

Grace Notes

December 10, 2023

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, December 10

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
12:15 pm Nurture Committee
5:00 pm Island's Christmas Party

Monday, December 11

8:45 am Grace In Motion Walkers
9:00 am Organ rehearsal
10:00 am Basketball (Seniors)
1:30 pm Caregivers Support
5:30 pm Basketball (Youth)
6:30 pm SPRC mtg.

Tuesday, December 12

9:00 am Bible Book Club
9:00 am Organist practice
9:30 am Knitwerks
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:45 pm Basketball (Lionheart)

Wednesday, December 13

10:00 am Yoga
10:00 am Staff Mtg.
4:00 pm Organist Practice
4:00 pm Worship Committee
6:00 pm Basketball (Youth)
6:15 pm Grace Ringers Rehearsal
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
5:30 pm Bootcamp
7:00 pm Basketball (Moore)

Friday, December 15

9:00 am Organist Practice
9:00 am Grace in Motion

Saturday, December 16

9:00 am Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17

8:30 am Worship Service—Lessons and Carols
9:45 am Sunday School/Warming Shelter pres.
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service—Lessons and Carols

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 12/03/2023

In-person Worship Service:

8:30 am	41
11:00 am	196

Online Worship Service:

Operating Funds Given	\$	14,223
Budget receipts needed weekly	\$	13,912
Building Preservation Given	\$	970

Apportionments paid through November

November financial report

Building Preservation Fund Receipts	\$	138,017
Building Preservation Fund Expenses	\$	278,662
Balance	\$	(146,114)
Budget YTD Receipts	\$	573,591
Expenses YTD	\$	632,140
Balance Receipts vs Expenses	\$	(58,548)

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

This is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg>

Grace United Methodist Church

401 Grace Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

email: ginny@gracedowntown.net
910.763.5197; Fax 910.763.4108
website: gracedowntown.church

Give through Paypal at our website
or Square

by using this QR Code.

(point your phone camera
at the box and click on the link that
appears).



Checks may also be mailed to the address above.

Liturgists Needed

The lay liturgist helps set the tone by leading the early part of the worship service. Interested? Contact Rick Zigler at zigler@aol.com and specify 8:30, 11:00 services or both.

Support mission in Haiti

Our UMW ladies have supported Martha Worsley in her orphanage school mission in Haiti by sewing dresses and providing them with sewing supplies. Today, she will be offering items handmade in Haiti, such as jewelry, Nativity sets and ornaments, etc. in the Welcome Center. Money raised will go directly back to the people in Haiti who are in desperate need of support. These are great items for gifts or personal use!

Consider FT/EE gifts this season

Also today, come to the Welcome Center for Fair Trade/ Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate sampling. As always, these organic products support small co-op farmers around the world. They make great Christmas gifts & stocking stuffers. ¡Mil gracias! for your support year-round, gracious Grace people! Have a blessed holiday...you are the best,

Carolee Doty



Christmas and Advent events

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 10
(today)

Children Singing at the 11 am service
Children's Program Christmas party at
Island Tacos on Gordon Road @5pm (today)
*Families are invited to join their kids to meet up for
some tacos and fun!*

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 17

Lessons and Carols, invite someone and come!

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24

Services at 8:30 am, 11:00 am

Christmas Eve candlelight communion services

at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Arrive 20 minutes prior to
each Christmas Eve evening service to hear special
organ pre-service music.

The office will be closed Dec. 25 and 26 as well as
Monday, January 1, New Year's Day.



December focus for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

For the month of December, Mother Hubbard's
Cupboard requests the following:

DIABETIC PROTEIN DRINKS (Boost, Ensure, etc.)
CEREAL (any size, healthy or sweet)
CANNED MEAT any size (such as chicken, tuna,
beef stew, SPAM)
Bathroom Tissue is also always welcome.

Thank you, as always, for the donations to our
neighbors in need.

Prayer Requests

Morris Allison
Dan Barnes
Lindsey Brown
David Dahl
George Ferguson
Laura Howard, and sister Lisa
Hunter Lanning
Brian Little
Jennifer Martin
Kristi Midgett
Family of Julie Moore

Sandy Moore
Family of Sarah O'Brien
Charles Palmer
Bill Perks
Linda Raim
Family of Ben Selman
Dan Steffen
Jen Stenerson
Dean Windgassen

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETN1 Anthony Augustine, USN
Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC
Col. John Delaney, USA
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
Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF

Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
SSg. Emily Olinger, USAF
Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
Sgt. James Pritchett, USA
CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Michael Tate, USA
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

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



Welcome, Warming Shelter!

'Welcoming the stranger' is one of the blessings God credits people for doing in Scripture (Mt 25:35). Elsewhere, we are taught there is no distinction in our behavior toward neighbor or stranger (Lev 19:33-36). We love neighbors and strangers as ourselves. Friends, all of this is a gift from God, and we have been given an opportunity to practice this hospitality, loving our neighbors as ourselves, through the Warming Shelter ministry!

The Warming Shelter ILM is, "... a triage effort for the unhoused – an emergency, overnight, pop-up shelter on cold nights" (from their website). The Warming Shelter began as a ministry of The Anchor in 2017, and has grown into an ecumenical effort to offer a safe, warm, food-filled environment that leads to restful slumber for our unhoused neighbors during nights when the cold weather is potentially life threatening.

Last year, our sister church, Trinity UMC, offered their space for the Warming Shelter, however, they are unable to participate this winter season, due to some building renovations that are underway. After conversations with their co-director, Meg McBride, pastor of Hope Recovery UMC in Wilmington, as well as a unanimous approval by our Administrative Council at Grace UMC, we are pleased to announce that Grace UMC will host the Warming Shelter this winter season in the Bullock Activity Center!

The Warming Shelter has a full slate of volunteers and plenty of what they need to serve our neighbors during the frigid nights of the year, and they would also love any help and support we offer them along the way. For those interested in learning more about this ministry Grace will be hosting, you are invited to attend an informational session, along with training, on December 17th, at 9:45 am, in the Bullock Activity Center.

For more information, please go to their [website](#), and/or 'like' and follow them on [Facebook](#).

Jesus said, "you welcomed me when I was a stranger," (Mt. 25:35) and "love your neighbor as yourself," (Mt.. 22:39). What if we practiced welcoming strangers who are also our neighbors, and loving them as God loves us all? In what ways do you suppose our lives will change? In what ways do you suppose our relationship with God, our relationships with each other, and our relationships with our neighbors will change?

Bible Book Club this week

Dec. 10: 1 John 1-2; Psalm 36; [NT Overviews](#)
Dec. 11: 1 John 3-5; Psalm 37; [Agape Love](#)
Dec. 12: 2 and 3 John 1,1; Psalm 38
Dec. 13: Jude 1; Psalm 39; [NT Overviews](#)
Dec. 14: Revelation 1-3; Psalm 40 [NT Overviews](#)
Dec. 15: Revelation 4-6; Psalm 41; [Apocalyptic Lit.](#)
Dec. 16: Revelation 7-9; Psalm 42

For the full plan: www.bibleproject.com.

Thank you

Gail Braun sends her great appreciation for the outpouring of phone calls, conversations, gracious notes and love she has received. She says she misses everyone, and has truly felt the love and prayers each of you have and continue to send and lift up. If you are interested, George's obituary is now up on Legacy.com: (<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/butlereagle/name/george-braun-obituary?id=53624482>)

Dear Grace Church,

I wanted to let you know that God has guided us back to New York permanently. In his plan, he has also brought us many helpful, kind and knowledgeable people to make this transition less challenging.

With Danny's health on a continual decline, he now resides in a long-term memory care facility. To be in close proximity to Danny, I'm currently living with our son, daughter-in-law and 3 granddaughters. Throughout all of these changes, your continuous goodwill has been so wonderful and appreciated. I would like to THANK all of you for the prayers (keep them coming), notes, text, emails and warmth Grace has sent our way. You are truly God's disciples. I miss each and every one of you. God Bless You and Grace Church.

Love,
Sally Barnes

New addresses:

Sally Barnes
69 Manhattan Avenue
Tuckahoe, NY 10707

Danny Barnes
The New Jewish Home Sarah Neuman
845 Palmer Avenue
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Poinsettia Mission Project

Today's bulletin contains special envelopes for donations to the Poinsettia Mission Project. Please use these envelopes to name those you wish to honor or memorialize on *December 24th*, when the altar will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias. The names will be included as an insert to the bulletin. A donation of \$5 or more per name is suggested. The deadline for submissions is **Monday, December 18**.

Prospective New Member Conversations

Are you visiting Grace and would like to know more, or are considering becoming a member? Mark your calendar now for January 14, 21 and 28 to join Pastor Benny in the next series of New Member Conversations. The three sessions cover UMC education, Grace UMC education, and connecting to the life and ministries of Grace UMC/Wilmington community. These are held in the Parlor from 9:45—10:30 am each of the three Sundays. Let Anne Dale know if you would like to participate (come to one or all three!) To sign up or if you have questions, please call or text Anne Dale 252-933-2875, or email her at email address: annewestdale@aol.com.

We are glad you are here!