



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE-MAY 2023

- Pg 1 From the Pastor's Desk
- Pg 2 Memorials and Honorariums
- Pg 3 Inspiration Point
- Pg 4 Thanks and Sympathies
- Pg 5 Recipe Box
- Pg 5 Men's Breakfast
- Pg 6 Recommended Reading
- Pg 7 After School Care Post
- Pg 8 United Women in Faith News
- Pg 8 PG Prayer Lunch
- Pg 9 Spring Cleaning Winds Down
- Pg 10 Thanks and Farewell to Colin
- Pg 11 Welcome Our New Pastor
- Pg 11 Grad Sunday at PG
- Pg 12 Helping Families in Need
- Pg 12 CPR Class Offered at PG
- Pg 13 Happy Mother's Day Greeting
- Pg 13 Happy Memorial Day
- Pg 14 Just For Giggles
- Pg 15 Puzzle

WORSHIP TIMES

- 8:45am Bible Study Groups
- 10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

At some point in the UMC, all pastors find themselves moving to new ministry settings. As I prepare to make way for a new pastor in July, I'm extremely grateful for the gracious way that Pleasant Grove UMC welcomes and supports all its new pastors and staff. Although we will miss our Director of Discipleship and Outreach, Colin Winslette, our prayers, love, and support will journey with both he and Rebecca as Colin transitions into a new ministry setting.

Within all these changes there is usually some degree of grief, apprehension, and anticipation for both congregations and staff, yet I'm reminded of just how much faith plays a pivotal role in helping us to forge new paths forward during times of change. After all, there are so many paths that can lead us in all kinds of directions in life; paths to glory, paths to righteousness, paths that are worn down, overgrown paths, and regrettable paths. There are paths/roads that diverge in a yellow-wood, paths that follow a yellow brick road, and places where paths cross.

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After blazing many trails while establishing the early churches, the Apostle Paul wrote these words to help Christians stay on the straight and narrow as they connected and interacted with the many different types of people along the trade routes of the northern Mediterranean. “Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” Romans 12:9-13



Seems like a straightforward path for all Christians to follow, yet in a world with so many pathways to choose from, staying on the straight and narrow through unity, humility, and putting others first, often seems to fall by the wayside, taking a back seat to our own navigational devices and passions.

In our future travels together, may we join with Christians everywhere, excited to show the world our willingness to trust in God’s spirit for guidance, even if it takes us off the beaten path in search of Jesus and the least and lost.

Grace and peace be with you as we continue our journey in Christ together.

Rev. Sam Lewis



THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF:

IN MEMORY

Pina Nance

Jim and Vicki Allgood

Donna Hester

Rhonda McGee

Robert and Coretha Ferrell

Joe Primm

Robert and Coretha Ferrell

Jim Stikeleather

Nadine Williams – Oakdale School Gift Cards

William Ray Wright, Sr

Anonymous

Inspiration Point

Acts 2:1 – 8 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled all the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devoted men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and marveled, saying one to another, behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, where in we were born?



In Jerusalem in May, the weather is warm, and in those times, there were no air conditioning units! The windows were all open, and 120 of them were all gathered in this room praying. They were not praying silently in their hearts. They were praying loudly and all at the same time. It was loud enough to hear out on the streets! The people out there on the streets began paying attention. They heard their prayers, and they understood what was being prayed. No one had done this before. Those gathered in the Upper Room were being baptized in the Holy Spirit and they had begun to speak in tongues they had not learned. They were energized and prayed even more loudly!



The purpose for all this was to fill all those believers with the Holy Spirit! **John 15:26** says, **“But when the Comforter (Holy Spirit) is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me.”**

Until this time, the Holy Spirit only rested on a few men at a time... prophets and such. Now the Second Covenant was being enacted! Jesus has made a way for believers to enter into God’s presence for themselves. They have been endued with the power of the Holy

Spirit, the same Spirit that was in Jesus. They (and you and I) can now be His witnesses throughout the world! The Good News about the Salvation Jesus brought is being spread throughout the whole world today!

These days, we hear about revival being spread all over the world. It is happening in Asbury College, in California, in Israel, in England! Revival is breaking out everywhere! If you are not part of it, then begin to seek God with all your heart. God can be found by those who diligently seek Him. Begin to spend more quality one on one time with the Lord for yourself. He will set you free from all your doubts and fears! Satan does not win unless you let him. Rebuke those evil thoughts and choose not to give place to them. Satan can tempt you, but you must choose to give into the temptation before it becomes sin. So, choose not to give into those evil temptations. I intend to be part of this revival, and I pray that you will be too!

Brother Phil



The church office recently received these notes of thanks:

Dear Church Family,

We are so thankful to have a church family who ministered to us in the illness and passing of Jim. All the cards, prayers, food, and visits have meant so much to us. Thank you for blessing us with your concern and care at this time.

---Bonnie and Brent Stikeleather

Thank you, Pleasant Grove Church Family, for all the prayers, cards, and calls during Myrtle's recent hospitalization and following rehabilitation. It's been a long, sometimes rough road. We are so blessed to have caring friends like you.

---Myrtle and Milton Cornette



The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

Ashley and Jessey Crowder on the recent passing of their mother, Cathey Crowder.



The Recipe Box

Churches have long been known and loved for many different things. The delicious smells and tastes of good home-cooked food have certainly been a standard. And desserts are one of those standards! Our Ann Wilkerson has shared her love of desserts, and her love of preparing desserts, with us many times. Here is her contribution to our sweet tooth taste buds. She obtained this recipe years ago from the Barbara McKay Show on WBTV. With a simple list of ingredients and the ease of its preparation, we are sure that you will want to treat your friends and family...or maybe just yourself...to this decadent delight in the very near future! Enjoy!



Chocolate Butterscotch (or Caramel) Cake

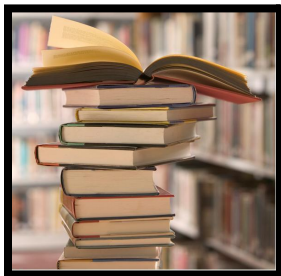
- One German Chocolate cake mix
- One can sweetened condensed milk
- One jar butterscotch or caramel sauce (found near the ice cream in the grocery store)
- One 8-oz. container of whipped topping, partially thawed
- Three full-size Heath bars (or use Heath Toffee bits or milk chocolate bits)

Bake the cake in a prepared 9x13 pan, according to the instructions on the box. When cake is removed from the oven, immediately pierce holes all over the top, using a fork. Mix the sweetened condensed milk and the butterscotch or caramel topping together until well-blended. Then, pour over the hot cake. Let the cake cool and then top with the whipped topping. Sprinkle the top of the cake with crushed Heath bars (or the toffee or chocolate bits). Refrigerate the cake before, and after serving (if there's any left!!!).

----submitted by Peggy Green



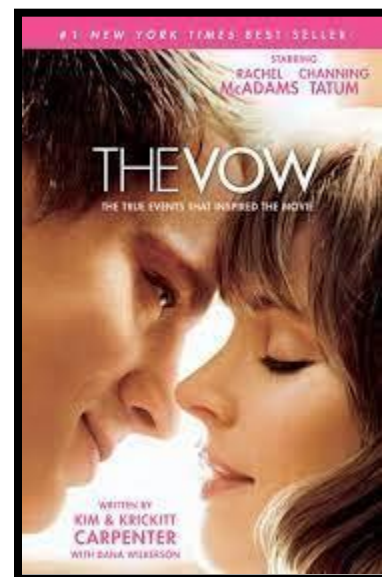
Recommended Reading



You know how the story usually plays out...a dashing young man is in a room, possibly a wedding reception, maybe at a restaurant, or possibly just picking up a few things at the local grocer, when in walks the girl of his dreams. They catch each other's eye, share a shy smile, find a way to start up a conversation, and the rest, as they say, is history. How many great love stories have you read, or romantic movies have you watched, that begin with some iteration of this sort of scene? But not all relationships begin this way.

The story of Kim and Krickitt Carpenter begins with a phone call. A baseball coach (Kim) calls a retail store and connects with a customer service representative (Krickitt). After discussing a certain coach's jacket for way too long, Kim finds himself enamored with the voice on the other end of the line. He finds reasons to call back and finds himself imagining what Krickitt might be like. After hours on the phone, with the conversation going from sportswear to the things of life...family, hobbies, favorite foods, their childhood years, and their faith...they decide that it is time to meet in person. And then, as they say, the rest is history!

The Vow, written by Kim and Krickitt Carpenter with Dana Wilkerson, is the true account of how the two met, fell in love, survived a horrific car accident, and then overcame, against all odds, Krickitt's life-changing and seemingly insurmountable brain injury. It is the story of a commitment unbroken, and vow fulfilled.



The life that Kim and Krickitt knew was shattered beyond recognition just two months after they were married. Due to a devastating car crash, Krickitt was left with a massive head injury and in a coma for weeks. When she finally woke from the coma, she had no idea who Kim was. She had no recollection of their meeting, dating, becoming engaged, or having been married. Time and time again, she had to be told that she was married, and was indeed married to Kim. While Krickitt went through personality changes that are common to those who suffer head injuries, Kim came to the realization that the woman he had married had essentially died in that crash. However, through Krickitt's determination to survive and recover, and Kim's relentless love for her, the two fell in love all over again!

The Vow is a quick read...possibly a one or two-day read. The story grabs you from the beginning and takes you on a journey of love and devotion, heartbreak and healing. Kim and Krickitt find themselves leaning heavily on their faith in Jesus Christ through all their adversities, and as the reader, you find yourself reaching for that kind of faith...a faith that never wavers and stays strong. The Vow reminds us of the ever-present, always available love of God, and the power of prayer. It is a book that inspires and points to the saving grace and mercy of Jesus, over our physical bodies, our minds, our hearts, and our souls.

If you are interested in reading The Vow, it is available through most any bookseller but is also available through our own Lending Library. We think you will enjoy The Vow. Happy Reading!!!

After School Care Post

Happy Spring from After School Care!

Everyone at ASC had a great time during Spring break. We were able to play outside together most afternoons as the weather was absolutely beautiful. The students jumped rope, hula hooped, and played cornhole. We also had a few artists create some really nice chalk drawings. The sun was bright, and the smiles were big. We played in the gym too...shooting hoops, playing in the tunnels, playing keep away, and just running around. Rain did make an appearance on the last day of the break, but the fun and the smiles never stopped.



We would like to thank everyone who worked on the children's building...cleaning out, cleaning up, and beautifying each room! The building looks beautiful!!!

Stay safe and Happy spring to Everyone from the PGUMC After School Staff!!!



News from United Women in Faith



The Metro District 2023 Praise, Worship and Memorial Service was held on Saturday, April 29th, at Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church. Pleasant Grove had five members of our unit of United Women in Faith to attend. Thanks to those members and thanks to everyone who contributed diapers and wipes to be distributed to the Alliance Centers for Education in the Metro area. Rev. Dr. Stephanie Hand was the speaker for the event and her message was entitled "United in Faith." The next district gathering will be the Metro District Annual Meeting the last Saturday in August.

United Women in Faith will be meeting June 8th – June 10th at Lake Junaluska for their Spiritual Prayer Retreat. The theme for this weekend event will be "Women Coming to Christ" and will be led by Rev. Jan Britain. The music leaders will be Rev. Mark Barden and Catherine Ritch. Housing reservations are now open. Call Jeannie Upton if you are interested in attending.

Closer to home, we will be having our monthly meetings of Circles #3 and #6 on Tuesday, May 9th. We have a meeting at 2:00 in the afternoon, and one at 6:00 in the evening. Please know that, if you are not already a part of one of these welcoming groups, you are encouraged to come be a part of either Circle. Contact Jeannie Upton to get more information about our Women's groups. We would love to see a new face at each of our gatherings!



LUNCH TIME

PG Prayer Lunch

The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our lives and in the world around us.

Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard

PG Spring Cleaning Wraps Up

Over the past several months, our faithful band of cleaning volunteers have touched almost every space on our church campus. They have thrown out and donated our unwanted items. They have swept, vacuumed, cleaned, dusted, and organized everything they could get their hands on. Most recently, the work has been concentrated in the children's building and in the fellowship hall, choir room, and kitchen.

Now that the intense Spring cleaning is winding down, it's time for us all to recommit to the upkeep of the church buildings. God has entrusted the church and its ministries to us, and we are all responsible for keeping it clean, picked up, and looking good. So, if you see something out of place, put it back where it belongs. If you see a piece of trash, pick it up and throw it away. If something needs to be wiped down or cleaned up, stop, and take the time to do it.

Take a peek at the pictures below to see what has been accomplished. Pay close attention to the last photo...you never know what you will find when you start cleaning out a closet!!! If only it were real!!!



Thanks and Farewell to Colin

For the past seven years or so, Pleasant Grove has had a larger-than-life presence on our campus, with our young people, and with us in worship. Colin Winslette came to us shortly after his graduation from college and dove right in. He served in many different capacities...from youth leader, to preacher, to Bible study leader, to hot dog volunteer, to worship tech support, to Bible School leader, to Sunday school teacher, to Chapel leader for our weekday children's ministries, to community volunteer at Oakdale School, to banner hanger, and sign changer...just to name a few of the hats he has worn.

But, as we all know, time marches on, life changes, and doors open. And for Colin, another door has opened. On Sunday, April 16th, Pleasant Grove said goodbye to Colin with a reception in his honor. Of course, we are sad to see Colin leave us, but we are so excited for the next chapter of his journey! Colin has now joined the staff of Salem UMC in Denver, NC. He will be serving as their Director of Youth and Young Adults...and as we all know is true of church work, he will most likely begin putting on those many different hats real soon!!!

Please keep Colin in your prayers as he begins this new adventure and continues in his seminary studies. We are thankful to God to have served alongside him, and we know that Salem is blessed to have him.

God bless Colin and Becca Winslette!



Let's Roll Out the Welcome Mat!!!

On Sunday, April 23rd, Todd Holcomb, chair of our Staff Parish Relations Committee, announced to the congregation that we have been appointed a new minister beginning July 1st, 2023. Rev. John Yeager and his young family will be moving to Pleasant Grove to begin our ministry together. Rev. Yeager is moving to Pleasant Grove from the Uwharrie District where he has been serving Christ UMC and Mount Tabor UMC, a two-point charge in Salisbury.

Rev. Yeager comes to us with his wife Aimee and their two children, Henry and Thea. John grew up in Florida and holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of South Florida and a master's degree from Emory.



Times of change are never very easy. But as we say goodbye to Rev. Sam Lewis we also look to the future with expectation and hope. In the weeks to come we will have the opportunity to express our gratitude and well wishes to Sam. He has certainly been a blessing to us as he stood in the gap for us. And we will begin to pray for Rev. Yeager as we anticipate the next chapter in Pleasant Grove's story. God bless Pastor Sam, God bless Pastor John, and God bless Pleasant Grove.



Honoring The Class of 2023

As is our tradition, Pleasant Grove will be honoring the Class of 2023 during a very special worship service on Sunday, May 28th. During this time of worship, we will honor our high school and college graduates. We will present the graduates to the church family, highlight their accomplishments thus far, let you know a little about their future plans, and present them with a

gift. And of course,

surrounding all of this, will be our prayers of thanksgiving for all that God has done in their lives so far, and our prayers for God's provision and protection as they move forward with the next chapter in their journey.



If you know of a church member who is graduating this year, please let the church office know. And also, make plans now to be present for this very special time in the life of the church family.

Supporting Families in Need



Thanks to everyone who recently supported our Spring Break grocery gift card effort. Through your generosity, we were able to assist twelve families who have found themselves to be in a food insecure situation at present. This help was also made possible through our partnership with Oakdale School. The staff at the school continually expresses appreciation for our willingness and ability to help, and they tell us that this help always comes at the perfect time for these families.

We have one more chance to bless others through our blessings before the close of the school year. As school dismisses in early June, families will once again face students at home without the provision of the meals that our school system serves. Many will be able to tap into summer lunch programs and that will really come in handy! But we can help them bridge the gap from the close of school until the summer nutrition programs get geared up.



If God nudges you to participate, please consider making a donation to the church so that we can once again provide twelve families with grocery store gift cards. We all are aware of how expensive groceries have become! If possible, we would like to give each family a \$100 gift card...and wouldn't it be awesome if we could give even more!!!? If you can help, just be sure to mark your donation for Oakdale School. You can place it in the offering or drop it by the church office. As a wise person once said...a blessing isn't a blessing until you pass it on. Let's all be blessed!!!



Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, and AED Certification Class at Pleasant Grove UMC



**American
Heart
Association®**

life is why™

The American Heart Association is the leading research and education organization of the world in the science of life support and resuscitation. They provide Heartsaver First Aid, CPR, and AED Certification, which is valid for two years. On Saturday, June 3rd, Pleasant Grove will host a certification class in our Family Life Center, 8:00 AM – 12:00 Noon. The class will be led by a professional paramedic and is limited to 12 students. The cost for the class is at the reduced rate of \$45 per person (and usually costs \$60 per person). We believe this is such a small price to pay to be equipped

to save someone's life! To register and pay for your class, please contact Jeff McCallum. Together, through so many different avenues, we can make a difference in the lives of others!!!

Happy Mother's Day!!!

The volunteers at Pleasant News want to wish the mothers in our midst a very Happy Mother's Day!!! We thank God for all who have mothered us throughout our lives. Each of us has been blessed with the mother who gave us physical life. We have also been blessed by other women who have helped us along as we navigated life. And, most especially, we are grateful for the women in our lives who have been a spiritual mentor to us, guiding us along a path of Faith in Jesus Christ. There are even some men in our lives who have stepped in after the loss of our mother to do the best that they could at mothering us along!



So, on Sunday, May 14th, be sure to thank God for the mothers in your life.

And then, if those individuals are still a part of your life, take the time to let them know just how grateful you are for their presence in your life. If possible, spend some time with them, do something special for them, or do something nice with them. *Thank you, God, for those who have taken on the role of mother. Mothers are a blessing to us all!!!*



Happy Memorial Day!!!



Each year, our country pauses on the last Monday in May to honor those who have died while serving their country. This year, Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 29th. While many see this special day as a chance to enjoy cookouts, a weekend away, or some time on the water, the solemn nature of this observance can get lost in the revelry. We know there is nothing wrong with having fun and punching up our patriotism on Memorial Day weekend, but please take some time to consider the sacrifices that have been made to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy. Happy Memorial Day!!!



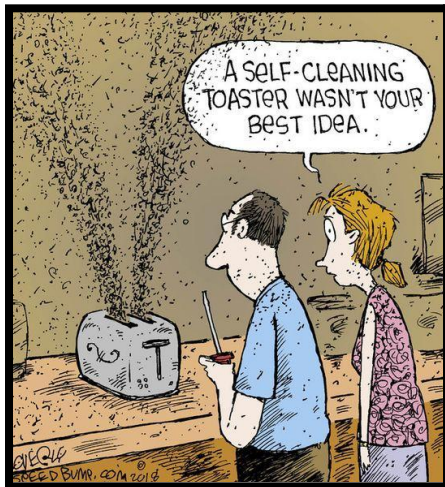
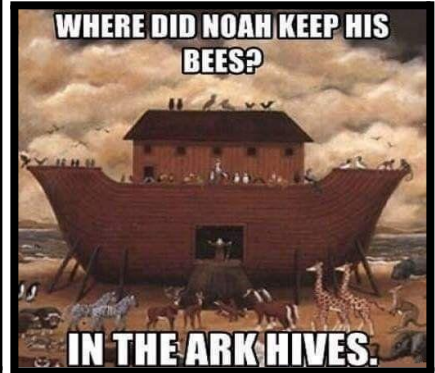
Pleasant Grove Observes Memorial Day

As you are already aware, many of our church members have served in the different branches of our nation's military. Through the years, you could find members of our church family in our military conflicts from WWI through Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our cemetery committee will honor all our deceased veterans by placing an American flag on their gravesites in the days leading up to Memorial Day weekend. There will also be a memorial wreath placed at the marker in the center of the drive at our cemetery. Please take a minute to stop by the cemetery while this observance is taking place. It will be an inspirational sight that will bring about an attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude for the sacrifices that have been made on our behalf. God Bless America!!!



Just For Giggles!!!

I JUST REALIZED WHY THIS MONTH IS CALLED 'MAY'
IT MAY RAIN, IT MAY SNOW,
IT MAY BE 90 DEGREES...
IT MAY BE 20 DEGREES...



MERRY MONTH OF MAY

Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

- BASEBALL
- BLOSSOM
- BUMBLEBEE
- BUTTERFLY
- CINCO DE MAYO
- FLOWERS



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

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| GARDEN | MOTHER'S DAY |
| GEMINI | PIÑATA |
| GREEN | PLANT |
| LADYBUG | SEEDS |
| LAWNMOWER | SPRING |
| MAYPOLE | SUNSHINE |
| MEMORIAL DAY | TAURUS |
| MOM | TEACHER |