

Grace United Methodist Church

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grace United Methodist Church Presents 2nd Annual Cinderella's Closet

Making Dreams Happen One Dress at a Time.

Wilmington, NC – Grace United Methodist Church is excited to announce its 2nd Annual Cinderella's Closet ministry. Originally started in Kentucky by Immanuel Methodist Church, Grace began a Wilmington branch that launched in 2017. Grace collects gently used formalwear, shoes, and accessories from the community and, during a "shopping day," high school girls in the area who may not have the resources to afford prom come and find the dress of their dreams. While at Grace, they are given a personal shopper; provided fully catered food; outfitted with accessories and shoes; and provided with a seamstress on hand to ensure the dress is tailored to them. This year, there are two dates for appointments - March 17 and April 21. The event is appointment-based only – no walk-ins. Participants can email cinderellasclosetilm@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

Since launching Cinderella's Closet, there has been an outpouring of support from the community. In its inaugural year, Grace helped five New Hanover County high schools and 30 girls. Grace received more than 700 dresses with two local boutiques donating numerous dresses still with tags and one private school conducting a dress drive that brought in 55 dresses. e.l.f. cosmetics donated 500 pounds of makeup and Queensboro Shirt Company donated bags for the girls to take their goods home in. This year, the "I Support the Girls" Southeastern North Carolina chapter is working with Soma Intimates to provide the appropriate undergarments for the girls to take home.

Through Cinderella's Closet, Grace has been able to engage people who live in Wilmington but have never before entered the doors of our church. Grace is honored to be able to take a moment in their life that is so important to a young girl, one that they will always remember and tell them that at Grace UMC we are here to help them through their life, wherever that life takes them, and remind them that God made them beautiful inside and out. For a high school girl in today's world – this message has a lot of power. And it all starts with a dress. Stay connected to Cinderella's Closet at <https://www.facebook.com/cinderellasclosetwilmington/>

About Grace United Methodist Church: Established in 1797, Grace United Methodist Church located 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!