

Groce UMC's

# "The Messenger"

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FROM Jill,

## "It's A Lot"

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." ~ Isaiah 41: 10*

I have a dear friend that has been through a lot in life, like most of us. Her favorite phrase to say when she is overwhelmed is; "It's a lot." In my mind this means there is a lot going on, a lot to deal with, and a lot of blessings within the messy stuff of life but even within it all, she is ok.

As I thought of this past month, the phrase "It's a lot" came to my mind. It doesn't mean that the tough things are over with; tough life, tough decisions, tough choices. Even with all the difficulties that have occurred, the damages, and the loss of so many lives I still see God's presence and love in so many ways. God continues to show up time and time again.

This month we start our Stewardship campaign and on November 17th we are asking each of you to bring your pledge card to the 10:00 am service. I know it is difficult to make a commitment when you don't know what the future brings. Tithing to Groce is an act of faith.

The reality is our pledges help the finance committee to determine what our budget will be for the following year. Our pledges are the visual act of us recognizing the blessings God has provided and will provide for us. Groce UMC continues to cut the budget where it can but there is nothing else to cut. We have cut the bills as much as possible, and eliminated job positions yet we still juggle our financial commitments.

In order to help the church financially, we have tried to think outside of the box, but under full disclosure it's just not enough. There are several projects at the church that need to be done but we keep putting them off because of financial restraints. "It's a lot."

If you have never pledged to Groce, will you please consider making a pledge for 2025? If you typically pledge, please continue to pledge for 2025. If you are not comfortable pledging, but give to Groce on a regular basis, please continue. I hope you all will consider increasing your pledges if you are able. Any increase in giving helps to make a big difference.

Thank you so much for your support and commitment to Groce UMC.

## 'Lots of Emotions'

### Asheville police chief reflects on Helene recoveries: 10 city residents yet to be found

Ryley Ober; Asheville Citizen-Times



Asheville police block the entrance to Historic Biltmore Village Sept. 27 in Asheville, NC, after Tropical Storm Helene floodwaters destroyed the area.—Josh Bell/Asheville Citizen-Times

ASHEVILLE - Tears filled Asheville Police Chief Mike Lamb's eyes Oct. 24 at the department's downtown headquarters.

Lamb was speaking to the Citizen Times four weeks after Tropical Storm Helene plunged much of East Asheville, the River Arts District and the Biltmore Village area under water.

"I'm sorry. There's a lot, a lot of emotions," Lamb said, clearing his throat after a pause.

He was recalling multiple stories of his officers' rescue efforts along the Swannanoa River Sept. 27, from Moffit Branch and Azalea and Swannanoa River roads.

After going door-to-door telling people to evacuate earlier that morning, officers were stationed at different locations along the river, calling out rescues to the swift-water team in partnership with the Asheville Fire Department.

### APD and swift-water team rescued woman 'floating down river'

Specifically, Lamb was detailing the moment a detective spotted Asheville resident Megan Drye "floating down



Asheville Police Chief Michael Lamb speaks with the Asheville Citizen-Times Oct. 24, 2024, at the police department in downtown Asheville.—Josh Bell/Asheville Citizen-Times

the river." Seeing her begin to wedge between two Conex boxes (steel shipping containers), the officer called in the swift water team, which pulled her from the river.

Drye had been with her parents and young son on Sept. 27, when the family's home collapsed into the Swannanoa River. All three died.

Three days later, the same detective who spotted Drye found 7-year-old Micah Drye a quarter-mile away.

"It was closure for him," Lamb said through the emotion. "(Officers) were able to just help a lot of people, between the evacuations and the rescues. It was really, you know, they saved a lot of lives that day."

### Breaking down Helene numbers, recovery efforts

During the days immediately after the storm while cell service was wiped out, city police had an "influx" of emails, many from people outside the region hoping to ensure their loved ones were safe, Lamb said. Officers compiled a list and checked first on those they determined were the most urgent and most vulnerable.

With phone lines down, officers went in person to neighborhoods. It took a little over a week to get through the list of about 350 people. As of Oct. 24, APD had nine active missing person cases related to Helene, down from 60 on Oct. 7.

Of the list of 350, police determined three had likely died from Helene before their bodies were later recovered, Lamb said. Six others are now known to have died from Helene in Asheville, including the three members of the Drye family, who Megan Drye previously described as brave, gentle and affectionate.

“There were three others that we couldn’t find initially, but knew that they went into the water,” Lamb said. “Of those three, we were able to recover two. There’s still one that we haven’t recovered yet.”



*Crews work along Hendersonville Road at the entrance to Historic Biltmore Village Sept 27 in Asheville, NC, after Tropical Storm Helene.—Josh Bell/Asheville Citizen-Times*

APD is continuing to investigate, looking for activity on cellphones and in financial accounts, just in case. But as of now, the father is considered “presumed deceased.”

## **Fate of missing Asheville resident: 'Presumed deceased'**

To locate the one Asheville resident yet to be found, police are working with neighbors, piecing together what happened. A group of neighbors was able to save the resident's two daughters, who were “clinging, trying not get washed away from the floodwaters,” Lamb said.

During the Citizen Times interview, Lamb shared a gut-wrenching reality of the floodwaters: “There’s really no rhyme or reason as far as where people ended up.”

“From accounts we had of where people went into the water, there were so many various places along the river where they were recovered from,” he said.

Along with debris and buildings, 354 cars washed down the river, Lamb said. Police initially used drones to search the cars, ensuring no one was left inside before it was

safe to go in on foot.

“I think at one point there was just a mass rush of water that came through,” Lamb said, pointing out how the river took with it a whole section of the concrete bridge from Azalea Road to Gashes Creek Road, where he remembers going as a child.

The day after the storm, 515 officers from 96 different agencies began cycling through Asheville in groups of 100. City police worked with the North Carolina National Guard, the FBI, New Jersey Search and Rescue and Los Angeles Search Rescue, using cadaver dogs to scour the area.

Lamb said as recovery continues there might be more people who died and were buried in the silt.

## **Grateful for support of outside police, city residents after Helene**

Personnel from the numerous outside agencies have assisted local police in a variety of ways: from search and rescue, to securing barricaded roads, guarding distribution points and escorting FEMA resources and Duke Power trucks.

Out of APD’s staff, five or six “lost everything or had significant damage to their homes,” Lamb said.

Lamb spoke of the emotional weight these officers have carried over this past month and stressed the importance of the assistance from outside agencies, which allows city police to take days off. Lamb also expressed gratitude for how community members and neighbors have helped by cutting through downed trees, providing food for officers, or simply writing letters to the police department.

“I’m really proud of the community of Asheville because everybody came together,” he said.

*Ryley Ober is the Public Safety Reporter for Asheville Citizen Times, part of the USA Today Network. She is a graduate of Indiana University and was the Citizen Times Summer News Reporting Intern in 2022. Email her at rober@gannett.com and follow her on Twitter @ryleyober*

# Lunch Fundraiser




NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
FOLLOWING THE 10AM  
WORSHIP SERVICE

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Our Youth are here to make a difference and they need your help! Join them for a full lunch after worship service as they raise awareness and funds for their winter mission projects.



828-298-7647 

groceumc.org 

954 Tunnel Rd, Asheville 

**Hurricane Relief Supplies**—Groce closed down its meals and supplies resource hub on Saturday, October 26th and is no longer accepting Helene relief supply donations. As East Asheville is stabilizing, Groce is transitioning its support to direct involvement with small, more remote communities. If you are interested in being involved in this evolving long term effort, please contact True Morse, [truemorse@gmail.com](mailto:truemorse@gmail.com), 743-999-1769.

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**Relief Photos**—We want to capture photos and videos of Helene's impact on our community and church. The desire is to create a collective visual experience of the destructive impact, but more importantly the incredibly positive response from communities local and afar. The goal is to use these at a Groce Community Celebration & Volunteer Recognition party to be held at Groce once things are a little bit more normal and since we now have indoor plumbing.

Please select from your photos and videos ones that help us do this. If you can, put your name in the file name and the location of the photo or video.

Please do not delete or modify any photos or videos put there by others.

If you have questions contact True Morse at [truemorse@gmail.com](mailto:truemorse@gmail.com) or 743-999-1769.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/yPhRWruynD7aMmEg6>

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**All Saints Bell Banner**—As we approach All Saints Sunday, November 3, we as a congregation remember those who have passed away this year. If you would like to honor a loved one, our Bell Banner is located outside the church office. Place a bell on one of the ribbons for each person you would like to honor. Our banner will then be placed in the Sanctuary on November 3rd.

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**Offering Envelopes**—If you would like to have a full booklet of offering envelopes with your membership number, please contact the church office. We have a limited number in stock so reserve yours today! Deadline to RSVP is November 28.

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# Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/01 Ashley Baylor  
Carolyn Cutlip  
Frank Quinlan

11/05 Sandra Justus

11/08 Bob Barcafer

11/09 Tammy Peek

11/12 Tricia Clark  
Michael Redd  
Nadine Rudeen

11/15 Dennis Butler  
Larry Sexton

11/19 Sean Donati  
Sophie Moxley

11/20 Tracey Briggs

11/21 Alex Donati  
Mike Goforth

11/22 Bertha Ramsey

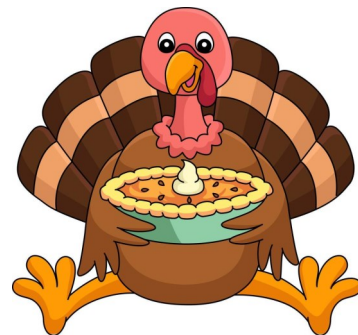
11/23 A C Williams

11/24 Cheri Denison

11/03 Gary & Betty Brockway (52)

11/20 Larry & Carolyn Barber (60)

11/28 Ed & Nancy Saxman (54)





# November



Take time each day to pray for members of your church family.

Daylight Savings Time Ends—**Sunday, Oct. 3 at 2am**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>All Saints</b> AGAPE—8:45am Worship—10am <b>Charge Conference—5p</b>	 <b>HAPPY Thanksgiving</b>				Tailgate Market— 3—6pm	
<b>3</b> Handbells—5pm Beekeepers—7pm	<b>4</b> Veterans Day Handbells—5pm Guitar League—6pm Brownies—6pm	<b>5</b> Parkin. Group—10am Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	<b>6</b> Nurture—5pm Chancel Choir—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	<b>7</b> Isaac Group—10:30am Haw Creek Clergy—noon Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm UMMen—6:30pm	<b>8</b> Tailgate Market— 3—6pm	<b>9</b> Memorial Event— 1—4pm Beekeepers—7pm
<b>10</b> AGAPE—8:45am Worship—10am <b>Youth Fundraiser—            11am—noon</b> <b>Fall Concert—3pm</b>	<b>11</b> Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm Bev. Hills—7pm	<b>12</b> Ret. Teach.—10am Table of 16—11:30am UMMen@VRO—4pm Chancel Choir—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	<b>13</b> Isaac Group—10:30am Pumpkin Patch—4pm Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	<b>14</b> Tailgate Market— 3—6pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 
<b>17</b> AGAPE—8:45am Worship—10am <b>Benefit Concert—3pm</b> Youth—5pm	<b>18</b> Outreach—3pm Handbells—5pm Sondley Meeting—7pm SMBB—7pm	<b>19</b> Sarah Circle—4pm Chancel Choir—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	<b>20</b> Isaac Group—10:30am Tai Chi—1:30pm Welcome Table—5pm	<b>21</b> Tailgate Market— 3—6pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Guitar League—10am <b>Volunteer Celebration—            5pm</b>
<b>24</b> AGAPE—8:45am Worship—10am Youth—5pm	<b>25</b> Tai Chi—1:30pm SMBB—7pm	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b> BGAE—4pm Chancel Choir—6pm AA Meeting—6pm	<b>27</b> <b>Thanksgiving            Office Closed</b>	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 

Warrior Canine Connection-

Mon. - Fri. from 8am to 5pm

\*Dates are subject to change.

**Native American Heritage Month** - is observed in November to call attention to the culture, traditions, and achievements of the nation's original inhabitants and of their descendants. The official designation of November as National Native American Heritage Month was signed into law in 1990.

