

Grace Notes

March 24, 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 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
- Monday, March 25**
9:00 am Grace In Motion
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
3:00 pm Organist Practice
4:00 pm Basketball (Lionsheart)
5:30 pm Basketball (youth)
7:15 pm Orchestra and Soloists practice
- Tuesday, March 26**
9:00 am Bible Study
5:30 pm Bootcamp
7:00 pm Practice for Stripping the altar
- Wednesday, March 27**
10:00 am Yoga
4:00 pm Basketball (Lions Heart)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 28**
Maundy Thursday
10:00 am Basketball (seniors)
5:30 pm Bootcamp
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- Friday, March 29**
Good Friday
9:00 am Grace in Motion
3:00 pm Organist Practice
7:00 pm The Seven Last Words
- Saturday, March 30**
Holy Saturday
- Sunday, March 31**
Easter Sunday
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am Chancel Choir
11:00 am Worship Service

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
- Bring some flowers and help transform the cross!*
- Child care will be provided at each worship service.
- The office will be closed the day after Easter for Easter Monday.
- Also the new office schedule is now in effect. Except for holidays, the new hours are:
- Mon. & Tues. 9-5,**
Wed, Thurs & Fri. 9-2

Yard maintenance help needed.

We are looking for a few people to help maintain the yard here at Grace. This includes any of the following: operating a riding mower, a self propelled push mower, edger or a power blower. During peak growing season this needs to be done about once a week. Times are flexible, about 1-2 hours.

If you are interested, please contact a Trustee or send an email to: gumctrustees1@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.

In-person/Online Attendance & Offering for 3/17/2024

In-person Worship Service:	8:30 am	27
	11:00 am	165
	online	72
Operating Funds Given	\$	6,712
Budget receipts needed weekly	\$	15,634
Building Preservation Given	\$	140
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.



Grace United Methodist Church Chancel Choir

presents
The Seven Last Words of Christ
composed by Théodore Dubois

Good Friday, March 29, 7:00PM

With Orchestra and Soloists

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

Leslie Bergbower, Organist
Jerry S. Cribbs, Director

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

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 tomorrow, **Monday, March 25** so that the names can be prepared. Thank you for your support.



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

Anne Wolling

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.

Cinderella's Closet next event in April

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. The sign up is in Enews and on the Facebook page.

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.

Hope Run coming up!

In Person Event

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Long Leaf Park | Wilmington, NC | 4-7pm

Virtual Race Challenge

April 1 - April 21, 2024 | Anywhere & Anytime!

Join a team of Grace and friends to participate in the Hope Run. It will be our second year. Proceeds support Journey to Heal Ministries and survivors of sexual abuse in our community.

You can help raise awareness and support survivors in your community as you walk or run with us at Long Leaf Park on April 21st at 5pm, or virtually in your own community anytime and anywhere between April 1st - April 21st!

Our team name is Grace UMC. More information is on the bulletin board at Grace or contact Karen Evans at: evans493@gmail.com.

"Seven Last Words of Christ"

...A weekly meditation

Father, into Thy hands I commend my soul.

Luke 23:46

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.

The sixth word is **reunion**.

In this word, we hear another prayer and we sit in the tension of Matthew's "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Mt 27:46)" and now we hear Jesus pray in Luke's gospel, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Lk 23:46)." Jesus's other words from the cross might be considered prayerful, however, Jesus specifically prays to and with the co-eternal, first person of the Trinity when he says, "My God, my God,... [and] Father, into your hands..." As he prays from this dreadful, humiliating cross, we now learn to pray prior to passing through the veil of death into the next phase of life eternal with God. Enduring agony, Jesus prays. Imitating our Lord, we pray with and for our loved ones at the time of death, "O merciful Savior, we commend your servant [to you] (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 465)."

I remember like it was yesterday, sitting and praying at Dad's bedside as he took his final breaths on this side of the resurrection. He lost the ability to speak a week prior to this moment, and now he was in the ICU, on a ventilator. We thought we were waiting for him to get better and here we were, facing the truth all of humanity faces at some point, death. Without the words of Jesus and the Church I would not have known the words to pray in this helpless circumstance. Over and over, repeating my prayer like a mantra, I prayed, "Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, your child, Ben." In between this repeated prayer, I spoke to Dad, "Go into Peace," remembering that on resurrection day, Jesus pronounces 'Peace' to his disciples (Jn 20:19).

"Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, your child, Ben... Go into Peace."

"Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, your child, Ben... Go into Peace."

"Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, your child, Ben... Go into Peace."

I thought I might be comforting my dying father, and strangely, I became aware that the Father was comforting me in my own suffering.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us the words to pray, even and especially from the cross.

In Christ's love,
+Benny