

Grace Notes

May 2, 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 2 - 5th Sunday of Easter

10:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary
4:00 pm Youth & Children's Programming

Monday, May 3

7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision Mtg. Zoom

Tuesday, May 4

10:30 am Zoom United Methodist Women
5:30 pm Boot Camp

Thursday, May 6

5:30 pm Boot Camp

Sunday, May 9 - 6th Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

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/gumcwillmington>

YouTube:

Link coming on Saturday

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>

Link to 2021 Altar Flower Chart

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



Family Ministries News!

Youth and Children's Sunday afternoon gatherings are moving back to Grace. We will meet on May 2, (break for Mother's Day, May 9), May 16, and then have our end-of-year party on May 23. Then we will have summer break.

This time together includes music with Miss Amanda and a Bible study and game time with Miss Kelley.

We can't wait to see everyone!

Children's Church will resume on Sunday, May 9, during both services. Children ages 3-8 are invited to join us for games, crafts, and Bible time.

Children will sit with their families during the beginning of the service, then after the children's moment, they will be called to leave for Children's Church. They need to wear a mask and **pre-register** when your family signs up for services.

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.

HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 4/25/2021

In-person Worship Service: 10:00 am - 79
Online Worship Service: 117 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 4/21- 4/28 \$ 7,105

March

Operating Funds Given YTD \$ 150,848
Operating Expenses YTD \$ 185,647
Balance \$ (34,799)

2021 Operating Budget = \$ 754,879

March

Building Preservation Fund Received 2021 YTD \$ 14,190
Building Preservation Fund Spent 2021 YTD \$ 8,250

Disaster Recovery (Boiler)

Insurance Receipts \$ 62,048
Expenses to date 8,825

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.

Urgent Worship Needs

After over a year, Grace is returning to our beautiful sanctuary for worship services starting today at 10 am, and will resume regular 8:30 am and 11:00 am services next week.

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!

Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

Amanda	David Hash	Tom Powers
Debbie Ashe	Ron Helms	Noah Robertson
Abel Autrey	Dick Hull	Pete Robinson
Joyce & Gary Blauvelt	Donna lamucelu	James Rodgers
Kitty Brunjes	Barbara Jackson	Pat Rudicil
Andy Cable	Jessica	Sandee Murray Spradley
George Collins	Eddie Jones	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Clarke Cummings	Maria King	Shar Streeter
Darcy	Walter Knopp	Sandy Strickland
Pat DiGiuseppe	Anne Lewis	Family of Harry Studstill
Family of Steven DiGiuseppe	Heather Meyer	Family of Roger Swilley
David Elmer	Wally Meyers	Jim Teachey
Family, Colleagues and Students of Jessica Embry	Helen Morgan	Veteran Village
Mildred Guthrie	Millie Padgett	Family of Joseph Wengard
David Hadley	Todd Paxton	Bobby Wilcox
Hank	Mike Penney	Deanna Williams
Theresa Harrell	Carolyn Pope	
	Jeffrey Powers	
	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
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.)



**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 name and contact information. Mary Cole, who coordinates this team, will contact you to set up a training session. Come join the team!

United Methodist Women

**Tuesday, May 4, 10:30 am
On Zoom**

The speaker for our last Zoom meeting will be Gary Lauffer of the Hope Recuperative Care with an update of their work.

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. Their goal is to assist guests in obtaining physical, emotional and spiritual health by creating lasting relationships through community. Mr. Lauffer was scheduled to talk to the UMW members a month or so ago, but technical problems prevented that meeting.

The link will be provided this Saturday. All are welcome to join us.

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.

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.

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!

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.

May Birthdays

5/1 Chuck McCarthy
Gary Atwell
Frank Henry
5/2 Ben Steelman
5/4 Emma Walsh
5/7 April Lester
5/8 Wayne Blalock

5/11 Bob Hardyman
Brooke Baldrige
Jan Allen
5/12 Debbie Cole
Sally Barnes
5/13 Marion Little
Vicki Alexander
5/16 Barry Hartzell
John Thompson

5/17 David Russ
5/18 Elizabeth Hyde
Laurie Burrous
5/19 Frances Walters
5/24 Laura Patterson
Ernie Allen
5/25 James Ross
Gene Patton

5/27 Darlene Troup
5/29 Valoree Shinn
5/30 Jamie High

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

- ◆ In-person worship will return to the sanctuary starting Sunday, May 2, 10:00 am
- ◆ 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.

Missions

Grace Serving Family Promise - As the pandemic continues, Family Promise is still helping families who are homeless through their Day Center. Grace is continuing to fulfill its obligation of helping by providing meals to the families. Meals are taken to the Day Center and left in a cooler labelled for each family.

If you would like to help with providing dinner one night (between 5:30 and 6pm) during the weeks of April 25-May 9, please let me know! You may also give a coupon or provide funds so they can purchase their own food (gift cards to Food Lion work well) or send a delivery from a restaurant to them.

Thanks in advance for showing God's love to these families struggling to find a stable home! Please let me know if you have questions or want to help!

Jane Spicer

jdspicer@ec.rr.com or 910 622-1211

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