

Sunday Worship Celebration

September 17, 2023

*“The Lord is our God;
his commands are for
all the world.”*

I Chronicles 16: 14

The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.

Groce United Methodist Church

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Rev. Jill Rhinehart - Pastor

Joel Matthews - Music Director/Organist

Debbie Ross - Handbell Director

Gayle Decker - Administrator/Treasurer

Veronica Bagwell - Secretary

*** Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

Nancy Lewis - Piano

“Blessed Assurance”

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Rhinehart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rocky Redd

Leader: Children of God, when we face strife, upset, and harm in our midst, we so often turn to God and ask:

People: How many times should I forgive?

Leader: When Jesus answers that we should forgive again and again and again, we are tempted to repeat the question:

People: How many times should I forgive?

Leader: Until God turns the question around: “How many times have I forgiven you?”

People: Seventy times seven.

Leader: “How many times have I loved you?”

People: Seventy times seven.

Leader: “How many times has my grace been sufficient for you?”

People: Seventy times seven.

Leader: Let us learn, then, how to forgive not out of our own power, but out of God’s, who forgives us that we might be free to learn to live with one another well.

People: AMEN.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2023

*OPENING HYMN # 402

“Lord I Want to be a Christian”

*OPENING PRAYER

Jill Rhinehart

We Give You Thanks. We give you thanks, O Lord, we call on your name. We will make known your deeds among the peoples. We’ll sing to you, we’ll sing praises to you; we’ll tell of all your wonderful works. We glory in your holy name; let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice. We seek you, Lord, and your strength; and your presence continually. We remember the wonderful works you have done, your miracles, and the judgments you uttered. You are the Lord our God; your judgments are in all the earth. AMEN and AMEN.

Written by Tony Peterson, *The Africana Worship Book, Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Ministries, 2006), 93.*

ANTHEM

Ringing God's Praise

"Holy, Holy, Holy"
"More Love to Thee"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rocky Redd

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35
NRSV New Testament page 20

MESSAGE

"How Many Times?"

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS

Ushers will come forward

OFFERTORY

Nancy Lewis - Piano

"Jesus, Draw Me Close"
Arr. C. Tornquist

DOXOLOGY

*CLOSING HYMN # 327

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE

Nancy Lewis - Piano

"Majesty, Worship His Majesty"
Arr. Joel Matthews

Our service of worship has ended.

Now our worship through service begins.

Announcements

The Flowers on the Altar - are dedicated to the glory of God and given by **Will & Michelle Troxell** in loving memory of their sons **Dean, Brian, and Adam.**

Sunday's Ushers - Thank you to our Ushers! (8:30) **Jane Williams, Michelle Troxell** (11:00) **Bob Barcafer, Mike Lamb, Jerry Kirschner, True Morse**

Hawaii Disaster Fund - For the next several weeks we will be collecting money that will go thru UMCOR to help with the relief for the people in Hawaii who have been devastated by the wild fires. Please mark your special envelope or check (**FOR HAWAII**) so those funds will go to the right place.

Meeting Reminders:

- **Outreach** - will meet **tomorrow, September 18, at 6pm** in the Jack Bass Classroom.
- **Sarah Circle** - will meet this **Wednesday, September 20, at 4pm** in Asbury Lobby.
- **Nominations Committee** - will meet this **Wednesday, September 20, at 6pm** in the Jack Bass Classroom.
- **Miriam Circle** - will **NOT** meet this month.

Pallet Donations - The Pumpkin Patch is coming soon! As we are locally sourcing our pumpkins this year, we would like to keep the number of rotten pumpkins down to a minimum. As such, we will be using wooden pallets for our patch. If you have any wooden pallets that you would like to donate, **please call Gail Sherman at (828)298-5106 or Jane Williams at (828)400-3928.**

Blessing Box Sunday! - This Sunday is the third Sunday of the month which means it is Blessing Box Sunday once again! Your wonderful donations are greatly appreciated by those in need in our community.

Youth! - The Youth group is back today, **September 17!** If you would like your child to be apart of the Church's Youth program, meet here at the church at **2:30pm** to head over to the Launch Trampoline Park. Dinner will follow.

Groce Family Meeting - Our 3rd Church Family meeting of 2023 will occur in Asbury Hall from **6-7:30 on September 19th.** District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Ralls, will join us to talk about the direction of the United Methodist Church and to answer questions. The meeting will begin with fellowship, refreshments and dessert.

Newsletter - If you or your group would like to have an event or announcement advertised in next month's Newsletter, please submit a brief description to Veronica **no later than Thursday, September 21.** veronicab@groceumc.org

Pumpkin Unloading - Our pumpkins, locally sourced from Bryson City, will be arriving on **Sunday, October 1, between noon and 1pm** and we need your help! Come to church for worship and stick around for lunch and community service. The UMMen will provide pizza and the Sarah Circle will provide lemonade. Come dressed to help us kick start this wonderful season of ministry!