



# Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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## **WORSHIP TIMES**

- 9:00am Traditional Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Contemporary Worship

## **CONTACT US**

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## **Inspiration Point**

Wow! It is August again already! These are the Dog Days of Summer! The heat and humidity make us act like old hound dogs, finding a cool, shady spot and sleeping! But, we can't, can we? The crops are ready to harvest, and all of the garden veggies are ready to pick and prepare to can or freeze! Have you ever canned using Ball Mason Jars? That is what we used when we were growing up! Sometimes, it took days! One of my Course of Study Classmates told that when she went to town, she had to lock her car doors because if she did not, Her neighbors had loaded down her car with farm produce from their gardens! It was a lot of hard work putting up the veggies, but in the long winter months, it sure was nice to open those jars for corn, peas, tomatoes, and sometimes even meat for Supper! Today we can go to the grocery store and buy anything we want, already prepared! Fixing Supper used to be an all day job! I was just looking through the refrigerator looking for a snack, and found a container of chopped onions! You can find anything there now!

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The Bible has a lot to say about seed time and harvest, does it not? Jesus talked a lot about it too! Let's look at John 4:35 to 38: "Then Jesus explained, "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, "Four months between the planting and the harvest." But I say wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for the harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, "one plants and another one harvests," and it is true. I sent you to harvest where you did not plant, others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest."

During these COVID times many are already hurting and soon all the government subsidies will expire. The good news is that everywhere you turn, there are signs asking for help! Even so, there are many who can not work because of other problems! They have no hope! That is where we, you and I, come in! It is ours to bring hope to them! We have that hope! Jesus is that hope! We have Jesus! He has called us to go out into the fields and make disciples! That means we are to get them saved, and to teach them how to live as overcoming Christians! If you lack boldness, ask God and He will bless you liberally with it! He did it for me, and He will do it for you too! Practice telling your five minute faith story and prepare to share it every time you get the opportunity!

*Brother Phil*



## **From the Pastor's Desk**



### **WHY IT'S CALLED AMAZING GRACE**

The most recognizable Christian hymn of all time is, undoubtedly, *Amazing Grace*. It has been recorded countless times by hundreds of artists, including Aretha Franklin, Willie Nelson, the Grateful Dead, Jeff Beck, Rod Stewart, The Chuck Wagon Gang, and, of course, Elvis Presley. It was a top 40 hit for Judy Collins in the sixties, and it was even played at Spock's funeral (on bagpipes) in *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*.

If you don't like the original melody, the words to *Amazing Grace*

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can also be sung to the tune of *Greensleeves*, *Peaceful Easy Feeling*, and even the theme to *Gilligan's Island* (a church camp favorite).

Most people are familiar with the words of the song, but they would be hard pressed to tell you exactly what it is about grace that is so amazing.

There are several textbook definitions that I could include words such as *manifested favor* and *vouchsafement* — but for the purposes of this article, let me define it in plain English.

**Grace is God's undeserved kindness.**

The doctrine of grace is that God treats us better than we deserve to be treated. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. (Psalm 103:10)

***For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8)***

God's grace is extended to us not only in salvation — the fact that he lets us into heaven even though we are sinners — but it also is extended to us in everyday life. We can benefit from his goodness to us in all that we do.

The Psalmist wrote in Psalm 121:7

***The Lord will keep you from all harm — he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.***

Notice he says: "***your coming and going.***" As you go through the day-to-day rituals of life, he is watching over you. He wants to be your source of help, your source of strength. And he will be if you turn to him.

It's called Amazing Grace because God, in his infinite goodness, treats us far better than we deserve. And, in his infinite goodness, he takes care of us when we can't take care of ourselves; when life is uncertain, when the heat is on, in our darkest hours.

Do you want to experience his grace in your life? Do you want to live with the assurance that he is watching over you?

Here's how: Ask.

In your day-to-day "coming and going" ask for his help, ask for his strength, ask for his presence in your life. He's there. He's watching over you. He'll take care of you.

See you in church,  
*Pastor Byron*

## THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

### IN MEMORY

#### **Paul Walker**

David and Lynette Primm

#### **Carson Watts**

Vivian Houck – Family Life  
Center

David and Lynette Primm  
Double Ring Sunday School  
Class

#### **Brian Lynch**

Richard Howard

#### **Danny Wilson**

Steve and Maria McClure

#### **Lorena Wilson**

Tim and Terri Honeycutt  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Terry Kelly

#### **Robert and Ruth Edwards**

Steve and Maria McClure

#### **Willie Williams**

David and Lynette Primm

#### **Clifford Wilson**

Steve and Maria McClure  
Terry Kelly  
Disciples Sunday School Class

#### **Gene and Nancy Edwards Family**

Steve and Karen Dellinger  
Brenda Watkins – Family Life  
Center

#### **Sue Laye**

Don and Jane Adams  
Terry Kelly  
Steve and Karen Dellinger  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Disciples Sunday School Class  
Mary Todd  
Rickey and Lynda Elliott  
Brenda Watkins – Family Life  
Center

#### **Carolyn Earp**

Roy and Margaret Parker

#### **Joey Williams**

Steve and Karen Dellinger

#### **Mike Tyson**

David and Lynette Primm

#### **Bobbie Phillips Wilson**

Nadine Williams – Family Life  
Center

#### **Joan Haynes**

Tim and Terri Honeycutt  
Roy and Margaret Parker  
Shirley McClure  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Steve and Karen Dellinger  
Hazel Sanders  
Brenda Watkins – Family Life  
Center  
Nadine Williams – Family Life  
Center

#### **Jewel Brown**

Roy and Margaret Parker  
Disciples Sunday School Class  
Steve and Maria McClure  
Rickey and Lynda Elliott  
Steve and Karen Dellinger

Hazel Sanders

Terry Kelly

Brenda Watkins – Family Life  
Center

Nadine Williams – Family Life  
Center

Sandra White and Mary  
Kimbel

Anonymous – Backpack  
Buddies

### IN HONOR

#### **Gene and Nancy Edwards**

Nadine Williams – Family Life  
Center

#### **Tom and Julia Grey**

Anonymous

#### **Cemetery Committee, Past and Present**

Ted and Betty Rector –  
Cemetery Fund

#### **2021 Graduates:**

**Sydney Tadlock**

**Emma Rhines**

**Savannah Pruette**

**Macy Monteith**

UMW – Circle #3

## News from our United Methodist Women



On Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Circles #3 and #6 met together in the fellowship hall for a covered-dish dinner with some 25 members and guests in attendance. Lynda Morris, Metro District UMW president, and Donna Varner, Metro District UMW parliamentarian, brought greetings and updates from the Metro District team. After the sharing of a meal together Michelle Carver, a member here at Pleasant Grove, shared her new business with the gathering. Michelle's business,

*Carver Made...Let Faith Design Your Life*, is an online ETSY shop offering Biblical and inspirational creations to enhance your personal life and your home décor with an element of faith! We encourage you to check Michelle's work out and support her in any way that you are able. Michelle's presentation was followed by Martha Honeycutt sharing her musical talents with us by playing several selections on the harp. It was great to have an evening of food, fellowship, fun, and mission updates.

The Metro District UMW annual meeting will be on Saturday morning, August 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephens UMC. We can register for this event online. It would be awesome to have several of our members attend this meeting. Let Jeannie Upton know if you would like to go, and she will take care of getting you registered.

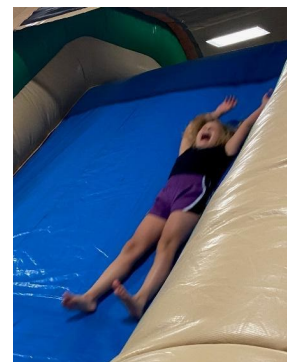
The next UMW meetings at Pleasant Grove will be at the regular times on Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!!!



## Summer Camp Post

Summer Camp is going GREAT!!! We have navigated a few bumps in the road...the van was out of commission for a little while but it's all better now...and the weather caused a few of our field trips to need rescheduling. We are back on track now and it is all systems GO!!! The children had so much fun during Bounce Boot Camp, which was held during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.

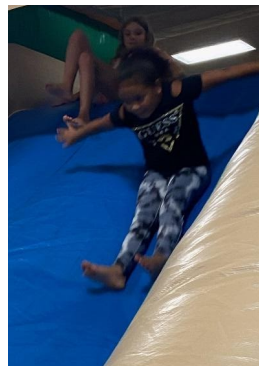
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A huge “thank you” goes out to Mr. Baker! It is hard to believe that Summer Camp is at the halfway point. We already have several children signed up for After-School Care and that time will get here soon. If you know of a student whose family is looking for excellent quality after-school care in a loving Christian environment, please have them call the Children’s Building (704.393.7895) for more information. The more the merrier!!! We hope that you all enjoy the second half of your summer and that you all continue to stay safe!!!



## The Recipe Box

It’s August...the time of year when we try to get in that one last picnic, potluck dinner, or family gathering before the rush of the fall schedule takes over our lives. And many times, when we are planning to eat outdoors, we are stumped over what dish to bring to the table. We don’t want to bring something that will melt. We don’t want to bring something that will spoil. So, we avoid frozen, and we avoid mayonnaise-filled recipes. But, this month, we have a recipe for you that requires neither and is the perfect dish to take to a picnic or potluck. In fact, it gets better and more flavorful as it sits! Ginger-Miso Pasta Salad is a light and tasty pasta salad with no mayonnaise. It can be served warm, cold, or at room temperature. It does have a couple of

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unusual ingredients, but we believe that if you will go to the effort to try this recipe you will be glad that you did. So, go to the grocery store...get the specialty ingredients...whip up this pasta salad...and impress your friends and family with this Japanese-inspired pasta salad!

### **Ginger-Miso Pasta Salad**

#### **For the Salad:**

- 1 pound of cavatappi pasta
- 3 cups of broccoli florets
- 2 Persian cucumbers, sliced in half, then cut into ¼ -inch-thick half-moons
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup frozen, shelled edamame, thawed
- ½ cup shredded carrot
- 3 T. chopped chives, to garnish
- 1 T. toasted sesame seeds, to garnish

#### **For the Dressing:**

- 3 T. white miso paste
- 3 T. grated ginger
- 2 T. lime juice
- 3 T. low-sodium soy sauce
- 3 T. canola oil
- 3 T. rice vinegar
- 1 T. toasted sesame oil
- 1 T. toasted sesame seeds



For the Salad: Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add in the pasta and cook according to package directions for al dente. When the pasta just reaches al dente, add in the broccoli florets, and cook for one additional minute before draining. Drain and let cool slightly.

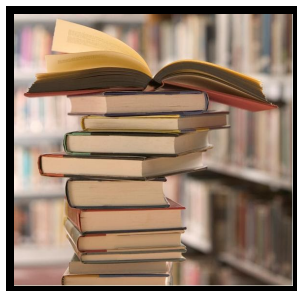
For the Dressing: Add all the ingredients to a lidded jar, cover and shake to completely combine. Set aside.

To Assemble: Add the cucumbers, bell pepper, edamame, and carrot to a large bowl. Add in the slightly cooled pasta and broccoli. Pour the dressing onto the salad and toss to combine. Garnish with chopped chives and sesame seeds. Serve immediately, serve a little bit later, or cover and refrigerate to serve later in the day. This recipe makes a big bowl of salad and will easily serve 8-10 people.

Enjoy!!!

*(This recipe comes to us from The Today Show Kitchen and was presented by Valerie Bertinelli.)*

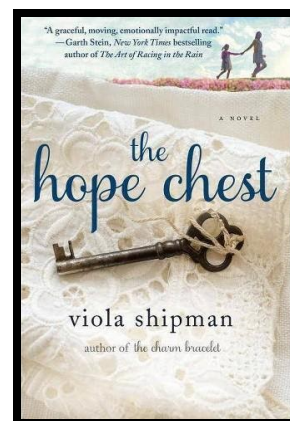
## Recommended Reading



So, here we are in August...just past what some consider the middle of the summer season...right in the heat of the summer, for sure...and a little light reading might be just what we need! Whether you are looking to take a good book to the beach, to the lake, to the back porch, or to your air-conditioned den, we have a recommendation for you! Sherri Brown recently read this sweet book while sitting on the front porch of her son, Philip's home, in Gettysburg, PA and found it to be both inspiring and uplifting. Colored by the sadness that comes with life and loss, she ultimately found it to be a story of hope.

The Hope Chest, by Viola Shipman, is a beautiful story about the unconditional love and support of family and it reminds us that hope can be found in some unexpected places. In this graceful, moving, and emotionally impactful read, Saugatuck, Michigan comes to life. Mattie, the central character of this book, has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and as her disease progresses, she finds that she can no longer navigate her much-loved home, she can't board the boat that she and her husband Don have enjoyed together, and now she can barely feed herself. But when Rose, Mattie's new caregiver, and her young daughter Jeri, enter the couple's lives, joy and the possibility for making new memories returns. Together they form a new kind of family.

With the possibility of having to move from their beloved lake house becoming a reality, Mattie's heirloom hope chest is brought out of the attic and the story of Mattie's life and her love story with Don is revealed to the reader. As each item is brought from the hope chest its significance and sentiment are relayed to Rose and Jeri. Through this process Rose is invited to tell her own story and is even invited to contribute to the hope chest along with her daughter. It is through the re-discovery of the hope chest that precious memories are unveiled, and these three individuals find joy and happiness once again. Although each of them has lost a part of themselves, they find peace together as family. We find that even though Mattie has no daughter of her own who will inherit the hope chest, she finds in Rose and Jeri the perfect recipients of her life story, her love, and her legacy.



Seemingly nostalgic discards...a favorite doll, a set of family dishes, a stained apron, and a Christmas ornament...the hope chest and its contents connect Mattie, Don, and Rose to each other and help them in finding hope again in the face of overwhelming change. It is this gentle story of lifelong love and the love of family and friends that make this book, The Hope Chest, the perfect read to close out the summer. You can find it at any online book seller, and it is available for loan in Pleasant Grove's Lending Library. Enjoy!!!

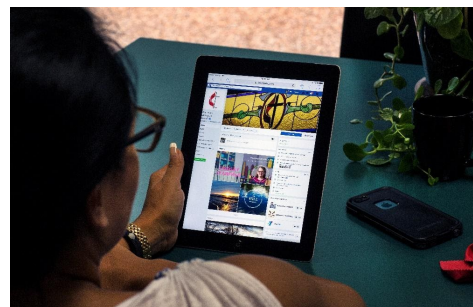
*"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words, and never stops...at all."*



## Did You Know???

...that John Wesley gave us some great advice about how to handle our social media accounts??? Sounds crazy, doesn't it? But it is indeed true!

We begin this line of thought with a couple of questions. "How do I use social media?" "How do I react to the social media posts of others?" "How can I incorporate my faith life into my use of social media?" D.G. Hollums, of Zia UMC says, "Social media is an opportunity to be surrounded by a lot of different people, but it needs to be intentional." Social media can be a place to share our faith while also finding a community of like-minded people who pour positivity and encouragement into our lives. Navigating the social media space, however, takes care and intention, as do most of the important spaces in our lives.



Although John Wesley predated social media, he may have given us the best and simplest directive for how to interact on social media. Rev. Ryan Dunn, minister of online engagement for United Methodist Communications reminds us, "As Methodists, we know the rules: Do no harm, do good, communicate grace. If you do that, you're fine."

### **Do No Harm**

As you become engaged and active on social media, you may find that friends and acquaintances sometimes post words that surprise, anger, or hurt you. People often feel at liberty to say things online that they would not say in person. When people venture onto the free-speech lawn that seems to be before them on social media platforms they feel completely free to express themselves with no consideration as to how it will be read, interpreted, and digested by others. When you realize these facts about others, it is important to turn the tables on yourself and hold yourself to the same standards that you expect of others.

### **Do Good**

At times, social media can become toxic, with the potential to cause harm to longstanding relationships. Rev. Michael Parker, of Church of the Redeemer, recommends setting boundaries. Remember that your social media accounts are YOUR accounts, and you can allow people into your space that you actually want to have in your space. He states, "When posts from someone become too much for you, unfollow or unfriend, if necessary. Unfriending someone on social media doesn't mean you are unfriended in real life." At the same time, remembering how your posts may affect others is key. "In the same way you take Jesus to work, take Jesus to your Facebook page." He also adds that every post doesn't have to be overtly faith-based, but your posts should reflect your faith.

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### Communicate Grace

“In church, even if you disagree with the sermon, you don’t stand up and blast the sermon,” says Derrick Scott, executive director of Campus to City Wesley Foundation. “What social media has done is put microphones into our private spaces and turned them into public spaces.” As this happens, Scott suggests doling out a heaping helping of grace! “Remember that words on a screen are not the totality of a person. If I’m going to be a United Methodist person of grace, I have to give people room to be more than what they post and tweet.”

One test of how much your faith influences your social media is to objectively look at your accounts, your posts, and your responses, with an eye toward what people would learn about you from your social media pages. When we decorate our homes and offices, we display items that reflect what we value. In the same manner, we should strive to be intentional about what we are sharing on our public spaces. We should ask ourselves one very simple question... “When people read what I post, will they know what I value?”

And remember the words of Wesley...Do no harm, Do good, Communicate grace!

*(The content of this article was first presented by Crystal Caviness who works for UMC.org at United Methodist Communications and was first published on June 21, 2021.)*



## You Are Invited!!!

You are cordially invited to a Church Family Cookout on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>! Please join the rest of your church family as we celebrate just that...being a church family! On this special day in the life of the church we will gather together for worship at 10:00 AM, in the family life center. Then, at the close of worship, we will enjoy a cookout together. (Sunday school classes will not meet on this particular Sunday.) The church is providing the meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings. We are all just asked to bring desserts to share with one another.

Another reason to make sure that you are here for this time together is that this will be the last Sunday for

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our Praise Band. The Band has been serving here at Pleasant Grove for over eight years. We have loved having them here, worshiping through music with them, having them share their gifts and talents with us, just being family with us. They have given selflessly, as volunteers, week in and week out, simply because they love the Lord, and they love our sweet church. But as we all know, life changes. Situations and circumstances change. Things end and new things begin. So, please make sure to be with us on August 15<sup>th</sup>, as we celebrate family and thank these family members for their long-standing and committed Christian service.

On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will launch our new Sunday morning schedule. We will have Bible Study Groups (formerly identified as Sunday School Classes) at 8:45 AM followed by worship in the sanctuary at 10:00. Change can sometimes be difficult but is many times necessary. This new schedule allows for the Bible study groups to have a full hour for business, study, and discussion. It also places worship at neither 9:00 nor 11:00...something new, something necessary. We hope that you will make note of this new schedule and the fact that it begins on Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. And we look forward to seeing you in church each and every Sunday!!!



## Volunteers Needed

On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will begin with a new Sunday morning schedule at Pleasant Grove. This presents us with the perfect opportunity to resume one of the most vital ministries on our campus. This will be an exciting time to re-launch the nursery on Sunday mornings. Providing a nursery is so important to young parents who desire to attend a Bible study group and worship. And it is one of the things that we can do to encourage young families to be a part of our church family. We currently have at least one young family who will benefit from this ministry...and who knows how many others may be looking to see if Pleasant Grove might be the right fit for their young family! The beautiful thing about offering a nursery is that it doesn't cost us a thing!!!

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We will need to have two adults in our nursery each Sunday morning from 8:45 until the close of worship at about 11:00. You can look at this as one time slot of just over two hours, or you can see it as two different time slots...one for Bible study groups and one for worship. Please consider serving in this capacity. All it takes is a loving heart, an attentive mindset, and some time in a rocking chair. It would be awesome if we could put together a team that serves once a month on an on-going basis. So, think about when you can serve, grab another church member to serve with you, and sign up for this rotating opportunity. Lindsay, in the church office, will be keeping track of the volunteer schedule and publishing it in our bulletin each week. If you feel called to serve in this way, simply let Lindsay know which Sunday in the month and which time slot you would like to occupy. And please know, without a doubt, that you will reap rewards far greater than the time and effort that you give.



## Christmas in August???



Well...not quite! But we would like to encourage our church family to begin to think about your Operation Christmas child shoebox gifts, even in August!

Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items, and delivers them to children in need around the world. The giving of these gifts demonstrates God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, has collected and delivered more than 188 million shoebox gifts to

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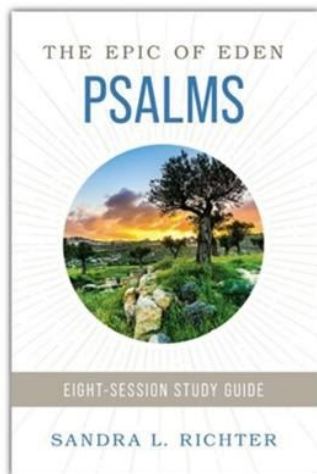
children in more than 170 countries and territories.

As you begin to plan your gift for 2021, first begin by targeting the age and gender of the child that you would like to receive your box. Then, begin with a “WOW” gift...think about a doll, a stuffed animal, a soccer ball with a pump, a small musical instrument, an outfit of clothing, or a backpack. Then, continue to fill your shoebox with personal care items, clothing and accessories, crafts and activities, school supplies, and toys that are age appropriate. As you gather your goodies for your gift, be sure to pray for the child who receives it and see them in your mind’s eye, opening a box filled with your love and the love of Jesus!

Be on the lookout, church family, for the red and green boxes! They will find their way to our sanctuary right after Labor Day. It is going to be so exciting to see God’s love go out from our sweet little church, right here on the corner of Oakdale and Pleasant Grove Roads, to reach around the world to children in need. Aren’t you so glad to have the opportunity, the desire, and the ability to serve others in this way?!!!



## September Bible Study Opportunity



Join us on Monday nights for our ongoing Bible Study, meeting via Zoom. This Bible study group, led by Jana Alexander, is open to men and women who are eager to learn more about our Holy Scriptures. Our next book of study, *Epic of Eden: Psalms*, by Sandra Richter, will begin on Monday, September 13. We meet online from 6:30 – 8 pm. Contact Jana at [janaalexander09@gmail.com](mailto:janaalexander09@gmail.com), or the church office if you’d like to participate. The books are \$16 and can be ordered through the church or from wherever books are sold online.

### **About the Study**

Sandra Richter brings our ancestors in the faith to the table where we learn from them in a cross-cultural experience bridging

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historical and modern-day life. This eight-session study of the Book of Psalms masterfully mixes scholarly and practical teaching through the most-known wisdom Book of the Bible. The key messages of this study include: **what** the Book of Psalms is (the hymnbook of ancient Israel), **how** it was utilized in Israelite worship (the various “forms” of the Psalms), and **why** the Book of Psalms remains critical to our devotional lives today. Sandra also dives into the concrete realities of Israelite worship (the tabernacle, temple, priesthood, and sacrifice) as well as Israel’s theology of worship wrapped up in their theocratic world view. Experience the Psalms with fresh connections to contemporary worship and devotional practices. Indulge in the biblical study of the Psalms from a scholar and former pastor. Letting Sandra do the “heavy lifting” of research and translation allows you to experience the Bible in a deeply sensitive way, answering the evergreen question, “so what does this have to do with me today?”



## Road Trip!!!

It’s time for the PG Travelers to hit the road once again! Who are the PG Travelers, you ask? The PG Travelers are a group of church members, their family, their friends, and anyone else who wants to go on a little excursion. So, if you want to go...you are a member of PG Travelers! Later this month the group will gather for an outing to Grandad’s Apples in Hendersonville, NC. We will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 AM on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> to travel by church van, carpool, or caravan, to this wonderful apple orchard, barn, and bakery.

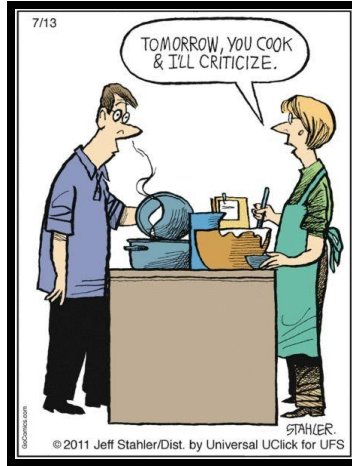


The orchard will have five varieties of apples for purchase, along with mountain cabbage, jams, jellies, relishes, and some of the most scrumptious baked goods you could ever hope to find!



You can even try an apple cider slushie while you are there!!! After enjoying all that the barn has to offer and taking in the mountain vistas with the orchard in the foreground, we will have lunch at a local restaurant before returning home. Please call the church office to let us know that you plan to be a part of this road trip. You can also reserve a seat on the church van at that time. This promises to be a great trip filled with fun, fellowship, beauty, and deliciousness! You know you don’t want to miss it!!!

# Just For Giggles





# Camping



R Y M C T E G N I K I H N S F O J B X U P  
 Q J N A H N V D Z S A L S I S L A M I N A  
 M E M O R I E S F M W E P J B T S N C G H  
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 S B O S W M I V T R A I L E R Q S J E H C  
 I W T U L F Z S R Y G T E X D H A N S T A  
 K N U M P I H C J E Q L A O K W O T I B V  
 Y L D M C O M P A S S F B H N X R E G Z D  
 B H A E J W K S M O R E S N I A T N U O M  
 X C N R E T N A L Z V Q R D Y G C T F P R

air mattress	compass
animals	flashlight
batteries	hammock
cabin	hiking
campfire	insect repellent
campsite	island
canoeing	kayak
chipmunk	lantern

marshmallow	roasting sticks
memories	s'mores
mosquitoes	sleeping bag
mountains	summer
nature	swimming
outdoor cooking	tent
raccoon	trailer
reservation	vacation

