

THE MESSENGER



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2026 Stewardship Campaign



Dear Family and Friends of Groce UMC:

As we enter this season of reflection and renewal, we are excited to launch our Annual Stewardship Campaign. At Groce United Methodist Church, stewardship begins with gratitude. Everything we have—our time, abilities, resources, and compassion—is a gift from God. When we share those gifts, we do more than support a church budget; we help create moments of welcome, healing, connection, and hope for our church family and throughout our community.

Our theme this year is “**Growing in Faith, Serving with Love**”. Your generosity helps make worship possible—the sermons, music, prayers, and fellowship. It supports ministries that nurture children, youth, families, and adults as they grow in faith. It helps provide care and encouragement to people walking through difficult times, and it strengthens our outreach to neighbors who need food, friendship, practical assistance, or simply the assurance that they are not alone.

Over the next few weeks, you will hear 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, November 8**, we will come together for **Consecration Sunday** to offer our commitments to God for the coming year.

With gratitude and hope,
Gary Brockway
Finance Chair

Rummage Sale Update

Our Rummage Sale last month resulted in **over \$5000** earned for our Operating Fund!!! Thank you so much for all the donations, purchases, and volunteer efforts. It was a fun and successful weekend and we couldn't have done it without our wonderful congregation.



HONORING OUR VETERANS



– Submitted by Pamela Budd

Do you know/live with a veteran? I grew up in a household fashioned somewhat on a military routine without quite being aware of why our family did things a certain way. My 3 sisters and I rotated our chores, my mother had dinner on the table at 5pm (for 8 years) so my father could catch the 5:30 train to go to night school on the GI bill, Sunday was church, Monday-piano lessons, Girl Scouts-Tuesday, choir-Wednesday, and I can't really remember what was on Thursday. I tried to play baseball on Saturdays, pretty much a failure. We had a routine!

WHAT'S MY POINT? We will honor our veterans by bringing socks, gloves and hats to add to the basket in the narthex to be delivered by **UMM** to the Veteran's Quarters. These items are now being accepted **AND** what I am asking from our attendees/veterans is to leave a framed photo of you (possibly in uniform?) in the church office in the green Ingles bag to be displayed on **Nov. 8th**. THANK YOU for your service.

United Women of Faith



– Submitted by Jane Morse

The United Women of Faith (previously United Methodist Women) has been a part of Groce UMC history for many decades. Through the UWF “we seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities” (<https://uwfaith.org/>, 2026).

At Groce UMC we currently have two circles: **Miriam Circle** which meets on the third Tuesday at 3:00 pm and **Sarah Circle** which meets on the third Wednesday at 10:00 am. **We would like to add a third circle for women who cannot meet during the day and are surveying interest in a circle which meets one evening a month for fellowship and fun.** If you are interested in being a part of the new circle, contact **Jane Morse** at janemorsedpt@gmail.com. You are also invited to join one of the existing circles. For Miriam Circle contact **Marge Ottofy** (marge@ioa.com) or for Sarah Circle contact **Pam Budd** (swimming349@gmail.com).

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

Our pumpkins will be delivered on **Sunday, October 11** after church. Pizza will be provided for anyone willing to help unload and set up the haul! It's a big job and we need as many hands as possible to get it done.

Volunteers are also needed to help sell the pumpkins. The patch will be open **M-F, 2:00 - 6:30, Sat-Sun, 12:30-6:30**. Each shift will be 1 ½ hours.

Please consider volunteering! All proceeds benefit local non-profits and our Groce Youth Missions work. You can use the QR code, click [here](#), or contact the office.



CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Charge Conference will take place on **October 11 at 4pm** at Skyland UMC. 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."

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Jackie Davis
10/03 Gary Lankton
Elizabeth Thomas
10/05 Kirk Hatherly
10/07 Phillip Crouch
10/08 Jim Creel
10/09 Mary Harrelson
10/11 Fred Bailey
Flavia DeGobbi
10/13 Katrina Geer
Aubrey Woehl
10/16 Joe Early
Ruth Phillips
10/17 Lauren Rhein
10/18 Diane Hankins
Betty Jones
10/20 Steve Burdick
10/22 John Smith
10/23 Audrey Dotson
John Stovall
10/24 Rocky Redd

OCTOBER ANNIVERSERIES

10/08 Chris & Brandee Morris (21)
10/14 Natalie & Nick Taylor (20)
10/16 Glenn & Linda Haynes (50)
10/19 Brad & Mary Ledbetter (30)
10/22 Christy & Mike Goforth (43)

CARE AND SHARE RECAP

Our Care and Share Sunday last month was an amazing success! After meeting for a quick gathering in the parking lot that morning, we took our faith out into the world! Service projects included making Blessing Bags for our unhoused neighbors, in-person worship gatherings with homebound congregants, and yard work for a community member in need. Afterward, we regathered for a picnic and talked about the power of sharing Jesus's love in a tangible way. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Staff Love Offerings

To show our deep gratitude for the tireless devotion and hard work of our staff, we are collecting a special Staff Love Offering during the month of October.

This is an "over-and-above" voluntary gift separate from your regular giving. One hundred percent of the funds collected will be distributed directly to our staff as a blessing for them and their families.

Be sure to designate your gift as "Staff Love Offering." Let's overflow with generosity and show this incredible team just how much they mean to the Groce Church Family!

TABLE OF 16

Submitted by Linda Lankton

Table of 16 met in September for some good food and great fellowship. We love seeing our Groce Church Family connect beyond our walls! Join them for their next gathering on October 14th. See the sidebar for upcoming dates and be part of the fun!



*"Remember those
who work hard
among you, who
care for you in the
Lord and who
admonish you.
Hold them in the
highest regard in
love because of
their work."*

— 1 THESSALONIANS
5:12-13

UPCOMING DATES FOR
TABLE OF 16:

- OCTOBER 14
- NOVEMBER 4
- DECEMBER 16

11:30 AM AT LONGHORN
STEAKHOUSE OFF
TUNNEL ROAD
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SEE LINDA LANKTON FOR
MORE INFORMATION

Exterior Painting at Groce

Submitted by True Morse

Once again **Andrew & Rachel Sheffield**, owners of **Interior Painting of Asheville**, along with their team, have done another "paint tithing" (Andrew coined this term) at Groce. They recently painted the front fascia trim, canopy woodwork, and the canopy ceiling, including repairing the water damage hole. Next they are going to tackle the main sign on the lawn along Tunnel Rd. What an absolute blessing for Interior Painting of Asheville to support Groce in this way!! After we do some repair around the sanctuary stained glass windows and replace the plexiglass with a clearer type material, IPA will paint that woodwork. The same goes for repairing the carpenter bee and woodpecker damage at the front sanctuary wall facing Tunnel Rd.



MEETING LOCATION CHANGES

Beginning October 7th, AA will meet in Charter Hall.

Beginning November 9th, Girl Scouts will also be meeting in Charter Hall.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

— LAMENTATIONS
3:22-23



September 15, 2026, Groce Leadership Team (TL3 – Team Loving Learning Leading) Meeting Summary

- Updates shared via email prior to the meeting
 - Epworth building upper level rent increases sent the week of 8/31
 - Realty World Marketplace leasing agent agreements received and being signed for marketing the former Warrior Canine Connection space in the lower level of Epworth
 - Cooling condensing unit that serves the nursery and adjoining areas was repaired with a used compressor. Proposals will be obtained to replace the entire unit over the winter.
 - An unglued joint in the condensate drain line for one of the Sanctuary building attic air handling units damaged the choir room ceiling
 - Moisture is coming through the foundation wall into the Sanctuary building lower level bathroom and the Godly Play storage room that will require excavating the exterior and waterproofing the wall
 - The Youth Director position continues to be advertised
- The group shared blessings and concerns about each other as well as other members of the Groce church family.
- **Growing the Family of God at Groce Updates.** Jill provided a positive update on the youth group. 5 left for college but still have 7 in the group which includes someone an existing member invited.
- **Jill items**
 - Charge Conference will be held at Skyland UMC on 10/11 at 4 p.m.
 - Sanctuary flat screens are on schedule to be installed by the end of October.
- **Finance**
 - Rummage sale proceeds were \$5,000 along with lots of community goodwill
 - Groce has only been able to pay or collect \$15,168 of the 2026 budgeted apportionments of \$31,627
- **Trustees**
 - Interior Painting of Asheville has continued to “tithe” to Groce by painting the front exterior fascia trim and the Wesley building canopy. They plan on painting the Groce sign in the grass as well.
 - Gutter guards were completed on the Wesley and Epworth buildings to prevent downspouts clogging and water damage.
 - Choir room ceiling is being repaired from attic air handling units condensate drain line leak.
 - Reimbursement approved for heating and cooling system water damage to items in the Bricks 4 Kidz space in Epworth.
 - Revised facility use rates and policy were substantially completed.
 - Security policy and approach are in development.

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

Groce United Methodist Church

PUMPKIN PATCH



October 11-31 | Mon - Fri 2:00 - 6:30 | 954 Tunnel Road
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 6:30 | Asheville NC 28805

GAME

Fun, Laughter,
and Fellowship!



Everyone is
Welcome!

NIGHT

Groce United Methodist Church
954 Tunnel Rd. Asheville

BRING A
GAME
TO
SHARE!



Friday
October
2nd

—
Start
7.00 PM



In Asbury
Hall

BAKE SALE

~ SARAH CIRCLE ~

Cakes



Pastries



Snacks



October 24
From 12:30-2:30

During the Pumpkin Patch!



Groce UMC

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING



PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

OCT | 25 | AFTER SERVICE

In the Sanctuary

October 2026

The Pumpkin Gospel:

Select a pumpkin from the patch – God chooses us with love.
Clean out the sticky mess inside – God forgives and washes away our sin.
Carve a face – God makes us into a new creation with joy.
Place a candle inside – let Christ's light shine outward to others.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

AH - Asbury Hall AL - Asbury Lobby CH - Charter Hall JB - Jack Bass Room	4 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 5:00 Youth	5 11:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Canasta (AH) 3:00 Handbells 7:00 Beekeepers (AH)	6 10:00 Parkinsons (AH) 11:00 Staff Meeting (JB) 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	7 4:00 Nurture (JB) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	8 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	9 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	10 11:00 Beverly Hills Picnic
11 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 4:00 Charge Conference (offsite) 5:00 Youth	12 11:00 Prayer Group 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Handbells 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Guitar League (AH)	13 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 11:00 Worship/Witness (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 7:00 SMBB (AH) 7:00 BH Exec. Meeting (JB)	14 11:30 Table of 16 (offsite) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 5:15 UMM @ VRQ (offsite) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH) 7:00 Sondley HOA (AH)	15 10:30 Isaac Group 10:30 BH Preschool (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	16 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	17 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch	24 10:00 Guitar League (AH/CH) 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 12:30 Sarah Cir. Bake Sale 1:00 Face Painting 5:00 HCCA Chili Cookoff (AH)
18 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 5:00 Youth	19 11:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Canasta (AH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Handbells	20 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Miriam Circle (AL) 6:00 TL3 (JB) 7:00 HCCA Green (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	21 10:00 Sarah Circle (AL) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 4:30 Stephen Ministry (CH) 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH) 7:00 HCCA Board (JB)	22 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	23 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	31 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch	30 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)
25 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship 11:30 Church Family Mtg. (AH) 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 5:00 Youth	26 11:00 Prayer Group 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Handbells 5:30 Eastmoor HOA (CH) 6:00 Girl Scouts	27 10:30 Crafty Crafters (CH) 11:00 Outreach (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 6:00 Basket Guild (CH) 7:00 SMBB (AH)	28 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 5:30 Men's Chorus 6:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 AA Meeting (CH)	29 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:45 Advanced Tai Chi (CH) 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Beginners Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) 6:45 Cub Scouts (AH)	30 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)	31 12:30-6:30 Pumpkin Patch	30 2:00-6:30 Pumpkin Patch 3:00 Tailgate Market 6:00 Quintet (AH)

