

# Grace Notes

April 25, 2021

## 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

April 25, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

#### In-person Sunday Worship Service 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.

#### Children's Church

Resumes on Sunday, May 9, both services

#### On-line Sunday Worship Service

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/>

### Family Sunday School

Zoom Family Sunday School  
is taking a break .

### Family Ministries

#### Youth & Children's Sunday Programming

Starts at Grace, TODAY, April 25!  
4:00-5:00 pm  
See article below.

Facebook page:

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



Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar>

### Family Ministries News!

Youth and Children's Sunday afternoon gatherings are moving back to Grace starting this Sunday, April 25. We will meet on April 25, May 2, (break for Mother's Day, May 9), May 16, and then have our end-of-year party on May 23. Then we will have summer break.

This time together includes music with Miss Amanda and a Bible study and game time with Miss Kelley.

**We can't wait to see everyone!**

Children's Church will resume on Sunday, May 9, during both services. Children ages 3-8 are invited to join us for games, crafts, and Bible time.

Children will sit with their families during the beginning of the service, then after the children's moment, they will be called to leave for Children's Church. They need to wear a mask and **pre-register** when your family signs up for services.

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

#### In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 4/18/2021

In-person Worship Service: 10:00 am - 79  
Online Worship Service: 129 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 4/14- 4/21 \$ 8,151

#### March

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 150,848  
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 185,647  
Balance \$ (34,799)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

#### March

Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD \$ 14,190  
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD \$ 8,250

#### Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts \$ 62,048  
Expenses to date 8,825

Apportionments are paid through March.

### 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](https://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### Calling all knitters.....

KnitWerks is coming back! From beginners to advanced knitters, come join us as we work on prayer shawls to be given to those who need comfort.

**KnitWerks@Grace**  
**May 18, 9:30 am**

We'll meet in the Bible Class room if there are less than 8 or the gym if we have a bigger group. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.



Please call Marie Allison, 910-675-0612, to make a reservation so the meeting place can be set up.

**Come Join in the Fellowship!**

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Debbie Ashe	Dick Hull	Noah Robertson
Abel Autrey	Donna lamucelu	Pete Robinson
Joyce & Gary Blauvelt	Barbara Jackson	James Rodgers
Kitty Brunjes	Jessica	Pat Rudicil
George Collins	Eddie Jones	Sandee Murray Spradley
Clarke Cummings	Maria King	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Darcy	Walter Knopp	Shar Streeter
Pat DiGiuseppe	Heather Meyer	Sandy Strickland
Family of Steven	Wally Meyers	Roger Swilley
DiGiuseppe	Helen Morgan	Jim Teachey
Family, Colleagues and	Millie Padgett	Veteran Village
Students of Jessica Embry	Todd Paxton	Family of Joseph Wengard
Mildred Guthrie	Mike Penney	Bobby Wilcox
David Hadley	Carolyn Pope	
Hank	Jeffrey Powers	
Theresa Harrell	Tim Powers	
David Hash	Tom Powers	
Ron Helms	Chip Rivers	

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  
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN  
E6 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, USA  
SPC James F. Pritchett, USA  
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN  
Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF  
E6 Jack Andre Settele, USA  
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC  
AB Michael Sloan, USAF  
Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC  
Michael Tate, USA

Also, please pray for:

### ***Our Country***

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](mailto:sandysmithgrace@gmail.com) or 910-233-0310.

## Do you enjoy landscaping? Are you looking for ways to serve Grace?

The Trustees want to establish a landscaping team to better beautify Grace's grounds. Everything from design to labor will be needed!

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty to beautify Grace, let us know your talent or gift!

Contact Marvin Evans at [GUMCTrustees1@gmail.com](mailto:GUMCTrustees1@gmail.com)



## Boot Camp Is Coming Back!!!!

**Tuesday & Thursday Each Week  
5:30 pm**

The group will meet outside the church for COVID safety purposes. Inclement weather camps will be determined as needed.

Please contact April Lester (910-200-5960) for more information.

**Let's Get Fit!!!**

## UMW Mission Project



Grace UMW's mission project this month will be the continuing support of the children of the school "Done in Love" in Haiti. Martha Worsley, our contact person in Wilmington and speaker at our April meeting, travels there yearly to teach sewing classes to both men and women.

UMW is collecting sewing supplies and used sewing machines for her next shipment the end of May. We will also be sending the dresses that have been completed thus far this year.

If you have items to donate, please put them in the UMW bin in the Welcome Center by Sunday, May 23.

The following is a list of the items Martha includes in her sewing kits:

- sewing shears
- cotton blend fabric
- medium or large spool of thread
- buttons
- needles in original packaging
- notions (trim, bias tape, zippers, etc.)



## New Re-Opening Information

Upon the recommendation of the Worship Committee and the Covid Task Force, the Administrative Council of Grace UMC has approved the following steps to re-open Grace.

### Worship

- ◆ In-person worship will return to the sanctuary starting Sunday, May 2, 10:00 am
- ◆ Starting Sunday, May 9, Grace will return to two services, 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

All the current covid safety measures will still be in place, including:

- ◆ Registration each week between Monday, 10 am and Thursday
- ◆ Seats will be assigned (please understand, you probably won't get your "regular" seat)
- ◆ Masks must be worn in the building
- ◆ You will check in and be show to your seat
- ◆ Attendance will be capped at 100 per service.
- ◆ No shared food or drink will be served as part of covid safety.

Additionally, the following parameters start May 2:

- ◆ You may enter either side of the Welcome Center (allowing easy access from the bank parking lot)
- ◆ Cleaning between services will consist of sanitizing high-touch surfaces
- ◆ It has been discovered that the air system in the sanctuary turns the air over as efficiently as that in the Bullock Activity Center. This helps with virus safety.

### Mid-Week Groups

- ◆ In-person mid-week groups may resume at Grace starting Monday, May 17.
- ◆ Mask must be worn inside the building and social distancing followed.
- ◆ No shared food or drink will be served as part of covid safety.
- ◆ ALL meetings must be scheduled in advance through Debbie Ashe (Debbie@gracedowntown.net or Marion Little (marion@gracedowntown.net). This will prevent double booking of spaces.
- ◆ Attendance is limited to 30 in the gym and 8 in the Bible Class room
- ◆ Each group is responsible for devising it's own method of registration to ensure that attendance limits are followed.
- ◆ A list of all those in attendance, plus contact information for each, must be turned in to the office Immediately following the gathering.
- ◆ Each group must wipe down high-touch areas before and after the gathering (supplies provided by the church)

### Sunday School

Pastor Tal will soon meet with the Adult Sunday School Class teachers to draw up a plan for the re-opening of Adult Sunday School.

## Missions

**Grace Serving Family Promise** - As the pandemic continues, Family Promise is still helping families who are homeless through their Day Center. Grace is continuing to fulfill its obligation of helping by providing meals to the families. Meals are taken to the Day Center and left in a cooler labelled for each family.

If you would like to help with providing dinner one night (between 5:30 and 6pm) during the weeks of April 25-May 9, please let me know! You may also give a coupon or provide funds so they can purchase their own food (gift cards to Food Lion work well) or send a delivery from a restaurant to them.

Thanks in advance for showing God's love to these families struggling to find a stable home! Please let me know if you have questions or want to help!

Jane Spicer

[jdspicer@ec.rr.com](mailto:jdspicer@ec.rr.com) or 910 622-1211

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard** is still serving clients on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The number of people served has increased by 17% in the past year! More than 1500 new households have sought food and the average size of a households served has increased.

The Cupboard is very grateful to Grace and many other local churches who have been faithful supporters during this pandemic. Our neighbors are eating thanks to your generosity! God Bless them and you!

The items below are always welcome as the Cupboard continues to help those of our neighbors who to struggle to put healthy food on their tables.

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

**\*\*\*\*\*Needed:** Paper bags with handles (grocery store type) in good condition. Plastic bags are not being used to hand out food at present.