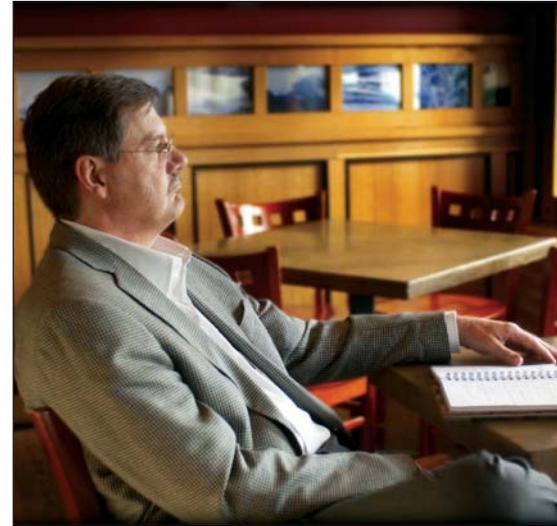


954 Tunnel Road  
Asheville, NC 28805



If you ask,  
“Is this all there is?”  
remember,  
“I am here always.”

**“I thought I’d be farther along  
on my road to happiness by  
now. What happened?”**



**“I keep searching for happiness,  
but it seems the more I look,  
the more lost I feel.”**



For many of us, we assess our level of fulfillment by looking at our surroundings, our possessions, our professions and our daily activities. So if we don’t have all that we want, or we haven’t achieved what we expected to achieve, we feel unfulfilled. Even if you have achieved great and many things, you can still feel like something is missing.

You are not alone. Everyone has felt that emptiness. Many of us desperately try to fill that void – by becoming workaholics, by buying things, by abusing drugs and alcohol, etc. But nothing fills that void for long, does it?

Even if you feel like you have led a good and moral life, you may still feel unfulfilled. You’ve worked hard, did what was expected, believed in the dreams of modern society, believed in the stability of the government and the economy, but you still wonder, “what was this all for?”

We at Groce United Methodist Church believe that in order to find the answers you need, you may want to ask different questions.



## “How do I find fulfillment? How do I find inner peace and happiness?”

These two questions are what you ask at the *beginning* of a journey. The two journeys that Christ taught us to take were our inner spiritual journey and our outer quest to engage in Christian fellowship.

To begin these journeys, we would first ask you to let go of the past, whether it is filled with disappointment or achievement. We don't mean go sell your stuff and quit your job. We just want you to let go of the idea that those things will provide you with some sort of spiritual fulfillment. You will also not find the meaning of life in your accumulated possessions, your 401k or your resume. Those are all very important and valid things. The problem is only when you expect from them what they cannot provide.

## If you are looking for God, close your eyes.

In Matthew 21:22, Christ says, “If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

*Whatever you ask for* is quite a promise. But Christ is also asking for a lot in return – *unwavering faith*. An agreement like this cannot be supported by a casual, occasional acquaintance. To truly receive the fulfillment of that promise, you must develop and nurture a close, personal relationship with God.

So where exactly *is* God? All around you? Yes. But more important, God is within you. His powerful Spirit flows through you – sometimes as a trickle, sometimes as rushing river. How much is entirely up to you. This is your spiritual journey.

Through prayer (talking to God) and meditation (listening to God), you will open your mind to God's wisdom and your heart to His love. By studying and reflecting upon Scripture, you will find that God is not testing you; He is teaching you. As you progress, you will be able to emotionally detach from life's struggles, releasing you from anxiety.

Your perspective will change. Doubt will be replaced by understanding. Confusion will be replaced by clarity.

Ultimately, you will come to know that God truly does reside within you and is always present. You will allow yourself to fill up with Him – His love, joy, peace and compassion.

That sounds like a pretty nice journey, we're sure. And the destination and general course really aren't a mystery. But everyone takes their own route and goes at their own pace.

## We are souls that just happen to be inside bodies at the moment.

Instead of looking at your fellow churchgoers as people (warm bodies), think of them as souls. If you do this, you will begin to understand that you can connect with them on a spiritual level. And as we all try to fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit, our connections get stronger, deeper and more fulfilling.

This is the essence of Christian fellowship, and our mission statement expresses it well: *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.*

To be part of the family of God is such a great feeling. We offer so many opportunities for you to participate. To begin with, we have two worship services on Sunday, 8:30 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. These are times to come together as a congregation and give thanks and praise to God. Through prayer, lessons and music we allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us. Both adults and children may join our music ministry, which has a full-time Music Director and includes four choirs and several instrumentalists.

Christian fellowship involves learning together. We offer adult and youth Sunday School classes at 9:45 A.M., as well as Bible studies and prayer groups. These are opportunities to listen, discuss and ask questions about Scripture and how it relates to our lives today.

Fellowship also includes a variety of activities we

enjoy together – from adult and youth activities to co-ed softball and basketball teams. It even extends to community service projects and mission trips.

By seeing and being Christianity in action, you will develop a deeper understanding of God's plan. You will gain a greater perspective on life and what is important, what has meaning and how you can find fulfillment.

## If you're on your journey, you've already arrived.

Too often we focus on completing tasks or journeys. We believe that our fulfillment or rewards are waiting at the end. That oftentimes leads to great disappointment. Even many religions are practiced in this manner. But the wonderful lesson that Christ's life demonstrates is that fulfillment is possible every day: in prayer and fellowship, in caring for the sick and helping the needy, in giving and receiving love. This is how to truly fill that void in your heart with the Holy Spirit. So enjoy every step, every turn and every resting place on your journey.

We welcome you to learn, share and experience so much more at Groce United Methodist Church. Come to a Sunday service. Our doors, hearts and minds are open to you, always.



Worship services on Sunday, 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. .  
Adult and youth Sunday School classes at 9:45 A.M.

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