

# Grace Notes

March 7, 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 7, 2021  
**Third 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**

→→→→ **NEW TIME Sunday, 11:30 am** ←←←←

See article below for topics

Join Zoom Meeting each week using this link:

[https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?](https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09)

[pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09](https://zoom.us/j/97395961423?pwd=ZmxRdk8rSndiN2RrWnJPaHJqT2pSdz09)

#### **Family Ministries**

#### **Youth & Children's Sunday Programming Resumes!!**

**This Sunday, March 7, 4-5 pm**  
**Long Leaf Park, Picnic Shelter #5**

See details below



Facebook page:

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



#### **Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart**

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

### **Youth & Children's Sunday Programming Is Back!**

Starting this Sunday, March 7, Grace's Sunday afternoon music and Bible study will resume. We will be meeting at Long Leaf Park at Picnic Shelter 5 from 4-5 pm. All ages are invited but children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Mask must be worn by children 4 and up. Please make sure everyone has appropriate clothes and shoes to run and play outdoors.

Please bring a clearly marked water bottle or drink. If there is light rain we will meet under the shelter. In extreme weather conditions, please check Facebook, email and text notifications.

Miss Amanda is going to teach us about church music throughout history and around the world. We will play games as we learn about God's beautiful world and grow in grace. See you at the park!

### **HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?** (Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### **In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 2/21/2021**

In-person Worship Service: 58  
Online Worship Service: 98 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 2/24-3/3                      \$    26,900

**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 January

\*includes funding and expenses related to hurricane repairs

### **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](http://gracedowntown.net)) and select PayPal or Square (No Account needed) to make a payment.

### **Online Family Sunday School Series**

The class will look at the life of those who lived in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. From the language to the daily activities, you will step back in time to understand the world they knew. You will find many connections to our modern life and see how they lived through difficult times.

Using video and pictures, along with archaeological evidence, we will explore the places Jesus walked and see how they influence our life today. Please join us at 11 am on Sundays, January 31—March 7.

The course outline is below.

Week 6 - Sacred Spaces - Synagogues and Temples

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Abel Autrey	David Hash	Jason Powers
Blake Baker	Heather Hoefler	Jeffrey Powers
Chris Beahan	Dick Hull	Tammy Powers
Ann Booth	Donna Hunter	Chip Rivers
Robert Bowen	Larry Jennings	Noah Robertson
Kitty Brunjes	Eddie Jones	Donna Robinson
Laurie Cote	Walter Knopp	Jack Andre Settele
Clarke Cummings	June Knox	Judy Siebold
Marie Dubel	Doug Mays	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Kelly Duke	Ariel McCabe	Kent Stephens
Beth George	Linda McCabe	Roger Swilley
Kaye Gibbs	Margaret Merritt	Jim Teachey
Sid Goode	Wally Meyers	Veteran Village
Mildred Guthrie	Carolyn Pope	Mary Williams
Hank	Todd Paxton	

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 sandysmithgrace@gmail.com or 910-233-0310.

## Holy Week and Easter Services

Our Lenten journey is drawing closer to the events of Holy Week and the jubilation of Easter morning. Grace plans the following worship services this year.

### **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

Reservations for these services will be required. There will be separate reservation links for each service. The general public will be invited to attend these services. Grace members will be given access to register earlier than the general public, per this schedule:

#### 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 sunrise service on Easter.

It is suggested that you make your reservations when they open to make sure you have a seat.

These worship experiences are a vital part of understanding and celebrating the gift of our salvation through Jesus' sacrifice.

## 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.

## New Sermon Series Starts March 7

Pastor Tal starts a new sermon series this week entitled, "Belief vs. Fact".

What's the difference between the two?  
Why does it matter for our Christian journey?

Let's explore these questions together.

## Equal Exchange Coffee

The Missions Committee invites you to check out the Equal Exchange sales table in the Welcome Center, which displays coffee, tea and chocolate products. These items are available on a continuing basis.

Equal Exchange is a US co-op that provides small-scale farmer co-ops in many countries with fair trade prices for their products sold in the US. It also donates a portion of sales back to faith partners, such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

## Thank You GUMC Volunteers!

Grace members provided meals for 2 Family Promise families this past week at the Day Center! These are 2 single mothers, with their 9 children, who have entered the program because they are homeless. Families are given assistance with housing, financial and other counseling, and dinners provided by local churches. The mothers are either working or seeking a job.

Please thank the following generous chefs from Grace who donated their time and talents to this effort:

Beka Vaughan and family  
Leigh and Mike Mabee,  
Dianne and John Glasgow  
Catherine and Joe Beaman  
Judy and Darrell Davies  
Jessica Wilson and family.

In this time of pandemic, these folks provided 2 separate meals, since the families now eat in their own apartments for safety reasons. The hard-working mothers and their small children were very grateful!

Grace's next opportunity to serve Family Promise families is the two-week period of April 25-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](mailto:jdspicer@ec.rr.com) or 910-622-1211.

## Missions

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard** is still serving clients on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The number of people served has increased by 17% in the past year! More than 1500 new households have sought food and the average size of a households served has increased.

At this point, there is a **desperate need for cereal**, since it is not being offered in the government food this quarter and the Cupboard cannot buy in bulk due to restrictions on purchases at grocery stores. So it would be very helpful to have donations of boxes of cereal! If you would like to donate some cereal, you can leave it in a labelled bag in the Welcome Center at Grace and it will be delivered! Other donations are still welcome, but this is a current item VERY needed!

The Cupboard is very grateful to Grace and many other local churches who have been faithful supporters during this pandemic. Our neighbors are eating thanks to your generosity! God Bless them and you!

The items below are always welcome as the Cupboard continues to help those of our neighbors who to struggle to put healthy food on their tables.

- . brown rice
- . regular oatmeal
- . juice boxes
- . water
- . mac and cheese/rice-a-roni
- . toilet tissue
- . whole grain cereals
- . canned legume beans (navy, kidney, black)
- . healthy low sodium soups
- . bar soap

**ALSO**.....

- **Needed:** Paper bags with handles (grocery store type) in good condition. Plastic bags are not being used to hand out food at present.