

Sunday Worship Celebration

February 2, 2025

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

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

"To God be the Glory"
Arr. Berry

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

People: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

People: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

People: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.

Leader: Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

People: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thanks be to God! AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray. In a cynical and despairing world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your hope. In a violent and angry world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your peace. In a dismissive and disinterested world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your compassion. In a lonely and inhospitable world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your love. In a grieving and weeping world, O God, give us a quietly prophetic voice to proclaim your joy. May we be so captivated by your hope, O God, that we cannot help, but to whisper, to sing, and to enact, the message of your reign which is always coming into our world; and may our quietly prophetic lives be channels of your restoring grace wherever we may go. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN 545

"The Church's One Foundation"

*"God never twists
justice; he never fails
to do what is right."*

Job 8: 3

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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Jill Rhinehart—Pastor
Becky Wilburn—Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross—Handbell Director
Gayle Decker—Administrator/Treasurer
Veronica Bagwell—Secretary
Tammy Peek—Custodian

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Sweet Hour of Prayer”
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 4: 21—30
(NRSV New Testament pg.61-62)

MESSAGE “In Your Hometown”

RECEIVING GOD’S GIFTS Ushers will come forward

OFFERTORY “Give Me Jesus”
Arr. Purifoy

*DOXOLOGY
SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE pg. 12—14

COMMUNION MUSIC

COMMUNION PRAYER
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 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
Arr. Livingston

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

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Announcements

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

The Flowers on the Altar—are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by Pam Budd in honor of the **engagement between Aaron Culp & Tia Oaster**.

Sunday’s Ushers—Thank you to our Ushers! **Bob & Tracey Briggs, Maro Slaughter, Jane Williams (steward)**

Meeting Reminders:

- **Youth**—will meet **today, February 2, at 5pm** in Asbury Hall.
- **CHUMs**—will meet **this Tuesday, February 4, at 10:30am** in the Jack Bass Classroom.
- **Nurture**—will meet **this Wednesday, February 5, at 5pm** in the Jack Bass Classroom.
- **UMMen**—will meet **this Thursday, February 6, at 6:30pm** in the Jack Bass Classroom.

Valentine’s Day Dinner Fundraiser! - Come join the United Methodist Men, United Women of Faith, and our Youth for a night of good food, engaging fellowship and fun entertainment! On **Friday, February 14, at 6pm** we will be serving chicken casseroles, green beans, rolls, salads, brownies & more in an effort to raise money for the operation of our church. **Tickets are \$10 per person with a flat family rate of \$25.** RSVP forms are located on the table at the back of the sanctuary (deadline is 2/10). Wear your most festive attire and we’ll see you there!

Welcome Table Desserts—The weekly Welcome Table is in need of two volunteers a week to make desserts for their meal. If you are interested, please see the signup sheet located on the bulletin board outside the front office. **One volunteer is still needed for February 6.**

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 throughout the coming year!

Blessing Box Caretakers—We need 2-3 people to stock our Blessing Box, 3 times a week, during church office hours or when at church for another activity. Contact Jane Williams at **828-400-3928** for more information.

Newsletter—If you or your group would like to advertise an upcoming event in next month’s newsletter, please email your group/event name and brief description to Veronica Bagwell *no later February 20*. veronicab@groceumc.org

Pickleball—Come and learn the fastest growing sport in the country! Join the Groce Pickleball Players on Wednesdays at 6pm in Asbury Hall or contact Jerry Kirschner for more information: **(828) 777-8971**

Coffee Fellowship—Coffee fellowship is back! Join us for a light breakfast and joyful conversation from **9:45am—10am in Asbury Hall** every Sunday before Sunday school. We’ll see you there!