

Grace Notes

August 29, 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

Sunday, August 29

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

Tuesday, August 31

8:30 am Organist in Sanctuary
9:00 am Online Service Recording/Sanctuary
11:00 am Rotary Club/Grace Gym
5:30 pm Boot Camp

Wednesday, September 1

10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class/Gym
3:00 pm Organist in Sanctuary
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 2

10:30 am United Methodist Women
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:00 pm Landscape Team Working
6:30 pm Basketball

Friday, September 3

8:30 am Organist in Sanctuary

Sunday, September 5

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

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at **8:00 am**.

Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar>



HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS? (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)	
<u>In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 8/22/2021</u>	
In-person Worship Service:	8:30 am - 23 11:00 am - 124
Online Worship Service:	81 views
Operating Funds Given 8/18-8/25	\$ 7,262
July	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 339,594
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 402,847
Balance	\$ (63,253)
2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879	
July	
Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD	\$ 32,163
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD	\$ 21,354
Disaster Recovery (Boiler)	
Insurance Receipts	\$ 62,048
Expenses to date	\$ 80,963
Apportionments are paid through July.	

Have You Ever Thought About Becoming a Stephen Minister?

A new training class for Stephen Ministers will begin in September. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time; such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. Contact Patricia DiGiuseppe or Brena Conley to talk more about this ministry opportunity.

Individual Adult Sunday School Classes Start TODAY, August 29, 9:45 am

Bible Class - Lots of people have been asking: Who will be teaching the Bible Class beginning on August 29? The answer: The same old teacher as always....Valoree Shinn! The first 15 minutes of class will be on the history of Grace. The remaining 30 minutes will start a study of the book of James. So, read the first chapter of James and bring your Bibles and a pen to class. Remember: we start right at 9:45 am. Meeting Room: W202

Travelers Class - The Travelers will start a study on a book by Adam Hamilton titled "Words of Life". This book examines the Ten Commandments from both a historical and a modern perspective. Come join the discussion. Weekly emails will tell you that week's assignment. Rick Zigler leads this class. Meeting Room: The Parlor

Friendship Class - To restart our class I thought it would be fitting to look at our faith. What better way than to follow the teachings of Paul. This will be a study of Hebrews 11, but will take us many places in the Bible and will cover who knows how many Sundays. You may know, I don't get in any hurry with the Word of God. We may trail off into another subject along the way....God will lead us. This is an open class, discussion is greatly appreciated at any time. As always emails will be sent as to the next week's agenda. Together in Christ "The Word is the Way", Larry Florea Meeting Room: E201

All of these classes issue an open invitation to anyone (especially former members of the Wesleyan Class) to join them on Sunday mornings. Visit the different classes and find the one that feels like "home" to you.

Prayer Requests

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Afghanistan	Bobby Mitchell
Stephanie Alford	NHRMC Nurses/Doctors/ Staff
Archer	Christi Nichols
Avery	Elsabet Nye
Janie Buck	Judy O'Neal
Tim Collins	Todd Paxton
Don Cole	Annie Penney
Ray Cox	Cooper Penney
Family & Friends of Annie Daniel	Carolyn Pope
Danny	John Rayle
Matthew DiAnthony	Christian Riggs
Stephanie Ennis	Tom Schrami
Leonard Garner	Valoree Shinn
Amelia Gifford	Shelly Smyth
Josie Godwin	Sandee Murray Spradley
Madeline Greenwood	Stowe Spratt
Hank	Shar Streeter
Heaven	Matt Sutton
Dick Hull	Bethany Terry
Maria King	Howard Walker
Marsha Lample	Dee Ward
Julie Madison	Family of Velma Ware
	Stew Wolling
	Julius Yang

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA	PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC	Sgt. James Pritchett, USA
Col. John Delaney, USA	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
Ens. Elizabeth Downing, USN	Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	E6 Jack Andre Settele, USA
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	AB Michael Sloan, USAF
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	Michael Tate, USA
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC
Cpl. Chase Krieg, USMC	
SFC Letty Long, USA	
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	
Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC	
CDR Nicholas Madren, USN	

If you have a prayer request, please contact **Sandy Smith** at sandysmithgrace@gmail.com or 910-233-0310.

Attention Ladies!!!

**United Methodist Women
THURSDAY, September 2, 10:30 am
Bullock Activity Center**

PLEASE COME. Our guest will be District Director Jo Weinwright bringing us updates on UMW District and Conference projects. Jane Spicer will give us an update on Grace's participation in the Family Promise program. Hopefully, we'll also have an update from Sam Spicer about the Rotifunk Hospital in Sierra Leone.

Instead of lunch, we will be providing you with coffee and homemade muffins and cookies for a light snack.

Masks are a must! Come join the fun as we kick off the new program year.

Would a Large-Print Hymnal Help You?

Grace has 5 large-print hymnals available for anyone to use during worship services. There is also one large-print Bible available. They are located on the table right outside the entrance to the sanctuary.

Please ask the ushers for assistance.

Grace to Host Free Vaccine Clinic

GUMC is working with the New Hanover County Public Health Department to conduct a one-day vaccination event in the Bullock Activity Center on

September 29, 2021, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

Both the Johnson & Johnson (1-shot) and Pfizer (2-shot) vaccines will be available. Depending on availability and qualifications, some may be able to get a booster, however, this is still in the works.



This clinic is free and open to all GUMC, families, friends, and the community!"

Parking at Grace UMC

Due to Grace's downtown location, we have very few paved, off-street parking spaces on our grounds compared to the number of people who take part in the life at Grace. This is true both on Sunday mornings and many evenings during the week.

Recently, management of the bank building and parking lot across 4th Street has changed. As a result, and effective immediately, **we are only permitted to park in the bank parking lots on Sundays between 7 am—2 pm.**

Please remove your vehicle from the bank lot before 2 pm or you will be ticketed. Move your car to the church lot if you plan to have lunch or conduct other business near Grace.

The following parking is available as indicated:

- In the grassy lot across Walnut Street from our paved parking lot, available on weekends and after 5 pm M-F
- In Grace's paved parking lot, available anytime
- In Grace's grassy lot off our paved lot, available anytime.
- On-street parking is available anytime on 5th Street
- On-street parking is available on 4th Street on the weekends with no limit, **but** is restricted to 2 hours only during the week until after 6 pm.
- On-street parking is available on Grace and Walnut Streets between 4th and 5th, 5th and 6th, etc.

Call the office if you need any clarification.

Grace Name Tags

Everyone is reminded to please wear your Grace name tags on Sunday mornings. The tags are hanging on the hooks outside the sanctuary.

If you don't have a name tag or need a new one, please call or email Marion in the church office.

marion@gracedowntown.net

SOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHARITABLE DONATIONS

*****NOTE** This memo is not intended to serve as tax advice for any individual's situation. All taxpayers' circumstances are unique. A strategy which may save taxes for one individual may have the opposite effect for another. Therefore, it is **imperative** that you consult with your tax advisor regarding the most appropriate action to be taken in your particular case. ***

The Tax Law contains a number of provisions designed to encourage taxpayers to make donations to advance their favorite philanthropic causes, including religious organizations. Here are a few examples. **Again, consult your tax advice before pursuing any strategy:**

Donations by cash:

Taxpayers who itemize their deductions may claim a deduction for cash donations to certain charitable organizations, including Grace United Methodist Church. Included as cash donations are payments made by check, charge card or internet payment (such as PayPal).

Taxpayers who claim the Standard Deduction may *also* claim a deduction for cash donations. The maximum such donations eligible for this deduction in 2021 is \$300 on a Single or Separate return or \$600 on a Joint Return.

Donations of Appreciated Property:

Taxpayers who itemize may also claim a deduction for donations of certain appreciated non-cash property (e.g., marketable securities, real estate, collectibles), referred to as Capital Gain Property. The amount of the deduction is the fair market value of the property on the date it is donated. No tax is paid on the appreciation.

Required Minimum Distributions/Qualified Charitable Distributions in 2021:

For taxpayers subject to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) rules, (e.g., holders of a taxable IRA, a 401(k), etc. who have reached a certain age), failure to make such distributions results in taxable income for the year.

The inclusion in taxable income can be avoided by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) which is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA that is paid *directly* from the IRA to a qualified charity, such as Grace Church. Thus, you can avoid the adverse consequences of failing to make a RMD and, at the same time, advance your philanthropic goals.

Grace Finance Committee

September Birthdays

9/1 Tom Powers	9/15 Marie Allison	9/20 Mac Cunningham	9/25 Everett Bruce Moore
9/5 Emily Booth	June Knox	Julie Godwin	Frank Steele
9/7 Nancy Bullock	Vicki Hutnick	Larry Jennings	9/27 Anne Wolling
9/9 Emery Rasmussen	9/16 Cindy Henry	9/22 Marsella Teachey	9/28 Robert High
Jake Rasmussen	9/17 Ann Ipock	Katie Stenerson	9/29 Renate Cooper
9/10 Brian Lewis	Fred Merritt	9/23 Evelyn Stanley	Rick Zigler
9/11 George Patterson	9/18 Joyce Witherington	9/24 Beth Steelman	9/30 Brian Stetson
9/14 Dianna Florea	9/19 Joe Huppmann		Nancy Pritchett
Nikki Howard			