

Grace Notes

April 4, 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 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

In-person Sunday Worship Service
6:45 am, Wilson Center Parking Lot
11:00 am & 4:00 pm, 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

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 Sunday School

Zoom Family Sunday School
is taking a break until after Easter.

Family Ministries

Youth & Children's Sunday Programming
Returning After Easter!

Facebook page:

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



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

Easter Services

Easter Sunday, April 4

- ◆ Online worship service
- ◆ 6:45 am - In-person sunrise worship service
- ◆ 11:00 am - In-person worship service
- ◆ 4:00 pm - In-person worship service

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held in the Cape Fear Community College parking lot behind the Wilson Center. Please bring your lawn chairs. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. It should last approximately 40-45 minutes. *No reservations required.*

All other services will be held in the Bullock Activity Center and require reservations.

Medical Leave

Debbie Ashe, Director of Operations, will be going on medical leave starting Wednesday, April 7. She will be out for a month for knee surgery and recovery.

Her email will be monitored. Please contact Marion Little for assistance.

We wish Debbie a successful surgery and a speedy recovery!

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

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 3/28/2021

In-person Worship Services: 82
Online Worship Service: 139 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 3/24-3/31 \$ 15,446

February
Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 78,736
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 114,687
Balance \$ (35,951)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

February
Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD \$ 5,970
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD \$ 0

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) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

Office Closed

The Grace Church office will be closed on Monday, April 5. It will re-open on Tuesday, April 6, 8:30 am.



Happy Easter!!

Grace to Service Family Promise

Grace's next opportunity to serve Family Promise families is the two-week period of Sunday, April 25 - Sunday, May 9. Please mark your calendar and be ready to serve! You may cook, order food or give gift cards, all are appreciated!

Contact Jane Spicer for more information at jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910-622-1211.

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Debbie Ashe | Eddie Jones | Donna Robinson |
| Abel Autrey | Maria King | Pete Robinson |
| Joyce & Gary Blauvelt | Walter Knopp | James Rodgers |
| Kitty Brunjes | Ann Lassiter | Judy Siebold |
| George Collins | Doug Mays | Sandee Murray Spradley |
| Clarke Cummings | Ariel McCabe | Vicki Stanfield-Switzer |
| Darcy | Linda McCabe | Char Streeter |
| Pat DiGiuseppe | Heather Meyer | Harry Studstill |
| Marie Dubel | Wally Meyers | Roger Swilley |
| Mildred Guthrie | Helen Morgan | Jim Teachey |
| Hank | Millie Padgett | Maria Tyler |
| Theresa Harrell | Todd Paxton | Veteran Village |
| David Hash | Joan Penney | Martha Wofford |
| Ron Helms | Carolyn Pope | |
| Heather Hoefer | Jeffrey Powers | |
| Dick Hull | Chip Rivers | |
| Barbara Jackson | Noah Robertson | |

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 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



Wonderful Worship News!

The spoken responses, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed are back as part of the in-person worship services.

Starting Sunday, May 9, the in-person worship services will resume being held in the sanctuary.

When the worship services return to the sanctuary, we will continue to observe the safety protocols that are currently in place for worship in the gym such as reservations, social distancing, wearing masks, etc.

Thank you all for your responsiveness and flexibility as we progress towards normalcy. Please let me know if I can help you in any way as we make these adjustments.

Catherine Beaman
 Worship Chair

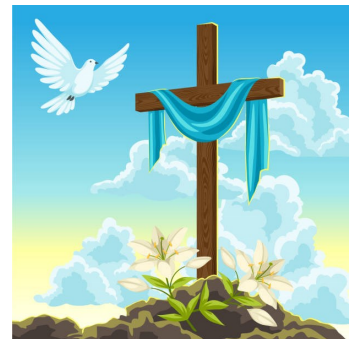
Sunday Security Volunteers Needed

As Grace anticipates moving back to the sanctuary for worship beginning May 9, it's time to re-activate the different teams that make that possible.

The Sunday Security Team is in urgent need of volunteers. These volunteers will perform routine security during both worship services and the Sunday School hour. This will be done in teams of two for each service.

Please contact Mitch Duncan (803-669-4357) or Bill Booth (919-612-7875) as soon as possible if you are interested in serving Grace in this way. Thank you.

*Happy
 Easter!*



April Birthdays

| | | | | | | | |
|------|------------------|------|----------------------|------|-----------------|------|----------------|
| 4/2 | Haley Olinger | 4/11 | Melissa Cline | 4/18 | Mary Showers | 4/30 | Ben Rasmussen |
| 4/3 | Julie Madison | 4/12 | Aline Hartis | 4/19 | Nancy Purdy | | Amanda Sanborn |
| | Johanna Hamilton | | Dianne Lynch | | Marynell Ivey | | Abrey Rose |
| | Lizzy Voulgaris | 4/13 | David Cooper | 4/21 | Treva McKoy | | |
| 4/5 | Brenda Wolf | | Brooke Stenerson | | Bentley Powell | | |
| 4/6 | Susan Atwell | 4/14 | Natalie Humphrey | 4/22 | John Glasgow | | |
| 4/7 | Doug Myers | 4/15 | Marie Dubel | | Sarah Fuller | | |
| | Doug Terhune | | Linda Wengard | 4/24 | George Edwards | | |
| 4/9 | Jack Thomas | 4/17 | Grace Holcomb | 4/25 | Dan Hickman | | |
| 4/10 | Linda Raim | | Emily Moore | 4/26 | Jennifer Powell | | |
| | | | Elizabeth Littlejohn | | | | |

Missions

Family Promise Grace's next opportunity to serve Family Promise families is the two-week period of April 25-May 9. Please mark your calendar and be ready to serve! You may cook, order food or give gift cards, all are appreciated!

Contact Jane Spicer for more information at 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 household served has increased.

At this point, there is a **desperate need for cereal**, since it is not being offered in the government food this quarter and the Cupboard cannot buy in bulk due to restrictions on purchases at grocery stores. So it would be very helpful to have donations of boxes of cereal! If you would like to donate some cereal, you can leave it in a labelled bag in the Welcome Center at Grace and it will be delivered! Other donations are still welcome, but this is a current item VERY needed!

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 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.....

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

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

Sunday, April 25 - Sunday, May 9 - **Serve Family Promise Participants**

Sunday, May 9, 10:00 am - **In-Person Worship moves back to the sanctuary**