

Grace Notes

May 24, 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—May 24

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. We will worship with music, prayer, Scripture, hymns, The Apostle's Creed, The Lord's Prayer and the sermon. 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. To log in to Sunday School:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Sunday Evenings

Blast Kids and **Blast Teens** are taking a break for the summer.

Graduation Baskets

It is the custom at Grace to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors with a gift basket of items to help them start their college life. This year we have two graduates.

Sally Bray Fisher is the daughter of Anna Fisher Ball. She will be attending Appalachian State University.

Brooke Stenerson is the daughter of Chris and Jen Stenerson and the granddaughter of Paul and Chris Sipson, who are frequent worshippers at Grace. She will be attending Cape Fear Community College to studying nursing.

The Nurture Committee has placed baskets decorated with their school colors in the Welcome Center just inside the portico doors and are accessible weekdays between 9 am and 3 pm.

Both girls will be setting up independent living quarters. Some suggestions are items for the kitchen or bath and supplies for laundry, school work, etc. **Due to the constraints of shopping right now, gift cards would be a most welcome contribution (Walmart, Target, gas cards, etc.) and could be either brought or mailed to the church for inclusion in the baskets.**

Grace's on-line worship service on June 14th will include a celebration our youth, which will also be an opportunity to celebrate these two graduates. Please have your contributions at the church by Friday, June 5.

The Grace Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. It will re-open on Tuesday, May 26, 8:30 am.

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

Online Attendance & Offering for 5/17/2020

Worship Service: 255 views

Operating Funds Given 5/13—5/20 \$ 11,193

April

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 237,053

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 255,372

Cash Shortage \$ (18,319)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

April

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD \$ 26,162

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

Apportionments are paid through May.

*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 Basement Storage

The Trustees are going to be assessing what is stored in the basement and look at what other storage needs might be accommodated there.

If your group or ministry is interested in having a storage area in the basement, please send an email stating your groups needs to tal@gracedowntown.net. The deadline for your request is Friday, June 5th.

Thank you!

Temporary Address

Grace member Dick Hull, along with his wife Karen, have moved to Durham for the next 6-12 months. Dick will be having a lung transplant at Duke. This is going to be quite a complicated and long journey for them.

Their Durham address is: 2901 Bertland Ave., Apt. 1117, Durham, NC 27705. Their email addresses are: karenh44@twc.com and nordick@gmail.com

We know they would appreciate notes and cards of encouragement during their time away from Grace.

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:

Family of Shad Adams	Family of Johnny Johnson
William Bartlett	Pat Kelly
Bob Bauman	Charlie Leighton
Alan Biddle	Steve Lindquist
Brice Borowicz	Capt. Ben Mabee & Family
Linda Bostick	Mike Marino
Brandon	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Laura Church	Margaret Merritt
Ruth Conner	Pam Miller
Becky Cummings	Randy Mills
Zach DeForge	Altagracia Moran
Pat DiGiuseppe	Family of Gilbert Morreale
Family & Friends of Bill & Vince Donohue	Ola
Tom & Angie Durrence	Anthony Rosario
Justin Glasgow	Tiffany Sabo
Julie Godwin	Chris Smires
Catherine Leigh Gold	Jerrel Solomon
Darcy Guthrie	Diane Steele
Jimmy Hauk	Roger Swilley
Ron Hickmon	Jim Teachey
Jeanette Houston	John Thomasson
Family of Andy Hudson	Martha Vann
Chris Hudson & Family	Shedera West
Dick Hull	Family of Lucile Whedbee
Jeremy Johnson	Ruby Williams
	Laura Witherington

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 still 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.

Holy Communion to Be Offered at Grace

Holy Communion is one of the principle sacraments of the United Methodist Church and of Grace UMC. It is a ritual sorely missed by many in our congregation.

So, on Sunday, June 7, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, Pastor Tal, Pastor Patricia and two 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.

The Wilmington Police Department and New Hanover County Public Health Department have both been consulted to aid us in keeping everyone safe. Members of Grace will serve as traffic directors to help things flow smoothly.

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.

The Work of WIHN/Family Promise Continues

Although Grace is not hosting families at this time, the program is still ongoing. Grace was scheduled to host for 2 weeks, May 10-24. Due to the age of most volunteers, that is unsafe for us at this time!

There are currently 3 families in the program, who have now been moved to separate apartments for quarantine reasons (typically the 3 families would share the three-bedroom apartment, now they each have their own). Food is being provided for them, as well as cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, and other things to help keep them safe. Since they are using 2 additional apartments, the program is losing money they counted on for rent. Utility costs have increased, since everybody is staying at home. A conservative estimate of unexpected loss of funds is \$2,000 per month.

In addition, there are people who have "graduated" who now rent from the program. Some of them have lost their jobs and the program must absorb that loss of rent (Family Promise has to pay the mortgage on the 12 apartments they own).

During this time of crisis, more families have found themselves homeless and there is an increase in domestic violence victims who are also seeking safe shelter and food (housing domestic violence victims is another component of this program). So that need has also increased.

The program director has applied for a government grant which should help cover salaries for the 3 employees who are making all of this work, but other costs and overages are sapping their on-hand funds. Some government grants are already in place, but they only pay the program back after the money is spent.

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.

Are you looking for a safe way to help? The Missions Committee of Grace brings you two amazing options!

First: Mother Hubbard's Cupboard is in dire need of food for Diabetics and/or monetary donations to purchase food. Their supplies have been depleted and they are almost out of items to serve Diabetics. The food they specifically need is:

- -Shelf stable proteins like Canned Tuna
- and Canned Chicken
- -Brown Rice
- -Quaker Oats
- -Cheerios
- -Cornflakes
- -Ensure or Boost specific to Diabetes

YOU could fill their food needs in a completely non-contact way! Simply place a grocery pick up or delivery order for any of the items on the list and then drop off your order at Grace United Methodist Church Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9 am and 2 pm. Leave it in Welcome Center Missions Board OR simply drop them off outside under the portico (parking lot side of the church) near the door to the Welcome Center. Grace will transport your items to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard for you!

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation for the purchase of food, you may drop off or mail in a check made payable to Grace United Methodist Church and specify Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in the memo line.

Second: New Hanover Regional Medical Center is in need of cloth face masks for support personnel. If you are a sewer you can make them! There 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>

These can also 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 for you. They may be taken into the Welcome Center Missions Board or left outside under the portico for later collection.

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

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Sunday, June 21—Thursday, June 25 - **Vacation Bible School 2020 -**

Corey & Dave's Excellent Adventure: Missionary Bootcamp

July 8-14, 2020 - **San Isidro, Costa Rica Mission Trip POSTPONED UNTIL 2021**

Saturday, September 12, 8:30 am—2:45 pm - **Annual Chancel Choir Retreat**