

Grace Notes

November 29, 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

November 29, 2020
1st Sunday of Advent

In-person Sunday Worship Service
10:00 am, Bullock Activity Center

Nursery and Worship Service Child Care 10-11:00 am
(crib through age 5)

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 29

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at
8:00 am. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

Link coming on Saturday

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

Family Ministries

Facebook page:

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

Grace Youth—Sundays—4-5 pm at Grace

Children's Bible Time—Sundays—4-5 pm at Grace
(ages 4-11; or 5th grade)

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: 58
On-line Worship Service: 114 views on YouTube

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Operating Funds Given 11/18—11/25 | \$ 5,599 |
| 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 November 29!

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:

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

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cough, 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



UMW Christmas Zoom Gathering

Tuesday, December 1, 10:30 am, on Zoom

Program: **Christmas Memories**

Have a special Christmas ornament, toy, story of a Christmas past, etc., and share with everyone your special memories of that item or time.

Next, we'll have our Pledge Service for 2021. If you want to find out where you are in your pledge for 2020, contact Brena Conley and she will let you know. brenagibson@gmail.com

Wear your Christmas sweater or Santa hat and let's get in the Christmas spirit together!



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

Methodist Home for Children 2020 Angel Tree

This year's Angel Tree for Methodist Home for Children looks a little different. There is a bulletin board on an easel just inside the Bullock Activity Center with angels on it. Gifts should be bagged and un-wrapped with a label as to the person's name and any code listed on the first line. Gift cards should be in an envelope with the person's name printed clearly on the envelope.

If you are unable to get an angel at the church, please shop for one of the families on the list below.

All gifts must to be brought back to the Welcome Center by Sunday, December 6.

You do NOT need to buy every gift on the list by any means!! Please notify Jane Spicer by phone or email when you pick one of the angels listed below (392-1551 or jdspicer@ec.rr.com), so we avoid duplication!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me. Thank you for thinking of these children and their families as we celebrate the Lord's birth!!

Angels

Name: Daytona family SB-1

Wishes: Silverware, pots and dishes, laundry soap, dish soap, detergent.

Name: Teenage boys Sizes: Med., Lg or XL

Wishes: zip front hoodies, socks, boxers or briefs, fleece pajama bottoms, hygiene items

Name: Jesse, age 11 (Boy) Size 10/12 boys, shoe size 8 JanI

Wishes: clothes, sneakers, t-shirts, underwear, socks, hygiene products, drone, quadcopter, medical kit, remote control car, Subway gift card

Name: Jordan family of 5 HS

Wishes: cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, sheets---2 sets of twin and I crib sheet, bath towels, shampoo/conditioner, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, Food Lion gift card, Walmart gift card, diapers---size 3 and wipes

Name: Joe age 16 Sizes: shirt XXL large tall, pants 44 x 34, shoe 11 JanI

Wishes: Clothes, sneakers, underwear, t-shirts, socks, wallet, black backpack, queen bedding, AAA batteries, hygiene products/shower gel, gift cars at Game Stop,. Academy Sports, Food Lion or Walmart.

Name: Adam age 7 Sizes: shirt and pants – 8, shoes- 3 SB3

Wishes: Avenger toys, Black Panther (movie), toys, basketball games/ball

Name: Savannah age 14 Sizes: shirt 14, pants 14, shoes 9 JanI

Wishes: bed pillows, slippers, clothes, underwear, socks, radio, Walmart gift card

Name: Daisy age 2 Size: 24 months, shoes 24 months

Wishes: AAA batteries, diapers size 4, wipes, baby powder, oil, shampoo, lotion, doll, gift cards to WalMart, Subway

Name: Maddy age 16 (girl) Sizes: shirt 14, pants, 14, shoes 8.5 JanI

Wishes: queen bedding, sneakers, shower gel, hygiene products, Straight Talk pre-paid phone card, Chick-Fil-A or Walmart gift cards.

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



Heartfelt Thanks and Looking Ahead

Grace provided meals for two Family Promise families during the week of November 15-21. Meals were delivered to the Day House, which is where they are living these days due to the pandemic. Delicious meals were delivered by the following generous folks: Beka Vaughn, Nancy Bray (St Paul's Episcopal), Jane Spicer, Jessica Wilson, Katie Mintz, Khrystye Haselden (Katie's sister!).

Grace's next opportunity to feed the families will be the week of Valentine's Day, February 14-21. So grab your Valentine and sign up to bring some happiness to these families who find themselves homeless! You will feel so good and they will really appreciate it!

Contact Jane Spicer to reserve a date and for more information. jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910-622-1211

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.

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 12/1 Reagan Phillips | 12/9 Kim Olinger | 12/19 Harper Fiddler | Avery Phillips |
| 12/3 Ron Downing | 12/11 Jean Starke | 12/20 Debbie Hartzell | 12/27 Jane Phipps |
| Vic McKoy | 12/12 Bev Holcomb | 12/22 Zackary Edwards | Sam Gorham |
| Linda Graham | 12/15 Nolan Layton | Debbie Earley | 12/28 Nancy Zigler |
| 12/4 Jennifer Wright | Sydney Ahlers | 12/23 Jean Ballard | Braden Lester |
| 12/5 Carol Gardner | 12/16 Rob Ross | 12/24 Manaline Gibson | Michele Jones |
| Cindee Stetson | 12/18 Joan Cunningham | 12/25 Jim Conley | 12/30 Grant Cline |
| 12/6 Rebecca Lee | Tommy Dail | Judy Heath | 12/31 Meg Guthrie |
| 12/8 Jennifer Rasmussen | Maggie Cissel | 12/26 Dick Hyde | Judy Smith |

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

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**