

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent



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
954 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC, 28805
(828) 298-7647
Fax: (828) 299-8780
Email: gumcadmin@groceumc.org
Website: www.groceumc.org

Jill Rhinehart - Pastor
Joel Matthews - Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross - Handbell Director
Gayle Decker - Administrator
Veronica Bagwell - Secretary
Tammy Peek - Custodian

Sunday Worship Celebration

December 1, 2024

* Where indicated, stand if you are able.

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

“In The Bleak Mid Winter”
Arr. Joel Matthews

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Rhinehart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rocky Redd

Leader: As we journey through the Sundays of Advent, listen to the promises of God:

People: a righteous branch springs forth,

Leader: a promise of justice and righteousness,

People: a promise of safety.

Leader: Listen to the promise of Jesus:

People: the kingdom of God draws near.

Leader: Keep alert; watch for signs of hope.

People: Our Advent journey begins

Leader: Let us pray. God of every season, as we begin our journey through Advent, turn our hearts toward you. Guide us into your realm of peace and joy. Teach us to set aside our worries, as we walk in faithfulness and trust. May the love within us be born anew. Help us remain alert, that we may respond to pain and suffering and notice the signs of abundant life all around us. Come, Lord Jesus; come to us now, we pray. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN 368

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” v. 1, 3, 4

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jill Rhinehart

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Fred & Debbie Bailey

ANTHEM

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Chancel Choir

Announcements

The first four pews on both sides are fragrance-free.

Sunday's Ushers—Thank you to our Ushers! (10:00am) **Michelle Troxell, Maro Slaughter, Pam Rogalski, True Morse (steward)**

Meeting Reminders:

- **Youth**—will meet **today, December 1, at 5pm** in Asbury Hall.
- **Nurture**—will meet **this Wednesday, December 4, at 5pm** in the Jack Bass Classroom.
- **UMMen**—will meet **this Thursday, December 5, at 6:30pm** in the Blue Room.

The Bell Elementary Family2Family—has agreed to support families in need with their Christmas stocking program. The stocking will include a \$50 gift card from Kohl's and will be presented to families who have been identified as ones in need. Our church has been assigned to fill eleven stockings. If you would like to participate, contact Jane Morse at janemorsedpt@gmail.com for more details.

Walk Up Praise & Prayer - Come as you are! Bring a chair and join us on the first Mondays of the month (weather permitting) as we gather in the parking lot to give our blessings and lift up prayers of concern; for we know that wherever two or more are gathered in His name, Jesus is there. We will plan to start around 9:15am and stay as long as the spirit leads. Well behaved four-legged friends are welcome.

Newsletter - If you or your group would like to have an event or advertisement featured in the January Newsletter, please submit the name of your group along with a brief description of the event to Veronica **no later than Thursday, December 19.** veronicab@groceumc.org

Staff Love Offering! - The Staff Parish Relations Committee asks you to prayerfully consider a love offering for the staff to express our appreciation for their dedication in 2024. You can place this offering in the plate on a Sunday, mail it to the church, or bring it to the church office. If you plan to give an offering, we ask that you please **turn it in by Sunday, December 22.** Mark "Love Offering" on your check/envelope notation line.

Blankets for Haywood Street - If you have extra blankets you are ready to replace, please save them no matter what their condition or size. You can leave them at the church or give Roberta Binder a call: [828-707-5149](tel:828-707-5149). Know your gifts will be well loved!

2025 Altar Flower Calendar - The Altar Flower Calendar for 2025 is now up on the bulletin board outside the front office. Please consider providing flowers for our Sanctuary Altar through out the coming year!

SCRIPTURE		Luke 1: 5—10
MESSAGE		“What if I missed it?”
RECEIVING GOD’S GIFTS		<i>Ushers will come forward</i>
OFFERTORY		“Prayer” <i>R. Martin</i>
*DOXOLOGY		
SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE		pg. 12-14
COMMUNION HYMNS	618	“Let Us Break Bread Together”
	593	“Here I Am Lord”
	641	“Fill My Cup”
COMMUNION PRAYER		Jill Rhinehart

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, AMEN.

*CLOSING HYMN 431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE “I Love You, Lord”

*Our service of worship has ended.
Now, our worship through service begins.*



Poinsettias

- Stanley Carroll—**Memory** of Guy & Betty Burgess and Sydney & Francis
- Annette Coleman—**Honor** of Kimberly Elaine Coleman
- Memory** of Wayne E. Coleman
- Jane & True Morse—**Memory** of James & Betty Lovvorn and Buch & Janet Morse

