

Grace Notes

February 7, 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 7, 2021
4th Sunday after Epiphany

In-person Sunday Worship Service
has been paused for four Sundays
(1/24, 1/31, 2/7 & 2/14)
due to rising COVID-19 numbers.

On-line Sunday Worship Service — February 7

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

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

Link coming on Saturday

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

Family Sunday School is Back!

Sunday, 11:00 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)

"Let's Talk About It"

Sunday, 3 pm on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting each week using this link:

[https://zoom.us/j/99828555246?](https://zoom.us/j/99828555246?pwd=TzBvKzhRTHNTWThRcXVvbDh5UWJjZz09)

[pwd=TzBvKzhRTHNTWThRcXVvbDh5UWJjZz09](https://zoom.us/j/99828555246?pwd=TzBvKzhRTHNTWThRcXVvbDh5UWJjZz09)

Family Ministries

Facebook page:

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

Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart

[https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAAA92DA5F5CF8-altar)

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 2 - A day in the life - Nazareth

Week 3 - A Day in the Life - Bethlehem

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

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 1/31/2021

In-person Worship Service: 0

Online Worship Service: 144 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 1/27-2/3 \$ 6,455

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) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

New Sermon Series for February

The preaching theme for February will be "Sacrifice in All Aspects of Life." Kelley, Tal and Patricia will each take a Sunday to preach on that theme. Each will offer you a different perspective on sacrifice that you will want to hear as you navigate life and contemplate your response to the upcoming 2021 New Consecration campaign.

Preaching Schedule:

February 7 - Kelley Ahlers

February 14 - Tal Madison

February 21 - Patricia DiGisuppe

Thank You

Dear Grace members,

I want to thank you for all the phone calls, texts and lovely cards I received from you in regards to my husband's passing. He loved the Lord and I know that he is pain free and fishing somewhere! It means so much to me to know each of you and for the gracious support through your reaching out to me and my family during this difficult time. I pray that soon we can all meet again in person and we can once again hug each other!

God Bless, Karen Wrenn

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Linda Adams	Sid Goode	Mary Neal
Betty Arnette	Family of Janice Gurganus	The Chad O'Shields Family
Bob B.	Mildred Guthrie	Carolyn Pope
Blake Baker	Hank	Sarah O'Brien
Keith Ballinger	Yesi & Matt Harden	Family of Ruth O'Dwyer
Chris Beahan	David Hash	Todd Paxton
Susan Benton	Shanon Hoffman	Jason Powers
Family of Christine Boone	Adam Horne	Jeffrey Powers
Ann Booth	Dick Hull	Jerry Powers
Brice Borowicz	Donna Hunter	Family of Frank Renales
Robert Bowen	Family of Connie Jenkins	Chip Rivers
Gary Bowers	Larry Jennings	Noah Robertson
Kitty Brunjes	Eddie Jones	Aubrey Rose
Liz Carlson	Ruby Justice	Jim & Pat Rudicil
Erin Cissel	Ann Lassiter	Ruth Ryland & Family
Jim Conley	Josh Lee	Kent Stephens
Donna Cooper	Brian Long	Jim Teachey
Laurie Cote	Joan Madren	Kay Warren
Clarke Cummings	Family of Debbie	Mary Williams
Eloise & Mike	McDonald	Family of Gary Wrenn
Gretta Fredericks	Heather Meyer	
Kaye Gibbs	Esther Nance	

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.

Harbor District Offering Two Zoom Mission Studies

The first study, **FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD**, taught by Claire Cox-Woodlief, will be held on Saturday, February 27, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm, with a break for lunch from around 12:00 noon until 12:30 pm. The deadline for registration is February 13. FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD, the 2020 Spiritual Growth Study by staff of the Urban Village Church in Chicago, uses the book of Proverbs and "The Serenity Prayer" as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry and fear, and move towards God's peace that surpasses all understanding.

The second study, **WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE: 150 YEARS IN MISSION**, taught by Lynn Clewis, will be held on Saturday, March 20, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with the same time for a lunch break. The deadline for registration is March 3. WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE by Ellen Blue is a study commemorating United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary in 2019. It provides a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplifies the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the fact of mission! The study is about women who established vibrant societies to support mission.

The great thing about Mission Studies on ZOOM is that you will be studying from home as a part of the group. Once you register, you will be sent a link to the study or studies that you choose. There is no registration fee, but donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of the study leaders' training.

Both of the study books are available for Kindle from Amazon for \$5.95 each. They may be ordered in book form from the national United Methodist Women website e-store for \$10.00 each. It is recommended that each study participant read the book in advance in order to gain the most benefit and understanding from the study.

If you are interested in registering, let Grace member Marie Allison - alli7173@hotmail.com - know and she will send you the registration form.

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 to receive the Zoom link.

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.

Family Promise Help Needed

Family Promise families continue to stay at the apartments owned by the program instead of being housed at local churches. Grace is asked to participate by providing dinners the week of Valentine's Day (Feb 14-20)! There are several ways to do this. You may:

1. Cook and deliver a meal
2. Buy a gift card so the families can purchase and fix the food
3. Order a meal to be delivered.

At this point, there is a family of 7 and a family of 2 who need meals. Cooked meals can be dropped off into coolers at the apartments (separate meals for each family) at 5 pm, so it is COVID safe. The families check the coolers around 6 pm.

If you would like to help with this ministry in some way, please contact Jane Spicer at 622-1211 for more information. Thanks in advance for showing love to these families who find themselves homeless!

Let's Talk About It

Since in-person worship is paused through February 14, let's gather online!

On Sunday afternoons at 3:00 pm, through February 14, (Jan. 31, Feb. 7, and Feb. 14) gather with Tal online via Zoom (link below). Prior to that Sunday's afternoon session, watch that Sunday's sermon online. That will serve as the basis of our conversation around that Sunday's sermon. What in that sermon excited you? Challenged you?

This will give you a great chance to safely connect with others within the Grace Family. So - grab a cup of coffee, fire up the Mac, and let's talk about it

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99828555246?pwd=TzBvKzhRTHNTWThRcXVVbDh5UWJjZz09>

Helping Parents Manage Pandemic Stress

Grace is offering a two-session study entitled "Helping Parents Manage Pandemic Stress." The online sessions will take place on Thursday, February 4 and Thursday, February 11, starting at 7pm

Pastor Tal will lead the first session focusing on a "spiritual response to stress." How does stress affect our spiritual life? How can our spiritual life affect our stress?

Kelley will lead the second session on "stress reduction in your children - and in yourself." How can you help your children navigate these stressful days where much of life feels altered? What are things you can do to offer that same gift to yourself?

Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://zoom.us/j/98460678294?pwd=bjM3U0NoRDF0aFNhU2hPRkc4NUpoZz09>

You Are Invited To.....

As announced to you recently, Grace's organist, Judy Siebold, is retiring on February 14, after 50+ years as a church organist; 18 of them here at Grace.

That's Valentine's Day!! So, let's show Judy our love!



You Are Invited to a

"Celebrate Judy" Drive-By Parade

**Under the Grace UMC Portico
Sunday, February 14, 11 am – 12:30 pm**

Lots of cards!

Please mail to the church, or bring to the parade, a card for Judy wishing her well in this new phase of her life and telling her how much her music ministry has meant to this church family. There will be a basket provided at the parade in which to place your card. During this time of COVID19, not handling gift bags and boxes will help keep everyone safe. If you want to do something for her, place a gift card (prepaid credit card, Belk card, coffee shop card, etc.) in with your greeting card.

This is meant to be a party!

So, wear a party hat, put streamers or balloons on your car, wear a fancy mask, etc., and let's send Judy off in style!!

See You There!

The parade route will be:

- * Turn up Grace Street off 3rd Street
- * Take a left onto 4th Street (use the curb lane if there is a line).
- * Turn right onto Walnut and then into the parking lot.

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

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.

February Birthdays

2/1	Jessica Wilson	2/9	Helen Younger	2/16	Brenna Keenan	2/20	Ron Moore
2/2	Mike Burrous	2/10	Jenny Colvard		Don Bowers	2/23	George Braun
2/4	Amy Holcomb	2/11	Jerry Cribbs		Marv Rowe	2/26	Mamie Hutnick
2/5	Martha Vann	2/12	Betty Hooten	2/17	Lisa Dawkins		
	Maxine LeFever	2/14	Virginia Skillman	2/18	Kris Florea		
2/6	Miller Coggins		Don Cole		Asher Wilson		
2/7	Justin Phillips			2/19	Jess Phillips		