

# Grace Notes

December 8, 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 8

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:30 pm WAVES Youth meet
- 5:00 pm Children and family party at Islands



#### Monday, December 9

- 9:00 am Grace in Motion Walkers
- 10:00 am Warming Shelter Debrief
- 10:00 am Basketball (Seniors)
- 11:30 am Lay Leadership mtg.
- 5:00 pm Peace Gathering (Bible Classroom)
- 6:30 pm SPRC (office area)

#### Tuesday, December 10

- 9:00 am Organist Practice
- 9:00 am Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:30 pm Finance

#### Wednesday, December 11

- 6:15 pm Grace Ringers
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Lion Heart

#### Thursday, December 12

- 10:00 am Basketball (Seniors)
- 2:00 pm Organist Practice
- 5:30 pm Bootcamp
- 6:45 pm Basketball (Moore)

#### Friday, December 13

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

#### Saturday, December 14

- 9:00 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal

#### Sunday, December 15

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:30 am Chancel Choir
- 11:00 am Worship Service
- 4:00 pm *Sing Noel!*

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### Looking ahead at Special Dates!

**December 8:** —Children's Christmas Party at Islands Fresh Mex Grill in Ogden (6838 Market Street), 5 pm

**Dec. 15** — Sing Noel! A Musical Celebration, 4 pm

**Dec. 24** — Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Services, 5 pm and 7 pm; Office closes at noon

**December 25-26** — Office closed

**December 29** — One service at 11 am, no 8:30 am service

**December 31** — Last day for Year-End Contributions 2024  
Office Closes at noon

**January 1**— New Year's Day (office closed)



### 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 22nd*, 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 16.**

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Jim and Bev Holcomb in loving memory of Jim's mother, Dorothy Holcomb.

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### In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 12/1/2024

In-person Worship Service:

8:30 am	39
11:00 am	145

Online service:

	72
Operating Funds Given	\$ 8,618
Average receipts needed weekly	\$ 15,362
Building Preservation Given	\$ 490

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>

### 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)



Or text MyGift2Grace to 73256

Checks may also be mailed to the address above.

### VOLUNTEERS TODAY

**LITURGISTS:** 8:30 Michelle Ginocchio  
11:00 The Oakes family

**ADVENT READERS:** (11) Gene and Blanche Powell

**USHERS:** 8:30 Darrell and Judy Davies  
11:00 Don Bowers, Mac Cunningham  
Lisa Dawkins, Susan DiAnthony, Chuck McCarthy

**TRUSTEES ON DUTY:** April Lester & Jen Stenerson

**GREETERS:** Rob and Lynn Akerhielm

**ALTAR:** Bettye Broadwater and Judy McCarthy

### SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS:

8:30 Debbie Cole  
11:00 David Vaughan

### Grace United Methodist Church Chancel Choir and Grace Ringers

present

**Sing Noel!**  
**A Musical Celebration**  
including  
**Choir anthems, a 4-hands on piano  
duet, an organ/piano duet, and  
handbell selections**



401 Grace Street - Wilmington  
[gracedowntown.church](http://gracedowntown.church)  
[facebook.com/gumcwillmington](https://www.facebook.com/gumcwillmington)

Sunday  
December 15  
4:00 pm

## Prayer Requests

Jeanne Bartron	Dan Walters
Kitty Eure	Dean & Sue Windgassen
Margaret Falls	Caregivers everywhere
Christine Garvin	Unspoken, in our hearts
Family of Manaline Gibson	Those whose lives are affected
Lorelei Hauptmann	by storms and floods
Dennis Ihnat	War-torn countries
Mike King	
Famly of Brian Little	
Bill Perks	
Luke Russo	

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	PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC	SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF
Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN	Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA
E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN	SSgt. James Pritchett, USA
E6 William Chase Dubel, USA	CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF	Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
E3 Taylor Folmar, USN	Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC	Michael Tate, USA
SFC Woodrow Long, USA	E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC



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

### Sunset Park Elementary 2024/2025 book drive

It's time to once again begin collecting books for the students at Sunset Park Elementary. We want to provide each child with a book at the end of the school year. You can help make reading fun!

As you begin to shop for Christmas, please keep these students in mind. You can shop for inexpensive K-5th grade books at secondhand stores, Walmart, etc. We need everyone helping to make this goal a reality. Remember, if many do a little, much can be done! Thank you,  
—Jane Carrico

### Children's Christmas Party

Join us to celebrate this Advent season at Islands Fresh Mex Grill in Ogden (6838 Market St) at 5 pm. We will provide kids meals for the children in attendance. We will also have an ornament exchange so bring a wrapped ornament if you would like to participate.

Our mission focus will be collecting children's books for a local group to give to those in need. If your family plans on attending or you have any questions please reach out to Kelsey Keenan.  
[Kelsey@gracedowntown.net](mailto:Kelsey@gracedowntown.net)

### A HUGE Thank you!

To all who volunteered with the Warming Shelter this past week and all who were flexible with their meetings to share space, please know that you are appreciated! From servers, guest chefs, clean-up crew, donation volunteers and more, your effort likely saved lives and definitely helped ease suffering due to the bitter cold. More information will be included in next week's Grace Notes about how this effort impacted lives of both guests and volunteers to come.



### Ushers, liturgists and sound operators needed!

Please consider giving some time to help with the 8:30 am Sunday morning worship. This service has lost several volunteers lately. If you would like to serve, or temporarily fill in during the busy Thanksgiving and Advent Season, we would love to have your help!

**Ushers**—Contact Bob High or Darrell Davies ([rshch@gmail.com](mailto:rshch@gmail.com)) ([darrellcdavies@yahoo.com](mailto:darrellcdavies@yahoo.com))

**Liturgists**—Contact Rick Zigler ([rzigler@aol.com](mailto:rzigler@aol.com))

**Sound Operators**—Debbie Cole ([cole\\_25663@msn.com](mailto:cole_25663@msn.com))

### Starting in January...

**Communion Helpers**—Steve Stanfield-Switzer ([sstanfieldswitzer@gmail.com](mailto:sstanfieldswitzer@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.

### 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*

### Special music sung for the lighting of Advent wreath candles

The special music in your bulletin today and the next few weeks during the Advent wreath candle liturgy is composed by K. Neale who is Marilee Tremlett's (one of our choir members) very talented niece.

Kristine "Kiki" Neale and her husband, Andrew, moved to Hickory from Charlotte in 2021 to retire from teaching (over her 38-year career, Kiki taught chorus, French, and Spanish). Music has always played a vital role in her life. She has been a lifelong choral singer, a big band vocalist, a wedding singer, and she even earned her rent in college as a singer in a local restaurant lounge! She started accompanying her high school's choir in 8th grade and never looked back -- vocal majors at her university, church choirs, school choirs, honors choirs, musicals, community choirs, and professional reading sessions with various composers have all been a source of great lifelong joy for her to collaborate with on the piano. As a high school chorus teacher and long-time church choir director (she is currently serving as director of Sanctuary Music at First Presbyterian in Hickory, NC), Kiki has been writing songs for her choirs to sing as long as she can remember. **Let It Be, Lord** is a plea for God to send His hope, love, joy, and peace through the birth of Christ.

Many thanks to Kiki for sharing her composition with us!

### 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.