

Groce UMC's

The Messenger

Volume 39; Issue 5
May 1, 2026

Celebrating our Volunteers

Serving our church family
to honor God

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2026

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Volunteers - the Heart and Soul of Groce UMC

Submitted by Will Troxell

A volunteer is a person who freely offers their time, skills, or services to help others or support causes without expecting financial compensation. Is this you? Do you fit the profile? At Groce, many people do.

Why do we need volunteers? There are many reasons. For one, a small staff cannot, by itself, run a church with a membership of 470 and average attendance of 100. Although our primary focus is worshipping God and serving as his disciples, we also have to function as a business.

But there is a much larger reason. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our church. They help the church function smoothly and create an environment where people can connect, grow, and feel supported.

Your involvement exemplifies the spirit of God's will. Putting time in for the Glory of God is "what it is about." The energy from volunteers has no equal, and for many it is the supreme sacrifice. Being a volunteer in a church environment is also incredibly fulfilling.

I can't begin to tell you how many volunteers we have at Groce, but just take a look at the Leadership List. Yes, they are chosen and asked to serve by the nominating committee, but they still have to volunteer to

serve. And there are many, many unlisted functions that are performed by those not on the Leadership List such as working in the nursery, cleaning up, ushering, welcoming newcomers, organizing events, preparing meals, playing music, and many more. You don't have to have a formal position to participate as a volunteer - many volunteer actions are truly behind the scenes.

So the bottom line is that there are many types of volunteers and all of them are critical to the health of our church. As a volunteer you provide diverse talents perspectives and compassion. You model generosity and service, encouraging others to get involved. So if you are not a volunteer, I pray that you will look for somewhere or something you can contribute to.

And to those that are volunteers, thank you for helping make Groce UMC what it is and being the Groce "heart and soul."

"LIKE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE
MANIFOLD GRACE OF GOD,
SERVE ONE ANOTHER WITH
WHATEVER GIFT EACH OF YOU
HAS RECEIVED." — 1 PETER 4:10

The Italian Dinner and Talent Show organized by the United Methodist Men

May 9th at 6pm!

The Italian Dinner and Talent Show is back for 2026. Get your tickets NOW to ensure your seat at the party of the year!



Contact **Mariah Wright**

(828-298-7647, secretary@groceumc.org) at the church office to make reservations and pay for your ticket. Adult tickets are \$13 in advance (\$15 at the door), kids under 10 are \$7, and there is a family rate of \$35.

If you are interested in participating in the talent show, please email **Veronica Bagwell** at vtbagwell@gmail.com with your name and your act (if it is a song either on an instrument or vocally sung, please also provide the title of your song.) Please note: Each act will be limited to five minutes long (this includes any explanation your act requires).

We welcome any and all show varieties suitable for our church family and we would love to have your contribution to the night!

For our ministry leaders and volunteers who hold building keys:



To ensure the continued security of our church home, we are updating the locks and rekeying the building. If your current church role requires building access, please contact **Mariah** at 828-298-7647 or secretary@groceumc.org. You can pick up your new keys from the church office starting **May 11**. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our sanctuary



CONFIRMATION

SUBMITTED BY KELLEY WOEHL

Thank you to all who came to celebrate our 2026 Confirmation Class. This class has been so special, the students have brought so much of themselves to the experience, and, in doing so, taught us, the mentors, as much as we taught them. Over the course of this class, we discussed what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be United Methodist, and what it means to have a personal relationship with God. Two of our early lessons outlining the structure and content of the Old and New Testaments can be found on the bulletin board outside of the Youth room, alongside the Youth's Stained Glass expressions of themselves. Take a look at what we've been up to!



Kelley Woehl's Church Assignment

SUBMITTED BY KELLEY WOEHL



On April 26 it was formally announced that I will be leaving my beloved mountains in June to venture to my new church, First UMC Asheboro. I have been so overwhelmed and honored to be back at Groce for this year. This church has raised me and has continued to teach me the value of community and service. I've always looked up to the people in this congregation who demonstrate our call to serve others - and serve you do! In so many ways, this church lives into our call from Jesus to love our neighbors, and I am excited to take these gifts and lessons with me as I begin this next adventure in Asheboro.

Working with the Youth in particular has been such a light in my life. I've loved reconnecting with our wonderful Youth leaders, Jill and Stan, who have done such an incredible job creating a safe space for young people's faith exploration and education. And, of course, I have truly loved creating meaningful connections with each of our Youth. They all do so much, yet create space in their busy lives to come together to eat, play silly games, learn, and serve. I admire so much about them, but especially their kindness and eagerness to explore. They have taught me so much, and I will miss them so, so much.

Thank you, Groce, for giving me this space, trusting me with the incredible responsibility of leading our young people, and for embracing me every step of the way through my Ordination process. I assure you, this will not be the last you see of me.

On **June 13th** from 9am to 2pm at Groce UMC, the **Black Mountain School of Theology & Community** will conduct an initial training on the basic skills for beginning a campaign on prayerful listening across our area. Joining with other interested churches, we'll learn to begin to form stronger relationships with others, identify mutual concerns and hopes, and connect deeper with our community as we begin to build toward the goal of discerning collaborative action needed to promote the well-being



of our community. These practices will help make our congregation stronger, while also allowing us to work with others to amplify our contribution to our community. Coffee, drinks, snacks, and a box lunch will be provided. Spots are limited, so please contact Mariah Wright, the church secretary, if you plan to attend (828-298-7647 or secretary@groceumc.org).

Peace with Justice Sunday

On this day, we come together to support ministries that work for peace and fairness around the world. It's a day when the church speaks out against violence and inequality and renews its commitment to be peacemakers—just as Jesus taught.

The world is full of conflict, division, and injustice. Peace with Justice Sunday reminds us that the church has a role to play in making things right. United Methodists believe that working for peace means addressing the deeper causes of conflict—like poverty, racism, and oppression. It's not just about ending war, but about building a world where everyone is treated with dignity.

You can support this ministry by giving, learning, and lifting up the work of those who are building peace and promoting fairness in their communities. Your donation helps fund local and national initiatives that address the root causes of injustice and equip the Church to respond with compassion and courage.

We will be taking a special offering on **May 31** to support this important work. Please plan to give generously!



Please note that our Church Secretary, **Mariah Wright**, has a new email address: secretary@groceumc.org. The old email address will be still be monitored for now, but please use this new contact information to reach Mariah directly.

Thank you!

Warrior Canine Connection Leadership Transition

SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE



Ms. Amy Guidash, who has led this important service as the Program Manager at Groce since it started using Charter Hall in 2019, is leaving for a behavioral health integrated practice role at UNC Pardee in Hendersonville. Amy has been a tremendous partner and leader, including being instrumental in their corporate partner, Home Depot, donating approximately \$15,000 of materials to renovate the space in the lower level of the Epworth building and providing volunteers to do some of the work. Michele Tate, Service Dog Training Instructor, who has also been part of the WCC presence at Groce, will be the interim manager as the Warrior Canine Connection selects a new program manager. We will miss Amy but wish her well in her new role serving those in need.

If you want to give your day a big dose of puppy love, visit the Warrior Canine Connection [puppy cam](#) to see puppies at their headquarters and breeding facility in Boyds, Maryland. You can learn more about Warrior Canine Connection at warriorcanineconnection.org (and find the link to the puppy cam).

Groce Grounds Help Needed

Cleared Area Along Governors View Road.

You may have noticed that the UMM cleared the jungle along Governors View Road across from the picnic tables. The remaining debris that could not be chipped will be hauled off but we need help with raking up the remaining small sticks, cutting off small roots and raking and smoothing the area. Any amount of help is welcomed and whenever you wish to do it. Just throw any sticks on the existing piles. Throw any stones on the existing pile. Once smoothed out we will seed and straw the area.

If questions, contact **Loring McIntyre**, 828-280-6587, or **True Morse**, 743-999-1769.



Cub Scouts Back at Groce

On behalf of Pack 4 Cub Scouts, I want to thank you for welcoming us into your space. We are grateful to now be meeting at the church on Thursday nights at 6:45. We truly appreciate the welcoming environment, especially love the outdoor areas (of course!). It's a wonderful setting for our 50-60 boys and girls Pack to learn, grow, and develop the virtues outlined by our Scout Law and Oath. We look forward to building a strong relationship with your congregation and working together to serve and improve our community.

With gratitude,

Peter Lorenz

Cubmaster, Cub Scout Pack 4



Thank You

From **Jane Morse**—Thank you for the donations of books for Bell Elementary. The librarian and staff were overwhelmed by your generosity. We are now shifting our “book drive” to benefit WD Williams Elementary School.

From **Mariah Wright**— The Wright Family is finally home!!! I have been so moved and amazed by this congregation’s kindness and generosity. Thank you so much for the housewarming party, gifts, and well wishes. You all really make me feel like a member of the Groce Church Family!

Financial Reports:

SUBMITTED BY GAYLE DECKER AND TRUE MORSE

Here are the first quarter (Jan—March) 2026 financial reports to Groce's Church Family. If you have any questions or want to see more detail please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Gary Brockway, Finance Chair, 270-556-8414, gbrockway@murraystate.edu

True Morse, TL3 Leadership Team Chair, 743-999-1769, truemorse@gmail.com

Jim Ariail, Financial Secretary, 828-778-8355, jimariail@yahoo.com

**Groce United Methodist Church
Operations Financial Summary - Statement of Activities
1st Qtr Jan - Mar 2026**

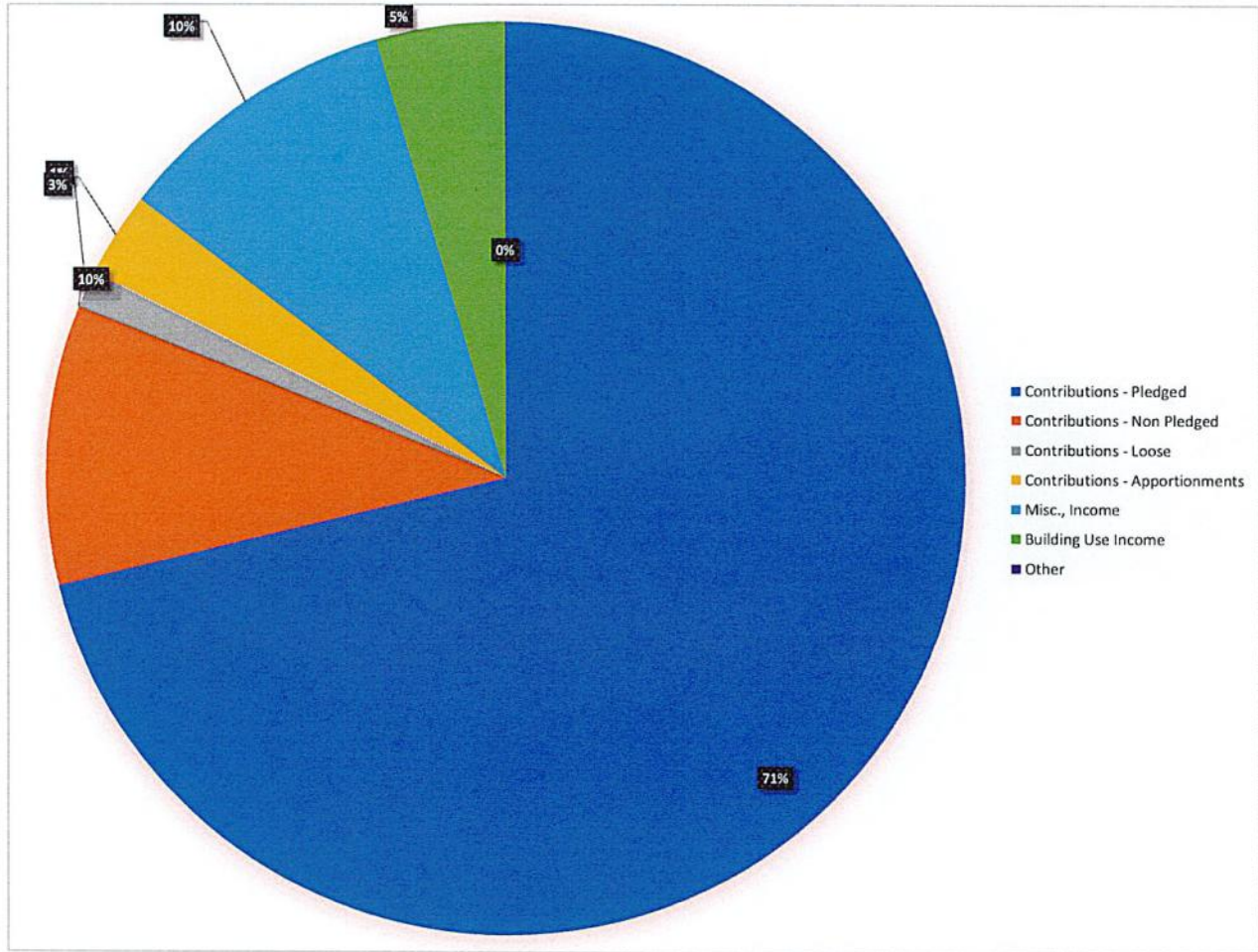
As of: 4/21/2026

	Jan-Mar 2026 Actual	Jan-Mar 2026 Budget	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	119,561	107,286	12,275	10%
Total Expenses	110,203	115,527	5,324	5%
Net Operating Income (Loss)	9,358	(8,241)		

	Actual Amount	Budget Amount	Variance Fav (Unfav)	
Revenues Summary				
Contributions	0	0	0	
Contributions - Pledged	86,289	80,204	6,085	
Contributions - Non-Pledged	10,667	12,500	(1,834)	
Contributions - Loose	1,568	1,500	68	
Contributions - Apportionments	3,620	7,907	(4,287)	
Misc Income	11,994	1,425	10,569	
Interest Income	27	0	28	
Building Use Income	5,395	3,750	1,645	
Other	0	0	0	
Total:	119,561	107,286	12,275	10%

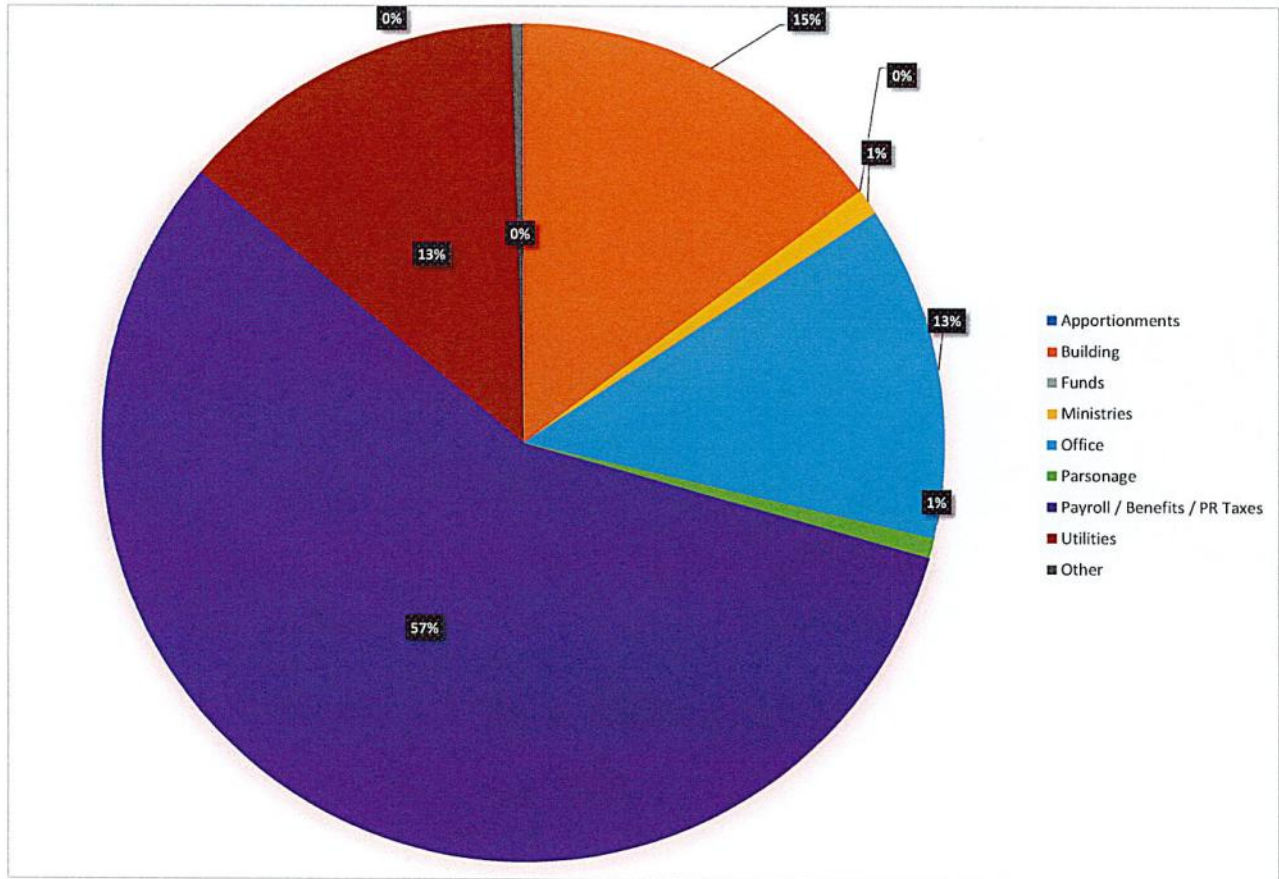
	Actual Amount	Budget Amount	Variance Fav (Unfav)	
Expenditure Summary				
Apportionments	0	7,907	7,907	
Building	16,186	12,650	(3,536)	
Funds	0	0	0	
Ministries	1,122	1,905	783	
Office	14,251	21,270	7,019	
Parsonage	823	450	(373)	
Payroll / Benefits / PR Taxes	62,563	59,895	(2,668)	
Utilities	14,713	11,400	(3,313)	
Other	546	50	(496)	
Total:	110,203	115,527	5,324	5%

Operations - Revenue Summary - 1st Qtr (January - March 2026)



Revenue Summary	Actual		Budget		Variance
	Amount		Amount		Fav (Unfav)
Contributions - Pledged	86,289	71%	80,204	75%	6,085
Contributions - Non Pledged	10,667	10%	12,500	12%	(1,833)
Contributions - Loose	1,568	1%	1,500	1%	68
Contributions - Apportionments	3,620	3%	7,907	7%	(4,287)
Misc., Income	11,994	10%	1,425	1%	10,569
Building Use Income	5,395	5%	3,750	3%	1,645
Other	27	0%	0	0%	27
Total:	119,561	100%	107,286	100%	12,275

Operations - Expenditure Summary - 1st Qtr (January - March 2026)



Expenditure Summary	Actual		Budget		Variance
	Amount	%	Amount	%	Fav (Unfav)
Apportionments	0	0%	7,907	7%	7,907
Building	16,186	15%	12,650	11%	(3,536)
Funds	0	0%	0	0%	0
Ministries	1,122	1%	1,905	2%	783
Office	14,251	13%	21,270	18%	7,019
Parsonage	823	1%	450	0%	(373)
Payroll / Benefits / PR Taxes	62,563	57%	59,895	52%	(2,668)
Utilities	14,713	13%	11,400	10%	(3,313)
Other	546	0%	50	0%	(496)
Total:	110,203	100%	115,527	100%	5,324

Date: 1st Qtr Jan - Mar 2026

As of: 4/20/2026

Restricted Fund Accounts:

Balance

Funds that can only be used for the stated purpose

A/V Equipment	\$5,081	
Agape Class (Sunday School Class)	\$1,480	
Endowment	\$37,080	\$ fr Foundation Stmt 3/31/26
Epworth - Apartments	\$4,755	\$ fr First Citizens Bank a/c # 1050
Facilities, Maintenance & Improvements	\$50,167	
Handbells	\$3,105	
Outreach / Mission	\$823	
Pastor's Discretionary	\$2,426	
Pumpkin Patch	\$8,041	
Staff Love Offering	\$0	
UMCOR Special Offerings	\$370	
United Women In Faith	\$5,626	
United Methodist Men	\$3,644	
Welcome Table	\$7,351	
Youth Missions	\$5,350	
Total of 15 Funds, excluding Operations	\$135,300	

**Overview of Loans
1st Qtr (Jan-Mar 2026)**

Loan	Principal Balance
Epworth	67,699.02
City of Asheville	30,000.00

TL3 Meeting Notes

Submitted by True Morse

April 27, 2026 Groce Leadership Team (TL3 – Team Loving Learning Leading) Meeting Summary

Topics Discussed

- Jill shared Growing the Family of God at Groce updates such as confirmation, new members and graduation Sunday
- Technology update by Will Troxell that included status of multimedia enhancements to the sanctuary
- Finance update by Gary Brockway that highlighted Groce's general financial health but some areas of concern such as overall cash balance and the lack of sufficient contributions to make the complete first quarter budgeted apportionments payment to the conference
- Trustees update by Loring McIntyre and True Morse
- Exterior doors will be rekeyed due to some security incidents
- Agreements with outside users of Groce's facilities being reviewed and updated
- Continued investigation of alternate income sources
- Youth director hiring since Kelley Woehl has received an associate pastor appointment at First UMC in Asheboro
- Facebook and Instagram pages are now being updated routinely by Mariah Wright. All are encouraged to view the pages and share them to increase Groce's communication with the community.
- Next Church Family will be on Sunday, June 15th

To read the full meeting notes follow this [link](#) to the Groce website.

Upcoming Events

Adults \$13 per plate
(paid in advance at the church office -
checks made payable to "Groce UMC")
Kids Under 10 \$7 per plate
Family Rate \$35

GROCE UMC'S

Italian Dinner

Organized by the United Methodist Men with
proceeds to benefit missional outreach.

Seating at 6 & 6:15
Take Outs at 6:30
Talent Show at 6:45

Please Call or email the
Church Office for
Reservations:
(828)298-7647
gumcadmin@groceumc.org



Saturday, May 9, 2026

Includes:
Spaghetti, Marinara, Meatballs or Roasted Vegetables, Salad,
Brownie with Ice Cream, French or Italian Bread, Coffee & Tea

*There is a vegetarian option available.

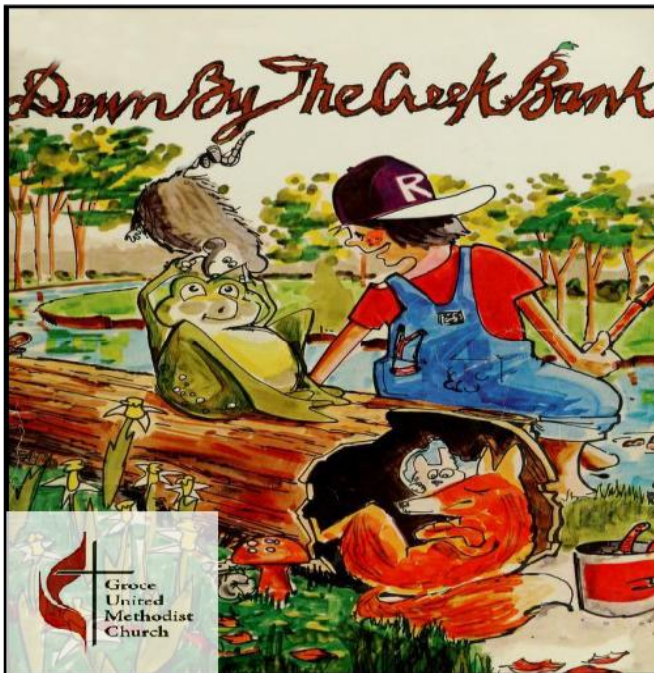
Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville, 28805

JAWING WITH JILL



LETS GET TOGETHER FOR CASUAL
DISCUSSION AND SPIRITUAL
RENEWAL WITH REV. JILL
RHINEHART

TUESDAY MAY 19TH AT 5:30PM
70 FAIRWAY DR. ASHEVILLE 28805



Groce UMC Presents:

2026 Summer Music Camp

For ages 5-12

July 13—July 17, 10am - 3pm

Performance on July 17 at 6pm.

Lunch served daily.

**\$40 per child or \$30 per child for 2 or
more children in a household.**

Scholarships available!!!!

For more information or to register:

groceumc.org/musiccamp

or call 828-298-7647

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 05/01 | Sharon Haberfield | 05/11 | Paul & Dawn Sexton (35) |
| | Maro Slaughter | 05/16 | Jay & Michelle Nelson (17) |
| 05/04 | Tim Kilmer | 05/21 | Tiffany & Travis Franklin (21) |
| | Kelley Woehl | 05/27 | Tom & Margaret Kuhn (48) |
| 05/05 | Bob Briggs | 05/31 | Max & Ruth Phillips (67) |
| 05/06 | Ryan Moore | | |
| 05/07 | Christy Goforth | | |
| | Liz Ream | | |
| 05/08 | Mary Catherine Pisano | | |
| | Sara Werling | | |
| 05/09 | Pam Butler | | |
| 05/12 | Caroline Morris | | |
| 05/13 | Ari Moore | | |
| 05/17 | Brittany Luckadoo | | |
| 05/19 | Neysa Hurt | | |
| | Tibbie Vest | | |
| 05/23 | Chance Towery | | |
| 05/25 | Annette Coleman | | |
| 05/28 | Sarah Taylor | | |
| 05/29 | JoAnn McGough | | |
| | Nancy Saxman | | |
| 05/30 | Natalie Taylor | | |
| 05/31 | Andie Jackson | | |



Did you know that May is Christian Home Month? This is a time to focus on the Christian home and its key role as a center for faith formation, as stated by Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

For tips and strategies on how to incorporate faithful ideas such as Family Devotion, Family Night, and Idea Starters for Conversations, go to <https://www.umc.org/en/content/tips-for-better-family-time-during-christian-home-month>.

May 2026

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth	4 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 1:00: Canasta (AH) 3:00: Handbells 7:00: Beekkeepers (AH)	5 10:00: Parkinsons (AH/JB) 10:30: Crafters (CH) 11:00: Staff Meeting 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 7:00: SMBB (AH)	6 10:00: Balance (CH) 11:30: Tables of 16 4:00: Nurture (JB) 5:30: Men's Chorus 6:00: Choir 6:00: AA	7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:30: UMM (JB) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	8 3:00 Tailgate Market	9 6:00: Italian Dinner and Talent Show (AH) 
10 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship NO YOUTH 	11 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 3:00: Handbells 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:00: Guitar League (AH)	12 10:30: Crafters (CH) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 7:00: SMBB (AH) 7:00: BH Exec. Mtg. (JB)	13 10:00: Balance (CH) 5:15: UMM @ VRQ 5:30: Men's Chorus 6:00: Choir 6:00: AA	14 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	15 3:00 Tailgate Market	16
17 ASCENSION SUNDAY 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth	18 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 1:00: Canasta (AH) 3:00: Handbells 6:00: TL3 (JB)	19 10:30: Crafters (CH) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 3:00: Miriam Circle (AL) 5:30: Jawing w/Jill (offsite) 7:00: SMBB (AH) 7:00 HCCA Green (CH)	20 10:00: Sarah Circle (AH) 1:00: Williamson Funeral 5:30: Men's Chorus 6:00: Choir 6:00: AA	21 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	22 3:00 Tailgate Market	23 10:00: Guitar League (AH/CH)
24 PENTECOST 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship NO YOUTH	25 MEMORIAL DAY -OFFICE CLOSED- 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 3:00: Handbells 6:00: Girl Scouts	26 10:30: Crafters (CH) 11:00: Outreach (JB) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 7:00: SMBB (AH)	27 5:30: Men's Chorus 6:00: Choir 6:00: AA	28 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	29 3:00 Tailgate Market	30
31 TRINITY SUNDAY  9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth						AH—Asbury Hall AL—Asbury Lobby CH—Charter Hall JB—Jack Bass Room PR—Prayer Room