

Entrance

Gathering

*Call to Worship

Let praise to God resound in the heavens!

Let praise to God fill the earth!

Let all God's angels offer praise and rejoicing!

Let all God's creatures sing praise and joy!

Open your hearts and spirits today.

Let us praise the Lord today and always!

*Opening Prayer

Gracious and Loving God, we are grateful that you have called us together this day, drawing us from darkness to the glory of your light. May our spirits rejoice at the good news you have for us today. Open our hearts to your healing love, for we ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.

*Hymn *Blessed Assurance – Hymn 369*

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Illumination

O Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, so that we may all hear with joy what you have to say to us today. Amen.

Scripture Reading – *Revelation 21:1-6* Mindy Wilder

Sermon *Patient Endurance* Mark Gustafson

*Affirmation of our Faith from Romans *Page 887*

*Gloria Patri *Page 70*

*Passing the Peace

Offering / *Soon and Very Soon*

UMCers

*Doxology

Page 95

Announcements, Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

*Hymn *Victory in Jesus – Hymn 370*

Sending Forth

*Benediction / Going Forth

Happy Birthday to Tiina Mundy (1/28), Emma Melvin (1/30), Kathy Taylor (1/31), Freeman Taylor (2/1), and Mordekai Barfield (2/2)!

We pray today for Darria Parker, Johnna Prevatte, Arlanda Pridgen, Patricia Watkins, and Brittany West-Kelly at Elizabethtown Primary School.

The cover art is given to the glory of God by Tori Allen.

To give flowers to the glory of God and in honor or memory of someone, please let Mark know or sign up online.

Rev. Mark Gustafson, Pastor
919-931-9783

Randy Page, Accompanist
910-876-1075

Announcements:

The Lancaster family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to their Grace UMC family for all of the love and care shown to them during their grieving for their beloved Tryon Lancaster.

Please let Gary or I know if you're interested in serving on our Building Committee; we meet to discuss on Wednesday.

SPRC Meeting: Wednesday, January 31, 7 p.m. at Bethlehem/zoom.

Called Administrative Council Meeting to discuss possibility of Grace merging with Clarkton: Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m. at the library.

Announcements (continued):

Next Sunday is 1st Food Sunday! We will be blessing East Bladen High School with deodorant, dental hygiene and feminine products. They are also requesting generic neck sweaters, tee shirts, socks and sweatpants. Please bring donations to the church next Sunday!

Saturday, February 10, 5:30-8 pm: Pastalinis Italian Restaurant at Live Oak. Come and eat as well – live music with Howard Faircloth! You may contact me or Karen Valenzuela for reservations for every half hour from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. We will need volunteers and donations: Use the following QR code to volunteer:



Please plan to participate in our Lent study, which will be on *Simon-Peter* by Adam Hamilton. I will preach from the study each Sunday in Lent and then we will meet on Monday nights at 7 p.m. to discuss. You may purchase the book and begin reading, as we will cover 1 chapter per week. This will start on Monday, February 19 at Bethlehem UMC and via zoom.

Note: We are working on increasing our online visibility. Thank you to Jessica Lopez and Lauren Sasser for volunteering to help in this arena! Anytime you see any posts from our church, please like, comment and/or share. It helps! Thank you!

The BLOG (Bethlehem /Live Oak/ Grace) Prayer List:

Mentioned 12/31/2023: Laura Gustafson, all those sick during these winter months.

Mentioned 1/7/2024: Melanie Wohlford, Barry Wohlford, Cathy Butler and Annette Meares; Wanda Stone; Julie Smith.

Mentioned 1/14/2024: Those affected by the winter storms; Those affected by the school shooting in Perry, Iowa; Those affected by the earthquake in Japan; Pat Taylor; Earl Pate; Alice, friend of Cindy Coble; Thomas Crinn; Chicky and Janice Robbins; Susan Fisher; Betty Tatum; Paulette McDuffie; Debbie Harris; Susan Richardson-Price; the family and friends of Kelly Gray Smith, Harold Strickland, Bill Shell, Patti Carmody.

Mentioned 1/21/2024: Destone Merritt; Betty Davis; Joe's wife (Joe is a resident at Crossroads); Betty Joyce Blackman; Patty Scotten; Jonnie Moore; Laci Buffkin; the family and friends of Amira Johnson, two unnamed, separate, families losing a teenager and baby this past week.

Prayers this week: Faye Richardson; Beth Nance; Sylvia Wilson; Joy Grady and family; Freeman Taylor and family; Terry & Karen McPhail; Matthew Krause; Jacob Chavis; Cole Fisher; Harold Sasser; Billy & Stella Cain.

Grace United Methodist Church

January 28, 2024

***4th Sunday after Epiphany
Worship Service 8:30 am***

Our Mission

***To become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.***

Our Vision

***We welcome everyone into the experience
of a different story!***

