

Groce UMC's

"The Messenger"

FROM Jill,

The Picky Eater

I do not like liver. I don't like the idea of eating a liver. I don't like the look of liver, and I especially don't like the taste of liver. I don't care if you serve it with grilled onions, fry it, or cut it up in small pieces and put it in with a bunch of other delicious things. I can still taste it. In my opinion, you have just ruined a bunch of other really good tasting things by mixing in liver. Please leave the liver out. If you like liver feel free to take my portion. No... PLEASE take my portion of liver.

So often in my time in ministry I have thought, gosh I wish others would come to experience the love and friendships I have made through my church. We have laughed, cried, and shared so much together. I wish others knew the love of God. The incredible experience of a close relationship with God and the sense of comfort and peace that has come from being in a personal relationship with God.

I have sat in the church office on Sunday mornings laughing while thinking I wish others could experience the joy that comes from this experience. While worshiping God, I have thought on several occasions how grateful I am to be where I am and experiencing such a sense of joy, peace, and fulfillment. I have wondered, "Why don't others want to know God as well?"

Is that what it is like to be a picky person? Are we unwilling to experience something new or different because it causes us to do something uncomfortable. We tried it before and didn't like it. It didn't feel right. Someone told us it was a waste of time or that they didn't see the point in it or they had a bad experience. Is being in relationship with a Triune God like being a picky eater? We have made our mind up and we are not going to change it. No matter what you do, it can't be that great.

I still don't want to eat liver, but I am grateful for a personal relationship with God. I know that church isn't the answer for everyone. I know that we can come to God without experiencing worship in the church building but in church I have learned how so much more about God than I would have on my own. I have felt God's presence through the love and support of others in church.

Not all my experiences in church have been wonderful. Sometimes they have been painful, hurtful, and troubling, but they have also been amazing, fulfilling, and awe inspiring. The church has taught me how to be closer to God. I have learned how to "BE." Be in love with God. Be a disciple of Jesus'. Be a follower of Jesus and be in relationship with God. For this I am grateful.

Just try it. Who knows? You may actually like it.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1 NRSV



Trustee Tidbits



Fire Marshall Inspection

On June 31 we received an unexpected fire marshal inspection. It was no surprise that we had a number of violations. Some of these go way back to an inspection conducted in 2015. Others are a result of fire code changes or a relatively new fire marshal that has his own interpretation of the code. Many things were overlooked by previous inspections and we are now paying the price. I might add that congestion of our spaces played a major part in the violations.

So what are we doing about this? First, the major cleanup will clear a number of the violations. Simply put, fireman could not reach certain areas in our facilities due to congestion. We are also updating items affected by the fire code - there is no “grandfathering” for the code. And finally, we are putting procedures in place to ensure that we remain current with the fire code. A few examples include monthly visual inspections of the fire extinguishers (20 of them), annual 90 minute sustained emergency light testing, and quarterly inspection of all spaces for congestion. Additionally, signs for fire doors, and most important, keeping the doors shut except when passing through them. This is so important that the fire marshal has said that if he catches any fire door chocked or blocked open, he will issue us a civil violation. This equates to potentially large fines. The list goes on, but you get the idea.

Some fear the sudden arrival of a fire marshal. I have a different impression. I think they are actually doing us a favor. After all, they are trying to help us protect our facility and people. What could be more important than that?

Emergency Exit Switch?

What is This?

You may have noticed that the front door exit looks a little different now. What has changed?

A recent fire marshal inspection now requires that we have to have a push button exit control on our magnetic lock doors. Prior to this we had the motion sensor and an emergency exit switch. You would think that this would be enough, but the fire code says otherwise.



We have added the push button switch but nothing else has changed. Here are the ways you can exit when the mag lock is active:

Simply walk towards the door and the motion sensor will unlock it for you. This is the normal exit way.

Should you get involved in conversation near the door and out of range of the motion sensor, it will time out and the door will relock. If this happens, simply either step back so that the motion sensor detects you, releasing the mag lock, or push the “Push to Exit” button.

In an emergency, push the “Push to Exit” button or pull the Emergency release.

The “Push to Exit” switch is not necessary for normal exit, and should only be used in the special circumstances listed above. And these circumstances do not apply to when the door is normally unlocked, i.e., coming into church before the service, scheduled meetings, etc.

~ Submitted by Will Troxell



Trustee Tidbits Cont.



Cleanup Update

The church wide cleanup is progressing nicely! Thanks to much help from the congregation, we are anticipating that we will have removed approximately 6,000 pounds of unnecessary accumulations. This is 3 tons! As a result our church property is acquiring a new look (a really good one!) and clearing up many fire code issues. More information is forthcoming once we finish this effort at the end of the month.

~ Submitted by Michelle Troxell



Epworth

We have had a few inquiries as to what we are doing with Epworth. Good question! First and foremost, the cleanup has made the building usable once again. We intend to use the upstairs for income producing renters and the lower level for missions.

For example, we currently have Bricks4kidz and a Parent/Child Co-op Preschool upstairs. We also have inquiries from a language tutor and a sewing project. Downstairs will have one room for storage and initially the Brownies will occupy one room twice a month.

We currently set rates for rental by an initial evaluation by the administrator and chair of the trustees. The rates are based on what existing renters pay, condition of the facility, appropriateness of the renter, and good judgement. As needed, additional full trustee approval is obtained. Most important, as a part of the Trustee's Procedures Program (TPP), we are developing a Standard Operating Procedure (much like the Bus SOP 24-1) for allocating space. All such SOP's are vetted and approved by the Trustees.

We are finally in a position where we can not only improve rental income from Epworth but also support a wider variety of missions in our space. We will keep you informed as to our progress in formalizing space utilization procedures for Epworth as we continue to "Shape the Future".

~ Submitted by Will Troxell

Jesus Christ Superstar!

The bus is making it's thirist excursion on Wednesday, September 11, to the Flat Rock Playhouse to see the play "Jesus Christ Superstar" for the 2pm matinee. The cost is \$50 and a reservation (along with your money) can be made to Nancy Saxman (828.505.8100) or (828.231.3621). The bus will leave the front parking lot at 1pm that Wednesday. We hope to see you there!

~Submitted by Nancy Saxman

Pumpkins!

Yes, we have complained many times about the heat, but Fall is coming! You wonder how I know because Pumpkins are coming **September 29, at noon**. Once again this year we are purchasing pumpkins from Darnell Farms in Bryson City, NC.

The UMM, the Youth, Miriam & Sarah Circles have made a loan that will be paid back in full in November. The UMM will provide pizza for all volunteers the day we unload pumpkins. We will have more carving pumpkins, mini, and small ones in addition to the specialty pumpkins.

The hours of the patch will be altered Monday - Friday: we will open at 2pm and close at 6:30pm. Saturday and Sunday hours will be from 12:30 - 6:30pm. Sign up be start on **Wednesday, September 4th**. Once again, we are going to use pallets to prevent spoilage of the pumpkins. We are requesting if you have pallets you want donate please call **Gail Sherman 828-231-6355, or Jane Williams 828-400-3928**.

~ Submitted by Gail Sherman



Groce United Methodist Church
Operations Financial Summary - Statement of Activities
2nd Qtr Results (Jan - Jun 2024)

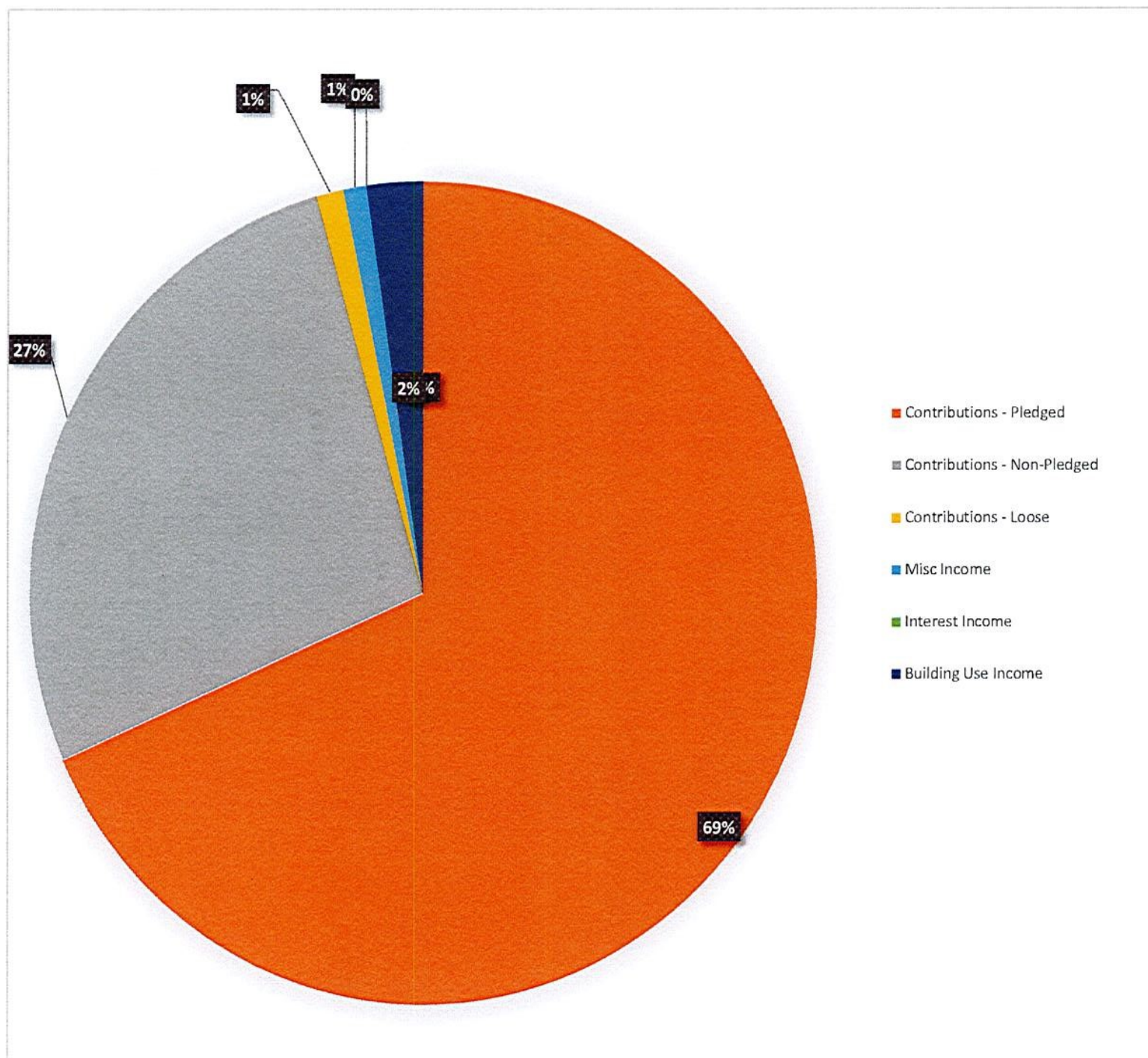
As of: 7/16/2024

	Jan-Jun 2024 Actual	Jan-Jun 2024 Budget	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	196,625	211,451	(14,825)	-8%
Total Expenses	190,686	211,751	21,065	11%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	5,939	(300)		

	Actual Amount	Budget Amount	Variance Fav (Unfav)	
Revenues Summary				
Contributions	5,395	0	5,395	
Contributions - Pledged	146,341	144,598	1,743	
Contributions - Non-Pledged	35,940	57,590	(21,650)	
Contributions - Loose	2,437	2,363	74	
Misc Income	1,323	2,000	(677)	
Interest Income	0	0	(0)	
Building Use Income	5,190	4,900	289	
Other	0	0	0	
Total:	196,625	211,451	(14,826)	-8%

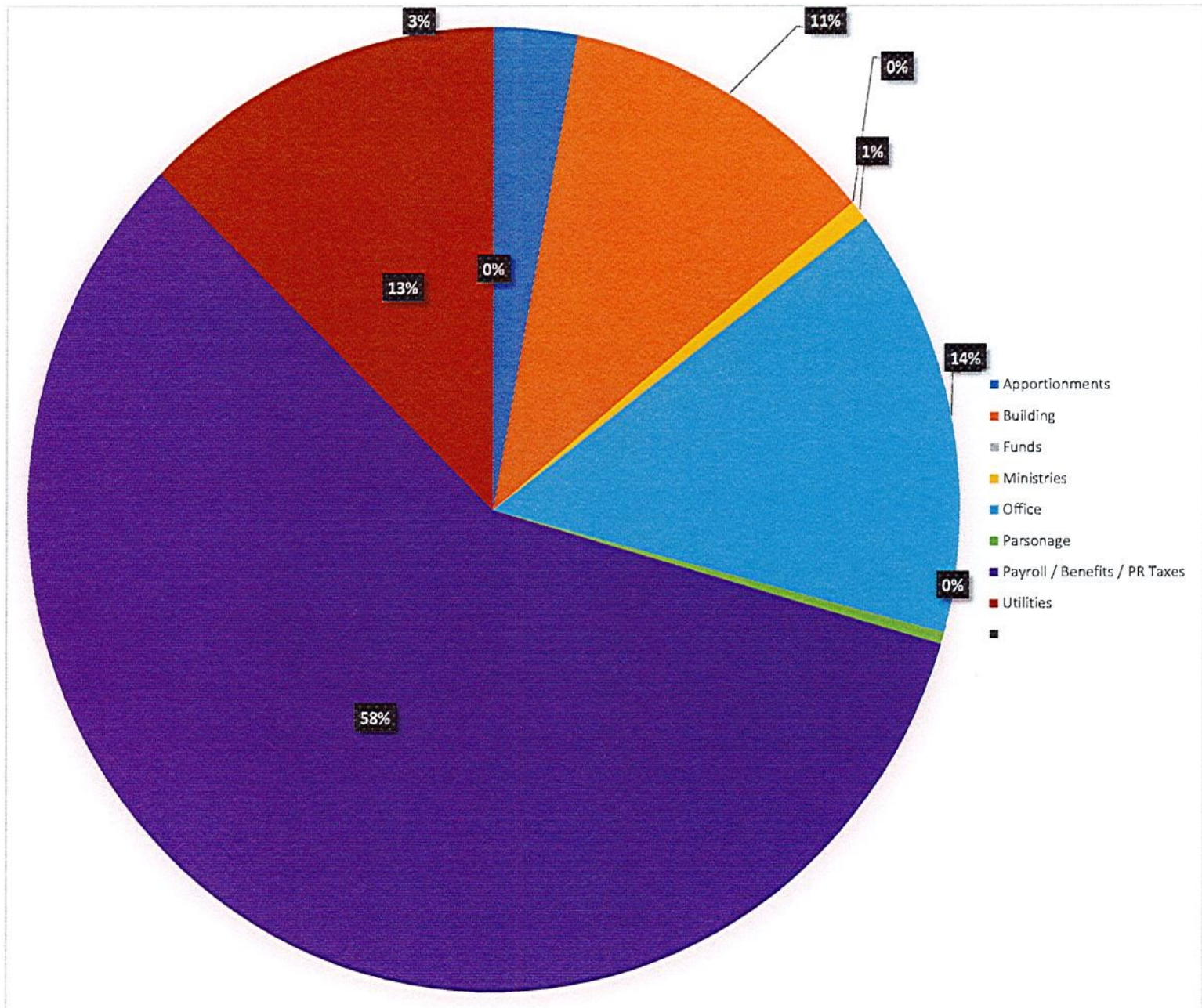
	Actual Amount	Budget Amount	Variance Fav (Unfav)	
Expenditure Summary				
Apportionments	5,500	16,710	11,210	
Building	21,129	26,650	5,521	
Funds	0	0	0	
Ministries	1,368	1,445	77	
Office	27,479	31,150	3,671	
Parsonage	756	1,400	644	
Payroll / Benefits / PR Taxes	110,222	109,946	(276)	
Utilities	24,232	24,450	218	
Other	0	0	0	
Total:	190,686	211,751	21,065	11%

Operations - Revenue Summary - 2nd Qtr (January - June)



Revenues Summary	Actual			Budget		
	Amount			Amount		
Contributions - Pledged	146,341	74%		144,598	68%	1,743
Contributions - Non-Pledged	41,335	21%		57,590	27%	(16,255)
Contributions - Loose	2,437	1%		2,363	1%	74
Misc Income	1,323	1%		2,000	1%	(677)
Building Use Income	5,190	3%		4,900	2%	289
Other	0	0%		0	0%	0
Total:	196,625	100%		211,451	100%	(14,826)

Operations - Expenditure Summary - 2nd Qtr (January - June)



Expenditure Summary	Actual		Budget		Variance
	Amount		Amount		Fav (Unfav)
Apportionments	5,500	3%	16,710	8%	11,210
Building	21,129	11%	26,650	13%	5,521
Funds	0	0%	0	0%	0
Ministries	1,368	1%	1,445	1%	77
Office	27,479	14%	31,150	15%	3,671
Parsonage	756	0%	1,400	1%	644
Payroll / Benefits / PR Taxes	110,222	58%	109,946	52%	(276)
Utilities	24,232	13%	24,450	12%	218
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0
Total:	190,686	100%	211,751	100%	21,065

Date: 2nd Qtr Jan 1st - Jun 30th

As of: 7/16/2024

Restricted Fund Accounts:

Balance

***Funds that can only be used for the
stated purpose***

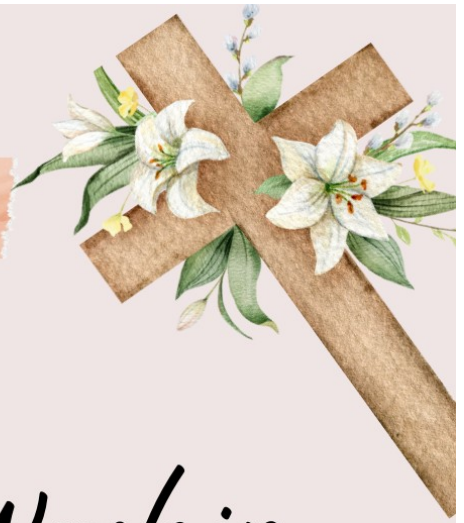
A/V Equipment	\$3,720
Agape Class (Sunday School Class)	\$1,384
Air Filtration System	\$360
Bell Tower Repairs	\$0
Bible Study	\$910
Church Bus	\$1,153
Endowment*	\$36,380
Epworth - Apartments	(\$1,048)
Facilities, Maintenance & Improvements	\$65,114
Handbells	\$1,720
LED Lights	\$367
Outreach / Mission	\$3,998
Pastor's Discretionary	\$2,169
Picnic Pavilion	\$5,000
Playground	\$94
Pumpkin Patch	\$3,786
Staff Love Offering	\$690
UMCOR Special Offerings	\$210
United Women In Faith	\$10,310
United Methodist Men	\$3,699
Welcome Table	\$7,800
Youth Missions	\$10,426

*See Groce UMC website under Giving

The Endowment Fund of Groce UMC was established for the purpose of providing members & friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to Groce that will become a permanent endowment of financial support. More specifically, the investment income from the endowment fund gifts is used to support the ministry and purpose of Groce. The principle remains intact permanently.



Groce United Methodist Church



Walk up Prayer, Praise & Worship



Where: our front lawn under the trees.

When: First Mondays on the month at
9:30am, beginning July 1st.

What: Bring a chair and a blanket.

Who: Any & Everyone!



www.groceumc.org

828.298.7647



Groce UMC Presents

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Indulge in a delightful experience of flavors, fun, and frozen treats at our Ice Cream Social event! If you're feeling competitive, bring your own homemade ice cream for our tasting contest!

Sunday, August 4, 2024

3:30PM | PICNIC PAVILION

404 Governors View Rd. Asheville, NC, 28805



www.groceumc.org



Blankets for Haywood Street Friends - Although most of us aren't thinking about blankets in this HOT weather, many of our Haywood Friends are sleeping on bare ground in the woods. And winter is coming, sooner than we realize. 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 me a call and I'll come pick them up (Roberta Binder, 828-707-5149). Know your gifts will be welcomed and loved. Thank you!

~ Submitted by Roberta Binder

Prom Dress Exchange Donations! - I would like to invite our congregation to start saving a few items for the prom dress exchange that is scheduled for this spring in our church. Please save plastic cleaner bags (long and short), garment bags that you no longer need/use, and plastic hangers for spaghetti strap dresses. If you are able to donate a bottle of woolite and/or a spray bottle of stain remover, that would be very helpful. Look for a clothes basket outside Veronica's office for these items.

~ Submitted by Pamela Budd & Marsha Van Rijssen

School Supplies - the Family 2 Family group for Bell Elementary is collecting school/classroom supplies for students/teachers who cannot afford them. You can pick up the supply list in the front office during regular work hours. Please, only purchase the items on the list as this has been prepared by the teachers and is very specific. Thank you for your generosity! **Deadline: Tuesday, August 20.**

~ Submitted by Jane Morse



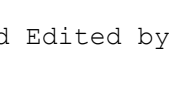
Thank You! - My family and I would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone for all the prayers, calls, cards, and food following Harvey's passing. Your love has lifted us up as we walk this difficult path. I am blessed to be a part of this loving and caring church. Again, many thanks for being there for my family when we needed you most! God bless you all, **Jackie Davis.**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

08/01 Jim Ariail Zane Walston	08/13 Vickie France	08/02 Loring & Kathryn McIntyre (44) Alyssa & Eddie Taylor (21)
08/02 Michelle Troxell	08/14 Jim Ingram	08/03 Gail & Garry Sherman (50)
08/05 Laura Jones	08/16 Lynda Haynes	08/05 Harry & Sharon Gibbs (57)
08/06 Brenda Guilfoyle	08/21 Joan Cauble Nancy Creel Shirley Studwell	08/16 John & Tina Stovall (60)
08/09 Carolyn Barcafer	08/25 Louise Holden Fran Shuler	08/20 Stan & Donnell Boyd (23)
08/10 Geri Ingram		08/27 Phil & Sandra Crouch (64) Steve & Nancy Lewis (27)
08/11 Brody Powell		
08/12 Kathryn Morgan Pam Rogalski		

August

Take time each day to pray for members of your church family.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 4 Worship - 8:30 & 11am AGAPE - 9:45am IceCreamSocial - 3:30p	 5 Lawn Prayer - 9:15am Beekkeepers - 7pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 6 Nurture - 5pm AA Meeting - 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm UMMen - 6:30pm	 7 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm UMMen - 6:30pm	 8 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	 9 Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 10 Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm
 11 Worship - 8:30 & 11am AGAPE - 9:45am	 12 Guitar League - 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm Bev. Hills - 7pm	 13 UMM@VRQ - 4pm AA Meeting - 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 14 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	 15 Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 16 Bus Orientation - 11am Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 17 Guitar League - 10am Tai Chi - 1:30pm
 18 Worship - 8:30 & 11am AGAPE - 9:45am	 19 Blood Drive - noon to 4:30p Tai Chi - 1:30pm Miriam Circle - 3pm Leadership(TL3) - 6pm SMBB - 7pm	 20 Tableof16 - 11:30am Sarah Circle - 4pm AA Meeting - 6pm SMBB - 7pm	 21 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	 22 Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 23 Guitar League - 10am Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 24 Tai Chi - 1:30pm
 25 Worship - 8:30 & 11am AGAPE - 9:45am	 26 Outteach - 3:30pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB - 7pm	 27 BCAE - 4pm AA Meeting - 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 28 Isaac Group - 10:30am Tai Chi - 1:30pm Welcome Table - 5pm	 29 Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 30 Tai Chi - 1:30pm	 31 Tai Chi - 1:30pm

Warrior Canine Connection

Mon. - Fri. from 8am - 4pm

*Dates are subject to change.

Bricks 4 Kidz - The Lego Summer Camp is back! Our Bricks 4 Kidz team is ready to build this summer and will operate out of our Epworth Building. The program will run **Monday - Friday from 9am to 4pm** starting on Monday, June 17 and ending on Friday, August 23. If you would like to register a child, please go online to bricks4kidz.com