

# Grace United Methodist Church

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 22, 2018

### Grace United Methodist Church Presents “Awakening” in Celebration of the Season of Lent

*One Church – 3 Nights – 3 Speakers - An inspirational community event.*

**Wilmington, NC** – Grace United Methodist Church is excited to announce its special Lenten Worship event, to be held on Tuesday, March 6, Wednesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 8. All services begin at 7 p.m. and a nursery will be provided.

Be re-inspired and reconnected this holy season! In keeping with the theme of the season of Lent, these informal, relaxed worship services will encourage us to “awaken” to the Spirit of God that calls us forward. There will be a different preacher each evening.

**Tuesday, March 6:** Rev. Eddie Hill, pastor of Sharon UMC, Holden Beach. Under Eddie’s 14-year leadership, Sharon has grown in ministry and size tremendously.

**Wednesday, March 7:** Rev. Richard Stone, pastor of Village Point UMC, Shallotte. Richard previously served as Senior Pastor at Kitty Hawk UMC, the largest UM church on the Outer Banks. He also served as District Superintendent of the Elizabeth City district.

**Thursday, March 8:** Rev. Skip Williams, pastor of Hampstead UMC. Under Skip’s guidance, this congregation is now adding to its facilities to house their expanding ministry.

**Inspirational music will be a part of each Awakening service.** The Chancel choir members will lead the congregational singing, provide an uplifting anthem each evening and offer inspiring solos. Worshipful piano and organ duets are to be shared by pianist Edna Mory and organist Judy Siebold. Beloved hymns will be sung by the congregation as each night congregants are able to request their favorite hymns.

On the last night of our Awakening services (March 8), we will have a **Service of Healing and Peace**. This is not like the healing services viewers see on television. God makes no promise that we will be spared suffering, but he does promise to sustain us in our hard moments. When we awaken to the promise, we live assured of God’s presence in the midst of our pain and sickness. This gives us peace.

In the United Methodist Book of Worship’s introduction to the services of healing we read, “God does not promise that we will be cured of all illness... A Service of Healing is not necessarily a service of curing, but it provides an atmosphere in which healing can happen. The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God. When this happens, physical healing sometimes occurs, mental and emotional balance is often restored, spiritual health is enhanced, and relationships are healed.”

During the last hymn, all are invited to come forward where a small amount of oil will be placed on your forehead, followed by a brief prayer that will be offered over you.

**A love offering** will be received at each of the three Awakening services to bless the preachers who come to share with us. The offering over the three evenings will be divided three ways and given to them as an honorarium. Make your checks payable to Grace UMC and designate them "Awakening."

**About Grace United Methodist Church:** Established in 1797, Grace United Methodist Church in downtown Wilmington, continues to draw people to Christ, nourish their spirits, and prepare them for service to God, the Church, and the world. Grace draws a wonderful crown of diverse Christians who come together to worship each Sunday morning. We offer worship services, Sunday school, youth groups, and more!