

Grace Notes

July 19, 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 Worship Service — July 19

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gumcwillmington>

YouTube:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

Sunday School Class—10:30 am

Grace is holding a Zoom Sunday school for everyone. Pastor Patricia will continue her series entitled: "Partners in Prayer". To log in to Sunday School:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Let's Help Julie Celebrate!

Grace's own Julie Madison retired from teaching in June. She was so excited about retiring that for the last year she kept a running countdown on her phone of how many days, hours and minutes until retirement day! Julie taught a variety of ages and subject areas during her career. She touched so many lives with her own personal style. She will be missed by her students and fellow staff members.

Under normal circumstances, Grace would have a big reception for Julie, but this year is different. So, if you would like to send Julie a note or card (marked on the envelope "for Julie") to congratulate her, please mail it to the church by Friday, July 24. These cards will be collected and presented to her.

We know she is excited about starting her new "unemployed life"!

Happy Retirement, Julie!!!!



Vacations

Pastor Tal will be on vacation July 13-21. Preaching for the on-line worship services will be covered as follows:

July 19: Kelley Ahlers, Director of Family Ministries
UM Ministerial Candidate

July 26: Patricia DiGiuseppe, Minister of Visitation

Kelley Ahlers will be on vacation July 21-28.

Marion Little will be on vacation July 27-31.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

Online Attendance & Offering for 7/012/2020

Worship Service: 164 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 7/8—7/15 \$ 15,813

June

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 401,503*

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 360,195

Balance \$ 41,308

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

June

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD \$ 33,022

\$20 Fellowship Spent 2020 YTD \$ 37,486**

Apportionments are paid through June.

*includes PPP Loan of \$62,500

**includes funding and expenses related to hurricane repairs

Continuing Grace's Mission

Our giving enables Grace to continue to provide support for work within the congregation and for its missions in the world.

Here are the ways to continue to give and support Grace with your tithes and offering:

- You can mail your check to Grace at the following address: Grace UMC, 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401
- On-line banking (Many banks allow you to set up checks to pay) The address is (Grace Address)
- Auto draft. Grace can debit your account and can be set up with Debbie. You can determine the amount and frequency of the draft.
- Go to the Grace UMC website (gracedowntown.net) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

Save the Date

Grace will be offering another Dementia Friendly Worship Service on Tuesday, August 25, via a YouTube link posted to the Grace website. Details will be forthcoming. Please tell those you know who might benefit from this ministry.

Help Available

Through the generosity of this congregation, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is well funded at present.

If anyone in the Grace Church family is having financial hardships due to the coronavirus, we might be able to offer assistance.

Please contact Pastor Tal at:

tal@gracedowntown.net

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Wayne Ashe	Lia Mason
Dot Ballard	Luke McCahan
Brice Borowicz	Earl McCullers
Linda Bostick	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Robert Bowen	Margaret Merritt
Steve Cleary	Heather Meyer
Don Cole	Pam Miller
Conny	Mike O'Brien
Sandy Cyphers	Carolyn Pope
Zach DeForge	Jennifer Powers
Pat DiGiuseppe	Tom Powers
Manaline Gibson	Jeff Price
Julie Godwin	Barry Roberts
Linda Gorham	Kathy Roberts
Darcy Guthrie	Chris Smires
Mildred Guthrie	Solomon
Bob Haselden	Roger Swilley
Jimmy Hauk	Rebecca Taylor
Ron Hickmon	Jim Teachey
Rick Holloway	Laura Upchurch
Jeff & Glenda Hughes	Lizzy Voulgaris
Jeanette Houston	Michael Waddell
Dick Hull	Cameron Wallace
Jackson & Avery	Ruby Williams
John	Family of Katie Wilson
Larry	

Also, please pray for:

- The demise of the coronavirus pandemic
- All medical personnel
- All those working with the public
- 12 noon Prayer Explosion

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Sandy Smith** at sandysmithgrace@gmail.com or 910-233-0310.

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

Attention: Face Mask Makers

There is now a container in the Welcome Center for face masks for Methodist Home for Children. The masks will be picked up from there and delivered. Thanks!

Next On-line Devotion with Tal

Join Pastor Tal for an on-line devotion on Thursday, July 23, at either 10:00 am or 8:15 pm.

These sessions will be conducted on the Google Meet platform, which anyone can access for free. The information to connect with these devotions will be emailed to the congregation a few days prior.

These sessions will not only give us a chance to draw strength from a Bible passage, we'll also get to be strengthened by this connection with each other.

Grace's Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Work

Grace's Equal Exchange/Fair Trade mission project of providing sales of coffee, tea and chocolate products has stalled since the onset of the Corona-19 shut-down. Sales provide support to small-scale farmers in various countries.

We have a moderate supply of all products. The sales table has been temporarily moved to the Welcome Center for convenience and visibility. You can safely access the Welcome Center Monday-Friday, 9 am—3 pm.

Please be mindful of the need for our continuous support of these small-scale farmers.

Christmas Shoeboxes for Armenia

Grace has packed Christmas shoeboxes for children in Armenia for the past decade or so. Shoeboxes will be accepted before August 1 (they have to be at the warehouse in Goldsboro to be checked and prepared for shipping). However, the need for shoeboxes is not great, as the ones sent last year arrived only recently and have not been delivered. There are enough to cover gift boxes for all the children for Christmas 2020.

So, this year, due to the problems with mailing, shopping, etc. they are suggesting people may want to donate funds instead. If you would like to donate funds for support of the missionary's salary or community support (purchase of livestock or helping start a canning factory), you may send a check made out to the church with the earmark: missions, NC Conference Advance #S-00004.

If you prefer packing a shoebox, please follow the link below to see a packing list. Please use a 6 quart plastic box with a lid. Fill out the checklist and the age of the child, put the list in the box, and secure the box with 3 rubber bands. Please include a \$5 check for each box made out to NC Conference or mail a check to NC Conference, PO box 890202, Charlotte, NC28289-0202. Leave shoeboxes in the Welcome Center near the Missions bulletin board and they will be delivered locally to be taken to Goldsboro. Follow this link for the packing list or to find out MORE information: <https://nccumc.org/outreach/project-agape/>

If you have questions, please call Jane Spicer at 910 622-1211. Merry Christmas in July!

Holy Communion Being Offered at Grace

On Sunday, August 2, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Pastor Tal, Pastor Patricia and others will be giving Communion via the "drive-by" method. Two communion stations are planned:

- on 4th Street at the end of the sidewalk leading to the Welcome Center doors, and
- under the Welcome Center Portico off the Grace parking lot.

Pre-packaged wafers and grape juice will be used, per the guidance of the Health Department. Sometimes those packets can be difficult to open, so it is suggested that you receive the blessings of the pastors and then take the elements home to partake. As soon as you receive the blessing and your packet, we ask that you drive on so as to alleviate any bottlenecks from forming.

We sincerely hope that many people will participate in this Celebration of Holy Communion so we can continue to offer it while we are worshipping outside our normal routines.

WIHN/Family Promise

Family Promise/WIHN is so very grateful for the support of Grace UMC!! To date, our congregation has given over \$800 to help them out with costs! Thank you so very much!

We were scheduled to host families during the first week of August and we missed hosting a two-week rotation in May. So it would be very helpful if we could provide some meals to the families who are still living in separate apartments due to the virus. If you would like to do that, here are some options:

- Bring a meal to the apartments
- Buy a gift card and give to the program
- Offer to pay for a meal they order at a take out

If you would like to offer help in one of those ways, please let me know (622-1211) and I will coordinate/communicate with the program or deliver any gift cards. Anyone who would like to continue supporting financially can go to the website at <http://familypromiself.org/> or leave a check made out to FPLCF in the church office. The church's mailing address is 401 Grace Street, Wilmington, NC 28401. Thanks again for the love and support you show to these young families!

Jane Spicer

Grace Summer Sunday School

August 2—August 30 - Encounters with Jesus

Each class will look at an interaction Jesus had with a person or a group as recorded in the gospels. Pastor Tal will walk you through some background for each passage. You'll each class with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is, what many of those he interacted with thought, and what it means to follow Jesus today. Questions pertinent to that week's passage will be posted ahead of time for you to ponder. There will be time to discuss the questions in each class session.

These are the passages that will be included in this series:

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|----------|---------------|---|
| Aug. 2: | Luke 11:37-46 | Clean the inside of the cup also |
| Aug. 9: | John 8:2-11 | The woman caught in adultery |
| Aug. 16: | Luke 14:12-24 | Unlikely dinner guests |
| Aug. 23 | Luke 14:25-33 | The cost of following Jesus |
| Aug. 30 | Luke 18:9-14 | You'll never guess who is right before God! |

Join Pastor Tal on Zoom, Sundays, August 2—August 30, 10:30 am

Grace Church – You Are So Generous!

Each week, your donations go to the Cupboard and onto the diabetic shelves. They are being used and appreciated, as the number of folks coming in and the size of each family increases. Thank you for your continued sharing with your neighbors who need this food to survive and to thrive in these times!

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard specific food needs:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Boost or Ensure for diabetics | Corn Flakes |
| Brown Rice | Cheerios |
| Quaker Instant Oats | Canned chicken or tuna |

These are specific step by step instructions on how to make them at this link: <https://www.nhrmc.org/-/media/covid-19/adult-instructions-face-mask-creation.pdf?la=en>

All donations can be dropped off at Grace United Methodist Church Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm and someone will transport them to the hospital and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Simply ring the bell at the portico door and you will be buzzed in. Leave your donations at the volunteer desk.

What a wonderful (and safe!) way to share the love of Christ in a time when so many people need it.