

Grace Notes

March 10, 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, March 10 - 1st Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time 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, March 11

- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Agape Circle
- 7:15 pm Cape Fear Chorale Rehearsal

Tuesday, March 12

- 9:30 am KnitWerks@Panera
- 6:00 pm Basketball
- 6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

Wednesday, March 13

- 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
- 4:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
- 5:00 pm Family Dinner
- 5:30 pm Boot Camp
- 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 Adult Bible Study
- 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 Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
- 12:00 pm Welcome Meal

Sunday, March 17

- 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
- 12:15 pm Staff Lunch/Gym
- 3:30 pm Financial Peace University

March's ONE THING

One Gift Card!

Donate a \$5 or less gift card to a gas station, fast food restaurant, Dollar Tree, or anything else you can think of. They will benefit homeless community members and will be stuffed in bags the Grace youth are making. Their goal is 100 bags, so let's help them reach their goal with 100 gift cards!

Just drop your gift card in the basket under the *ONE THING* sign, give it to Melissa Cline on Sunday mornings, or give it to one of the Welcome Center desk volunteers during the week. The cards will be locked up each night.

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.

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	George & Billie Lyndon
Shelley Atwell	Evelyn Madison
Mike Burrous	Wesley Makin
Family of Keith Carter	Jessica Martin
Vivian Carter	Frankie Pasquale
Mary & Alan Engebretson	Abby & Cooper Penney
A. C. English	Karen Phelan
Evi	Lily Philips
Noris Flowers	Maggie Potts
Esther Gardiner	Phillip Reeson
George Gardner	Kathy Spitzner
Judy Heath	Cathy Shipman
Dan & Susan Hickman	Vance
Clyde Hillburn	Penny White
Beth Humphrey	Madison Williams
Patricia Kimmel	Gary Wrenn
Sammy Lanier	Dana Zigler

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

- Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
- Capt. Hanson Causbie, USA
- Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC
- 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

Baptism Today

Today at 12:15 pm, Joe and Katelyn Mistretta will present their 1 year old daughter, Caroline Jade, for baptism at Grace. Young Caroline lives out of state, but has family that live in Wilmington. They will be present in worship today.

Since young Caroline will become an official part of this church family at her baptism, you are invited to stay after the 11 am worship service to witness this event. It will take about 10 minutes.

Pastor Tal will be away March 8-10. Pastor Patricia DiGiuseppe will preach at both services on Sunday, March 10.

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: _____

Cinderella's Closet Spring Prom Shopping Events - Volunteers Needed!

Our spring prom shopping events for Cinderella's Closet are fast approaching. We will be holding two events at Grace this year: Saturday, March 30, and Saturday, April 13, 9 am-5 pm.

This is our third year of events and we expect the need to be great this year. Each event day we have the chance to turn dresses into dreams for 32 girls in New Hanover County. Each young lady is presented with a Fairy Godmother to support her as she shops.

We are also in need of seamstresses to help with alterations on site. We only offer minor alterations like hems and straps so seamstresses of all levels of expertise are encouraged to come out!

Finally, we are in need of support to set up and clean up from these events. While we cannot allow men and children under the age of 18 to volunteer during the actual event, we would love your support for set up and clean up. Set up will occur the Friday before each event day and clean up will start at 5 pm after each event closes.

Please contact Hope Inman if any of these volunteer activities appeal to you. You can reach Hope at cinderellasclosetilm@gmail.com or 646-202-3520.

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 are 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.

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.

An Invitation from Stephen Ministry

In April and May, Grace's Stephen Ministers are going to have a four-session program on end-of-life issues as part of their ongoing continuing education. **We would like to invite any interested Grace members** to join us for this informative series.

The sessions will be held at Grace during our regular meeting time at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 1, April 15, May 6 and May 20. Speakers will include a lawyer, someone from hospice, someone from a funeral home, and our own Pastor Tal. Watch the Grace Notes for further details.

Contact one of our Stephen Leaders (Patricia DiGiuseppe or Brena Conley) if you would like more information about our Stephen Ministry program.

Sunset Park Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners are reminded that their cards/notes for March are due in the basket today, for delivery to the school this coming week.

Also, the year's **End of School Lunch** will be Thursday, June 13, after the noon dismissal, in the Sunset Park Cafeteria. Look for details in *Grace Notes* in the weeks ahead.

Gracelettes

Thursday, March 21, 6:00 pm

Dinner at Yosake
33 S. Front Street



Please bring hand sanitizer and/or Clorox wipes for
Sunset Park Elementary School.

RSVP to Jessica by March 19 to 252-364-7583 or
jlailwilson82@gmail.com

Telephone Scam Warning for Seniors

Some of our seniors have been receiving calls from someone saying their are from Medicare and want to verify your personal information.

A call to the Medicare Fraud offices confirmed that these calls are a scam. *Medicare will never telephone asking for personal information. They only communicate by letter.*

If you get one of these calls, simply hang up.

UMC General Conference

As General Conference concluded February 26, the decision was reached that the United Methodist Church would stay with its traditional stance regarding marriage and ordination. As a result some in Grace UMC are in great joy over the decisions made while some are in great pain. We need to take care how we talk about these matters while at Grace, with understanding that some who take a different view from you will be within earshot. Now is the time for us to work extra hard to let all know, regardless of their view on said matters, that they are loved by us.

I am remind all that our primary experience of Church is not what happens at General Conference, but what happens here at Grace. It's the Sunday School Class that feeds you; the mission work of this place that impacts our community; the connections made as we become friends and family; the worship services that move us; and the ministry that impacts our children. All of this will continue.

The mission of Grace is the same: we will continue to point people to the cross, to the saving grace Jesus offers to all who turn to him. While we hold different opinions, we stay united in our need for the saving mercy of the cross. We will continue to show the love of Jesus to all who come in our doors.

Pastor Tal

The Seven Last Days

to be presented by Grace's
Chancel Choir
&
Chamber Orchestra

Good Friday, April 19, 7 p.m.

The *Seven Last Days* is a Tenebrae cantata portraying a harmony of the events during Jesus' final days. The cantata allows us to walk with Jesus through Holy Week.

The number 7 holds a great significance in scripture. Creation took seven days; there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit; the tabernacle was built in six days and dedicated on the seventh; and we often associate Christ's passion with seven last words. Often overlooked is the fact that the scriptures describe the events of the seven last days of Jesus' earthly existence.

Each of the seven days is of particular importance. This musical journey follows Christ during his final week, from his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to his clearing the temple, to his debates with religious leaders, to preparations for Passover, to his betrayal and arrest, to his crucifixion on the cross on Good Friday, and finally, on Saturday, his linen-wrapped body being placed in the tomb.

Through music and narration, you are invited and encouraged to experience Christ's dramatic final week on earth.

New Website Address

Grace has a new website and new website address.

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.

This does not change the staff's email addresses.
Example: marion@gracedowntown.net Thanks!

Calling all knitters.....

from beginners to advanced, join us for coffee, maybe lunch, and good conversation while working on prayer shawls.

KnitWerks@Panera
March 12, 9:30 am
(2nd Tuesday of every month)
Panera at Independence Mall



If you have questions, please contact Bettye Broadwater, 686-5520 or albetvol63@gmail.com

Migrant Worker Kits

It is time for the United Methodist Women to make and assemble the Migrant Worker Kits. This ministry, which is an important phase of our outreach, provides bags to North Carolina migrant workers. These drawstring bags are made from 1 yard of heavy fabric and contain personal toiletries for the workers. Many of these workers arrive with nothing, so these toiletries are certainly appreciated. All of the migrants are in this country legally. No illegals are allowed to participate in this program.

Below you will find a list of items that are needed to put in the bags. There will be a container in the Welcome Center for you to place your items. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, we will be happy to do the shopping for you. If you have any questions, contact Dianna 398-8790.

In Addition

We will be collecting buttoned, long sleeved shirts this year. They can be used shirts so it is a great time to clean out your closets.

Thank you in advance for your help and contributions to this worthy mission.

- Single package toothbrushes with container
- Toothpaste
- Dental floss
- Soap and plastic soap container with lid
- New bath towel
- New washcloth
- Disposable razors
- Hand/Body Lotion
- Shampoo
- Comb and hair brush
- Safety pins
- Band-aids (regular-sized strips)
- Metal nail file
- Deodorant

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

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

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

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**