

Grace Notes

March 28, 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 28, 2021
Fifth Sunday in Lent

In-person Sunday Worship Service
8:00 & 11:00 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

Zoom Family Sunday School
is taking a break until after Easter.

Family Ministries

Youth & Children's Sunday Programming
Returning After Easter!

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 3/21/2021

In-person Worship Service: 83
Online Worship Service: 132 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 3/17-3/24 \$ 6,100

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!***

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	Eddie Jones	Chip Rivers
Amy	Maria King	Noah Robertson
Blake Baker	Walter Knopp	Donna Robinson
Kitty Brunjes	Ann Lassiter	James Rodgers
George Collins	Doug Mays	Judy Siebold
Clarke Cummings	Ariel McCabe	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Darcy	Linda McCabe	Mac Starke
Pat DiGiuseppe	Family of Margaret Merritt	Kent Stephens
Marie Dubel	Heather Meyer	Harry Studstill
Mildred Guthrie	Wally Meyers	Roger Swilley
Hank	Helen Morgan	Jim Teachey
Theresa Harrell	Millie Padgett	Maria Tyler
David Hash	Todd Paxton	Veteran Village
Ron Helms	Joan Penney	Martha Wofford
Heather Hoefer	Carolyn Pope	
Dick Hull	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

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

Do you enjoy landscaping? Are you looking for ways to serve Grace?

The Trustees want to establish a landscaping team to better beautify Grace's grounds. Everything from design to labor will be needed!

If you don't mind getting your hands dirty to beautify Grace, let us know your talent or gift!
 Contact Marvin Evans at GUMCTrustees1@gmail.com



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. The spoken responses, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed are back as part of 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

April Birthdays

4/2	Haley Olinger	4/11	Melissa Cline	4/18	Mary Showers	4/30	Ben Rasmussen
4/3	Julie Madison	4/12	Aline Hartis	4/19	Nancy Purdy		Amanda Sanborn
	Johanna Hamilton		Dianne Lynch		Marynell Ivey		Abrey Rose
	Lizzy Voulgaris	4/13	David Cooper	4/21	Treva McKoy		
4/5	Brenda Wolf		Brooke Stenerson		Bentley Powell		
4/6	Susan Atwell	4/14	Natalie Humphrey	4/22	John Glasgow		
4/7	Doug Myers	4/15	Marie Dubel		Sarah Fuller		
	Doug Terhune		Linda Wengard	4/24	George Edwards		
4/9	Jack Thomas	4/17	Grace Holcomb	4/25	Dan Hickman		
4/10	Linda Raim		Emily Moore	4/26	Jennifer Powell		
			Elizabeth Littlejohn				

Medical Leave

Debbie Ashe, Director of Operations, will be going on medical leave starting Wednesday, April 7. She will be out for a month for knee surgery and recovery.

Her email will be monitored. Please contact Marion Little for assistance.

We wish Debbie a successful surgery and a speedy recovery!

Thank You

Thank you, Grace family, for your support for Jean and me during my recent surgery. Your thoughts, prayers, cards, calls and emails always provide timely support when we need it most. We are blessed to be a part of such a caring church family.

Mac Starke

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!

Grace to Service Family Promise

Grace's next opportunity to serve Family Promise families is the two-week period of Sunday, April 25 - Sunday, May 9. Please mark your calendar and be ready to serve! You may cook, order food or give gift cards, all are appreciated!

Contact Jane Spicer for more information at jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910-622-1211.

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

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

Sunday, April 25 - Sunday, May 9 - **Serve Family Promise Participants**

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, 10:00 am - **In-Person Worship moves back to the sanctuary**