

# "The Messenger"

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FROM DEBBIE ROSS,

For several years now, I have followed the recommendation of noted author, Debbie Macomber, and have chosen a word to be my focus in the new year. This "One Perfect Word" is supposed to act as a means to shape one's positive behavior each year and Macomber recommends choosing a word prayerfully and listening for the blessings that come your way through living out that word during the year. This past year I chose the words "Courage" and "Contentment." I was a bit unsure at the beginning of 2024 why the word "Courage" was calling to me but after going through three surgeries, a bad fall that resulted in a broken wrist and experiencing a hurricane and tornado hitting our house I fully understand that God was telling me I would need courage in this year! Through all of this, however, I felt God's presence and strength and He met our every need in each situation. While being content while living through all of this was hard, I was encouraged by my faith, through prayer and scripture and by the encouragement of family and friends that lifted me up in prayer. Many others in our community and church family also suffered at the hands of Hurricane Helene and are still showing courage as they work through the recovery process following the damage to homes, lives and property. Indeed, many of us have learned a lot about courage this last year.

For 2025 I have chosen the words "Gratitude" and "Grace" as my words. If courage has taught me anything this past year, it is that I have so very much to be thankful for in my life! And it is through God's grace that I am so blessed. I hope to focus in the coming year on recognizing these blessings and having gratitude for them. Perhaps you would like to join me in choosing a "perfect word" for yourself to focus on in this new year. Together, we can follow the prompting of Ephesians 5:19-20 to "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**New Worship Time!** - The results are in! Based on the results of a congregation-wide vote, our new permanent time for Sunday worship will be **10:30am beginning on January 5**. Sunday School will begin at 9am with Coffee Fellowship at 10am. Thanks to all who voted!

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**Safe Sanctuary Training**—Pastor Jill Rhinehart will offer a Safe Sanctuary training on **Tuesday, January 7th, at 1:30pm** for those who have not had the training and those that need a refresher course. Please **RSVP for the class by Monday, January 6**. If you are unable to attend this course, but would still like to take the training, please call the office and we will provide a second training as needed.

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**Welcome Table**—will resume normal operations on **January 9**. They will be serving a community meal from **5—6:30pm**.

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**2025 Altar Flower Calendar** - Providing flowers for our Sanctuary altar on Sundays during the worship services is a great way to honor or commemorate a loved one. The 2025 Altar Flower calendar is posted outside the church office on the bulletin board. If you are interested, please sign your name on the desired date. There are two florists in town that are familiar with our church. If you would like further information about this, please call Veronica in the church office.

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**Blessing Box**—Thank you all for your wonderful donations to our Blessing Box in 2024! Going into the new year, here are some needed items: Chunky Soups/Stews, Granola Bars. Breakfast Bars, Sandwich Crackers, Canned Meat/Fish

# *Valentine's Day Dinner Fundraiser*

Friday, February 14

(Organized by the United Women of Faith & the United Methodist Men with proceeds to benefit the mission of Groce.)

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

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

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

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

FUNDRAISING FOR GROCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

UWF AND UMM



# 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

# Thanks to Our Angels

DID YOU KNOW? GUMC HAS MANY ANGELS!

ROCKY REDD cleans out and replaces materials in the pews every Monday. She keeps the blessing box stocked with items people will enjoy PLUS leads Walk Up Prayers each week.

JOHN SMITH & DOUG JONES are faithful Sunday School teachers.

JACKIE DAVIS has faithfully organized the children's Christmas programs over many years.

The flower girls are CAROLYN CUTLIP, PAMELA BUDD, SALLY SMITH AND LESLIE MORRIS. CAROLYN CUTLIP maintains the seasonal decorations at the front door with her creative flower arranging magic.

TRUE MORSE keeps TL3 on track.

STAN BOYD has been faithful to our youth and loves to go on mission trips with them.

SYLVIA NICKS weekly visits shut ins and brings them JOY and the Upper Room.

WILL AND MICHELLE TROXELL spearheaded the major clean out, had our roof replaced, the bells updated, records all events and services, and are very good stewards of our church.

MARO SLAUGHTER AND LINDA GEER have led the WELCOME TABLE as if it is effortless.

WE ARE ALL ANGELS BECAUSE WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.

~Submitted by Pam Budd

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

01/01 Dawn Sexton	01/20 Carol Arrowood Jo Ann Squibb
01/02 Nancy Donnelly Angie Dotson David Honeycutt	01/21 Andrew Morgan
01/04 Alice Barkstrom	01/23 Jan D'Amico
01/06 Ed Saxman	01/24 Kathryn McIntyre Cassie Pavone
01/08 Linda Lankton Alice Magee	01/29 Pam Budd Amelia Gabriel
01/11 Angela Woehl	01/30 John Bold
01/16 Roy Anthony	01/31 Katie Bartlett Bernice Clark

01/01 Bill & Debbie Ross (42)



01/10 John & Sally Smith (60)





# January

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
  5 <u>AGAPE—9am</u> <u>Worship—10:30am</u>	6 <u>Beekkeepers—7pm</u>	7 <u>Parkin Group—10am</u> <u>BLT—10:30am</u> <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Safe Sanct—1:30pm</u>	8 <u>Chen 4Child—1pm</u> <u>TL3Orient—3:30pm</u> <u>UMM@VRQ—4pm</u> <u>SPRC—5:30pm</u> <u>Chancel Choir—6pm</u> <u>AA Meeting—6pm</u>	9 <u>Isaac Group—10:30am</u> <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Welcome Table—5pm</u>	10 	11 
12 <u>AGAPE—9am</u> <u>Worship—10:30am</u>	13 <u>Handbells—5:30pm</u> <u>Guitar League—6pm</u> <u>Brownies—6pm</u>	14 <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Bev. Hills—7pm</u> <u>SMBB—7pm</u>	15 <u>Audit Review—10am</u> <u>Table of 6—11:30am</u> <u>Sarah Circle—4:30pm</u> <u>Chancel Choir—6pm</u> <u>AA Meeting—6pm</u>	16 <u>Isaac Group—10:30am</u> <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Welcome Table—5pm</u>	17 	18 
19 <u>AGAPE—9am</u> <u>Worship—10:30am</u>	20 <u>MILK Birthday</u> <u>Office Closed</u> <u>Outreach—3pm</u> <u>Handbells—5:30pm</u>	21 <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Miriam Circle—3pm</u> <u>TL3 Leadership—6pm</u> <u>SMBB—7pm</u>	22 <u>BCAF—4pm</u> <u>Chancel Choir—6pm</u> <u>AA Meeting—6pm</u>	23 <u>Isaac Group—10:30am</u> <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Welcome Table—5pm</u>	24 	25 <u>Guitar League—10am</u>
26 <u>AGAPE—9am</u> <u>Worship—10:30am</u>	27 <u>Handbells—5:30pm</u> <u>Brownies—6pm</u>	28 <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>SMBB—7pm</u>	29 <u>Chancel Choir—6pm</u> <u>AA Meeting—6pm</u>	30 <u>Isaac Group—10:30am</u> <u>Tai Chi—1:30pm</u> <u>Welcome Table—5pm</u>	31 	

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

\*Dates are subject to change.