

Grace Notes

June 6, 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

Sunday, June 6 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 am Worship Service/Holy Communion
11:00 am Worship Service/Holy Communion

Monday, June 7

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary
7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Meeting

Tuesday, June 8

8:30 am Online Service Recording/Sanctuary
9:30 am KnitWerks@Grace
5:30 pm Boot Camp

Wednesday, June 9

10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class/Gym
4:30 am Worship Committee Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir/Grace Ringers Zoom

Thursday, June 10

5:30 pm Boot Camp

Friday, June 11

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary
5:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, June 12

4:00 pm Guthrie Wedding

Sunday, June 13

8:30 am Worship Service
11:00 am Worship Service

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

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/>



Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart

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

Grant Awarded

Grace UMC submitted an application to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for a COVID-19 Response Grant. Our application was approved and a grant was awarded in the amount of \$29,300.

This week we received \$17,700 of that total. The remainder will be paid over the next three months.

Because of your faithful giving, Grace was able to receive this grant, through the apportionment system, to assist us during the pandemic. The apportionment system is still funding other ministries around the world.

Grace Scholarships 2021

The Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications through June 13, 2021. If you are an active member of Grace UMC, you are eligible to apply.



If you are interested in applying, please send an email to scholarships@gracedowntown.net

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 5/30/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 19
11:00 am - 88

Online Worship Service: 122 views

Operating Funds Given 5/26- 6/2 \$ 10,820

May

Operating Funds Given YTD	\$	243,691
Operating Expenses YTD	\$	285,474
Balance	\$	(41,783)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

May

Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD	\$	23,077
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD	\$	15,159

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts	\$	62,048
Expenses to date	\$	72,113

Apportionments are paid through May.

We Are Pleased to Introduce Grace's New Organist! Leslie Bergbower

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to welcome to Grace UMC its newest member of the Grace staff and the Music Ministries, Leslie Bergbower, organist.

Mrs. Bergbower began piano lessons at age 7 and sang in church choirs throughout high school. She attended Concordia College to continue studying piano where she also sang in the touring choir. When she began studying organ in college, she said she was "hooked."

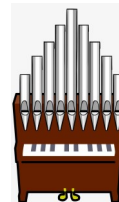
Mrs. Bergbower has served congregations of various denominations and her Lord with her musical talents for over 30 years. She also taught school for 26 years.

Her activities include participating as a member of the Wilmington Chapter of the AGO (American Guild of Organists), reading, biking, and gardening.

Mrs. Bergbower also volunteers with the Topsail Island Turtle Patrol and she volunteered (pre-COVID) at the Good Shepherd Center.

We look forward to having her as a part of the Grace family and the Music Ministries family.

Soli Deo Gloria
(To God Alone Be the Glory)



Liturgists Needed

There is an urgent need for liturgists for both services; but especially for the 8:30 am worship service. Please consider serving Grace and our Lord in this way.

Please contact Rick Zigler, liturgist coordinator, at zigler@aol.com

Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Archie	Ron Helms	Brooke Santos
Kitty Brunjes	Dick Hull	Mary Sloan
Andy Cable	Larry Jennings	Sandee Murray Spradley
George Collins	Jessica	Stowe Spratt
David Cooper	Eddie Jones	Shar Streeter
Tom Cunningham	Maria King	Family of Sandy Strickland
Family of Claude Davis	Kathy Parker	Jim Teachey
Family of Pat DiGiuseppe	Todd Paxton	Louise Thompson
Patricia DiGiuseppe	Carolyn Pope	Veteran Village
Linda Garrett	Tim Powers	Bobby Wilcox
David Elmer Hadley	Tom Powers	Stew Wolling
Hank	Family of Pete Robinson	
Theresa Harrell	Connie Roderick	
David Hash	James Rodgers	

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, USA
 SPC James F. Pritchett, USA
 LCDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN
 Col. Amy Moore Russo, USAF
 E6 Jack Andre Settele, USA
 Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC
 AB Michael Sloan, USAF
 Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC
 Michael Tate, USA

Also, please pray for:

Our Country

The demise of the coronavirus pandemic
 All medical personnel
 All those working with the public

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

Sunday School Returns!

Sunday School returns for everyone on Sunday, June 20, 9:30 am.

The children will meet in their regular classrooms. All adults will assemble in the gym in one class. Leadership of the class will rotate among the teachers of the different adult classes.

Here is a schedule of the adult class leadership.

June 20	Kelley Ahlers
June 27	Tal Madison
July 4	No classes/July 4th holiday
July 11	Begin rotation among leaders

Make plans now to resume attending Sunday School.

New Sermon Series

Pastor Tal will start a new sermon series entitled "Christian Basics" this Sunday, June 6. The first topic is sin. This may well be a different take on sin than you are accustomed to hearing. From there, we'll move on to other matters like creation, redemption and other interesting stuff!

You are invited to take a fresh look at Christian Basics.



The Grace Family Ministries Program Invites the Grace Congregation

to join us on

Saturday, June 26

for

Night Without a Bed

Night Without a Bed is a social media challenge to raise awareness about family homelessness.

Family Promise asks participants to spend the night of June 26, sleeping anywhere without a bed; in your car, in a tent, or on the living room floor. Take a photo of yourself and your family or group of friends and email it to Kelley, or share it on social media on Grace's pages using the #NightWithoutaBed hashtag.

This is a chance to take time from the basic comforts of our lives to experience what those less fortunate experience daily.

During the night when you are uncomfortable, pray and meditate on what you can do to make a difference in our community for families that are homeless.

Donations of support can be made at:

www.nightwithoutabed.org/organizations/family-promise-of-the-lower-cape-fear

The Beauty of Grace Team

A very dedicated group of church members has volunteered to restore and revitalize the lawns and gardens at Grace! You may have noticed new flower pots, new gardens, new flowers and plants, and a cleaner exterior! The Grace Street sidewalk has been cleared of accumulated leaves and will soon be pressure washed. All at no cost to Grace!

The team wishes to express extreme gratitude for the contributions of lawn care equipment (trimmer, edger, blower, and soon, a riding lawn mower), plants, flowers, top soil, and monetary donations! Everything goes into making our Lord's house, "the church with the beautiful gardens!" The beauty of Grace is not only in our church, it is in our members!

There is still room for more flowers and plants! The Beauty of Grace team is looking for volunteers for an "Adopt-A-Spot" program, where groups, Sunday School classes, families or individuals can select a small area of our church that they want tend and add their special touch.

If you are a gardener and have plantings from your home that you would like to see in the gardens of Grace, contact Karen Evans or Sally Barnes. (You can send an email to gumctrustees1@gmail.com and they will forward your message to Karen and Sally).

Moving forward - we have started a lawn treatment program that will, after a little time, provide us with a green and healthy lawn. Non-thriving plants and shrubs will be replaced and mulch beds replenished as resources allow. The Historical Site sign on Grace Street will be restored and the Worship times sign on 4th Street will be updated.

Thank you all, from the *Beauty of Grace* team!



June Birthdays

6/1	Matt Hale Lydia Vaughan Kent Stephens	6/9	Gary Rowe Andrew Coggins Marvin Evans	6/16	Carl Humphrey	6/27	Alma Fennell Edna Mory
6/2	Aaron Moore Larry Phipps	6/10	Ray Lester Olivia Riddle	6/17	Karen Hull	6/28	Helen Lehmann Ashley Lindsey
6/3	Margaret Batchelor	6/11	David Walsh	6/19	Bob Henard	6/29	George Collins Tiffany Irby
6/4	Stephanie Christy Frank Michaels	6/12	Cash Inman Annie Daniel	6/22	Anna Fisher Ball Julie Crow Linda Pfister Janet Keenan		
6/5	Jerry Smith	6/14	Sarah O'Brien Owen Coggins	6/23	Linda Snider		
6/6	Russell Ipock	6/15	Jim Tyndall Linda Pyle	6/24	Diane Woodbury Hope Inman Kelsey Winggi		
6/7	Carol Musselwhite		Zack Maroules	6/25	Morris Allison		
6/8	Cooper Stenerson Tal Madison		Joeli Banks	6/26	Mary Sloan		

North Carolina Conference and Southeastern Jurisdiction News

Four of the 13 bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church will retire this September 1. Since Jurisdictional Conference will not have met to elect new bishops, it has been decided by the Council of Bishops that several of the bishops will oversee two conferences at the same time until new bishops are elected and appointed.

One of the bishops retiring is our own Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. Bishop Leonard Fairley will continue to oversee his current charge, the Kentucky Annual Conference, while also serving the NC Annual Conference. Bishop Fairley was raised in North Carolina, graduated from Duke Divinity School, and pastored churches in this conference before being elected as bishop. He knows this conference well. We look forward to his presence and ministry among us.

General Conference News:

General Conference is the highest decision making body in the United Methodist denomination. It meets every four years. It is comprised of about 1000 delegates, equal number of lay and clergy, from around the world. All UM bishops have voice at General Conference, but they do not vote.

The last scheduled meeting was to be in 2020. The pandemic caused it to be rescheduled for 2021. It is now slated to happen in 2022 (Aug 28 - Sept 6) in Minneapolis. Do be in prayer for this conference as it draws near.

Sound Assistance Devices

Now that worship services have returned to the sanctuary, personal, sound assistance devices are again available from the ushers. If you want to use one of these devices, please tell an usher when you arrive.

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
Thanks!

Missions

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.

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 | • . toilet tissue |
| • . regular oatmeal | • . whole grain cereals |
| • . juice boxes | • . canned legume beans (navy, kidney, black) |
| • . water | • . healthy low sodium soups |
| • . mac and cheese/rice-a-roni | • . bar soap |

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

Current COVID Guidelines for Grace UMC

At its May 18, 2021 meeting, the Administrative Council of Grace UMC, upon recommendation of Grace's Covid19 Task Force, voted to relax some of its worship restrictions as outlined below. Any safety guidelines not specifically mentioned below are still in place. We believe these decisions are in compliance with recent recommendations from the CDC and with Governor Cooper's statement about dropping mask and social distancing mandates for vaccinated people in most environments. These new measures go into effect this Sunday, May 23.

- Masks will be optional for fully vaccinated people at the 11am service (fully vaccinated means two weeks after receiving the second dose). Those who are not fully vaccinated are welcome to come to the 11am service, but will be expected to wear a mask. Folks who are fully vaccinated yet are more comfortable continuing to wear a mask at the 11 am service are welcome to do so.
- All attendees at the 8:30 am service are expected to wear masks; even those who are fully vaccinated. Rationale: some have chosen not to be vaccinated; children and youth have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Expecting masks to be worn at 8:30 would provide them a safe place for fellowship and worship. Expecting even fully vaccinated people to wear a mask at the 8:30 service is an extending of grace to our unvaccinated children, youth, their parents and to all our sisters and brothers not yet at ease being in an mask-free environment; it is part of our effort to "watch over one another in love."
- Not knowing who has and hasn't been vaccinated, all this would be done on the honor system.
- No registration for either service; no attendance limit for either service.
- No assigned seats, but self-regulated social distancing will be encouraged at the 8:30 service.
- Children will still be asked to wear masks when taking part in the children's ministry activities.
- Group singing will not be included in the worship services at this point. We are waiting on the CDC and other groups with expertise in health and science to guide us.

Mid-Week Groups:

- They are under the same guidelines as the 11 am worship service.
- Masks optional for those fully vaccinated, masks expected for those who are not.
- Those who are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable wearing a mask may do so.
- No registration required.
- No attendance limits for mid-week groups.
- Mid-week groups will be allowed to use only the Bullock Activity Center (gym) or the Bible Study Room.