

# Grace Notes

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

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

#### **Monday, May 10**

6:30 pm Finance Committee

#### **Tuesday, May 11**

5:30 pm Boot Camp  
6:00 pm Staff Parish Relations Committee

#### **Wednesday, May 12**

10:00 am Staff Meeting  
4:30 am Worship Committee Meeting

#### **Thursday, May 13**

5:30 pm Boot Camp

#### **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

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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/gumcwillmington>

YouTube:

[Link coming on Saturday](#)

Grace's website:

<https://gracedowntown.church/>



### 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!

### 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!

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

(Prayers, Presence, Gifts, and Service)

#### In-person & Online Attendance & Offering for 5/2/2021

In-person Worship Service: 10:00 am - 83  
Online Worship Service: 90 views on YouTube

Operating Funds Given 4/28- 5/5                      \$     11,814

#### 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](http://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 or 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:

Amanda	Hank	Family of Jeffrey Powers
Debbie Ashe	Theresa Harrell	Tim Powers
Abel Autrey	David Hash	Tom Powers
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
Clarke Cummings	Eddie Jones	Vicki Stanfield-Switzer
Darcy	Maria King	Shar Streeter
Pat DiGiuseppe	Anne Lewis	Sandy Strickland
Family of Steven	Heather Meyer	Jim Teachey
DiGiuseppe	Wally Meyers	Veteran Village
David Elmer	Helen Morgan	Bobby Wilcox
Family, Colleagues and	Millie Padgett	Deanna Williams
Students of Jessica Embry	Todd Paxton	
Mildred Guthrie	Mike Penney	
David Elmer Hadley	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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:marion@gracedowntown.net) or 910-763-5197 with your

**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!***

**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](mailto:johniebrit1@gmail.com) for details.

**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.

**May Birthdays**

5/1	Chuck McCarthy	5/11	Bob Hardyman	5/17	David Russ	5/27	Darlene Troup
	Gary Atwell		Brooke Baldrige	5/18	Elizabeth Hyde	5/29	Valoree Shinn
	Frank Henry		Jan Allen		Laurie Burrous	5/30	Jamie High
5/2	Ben Steelman	5/12	Debbie Cole	5/19	Frances Walters		
5/4	Emma Walsh		Sally Barnes	5/24	Laura Patterson		
5/7	April Lester	5/13	Marion Little		Ernie Allen		
5/8	Wayne Blalock		Vicki Alexander	5/25	James Ross		
		5/16	Barry Hartzell		Gene Patton		
			John Thompson				

## **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.