

# Grace Notes

February 21, 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

February 21, 2021  
**First Sunday in Lent**

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

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.

#### **On-line Sunday Worship Service**

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 Sunday School**

→→→→ **NEW TIME Sunday, 11:30 am** ←←←←

See article below for topics

Join Zoom Meeting each week using this link:

[https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?](https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09)

[pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09](https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09)

#### **Family Ministries**

Facebook page:

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



#### **Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart**

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

### **Grace's 2021 New Consecration Sunday**

Grace's New Consecration Stewardship Campaign for 2021 concludes next Sunday, February 28. Rev. Tom Newman will be our guest speaker for the online and in-person worship services.

You will be receiving an estimate of giving card in the mail and instructions for filling it out and returning it to the church.

### **Equal Exchange Coffee**

The Missions Committee invites you to check out the Equal Exchange sales table in the Welcome Center, which displays coffee, tea and chocolate products. These items are available on a continuing basis.

Equal Exchange is a US co-op that provides small-scale farmer co-ops in many countries with fair trade prices for their products sold in the US. It also donates a portion of sales back to faith partners, such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

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

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### **In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 2/14/2021**

In-person Worship Service: 0

Online Worship Service: 146 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 2/10-2/17 \$ 9,980

#### **January**

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 47,994

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 62,209

Balance \$ (14,215)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

#### **January**

Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD \$ 3,995

Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD \$ 0

Apportionments are paid through January

\*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](http://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### **Online Family Sunday School Series**

The class will look at the life of those who lived in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. From the language to the daily activities, you will step back in time to understand the world they knew. You will find many connections to our modern life and see how they lived through difficult times.

Using video and pictures, along with archaeological evidence, we will explore the places Jesus walked and see how they influence our life today. Please join us at 11 am on Sundays, January 31—March 7.

The course outline is below.

**Week 4** - A Day in the Life - Healing the sick - mind, body and spirit

**Week 5** - Sacred Spaces - Hilltops and fishing spots

**Week 6** - Sacred Spaces - Synagogues and Temples

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Abel Autrey	Mildred Guthrie	Sarah O'Brien
Bob B.	Rachael Hamm	Todd Paxton
Blake Baker	Hank	Jason Powers
Chris Beahan	Yesi & Matt Harden	Jeffrey Powers
Ann Booth	David Hash	Tammy Powers
Robert Bowen	Adam Horne	Chip Rivers
Gary Bowers	Dick Hull	Noah Robertson
Kitty Brunjes	Donna Hunter	Donna Robinson
Liz Carlson	Family of Connie Jenkins	Aubrey Rose
Stephanie Christy	Larry Jennings	Judy Siebold
Erin Cissel	Eddie Jones	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Jim Conley	Ruby Justice	Donna Stephen
Laurie Cote	Joan Madren	Kent Stephens
Clarke Cummings	Doug Mays	Jim Teachey
Marie Dubel	Ariel McCabe	Martha Vann
Kelly Duke	Linda McCabe	Veteran Village
Beth George	Margaret Merritt	Bobby & Jana Waitman
Paul George & Family	Esther Nance	Mary Williams
Kaye Gibbs	Mary Neal	Martha Wofford
Sid Goode	Carolyn Pope	Family of Gary Wrenn
Family of Janice Gurganus	Daphne O'Brien	

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

Maj. Jeffery Bernard, USA  
LCpl. John Capwell, USMC  
Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC  
Maj. Tim Collins, USMC  
Col. John Delaney, USA  
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, 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

Also, please pray for:

### ***Our Country***

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

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

## Thank You

Many thanks to those serving on Grace's Covid19 Task Force. Their task is to keep an eye on the state of the coronavirus and make recommendations to the Administrative Council regarding measures Grace UMC needs to employ to operate its ministry safely.

The members and the areas they represent are:

Marvin Evans—Trustees  
Janet Keenan—Child Care  
Mitch Duncan—Security  
Jim Tyndall—Lay Leader  
Jerry Cribbs—Music  
Bill Booth—Admin. Council Chair  
Pat Goodman—Admin. Council Vice Chair  
Catherine Beaman—Worship  
Robert High—Ushers  
Cheryl High—Usher  
Mike Mabee—Finance  
Ron Moore—Volunteer In-Person Worship Overseer  
Tal Madison—Pastor  
Patricia DiGiuseppe—Pastor  
Kelley Ahlers—Family Ministries  
Liz Buskirk—At Large  
Sam Spicer—At Large

## God Squad Ride Program Update

The God Squad ride program is paused to exercise caution during the Covid19 pandemic. While we are doing this out of concern for our volunteers, we understand there are still people with transportation needs.

The Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority, operating as WAVE, has a program called DART, where eligible passengers can call to schedule door-to-door rides to approved locations.

If you have a transportation need during this pandemic, contact WAVE to see if you are eligible for these rides. The cost is minimal.

DART Contact Information:

Telephone: (910) 202-2053

E-mail Address: ptschedule@wavetransit.com

Website: [https://www.wavetransit.com/dial-ride-transportation/#:~:text=Wave%20Transit%20has%20developed%20an,\(910\)%20772%2D7942](https://www.wavetransit.com/dial-ride-transportation/#:~:text=Wave%20Transit%20has%20developed%20an,(910)%20772%2D7942)

Everyone please stay safe!

Marvin Evans

[marvinevans295@gmail.com](mailto:marvinevans295@gmail.com)

## Caring for Caregivers

Are you a caregiver for a spouse, parent, or other relative? Whether you have been a caregiver for a few weeks, for months, or for many years, the journey can be exhausting, confusing, frustrating and lonely. You may wonder, "Who is taking care of me?"

You are invited to join with the Grace Stephen Ministers via Zoom for a two-part program on *Caring for the Caregiver*, to be held on Monday, March 1 and Monday, March 15, 7:00 pm. Learn about support and resources and hear from people who have walked in your moccasins.

Send an email to Brena Conley at [brenagibson@gmail.com](mailto:brenagibson@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link.

## Altar Flower Chart for 2021

Now that in-person worship services are restarting, please consider signing up to give flowers in memory or honor of someone. The link is on the first page.

If you wish to reserve one side, click sign-up box for one slot. If you want both sides, click both sign-up boxes. You may also call Marion in the church office to reserve a date.

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 your selected date.

## **Grace's 2021 New Consecration Stewardship Campaign**

Grace's New Consecration Stewardship Campaign for 2021 will go through the month of February. This campaign invites us towards the blessings of partnering in the work of God in the world through tithing. You are asked to begin now to prayerfully consider what God would have you give in 2021 in response to the grace He has given you through Jesus.

The Guest Leader for this year's New Consecration Campaign is Rev. Tom Newman. He will preach on Sunday, February 28, for both the online and in-person worship services. In the next few weeks, watch your email and regular mail for more information.

### **NEW!!!!**

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard** is still serving clients on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The number of people served has increased by 17% in the past year! More than 1500 new households have sought food and the average size of a household served has increased.

At this point, there is a **desperate need for cereal**, since it is not being offered in the government food this quarter and the Cupboard cannot buy in bulk due to restrictions on purchases at grocery stores. So it would be very helpful to have donations of boxes of cereal! If you would like to donate some cereal, you can leave it in a labelled bag in the Welcome Center at Grace and it will be delivered! Other donations are still welcome, but this is a current item VERY needed!

The Cupboard is very grateful to Grace and many other local churches who have been faithful supporters during this pandemic. Our neighbors are eating thanks to your generosity! God Bless them and you!

The items below are always welcome as the Cupboard continues to help those of our neighbors who 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.....**

- **Needed:** Paper bags with handles (grocery store type) in good condition. Plastic bags are not being used to hand out food at present.