

# Grace Notes

December 29, 2024

## 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 29

(No worship at 8:30 am)  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Chancel Choir  
11:00 am Worship Service  
(no Youth meeting)

#### Monday, December 30

9:00 am Grace in Motion Walkers  
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)

#### Tuesday, December 31

Office closes at 12 noon  
9:00 am Organist rehearsal

#### Wednesday, January 1

##### Happy New Year!

Office closed

#### Thursday, January 2

10:00 am Basketball (seniors)  
5:30 pm Bootcamp  
6:15 pm Grace Ringers  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir rehearsal  
6:45 pm Basketball (Moore)

#### Friday, January 3

9:00 am Grace in Motion Walkers  
9:00 am Organist rehearsal

#### Saturday, January 4

#### Sunday, January 5

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Chancel Choir  
11:00 am Worship Service  
4:30 pm Youth

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### In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 12/22/2024

In-person Worship Service:

8:30 am 39  
11:00 am 186

Online service: 68

Operating Funds Given \$ 12,281  
Average receipts needed weekly \$ 15,362  
Building Preservation Given \$ 170

Apportionments paid through November

### **November financial report**

Building YTD Preserv. Fund Rcpts. \$ 43,421  
Building YTD Preserv. Fund Exp. \$ 32,285  
Balance \$ 11,136

Budget YTD Receipts \$ 572,655  
Expenses YTD (2024) \$ 692,195  
(\$119,539)

Thank you for your gifts and faithfulness

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### On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

This is the link:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAK2Z36cUQ1JzE6Ye7TzcGg)

### **Grace United Methodist Church**

401 Grace Street  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401  
email: [ginny@gracedowntown.net](mailto:ginny@gracedowntown.net)  
910.763.5197; Fax 910.763.4108  
website: [gracedowntown.church](http://gracedowntown.church)

Use the QR code below:



Or text: MyGift2Grace to 73256

Checks may also be mailed to the address above.

### **GRACE STAFF**

Rev. Benton W. Oakes, III M.Div. - Senior Pastor  
Rev. Jamie Thompson - Associate Pastor  
and Minister of Community Engagement  
Rev. Dr. Jack Jones - Pastor of Congregational Care  
  
Jerry Cribbs - Director of Music Ministries  
Leslie Bergbower - Organist  
Kelsey Keenan - Director of Children's Ministry  
Janet Keenan—Nursery Leader  
Rich McKeon—Custodian  
Ginny Peterson - Director of Operations & Admin.  
Charles Sanders - Accountant

To contact any staff by email use this format:  
[firstname@gracedowntown.net](mailto:firstname@gracedowntown.net)

### **Poinsettia Mission Project**

Thank you to Joan and Mac Cunningham for making the arrangements for the beautiful poinsettias honoring our loved ones.

Also there are some poinsettias left in the Welcome Center, thank you to all who participated! If you know of a shut-in or you or someone you know could use some cheer, there could be some left in the Welcome Center to take with you.



### **Benny's Bible Book Club returns!**

Our first Tuesday bible study session of the new year will be on **January 7**. We are following the Lectionary Bible Scriptures. To be included in the class group emails for updates, let the office know or email Pastor Benny: [Benny@gracedowntown.net](mailto:Benny@gracedowntown.net).

It is never to late to join us. If you can't attend but want to read along, these are the scriptures through January:

#### JANUARY 5, 2025

##### Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12  
Liturgical color: white

#### JANUARY 12, 2025

##### Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22  
Liturgical color: white

#### JANUARY 19, 2025

##### Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11  
Liturgical color: green

#### JANUARY 26, 2025

##### Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21  
Liturgical color: green

### **Thank you, Grace and friends!**

We, Grace UMC staff, are thankful even beyond words for our very generous love offering. We thank God for each of you, and appreciate ALL the many ways you give and support us. We wish returned blessings and a very happy Christmas season, along with a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Much love,  
-Grace Staff



## Prayer Requests

Family of Richard Augero	Luke Russo
Family of Dale Basham (Mary Trout)	Family of Joshua Stanfield-Switzer
Kitty Eure	Dan Walters
George & Jane Ferguson	Dean & Sue Windgassen
Christine Garvin	Caregivers everywhere
Mike Huxley	Unspoken, in our hearts
Dennis Ihnat	Those whose lives are affected by storms and floods
Mike King	War-torn countries
Bill Perks	
Paul Plishka	
Linda Raim	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETNC Anthony Augustine, USN	Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF
PO1 Sean Baker, USN	SFC Letty Long, USA
Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA	Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC	SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN	SSgt. James Pritchett, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	Michael Tate, USA
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	



**If you have a prayer request, please contact Marilee Tremlett at [mtrem3@icloud.com](mailto:mtrem3@icloud.com).**

### THANK YOU!

Dear Grace UMC,  
As my first semester of my Senior year as a student-athlete on the women's golf team at UNC-Greensboro comes to a close; I want to say how grateful I am for the congregation of GUMC and this amazing church. The scholarship money I received at the beginning of the fall semester helped me to buy some textbooks and helped stretch my rent a little further. Thank you to everybody for always being so generous and supportive.

Thank you,  
Grace Holcomb

### Social Graces kick off, January 19th

Social Graces is a great opportunity to get to know other members at Grace! Both couples and singles can participate.

The kick-off lunch will be held on Sunday, January 19th after the 11 am service in the Grace Gym. Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share. Tea and water will be provided. At this meal you will be in a group of six to eight people, and have a good time getting to know each other and planning the additional 3-4 get-togethers. Use the inserted sign-up sheet to register and put in the collection plate or drop off to Welcome Desk.

### VOLUNTEER CORNER

Please consider helping with our worship teams.

**Greeters are needed!** Nancy Pritchett needs your help to secure greeters for the next few months. This is one of the easiest volunteer positions and yet critical to help us be a warm, nurturing and friendly congregation! It also allows you to become familiar with other members you might not encounter regularly. You just need to be at the service 30 minutes early and greet folks as they arrive with a smile and friendly salutation!

**Communion Helpers**—Steve Stanfield-Switzer [ssanfieldswitzer@gmail.com](mailto:ssanfieldswitzer@gmail.com)  
This would be setting up the communion elements prior to the 8:30 service and cleaning up at the end of that service.

**Anyone interested in joining our Grace Security team?** - See April Lester or Jen Stenerson.

**Liturgists**, still need a few!—Rick Zigler: [rzigler@aol.com](mailto:rzigler@aol.com)

**Ushers**, particularly for 8:30 worship Bob High: [rshcch@gmail.com](mailto:rshcch@gmail.com) or Darrell Davies: [darrellcdavies@yahoo.com](mailto:darrellcdavies@yahoo.com)

### MHC lends a helping hand! Needed:

- ◆ Travel size personal hygiene items (soap/body wash, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors,
- ◆ Feminine hygiene products (all sizes)
- ◆ Grocery size paper bags with handles
- ◆ Plastic grocery bags
- ◆ Reusable durable grocery bags

Thank you to Grace UMC members! Your donations continue to make a difference each week especially when our supplies become very low.

### 86 Hunger Now hosts Christmas Day lunch

The Community lunch at Grace hosted by David Scott was a big success. The next morning David sent his thanks saying, "It was a truly wonderful event for all involved. I'm exhausted, I'm happy and I'm very thankful for you and your wonderful church." Find out more about his ministry at: <https://poplme.co/hash/3qG90ydA/1/s> and watch news coverage at: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nc/triad/>

## January Birthdays

1/1 Brena Conley	1/11 Joan Madren	1/18 Eli Sanborn	1/28 Sarah Grace Guthrie
1/5 Nario Coronel	Kyna Rose	1/20 Debbie Jones	Holden Fuller
Patricia Toothman	1/14 Catherine Beaman	Steve Stanfield-Switzer	1/31 Chris Stenerson
Ken Wolf	1/15 Caroline Guthrie		
1/7 Conny Keator	Mary Huppmann	1/22 Diane Steele	
1/9 Austin Inman	Cameron Dunmire	1/24 Dennis Murphy	
Darrell Davies	Larry Florea	Dan Walters	
1/10 David Holden	1/16 Judy Siebold	1/25 Donna Dawkins	
Karen Layne	1/17 Laura Dunmire	1/26 John Tripp	
Karen Reap		1/27 Sandy Smith	