

THE MESSENGER



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The Ripple Effect

SUBMITTED BY KELLEY WOEHLE



As I write this I'm sitting in the dirt on the rocky bank of a crater lake in Iceland.

It's the last stop of my day driving around Iceland's southern coast, and perhaps my favorite of today's adventures.

The history here is palpable. It's long gone, yet present, and still actively being made. The crater is thought to have formed 6,500 years ago through a process I will affectionately call the death of a volcano. The dirt is scattered with volcanic rocks, making it rough and red. This red tint makes the water look especially green. It's stunning and awe inspiring; I tip my hat to the Creator.

As I sit on the rocks, the clouds, which have threatened rain all day, are finally giving into the weight of their content. Water droplets have begun to hit the surface of the water, creating distinct ripples against the steady surface waves. The ripples are beautiful, especially when they intersect with one another. But too many, or a few too big, and it disrupts the natural rhythm of the space.

No longer does the surface of the water sparkle in the light breeze, it's the ripples that draw our attention. And the ripples grow bigger and bigger, and stronger still, until they hit the edge of this objectively small "lake." At which point they ricochet back towards the original point of impact. It is an echo chamber. Over time, these ripples continue to shape not only the water in the lake, but the space itself, eroding the ground to the shape of the droplets.

We don't control the rain, we can't control how nature shapes this place, but we can control our interaction with it, and the ways we continue to shape the spaces we are in.

Scattered throughout the site are signs that read "help us protect nature"—in English, perhaps pointing towards the message's target audience. The signs direct our attention to the effort of preservation, while, in other ways, demonstrating it. Footprints line the circumference of the lake, making bright paths in the red dirt. And as visitors speak their voices echo in the cavernous space. Again, an echo chamber. Where these seemingly small actions, a drop of water, a set of footprints, a whisper of awe, can completely change the space itself with enough time.

I think it says something very profound about the impact of our words, the impacts of the seemingly small things we do every day. We cannot pretend the things we do don't matter. They do. For better or worse. Our droplets, our words, our footsteps, are shaping this space and its contents.

As I sit here, it makes me think of Jesus's call in Matthew 25:34-40. Jesus lists the small, sometimes imperceptible things we do to care for others, and says that those things are not only the key the Kingdom, that they ARE the kingdom, working to create a more loving and compassionate world today.

The truth is, things beyond our control will continue to shape the world, but we hold a similar power, especially when we work together with a shared mission and love for the community and world we live in. Rain will come, and it will shape our circumstances, but we, together, are also responsible for the transformation of the world. It doesn't start tomorrow, it starts today. It doesn't start with someone else telling us what to do, it starts with each of us listening to what God calls us to do, in loving service of the world.

Pentecost Sunday

We celebrated Pentecost this year by dressing in our brightest colors and welcoming our newest member of the Groce Church Family, **Phil Rice**. We are so grateful for the gift of the Holy Spirit to unify and empower us!



COMING SOON

“CARE AND SHARE” SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 20
ON THIS SUNDAY, WE GO OUTSIDE OUR CHURCH
WALLS TO BE THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD.
DETAILS COMING SOON - SAVE THE DATE!



Please note:
The Listening Campaign
conducted by the Black
Mountain School of
Theology and Community
that was scheduled for
June 13 has been
cancelled. It will hopefully
be rescheduled for the fall.

A GRATEFUL
heart IS A
MAGNET
FOR
MIRACLES

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain.

1 CORINTHIANS
15:58

WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST MEMBERS OF
THE GROCE CHURCH
FAMILY (APRIL/MAY):

- PENELOPE GONZALEZ
- JOLIENE HOMAN
- CAROLINE MORRIS
- HANLEY RHEIN
- LEO RHEIN
- LAUREN RHEIN
- PHIL RICE

"THEREFORE WELCOME ONE
ANOTHER AS CHRIST HAS
WELCOMED YOU, FOR THE
GLORY OF GOD." – ROMANS 15:7

Don't Forget to Pack Your Faith

BY MARIAH WRIGHT

Summer is finally here, and for a lot of us, that means vacations! Spending time with loved ones and exploring God's creation gets us out of our normal routine and give us a chance to try new things. But as we plan for our next getaway, let's remember take God along for the ride. Here are some tips to keep the faith during our summer break.

1. Pray before you leave. Express gratitude for His blessings, and ask for protection and accompaniment.
2. Be amazed by God's divine handiwork. Look for opportunities for wonder - in nature, history, and the arts.

3. Stay connected to church (you can catch our [livestream](#) on the website!), or visit a local congregation.
4. Bring your Bible, or use a Bible app. Set aside 5-10 minutes a day for prayer or scripture reading.
5. Be an example of Christ's love wherever you go. Show kindness to strangers. Tip well. Find someone you can help or pray for. Remain patient and kind.
6. Take advantage of the extra time together to have spiritual conversations. What has God been teaching you lately? What prayers have been answered? What does this season with the Lord look like for you?

Don't let your time away from home be a time away from your faith. Pack it with you when you leave!



We are grateful for the faithful ministry of our wonderful Youth Director, **Kelley Woehl**, who has been appointed to serve at First UMC, Asheboro. Kelley has been a longtime member of Groce UMC and an incredible blessing to our youth ministry and church family.

As we celebrate Kelley and her new appointment, we invite you to express your love and appreciation through a love offering. You may place a check or envelope in the offering plate and mark it "**Kelley Love Offering**" on the memo line or envelope.

You are also invited to bring a card for Kelley, with or without a gift enclosed. Cards may be turned in through the church office and will be collected and presented to her. Please have the offering and cards into the office by **June 7th**.

Please continue to keep Kelley in your prayers as she begins this new chapter in ministry.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 06/01 Harry Gibbs
06/06 Max Phillips
06/07 Carole Gilham
Laura Cooper Harrelson
06/08 Loring McIntyre
06/14 Calli Schwartz
06/15 Irene Griffin
06/16 Donnella Boyd
06/17 Sasha Lamb
06/24 Gary Brockway
Charlotte Dean
Lindsey Hamrick
Zach Hamrick
06/27 Anna-Lee Franklin
Lilly-Kate Franklin
06/28 Sky Geer
Tabitha Meadows



JUNE ANNIVERSERIES

- 06/07 Calli & Steven Schwartz (1)
06/08 Judy & Larry Sexton (57)
06/09 Dennis & Pam Butler (19)
06/10 Bertha & Dewey Ramsey (37)
06/20 Dixie & Frank Quinlan (67)
06/23 Bob & Tracey Briggs (42)
Brenda & Patrick Gulfoyle (42)
Allen & Louise Holden (42)
Neysa & Bill Hurt (64)
Gary & Linda Lankton (53)
06/29 Danny & Carole Owenby (41)
06/30 Bob & Joan Cauble (70)



TL3 MEETING NOTES

SUBMITTED BY TRUE MORSE

May 18, 2026, Groce Leadership Team (TL3 – Team Loving Learning Leading)

Meeting Summary

Topics Discussed

- Creating awareness about adding LED screens in the sanctuary to enhance and support the worship experience
- September 12th rummage sale to improve Groce's financial strength
- Youth Director position is being posted since Kelley Woehl's last day is in June
- Love offering to occur for Kelley Woehl who is leaving as Groce's youth director to be an associate pastor in Asheboro, NC

Financial

- Cash balance as of 5/18/26
- Italian Dinner ticket sales and tips total was \$1,555 with about \$200 in expense

Trustees

- Rekeying of the outside doors is complete
- Governors View Road debris from clearing that area is removed
- Facility user agreements are being reviewed and finalized including asking for evidence of insurance
- Building operations expense is being analyzed to see if changes should be made to Epworth building rental rates

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

Enhancing Worship: LED Screens Coming to the Sanctuary

SUBMITTED BY TRACEY BRIGGS

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Groce UMC will move forward in the coming months with a project to enrich our worship life, improve visibility and communication, and support our ministry well into the future with the installation of large LED screens in our sanctuary.

This upgrade was named a multimedia priority during the churchwide Shape Our Future roundtable discussions two years ago, then again as a top-three priority by TL3 in March 2025. It was shared at the May 2025 Church Family meeting, but funding limitations put the project on hold. The donor's gift of \$2,000 toward the \$7,000 cost—using the installation identified by the Trustees and the Technology team as the only viable solution—brings us significantly closer to completion. We expect the screens to be up and in use by October.

Join us at the Church Family Meeting on June 14 to learn more and preview what's ahead.

REMINDER

THE FOLLOWING
GROUPS WILL NOT BE
MEETING IN JUNE:

- CHANCEL CHOIR
- MEN'S CHOIR
- HANDBELLS
- NURTURE
- CUB SCOUTS (LAST DAY JUNE 4)
- GIRL SCOUTS

UPCOMING DATES FOR
TABLES OF 16:

- JUNE 10
- JULY 22
- AUGUST 12
- SEPTEMBER 23
- OCTOBER 14
- NOVEMBER 4
- DECEMBER 9

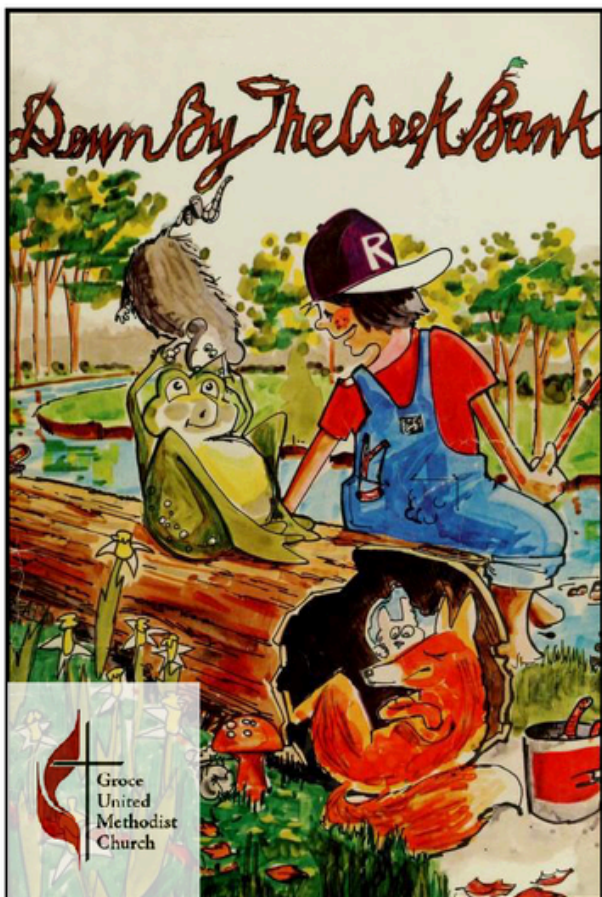
MEETS MONTHLY -
11:30 AM AT LONGHORN
STEAKHOUSE OFF
TUNNEL ROAD
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Summer Music Camp is coming!

Groce UMC is hosting our Summer Music Camp again this year! Camp will be held July 13-17 from 10-3 daily, with a final performance on July 17 at 6pm. Each day will include music, crafts, recreation, lunch, and caring volunteers who embody Christ's hospitality.

Wow, that sounds fun! And like a lot of work. And who are these caring volunteers anyway? Well, maybe YOU! We need members (and friends!) to make this important music ministry happen. There are plenty of opportunities to serve - at the craft table, on the playground, in the kitchen. We can't do this without the Groce Church Family!

If you are able to help, or if you have questions or need more information. contact **Becky Wilburn** (musicdirector@groceumc.org). And don't forget to spread the word about camp! There are still spots available with both full and partial scholarships offered. Sign up with the front office or at www.groceumc.org/musiccamp



Groce UMC Presents:

2026 Summer Music Camp

For ages 5-12

July 13—July 17, 10am - 3pm

Performance on July 17 at 6pm.

Lunch served daily.

\$40 per child or \$30 per child for 2 or more children in a household.

Scholarships available!!!!

For more information or to register:

groceumc.org/musiccamp

or call 828-298-7647



Groce UMC

CHURCH FAMILY MEETING







PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

JUNE | 14 | AFTER SERVICE

Asbury Hall

JUNE 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p>1 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 1:00: Canasta (AH) 7:00: Beekeepers (AH)</p>	<p>2 10:00: Parkinsons (AH/AL) 10:30: Crafters (CH) 11:00: Staff Meeting (JB) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH)</p>	<p>3 6:00: AA</p>	<p>4 10:30: Isaac Group (JB) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 5:00: Welcome Table (AH) 6:30: UMM (JB) 6:45: Cub Scouts (AH)</p>	<p>5 3:00: Tailgate Market</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 GRADUATE SUNDAY 9:00: Agape (CH) 10:30: Worship 5:00: Youth</p> 	<p>8 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 6:00: Guitar League (AH)</p>	<p>9 10:30: Crafters (CH) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 7:00: BH Exec. Mtg. (JB)</p>	<p>10 11:30: Tables of 16 5:15: UMM @ VRQ 6:00: AA</p>	<p>11 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH)</p>	<p>12 3:00: Tailgate Market</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship Church Family Meeting after service (AH)</p>	<p>15 11:00: Prayer Group (PR) 1:00: Canasta (AH) 2:30: Safe Sanctuary Training</p>	<p>16 10:30: Crafters (CH) 12:30: Blood Drive (AH) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH) 3:00: Miriam Circle (JB) 6:00: TL3 (JB) 7:00: HCCA (CH)</p>	<p>17 10:00: Sarah Circle (AL) 6:00: AA</p>	<p>18 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH) ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CLERGY</p>	<p>19 JUNETEENTH 3:00: Tailgate Market</p>  <p>ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CLERGY</p>	<p>20 ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CLERGY</p>
<p>21 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CLERGY</p> 	<p>22 11:00: Prayer Group (PR)</p>	<p>23 10:30: Crafters (CH) 11:00: Outreach (JB) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH)</p>	<p>24 6:00: AA</p>	<p>25 10:30 Isaac Group (JB) 1:30 Tai Chi (CH) 5:00 Welcome Table (AH)</p>	<p>26 3:00 Tailgate Market</p>	<p>27 10:00: Guitar League (AH/CH)</p>
<p>28 9:00 Agape (CH) 10:30 Worship</p>	<p>29 11:00: Prayer Group (PR)</p>	<p>30 10:30: Crafters (CH) 1:30: Tai Chi (CH)</p>	<p>AH—Asbury Hall AL—Asbury Lobby CH—Charter Hall JB—Jack Bass Room PR—Prayer Room</p>	<p>FROM THE FIG TREE LEARN ITS LESSON: AS SOON AS ITS BRANCH BECOMES TENDER AND PUTS FORTH ITS LEAVES, YOU KNOW THAT SUMMER IS NEAR - MATTHEW 24:3</p>		