

# Grace Notes

May 30, 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 30 - Trinity Sunday

8:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary

11:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary

#### Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day

**Church Office Closed**

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary

#### Tuesday, June 1

10:30 am United Methodist Women/Gym

5:30 pm Boot Camp

#### Wednesday, June 2

11:00 am Gentle Yoga Class/Gym

7:00 pm Chancel Choir/Grace Ringers Zoom

#### Thursday, June 3

5:30 pm Boot Camp

#### Friday, June 4

9:00 am Organist Practice/Sanctuary

#### Sunday, June 6

8:30 am Worship Service/Sanctuary

11:00 am Worship Service/Sanctuary

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### 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>

### Grant Awarded

Grace UMC submitted an application to the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for a COVID-19 Response Grant. Our application was approved and a grant was awarded in the amount of \$29,300.

This week we received \$17,700 of that total. The remainder will be paid over the next three months.

Because of your faithful giving, Grace was able to receive this grant, through the apportionment system, to assist us during the pandemic. The apportionment system is still funding other ministries around the world.

### 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



### HOW ARE WE DOING ON OUR MEMBERSHIP VOWS?

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 5/23/2021

In-person Worship Service: 8:30 am - 33

11:00 am - 102

Online Worship Service: 103 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 5/19- 5/26	\$	7,227
Grant Received from NCCUMC	\$	17,700

#### 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.



### United Methodist Women

Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 10:30 am

**In-Person Gathering!!!!**

Bullock Activity Center

The last meeting of this program year will give us the opportunity to see everyone in person!

Kelley Ahlers will bring us an uplifting message and Don Bowers will bring us joyful music. UMW pins for outstanding persons will be awarded, too.

If you are fully vaccinated, masks are optional. No reservations are needed. Current Grace COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. No food will be served, but you are welcome to bring your own coffee, tea or other beverage.

**Let's celebrate the wonderful fellowship and love we all share for one another!**

### 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](mailto:scholarships@gracedowntown.net)



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

## Prayer Requests

Remember: Prayer Vigil daily at 12:00 noon

Please pray for comfort and healing for the following people:

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

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.

### 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.

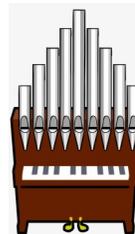
It's time to reassemble the **Sound Team** and recruit some new members. Training is available. If you are interested in contributing your time to this vital ministry, please call Debbie Cole (910-233-0429) as soon as possible.

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.

### 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)

### 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

## The Beauty of Grace Team

A very dedicated group of church members has volunteered to restore and revitalize the lawns and gardens at Grace! You may have noticed new flower pots, new gardens, new flowers and plants, and a cleaner exterior! The Grace Street sidewalk has been cleared of accumulated leaves and will soon be pressure washed. All at no cost to Grace!

The team wishes to express extreme gratitude for the contributions of lawn care equipment (trimmer, edger, blower, and soon, a riding lawn mower), plants, flowers, top soil, and monetary donations! Everything goes into making our Lord's house, "the church with the beautiful gardens!" The beauty of Grace is not only in our church, it is in our members!

There is still room for more flowers and plants! The Beauty of Grace team is looking for volunteers for an "Adopt-A-Spot" program, where groups, Sunday School classes, families or individuals can select a small area of our church that they want tend and add their special touch.

If you are a gardener and have plantings from your home that you would like to see in the gardens of Grace, contact Karen Evans or Sally Barnes. (You can send an email to [gumctrustees1@gmail.com](mailto:gumctrustees1@gmail.com) and they will forward your message to Karen and Sally).

Moving forward - we have started a lawn treatment program that will, after a little time, provide us with a green and healthy lawn. Non-thriving plants and shrubs will be replaced and mulch beds replenished as resources allow. The Historical Site sign on Grace Street will be restored and the Worship times sign on 4th Street will be updated.

Thank you all, from the *Beauty of Grace* team!



### June Birthdays

6/1	Matt Hale Lydia Vaughan Kent Stephens	6/9	Gary Rowe Andrew Coggins Marvin Evans	6/16	Carl Humphrey	6/27	Alma Fennell Edna Mory
6/2	Aaron Moore Larry Phipps	6/10	Ray Lester Olivia Riddle	6/17	Karen Hull	6/28	Helen Lehmann Ashley Lindsey
6/3	Margaret Batchelor	6/11	David Walsh	6/19	Bob Henard	6/29	George Collins Tiffany Irby
6/4	Stephanie Christy Frank Michaels	6/12	Cash Inman Annie Daniel	6/22	Anna Fisher Ball Julie Crow Linda Pfister Janet Keenan		
6/5	Jerry Smith	6/14	Sarah O'Brien Owen Coggins	6/23	Linda Snider		
6/6	Russell Ipock	6/15	Jim Tyndall Linda Pyle	6/24	Diane Woodbury Hope Inman Kelsey Winggi		
6/7	Carol Musselwhite		Zack Maroules	6/25	Morris Allison		
6/8	Cooper Stenerson Tal Madison		Joeli Banks	6/26	Mary Sloan		

### North Carolina Conference and Southeastern Jurisdiction News

Four of the 13 bishops in the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church will retire this September 1. Since Jurisdictional Conference will not have met to elect new bishops, it has been decided by the Council of Bishops that several of the bishops will oversee two conferences at the same time until new bishops are elected and appointed.

One of the bishops retiring is our own Bishop Hope Morgan Ward. Bishop Leonard Fairley will continue to oversee his current charge, the Kentucky Annual Conference, while also serving the NC Annual Conference. Bishop Fairley was raised in North Carolina, graduated from Duke Divinity School, and pastored churches in this conference before being elected as bishop. He knows this conference well. We look forward to his presence and ministry among us.

#### **General Conference News:**

General Conference is the highest decision making body in the United Methodist denomination. It meets every four years. It is comprised of about 1000 delegates, equal number of lay and clergy, from around the world. All UM bishops have voice at General Conference, but they do not vote.

The last scheduled meeting was to be in 2020. The pandemic caused it to be rescheduled for 2021. It is now slated to happen in 2022 (Aug 28 - Sept 6) in Minneapolis. Do be in prayer for this conference as it draws near.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:marion@gracedowntown.net)  
Thanks!

## 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 household 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 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.

## Current 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.