

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Chorale Prelude on 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'"  
J.S. Bach  
Libby Watts, Oboe; Pat Brown, Piano; Joseph Borden, Trombone

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (see insert)

\*HYMN UMH 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Stanza 4)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Stop. Listen. Pay attention. Love is coming near.

**We wait in the love of the coming  
Messiah that transforms us.**

So let us join our voices and our lives  
in magnifying God, our Savior!

**We come to wait and to declare  
the coming of the Love that transforms us! Amen.**

Adapted from call to worship written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

\*HYMN UMH 242 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION AND CONCERN

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

ANTHEM Born This Night with Hark! the Herald Angels Sing  
Dennis and Nan Allen arr. Allen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38

SERMON *God’s Highly Favored* Jan Nicholson Angle

RECEPTION INTO MEMBERSHIP

CANTICLE OF MARY UMH 199

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

SENDING FORTH

\*HYMN UMH 219 *What Child Is This*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  
*\* Congregation stand as you are able*

**Prayer Request**

*Please 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:*

# Welcome 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 at Grove?

Let us help you connect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

Amy Black  
Renie Price  
Corene Simms  
Jim Keffer  
Sam Belcher  
Frankie Cook

Sonya Nicely  
Casey Wojteria  
Wayne and Nancy Pridgen  
Tony Lambert  
Those homebound  
Those in assisted living  
The Middle East

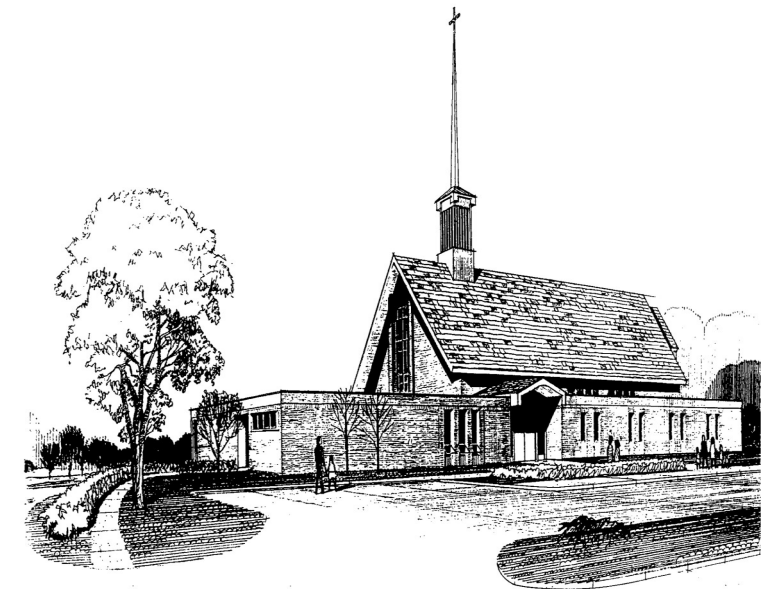
## SERVING TODAY

Ushers	Clay Carson/Bob Boggess
Advent Candles	Linda Fasnacht/Beth McDaniel
Acolyte	Natalie Schepisi
Liturgist	Ila Schepisi
Sound Technician	Barry Anderson
Altar Guild	Linda Clifford/Delores Smith
Sunday Counters	Betsy Hagen/Susan Boggess
Monday Counters	Linda Fasnacht/Bob Boggess
Nursery Staff	Chloe Mullins

## **Grove United Methodist Church**

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

December 24, 2023  
4th Sunday of Advent  
10:00 am



**Rev. Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle**  
**Minister**

*Pat Brown*  
*Organist*

*Rev. Dr. Joseph Borden*  
*Chancel Choir Director*

*Libby Watts*  
*Handbell Choir Director*

*Rev. Ila Schepisi*  
*Deacon in Residence*

*Jim Harrison*  
*Pianist*

*Linda Fasnacht*  
*Administrative Assistant*

*Donna Alley*  
*Finance Assistant*

*Dana Watson*  
*Videographer*

*Lynn Wright*  
*Custodian*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

ENTRANCE

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, faithful watchers, and behold, your salvation is here!

**We greet the Wondrous Light,  
our Messiah, Christ the Lord.**

We have waited and watched, longing for God to show up  
and save us from the suffering and pain in our world.

**We greet the Wondrous Light,  
the fulfillment of our shocking hope.**

We have waited and watched, longing for peace to reign  
among us, a peace that removes unjust barriers,  
frees us from sin, and binds us together as neighbors,  
family and friends.

**We greet the Wondrous Light,  
the bringer of our just peace.**

We have waited and watched, longing for joy  
that is persistent in the face of the grief, lament, chaos,  
and oppression that weigh on us day in and day out.

**We greet the Wondrous Light,  
the source of our fierce joy.**

We have waited and watched, longing to encounter the love  
that transforms us, the Lover that is now here among us,  
first as a babe in a manger, then as a teacher,  
a friend and our Savior.

**We greet the Wondrous Light, Love incarnate  
who has come to save us and transform us, Amen.**

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES & CHRIST CANDLE (insert)

\*HYMN UMH 211 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (Stanza 5)

\*HYMN UMH 229 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20

SERMON *Making Room for the Baby* Jan Nicholson Angle

\*HYMN UMH 230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light,  
we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light.

**Have mercy on us, most merciful God.**

(all offer silent prayers of confession)

Lord, hear our prayers

**Have mercy on us, most merciful God.**

**Forgive us for not seeking the true Light  
of Your love for all the world.**

**Forgive us for not following the ways of Jesus,  
who commanded us to love one another.**

**Call us to be light-bearers of love, compassion,  
and justice, in which the Mystery of your Love  
is revealed.**

**In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.**

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III UMH 15

(Order of Worship continued on back page)

Prayer Request

*Please 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  
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Are Here

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First Time at Grove?

Let us help you connect

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Tear off  
and hand to an usher.

### SENDING FORTH

\*CANDLE LIGHTING

\*HYMN UMH 239 Silent Night, Holy Night

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*The Prayer of Confession is from umcdiscipleship.org and is adapted from a litany written by Rev. Mindi and posted on her Rev-o-lution website, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>. Reposted on the Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/12/prayer-of-confession-seeking-light.html>.*

### This Evening's Christmas Offering

Tonight's offering will go to the *New Voices Campaign: A UMC Holston Conference initiative to support Holston Wesley Foundations Camping Ministries and UMC affiliated Colleges.*

### SERVING THIS EVENING

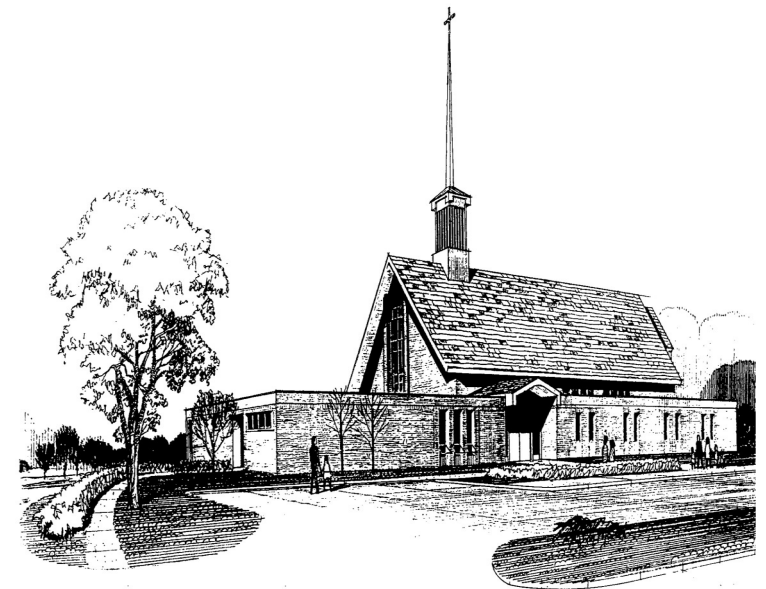
Ushers	Clay Carson/Delores Smith
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## Grove United Methodist Church

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion  
December 24, 2023

5:00 pm



**Rev. Dr. Jan Nicholson Angle**  
Minister

Pat Brown  
Organist

Rev. Dr. Joseph Borden  
Chancel Choir Director

Libby Watts  
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Videographer

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Custodian



## This Week at Grove UMC

Sunday 12/24/23

9:00 am: Sunday School—Young Adult Class  
9:15 am: Sunday School—O'Donnell Adult Class  
9:30 am: Choir practice in the choir room  
10:00 am: Worship  
5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

### **Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Candlelight Communion**

*Sermon: Making Room for the Baby.*

*Christmas Eve offering supports New Voices Campaign:  
The UMC Holston Conference initiative to support our  
Wesley Foundations' Camping Ministries and UMC  
affiliated Colleges.*

Monday 12/25/23

Office Closed—Merry Christmas

Honoring Pat Brown

**Sunday December 31** at 10 am worship we will be blessed with music as Pat Brown plays organ selections from her years at Grove UMC. *Reception to honor Pat will be in the Fellowship Hall following worship*

Commitment Sunday

As part of our worship on January 7th we will have a time of commitment and blessing over our 2024 pledges to the ministries of Grove UMC. Prayerfully consider your 2024 offering of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Installation of Grove UMC Church Leaders

On Sunday January 7th during 10:00 am worship, a time of commitment and blessing will be offered over Grove's 2024 Church Leaders as they begin their year of service.

## Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Reader 1: When the angel Gabriel visited Mary, announcing God's plan for her to conceive and give birth to the Messiah, "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'" (Luke 1:34) And yet, only a few months later, Mary sings to Elizabeth,

My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader 2: We, like Mary, hear God's call to be part of making God's dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality, and we question, "How can this be? I am only..." Yet, like Mary, the "onlys" that make us hesitate are gifts God can and will use as God's love transforms us into bearers of good news.

**Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

Reader 1: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, our fierce joy, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God's salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.