation in the attic of this home.

Wilmington now has a Mold Remediation Unit and Team operating out of Wesley Memorial Church and available to all teams in the Wilmington area.

## New Bible Study and Financial Peace University Classes

New Wednesday Night 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. Childcare will be provided 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.

Financial Peace University - Financial Peace University will help you "take control of your money, plan for your future and transform your life". Financial stress is one of the leading challenges to the American home. This nine week DVD based course will help you get your financial house in order. Dave Ramsey is the teacher on the videos.

Russell Ipock will facilitate the classes on Sunday afternoons at Grace UMC. **The classes will begin Sunday, February 10, 3:30 pm.** The cost is \$69, which covers up to two person in the household taking the course and the needed materials, as well as access to Financial Peace University online materials for one month. **Childcare will be provided for children age 10 and under.**

Two ways to sign up:

- 1) We have four student kits at the church. Make your check to Grace UMC for \$69, designate it "Financial Peace Class", and give it to Tal. He will give you your student kit (available to the first four who get the check to Tal).
- 2) Online at <https://fpu.com/1081807>. You can order your kit online (same price). This will sign you up for the class at Grace.

## LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Saturday, February 9, 2019 - **Cinderella's Closet Throwback Prom**, 7-11 pm at the Brooklyn Arts Center

Sunday, February 17-Sunday, February 24 - **Family Promise/Interfaith Hosting Week**

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

Friday, March 22-Sunday, March 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**