

Lenten Worship Celebration

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday

of Lent



The purpose of Groce United Methodist Church is to build the family of God through praising God, bringing others to Christ, teaching the faith, strengthening the fellowship, and sending forth in service.

Groce United Methodist Church
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 Website: www.groceumc.org

Jill Rhinehart—Pastor
Becky Wilburn—Music Director/Organist
Debbie Ross—Handbell Director
Gayle Decker—Administrator/Treasurer
Veronica Bagwell—Secretary
Tammy Peek—Custodian

*** Where indicated, stand if you are able.**

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

PRELUDE

"Holy Is The Lord"
Arr. Bock

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jill Rhinehart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Prince

Leader: Long ago, God rescued God's people from slavery.

People: We are enslaved today, in many different ways.

Leader: God can and will rescue us. Place your trust in God's love.

People: Our hope is in the Lord who is our refuge and our strength.

Leader: Even though temptations surround us, drawing us away from God,

People: We will continue to follow God and trust in God's ways. AMEN.

Leader: Let us pray. Lord, the temptations of the world loom large before us. We are enticed, cajoled, and "sweet-talked" into moving from lives of service to lives of self-centeredness. We need your healing love. As you resisted the temptations in the wilderness, help us to place our trust in you, that we may be strong in our faith and confident in our service to you through serving others. AMEN.

*OPENING HYMN TFWS 2112

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Jill Rhinehart

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

ANTHEM

Laurel Elstrom

"Shine Through Me"
Gary Chapman

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jennifer Prince

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE Luke 4:1—13
(NRSV New Testament pg. 61)

MESSAGE "Rescue Me"

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS Ushers will come forward

OFFERTORY "As the Deer" & "Fairest Lord Jesus"
Arr. Hayes

*DOXOLOGY

*CLOSING HYMN 395 "Take Time to be Holy"

*SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION

CHIMES OF THE HOLY TRINITY

POSTLUDE "But the Lord is Mindful of His Own"
Arr. Mendelssohn

*Our worship service has ended.
Now, our service through worship begins.*

Announcements

The first four pews on both sides are fragrance-free.

The Flowers on the Altar—are dedicated to the Glory of God and given by **Terri Kilmer** and in loving memory of **Carol Burnett** on her birthday.

Sunday's Ushers—Thank you to our Ushers! **Michelle Troxell, Jane Williams (steward), True Morse, John Smith.** Thank you to our Nursery Volunteer! **Sandra Crouch**

Meeting Reminders:

- **UMMen**—will cook and serve dinner for the Vet's Restoration Quarters this **Wednesday, March 12, at 4pm.**

Blessing Box Sunday - Next Sunday is the third Sunday of the month, marking our Blessing Box Sunday once again! We sincerely thank each of you for your generous donations. Some helpful suggestions: toothbrushes, travel-size toothpaste, bottled water, ramen noodles, soup, canned meat, granola bars. As always, we heartily thank all of you for your time and donations toward this outreach mission!

Frozen Soup Sale—It's that time again! Miriam Circle's Annual Frozen Soup Sale will

be held on **Sunday, March 16, at 11:30am** (after the worship service) in Asbury Lobby. The prices are \$10 for a quart and \$5 for a pint.

A 'Wicked' Movie Night! - Come join us for a 'Wicked' Movie Night on **Friday, March 21, at 6pm** in Asbury Hall. Hosted by the Nurture Committee, there will be snacks and drinks along with the new movie "Wicked," suitable for families of all sizes and children 7 years and older.

Apportionment Special Offering—We will be collecting a special offering for our 2025 Apportionments on **Sunday, March 23.** Please prayerfully consider giving to this important fund that keeps our church doors open!

Prom Dress Exchange! - The Prom Dress Exchange is back and bigger than ever! Join Marsha van Rijssen on March 28—30 to offer teens across WNC a chance to go to prom (or any other formal event) without the added stress of buying a dress/suit. **Friday, March 28 from 2—6pm; Saturday, March 29 from 10—6pm; and Sunday, March 30 from 1—5pm.** Contact Marsha for more information: elliottdesigns@msn.com

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday—Our Maundy Thursday Service will be held on **April 17 at 7pm.** Our Good Friday Service will be held on **April 18 at noon** with a luncheon in Asbury Hall immediately following. Please join us in this time of Lenten reflection and the Passion of Christ.

Easter Lilies—The Altar Guild and Flower Girls invite the congregation to help decorate our Altar this Easter with Easter Lilies. If you have a loved one you would like to honor or remember this season, please fill out a **Lily form** (located at the back of the Sanctuary) and submit your **\$10** to the office no later than April 16.

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. **Two volunteers are still needed for March 13.**

2025 Altar Flower Calendar—The Altar Flower Calendar for 2025 is up on the bulletin board outside the front office. Please consider providing flowers for our Sanctuary Altar throughout 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**

Website! - Come visit our newly updated website with features such as a picture gallery, an interactive calendar, Ministry news and more! Go to www.groceumc.org or scan the QR Code:

