

"The Messenger"

VOLUME 38; ISSUE 4; APRIL 1, 2025

FROM Jill,



He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." [[Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and give him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] Luke 22:39-44

As Easter approaches, my thoughts return to my time in Jerusalem and the profound experiences I had there. I find myself reflecting on what Jesus must have felt as he faced the trials of his final twenty-four hours on earth.

One of the places I was privileged to visit was the Mount of Olives, where Jesus took his disciples to pray before his arrest and trials. This sacred place, also known as the Garden of Gethsemane, holds a deep sense of history and reverence. Some of the olive trees in this garden are believed to be some of the original olive trees from Jesus' day. Though the garden is small now, in Jesus' time, it was part of a much larger grove stretching along the mountainside outside the walls of Jerusalem. Above the grove lies a Jewish cemetery that has existed for over 3,000 years, a silent witness to countless generations.

The olive trees stand as ancient sentinels, their thick, gnarled trunks layered with bark, weathered by centuries of history. Their silvery-green leaves shimmer in the light, whispering in the breeze as if carrying the echoes of prayers once spoken beneath their branches.

In this garden, I felt a profound sense of peace and belonging. I wondered where Jesus left his disciples to pray and where he knelt in agony before the Father. As I walked among the trees, I reflected on that night when he surrendered to God's will, knowing the suffering he would endure. His words in Luke 22:42 came to mind: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

This prayer is a powerful reminder of the importance of surrender and self-denial in obedience to God's greater purpose. Jesus, though fully divine, experienced deep anguish, yet he chose to submit out of love—for the Father and for us.

Easter is one of my favorite holidays because it reminds me of this ultimate act of love. Even in the face of betrayal, suffering, and death on a cross, Jesus' love was unwavering. His sacrifice is a living testament that God's grace is not something we can earn—it is freely given through Christ's finished work.

Paul expresses this beautifully in Galatians 2:19-21: "... I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing."

As I prepare my heart for Easter, I am reminded that Jesus' sacrifice was not just an event in history—it is an invitation to live by faith, to walk in grace, and to rest in the assurance that his love is enough.

Sally Smith in Memoria

The Sarah Circle planted a Kwanzaa cherry tree in memory of Sally Smith. Carolyn Cutlip placed it in the bed close to Tunnel Rd near the second entrance to the front parking lot.

A plaque has been ordered to honor Sally's many contributions to GUMC. She was very active in the parsonage committee, Sarah Circle, Flower Girls, organizer of the Bereavement Team, started the text prayer chain, active member of the Agape Sunday School and various other behind the scenes decisions. Sally loved Groce Church and welcomed visitors with enthusiasm. I miss her very much and am thankful to call her my dear friend.

~Submitted by Pam Budd

Nifty Knitters and Crafty Critters

Join Pam Rogalski every Tuesday morning from 10:30—11:30am in Asbury Lobby for a time of fellowship while creating hope for others.

This newly founded craft group has begun contributing to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. All are welcome and encouraged to join in this project or come just for the lively conversation. For more information, please contact Pam Rogalski at pamr72004@yahoo.com.



Special Thanks

I wanted to thank everyone for the support of my son, Nicolas, & his restaurant, Birchwood Hall. After 8 years, the building has been sold so they lost their lease and as of 3/27/25 they closed their doors. He is working on some new ideas which I will let you know later. Thank you all so much!



~Submitted by Tammy Peek

Special Thanks

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, texts, emails & kind words before and after my surgery. I really appreciate you all!

~Submitted by Rocky Redd

Address Change

Rachel Burgin

Heather Glen at Ardenwoods
103 Appalachian Blvd.
Room 318
Arden, NC, 28704

Phone: 828.989.4688

~Submitted by Sylvia Nicks

Progress in Meeting our Apportionment Goal for 2025

Thank you for your prayerful consideration toward meeting our apportionment goal this year for Groce UMC. Apportionments are vital to our offerings because they allow our church conference to accomplish things that we as an individual church are not able to do on our own. This past Sunday, March 23rd, we had a special offering for our 2025 apportionments which amounted to \$7,530. When added to previous apportionment donations, we now have a total of \$20,518 (65%) toward our goal of \$31,573 for 2025. Thank you again for your generous contributions and please give yourself a pat on the back for the wonderful progress we are making in reaching our goal.

~Submitted by Gary Brockway (Finance Chair)

"I'm On It" - A Tribute to Todd Spainhour



On Thursday, March 6, we lost a valued member of our church family - Todd Spainhour. Todd was not officially a member of our congregation, but he treated our church like he was.

"I'm On It" followed by a quick salute. When you heard and saw this, you knew it was Todd, our official Groce UMC handyman. And as he happily worked in our facility, you could find him visiting everyone that was around. He was particularly fond of the church staff, but was friendly to all. Todd also performed many home repairs for members of our church.

Todd was unquestionably the best handyman one could ask for. I never saw anything he couldn't fix - electrical, mechanical, carpentry, plumbing - you name it. Most important, he did everything well. As chair of the trustees, he was my right hand man for repairs as well as a good friend.

We will sorely miss Todd's outgoing personality, friendliness, and superb repair skills. Our prayers are with his family and his many friends.

And you know, if you listen carefully, you just might hear from the heavens above, "I'm On It."

~Submitted by Will Troxell

Tailgate Market

The Tailgate Market is back and better than ever! Resuming their spot in our front parking lot, the Tailgate Market will be in business every Friday from 3 to 6pm beginning on April 25. Come on out to see everything from local produce to art and music!

May 4th Church Family Meeting

Immediately after worship service on May 4th, we will have a Church Family meeting in the sanctuary (it will also be livestreamed) to update everyone on a variety of exciting things occurring at Groce. Everyone is encouraged to stay and hear what's happening in the life of the church.

Rev. Jill Rhinehart, Pastor
True Morse, TL3 Leadership Team Chair

Birthdays & Anniversaries

04/07 April Thomas

04/08 Kathy Tullis

04/10 Mike Lamb

04/11 Ella Hoffert
Teaghan Powell

04/12 Cindy Day

04/15 Jane Morse

04/16 Tim Towery

04/20 Carter Ratcliff

04/21 George Cole

04/23 Mason Lamb

04/28 Meredith Tuten

04/30 Nancy Lewis

04/20 Tim & Terri Kilmer (40)



Compiled and Edited by Veronica Bagwell



Haywood Street Fresco

Religious Art Award

Haywood Street Congregation

Asheville, North Carolina

Affirming sacred worth, restoring human dignity, and sabotaging the shame of poverty, the Haywood Street Fresco announces, in plaster and pigment, that you matter. Many of the world's great art masterpieces were inspired by religious themes and faith stories. But too often, religious art was made over in the image of those in power who were paying for the work. God was rendered European and male. Jesus was more prince than peasant. Salvation meant being upper class.

The mission and ministry of Haywood Street Congregation, located in downtown Asheville, North Carolina, aims to shed light instead on the God who abandoned heaven to take up residence as a homeless man on earth, who loitered on dirty street corners, who broke bread with outcasts and touched the untouchable. He most loved what—and who—the world had discarded.

The Haywood Street Fresco portrays Jesus's most enduring sermon, the Beatitudes, where he begins, "Blessed are the poor." Adorning the wall of the church sanctuary, the beautiful 9.5-by-27-foot fresco inspires congregants and visitors from all over the world, and reflects Haywood Street's mission: relationship, above all else.

Jury Comments

The congregation is among 'the least of these,' which is this community's ministry. The art tells the story of this place and the people who they serve.

Project Team Members

Christopher Holt / Principal Artist
Caleb Clark
Anselme Long
John Dempsey
Jill Hooper

Project Consultants

Rev. Brian Combs, Founding Pastor, Haywood Street Congregation
Christopher Zaluski, filmmaker, Theirs Is the Kingdom
John Warner Photography
Charles Burns, Haywood Street Congregant (in memoriam)
Pam Siekman, Chairperson, Fresco Steering Committee

Photo Credit / John Warner Photography

Compiled and Edited by Veronica Bagwell



TL3 Update



March 18, 2025

Joint meeting of TL3 and CHUMs (Chairs Happily United in Ministry - the chairs of the ministry teams)

Attendees: Fred Bailey, Tracey Briggs, Phil Crouch, Diane McEntire, Loring McIntyre, True Morse, Rocky Redd, Jill Rhinehart, Will Troxell, CHUMs-Marge Ottofy, Jane Williams

Absent: Gary Brockway, Pam Rogalski, CHUMs-Laura Jones

True began the meeting with a prayer.

LOVING & LEARNING

1. **2025 apportionments.** Jill will contact Gayle Decker and Jim Ariail about disbursing the \$12,213 received in late 2024 to the conference towards Groce's 2025 apportionments.
2. **UWF circles, UMM and MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)** funds reimbursement for Pumpkin Patch loan. Jill will confirm the 4 - \$1,000 loans were reimbursed to these respective groups but believes it already occurred.
3. **MYF.** Jill shared and celebrated that there are 5 new MYF members who come from a background of no church or faith community. Jill shared that there may not be a youth meeting on 4/13 and there definitely will not be meetings on 4/20 and 4/27. True will communicate to the groups that are providing youth meals on those dates.
4. **Todd Spainhour (Groce's key facility maintenance person).** TL3 approved Jill using \$200 from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund as a gift to Todd's church in memory of him.

LEADING

1. **2/25/25 meeting notes approval.** These were approved via email based on 6 responses of 8 full meeting attendees with no edits.
2. "Top 3" Priorities for Shaping Our Future
 - a. **Approach**
 - i. True called each TL3 and CHUMs member (total of 14 people) to hear their top 3 priorities to take meaningful action towards the Shaping Our Future framework.
 - ii. These were then aggregated for similarity and discussion while doing a look back at what came from the input of the 75 participants at the May-June 2024 Shaping Our Future roundtables.
 - iii. Meeting discussion then occurred around key findings, confirming linkage to and validation by the roundtable outcomes, expanding on the priorities and defining next steps to pursue the priorities.
 - b. **1st Highest Priority – Becoming more multi-generational**
 - i. 9 of the 14 people identified this as a top 3
 - ii. Various potential initiatives along with approaches to determining Groce's path forward were discussed:
 1. Obtaining an intern to help figure out Groce's approach. Jill mentioned the Center for Youth Ministry Training" as one potential source.
 2. Use conference resources like Rob Hutchinson, Dir of Church Development, as well as network contacts to develop Groce's approach and focus.
 3. Pursue grants to support this initiative including potentially Fresh Expressions grants and the WNCC lead on this, Luke Edwards.
 4. Diane and Jill described the many challenges today's youth face including a wide variety of trauma they are exposed to due to family and other situations including Helene related trauma. Diane said the latest figure is that 1500 children are without homes both due to pre-Helene circumstances and Helene.
 5. There is a great opportunity to increase the engagement with the Community High School that is located in Swannanoa.
 - iii. **Action.** True to pull together a team to bring back Groce specific recommendations on how Groce can meet needs of the younger generations and become a more multi-generational church.
 - c. **2nd Highest Priority – Multi-media updates to the sanctuary.**
 - I. 7 of 14 people identified this as a priority.
 - II. Will described the key steps to implementing this initiative and some existing aspects of the

sanctuary's current technology. Will has done this at previous churches.

1. The current audio and streaming features were done with the anticipation that future multi-media functions would be added so some of the necessary infrastructure is already in place.
2. There are several key steps to completing the initiative.
 - ⇒ Defining the desired functionality (Will meeting with Jill, Becky, Worship/Witness and any other key players in the worship service).
 - ⇒ Designing the installation so the changes to the sanctuary space are in keeping with the space. Trustees and Worship/Witness will be involved in the approval of the final design.
 - ⇒ Budget, funding and installation
 - ⇒ And the biggest challenge, having sufficient volunteers trained on the system (including the streaming function) to operate it.
3. This initiative is supportive of the multi-generational priority.
4. **Action.** Will indicated this is achievable by the end of this coming Summer. Will will solicit Fred's involvement on the technical side given their shared electrical and electronics back grounds. The first step will be with Jill sharing her desired functionality for Will to identify limitations and/or other functionalities to incorporate.

d. 3rd Highest Priority – Updated street sign

- ⇒ 5 out of 14 people identified this as a top priority.
- ⇒ The current sign is barely functional due to having to use tape to secure the letters and is a very poor first impression of the church. It makes it challenging to routinely promote all the activities occurring at Groce.
- ⇒ This initiative is supportive of the multi-generational initiative.
- ⇒ True shared that he had approached Will several weeks ago volunteering to take the lead on investigating sign solutions using 2 paths.
 1. An "immediate" replacement sign proposal for something similar to what we currently have though with a cover to prevent tampering.
 2. An electronic sign to completely replace both current signs that allow messages (not video or images) to be updated from the church office via a network link. There are several key aspects to an electronic sign including the zoning ordinance restrictions, a zoning variance request, the cost and a funding source.

v. Action. True's goal would be to bring the sign research results to the May TL3 meeting.

vi. Balance of priorities.

1. The next priorities identified individually had a maximum of 3 people each and could easily be incorporated into the multi-generational initiative. The priorities touched on the following themes:
 - I. Promoting Groce and non-Groce events or activities occurring at Groce.
 - II. Greater community engagement and collaboration.
 - III. Relationships, relationships, relationships, using every opportunity, especially small group and fellowship settings.
2. **Emerging young music artists.** True shared for Gary Brockway a very specific proposal by Gary to create an emerging young music artist program where periodically a team at Groce would accept and review applications by young music artists to perform as part of the worship service.
3. Actions
 - ⇒ The multi-generational initiative team will look at how the other priorities, or the ideas that came out of the roundtable, can be appropriately incorporated into the multi-generational initiative.
 - ⇒ True and Jill will continue to meet with community groups and Jane and Marge of Outreach to expand our understanding of how engagement and collaboration can be increased.
 - ⇒ Jill to talk with Gary about the emerging young music artist initiative.

HOUSEKEEPING

- Next meetings: April – NO MEETING | May 4 – Church Family meeting after the worship service
May 20: 6pm
- Rocky ended the meeting with a prayer.

~Submitted by True Morse



Spring
CONCERT SERIES

Sunday, March 9 ~ Biltmore Brass
Sunday, April 6 ~ 4-hand Piano
Sunday, May ~ Brass, Piano & More

All Concerts begin at 3pm
Free | Donations Welcome
954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville

(828)298-7647 | www.groceumc.org

Chuck Hunner Presents

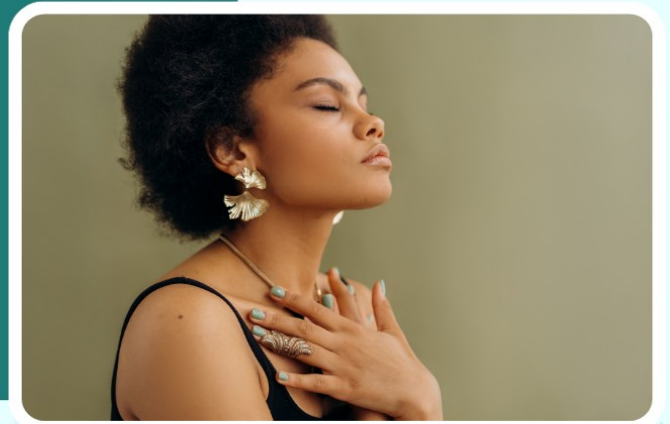
MEDITATION LABYRINTH WALKS

It's time to refresh your mind, body and soul!

DATES AND TIMES

- March 5 - 11:30am & 6:30pm
- March 17 - 11:30am & 7pm
- March 24 - 7pm
- April 2 - 11:30am
- April 11 - 7pm
- April 18 - 1:30pm & 7pm

Join Chuck Hunner on a journey of self reflection and meditation in our Asbury Hall. Each walk can either be self guided or under Chuck's tutelage. Admission is free and open to people of all ages.



www.groceumc.org

828.298.7647



BAKE SALE

~ SARAH CIRCLE ~



Cakes



Pastries



Snacks



13 April, 2025

Sold before and after the 10:30am Worship service





YOU'RE INVITED TO

OUR EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17 | 7pm

Good Friday ~ April 18 | Noon

LUNCH TO FOLLOW

Easter Sunday ~ April 20
7am & 10:30am

954 TUNNEL ROAD
ASHEVILLE, NC, 28805

828.298.7647

WWW.GROCEUMC.ORG

Compiled and Edited by Veronica Bagwell



April



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am Concert Series—3pm Youth—5pm	Prayer Group—11am Handbells—3pm Beekeepers—7pm	Parkin. Group—10am Knitters—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	Nurture—5pm Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm UMMen—6:30pm	Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm Labyrinth—7pm	Bricks 4 Kidz—10—2pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AGAPE—9am Sarah Bake Sale—10am Worship—10:30am	Prayer Group—11am Handbells—3pm Guitar League—6pm Brownies—6pm	Knitters—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Miriam—3pm SMBB—7pm	Sarah—10am Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	Maunder Thursday Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm Service—7pm	Good Friday Service—noon Luncheon—12:30 Labyrinth—1:30 & 7pm	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Easter Sunday Sunrise—7pm AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am	Office Closed Prayer Group—11am Handbells—3pm Outreach—3pm	Knitters—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	BCAC—4pm Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	Tailgate Market— 3—6pm Bricks 4 Kidz—4—7pm	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
AGAPE—9am Worship—10:30am	Prayer Group—11am Handbells—3pm Brownies—6pm	Knitters—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	Choir—6pm Pickleball—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	27	28	29
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

HAPPY Easter

Warrior Canine Connection -
 Mon. - Fri. from 8am to 5pm
 *Dates are subject to change.

Bricks 4 Kidz—During the Buncombe County Schools' Spring Break, **April 14—18**, Bricks 4 Kids will meet in the first classroom of the Epworth building from 9am to 4pm. Go to bricks4kidz.com for more information.