

**GROVE  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**Worship in person  
Sundays at  
10:00 am**

**Online (pre-recorded)**  
youtube video link on  
our church website

Subscribe to our  
**YouTube Channel**

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# Grove Greeter



## *From the Desk of* Rev. Dr. Jan C. Nicholson Angle, minister

Dear Grove UMC Family,

I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to the summer months with sunnier days, warmer weather and opportunities to get outside.

One of those opportunities at Grove UMC comes in the form of *Gardeners in the Grove*. This small group of those from our church and community enjoy coming together for a brief time of devotion and discussion about some aspect of God's creation. Afterwards, they spend time working on the grounds or in the planting beds at Grove. For these gardeners, caring for Grove grounds is a way to be faithful to God's call to "farm and take care of" the land God gave us. (Genesis 2:15).

These *Gardeners in the Grove* may look like they are working hard, and sometimes they do. Their labor, however, is always a labor of love. Watch for them Friday mornings and you just may spot a few gardeners chatting and working together as they clean out a planting bed. Other times you may see them weeding or trimming a hedge in silence and solitude as they reflect on their gift of cooperating with God in the care of the land.

If you are curious about this small group of land lovers, come check them out. They meet at 9 am on Fridays in the Fellowship Hall for devotion. Bring your gloves and try your hand at reconnecting with the soil and green earth. Spend 30 min, an hour, or as long as you wish reconnecting to the soil and green earth in the "Grove."

Peace,

Pastor Jan

**A Response of Prayer  
Against the Violence  
Witnessed in our Country**

- JC Nicholson-Angle

**What has become of US?**

**Children killing children**

**Shock**

**Horror**

**Pain**

**Lord hear US!**

**Unanswered Questions**

**Unquenched Prayers**

**Unconsoled Grief**

**Rachel Weeps over Her Children**

**Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem**

**When will their weeping end?**

**The blood of our brothers and sisters  
continues to cry out to God**

**When will it stop?**

**When will the killing end?**

**When will the pain abtain?**

**When will we no longer learn but, live peace?**



## **Let's Worship In the Park!**

**Sunday July 31st**

**10 am**

### **From the Ministries Board**

The Ministries Board of Grove UMC met on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Those present included Susan Boggess, Susan Lesko, Dave Winston, Jean Carson, Pastor Jan, and Terica Fisher. The minutes of the Ministries Board meeting on February 24th were read and approved. Susan Boggess made the motion to approve, and Susan Lesko seconded it.

#### **Worship**

Pastor Jan stated that she facilitated a Let's Talk About It meeting on Sunday, April 24th after worship to learn more about worship, discuss our feelings/impressions about worship, and discern a time for communal worship. Those in attendance came to the conclusion that worship should remain at 10 am.

We provided a nursery during worship for three Sundays starting on Easter and continuing the two Sundays afterward. There were no children present for the first two Sundays, but there was a set of two-year old twins on the second Sunday after Easter. We are pondering how to keep our nursery up and running. For Sunday, May 8th, Delores Smith and Terica Fisher will keep the nursery. They have had the necessary background checks and Safe Sanctuary training. An anonymous giver is willing to pay for three people in the nursery each Sunday for a while. Other possibilities for finding workers included Career Services at Radford University on Handshake, NRV Moms, Rainbow Riders, and Tech students at Adult Day Center.

Other worship information included honoring university grads (Tim Redmon and Dana Watson) on Sunday, May 8th and high school grads (Sydney Schepisi) after worship on Sunday, May 22nd.

The new choir director, Dr. Joseph Borden, will begin on July 1.

The possibility of combining college and high school students in the after-worship celebration in the future was suggested.

#### **Hospitality**

Hospitality reported they were arranging food and decorations for Senior Sunday for Sydney Schepisi on May 22nd following worship. The event was a success.

## Ministries Board Report (cont)

### Radford City Public Schools Bridge (RCPS Bridge)

Jean reported that money to help with pizza given to the teachers and staff would be appreciated. We asked the congregation to provide freeze pops and bubbles for the end-of-the-year pre-school party. Radford City School's year ends on Friday, June 3rd. The pre-school will be moving out of Grove to move into the new building.

### Missions

(see Missions Team Needs Volunteers for Community Table on page 5)

**Education and Summer Activities:** We ran out of time and agreed we would need to meet again soon via Zoom to finalize summer plans. We discussed Sunday School and now, Wayne Pridgen's Adult Bible Study class has resumed. We did have time to agree that Vacation Bible School wasn't a possibility this year. This summer we will have worship in the park and a church-wide picnic on July 31st. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:00 so choir members could get to practice!

**Next Ministries Board Meeting  
Thursday, June 23rd at 7:00 pm**

Words cannot express my gratitude for the prayers and the kindness shown to me in the months leading up to, and after the death, of my husband Mike Porter. Grove United Methodist is not only my church, but also my family in every sense; and I love each of you.

Thank you so much,

*Linda Clifford*

Thank you so much for everyone who took on extra duties while I was on vacation in May. The sunny, 90-degree weather

allowed me to swim in my sister's pool and play games with my niece, April, who has Down's Syndrome and calls me her "sister." I spent some time with old friends and reconnected with others. The trip allowed me to close some important chapters in my life. I want to thank Terica Fisher and Cathy Radford, who manned the phones in the church office. I also commend Dave Winston for taking care of Mike Porter's Memorial Service video recording. Thanks to Pastor Jan who worked extra hard and treated me to lunch upon my return. I am so grateful to you all, and I look forward to serving my Grove UMC family.

With love,

*Dana*



## From the Administrative Board

The Administrative Board met on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 6:30 PM via Zoom. There were 12 attendees.

Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- The Finance Team is working to establish a business office. A desktop computer with a monitor and printer were approved for purchase.
- Online giving through the Holston Conference ceased on May 15. The Finance Team is investigating other options.
- Our new choir director, Dr. Joseph Borden, will begin on July 1.
- Linda Clifford was elected as our alternate delegate to the Holston Annual Conference.
- Nursery workers are needed. The Staff Parish Relations Committee seeks to hire three individuals to staff the nursery. Successful candidates will need to pass a background check and complete Safe Sanctuary training. Contact Delores Smith or Pastor Jan for additional information.
- Twenty kits were provided for the Zimbabwe project.
- Grove UMC will contribute \$5,000 from the Epperly Fund to Community Table to cover costs of the meals we serve every other month.
- The O'Donnell Class has resumed meeting at 9:15 am each Sunday.

**Next Administrative Board Meeting  
Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 PM via Zoom**



### Missions Team Needs Volunteers for Community Table

Thank you to all who contributed to the Annual Conference (AC) Hands-on Mission kits for Zimbabwe. We completed 20 kits with your generous gifts. It is always quite exciting at AC to be there and see the tremendous outpouring of gifts from all over the conference. It is always wonderful to participate in blessing the kits and to witness tractor trailers loaded to the gills, blowing their air horns as they head for the coast. The kits are loaded on a shipping freighter and your gifts sail to Zimbabwe, where we have made a difference in the lives of children and families in need of health supplies. Thank you Grove UMC. Stay tuned for our annual Yard Sale/Vendor Fair in the Fall.

Grove continues to participate with Unity Christian in the Community Table Ministry. We are preparing to serve meals each Saturday in the month of June. If you could benefit from having a meal delivered to you on Saturday afternoon, please call Susan Lesko at (540) 449-1968 and she will arrange for a meal to be delivered to you. We could use some volunteers in June. If you would like to volunteer to help us on a Saturday afternoon please let Susan know. You can call or text her. It takes from 1:30 - 4:30 to prepare meals, serve and clean up. There is a job for everyone. We are especially in need on June 18th and 25th. At the most recent Administrative Board Meeting Missions proposed that we make a financial contribution to support this Ministry. It costs approximately \$200 each week to serve 100 meals. The Board approved a \$5000 donation. This money will come from a gift left to Grove by Mayme Epperly.

## Welcome our Newest Member

### Lewis Lafon



Lewis Lee Lafon has been worshipping at and engaged in small groups at Grove UMC for awhile. Grove welcomed him into membership on Sunday, May 29th. He transferred his membership from Jordan's Chapel United Methodist Church in Pulaski, VA. If you see Lewis, say hello and introduce yourself!

## Membership Audit is Underway

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the 2016 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, Grove is in the process of updating its membership records. Everyone on the current membership rolls will receive a phone call from someone at Grove in the near future to verify/update their membership information. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in helping us to complete this monumental task.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday June 16th, 10:30 am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

The newly named United Women of Faith met on May 19th, with several members present. I read an article from this month's Upper Room about God choosing a path for us. Then, I read the information about the United Methodist Women's history, commitment, and services through the years that led to the decision for a new name and focus on the future. Pastor Jan joined, answered questions, and gave information about the recent disaffiliation of some United Methodist churches and Grove's possible vision going forward. We still have a few boxes, and lots of individual greeting cards, for sale. Talk to me, or visit our table after church to purchase. There will be a meeting on June 16th, at 10:30, before taking a break for the rest of the summer.

*Linda Clifford*

President, United Women of Faith

### **Recycling Challenge Accepted!**

Thank you, church! I recently spoke to the congregation about recycling and helping keep the Earth God made our home cleaner and greener. I offered a recycling challenge for the Grove family to collect plastic items for one week and then bring them to the church. These plastic items had to be marked with the recycle symbols one and two. It was exciting to see what good we could do in a short period of time. Pictured are two trunk loads of plastic, with a bit of newspaper and cardboard, thrown in for good measure. The city of Radford has two recycling centers. I encourage you to use them, and keep up the good work.

*Linda Clifford*





# Our Nursery is Open

Sunday Mornings

Located in the Education Wing

Grove seeks to hire three nursery attendants to meet the needs of our little ones. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in applying, please see Delores Smith, SPRC Chair, or Pastor Jan.

## From RCPS Bridge

The RCPS pre-school teachers and staff want to thank Grove and their members for the outpouring of love toward the teachers and the students.

"We appreciate all the goodies and kindness you have shown toward the staff and students during the two years we were at the church for school. We can't thank you enough for the love you have shared with us."



## Meet the New Assistant Director of Wesley Foundation at Radford University

The Rev. Rachel Collins has accepted an appointment as Assistant Director of the Radford University Wesley Foundation. She has followed her calling into full-time pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church over a period of years, and has been active in Holston Conference throughout her life. She grew up in a pastoral family with her father having served Carter St. UMC in the 1980s. Rachel was active on the Conference Youth Council, and served as a volunteer youth assistant and mission team leader in college. She pursued her love of creation through a degree from the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, and graduated in 2017 with a BS in Sustainable and Organic Food Production. Through participating in a Creation Care Conference after graduation, she began to see more clearly how her passion for the world that God has created merged with ministry. She attended Candler School of Theology and graduated with honors in 2021 with a Master of Divinity. Rachel is a Provisional Elder in the Holston Conference. The New River Circuit was her second appointment, after having served at Burks United Methodist Church as an associate pastor.

She will continue to be the pastor of Belspring UMC and Morgan's Chapel UMC. Rachel has a companion dog, a well-trained Labrador retriever, Khaleesi and a black and white cat named Daisy.

## Congratulations High School Graduates

**Beckett Smith, Radford High School**    **Eli Burda, Auburn High School**

**Sydney Schepisi, Radford High School**



On Sunday May 22nd, following worship, Grove celebrated our high school graduates with a reception in the Fellowship Hall. Two of our graduates, Eli Burda and Beckett Smith, were not able to attend. Sydney Schepisi was able to be with us and was recognized during worship where she received a gift from her church family and scholarship from a member of the church family. Tables were decorated with photos of Sydney through the years, as well as her award certificates and medals. Sydney will study Theatre at George Mason University starting in the fall semester.

## Congratulations to our Graduates in Higher Education

**Tim Redmon**  
BA, Radford University



Redmon is working in the Disney College program until January 2023.

**Dr. Casey Cooper**  
OB/GYN Residency,  
University of Tennessee



Dr. Cooper will be joining a private practice in the Raleigh, NC area.

**Dana Watson**  
MS, University of Alabama



Watson aims to use her skills in Digital & Social Media Marketing in the workforce and at Grove.

## Opportunities to Grow & Serve

**Join the Grove Book Group.** Meets Monday evenings, 6:30 - 8:00 pm via Zoom resuming June 6th. The next book is *Raney* by Clyde Edgerton. The title character was born and reared in a community called Bethel in North Carolina (there are four non-fictional Bethels in NC), and her husband came to that vicinity from Atlanta after a stint in Vietnam to be a librarian at the local community college. They are pretty much of one mind on the music they both love; but otherwise they are from different worlds, and the experiences and understandings of each often perplex and confound the other. Classic romcom material, but so far there hasn't been a movie from the book. Edgerton writes a funny book, even if sometimes it may cut close to the bone.



We invite you to consider the group for great discussion and camaraderie. If you are interested, please contact Pat Brown at [pbsnextchapter@gmail.com](mailto:pbsnextchapter@gmail.com).

**Are you passionate about ministry?** Do you have gifts, skills and talents you would like to use? Grove UMC's Lay Leadership and Development Committee can help match your gifts with ministries. Grove's Ministries Board includes the program, education, mission, and worship arms of the church. Interested? See Pastor Jan or call the church.



**Support Radford Food Bank.** Donate funds to the NRVCA for its food bank. Make checks payable to Grove UMC and mark for "NRVCA Food Bank" in the memo line.

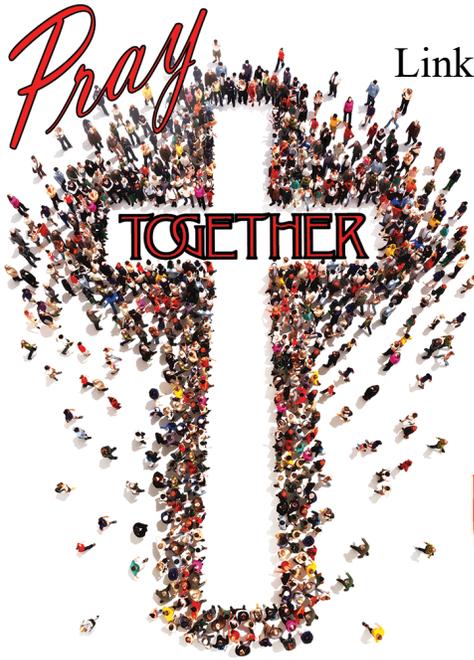
**Attend the O'Donnell Sunday School Class.** The O'Donnell Class is back and will meet at 9:15 am on Sunday mornings. This class is taught by Wayne Pridgen and meets in the O'Donnell Classroom in the Education Wing. This class follows the Adult Bible Study Series from Cokesbury. This summer's Adult Bible Study "Transform," begins Sunday, June 5th.



**Volunteer for Community Table.** We are preparing to serve meals each Saturday in the month of June. See page 3 for more info.



**Volunteer at the Radford Clothing Bank.** July is Grove UMC's month to fill volunteer spots to assist in operations for the Radford clothing bank. Each spot is just a couple of hours. A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex soon.



Link <https://www.holston.org/annual-conference>

Linda Clifford  
Grove's Lay Delegate to AC

Jan Nicholson Angle  
Grove's Clergy Delegate to AC



**Holston Annual Conference**  
June 5-8, 2022 • Lake Junaluska, NC

**Please Welcome Guest Preacher Lauren Todd  
Sunday, June 5th**

Rev. Lauren Todd is a licensed local pastor in the Virginia Annual Conference. She received her M.Div. from Duke Divinity in 2021 while serving as the pastor of a local congregation in Danville, VA. Currently, Lauren serves as the critical care chaplain of Duke Raleigh Hospital, where she will be through August after which she will resume congregational ministry with a church in Northern Virginia. Lauren is married to Eric Todd and has ties to the Radford/Dublin part of Virginia through her parents, Doug and Melissa Swanson, who attend Dublin UMC.

*Please Remember in your Prayers*

Amy Black	Laurie Waldron	Those homebound
Doug Fitzpatrick	Jim & Sonya Nicely	Those in assisted living
Mary Kate Kidd	Renie Price	The war in Ukraine
Bob Surber	Genetta Kidd	The United Methodist Church
David Powell	Becky Ritter	God Will Lift Up Nursery Workers
Mildred Wall	Becky's stepfather, Stirling	Uvalde, Texas and an End to Violence
Diane Pryor		



Summer  
June 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 1 John Bible Study 6-7:30 pm	3 Gardeners in the Grove 9 am	4
5 Worship 10 am O'Donnell Class 9:15 am Annual Conference	6 Book Group 6:30 pm Zoom Annual Conference	7 Annual Conference	8 Annual Conference	9 NRV Quilt Guild 9:30 am—12:30pm Fellowship Hall	10 Gardeners in the Grove 9 am	11
12 Worship 10 am O'Donnell Class 9:15 am	13 Book Group 6:30 pm Zoom	14	15	16 United Women in Faith Meeting 10:30 am Fellowship Hall	17 Gardeners in the Grove 9 am	18
19 Worship 10 am O'Donnell Class 9:15 am Father's Day	20 Book Group 6:30 pm Zoom	21	22	23	24 Gardeners in the Grove 9 am	25
26 Worship 10 am O'Donnell Class 9:15 am	27 Book Group 6:30 pm Zoom	28 John Wesley's Birthday (1703)	29	30		