THE ORDER OF WORSHIP ENTRANCE

GATHERING

PRELUDE Handbell Choirs (see Insert)

WELCOME

SESSQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE GREETINGS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (see insert)

Rev. Ila Schepisi and Rev Dr. Joseph Borden *HYMN UMC 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 1)

*RESPONSE

Barry Anderson

We come today to hear the story of God's faithfulness to past generations.

We also look to the future as well as the past.

The God who was with our ancestors is with us as well.

Then we can go forward in hope.

Whatever else fails, God remains faithful.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God!

Praise be to God!

(Ruth C. Duck, *Flames of the Spirit* (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1985)

*HYMN UMH 196 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jan

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION AND CONCERN

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barry Anderson

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Mark 13:24-37

ANTHEM "Fairest Lord Jesus" (Schlesische Volkslieder and

Dennis Allen arr Allen

SERMON Looking Back and Preaching Hope
Rev Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle

A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Eternal and loving God,

we give thanks to you for your goodness

through all the years of worship and witness in Grove.

For your grace in calling us to be your people,

for your love revealed to us in Christ your Son,

for your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation:

We give you thanks, O God.

For those who established this congregation, for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities:

We give you thanks O God

For all who have been members of Grove United Methodist, for those who have given freely of their time and money, for those whose wisdom guided our congregation:

We give you thanks O God Give us the assurance

that we belong to that great company, but save us from living in the past and from resting on the work of others.

Help us to find a new beginning and a new vision, that we may know our task in this place and in the world today:

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN UMH 545 The Church's One Foundation

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

* Congregation stand as you are able

Prayer RequestPlease provide information below:

Person	placing	the	request:

Prayer Requested for:

Name:

Their Need :_____

Are they family, friend, co-worker or neighbor?

YES or NO

May we share your prayer request in our bulletins and newsletters?

YES or NO

Email:_____

Phone:_____



To GROVE We Are Glad You Are Here!

Today you will experience Christ-centered worship and fellowship. Want to know more about our ministries and opportunities? Your ushers, members and pastor are here to assist you. Welcome to Grove! Welcome home!

First Time a t Gro ve?

Let us r	nelp	you	conne	ct
Name _				_
Phone:				_
Cell				
Phone:				_

Tear off and place in offering plate or give to an usher.

Today's Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Martee Buchanan for her leadership, dedication, hard work, and sharing the gift of her many talents to support Grove United Methodist Church by Delores and Clarence Smith.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Amy Black Sonya Nicely
Renie Price Wayne and Nancy Pridgen
Corene Simms Tony Lambert
Jim Keffer Those homebound
Sam Belche Those in assisted living
Frankie Cook The Middle East

If there is someone you would like to be added to Remember in Prayer, please contact Linda Fasnacht

SERVING TODAY

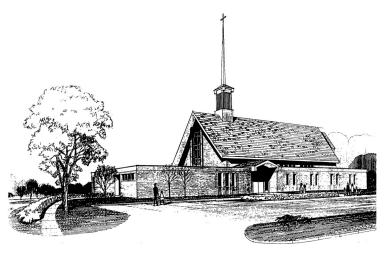
Ushers	John Russell/Bob Boggess
Ushers	Delores Smith/Clay Carson
Advent Candles	Rev Ila Schepisi/Rev Dr. Joe Borden
Liturgist	Barry Anderson
	Cory Schepisi
Altar Guild	Linda Clifford/Delores Smith
Sunday Counters	Barry Anderson/Bob Boggess
	Linda Fasnacht/Laura Tompkins
Nursery Staff	Chloe Mullins/Danielle Mason

Grove United Methodist Church

1020 Tyler Avenue, Radford, Virginia 24141 (540) 639-2807 email: radfordgroveumc@gmail.com

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent
Sesquicentennial Worship Celebration
10:00 am

Celebrating the first church service upstairs of Robert's Store on December 13, 1874



Rev. Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle Minister

Pat Brown	Rev. Dr. Joseph Borden	Libby Watts	
Organist	Chancel Choir Director	Handbell Choir Director	
Rev. Ila Schepisi	Jim Harrison	Linda Fasnacht	
Deacon in Residence	Pianist	Administrative Assistant	
Donna Alley	Dana Watson	Lynn Wright	
Finance Assistant	Videographer	Custodian	



This Week at Grove UMC

Sunday 12/3/23

9:00: Sunday School—Young Adult Class 9:15: Sunday School—O'Donnell Adult Class

9:30 am Choir practice in the choir room

10:00: Worship

After Worship: Sesquicentennial Anniversary

Christmas Sampler

4:30: Handbells Practice—Celebration 4:45: Handbells Practice—New Spirit

Monday 12/4/23

6:30 pm: Grove UMC Book Group (via Zoom)

Wednesday 12/6/23

7:00 pm: Choir practice

Thursday 12/7/23

12:00: UWF. Meet at Roca Mexican restaurant. (Please let Linda Clifford know if you are attending by 12/6/23)

7:00: Contemplative Prayer

Friday 12/8/23

5:30—9:00 am: Linda Fasnacht on the Radio.

107.1 WPSK

1:00: Blood Drive. Fellowship Hall

Sundays 12/10 and 12/17

8:30 am: Methodism Class

After Worship: The Angles of Christmas Study

PRELUDE Handbell Choirs

"Away in the Manger/Still, Still, Still" arr. I

arr. Lloyd Larson

"Gesu Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon/arr. Sharon E. Rogers

"Mary, Did You Know?"

Lowry & Greene arr. Anna L. Page

Additional Christmas Carols

Holiday Gift Cards

The Ministries Board is collecting donations to purchase Food Lion gift cards to provide food for families in need within the Radford City Public School System. Donations will be collected through December 17. Make checks payable to Grove UMC and write "Holiday Gift Cards" in the memo line. See Dave Winston if you have any questions.

A Call to Prayer

Are you a prayer warrior? Do you find yourself praying on a regular basis for others? Grove UMC seeks prayer warriors who will pray for Grove's future. Learn more. Contact Pastor Jan 540-589-9118

From Grove UMC Staff Parish—Gifts for Employees

As the end of the year approaches, we wish to reward our staff members for the work they have done. If you would like to donate to these gifts, please donate by December 10th and mark your donation as "Staff Gift"

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Beth McDaniel at 434-665-8311 or email: bmcdan0405@aol.com

Linda Fasnacht to be guest DJ

That's right! Grove's Administrative Assistant will be a Guest DJ on WPSK 107.1

Friday 12/8/23 5:30 am until 9:00 am.

The broadcast topic for the day is Toys for Tots. Linda's family has donated many unwrapped toys for this worthy cause. She will also share about Grove UMC and promote Grove's upcoming scheduled worship and ministry opportunities.

Lighting of First Advent Candle

Reader 1

In the days of exile and uncertainty, the prophet Isaiah cried out:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence. As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Reader 2:

In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come" (Mark 13:35).

Congregation:

We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kin-dom all around us.

Reader 1:

We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another.

Amen.