

Grace Notes

July 27, 2025

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, July 27

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Kids for Christ
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

Monday, July 28

8:45 am Grace Walkers
10:00 am Senior Basketball
1:30 pm Duke Reflection Group

Tuesday, July 29

9:00 am Organist Practice
9:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Benny
9:00 am Accessibility Training for the Blind
10:00 am Camp Impact
1:00 pm Student Organ Practice
2:45 pm Student Organ Practice
5:30 pm Bootcamp

Wednesday, July 30

9:00 am Accessibility Training for the Blind
10:00 am Yoga
10:00 am Staff Meeting (offsite)
1:00 pm Camp Impact
1:30 pm Lay Leadership (online)
2:00 pm Organist Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, July 31

10:00 am Camp Impact
10:00 am UWF Bible Study (library)
2:00 pm Student Organ Practice
5:30 pm Bootcamp

Friday, August 1

9:00 am Organist Practice
9:00 am Grace Walkers
10:00 am Camp Impact

Saturday, August 2

Set up for Potluck (gym)

Sunday, August 3

Sunday School (Time TBD ask leaders)
10:00 am Kids for Christ
10:30 am Choir Practice
10:30 am Worship Service
Community Potluck Picnic to follow

August Worship Schedule

Starting with the Community Potluck Picnic Sunday,
Services will be unified into one service
and held at 10:30 am for each Sunday in August.

**Come worship as we celebrate
“August CommUNITY Days.”**

“And Who Is My Neighbor?”

(Luke 10:29)

On Sunday, August 3, Grace UMC will host a
Community Potluck Picnic in the Bullock Center
after our 10:30am worship. The folks from The
Anchor and our neighborhood have all been invited!

Hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments and
beverages will be furnished and the Chancel Choir
will provide desserts. We ask that everyone bring a
favorite dish to share to feed 10-12 people. Sign-up
sheets will be in the Choir Room, Welcome Center
and all the Sunday School Classrooms. Let’s gather
and show hospitality to our neighbors!



In-person/Online Attendance & Offering For 7/20/2025

In-person Worship Service:	8:30 am	36
	11:00 am	143
	Online service	69
Operating Funds Received	\$	5,461
Average Receipts Needed Weekly	\$	17,671
Building Preservation Funds Received	\$	560

Apportionments Paid Through June

June financial report

YTD Building Preservation Receipts	\$	29,001
YTD Building Preservation Expenditures	\$	40,252
Balance	\$	(11,251)
YTD Budget Receipts	\$	361,277
YTD Expenses (2025)	\$	423,183
Balance	\$	(61,906)

Organ Fund (YTD balance) \$ 10,874

Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

This is the link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg)

Grace United Methodist Church

401 Grace Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
Ph/910.763.5197
website: gracedowntown.church

Use the QR code at right.

Or text: MyGift2Grace to 73256



Gifts may also be mailed to the
address above.

Early Deadlines for August 3rd communications

Ginny Peterson, Grace Admin. and Operations
Director, will be out of town the week of July 28,
returning to the office on Monday, August 4 visiting
family in Wisconsin. Please copy Emily Mills
(Emily@gracedowntown.net) on any newsletter
submissions and bulletin information no later than
Tuesday by end of day.

Communion Servers needed

Being a communion server is an opportunity to serve
God and the congregation in a meaningful and
impactful manner. It requires dedication, reverence, and
a heart for service. For those who feel called to this role,
it serves as a reminder of the privilege and
responsibility of handling one of the most sacred rituals
in Christian worship. We need individuals who will
commit to assisting with Communion at least one
Sunday per year. (assuming
enough people volunteer!) An
electronic form is available to
make volunteering easy. Just
scan this QR code at right. If
you have questions or have
trouble accessing the form,
contact Lennie Collins at
lennie.collins88@gmail.com or
text 919-345-0615.



Prayer Requests

- Betty Arnette

Dot Ballard

Barb

Joyce Blauvelt

Gail Braun

Lindsey Brown

Allison Cockerell

Anne Dale

Janice Fladd

Audra Florea

Jimmy

Tim Jones

Maria King

Sherry Layton

Frank Licari

Billie Lyndon
- Millie

Gary Rowe

Rya

Paul Sipson

Marianne Sorace

Jen Stenerson

Dan Walters

Laura Witherington

Barry Zigler

Grace UMC staff and volunteers

Grace UMC children and youth leaders

Those whose lives are affected by war and natural disasters

If you have a prayer request, please contact Marilee Tremlett at mtrem3@icloud.com.



Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

- ETNC Anthony Augustine, USN

PO1 Sean Baker, USN

Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA

LCpl. John Capwell, USMC

Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC

Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN

E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN

E6 William Chase Dubel, USA

E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF

E3 Taylor Folmar, USN

Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC

SFC Woodrow Long, USA
- Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF

SFC Letty Long, USA

Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC

SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF

Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA

SSgt. James Pritchett, USA

CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN

Sgt. Andrew Ross, USMC

Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC

Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC

Michael Tate, USA

E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

THE HYMNS WE SING

One of the most loved Christian hymns ever written is “Amazing Grace.” It is the story of John Newton (1725-1807), a man whose life was completely changed by God’s grace, his journey from guilt to peace through God’s love.

John Newton had been nurtured by a devoted mom who, though in frail health, guided him in the Christian faith, teaching him Bible passages and hymns until she died when John was seven years of age. His father was a captain on a slave-trading ship and was rarely with them. After her death, John alternated between boarding schools and living with relatives. Eventually, he joined his father aboard ship. Captain Newton was a different influence from what John had known in his early years and despite wanting to live a good life he grew hard and cold eventually becoming a sailor whose goal was power, his motivation greed. There were years of this degrading life before John experienced a turning point.

At the age of 23 and on the night of March 9, 1748, a fierce storm suddenly arose. Fear gripped him and he prayed to be spared. As the seas calmed in the following days, so did John. He had recognized his inadequacy in the face of death. John had a new peace as he began to care for those he had once despised. The life aboard a slave trading ship was abandoned and hearing God’s call to ministry, he entered seminary and was ordained into the Church of England becoming one of the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns.

Every line of “Amazing Grace” is filled with the remorse John felt because of his greatness of sin and the expressions of joy because of the discovery of God’s grace. Before he left this earth, John was heard to say, “My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior.” May we know and remember this to be true.
Leslie Bergbower, Organist

Rain or Shine, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard lends a hand up!

Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard distributes emergency food, rain or shine, on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Thank you for your continued support. This month we are collecting CANNED BEANS. Small pop-top cans for people who have no way to cook and standard sized cans for people with a stove.
Go to motherhubbardsnc.com for directions on how to volunteer and how to make monetary donations to help purchase fresh food.

Youth Mission Trip Highlights

As most of you know, our youth were on their mission trip last week. During this time, we stayed at First United Methodist Hickory, where we helped with their Vacation Bible School. During the day, we also assisted at Legacy Valley Farms. You may be wondering how this helped with anything hurricane related but it did have a bigger picture. Dave (owner of the farm) took his time after the hurricane opening his home, land, and heart for others. Dave has worked with his church to set up a camp group on their property for those who lost everything. His farm got put on the back burner and he has worked day in and day out to get it ready for visitors. The youth were truly amazing. It was an honor to see the light radiating off of them, whether it was at VBS with the children, working on the farm, listening to Dave, during devotion, or making connections with First’s youth. Thank you for trusting me with your youth; thank you for supporting us. I can’t wait for the next opportunity.

We then held a youth funday this past Tuesday!

With Love, Gracie Williamson Director of Youth Ministry

