

# Grace Notes

December 20, 2020

## 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

December 20, 2020  
4th Sunday of Advent

**In-person Sunday Worship Service**  
10:00 am, Bullock Activity Center

**Nursery and Worship Service Child Care 10-11:00 am**  
(crib through age 5)

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.

**Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart**  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/  
go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar)

**On-line Sunday Worship Service — December 20**

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at  
**8:00 am**. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

**Link coming on Saturday**

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

### **Family Ministries**

Facebook page:

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

## *Christmas Eve at Grace*

On Christmas Eve, Grace will offer three opportunities, by reservation, to come **IN PERSON** to our beautiful sanctuary for **A Time of Prayer and Reflection**. There will be organ music, a reading of the Christmas story from Luke, and time for meditation and prayer on the wonder of Jesus' birth.

The times are 10:00 am, 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm, and will last 30 minutes. Masks must be worn and temperatures will be checked before you enter the sanctuary. Social distancing will be observed by using every other pew. Up to 6 people from the same household may sit on a pew.

It is hoped that having the opportunity to worship in our beautiful sanctuary will be a blessing to you during this holy season.

For those more comfortable with an **ONLINE EXPERIENCE**, Grace will offer **Christmas Memories with Tal and Kelley**. During a fireside conversation, they will share Christmas memories and the meaning and relevance these bring to their faith journey and their lives. They invite you to contemplate your own Christmas memories and their impact on your life and faith.

This conversation will be available online starting Monday, December 21, 5:00 pm. A link will be sent this weekend and the video will also be available on the Grace website.



### **HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?**

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### **In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 12/13/2020**

In-person Worship Service: 67  
Online Worship Service: 126 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 12/9—12/16	\$ 41,210
<b>November</b>	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 616,464
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 688,832
Balance	\$ (72,367)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

#### **November**

Building Preservation Fund Received 2020 YTD	\$ 54,540
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2020 YTD	\$ 38,217*

Apportionments are paid through December.

\*includes funding and expenses related to  
hurricane repairs

### **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.

### **Out of the Office**

Pastor Tal will be away on vacation Friday, December 25, through Sunday, January 3.

Pastor Patricia will preach, both online and in person, on December 27.

Director of Family Ministries and pastoral candidate, Kelley Ahlers, will preach both online and in person on January 3.

### **Church Office Holiday Schedule**

The Grace Church office will be closed on Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25; and Monday, December 28. It will re-open on Tuesday, December 29, 8:30 am.

It will also be closed on Friday, January 1, and re-open on Monday, January 4, 8:30 am.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!*

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Linda Adams	Dick Hull
Family of Bob Amos	Carol Jennings
Betty Arnette	Larry Jennings
Heather Barham	Debbie Jones
Bob Barlow	Eddie Jones
Chris Beahan	Maria King
Louise Berry	Ann Lassiter
Julie Bishop	Rebecca Lee
Bob B.	Brian Long
Ann Booth	Megan Long
Brice Borowicz	Joan Madren
Robert Bowen	Sarah Martin
Marilyn Brown	Troy McMahan
Kitty Brunjes	Heather Meyer
Misty Chidester	Howard Mitchell
Matthew Cichoracki	Helen Morgan
Erin Cissel	Carolyn Pope
Clarke Cummings	Jeffrey Powers
Pat DiGiuseppe	Linda Pyle
Kaye Gibbs	Carlson Rowe
Sid Goode	Jim Teachey
Janice Gurganus	Carolyn Vargas
Hank	Tommy Walker
Norman Harris	Kay Warren
David Hash	Joyce Witherington
Alex Herd	Christopher Wright

Also, please pray for:

- The demise of the coronavirus pandemic
- All medical personnel
- All those working with the public
- 12 noon Prayer Explosion

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA  
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC  
Sgt. Tim Cough, USMC  
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC  
Col. John Delaney, USA  
E2 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN  
E5 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  
SPC James F. Pritchett, USA  
LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN  
Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF  
Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC  
AB Michael Sloan, USAF  
Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC  
Michael Tate, USA  
E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

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

### New Name

In the seven years since inception, the **\$20.00 Fellowship** has allowed Grace UMC to pay off a mortgage, make emergency and ongoing repairs, and offset hurricane related expenses not covered by insurance.

Grace is 're-branding' the \$20.00 Fellowship to ensure better understanding of the fund's purpose. Going forward, it will be the **Building Preservation Fund**. More information will be published in the coming weeks about this change and looking to the future.



### Altar Flower Chart for 2021

Due to Covid19 restrictions, signups will be done online with the same program we use for in-person service signups. The link is on the front page of this document in the top left box.

If you wish to reserve one side, click sign-up box for one slot. If you want both sides, you will need to sign-up twice; one for each side.

The cost is still \$45 per side. Checks should be made payable to Grace UMC, with "altar flowers" written on the memo line. If you are attending an in-person service, place your check in the offering plate, or the check may be mailed to the office. Marion Little will contact you about the dedication the week prior to



### Family Promise Needs

Grace received this plea from Family Promise: *We are still in need of dinner deliveries for the week of Christmas (20th - 26th). Please remember, as our families are staying at the apartments right now due to COVID, we have a no-contact delivery system. We want to keep you and our families safe during this time!*

*We currently have two families. They expect the meal to be there at 6 pm, so meals can be delivered between 5-6 pm to coolers at the site. If you, your work team or church group would like to sign up please click on the Sign Up Genius below. What a wonderful way to give back during this season!*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054AACAB2DA2FF2-christmas>

*If you are unable to use the signup genius, please call Cicily at (910) 769-4730.*

Grace's next opportunity to feed the families will be the week of Valentine's Day, February 14-21. So grab your Valentine and sign up to bring some happiness to these families who find themselves homeless! You will feel so good and they will really appreciate it!

Contact Jane Spicer to reserve a date and for more information. [jdspicer@ec.rr.com](mailto:jdspicer@ec.rr.com) or 910-622-1211

## Catching Up on Missions at Grace

### **From Mother Hubbard's Cupboard: To Members of Grace United Methodist Church:**

We offer profound thanks for your generous ongoing gifts of donations for diabetics. We are especially appreciative of this during this pandemic! It will help us to continue to provide food for low-income families in the Wilmington area. We are serving over 250 families each week! With Sincere Appreciation, Marie Cooke, Board Member

So how can you help? So happy you asked! Our partners are providing some great stuff, but we are unable to buy in bulk due to COVID restrictions at the stores. So there are some items always in need. Marie Cooke (marievcooke@gmail.com) has committed to being at the Cupboard on the 4th Fridays of every month from 11 am - 1 pm for donation drop offs at the 4th street door. If you can buy some of the seemingly always almost out items below or organize a food drive with people who are able to help - we will be sure the food makes it to those of our neighbors who continue to 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.....**

- Please spread the word and send interested, healthy under 55 volunteers to our website:  
motherhubbardsnc.org
- Those who prefer may drop donations off at Grace UMC where they will also be picked up weekly.
- **Needed:** Paper bags with handles (grocery store type) in good condition. Plastic bags are not being used to hand out food at present.