

Grace Notes

July 5, 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 5

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. This service will include music/hymns with a Patriotic theme to celebrate the July 4th holiday.

You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

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

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". See page three for a list of topics. 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!!!!



A New Ministry at Grace

The "God Squad" would like to hear from you! Our volunteers assist others by driving them to doctors appointments, to church, or other sporadic events. It only takes a little time, but means a great deal to our brothers and sisters who need a little help from time to time.

If you can help by occasionally driving, please contact Marvin Evans, at marvinevans295@gmail.com.

If you need an occasional ride to a medical appointment or church, please contact Dan Barnes, at dibarnes11754@yahoo.com.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS? (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

Online Attendance & Offering for 6/28/2020

Worship Service: 191 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 6/24—6/30 \$ 9,060

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.

Grace Notes Deadline

The weekly deadline for information to be included in *Grace Notes* is Wednesday, 12 noon. It is preferable to have the information sent electronically, but it must be in writing.

Thanks! Marion

**The Grace Church Office will be closed on
Friday, July 3, for the July 4th holiday.
It will re-open on Monday, July 6th.**

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: _____ No. _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Wayne Ashe	Larry
Alan Biddle	Charlie Leighton
Brice Borowicz	Steve Lindquist
Linda Bostick	Lia Mason
James H. Brown	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Don Cole	Pam Miller
Conny	Randy Mills
Zach DeForge	Mike O'Brien
Pat DiGiuseppe	Carolyn Pope
Betsy Foreman	Jeff Price
Justin Glasgow	Nancy Skeelee
Julie Godwin	Mary Sloan
Linda Gorham	Chris Smires
Darcy Guthrie	Solomon
Mildred Guthrie	Roger Swilley
Jimmy Hauk	Jim Teachey
Ron Hickmon	Laura Upchurch
Rick Holloway	Lizzy Voulgaris
Jeanette Houston	Cameron Wallace
Ray Hughes	Ruby Williams
Dick Hull	Family of Katie Wilson
John	

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

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 sandysmith-

2020 North Carolina Annual Conference Report

"Generosity in All Worship" was the theme of the 2020 NC Annual Conference. Due to Covid-19 restrictions the virtual session was held June 18, 2020, 10:00 until 12:30 in lieu of the three-day event scheduled for Greenville, NC, this year. On-line representatives from Grace UMC were Pastor Tal Madison, Pastor Patricia DiGiuseppe, Jeanne Gore (Lay Leader) and Scott Wilson (Lay Member to Annual Conference). Bishop Hope Morgan Ward led the session of worship, celebration of mission and Committee and Board Reports.

A Conference Workbook (containing committee reports) and Report of the Conference Board of Trustees were sent to participants in early June. A virtual briefing session was held June 8th to cover main points in the various reports. This reduced the amount of time needed to cover reports in the main session. There were limited changes proposed; some referenced below.

Highlights of the session included:

- Bishop Ward message: "Are We Yet Alive" which spoke to abounding in steadfast love.
- Love Feast: Each participant providing their own bread and beverage.
- Offering for the Covid-19 Response Fund.
- ZOOM anthem: "I Believe" which was breath-taking!
- The Baptist had received \$4,000,000 from the State Employees Credit Union for disaster-relief rebuilding. They gave \$1,000,000 of the funds to the Methodist Conference.
- The Disaster Center has boxes of masks available to churches if needed.
- Dates for the next Annual Conference and Jurisdictional Conference are pending but will be before General Conference which is scheduled for November, 2021.
- Financial report: A proposed 4.52% budget decrease was submitted. Finance recommended no change in district superintendent salaries and no increases in salary for Conference employees or bishops. Local churches set pastor salaries.
- Bishop Ward will not retire this year and will serve another year.
- Tara Lain is our new District Superintendent. Her husband Doug is pastor of Wrightsville UMC. (note: Jerry Cribbs taught Tara in high school and knows her well.)
- Voting to approve the selection of the Conference Lay Leader, John Hall, and approval of the Board and Committee reports will be completed by June 25, 2020, either by electronic vote or mail-in ballot.

Grace Summer Sunday School

June 21—July 26 - Partners in Prayer

Despite God's promise of the power of prayer to change us and our world, many Christians never tap into it. It's as though God has prepared an incredible banquet for them, and they're sitting in the corner with a bologna sandwich. In Acts 2, 120 people prayed for ten days. Peter preached for ten minutes and 3,000 were saved.

Beginning on Sunday, June 21, Pastor Patricia will lead us as we take a close look at prayer—how other Christians pray, how Jesus prayed, and the results of praying alone and praying with a group. With the help of the Holy Spirit, who Jesus said would teach us, we will experience prayer in a deeper way and, in the process, come closer to Jesus and to each other and see results in our personal lives and in the life of our church.

With the book, "Partners in Prayer" by John Maxwell as a reference, topics will include:

- Unleashing the Potential of Prayer
- Getting to Know Your Father
- Developing Practical Prayer Skills
- Avoiding Personal Prayer Killers
- Expanding Your Prayer Focus
- Praying Your Church to Its Potential

Ask yourself these questions: What is the greatest "answered prayer" story you have ever heard or experienced?
How would you describe your current prayer life?

- (a) Eating a bologna sandwich,
- (b) checking out the menu,
- (c) feasting at the banquet

Join Pastor Patricia on Zoom, Sundays, June 21-July 26, 10:30 am, and explore how to enrich your prayer life.

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:

- 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

The Work of WIHN/Family Promise Continues

Although Grace is not hosting families at this time, the program is still ongoing.

Many of you typically give of your time and energy to help out— which is greatly appreciated! If you are in a position to donate funds, even the cost of some meals, it would be greatly appreciated!

You can donate online at <http://familypromiselcf.org/> . Click on "help a family now" and you can use Pay Pal or your credit card to make a huge difference. If you prefer giving through Grace, please mail a check payable to Grace UMC to 401 Grace Street, Wilmington NC 28401, earmarked Family Promise LCF and that amount will be sent to them. Thank you!

If you have questions, please contact Jane at jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910 622-1211.

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.