

Grace Notes

May 16, 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

Sunday, May 16 - 7th Sunday of Easter

8:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
11:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
4:00 pm Youth & Children's Programming

Monday, May 17

9:00 pm Organist Practice/Sanctuary
6:30 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtg.
7:00 pm Board of Trustees

Tuesday, May 18

9:30 am KnitWerks@Grace/Bible Class Room
5:30 pm Boot Camp
6:30 pm Administrative Council

Wednesday, May 19

9:30 am UMW Leadership Team
11:00 am Yoga Class/Gym
7:00 pm Chancel Choir/Grace Ringers Zoom

Thursday, May 20

5:30 pm Boot Camp

Friday, May 21

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary

Sunday, May 23 - Day of Pentecost

8:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
11:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
4:00 pm Youth & Children's Programming

On-line Sunday Worship Services Continue

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

Facebook:

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

YouTube:

Link coming on Saturday

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>



Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart

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

Urgent Worship Needs

After over a year, the Grace Church family is back in our beautiful sanctuary for worship services. We need to reassemble some worship service teams and recruit new members.

It's time to reassemble the **Sound Team** and recruit some new members. Training is available. If you are interested in contributing your time to this vital ministry, please call Debbie Cole (910-233-0429) as soon as possible.

The **Usher Team** needs some new members to fill the slots for two services. Please contact Bob High (910-395-2430) if you are able to volunteer some of your time.

Thank you!

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 5/9/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 36
11:00 am - 116

Online Worship Service: 73 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 5/5 - 5/12 \$ 12,453

April

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 190,835

Operating Expenses YTD \$ 241,501

Balance \$ (50,666)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

April

Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD \$ 18,027

Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD \$ 8,250

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts \$ 62,048

Expenses to date 72,113

Apportionments are paid through April.

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.

New UMW Local Mission Needs Your Help

At the recent UMW zoom meeting, Gary Lauffer of the Hope Recuperative Care Home spoke of their program and some needs.

Hope Recuperative Care offers hospitality, help and healing to homeless neighbors who are medically ready to leave the hospital but have nowhere to call home. Guests rest and recuperate in a supportive, home-like environment. The goal is to assist guests in obtaining physical, emotional and spiritual health by creating lasting relationships through community.

These are frequently needed items:
Packages of new men's and women's underwear
New socks
Toiletry items
Cell phone chargers.

If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the Welcome Center and place in the UMW collection box.

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Debbie Ashe	Theresa Harrell	Family of Jeffrey Powers
Abel Autrey	David Hash	Tim Powers
Family of Barbara Barnes	Ron Helms	Tom Powers
Kitty Brunjes	Nancy Herring	James Rodgers
Andy Cable	Dick Hull	Family of Pat Rudicil
George Collins	Jessica	Mary Sloan
David Cooper	Eddie Jones	Sandee Murray Spradley
Tom Cunningham	Maria King	Shar Streeter
Darcy	Heather Meyer	Sandy Strickland
Family of Claude Davis	Wally Meyers	Jim Teachey
Pat DiGiuseppe	Helen Morgan	Veteran Village
Mildred Guthrie	Todd Paxton	Bobby Wilcox
David Elmer Hadley	Mike Penney	Deanna Williams
Hank	Carolyn Pope	

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.

Needed

The Trustees are in need of the following:

Riding lawnmower
Gas powered edger
Backpack leaf blower

Grace has several members who will begin caring for the lawn and plantings around our facility and this equipment will greatly facilitate that work.

If you or someone you know has this equipment and is willing to donate it to the church, please contact Marvin Evans at GUMCTrustees1@gmail.com

Thank you!

Boot Camp Is Back!!!!

***Tuesday & Thursday Each Week
5:30 pm***

The group will meet outside the church for COVID safety purposes. Inclement weather camps will be determined as needed.

Please contact April Lester (910-200-5960) for more information.

Let's Get Fit!!!

UMW Mission Project

Grace UMW's mission project this month will be the continuing support of the children of the school "Done in Love" in Haiti. Martha Worsley, our contact person in Wilmington and speaker at our April meeting, travels there yearly to teach sewing classes to both men and women.

UMW is collecting sewing supplies and used sewing machines for her next shipment the end of May. We will also be sending the dresses that have been completed thus far this year.

If you have items to donate, please put them in the UMW bin in the Welcome Center by Sunday, May 23.

The following is a list of the items Martha includes in her sewing kits:

- sewing shears
- cotton blend fabric
- medium or large spool of thread
- buttons
- needles in original packaging
- notions (trim, bias tape, zippers, etc.)

Graduation Basket

It is the custom at Grace to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors with a gift basket of items to help them start their college life. This year we have one graduate.



Grace Holcomb is the daughter of Mark and Amy Holcomb and the granddaughter of Jim and Bev Holcomb. She has been a part of this congregation since she was an infant and very active in the Youth Group. Grace will graduate from E.A. Laney High School on May 27.

Grace will be attending UNC-Greensboro in the fall and playing Division 1 Women's Golf for UNCG. She has been the recipient of several scholarships from UNCG and other sources.

The Nurture Committee has placed a basket decorated with UNCG colors in the Welcome Center. Some suggested items are towels, shower caddy, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, school supplies, microwave popcorn, gift cards (i.e. Walmart, Target, gas cards), or anything else you think would be helpful.

The basket will be presented to Grace the end of May. Let's support this member of our Grace Family as she starts the next great adventure.

Have you noticed? Can you feel it?

The excitement is building at Grace UMC!! We start worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary this Sunday, return to two services on May 9, the children and youth are meeting on Sunday afternoons, and mid-week gatherings will return on May 17. Before we know it, activities at Grace will be looking "normal".

Wouldn't you like to be a part of all this? Here is a way that you can participate during the week. The Welcome Center **reception desk group** is looking for a few new members for a half-day shift 1 or more times a month.



You answer phone calls, open the doors for members and visitors, and meet some interesting people. The schedule is flexible and you're welcome to read a book, solve a puzzle, do your knitting, etc. while you're here. It is easy and fun.

Please join us by contacting Marion Little at marion@gracedowntown.net or 910-763-5197 with your

Gentle Yoga Returns!

**Starting May 19, 2021
Every Wednesday, 11 am
Grace Gym**

The cost is \$5/class. To conform to Covid safety criteria, you must register ahead of time for the class.

If you are interested, please contact John Thompson at johniebrit1@gmail.com for details.

Holy Communion Offered on June 6

Grace will offer Holy Communion at both worship services on June 6.

The elements will be blessed at the end of each service. As the congregation exits the sanctuary, each person/family will be given a small bag containing the blessed elements to take home and use.

Pastor Tal



Sunday Security Volunteers Needed

As Grace anticipates moving back to the sanctuary for worship beginning May 9, it's time to re-activate the different teams that make that possible.

The Sunday Security Team is in urgent need of volunteers. These volunteers will perform routine security during both worship services and the Sunday School hour. This will be done in teams of two for each service.

Please contact Mitch Duncan (803-669-4357) or Bill Booth (919-612-7875) as soon as possible if you are interested in serving Grace in this way. Thank you.

Calling all knitters.....

KnitWerks is coming back! From beginners to advanced knitters, come join us as we work on prayer shawls to be given to those who need comfort.

**KnitWerks@Grace
May 18, 9:30 am**

We'll meet in the Bible Class room if there are less than 8 or the gym if we have a bigger group. Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.



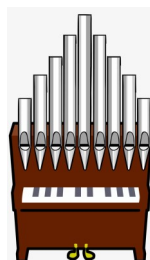
Please call Marie Allison, 910-675-0612, to make a reservation so the meeting place can be set up.

Come Join in the Fellowship!

Grace Hires New Organist

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that after a successful search, a new organist has been hired for Grace. She will be formally introduced to the church on Sunday, June 6 at both worship services. Her first day of employment is June 1.

We look forward to having her as a part of the Music Ministries of Grace.



Soli Deo Gloria
(To God Alone Be the Glory)

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.

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

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

New Re-Opening Information

Upon the recommendation of the Worship Committee and the Covid Task Force, the Administrative Council of Grace UMC has approved the following steps to re-open Grace.

Worship

- ◆ Starting Sunday, May 9, Grace will return to two services, 8:30 am and 11:00 am.

All the current covid safety measures will still be in place, including:

- ◆ Registration each week between Monday, 10 am and Thursday 12 noon
- ◆ Seats will be assigned (please understand, you probably won't get your "regular" seat)
- ◆ Masks must be worn in the building
- ◆ You will check in and be shown to your seat
- ◆ Attendance will be capped at 100 per service.
- ◆ No shared food or drink will be served as part of covid safety.

Additionally, the following parameters start May 2:

- ◆ You may enter either side of the Welcome Center (allowing easy access from the bank parking lot)
- ◆ Cleaning between services will consist of sanitizing high-touch surfaces
- ◆ It has been discovered that the air system in the sanctuary turns the air over as efficiently as that in the Bullock Activity Center. This helps with virus safety.

Mid-Week Groups

- ◆ In-person mid-week groups may resume at Grace starting Monday, May 17.
- ◆ Masks must be worn inside the building and social distancing followed.
- ◆ No shared food or drink will be served as part of covid safety.
- ◆ ALL meetings must be scheduled in advance through Debbie Ashe (Debbie@gracedowntown.net or Marion Little (marion@gracedowntown.net). This will prevent double booking of spaces.
- ◆ Attendance is limited to 30 in the gym and 8 in the Bible Class room
- ◆ Each group is responsible for devising its own method of registration to ensure that attendance limits are followed.
- ◆ A list of all those in attendance, plus contact information for each, must be turned in to the office immediately following the gathering.
- ◆ Each group must wipe down high-touch areas before and after the gathering (supplies provided by the church)

Sunday School

Pastor Tal will soon meet with the Adult Sunday School Class teachers to draw up a plan for the re-opening of Adult Sunday School.