VOLUME 35, ISSUE 11; NOVEMBER. 1, 2022

Groce UMC's "The Messenger"

FROM JOANNE SMITH,

Giving thanks is important. It is so important that we, as a nation, pause this time of year to reflect on the many blessings we enjoy; most of which we take for granted every day. It is so important that we have declared a national holiday for the fourth Thursday of November to gather together to express our thanks.

Beyond the obvious gift of life itself, to be able to experience its joys and challenges, we as Christians know the ultimate gift of great love. We know of a love so great that God was willing to send his only begotten son to live among us, teach us how we should live our lives, and to die for the forgiveness of our sins.

High on my list of blessings is my church family here at Groce. I joined Groce in 1993, but didn't become an active volunteer until 2005. Being here has proved to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Why? Because of each of you! I have learned a great deal from you. There is a saying that goes, "The church is not the building but the people who make up the church." I believe this to be true. While we have been blessed with a lovely building, so visible to our community, it is the people that make Groce a welcoming community. It is a community where you can see and feel the love.

Whether it's building a handicap ramp for a member in need, providing a meal for a suffering member, or giving support spiritually, emotionally, and physically, the people of Groce step up. You demonstrate the love that Jesus exampled for us. I have watched you demonstrate that love over and over (I have even been on the receiving end of said love). Thank you.

At a time when negativity rules the media on religion in general, especially among the division around us, let us join together to give praise and thanks to God for Groce United Methodist Church. Christianity has withstood over 2,000 years of negativity. I believe that God will continue to bless his followers in ways we have yet to fathom.

Working Wheels

Do you have an extra car that needs to find a new home? Imagine how difficult your life would be without a car! Working Wheels repairs and recycles donated vehicles, transforming them into working wheels for working families. The process is simple, the donation is tax-deductible, and the impact is real. To donate, volunteer, or learn more, please visit www.workingwheelswnc.org or call (828)633-6888.



"I am a single parent with two boys that are into sports! I'm an advocate for my children, and I need reliable transportation to get back and forth to work and school. I want to show my boys that giving up is not an option. There are people that care and are willing to help low-income families. I call this being blessed and very thankful!"

"I've been working on getting back on my feet after an abusive relationship. This car makes my employment and housing possible. I can't thank Working Wheels enough for their help with making sure my kids and I have a safe vehicle. Also, to the donor, who selflessly donated this vehicle, you've touched our hearts and helped my sons and I so much! Thank you!"

~Brittney

~Submitted by Leslie Sharpe (Vehicle Donation Coordinator)



"This car will allow me to not have to rely on others to get to work. It will also allow me to attend AA and NA meetings and church gatherings. Thank You!"

~Kenneth

~Sheminiqua



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

"Prepare the Way for The Lord" is our Advent study with two classes - Monday evenings (starting November 28th) at 6:30pm and Tuesday Mornings (starting November 29th) at 10am. Written by Adam Hamilton, we will explore the life of John the Baptist whose ministry and message was preparing Israel for the coming of Christ. As we prepare our lives spiritually for the coming of Christ this Christmas, we will use John's message as a way to ready us for God's great gift to all humankind. The cost of the books is \$13.50 and will be available in the church office.

~Submitted by Gerald Davis



Members and Friends of Groce United Methodist Church:

It is that time of year again when we begin to put together a plan and budget for the coming year. Part of that planning process is to determine what we can expect in income in 2023. You soon should be receiving your estimate of giving car for the coming year. These commitments enable us to plan how much income and support we can anticipate towards our obligations and carry out our missions. I hope you will prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your financial commitment for 2023.

The past two years have been difficult. We had to forgo in-person services for an extended period. Our income fell considerably. Many in our congregation managed to continue giving despite the difficulties, and we are extreamly grateful for those faithful members. Even so, we have been unable to meet some of our obligations as a connectional United Methodist Church. We have reduced staff by eliminating the Associate Pastor position. We still at this time of the year find ourselves in a deficit position in our Operating Funds, There is concern that we will likely end 2022 having spent more than we have received despite our efforts to reduce expenses. This is not sustainable.

Unfortunately, death has taken several of our most loyal members in the past two years. We need to reach out in our efforts to encourage and invite new people. We can all take part in a renewed effort to bring friends, neighbors, and family to our church, so that they can experience the same love and joy that we receive from this wonderful church. Invite your friends and neighbors and offer them a ride. Contact new neighbors and tell them how you feel about our church. Use the fliers that we have available in the church office that describes the missions that Groce carries out and give them to neighbors, etc.

Please consider prayerfully your financial support to Groce United Methodist Church for the coming year. If you can see your way to increasing your pledge by even a small percentage, please do so. Be a joyful giver, knowing that you are giving to a church that provides so much spiritual support to our members and shines the light of Christ's love throughout our community.

God Bless Each of You,

John P. Smith, Chair Committee on Finance





Brass Band Concert

LIVE MUSIC - FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS ACCEPTED



Location : <u>954 Tunne</u>l Rd. Asheville, NC, 28805

More Information : 828-298-7647



JOYFUL SPIRITS presents ...



Joyful

Blarney!

a head-bobbin' toe-tappin' heart-dancin' celebration of Irish history, culture, and music!

Irish whistle, fiddle, bodhran,
hammered dulcimer, guitar, piano —

Save the date! Sunday, November 13, 2022 3:00-4:00 P.M.

> Bring a thimble-full of mirth and join the elves wily and wee, at the elves' favorite rendezvous— THE SANCTUARY!

Groce United Methodist Church 954 Tunnel Road, Asheville

> ALL DONATIONS applied to Building Fund, Groce UMC

ERST ASHEVILLE ity Thanksgiving Nov. 22 at 7pm 954 Tunnel Rd. Asheville, NC, 28805

Communit

See you there!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Altar Guild invites you to purchase a poinsettia for the altar during the Advent Season in honor or memory of a loved one. Your honoree will be acknowledged on the date you specify below. The cut off date to submit this form and money for all dates is **November 23rd.**

The cost is \$10 a plant.

Please Print

Name _____

Phone _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of:

Number of plants ordered _____ Total \$ enclosed _____

Check a Date Preference ____ Nov 27 ____ Dec 4

*The poinsettias from Nov 27-Dec 18 will be red. The poinsettias from Dec 24 - 26 will be white.

**We encourage you to give your poinsettia to a friend, neighbor, or a shut-in so you can share with others the love and joy of the Christmas Season.



Thanks ^{for}Giving

Donate blood and help save a life



Blood Drive Groce United Methodist Church

Asbury Hall 954 Tunnel Road Asheville, NC 28805

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

To make an appointment, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Keyword: GroceUMC

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Hats off to you with new merch: Come give Nov 23-27 for an exclusive Red Cross knit beanie, Itd qty!

Download the Blood Donor App | redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767



Wreath Making

COME & JOIN US!

We Invite you to celebrate the most beautiful time of the year with us! Please contact the names below if you plan to attend the workshop as we will need to know how many people will be coming in advance. The greenery will be provided, so bring a friend and begin the Advent season with good cheer!

WHAT TO BUY IN ADVANCE AND BRING WITH YOU:

1.STRAW WREATH (ANY SIZE) 2. PRUNING SHEERS 3. RIBBON & DECORATIONS

CONTACT:

SALLY SMITH: (843) 385-6293 CAROLYN CUTLIP: (731) 420-8295

Compiled and Edited by Veronica Bagwell

<u>Warrior Canine Connection</u> Mon Fri. from 8am to 5pm *Dates are subject to change	Worship - 9am27Agape - 10amHandbells - 5:30pmWorship - 11amCub Scouts - 6pmWreathWorkshop- 3pm	Consecration Sunday20Worship - 9amHandbells - 5:30pmAgape - 10amHandbells - 5:30pmWorship - 11amCub Scouts - 6pmCelebrationLunchCub Scouts - 6pmnoonYouth - 5pm	Worship9am13Handbells5:30pmAgape- 10amCub Scouts- 6pmWorship- 11amCub Scouts- 6pmChamberConcert- 3pmGuitar League- 6pmYouth- 5pmBev. Hills- 7pm	Worship9am6Kevin'sReception-10amHandbells5:30pmYouth Project10amCub Scouts6pmWorship11amCub Scouts6pmHOAMeeting-2 to 4pmBeekeepers7pm	Thranksgiov	Sunday Mo
ange.	28 29 - 5:30pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 1:30pm <u>s</u> - 6pm <u>SMBB</u> - 7pm	21 T <u>ai Chi</u> - 1:30pm - 5:30pm <u>Comm Thanksgiving</u> - <u>s</u> - 6pm <u>7</u> pm <u>SMBB</u> - 7pm	- 5:30pm 14 <u>WCC/WoundedWarrior-</u> <u>s</u> - 6pm <u>10am</u> <u>gue</u> - 6pm <u>Tai Chi</u> - 1:30pm <u>Miriam Circle</u> - 6pm <u>SMBB</u> - 7pm	7 8 - 5:30pm <u>s</u> - 6pm <u>s</u> - 7pm <u>s - 7pm</u> <u>SMBB</u> - 7pm	Parkins.Group - 10am Tai Chi - 1:30pm SMBB Concert - 7pm	Jovenler Monday Tuesday
**	30 Pickleball - Spm <u>Choir</u> - 6pm <u>AA Meeting</u> - 6pm	2 Blood Drive 9am to 4pm <u>Pickleball</u> - 5pm <u>Choir</u> - 6pm <u>AA Meeting</u> - 6pm		9 <u>Ret. Teachers</u> - 10am <u>UMMen@VQ</u> - 4pm <u>Pickleball</u> - 5pm <u>Choir</u> - 6pm <u>AA Meeting</u> - 6pm	2 <u>Pickleball</u> - 6pm <u>Choir</u> - 6pm <u>AA Meeting</u> - 6pm	Wednesday
* *		24 <mark>Thanksgiving Day</mark> Office Closed	17 <u>Isaac Group</u> - 10:30am <u>Tai Chi</u> - 1:30pm <u>Welcome Table</u> - 5pm	10 <u>Isaac Group</u> - 10:30am <u>Tai Chi</u> - 1:30pm <u>Welcome Table</u> - 5pm	3 <u>Isaac Group</u> - 10:30am <u>Tai Chi</u> - 1:30pm <u>Welcome Table</u> - 5pm <u>UMMen</u> - 6:30pm	Take time each day to p
***		25	18 <u>Tailgate Market</u> - 3 to 6pm	 <mark>Veterans Day</mark> 	Tailgate Market - 3 to 6pm	ake time each day to pray for members of your church family
		26	وا ا		5	Saturday Veronica Bagwell