

Grace Notes

March 10, 2024

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, March 10/UMCOR Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
4:00—6:00 pm WAVES

Monday, March 11

9:00 am Grace In Motion
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
4:00 pm Basketball (Lionsheart)
5:30 pm Basketball (youth)
6:30 pm SPRC
7:15 pm Chorale practice

Tuesday, March 12

9:00 am Organist Practice
9:00 am Bible Study
9:30 am Knitting (@Panera)
5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:30 pm Finance (Bible Study)
6:45 pm Basketball (youth)
7:00 pm Chorale Board (library)

Wednesday, March 13

10:00 am Staff Meeting
10:00 am Yoga
4:00 pm Worship Committee
4:00 pm Basketball (Lions Heart)
6:00 pm Special Olympics
6:15 pm Grace Ringers
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
4:00 pm Lay Leadership meeting
5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:30 pm Basketball (Moore)

Friday, March 15

9:00 am Organist practice
9:00 am Grace in Motion
3:00 pm Cinderella's Closet Shopping event

Saturday, March 16

9:00— 5:00 pm Cinderella's Shopping event

Sunday, March 17

8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service
12:15 pm Nurture meeting
4:00—6:00 pm WAVES

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 3/5/2024

In-person Worship Service:

8:30 am	31
11:00 am	195
online	128

Operating Funds Given	\$	26,311
Budget receipts needed weekly	\$	15,634
Building Preservation Given	\$	1,440

Apportionments paid through February

February financial report

Building YTD Preservation Fund Receipts	\$	18,391
Building YTD Preservation Fund Expenses	\$	
Balance	\$	18,391

Budget YTD Receipts	\$	159,873
Expenses YTD (2024)	\$	129,039
Balance Receipts vs Expenses	\$	30,833

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

910.763.5197; Fax 910.763.4108

website: gracedowntown.church

Give through Paypal at our website
or Square
by using this QR Code.
(point your phone camera
at the box and click on the link that
appears).

Checks may also be mailed to the address above.

Holy Week Services

Invite your neighbors, family and friends to our
upcoming special worship services!

Palm Sunday, March 24, 8:30 and 11 am

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, 7 p.m. (see ad at right)

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8:30 and 11 am

Child care will be provided at each
worship service.



Grace United Methodist Church Chancel Choir

presents

The Seven Last Words of Christ
composed by Théodore Dubois

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00PM

Leslie Bergbower, Organist
Jerry S. Cribbs, Director

401 Grace Street - Wilmington
www.gracedowntown.church
910-763-5197

With Orchestra
and
Soloists

Jennifer Mueske,
Soprano
Alex Gallo,
Tenor
Benjamin Horrell,
Baritone

Today is Woman Composer Sunday.

For centuries women were excluded or discouraged from contributing music for the church. I am joining other organists in the United States, the U.K., and around the world on this day by playing music by women.

The prelude this Sunday is *Largo* by Elizabeth Stirling (1819-1895). Born in London, Stirling was educated at home and studied organ, piano, and harmony privately at the Royal Academy of Music. Her organ teacher, Edward Holmes, was a renowned German composer and a strong ally. When she was 16 her father's business failed and Stirling began to earn a living as a musician, becoming a respected composer, church organist, and recitalist. In 1856, Stirling applied for a music degree at Oxford University by submitting an original choral composition.

Although this work was approved, Stirling was not admitted to the university, since women were not eligible for degrees at the time. Despite this, she went on to serve in church positions for decades. She composed numerous organ works, over 50 songs and duets, and several arrangements of music by Bach, Mozart, and Handel.

The 8:30 Offertory is the beloved hymn *Blessed Assurance*. Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) is the writer of the text and Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908) is the composer of the music. This arrangement is by Sarah Douglas (1952-) *Postlude on "Ose Shalom"* by Christina Harmon (1944-) will end our worship. This is a joyful Hebrew prayer for peace and wellness.

Soli Deo gloria!

Leslie Bergbower, Organist

Dan Barnes

Brian, Donna, and Janie

Lindsey Brown

Kitty Eure

Family of Sterling Foster

Shelby Godwin

Grant

Maxine LeFever

Kristi Midgett

Family of Joan Pence

Bill Perks

Tom Powers

Mac Starke

Carolyn Stokley

Patricia Thomas

Becky Whisnant

Jeff Wilson

Dean Windgassen

Caregivers everywhere

Unspoken, in our hearts

War-torn Countries

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following military persons in your prayers:

ETNC Anthony Augustine, USN

Cpl. Matthew Brin, USA

LCpl. John Capwell, USMC

Sgt. Tim Cobaugh, USMC

Col. John Delaney, USA

Ltjg. Elizabeth Downing, USN

E3 Hadden Scott Dubel, USN

E6 William Chase Dubel, USA

E3 Caylen Folmar, USAF

E3 Taylor Folmar, USN

Sgt. Alex Gifford, USMC

SFC Woodrow Long, USA

Maj. Jason T. Hill, USSF

SFC Letty Long, USA

Capt. Benjamin Mabee, USMC

PFC Schuyler Marshall, USA

SSgt. Emily Olinger, USAF

Pvt. Steven Patterson, USA

SSgt. James Pritchett, USA

CDR Kevin Ringelstein, USN

Capt. Brandon Showers, USMC

Capt. Robert Stockman, USMC

Michael Tate, USA

E2 Cassie Wenz, USMC

If you have a prayer request, please contact Marilee Tremlett at mtrem3@icloud.com.

Prom Shopping Event Volunteer Opportunities Are Open!

We are so grateful for your continued support of our mission to help all students in New Hanover and surrounding counties have the prom of their dreams. Due to increased demand as well as officially opening up our closet to Brunswick and Pender counties this year, we are going to be holding two prom shopping event weekends for 2024. Use the links on the Cinderella's Facebook Page or the Grace Enews to sign up or reach out to Hope Inman for more information. Here are the dates:

Fri., March 15, 3pm-9pm & Sat., March 16, 9am-5pm

Fri., April 12, 3pm-9pm & Sat., April 13, 9am-5pm

Volunteers are asked to commit two hours of time but you may sign up for multiple times and roles.

We are in **great need** of seamstresses for our events to do very minor alterations so please do let us know if you are available for this role or if you know of anyone that may be interested.

Cinderella's Closet

Turning Dresses into Dreams...

Spring Festival & Easter Egg Hunt

March 24th 4-6pm

Everyone is invited to come and join us for an afternoon of Easter activities to celebrate the season! We will have 5 separate indoor egg hunts by age groups. During the event we will be serving pizza starting at 4pm until we run out. In addition to egg hunts and food, we will have games, face painting and crafts for all to enjoy. We hope to see you there and please invite family and friends to join you!

We need volunteers for this event to help make it possible. We will need greeters, those willing to serve food, and assistance with crafts and games! If you feel called to volunteer, please contact Kelsey Keenan at (910) 599-5290 or Kelsey@gracedowntown.net

Any candy, plastic eggs, and small toy donations are appreciated and there will be a basket in the Welcome Center!

Dear Grace Church Family,

Thank you for the outpouring of prayers, emails, texts, phone calls, food, transportation, and the gift of a prayer shawl during my hip replacement recovery. I greatly appreciate the outpouring of love and well wishes. Our family at Grace UMC is warm and nurturing. Thanks again. Blessings,

Mary Tyndall

It's UMCOR Sunday

There are cards around the Sanctuary explaining this year's theme. You may write checks to Grace UMC with UMCOR in the memo line if you would like to make an extra gift to UMCOR this Sunday, or anytime.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is open to anyone who knits or crochets. Our shawls which are periodically blessed during our worship service are passed on to people who are sick, grieving, or celebrating as symbol of God's love and grace. We meet at Panera Bread on Oleander on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:30 to share breakfast and fellowship. Please join us on March 12 if you can.

We have decided to invite our husbands to join us and have their own little group for breakfast and fellowship and to extend the invitation to other men in the church. If you have any questions, please contact Marie Allison at alli7173@hotmail.com or call 910-602-0012.

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING

Please note that the Admin Council has approved the change of our staff office hours on Wednesday through Friday. The new schedule going into effect on Monday, March 11 is:

Mon. & Tues. 9-5,

Wed, Thurs & Fri. 9-2

This will allow staff to have focused planning and project time. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we make this transition.

Sewing lessons!

UMW has an ongoing mission to sew dresses from donated fabrics. These garments have been donated to the Methodist Home for Children and to an orphanage school in Haiti.

We need more sewers! A retired Home Ec teacher and missionary to Haiti is willing to teach a Thursday class here at Grace. Dress kits will be supplied. No advanced skills needed. This is open to anyone, High School age and up! If interested, speak with Susan Michaels or contact her at (603) 475-5879.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard update!

Thank you for continuing to help Mother Hubbard's Cupboard keep their shelves stocked. Volunteers take donations from Grace to MHC every Wednesday and Saturday. Look for the grocery cart near the elevator in the Welcome Center.

Our focus for March is CANNED MEAT, CANNED FRUIT, SIDE STARCHES (such as mac & cheese) and CEREAL. Vanilla and Chocolate BOOST and ENSURES continue to be requested by most individuals who have no shelter in which to live. As usual, TOILET PAPER is always welcome.

“Seven Last Words of Christ”
...A weekly meditation

God, my Father, why hast thou forsaken me?
Matthew 27:46

On Good Friday, March 29, the Grace UMC Chancel Choir, accompanied by other musicians, will lead us in worship as they perform Seven Last Words, composed by Théodore Dubois. The seven last words – or sayings of Jesus – come from the Gospel accounts of Jesus on the cross. Each week throughout the season of Lent we will reflect on each of the seven words.

This week’s word is abandonment.

They insulted, jeered and taunted him while he hung in agony on the cross. Finally, around 3:00 pm in the afternoon, Jesus loudly cries, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me (Matt. 27:46)?” In his book, *Cross-Shattered Christ*, Stanley Hauerwas rightly claims that of all the words of Jesus from the cross, we most identify with these. Who hasn’t felt abandoned or alone, but how do we feel about our Lord feeling this way, crying out to the Father with these words? Is it reassuring or disconcerting to hear Jesus ask this question?

We certainly remember this question begins the twenty-second Psalm. We also remember that psalms, hymns, poems, and songs are often known by their first words. “Be Thou My Vision,” for example, is the first line of the hymn, not necessarily the title. By referring to the first words of the hymn we might think of the accompanying melody and perhaps the whole song (or at least the first verse in my case). Likewise, the twenty-second psalm begins with feelings of abandonment and loneliness, but it concludes with triumph and deliverance. The last two verses are, “Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it (Ps. 22:30-31).”

Was Jesus’s reason for crying out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” to reassure us by recalling the whole psalm, that it ends with the Lord delivering us? Perhaps.

Is Jesus’s cry disconcerting because we really want our God to respond differently to the people’s insults and jeers? We have seen him save others. He speaks with authority. He heals the sick, the lame, the blind. He delivers people from captivity. We desperately need him now to respond to their mocking shouts of “Save yourself” by doing just that!” Jesus, come down from the cross and prove once more that you have the power to save by saving yourself! That way we can now taunt them for disbelieving he is in fact the King of kings, Lord of lords. And with this desire, we have once more made God into our own image, haven’t we?

The truth is – whether it is reassuring or unsettling or both – God identifies with our feelings of abandonment and loneliness. God identifies with our suffering by suffering on the cross. It is a mystery of Love that can never be separated from us, and even in our loneliness, God never leaves us alone. Thanks be to God!

In Christ’s love,
+Benny

- ☐ **Would like to join Grace United Methodist Church.**
 - ☐ **Need Grace UMC name tag(s).**
 - ☐ **Change of address, phone number, or email.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____