

# Grace Notes

January 10, 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

January 10, 2021  
*Epiphany Sunday*

**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 — January 10**

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 Ministries**

Facebook page:

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

### **New Members Received**

Grace was blessed to receive the following new members during the December 20, online worship service.

Larry and Carol Jennings are long-time Wilmington residents who have been attending Grace for some time. Larry is a retired policeman and Carol retired after teaching at New Hanover High School for many years. Larry has a son who lives here and Carol has a son and 2 grandsons who live in Cleveland, Ohio.

### **HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?** (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### **In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 1/3/2021**

In-person Worship Service: 55  
Online Worship Service: 123 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 12/23-12/31	\$ 33,013
Operating Funds Given 1/1-1/6	\$ 11,934

<b>December</b>	
Operating Funds Given YTD	\$ 697,290
Operating Expenses YTD	\$ 743,234
Balance	\$ (45,944)

2020 Operating Budget = \$ 747,178

<b>December</b>	
Building Preservation Fund Received 2020 YTD	\$ 59,770
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](https://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### **NEW Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study**

The UMW is pleased to announce a new winter Bible study starting in February. This study is entitled *INTO THE LIGHT* by Mary Demuth. "An untold story never heals. We all experience hurt and trauma, but how do we respond when someone tells us her story of pain? How do we heal from our own pasts in order to help with the healing of others? How do we locate and build safe spaces?"

This 7-session study "traces biblical truths of healing through stories of real women in Scripture. Learn how to come alongside others in restoration, becoming good shepherds and good Samaritans. Deepen your discipleship and grow in Christ while discovering that we heal better together."

You will receive the link to watch the DVD sessions online and then everyone will come together on Zoom to have discussions.

If you are interested in joining this study, please contact Linda Snider at [snider-snc@gmail.com](mailto:snider-snc@gmail.com) no later than January 18, 2021. Once the study books have arrived, arrangements will be made to collect the \$15.99 for the study book and a firm start date will be set; hopefully February 4 or 11.

Thanks.  
Linda Snider



## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Linda Adams	Susie Knox Ford
Betty Arnette	Gretta Fredericks
Blake Baker	Kaye Gibbs
Bob Barlow	Sid Goode
Lisa Baxley	Janice Gurganus
Chris Beahan	Hank
Susan Benton	David Hash
Louise Berry	Adam Horne
Julie Bishop	Dick Hull
Bob B.	Carol Jennings
Christine Boone	Larry Jennings
Ann Booth	Jim, Veronica & Mayakla
Brice Borowicz	Eddie Jones
Robert Bowen	Maria King
Family of Marilyn Brown	Ann Lassiter
Kitty Brunjes	Josh Lee
Liz & Glenn Carlson	Brian Long
Misty Chidester	Megan Long
Matthew Cichoracki	Joan Madren
Erin Cissel	Heather Meyer
Donna Cooper	Family of Howard Mitchell
Clarke Cummings	Carolyn Pope
Gary & Evie Danielson	Linda Pyle
Todd English	

Family of Carlson Rowe  
Jim & Pat Rudicil  
Stephanie & Doug Smith  
The Stenerson Family  
Joyce & Earl Stephens  
Jim Teachey  
Family of Carolyn Vargas  
Family of Phil Walls  
Kay Warren  
Joyce Witherington

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  
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

Also, please pray for:

- 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](mailto: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.



### Family Promise Needs

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

### Don't Keep It a Secret!

If you have a change of address, phone number or email address, please share it with us! Send the changes to Marion Little - [marion@gracedowntown.net](mailto:marion@gracedowntown.net) Thanks!

### Altar Flower Chart for 2021

Due to Covid19 restrictions, signups are being done online with the same program we use for in-person service signups. The link is in the box above.

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.

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.



### Help Available

Through the generosity of this congregation, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund is well funded at present.

If anyone in the Grace Church family is having financial hardships due to the coronavirus, we might be able to offer assistance.

Please contact Pastor Tal at:

[tal@gracedowntown.net](mailto:tal@gracedowntown.net)

## Your Missions Donations for 2020

Grace Church has received very generous donations toward missions this year, which are being distributed throughout the community and the world! We received a total of \$25,143.50! It has been sent to the following non-profits to use in their work as the hands and feet of Jesus.

These first 5 groups continue to operate during the pandemic and have increased costs plus lower income and volunteer assistance at this time! Their needs are immediate!

Family Promise of the Lower Cape Fear— \$4,500 (Providing case management and transitional housing for victims of domestic violence and emergency shelter to homeless families with children; while supplying them with the resources and skills vital to regaining and maintaining financial independence.)

Feast Congregation— \$4,500 (A missional congregation of our United Methodist Conference here in Wilmington which exists to create sacred space for people to explore their faith. The Liturgy consists of music, reflective prayer, a message, communion, and dinner.) This group serves many homeless in the area and has offered safely done holiday meals, warming shelters on cold nights.

Methodist Home for Children— \$4,500 (MHC provides safe, stable homes where children can thrive and live to their full, God-given potential.)

Mission of Hope: Rotifunk— \$4,500 (Seeking to substantially improve the health and save the lives of women and children in the Moyamba District of Sierra Leone.)

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard— \$4,500 (Serves those who are hungry in the Wilmington area through distribution of emergency food.)

The remaining funds will be saved for use of the Welcome Table at Grace, which serves a hot lunch on Thursdays to those who come. Due to COVID, it is not currently operating, but hopes to start as soon as possible in 2021.

Many thanks to those who donated to improve the world and the lives of many who struggle every day!

The Grace Missions Committee

## 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.