

Grace Notes

March 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, March 3 - Transfiguration Sunday

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
3:30 pm Financial Peace University

Monday, March 4

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

Tuesday, March 5

10:30 am United Methodist Women
6:00 pm Basketball

Wednesday, March 6 - Ash Wednesday

9:30 am Women's Bible Study
10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:30 am Gentle Yoga Class
5:30 pm Congregational Pancake Supper
6:00 pm Grace Ringers
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service
8:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 7

12:00 pm Welcome Meal

Saturday, March 9

9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 10 - 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

New Consecration Pledge Results

As of Thursday, the results of Grace's New Consecration operating budget campaign are as follows:

Total pledged for 2018: \$339,840.00
Total pledged for 2019: \$531,519.32

This number will be updated as additional pledges are received.

If you were not able to attend last Sunday and fill out an Estimate of Giving Card, don't worry. They are available today from Pastor Tal. Please turn in your completed card to Debbie Ashe, in the church office, as soon as possible.

Many Thanks

Thanks to all who helped with New Consecration Sunday, February 24. Many helped in various capacities, from planning, implementing, sending letters, crunching numbers, and organizing to preparing and serving the food. It was truly a team effort.

Thank you one and all,
Pastor Tal

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	Frankie Pasquale
Shelley Atwell	Abby & Cooper Penney
Family of Keith Carter	Karen Phelan
Vivian Carter	Lily Phillips
A. C. English	Larry Phipps
Evi	Maggie Potts
Esther Gardiner	Sara Ragan
George Gardner	Family of Gary Sebastian
Judy Heath	Family of Frank Skillman
Clyde Hillburn	Kathy Spitzner
Beth Humphrey	Cathy Shipman
Patricia Kimmel	Family of James E. Weekly
Sammy Lanier	Madison Williams
George & Billie Lyndon	Gary Wrenn
Evelyn Madison	Dana Zigler
Jessica Martin	

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

Special Pledges

Grace's children and youth also thought about what it means to give yourself to God and to offer a pledge in response to His Grace. Here are some of the ways they pledged to serve the Lord.

- Sing in the choir
- Do missions
- Help in the nursery
- Help at the Diaper Bank
- Help kids in Sunday School
- Help at the food bank

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: _____

District Gatherings

Please join one of the District Gatherings on Sunday, **TODAY**, following the called General Conference on February 22-26. Each gathering will last no more than one hour, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Members of the NC Conference delegation will be at each location to review what happened at General Conference and discuss the impact on the NC Conference.

3 pm

- Capital at Garner UMC
- **Harbor at Lake Waccamaw UMC***
- Heritage at Wake Forest UMC
- Sound at Centenary UMC (New Bern)

6 pm

- Beacon at Edenton UMC
- Corridor at Duke Memorial UMC (Durham)
- Fairway at Fuquay-Varina UMC
- Gateway at Salem UMC (Eastover)

* Closest to Grace

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 6, 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This is the time in 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.

Ash Wednesday Pancake Supper!

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

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 summer mission programs.

As we go into the season of Lent, join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner!

United Methodist Women

Tuesday, March 5, 10:30 am

Guest Speaker: Beth Bowen
Parent Education Coordinator for Smart Start NC,
located in Monroe, NC

Hostesses: Vicki Stanfield-Switzer, Bev Holcomb,
Dianna Florea & Linda Snider

Lunch: \$5.00

There will be a birthday cake and we'll sing Happy Birthday to UMW!. For 150 years, ladies across the country have been working under the United Methodist flag for missions far and near.

Invite a friend to join you.

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.

Baptism on March 10

On Sunday, March 10, 12:15 pm, Joe and Katelyn Mistretta will present their 1 year old daughter, Caroline, for baptism at Grace. Young Caroline lives out of state, but has family that live in Wilmington. They will be present in worship that Sunday.

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.

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.

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

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!

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.

Sunset Park Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners are reminded that their cards/notes for March are due in the basket by Sunday, March 10, for delivery to the school the following week.

Thank You to Our Family Promise/WIHN Volunteers

Grace hosted 2 families, totaling 7 people, the week of Feb. 17-24. We not only housed them but fed and showed them the love of Christ as well! The following hosts were your hands and feet in this hospitality so please remember to thank them!

Ambassadors: Marilee Tremlett, Gary Atwell, Bettye and Alan Broadwater, Vicki Stanfield-Switzer, Jeanne and Donald Gore (Valoree Shinn, Jane and Larry Phipps and Marilee offered for Sat. but were not needed).

Transportation and loading/unloading team: Ron Moore, Ken Wolf, Sam Spicer, Chris Stenerson, Youth Group

Dinner providers and hosts: Liz Thigpen, Margaret Batchelor, Kelley and the youth, Maggie and Al Cissel, Dawn and Matt Hale

Overnight hosts: Judy and Darrell Davies, Steve Stanfield-Switzer, Tom Jones, Sam Spicer

We will host families again April 28-May 12, which is a 2-week period. Please find a space on your calendar where you can serve! Call me at 622-1211 to reserve your spot. Don't let these folks have all the fun!!

Many thanks to these wonderful volunteers! Jane Spicer

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.

Lent in a Box

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 6) and ending on the Saturday before Easter. During Lent, it is tradition to try to move closer to God by doing three things:

1. Giving something up—this is called fasting.
2. Practicing Almsgiving—which means taking some of what we have and sharing with those in need.
3. Spending more time praying.

This year Grace Family Ministry is inviting the congregation to experience Lent in a special way. We are providing each family or church member with **Lent in a Box**. Inside this box, you will find a variety of interactive ways to draw closer to God. For each week in Lent, you will find a hands-on activity sheet, a Scripture sheet, an interactive prayer sheet, and a Hero of the Faith story. Everything you need to do the activities in the box is provided (aside from a couple of normal household supplies).

Consider working on your **Lent in a Box** as a time to focus together without devices or outside noise. You could even put your phones/devices in the box so you are spending uninterrupted time with God and each other.

As we move through Lent, you will have opportunities to share your experience with other church members. This is a way to prepare for the season as a church family. Since everyone will be walking along the same journey, we can spend Fellowship Time on Sunday mornings talking about our experiences.

The boxes will be ready for pickup today, March 3 and Wednesday evening, March 6. They are free for your family and yours to keep. If you have any questions please contact Kelley.

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 worth 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

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

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

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**