

Compiled and Edited by Kelley Woehl
Groce UMC's

The Messenger

Volume 38; Issue 11
November 1, 2025

Improving Space, Improving Service

How others within and around our Church have helped revive the building.

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The Newly painted
Epworth Doors

Improving Space, Improving Service

How others within and around our Church have helped revive the building.

SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE AND WILL TROXELL

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

— 1 Peter 2:5

In the span of a couple days, two extremely fortunate blessings occurred for Groce's buildings.

Due to financial constraints, Groce paused a contractor who was going to seal the sidewalk joints on both sides of the sanctuary which were letting water into the walls of Charter Hall below the rear of the sanctuary. In researching how to do the work ourselves, True contacted **Jeff Welty of High Rock Waterproofing**, a firm in Winston-Salem True had used on Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center facilities, for technical guidance. Jeff's response was, "I think I can do better than that. The community service project for our professional association's conference in October fell through and we need a new community service project."

After a lot of detailed planning as well as removal of the existing sealant by **Julie Arnall, Chuck Hunner and True**, members of the **Carolinas Chapter of the International Concrete Repair Institute** sealed all the sidewalk joints on Wednesday, October 15th saving Groce \$3,000. In addition to **Adam Nagy and Jeff of High Rock Waterproofing** doing installation and providing a 2-man crew, **Guaranteed Supply** provided all the materials, **Stone Restoration** provided a 3-man crew and **Stewart Swing of Terracon Engineering** helped install. Thanks also to Groce's **Bob Briggs and Joe Early** setting up barriers, temporary signage, sealant protection and getting Jeff's team started.

As another example of God's abundance, **Andrew Sheffield of Interior Painting of Asheville** (based in the former Swannanoa Cleaners building) called True to follow up on a proposal. He shared that he and his wife **Rachel**, whose business is now five years strong, wanted to give back to the community. Moved by Groce's impact in the community, they offered to help Groce with its painting needs while training new crew members with strong supervision.

After walking through all of Groce's buildings, Andrew and Rachel insisted that everything was on the table. Together with Will and True, they created a prioritized list—from fascia boards to sanctuary walls. The first project was repainting the doors of tenant spaces on the upper level of the Epworth Building with the branding colors of the tenants, an idea sparked by **Marsha van Rijssen**.

Interior Painting of Asheville is now also working with **Amy Guidash of Warrior Canine Connection** to paint the organization's new space on Epworth's lower level. Andrew, Rachel, and their son Lucas recently attended the Helene Remembrance Community Picnic.

The work will occur based on **Interior Painting of Asheville's** availability, but we are extremely grateful for what Andrew and Rachel have already done and will tackle in the future. Groce and Interior Painting of Asheville are working towards a long term and mutually beneficial relationship.



We are still pinching ourselves that both of these things occurred, especially right on top of each other. Thanks be to God.

Pumpkin Patch Summary

SUBMITTED BY JANE WILLIAMS

It has been another exciting and fun year in the Groce Pumpkin Patch. Thank you all for all your hard work. That includes set up, clean up, getting pallets, unloading pumpkins, and working in the pumpkin patch. **Over 40 people have worked** the one and a half hour shift necessary to make the pumpkin patch a success and many have worked multiple shifts! A special thanks to Groce Youth for volunteering every week and for creating special activities.

Pumpkin patch sales 10/12-10/26 total **\$10,639**. As of Wednesday, 10/29, we still have 112 pumpkins. We hope to have a lot of people that shop at the last minute, so we can sell out like we did last year.



Best memories...2-4 year olds, running towards the pumpkin patch, pointing and squealing and kids of all ages, choosing their special pumpkin! It is a tradition for families to visit our front yard. What a blessing.



Advent Study Group

SUBMITTED BY DEBBIE ROSS

Are you looking for an Advent devotional book that will inspire you daily with a focus on a Biblical word, a short devotional reading and the invitation to join in with a daily practice? ***Pauses for Advent*** by Trevor Hudson is the book chosen for this year's Advent Study here at Groce. **The cost for each participant's book will be about \$10.**

Join Debbie Ross ***each Tuesday morning of Advent (12/2, 12/9, 12/16 and 12/23)*** in the pink room from 11:00-12:00 a.m. as we gather together, as fellow pilgrims, to share about our journeys with the words and practices. Sign up for the class on the sheet outside the Church Office by **11/16/25**, so books can be ordered and given out to participants in time to begin reading the first devotional on 11/24. Feel free to contact Debbie Ross if you have questions. ***All are welcome to join in with this Advent study!***

Epworth Open House

SUBMITTED BY MARSHA VAN RIJSSEN, ALYSON SMITH, AND ASHEVILLE READING ROOTS

Join us **Saturday November 15** from for the open house of The Epworth Building. Stop in from **12-2pm** to see what is behind the blue door - Bricks 4 Kidz, the green door - Asheville Reading Roots, the purple door - Dress Up, Suit Up/The Prom Dress Exchange, and the orange door - Amy Chambers Creative. There will be hands on activities for the kids and as well as information on our camps, classes and services.

Programming will include:

- Asheville Reading Roots: donuts, cider, the Benefits of Orton-Gillingham, and a mini lesson.
- Prom Dress Exchange: Hand Sewing Project.
- Bricks 4 Kids: hands on STEAM activities including LEGO mosaics, artwork created with a motorized machine, and various engineering challenges.

Holiday Market

SUBMITTED BY PAM ROGALSKI/ KELLEY WOHL

We're so excited to be reviving Groce's Holiday Market, to continue bringing holiday cheer and locally made products to our East Asheville community! The market will be **November 15 from 10-3**, come find hidden treasures! Or sell your own goods by filling out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/GroceMarket2026>

There will be a **White Elephant Booth** at the market, please donate to the booth by **November 10!**

Charge Conference

SUBMITTED BY JILL RHINEHART

Our Charge Conference will take place on **November 16th at 3:00 p.m.** at Covenant Community. All members of the church are invited to attend.

UMC Description of Charge Conference:

"The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church and is composed of all members of the church council. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets salaries for the pastor and staff, elects the members of the church council, and recommends candidates for ordained ministry."

Haywood Street

SUBMITTED BY ROBERTA BINDER

Haywood St Friends have been and continue to be so grateful for the many gifts they have received from Groce UMC. We have helped to keep for many of our Haywood Friends warm year round. Now faced with cold nights as Fall turns into Winter, there are many new Friends who are added to the on-going request for Blankets. (What the blankets look like doesn't matter – they still work on cold nights.)

Thank you for the many you have already gifted. Now additionally on the list: **men's and women's used or new winter socks**. You can either give me a call: Roberta (828) 707-5149 for pick-up or bring them to the church and place them on the pew outside the nursery room. Thank you all for your Loving Generosity.

Love Offering

SUBMITTED BY DIANE MCENTIRE

In the past, Love Offering donations for our church staff were accepted and distributed during the month of December. The SPRC committee is changing the dates of collection this year to **October 12 - November 15** for two reasons. First, to help ease the financial burden which some of our congregation may experience due to Christmas and holiday purchases/expenses incurred in December. Second, in order to allow sufficient time for the end-of-year accounting process to be properly completed. The funds will continue to be distributed to the staff in December. Thank you.



TL3 Meeting Notes

SUMMARIZED AND SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE

October 21, 2025

Attendees: Fred Bailey, Tracey Briggs, Gary Brockway, Phil Crouch, Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, True Morse, Rocky Redd, Jill Rhinehart, Will Troxell, Guest-Marge Ottofy. Absent: Pam Rogalski

LOVING

1. The group shared blessings and concerns about each other as well as other members of the Groce church family.
2. Rocky opened the meeting in prayer

LEARNING

1. 9/16 meeting notes were approved.

LEADING

2. Approval of pastor's 2026 salary amount
 - a. Jill shared that her salary amount needs to be approved by Groce leadership in advance of the November 16th charge conference so it can be submitted to the Conference by the deadline.
 - b. Rocky made a motion to approve the pastor's salary at \$90,234 (2025 salary amount). Loring seconded the motion.
 - c. Discussion
 - i. While the group would rather see an increase (for all staff to at least reflect the cost of living changes) this cannot be decided in time to meet the submission deadlines since we will not know the results of the stewardship campaign for the 2026 budget.
 - ii. If an increase can be funded by Groce for 2026 it would be made in the form of a bonus payment in 2026 and then incorporated into the 2027 salary.
 - iii. Jill needs two members of the leadership team to attend the charge conference at 3 p.m. on November 16th at Covenant Community Church near Reynolds High School.
 - d. The motion was approved with all in favor.
3. Approval of the 2026 leadership positions
 - a. Jill presented the 2026 leadership directory for approval.
 - b. Jill made a motion that the presented leadership list be approved as submitted. Rocky seconded the motion.
 - c. Discussion
 - i. Various discussions occurred reviewing committees and individual roles with emphasis on all the things being accomplished by the committees, especially the ministry teams.
 - d. The motion was approved with all in favor.
4. 10/26 Church Family meeting presentation and 2025 stewardship campaign
 - a. Gary began by reviewing the concepts behind this year's stewardship campaign and the need for the leadership team to provide input to the information being presented
 - b. Stewardship campaign
 - i. Gary walked the group through each of the slides. Discussion occurred so the group understood the content and intent. Adjustments were made to the slides in the meeting to reflect the input.

TL3 Meeting Notes (cont.)

SUMMARIZED AND SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE

- ii. Will shared information about the Facilities Fund Essential and Aspirational Goals.
- lii. In response to Diane's question about the status of being able to make automated calls to the congregation, Will shared that the present upgrade occurring to the phone system will put us in a position to then acquire these capabilities.
- lv. The group was supportive of the campaign approach and the information being provided. There was acknowledgement that some in the audience might want more detail of what makes up the budget categories being used in the campaign. The group looked at the detail behind these categories. The mailed/emailed cover letter should convey that if someone wants to understand more detail, they can contact Gary or Jim Ariail as we always do with financial information instead of providing account level detail reports that require explanation to properly understand.

Log Cabin Award

SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE

Groce has been honored by the Western North Carolina Conference with recognition of our service to the communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. The award has been carefully placed in Asbury Hall. An image of the award, and a transcription of its description, is below.

"Quilting has long been identified as an arts and crafts endeavor closely linked to mountain culture. Of necessity those who settled in these areas needed the warmth that a quilt provided, and they could be made from scraps and remnants of cloth. There was a functionality and economy to the craft that suited life on the frontier, while beauty and creativity were sewn into what remained of worn clothing and sewing scraps.

This design is the Log Cabin Block. The center red square represents the hearth fire and the heart of the home. The block features an array of "logs" or strips of fabric that build upon one another in a circular motion, similar to the way log cabins were once built. The strips are light on one side of the diagonal and dark on the opposite side, signifying both the beauty and the challenges of life itself. The blue fabrics represent the beautiful hues of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

This quilt block has been crafted with love and given to Groce United Methodist Church in sincere appreciation for your continuing gifts of service to those affected by Hurricane Helene. In our darkest hour you have been the hands and feet of Christ to those in need, helping us to rebuild the heart of the home in our Blue Ridge Mountains.

-- Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church"



2025 Stewardship Campaign

SUBMITTED BY GARY BROCKWAY

As we enter this season of reflection and renewal, we are excited to launch our annual stewardship campaign— a time when we come together as a church family to prayerfully consider how we can support the mission and ministry of our church in the year ahead.

This year's campaign will revolve around the theme of **"building and strengthening relationships with Christ and Others"** through our core missions of Worship, Outreach, and Nurture. Your gifts make ministry happen. From vibrant worship and life-changing outreach to youth programs, pastoral care, and community support— every offering, large or small, is an act of faithful stewardship.

Over the next few weeks, you will hear personal stories, receive stewardship materials, and be invited to reflect on how God is calling on you to give— of your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. On **Sunday, October 26**, we will have a Church Family Meeting to discuss details of the campaign, and on **November 16**, we will come together for Consecration Sunday to offer our commitments to God for the upcoming year.

Let us approach this time with prayerful hearts, trusting that as we each give faithfully, God will multiply our efforts and continue to work through Groce United Methodist Church.

With gratitude and hope,

Gary Brockway

Finance Chair

Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/01 Ashley Baylor
Carolyn Cutlip
Frank Quinlan

11/05 Sandra Justus

11/08 Bob Barcafer

11/09 Tammy Peek

11/12 Tricia Clark
Michael Redd
Nadine Rudeen

11/15 Dennis Butler
Larry Sexton

11/19 Sean Donati
Sophie Moxley

11/19 Sean Donati
Sophie Moxley

11/20 Tracey Briggs

11/21 Alex Donati
Mike Goforth

11/22 Bertha Ramsey

11/23 A C Williams

11/24 Cheri Denison

11/03 Gary & Betty Brockway (53)

11/20 Larry & Carolyn Barber (61)

11/28 Ed & Nancy Saxman (55)

Upcoming Events

Groce United Methodist Church's

HOLIDAY MARKET



Handmade

- Pottery
- Cards
- Art and More

NOV. 15
10am - 3pm

Booth Rental:
Only \$20 (due Nov. 10)
To sign-up, please go to tinyurl.com/GroceMarket or simply scan the following QR Code:



954 Tunnel Rd. Asheville NC 28805

GROCE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

GAME NIGHT

NOVEMBER 7 | 7-9PM



954 TUNNEL ROAD, ASHEVILLE NC
GROCEUMC.ORG



Groce United Methodist Church Poinsettias order form 2025

In this season of Advent, the Altar Guild invites you to purchase a poinsettia for the altar in honor or memory of a loved one. The cut off date to submit this form and money for all dates is **November 23rd. Each plant is \$7.**

Name _____ Phone _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

In honor/memory (circle one) of: _____

Number of plants ordered _____ ** Please remember to include \$ 7 per plant

Date requested: **Nov. 30** **Dec. 7** **Dec. 14** **Dec. 21** **Dec. 24**

Upcoming Events

Groce United Methodist Church Presents

VEE & MR. T

MUSICAL DUO



11/16 3 PM 954 TUNNEL RD. ASHEVILLE NC

Join us for

CHRISTMAS MUSIC CAMP

December 5 4:00-8:00
December 6 10:00-3:00
December 7 performance at 10:00 worship service

- Singing
- Crafts
- Meals Provided

\$20 per child



Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Rd. Asheville NC
Sign up at: groceumc.org



Return to Bethlehem

A Journey of the Heart

— December 11-14, 2025 —

NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 All Saints Sunday 9am AGAPE 10:30am Worship 5pm Youth Group	3 11am Prayer Group 3pm Handbells 7pm Beekeepers	4 10am Parkinsons 10:30am Crafters 1:30pm Tai Chi 7pm SM Brass Band	5 4pm Nurture 5:30pm Pickleball 6pm AA 6pm Chancel Choir	6 10:30am Isaac Group 1:30pm Tai Chi 5pm Welcome Table	7 3pm Tailgate Market 7pm Game Night	8
9 9am AGAPE 10:30am Worship 5pm Youth Group	10 11am Prayer Group 3pm Handbells 6pm Guitar league 6pm Brownies	11 10:30am Crafters 1:30pm Tai Chi 7pm SM Brass Band	12 11:30am Table of 16 4pm UMM at VRQ 5:30pm Pickleball 6pm AA 6pm Chancel Choir	13 10:30am Isaac Group 1:30pm Tai Chi 5pm Welcome Table	14 3pm Tailgate Market	15 10am-3pm Holiday Market
16 9am AGAPE 10:30am Worship 2pm Oak Hollow HOA 5pm Youth Group	17 11am Prayer Group 2:30pm Outreach 3pm Handbells 6pm Labyrinth	18 10:30am Crafters 1:30pm Tai Chi 6pm TL3 7pm SM Brass Band	19 9:30am District Event 10am Sarah Circle 5:30pm Pickleball 6pm AA 6pm Chancel Choir	20 10:30am Isaac Group 1:30pm Tai Chi 5pm Welcome Table	21 3pm Tailgate Market (Last week until April)	22 10am Guitar League
23 9am AGAPE 10:30am Worship 5pm Youth Group	24 11am Prayer Group 3pm Handbells 6pm Brownies	25 10:30am Crafters 1:30pm Tai Chi 5:30pm BR Basket 7pm SM Brass	26 Office Closed 4pm BCAE Meeting	27 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 7am VRQ Lunch	28	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent 9am AGAPE 10:30am Worship	"For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor and sing for joy on their beds. May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them—this is the glory of all his faithful people. Praise the Lord." Psalms 149					