

Grace Notes

November 22, 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

In-person Sunday Worship Service
November 22, 2020, **10:00 am**
Bullock Activity Center

Those who reserved a seat are asked to arrive early and wear a mask. Enter by the lower lobby off the parking lot to be screened before you are seated.

On-line Sunday Worship Service — November 22

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at **8:00 am**. 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—NEW TIME—7:00 PM

Grace is holding a Zoom Sunday School for everyone. Sunday School info for Nov 15 and Nov 22, 7pm both evenings: "What You Do Best In The Body Of Christ" Tal will teach the lesson on chapters 9 & 10 on November 22. This will be our final session together.

Link coming on Saturday

Family Ministries

Facebook page:

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

Grace Youth—Sundays—4-5 pm At Grace

Christmas Eve at Grace

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services are a much loved tradition at Grace. With the restrictions that are in place due to the COVID19 pandemic, those beautiful services are not possible. However, the Staff and Worship Committee are planning an alternative that we hope will provide a meaningful experience for you.

On Christmas Eve, Grace will offer three opportunities for you to come to the sanctuary for a time of meditation and reflection on the wonder of Jesus' birth. There will be instrumental music, a reading of the Christmas story from Luke, and a time for prayer and reflection.

These opportunities will be at 10:00 am, 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm and will last approximately 30 minutes. You will have to make a reservation ahead of time. Masks must be worn and temperatures will be checked before you enter the sanctuary. Social distancing will be observed.

It is hoped that having the opportunity to worship in our beautiful sanctuary will be a blessing to you.

In order for this to happen.....

We need volunteers to make these services possible. Jobs include inside greeters, temperature takers, ushers, reservation checkers, outside helpers, etc. If you are willing to volunteer for one or more of these times, please contact Linda Pyle as soon as possible. 910-798-1712 or lhpyle45@icloud.com

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

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 11/15/2020

In-person Worship Service: 57
On-line Worship Service: 127 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 11/11—11/18	\$ 7,115
October	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 557,322
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 624,770
Balance	\$ (67,448)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

October

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD	\$ 49,491
\$20 Fellowship Spent 2020 YTD	\$ 38,217*

Apportionments are paid through September.

*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.

Children's Ministry Reopening Soon!

With in-person worship now in place and the Grace Youth meeting on Sunday nights, it is now time to start in-person Children's Ministry programs.

Nursery and Worship Service child care will start on November 29, 10-11 am. Care will be provided from crib through age 5.

Sunday Evening Children's Bible Time will also start on November 29, 4-5 pm. This will be for ages 4-11 (or 5 grade).

To learn more about the safety measures that will be in place and other details, please contact Kelley at

Kelley@gracedowntown.net

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Family of Earl Ashe	Dick Hull
McKenzie Baker	Janine lamunno
Heather Barham	Eddie Jones
Chris Beahan	Maria King
Louise Berry	Dolores Larkins
Julie Bishop	Liz
Ann Booth	Brian Long
Brice Borowicz	Brookie Maycher
Robert Bowen	Troy McMahan
George Braun	Heather Meyer
Sylvia Brodie	Howard Mitchell
Marilyn Brown	Helen Morgan
Caleb	Carolyn Pope
Misty Chidester	Jeffrey Powers
Erin Cissel	James Pritchett
Greg & April Colburn	Joe Rogers
Dale Cromartie	Mike & Gail St. Germain
Clarke Cummings	Barbara Schlagowsky
Dot Drew	Daniel Simmons
Elle	Diane Steele
Steve & Robin Finch	Frank Steele
Kaye Gibbs	Jim Teachey
Justin Glasgow	Tommy Walker
Sid Goode	Members/Family of Washing-
Janice Gurganus	ton, NC Youth Group
Hank	Kay Warren
Alex Herd	Family of Ruby Williams
Family of Dawn Hubbard	Scott Wilson

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
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC
Maj. 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
SPC James F. Pritchett, USA
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
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 sandysmithgrace@gmail.com or 910-233-0310.

Sunset Park Elementary School Prayer Partners

Prayer Partners Needed Now More than Ever!

Sunset Park Elementary School, with whom Grace has a long standing relationship, is in need of our prayers and support more than ever this year. Redistricting has resulted in a 50% change in students with MANY students unable to speak English. These changes, along with Covid restrictions, are creating a new level of stress for the teachers and staff. They are delighted Grace is continuing this program and look forward to hearing from their Grace prayer partners.

We currently have a list of nine Sunset staff members who are requesting prayer partners but only seven volunteers from Grace. I am appealing to this body of Christ for two more volunteers so we can continue this valued mission.

As a volunteer, you will be supplied with the name of your assigned Sunset staff member along with a simple bio of their role at Sunset Park, hobbies, favorite snacks/treats, as well as specific prayer requests. You are asked to write a note of encouragement to your partner once a month and to pray for your partner on a regular basis. A small treat for your partner is always well received! There will be a specific schedule when cards should be dropped off in the basket at Grace (located in the hallway going to the classrooms) then either Sally or I will pick them up and deliver them to the school.

Thank you to the current volunteers and the first two people to respond get to participate in this rewarding program! If you have any questions please email or call either Sally or me. Please let us know ASAP!

Karen Evans - 757.871.3763
evans493@gmail.com

Sally Barnes - 631.258.3182
sallybarnes11754@yahoo.com

From the Grace Treasurer

If you are donating stock to Grace, please **do not** use the Wells Fargo brokerage. That account has been closed.

Please contact Debbie Ashe in the church office for new instructions for stock donations. Thanks.

Don't Keep It a Secret!

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please share it with us! Send the changes to Marion Little - marion@gracedowntown.net
Thanks!

Are You Friendly and Interested in Others?

The UMW Visitation Team here at Grace is in need of a few new members. Normally, volunteers work in pairs visiting a couple of ladies each month. Because of current conditions, visiting is now happening via phone calls and cards.

If you would enjoy getting to know some of Grace's long-time members, spreading a little cheer and maybe some news from Grace, this wonderful program needs you. The ladies who visit say they get as much or more out of the experience as those they visit!

Please call Pat Thomas (791-2908) and she will give you more details and sign you up.

Attention Sewers!

The UMW now has kits available in the Welcome Center to sew jumpers for girls at the Methodist Home for Children. These kits include the cut pieces for the jumpers and instructions for assembly. There is also a phone number to call if you need any explanations.

Bring your completed garments back the Welcome Center. These jumpers, when paired with a t-shirt or turtleneck, will make a lovely, warm outfit for the winter.



**The Grace Church Office will be closed on
Thursday, November 26 and
Friday, November 27
for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

**It will reopen on Monday,
November 30, 8:30 am**



**Christmas Drive-through Nativity Story at Grace
Sunday, December 20, 2020 from 5-7pm**

As most traditions are being altered in 2020, it's a great time to try something new. This year Grace is going to host a Drive-through Nativity Story!

On the Sunday evening before Christmas, starting at Grace Street and 4th Street, and extending to Walnut, scenes from the Nativity Story will line the street. The scenes will begin with the Angel speaking to Mary, to Mary and Elizabeth, to the shepherds in the fields and will conclude with the Manger scene! This will be a wonderful ministry to the community.

In order to make this happen, we will need all hands on deck! Here is how you can help:

- ◆ **"Actors"** of all ages to play different roles (no lines to learn, just dress up and create the scenes)
- ◆ **Costume Creators**
- ◆ **Construction gurus** to build the sets

To participate in this outreach event, please contact Kelley as soon as possible. Kelley@gracedowntown.net



LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

- Thursday, November 26 - **Thanksgiving**
- Sunday, November 29 - **First Sunday of Advent**
- Sunday, December 20, 5-7 pm - **Grace's Drive-By Nativity**
- Thursday, December 24 - **Christmas Eve**
- Friday, December 25 - **Christmas Day**

Catching Up on Missions at Grace

From Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: To Members of Grace United Methodist Church:

We offer profound thanks for your generous ongoing gifts of donations for diabetics. We are especially appreciative of this during this pandemic! It will help us to continue to provide food for low-income families in the Wilmington area. We are serving over 250 families each week! With Sincere Appreciation, Marie Cooke, Board Member

So how can you help? So happy you asked! Our partners are providing some great stuff, but we are unable to buy in bulk due to COVID restrictions at the stores. So there are some items always in need. Marie Cooke (marievcooke@gmail.com) has committed to being at the Cupboard on the 4th Fridays of every month from 11 am - 1 pm for donation drop offs at the 4th street door. If you can buy some of the seemingly always almost out items below or organize a food drive with people who are able to help - we will be sure the food makes it to those of our neighbors who continue to struggle to put healthy food on their tables.

- . brown rice
- . regular oatmeal
- . juice boxes
- . water
- . mac and cheese/rice-a-roni
- . toilet tissue
- . whole grain cereals
- . canned legume beans (navy, kidney, black)
- . healthy low sodium soups
- . bar soap

ALSO.....

- Please spread the word and send interested, healthy under 55 volunteers to our website:
motherhubbardsnc.org
- Those who prefer may drop donations off at Grace UMC where they will also be picked up weekly.
- **Needed:** Paper bags with handles (grocery store type) in good condition. Plastic bags are not being used to hand out food at present.