

Grace Notes

September 20, 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 — September 20

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/>

Sunday School Class—10:30 am

Grace is holding a Sunday School for everyone. Pastor Tal will start his new series on this week.

Link coming on Saturday



The purpose of the \$20 Fellowship is to ensure that Grace Church's beautiful buildings and campus last for generations.

The **Cross and the Flame** is the official symbol of The United Methodist Church. It was adopted shortly after the merger of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church on April 23, 1968. "It relates The United Methodist Church to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame is a reminder of Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw 'tongues, as of fire (Acts 2:3).

Fire has played an important part in the history of Grace Church. Our facilities have burned four times at different locations. Each time the membership has united to rebuild and make the church stronger than ever.

While our facility has not burned physically in many years, this passion of spirit guided us through restoration following damages from Hurricane Florence and continues to support us during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Grace needs this same passion of spirit to come together to support the **\$20 Fellowship** to make funds available to keep our church a safe and welcoming place to worship and serve God.

Contribute to the \$20 Fellowship what you can, when you can. If you are giving \$20 a week, please continue to do so.

The Fellowship needs You!



HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

Online Attendance & Offering for 9/13/2020

Worship Service: 168 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 9/9—9/16 \$ 9,615

August

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 465,088

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 478,509

Balance \$ (13,421)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

August

\$20 Fellowship Received 2020 YTD \$ 39,897

\$20 Fellowship Spent 2020 YTD \$ 38,217*

Apportionments are paid through August.

*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.

4th Annual Joint Worship Service With St. Stephen AME

For the past four years, Grace UMC and St. Stephen AME have held a joint worship service on World Communion Sunday; the first Sunday in October.

Grace and St. Stephen will continue their tradition this year on **Sunday, October 4**, with a joint on-line Sunday morning worship service and then **drive-through Holy Communion at Grace, 11:00 am—12:30 pm**. Links to the worship service will be on the Grace website and sent to you in the usual Saturday email.

The staff members of both churches will be working together to record different parts of the service. Pastor Thomas Nixon from St. Stephen will bring the message and both music ministries will contribute music for the service. Both congregations are looking forward to celebrating the connection these two churches have shared for over 150 years.

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Family of Betsy Adkins	Brookie Maycher
Corey & Rachel Alban	Luke McCahan
Mayleigh Allen	Phoebe Romine McLeod
Chris Beahan	Heather Meyer
Louise Berry	Brad Mischler
Gary Blauvelt	Kirk Mitchell
Robert Bowen	Ronnie Monroe
Tommie Boyd	Carolyn Pope
Caleb	Jeffrey Powers
Carolyn	Tim Powers
Celeste	Jeff Price
Misty Chidester	Steve Ragan
Erin Cissel	JC Riggs
Greg & April Colburn	Mary Ellen Riggs
Mary Cole	Family of Jean Rogers
Ray Cox	Joe Rogers
Becky Cummings	Marvin Rowe
Wendy Cupps	Mike & Gail St. Germain
Pat DiGiuseppe	Peggy Sawyer
Brittany Gifford	Barbara Schlagowsky
Julie Godwin	Shawn, Kelsey & Skyler
Sid Goode	Solomon
Darcy Guthrie	Roger Swilley
Hank	Rebecca Taylor
Steve Hooper	Jim Teachey
Dawn Hubbard	Marshall Thomasson
Dick Hull	Laura Upchurch
Jackson & Avery	Martha Vann
Jerrel	Linda Wengerd & Family
Kaye	Ruby Williams
Maria King	Macon Worth
Family of Frieda Lowell	Barry Zigler
Lia Mason	

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.

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

New Zoom Sunday School Class

"Discover Your Spiritual Gifts, Personal Style, and God-Given Passion for Ministry"

In his study book, What You Do Best in the Body of Christ, Bruce Bugbee helps you discover your God-given spiritual gifts, personal style, and ministry passion. He shows how these gifts point to your unique role and purpose in the body of Christ when they are expressed together. Across nine sessions you'll discover:

- How your God-given spiritual gifts indicate what you are equipped to do in ministry,
- How your God-given personal style indicates how you can serve with energy and genuineness, and
- How your God-given ministry passion indicates where you are motivated to serve

The first session is this week, September 20, 10:30am. All nine sessions will be on Zoom (the meeting link will be emailed each week). Tal will lead the class.

You'll need a copy of Bruce Bugbee's book What You Do Best in the Body of Christ. The books are \$10 each.

You can order it one of two ways:

1. You can place an order on Amazon and have it shipped to you, or
2. The church has ordered a few extra copies beyond what was requested. If you would like a copy, contact the office and either mail in your check or use PayPal on the Grace website. Your book will be available to pick up in the Welcome Center.

UMW News

The United Methodist Women had their first meeting of the fall via Zoom, Tuesday, September 1. Below are a few actions items.

Project Agape: Christmas shoes boxes for Armenia

The ministry has a sufficient supply of shoeboxes for this year. They ask that you consider a financial contribution instead. Please make your check payable to Grace UMC with NCC Advance #S-00004 on the memo line.

Beth Moore Bible Studies for Everyone

If you google Beth Moore Bible Studies, you will find that she has a free online study on Tuesdays that began September 8. You can register for the class and buy the necessary book online. This study is of 2 Timothy entitled "Entrusted." The videos will remain online until November 30, so you can catch up. **Additionally**, several Grace ladies are meeting via Zoom on Thursdays at 10 am to discuss that week's study. If you would like to join them, contact Linda Snider at snidersnc@gmail.com

Pillowcase Dresses & Masks

There are now more dress kits in the Welcome Center and also fabric that can be used to make masks. Please continue to make these much needed items for Methodist Home for Children and bring them to the Welcome Center.

Catching Up on Missions at Grace

Methodist Home for Children

Many people remember Methodist Home for Children from the days it was an orphanage on a campus in downtown Raleigh. But the services and the people it serves have grown, changed and improved over the years. It now has a state-wide presence and serves families and children closer to home! I am proud to serve on the Board of Directors and thought you would like to see what happens in one day in the life of Methodist Home for Children.

Jane Spicer

On a typical day Methodist Home for Children will serve 400 children and families:

- 80 foster children who've been abused, neglected and/or suffer from mental illness.
- 20 foster children eventually will be adopted by MHC foster families.
- 35 teens who've committed crimes and want to correct their problem behaviors to get back in school and find jobs.
- 70 juvenile offenders, many of them victims of neglect or abuse, who need a safe, structured and treatment-oriented home environment while they get their lives back on track.
 - Most eventually will live with a family member.
 - 11 eventually will live independently of their family.
 - 30 receive a comprehensive assessment to determine the best course of action for their journey.
- 15 families at risk of losing their children due to abuse and neglect.
- 215 preschoolers at the Jordan Center in blended classrooms.
 - 50% receive financial assistance.
 - 15% have diagnosed disabilities.
 - An additional 15% are at risk for school failure.
- 12 dually diagnosed children who need residential and day treatment for mental illness and developmental disabilities.
- 21 students receiving scholarships and mentoring to meet their higher education goals.
- 3 human services agencies receiving MHC training and consultation to improve service delivery.

In ordinary times, we would have had our Epicurean Evening fundraiser, which typically nets over \$30,000! Programming still continues, so if you would like to donate toward those still-needed funds, you could go online to

<https://www.mhfc.org/donate/> or

send a check to the church office (401 Grace Street 28401) or

to the Methodist Home for Children office (1041 Washington Street, Raleigh, NC 27605-1259).

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.