

*Groce UMB's*  
"The Messenger"  
VOLUME 38; ISSUE 2; FEBRUARY 1, 2025

**FROM Jill,**

**To You With Love**

Do you remember what Valentine's Day was like as a child? In the weeks leading up to it, we'd bring an empty shoebox to school and decorate it with construction paper, hearts, and anything else we could find. Our teacher would cut a slit in the top so our classmates could drop their Valentine's cards inside.

Shopping for Valentine's cards was part of the excitement. We'd head to the store with our parents to pick out the perfect set for our classmates. When I was in elementary school, the "cool kids" brought cards that included candy, pencils, or small gifts. Most of us just had simple cards with our names on them.

I remember carefully choosing a card for each person, going through the class list to match the right design to each name. Looking back, I realize most kids probably didn't notice. They might not have even looked at their cards after getting home— unless there was candy or a prize attached.

As we grew older – into high school, college, and adulthood – Valentine's Day took on new meanings. Some people were showered with flowers, stuffed animals, or large boxes of chocolates. For them, it was a day of love and celebration. But for others, it was a lonely reminder of what they didn't have. Few things feel emptier than receiving nothing on a day that seems to highlight how much others are loved. While it's important to express love and appreciation to those close to us, we should also remember that some people don't know what it feels like to be loved so deeply.

Thankfully, God's love is different. It doesn't rely on gifts or special occasions. John 3:16-17 tells us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

God's love is unconditional, constant, and all-encompassing. No matter how lonely or forgotten we may feel, we are deeply loved by Him. With God, every day is Valentine's Day, a reminder of His eternal love for us all.



# TL3 Updates



January 21, 2025 (Joint meeting of TL3 and CHUMs)

1. **Attendees:** Fred Bailey, Tracey Briggs, Gary Brockway, Laura Jones (TL3 & CHUMs), True Morse, Rocky Redd, Jill Rhinehart, Pam Rogalski (TL3 & CHUMs), Will Troxell
2. **Absent:** TL3-Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, CHUMs-Jane Williams
3. **Trustees, Technology and Communication status report.** Will did an extensive update on facilities items and updates to the website. A comprehensive Epworth building report, including the apartments, was sent to the congregation this week.
4. **Financial**
  - I. **2024 Audit.** Jim Ariail, Financial Secretary, initiated an audit of the 2024 financial processes and records using the UMC audit financial guide. He recruited Annette Coleman and Ed Saxman to perform this audit.
  - II. **Apportionments.** \$12,213 was received for apportionments in very late December and will be paid for 2025 apportionments since they were not able to be paid by the cut-off date for 2024 apportionments.
5. **Webinar Series by Rob Hutchinson** – 8 Characteristics of a Vital and Sustainable Congregation
  - I. Jill shared her observations from the most recent session and True and Jill encouraged everyone to attend these webinars. They are on the 2nd Monday of the month.
  - II. 1/21 session recording link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI2CFLzjrHg>
  - III. Signing up for Rob's future webinars on this - <https://www.wnccumc.org/newsdetail/growing-vital-and-sustainable-congregations-18538877> or if you have difficulty contact Candy Caron at [ccaron@wnccumc.org](mailto:ccaron@wnccumc.org)
6. **Equip & Connect Virtual Conference 2025, 1/26-30**
  - I. <https://www.wnccumc.org/equip-connect-2025>
  - II. True and Jill reviewed the offerings at this conference, recommending that everyone take a look to see which ones might be helpful based on their roles and interests.
7. **Recommended additional, helpful resources for GUMC leaders, or anyone**
  - I. Jill and True recommended that TL3 and CHUMs leaders consider subscribing to several UMC or WNCC UMC email distributions to receive useful insights about topics helpful in Groce's ministries and operations. Below is information about these gathered after the meeting.
    - a. wnccumc.org – Go to the bottom of any of their web pages and find the "Subscribe to Our Newsletters", enter your email address and click "Go". You will receive an email with a selection of which newsletters you want to receive. BRD (Blue Ridge District) monthly email, ELEAD and ENews might be places to start. You can change this later.
    - b. umnews.org – Daily UMC news email. Easy to scroll through the email and pick what interests you. To sign up go to <https://www.umnews.org/en/landing-pages/subscription-management/umnews-daily-subscribe>
    - c. <https://www.resourceumc.org/en> - Great site to look for almost anything you are trying to find UMC related resources, articles, etc.
  - II. **2025 Operations Fund Budget.** The proposed 2025 budget was reviewed. The detailed version would be sent to TL3 for approval via email.
  - III. **January 26th Church Family Meeting.** True led the group through the most updated presentation and several areas solicited feedback. Thanks to Tracey Briggs professional communication expertise in shaping this presentation.
8. **Next meetings**
  - I. February – Tuesday, 2/18, 6 p.m.
  - II. February – Tuesday, 2/25, 6 p.m. – Annual audit report review
  - III. March – Tuesday, 3/18, 6 p.m.
  - IV. April – Tuesday, 4/15, 6 p.m., Laura Jones to lead
  - V. May – Church Family meeting?

# Table of 16

Groce's Tables of Sixteen will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 11:30AM** at Long Horn Steakhouse up off Tunnel Rd.

~Submitted by Linda Lankton

---

## Valentine's Fundraiser February 14 @ 6pm

Come dressed in your festive attire (or not) for a fun evening of great food, fellowship, and entertainment. Dinner will be served family style and includes chicken casserole, green beans, salad, rolls, drinks, brownies and ice cream. The table decorations will be colorful and cheery. This event is made possible by UMM, Women of Faith, Youth, and Jill.

The evening will include love songs performed by Gerald Davis with a few sing alongs plus karaoke. Gary Brockway will take requests prior to the event in order to have your favorite artist/song already downloaded for a guaranteed good time.

Bring yourself, a friend or someone who is thinking about visiting our church. Tickets are \$10 per person or a family ticket for \$25. Sign up using the flyer below.

~Submitted by Pam Budd



## Valentine's Day Dinner Fundraiser

Friday, February 14

Menu: chicken casseroles, green beans, rolls, salad, brownies & ice-cream

Dress in festive attire and join in for a night of good food, engaging fellowship and fun entertainment! All proceeds will go toward the operations of our church.

Seating at 6:00pm; Take Out at 6:30pm; Entertainment at 6:15pm

Asbury Hall

Adults: \$10; Family Rate: \$25

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Family Rate

FUNDRAISING FOR GROCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UWF AND UMM

\$10

DEADLINE  
TO RSVP  
FEB. 10



# VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER FUNDRAISER

Join us for a night full of good food & laughter.

14 February, 2025  
6pm - 8pm

954 Tunnel Rd.  
Asheville



828.298.7647

TO RSVP





**\$5  
PINT**

**\$10  
QUART**

# *Annual* **FROZEN SOUP SALE**

---

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**  
SALE BEGINS AT 11:30AM  
IN ASBURY LOBBY

**JOIN US!**

# Heifer Foundation

It is that time of year once again! Thanks to the generous donations of our congregation during Children's Change, we have raised **over \$900** in the last 6 months to go toward the Heifer Foundation. We were able to purchase **1 heifer, 1 water buffalo, 1 pig, and a flock of chicks**. Thank you all for continuing Heifer's mission and sharing the spirit of Christ by helping families in need. Your compassionate giving saves lives!

---

## Announcements

**Blessing Box**—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. Thank you all for your wonderful donations to our Blessing Box! Going into February, here are some needed items: canned meats, hearty soups, granola bars/snack crackers, cereals/oatmeal packs, Chef Boyardee pastas, mac & cheese, and raisins (small boxes).

**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.

**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 through out the coming year!

**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 10—10:15am in Asbury Hall every Sunday before Sunday school. We'll see you there!

**Welcome Table** - Come on out every **Thursday from 5 to 6:30pm** for a free meal and loving atmosphere as we feed our community with open hearts and helping hands!

---

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

02/02 Brad Ledbetter  
Kelsey Towery

02/05 Wesley Morgan

02/07 Veronica Bagwell

02/08 Margaret Kuhn  
Catherine Shatley

02/12 Diane McEntire

02/14 Mark Slaughter

02/18 Betty Brockway  
Mary Ellen  
Mansfield

02/20 Steve Lewis

02/23 Phil Kromer

02/28 Jill Rhinehart

02/22 Phil Kromer & Kathryn Morgan (11)



# February

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HAPPY VALENTINE DAY						
2 AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am Youth—5pm	3 Handbells—5:30pm Beekeepers—7pm	4 Parkin Group—10am CHUMs—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	5 Nurture—5pm Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	6 Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm UMMen—6:30pm	7 Youth Ski Trip	8 
9 AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am	10 Handbells—5:30pm Guitar League—6pm Brownies—6pm	11 Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm Bev Hills—7pm	12 UMM@VRQ—4pm Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	13 Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	14 Valentine's Day Valentine's Day Dinner—6pm	15 
16 AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am Youth—5pm	17 <b>President's Day</b> Outreach—3pm Handbells—5:30pm	18 Tai Chi—1:30pm Miriam Circle—3pm Leadership(TL3)—6pm SMBB—7pm	19 Table of 16—11:30am Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	20 Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	21 	22 Guitar League—10am
23 AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am Youth—5pm	24 Handbells—5:30pm Brownies—6pm	25 Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	26 BCAC—4pm Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	27 Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	28 	

Warrior Canine Connection-  
Mon. - Fri. from 8am to 5pm

\*Dates are subject to change.

## Black History Month

was created to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to the United States. It honors all Black people from all periods of U.S. history, from the enslaved people first brought over from Africa in the early 17th century to African Americans living in the United States today.

