

Grace Notes

March 17, 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 17 -St. Patrick's Day

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

Monday, March 18

9:00 am Grace In Motion
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
1:30 pm Caregivers Support
4:00 pm Basketball (Lionsheart)
5:30 pm Basketball (youth)
7:00 pm Trustees
7:15 pm CF Chorale practice

Tuesday, March 19

9:00 am Organist Practice
9:00 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Bootcamp
6:30 pm Admin Council (Bible Study)
6:45 pm Basketball (youth)

Wednesday, March 20

9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
10:00 am Yoga
4:00 pm Organist practice
4:00 pm Basketball (Lions Heart)
6:00 pm Special Olympics
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 21

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

Friday, March 22

Filming in Youth area (am)
9:00 am Organist practice
9:00 am Grace in Motion

Saturday, March 23

9:00 am Chancel Choir rehearsal

Sunday, March 24

Palm 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 Easter Egg Hunt and
Spring Festival

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 3/10/2024

In-person Worship Service:

8:30 am	29
11:00 am	168
online	72

Operating Funds Given	\$	11,387
Budget receipts needed weekly	\$	15,634
Building Preservation Given	\$	1,280

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.

BUSINESS OFFICE HOURS HAVE CHANGED

Please note that the Admin Council has approved the change of our staff office hours on Wednesday through Friday. The new schedule is now in effect.

**Mon. & Tues. 9-5,
Wed, Thurs & Fri. 9-2**

This allows staff to have focused planning and project time. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we transition to the new schedule.

Easter Lily Mission project

Today's Grace UMC bulletins contain envelopes for Easter Lily donations. Proceeds will be earmarked for the Grace Mission budget. In exchange for your donation, please fill out these envelopes to honor or memorialize a person or persons on Resurrection Sunday, March 31. That is when the altar will be decorated with beautiful lilies. A list of all the memorials and honorariums will be included in an Easter bulletin insert. A donation of \$5-\$10 per name is suggested.



After worship that Sunday, the lilies will be given to Grace Church members who are no longer able to attend church services. All donations and dedication information must be in the church office no later than **Monday, March 25** so that the names can be prepared. Thank you for your support.

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 below).

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

Dan Barnes

Donna and Janie

Lindsey Brown

Kitty Eure

Shelby Godwin

Grant

Tom Jones

Maxine LeFever

Kristi Midgett

Charles Palmer

Bill Perks

Tom Powers

Rob

Melissa Sessi

Mac Starke

Carolyn Stokley

Patricia Thomas

Trayce

Becky Whisnant

Jeff Wilson

Dean Windgassen

Stephanie Woodward

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.

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.




Spring Festival & Easter Egg Hunt

March 24th 4-6pm—Palm Sunday!

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!



Cinderella's Closet

Thank you to all who volunteered for the first shopping event of 2024 for Cinderella's Closet. We will update you soon or you may also check out the CC Facebook page for pictures and more news.

There is one more big weekend with volunteer spots still available if you are interested!

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.

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

I am athirst!

John 19:28

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 distress.

As with last week's word, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me (Matt. 27:46)," we are perplexed this week to hear Jesus say, "I am thirsty (John 19:28)." Is Jesus really thirsty? Of course the Gospel lets us know in that same verse from John that Jesus said this "in order to fulfill the scripture," but we are not entirely sure what that means. Can God be thirsty? Is this a metaphor for something? How could the gospel of John give us the story of Jesus referring to himself as having living water, a water that promises that one will never thirst again (John 4:11, 14), and also have Jesus say from the cross that he is thirsty? Is Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, our Lord and Savior, in distress by the very bodily need for water?

Once more, we are drawn into the mystery of Love in which we affirm that God is completely God and completely human in Jesus Christ our Lord. This very notion calls to mind the first two Articles of Religion in our United Methodist doctrine, mainly that the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is the "... one living and true God," and that Jesus is fully God and fully human, "two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided (*Discipline*, "Articles of Religion")." For the very reason it is a mystery that Jesus is both fully Divine and fully human, Jesus's apparent thirst puzzles us because it seems we should not expect thirst from the one who offers living water in order that we may never thirst again.

Mystery, however, does not preclude us from imagining what this thirst is and why Jesus says he is thirsty in the first place. Stanley Hauerwas offers an explanation that seems appropriate to quote him at length:

"The work of the Son, the thirst of the Son through the Spirit, is nothing less than the Father's thirst for us. God desires us to desire God. We were created to thirst for God (Psalm 42) in a "dry and weary land where there is no water" (Psalm 63). Such a desire is "physical" or real as our thirst for water, our thirst for one another, and our desire for God (*Cross-Shattered Christ*, p. 77)."

Friends, when we thirst, may we remember God thirsts for us. May we equate this thirst with God's desire for us, and therefore our desire for God, and our longing for one another.

In Christ's love,
+Benny