

Grace Notes

May 23, 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 23 - Day of Pentecost

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

Monday, May 24

9:00 pm Organist Practice/Sanctuary

Tuesday, May 25

5:30 pm Boot Camp

Wednesday, May 26

10:00 am Staff Meeting
11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class/Gym
2:30 pm DiGiuseppe Memorial Service/Sanctuary
7:00 pm Chancel Choir/Grace Ringers Zoom

Thursday, May 27

5:30 pm Boot Camp

Friday, May 28

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary

Sunday, May 30 - Trinity Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
11:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary

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>

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.



HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 5/16/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 20
11:00 am - 98

Online Worship Service: 67 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 5/12 - 5/19 \$ 10,422

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:

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

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

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.

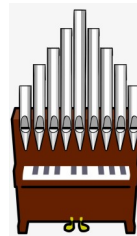
Pastor Tal



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)

Grace Scholarships 2021



The Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications through June 13, 2021. If you are an active member of Grace UMC, you are eligible to apply.

If you are interested in applying, please send an email to

scholarships@gracedowntown.net

You will be sent a link to fill out the Grace UMC Scholarship application in Google.

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.

Sound Assistance Devices

Now that worship services have returned to the sanctuary, personal, sound assistance devices are again available from the ushers. If you want to use one of these devices, please tell an usher when you arrive.

Thank You!

Many thanks to those who helped feed the homeless families in the Family Promise program April 25- May 8! The families were greatly appreciative of your efforts. Bill and Emily Booth shared their experience of delivering the dinner, only to be flagged down by one little girl who ran to their car and simply said, "THANK YOU!"

The following people made or bought and delivered a meal: Beka Vaughan (and family), Catherine Beaman, Jessica Wilson, Jane Spicer, Bill and Emily Booth, and Leigh Mabee.

Gift cards for folks to buy food to cook or to buy a restaurant meal were given by Judy and Darrell Davies, Susan and Gary Atwell and Cindy Henry.

Many thanks to all of these generous folks! With Grace's partners from St Paul's Episcopal, we fed two families totaling 10 people, for two weeks!

If you missed the opportunity to help out this time, Grace will be participating again the week of July 25-31. Please let me know the date you pick! You just might get your own personal "thank you"!

Thanks in advance for sharing your time, talents and money in this way! Jane Spicer 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.

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.

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!!!

Grace Name Tags

Everyone is reminded to please wear your Grace name tags on Sunday mornings. The tags are hanging on the hooks outside the sanctuary.

If you don't have a name tag or need a new one, please fill out the tear-off on the top of the next page and place it in the offering plate.

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!

LOOKING AHEAD AT GRACE

June 16 thru 19 - **NCCUMC, General Conference**

August 8 thru 12 - **Grace UMC Vacation Bible School**

Sunday, August 15 - **VBS Sunday**

Saturday, September 11 - **Annual Chancel Choir Retreat**

New COVID Guidelines for Grace UMC

At its May 18, 2021 meeting, the Administrative Council of Grace UMC, upon recommendation of Grace's Covid19 Task Force, voted to relax some of its worship restrictions as outlined below. Any safety guidelines not specifically mentioned below are still in place. We believe these decisions are in compliance with recent recommendations from the CDC and with Governor Cooper's statement about dropping mask and social distancing mandates for vaccinated people in most environments. These new measures go into effect this Sunday, May 23.

- Masks will be optional for fully vaccinated people at the 11am service (fully vaccinated means two weeks after receiving the second dose). Those who are not fully vaccinated are welcome to come to the 11am service, but will be expected to wear a mask. Folks who are fully vaccinated yet are more comfortable continuing to wear a mask at the 11 am service are welcome to do so.
- All attendees at the 8:30 am service are expected to wear masks; even those who are fully vaccinated. Rationale: some have chosen not to be vaccinated; children and youth have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Expecting masks to be worn at 8:30 would provide them a safe place for fellowship and worship. Expecting even fully vaccinated people to wear a mask at the 8:30 service is an extending of grace to our unvaccinated children, youth, their parents and to all our sisters and brothers not yet at ease being in an mask-free environment; it is part of our effort to "watch over one another in love."
- Not knowing who has and hasn't been vaccinated, all this would be done on the honor system.
- No registration for either service; no attendance limit for either service.
- No assigned seats, but self-regulated social distancing will be encouraged at the 8:30 service.
- Children will still be asked to wear masks when taking part in the children's ministry activities.
- Group singing will not be included in the worship services at this point. We are waiting on the CDC and other groups with expertise in health and science to guide us.

Mid-Week Groups:

- They are under the same guidelines as the 11 am worship service.
- Masks optional for those fully vaccinated, masks expected for those who are not.
- Those who are fully vaccinated and feel comfortable wearing a mask may do so.
- No registration required.
- No attendance limits for mid-week groups.
- Mid-week groups will be allowed to use only the Bullock Activity Center (gym) or the Bible Study Room.