

# Grace Notes

January 5, 2025

## 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, 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

#### Monday, January 6

9:00 am Grace in Motion Walkers  
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)  
1:30 pm Caregivers Support  
6:00 pm Dance class—Special Olympics  
7:15 pm Basketball (Peyton's group)  
7:00 pm CF Chorale rehearsal

#### Tuesday, January 7

9:00 am Organist rehearsal  
9:00 am Bible Study with Pastor Benny  
10:30 am UWF  
5:30 pm Bootcamp  
6:30 pm Administrative Council

#### Wednesday, January 8

10:00 am Yoga  
10:00 am Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Organist Practice  
4:00 pm Worship Committee  
5:00 pm Basketball (Lion Heart)  
6:15 pm Grace Ringers  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir

#### Thursday, January 9

10:00 am Basketball (seniors)  
5:30 pm Bootcamp  
6:45 pm Basketball (Moore)

#### Friday, January 10

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

#### Saturday, January 11

#### Sunday, January 12

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 12/29/2024

In-person Worship Service:

One service at 11:00 am 186

Online service: 68

Operating Funds Given \$ 15,414

Average receipts needed weekly \$ 15,362

Building Preservation Given \$ 330

Apportionments paid through December

### **December financial report**

Building YTD Preserv. Fund Rcpts. \$ 47,817

Building YTD Preserv. Fund Exp. \$ 32,285

Balance \$ 15,531

Budget YTD Receipts \$ 641,118

Expenses YTD (2024) \$ 750,981

(\$109,864)

Thank you for your gifts and faithfulness

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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)

Use the QR code below:



Or text: MyGift2Grace to 73256

Checks may also be mailed to the address above.

### **New Year, New meeting schedule**

Happy New Year!

**Administrative Council** meets this Tuesday at 6:30 pm. All are welcome! The plan is to continue to meet the first Tuesday of the month going forward. Some of the meeting time will be spent on this and other plans for the year.

As a reminder, other standing committee meetings are held:

**SPRC**— 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm

**Finance**—2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm

**Worship**—2nd Wednesday at 4 pm  
(needs members)

**Trustees**—3rd Monday at 7pm.

Committees are encouraged to let Ginny know ASAP and check the calendar to avoid conflicts if during the year your group decides to switch meeting times and/or dates or if you cancel. Also copy her on minutes and committee member changes such as member additions.

### **Dear Fellow Grace Members,**

I am so very grateful for all of you and especially want to thank those who took the time to send a note, make a call, share a hug or a kind word, bring food, visit, come to Sam's service and offer many other acts of compassion and Christian love. We have been so blessed to be here for 27 years in the midst of your warmth and my family and I send you our thanks, our love and our gratitude! Jane Spicer

*Thank you*



### **UWF Meeting Reminder**

The next United Women in Faith Meeting is this Tuesday, January 7th at 10:30 am. Our speaker is the new principal from Sunset Park Elementary School.

Our mission for January is snuggle blankets, afghans, throws, whatever you like. We like to provide them especially for the homeless children that attend Sunset Park.

Refreshments will be provided by Maxine and Janice. We will be in the Bullock Center, unless we are having low temperatures and the Warming Shelter is in place. Our meeting starts at 10:30. Come early and have coffee and a snack and fellowship with others. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Dianna Florea, 910-398-8790.

## Prayer Requests

Family of Richard Augero	Paul Plishka
Family of Dale Basham (Mary Trout)	Family of Joshua Stanfield-Switzer
Joyce Blauvelt	Catherine Thompson
Ethan Carter	Dan Walters
Kitty Eure	Dean & Sue Windgassen
George & Jane Ferguson	Caregivers everywhere
Christine Garvin	Unspoken, in our hearts
Mike Huxley	Those whose lives are affected by storms and floods
Dennis Ihnat	Tragedies in NO and LV
Mike King	War-torn countries
Bill Perks	



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	Sgt. Andrew Ross, USMC
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).**

### Warming Shelter Update—will open 1/7—1/11

In Dec. 2024, The Warming Shelter was open 11 days before Dec 25th - we cleaned up the shelter with about 30 volunteers on Christmas Eve morning. Last season (23/24), we saw a drastic increase in our number of guests - sheltering 50% more people than we did in previous years. Our initiative is quickly growing in demand/need and we are navigating that growth organizationally. Each time we are open, we reevaluate and refine our process. We discuss capacity along with what is reasonably possible for a church ministry. In December 2024, being open both around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays was a blessing as we had a great number of volunteers that helped us to fully staff the shelter. We are deeply grateful to **86 Hunger Now** who helped us tremendously with food preparation! The donations of snacks, soda, coffee, personal items and blankets was incredible and when we asked for specific items, people responded! We were able to meet almost every request for clothing items because of your help! Because of the massive effort it takes to both open and close the temporary shelter and cover shelter hours with volunteer staff, going forward in 2025, we will open the shelter when the temperature is expected to drop below 30 degrees on **any 3 consecutive nights**.

Remember: One weather source is used to make our determinations: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) and consultation with the Wilmington office of the National Weather Service. As we continue to grow, we are taking steps to bring more structure to our initiative in the coming months. Our hope is that in 2025 we can make these dreams come true:

- ◆ Hire paid staff who can devote 100% of their time and attention to this work
- ◆ Submit Applications for Grant Funding
- ◆ Continue to explore the possibility of hosting cooling shelters in the summer
- ◆ Continue to support the other year-round efforts such as Living Hope Day Center, The Anchor's Sunday Breakfast on the Riverwalk and our Mobile Shower Trailer, along with the @Cape Fear Homeless Continuum of Care, who fosters collaborative work among all the local homeless service providers to bring an end to homelessness.

We could NOT do this work without the help, commitment and compassion of many, many volunteers and supporters who have given generously in so many ways. We are so, so, so grateful for how connecting and working around shared values and a common cause has created such a beautiful community of love, belonging and friendship. Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
[www.thewarmingshelterilm.com](http://www.thewarmingshelterilm.com)

Rev. Meg McBride  
Pastor, Hope Recovery UMC  
Organizer, The Warming Shelter ILM

Note: If you are interested in volunteering for the next shelter, the sign up link should be online Saturday, Jan. 4th.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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  
[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.

**Liturgists**, could use a few willing to substitute!—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)

### Looking ahead at Special Dates!

**January 19** — Social Graces kick-off  
**January 20** — MLK, Jr./Inauguration Day (office closed)  
**March 5** — Ash Wednesday