

# Grace Notes

March 21, 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

March 21, 2021  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

#### In-person Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am, Bullock Activity Center

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.

#### On-line Sunday Worship Service

The service will be available Sunday morning starting at 8:00 am. You may worship by going to either:

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

**Link coming on Saturday**

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

### Family Sunday School

Starting March 21, Zoom Family Sunday School will take a break until after Easter.

### Family Ministries

Youth & Children's Sunday Programming  
Sunday, March 21, 4 pm  
Long Leaf Park, Picnic Shelter #5

### **Easter Egg Hunt**

See page 2 for details!

Facebook page:

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



**Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart**

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

### Holy Week and Easter Services

Our Lenten journey is drawing closer to the events of Holy Week and the jubilation of Easter morning. Masks are required and social distancing must be observed for in-person services.

#### **Palm Sunday, March 28**

- ◆ Online worship service
- ◆ 8:00 am - In-person worship service
- ◆ 11:00 am - In-person worship service

#### **Good Friday, April 2**

- ◆ Online worship service

#### **Easter Sunday, April 4**

- ◆ Online worship service
- ◆ 6:45 am - In-person sunrise worship service
- ◆ 11:00 am - In-person worship service
- ◆ 4:00 pm - In-person worship service

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held in the Cape Fear Community College parking lot behind the Wilson Center. Please bring your lawn chairs. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. It should last approximately 40-45 minutes. *No reservations required.*

**All other services will be held in the Bullock Activity Center and require reservations.**

### **HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?**

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 3/14/2021

In-person Worship Service: 51  
Online Worship Service: 114 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 3/10-3/17                   \$   13,875

**February**  
Operating Funds Given YTD                         \$   78,736  
Operating Expenses YTD                             \$  114,687  
Balance   \$   (35,951)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

**February**  
Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD   \$   5,970  
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD       \$        0

Apportionments are paid through March.

### 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) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### Reservations for Holy Week Services

Reservations for these services will be required, except for the sunrise service. There will be separate reservation links for each service time.

The general public will be invited to attend these services. Grace members will be given access to register starting the Monday before the service. The general public will be given access starting Wednesday. ***In other words, it is recommended that you reserve your seats before Wednesday, as seating is still limited!***

#### Palm Sunday

Member reservations open Monday, March 22, 10 am  
Public reservations open Wednesday, March 24, 10 am  
Reservations close Thursday, March 25, 12 noon

#### Easter Sunday

Member reservations open Monday, March 29, 10 am  
Public reservations open Wednesday, March 31, 10 am  
Reservations close Thursday, April 1, 12 noon

Since it will be held outside, no reservations are required for the 6:45 am Easter Sunrise Service.

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Abel Autrey	Dick Hull	Chip Rivers
Amy	Larry Jennings	Noah Robertson
Blake Baker	Eddie Jones	Donna Robinson
Kitty Brunjes	Maria King	Jack Andre Settele
Don Cole	Walter Knopp	Judy Siebold
Clarke Cummings	June Knox	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Darcy	Ann Lassiter	Mac Starke
Pat DiGiuseppe	Doug Mays	Kent Stephens
Marie Dubel	Ariel McCabe	Harry Studstill
Kelly Duke	Linda McCabe	Roger Swilley
Beth George	Family of Margaret Merritt	Jim Teachey
Mildred Guthrie	Heather Meyer	Maria Tyler
Hank	Wally Meyers	Veteran Village
Theresa Harrell	Millie Padgett	Martha Wofford
David Hash	Todd Paxton	
Ron Helms	Carolyn Pope	
Heather Hoefler	Jeffrey Powers	

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  
12 noon Prayer Explosion

### **Estimate of Giving Cards**

Be sure to turn in your completed Estimate of Giving Cards to the church office as soon as possible. If you have misplaced your card, please call the church office. One can be sent to you or they are available in the office.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lord's work through Grace Church.

### **No Easter Flower Cross This Year**

Due to social distancing restrictions, Grace will not have our traditional flower cross this year.

Hopefully it will be back next year to enhance our Easter Sunday worship services.



### **Wonderful Worship News!**

At Tuesday's Administrative Council meeting, the members approved two motions:

1. Starting this Sunday, March 21, spoken responses, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed will be back to the in-person worship services.
2. Starting Sunday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m., the in-person worship services will resume being held in the sanctuary.

When the worship services return to the sanctuary, we will continue to observe the safety protocols that are currently in place for worship in the gym such as reservations, social distancing, wearing masks, etc.

Thank you all for your responsiveness and flexibility as we progress towards normalcy. Please let me know if I can help you in any way as we make these adjustments.

Catherine Beaman

## Grace Easter Egg Hunt! Sunday, March 21, 2021, 4:00 pm Long Leaf Park, Shelter #5

Family Ministries is having a reversed Easter Egg Hunt. Kiddos bring your baskets, Youth bring your walking shoes....there will be a specific egg hunt for each group and those eggs will be turned in for prizes! This is a wonderful time to invite a friend and join our younger members as they gather wisdom from the scriptures, eggs from the park, and memories for a lifetime.



Masks required for those participating. **All ages invited.** Shelter # 5 is near the volleyball courts.

Please note there will be an Easter break from Youth and children's activities on both Palm Sunday and Easter. Programming will start again on April 11.

## **SOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

**\*\*\*NOTE** This memo is not intended to serve as tax advice for any individual's situation. All taxpayers' circumstances are unique. A strategy which may save taxes for one individual may have the opposite affect for another. Therefore, it is **imperative** that you consult with your tax advisor regarding the most appropriate action to be taken in your particular case.\*\*\*

The Tax Law contains a number of provisions designed to encourage taxpayers to make donations to advance their favorite philanthropic causes, including religious organizations. Here are a few examples. **Again, consult your tax advice before pursuing any strategy:**

### **Donations by cash:**

**Taxpayers who itemize their deductions** may claim a deduction for cash donations to certain charitable organizations, including Grace United Methodist Church. Included as cash donations are payments made by check, charge card or internet payment (such as PayPal).

**Taxpayers who claim the Standard Deduction** may also claim a deduction for cash donations. The maximum such donations eligible for this deduction in 2021 is \$300 on a Single or Separate return or \$600 on a Joint Return.

### **Donations of Appreciated Property:**

Taxpayers who itemize may also claim a deduction for donations of certain appreciated non-cash property (e.g., marketable securities, real estate, collectibles), referred to as Capital Gain Property. The amount of the deduction is the fair market value of the property on the date it is donated. No tax is paid on the appreciation.

### **Required Minimum Distributions/Qualified Charitable Distributions in 2021:**

For taxpayers subject to the Required Minimum Distribution ("RMD") rules, (e.g., holders of taxable IRA's, 401(k)'s, etc. who have reached a certain age), failure to make such distributions results in taxable income for the year.

The inclusion in taxable income can be avoided by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD") which is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA that is paid *directly* from the IRA to a qualified charity, such as Grace Church. Thus, you can avoid the adverse consequences of failing to make a RMD and, at the same time, advance your philanthropic goals.

Grace Finance Committee

## **LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE**

Sunday, March 21, 4 pm - **Grace Easter Egg Hunt** - See page 2 for details

Sunday, March 28, 8:00 & 11:00 am - **Palm Sunday In-Person Worship Services**, reservations required

Friday, April 2, 12:00 noon - **Good Friday Online Worship Service**

Easter Sunday, April 4 - **Worship Services:** See page 1 for details and registration instructions

6:45 am Sunrise Service, CFCC Parking Lot,

11:00 am In-person Worship Service, Bullock Activity Center

4:00 pm In-person Worship Service, Bullock Activity Center

Monday, April 5 - **Church Office Closed**

Sunday, May 9 - **In-Person Worship moves back to the sanctuary**