



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

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Inspiration Point

As you remember from the Bible, King David was a man after God's own heart! God picked him to become King after Saul's rebellion against Him. David loved God and sang praises to Him while playing his harp! Theirs was a wonderful relationship and David was always obedient to God's directions. God especially blessed him and gave him success in all he set out to do. During King David's time in office, there were many wars and much infighting between Saul's men and David's men. Also, David had taken several wives, and his royal duties kept him away from his families most of the time. Thus, the royal princes grew up spoiled and always wanting their own way about almost everything. As you may remember, David did not always accompany his men out to battle. As he sat on the roof of his palace in the cool of the evening, he looked down at the roof of his neighbor's house and saw the neighbor's wife bathing. He lusted after her and sent for her to come next door to the Palace, which she did. David slept with her, and she became pregnant. To hide his transgression, David had her husband called from the battlefield to have him sleep with his wife. He came but did not go home to his wife. David sent word back to his generals to have the man placed in the forefront of the battle, up front, so that he would be killed. That happened and the man was killed.

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Now, David thought all was okay, and that he had gotten away with all this. He even took Bathsheba into his home and made her his wife. But God was watching the whole time! God sent Nathan the prophet to confront David about his sin. David confessed his sin and wrote Psalm 51 as his response. When you start out walking with the Lord and you fall into sin along the way, you will be called into account! God will hold you accountable for your transgressions. But our God is a God of second chances! If you confess your sins and repent, God will forgive you and set you on the right path again. Nothing you have done, regardless of how bad it is, is so bad that God will not forgive you! You may have retribution in the world, but once forgiven by God, he will restore you in His kingdom!

Psalm 51:1-4, 7-11

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your loving kindness: According to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight—that you may be found just when you speak, and blameless when you judge. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit from me. (NKJV)

Brother Phil



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

IN MEMORY

Mary Frances McCall

Hazel Sanders

Roy and Margaret Parker – Parsonage Fund

Lila Collins

Genesis Sunday School Class – Family Life
Center

Roy and Margaret Parker – Parsonage Fund

Thank You From Oakdale School!!!

We recently received a beautiful thank you card from Oakdale School expressing their thanks for our help throughout the school year. Below, we have included the words of gratitude from the families. This affirms to us all that the little things we can do for others are big things when given in the Spirit of Christ's Love!



Thank you, Pleasant Grove!
Love, Satera Smith and Irasema Rivera

Thank you to the members of Pleasant Grove Church for gifting us with an amazing gift card!
Ashley Roseboro

Thank you guys, for helping us every chance you get...My other son actually attends the daycare and it has been a blessing!
Taylor Love

I will forever greatly appreciate the kindness in your heart to help bless our family. Thank you so much for helping, as many families just like us get the things we need.
Thank you, Angel Henton

Hi! This is Ms. Riddick, the school social worker. I want to thank Pleasant Grove for being so kind and generous to all the families here at Oakdale. Ms. Sherri is truly a Godsend! She is always smiling, kind-hearted, and just a joy to be around. I smile every time I get an email from her! Thank you also to Ms. Mary for visiting. She is kind and sweet as well!
Love, Ms. Cortesia Riddick



The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

Dale McCall, and the entire McCall family, on the recent passing of their mother, aunt, and cousin, Mary Frances McCall.

Melodie McGinnis and family on the recent passing of her brother-in-law, James McGinnis.

David and Susie Johnson and family, on the recent passing of Susie's mother, Lila "Peggy" Collins.

Mark and Trudy Smith on the recent passing of Mark's sister, Karen Smith Mowrey.



The Recipe Box

Summertime brings to mind picnics and barbecues. We want to have plenty to eat, but what can we prepare that is both delicious and quick and easy to make? This Five Cup Salad fills the bill with refreshing fruit and sweetness. This salad can be made up to 24 hours before serving and will stay good for two to three days in the refrigerator. So, why don't you whip up this delightful dish for a gathering of friends and family...and then enjoy the leftovers, all to yourself, for the next few days (if you have any leftovers)! Enjoy!!!

Five Cup Salad

- 1 cup canned mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 cup canned pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1 cup shredded, sweetened coconut
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 cup sour cream (or Cool Whip)
- Maraschino cherries
- Chopped pecans (optional)

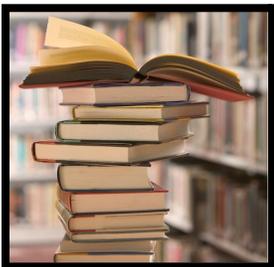


Mix the first five ingredients in a bowl, gently turning to combine. Refrigerate for at least four hours before serving. Add Maraschino cherries for your topping. Sprinkle with chopped pecans if desired. (You can use sugar-free, or no-sugar-added canned fruit if you would like!)

---submitted by Peggy Green



Recommended Reading



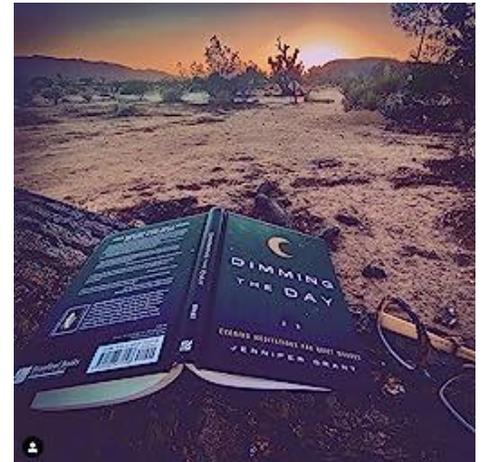
I would venture to say that when we think about a devotional book as a part of our spiritual discipline, we probably think of a book of short meditations that we can pick up in the morning. It usually follows the pattern of a scripture passage, a few paragraphs of meditative reading, and a brief prayer that focuses on the main point of the meditation. We can make our way through the daily devotion fairly quickly and then get started on our day. And there is nothing wrong with this practice at all.

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But our book recommendation for this month flips that model on its head. [Dimming the Day](#), by Jennifer Grant, is a slim volume of **evening** meditations for quiet wonder. Think of it as that last little thing you do before turning out your light and closing your eyes for the night.

We live in an anxiety riddled culture and many of us struggle to tame the anxiety that creeps into our thought patterns throughout the day. While this proves to be a difficult task, it is also a necessary one. As we approach our bedtime, the anxieties of the day need to be put to bed themselves because being in the clutches of anxiety and getting a good night's sleep do not go hand-in-hand. Some might think that because we are Christians, and we know the truth of Matthew 6:34 (that we are not to worry about tomorrow), that we have this whole anxiety thing under control. But people of faith think about the past and worry about the future just like everyone else. We end our day by swiping through Facebook, checking for texts and emails, and we're anxious, just like everyone else. So, how do we, while living in an age of anxiety, respond to the Divine invitation not to worry about the past or the future? How do we live in the present moment and go to sleep with a still mind and a calm spirit?



[Dimming the Day](#) offers us one possible solution to keeping our anxiety in check as we end our day. It isn't about glossing over or denying the sad shape our world is in right now. It isn't about numbing our pain or turning our heads from the suffering and injustices that exist in our society. It's not a "Pollyanna" reminder to take care of yourself. This book is an invitation to connect with something deep and true at the close of your day. It might be considered a little tap on your shoulder reminding you to turn away from the blue light of your device so that your mind can be calmed, and you can rest easy as you fall asleep. Through the twenty short chapters in this book, you are invited to redirect your gaze, inwardly at least, toward nature. You are encouraged to calm the worries in your mind and replace them with a sense of awe and wonder. Each night you are asked to sit in your bed and take a few deep breaths to signal your body that you are winding down for the day. Then, you can dim your day by reading part of the book. Each chapter concludes with a relaxation exercise or a prayer that helps you settle into a peaceful night's sleep.

Jennifer Grant says that she is often asked, "What if I fall asleep while reading a chapter?" Her response? "Well then, my friend, I've done my job!" Through the pages of [Dimming the Day](#), you can consider the majesty of the redwoods, or think about the significance of the dandelion. You can picture the night sky and the Creator God who put it all into motion. You can meditate on all these things and end your day in quiet wonder. You might even find that in using this book as part of your bedtime routine, it is something akin to having a friend tucking you in for the night and guiding you into glorious sleep!

I highly recommend this book to anyone who needs to end their day in a more peaceful, God-centered way. By making my way through this book, I have gained some valuable tools for use in dimming my day. You can purchase this book from several online booksellers, or you can find it in our own Lending Library. I think you will enjoy this book and I think you will gain some great insights on ending your day well! Happy Reading!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown

Summer Camp Post

Hello from Summer Camp!!!

Another school year has come and gone! And it seems that everyone had a great year. Summer Camp is now in full swing, and we have started our weekly field trips. Everyone, including the teachers, is very excited about all our summer activities. We have made pool noodle monsters and the children certainly showed their creativity and imaginative minds in this project. Then, we asked the children to bring in vegetable seeds for the group to plant together. This activity really ignited their interest in growing things. If you happen by the snack room window, peek in! Some of our little seedlings are almost ready to go in the ground and the kids are very proud of what they have done with a few seeds, a little dirt, a little water, and a little sunlight.

We are working on a beach scene together using paint and crayons. The children are also finishing up a very creative rendition of their names and these will be used to decorate our room for the remainder of the summer. We hope everyone has a wonderful summer as we enjoy our time together at Pleasant Grove. Stay safe!



News from United Women in Faith



On June 8th, 9th, and 10th, two of our members, Mary Usher and Sherri Brown, attended the United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. This was a gathering of women from all over the Western North Carolina Conference. The weather was just delightful, the worship was impactful, the music was uplifting, and the fellowship was beautiful! The group was blessed to have Jan Brittain as their teacher/preacher. Rev. Brittain brought to life the scripture passages that highlight the women who came to Christ...the woman who dared to touch

the hem of Jesus' robe, the Samaritan woman at the well, Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene...who came to Christ and stayed. Catherine Ritch and Mark Barden were music leaders, which ensured that the music was lively, worshipful, and completely related to scripture. Aside from diving into the scriptures with other Women in Faith, one of the highlights of the retreat was a pontoon boat tour of the lake. This unique vantage point, along with the peace and tranquility of being on the water, just added to the overall enjoyment of the time at Junaluska. And of course, taking in the beauty of the Rose Walk just had to be on the agenda! Mary and Sherri are very grateful to have had this experience and they encourage more of our members to take part in these gatherings in the future. You will be blessed!!!



The Pleasant Grove unit of United Women in Faith will have a joint meeting of both Circles on July 11th, at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall. This will be a "covered dish" meal and all circle members are encouraged to attend. Plans are to arrive around 5:30, eat starting at 6:00, have a short program and business meeting, and a time of fellowship. Our guests that evening will be Metro District officers: Diann Back, Nancy Ward, and Linda Davidson. Our members do not often meet together so this is a special opportunity to do that. If you would like to bring a guest, they will certainly be welcome. Please put this event on your calendar and

plan to be present. We are all looking forward to being together on July 11th!



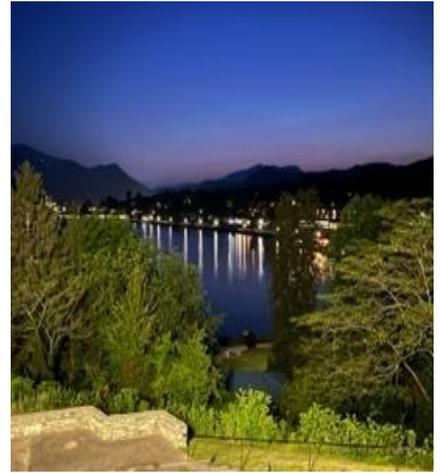
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The next Metro District event is the Annual Meeting at Matthews United Methodist Church on Saturday, August 27th. There will be breakfast and then a business meeting. The cost is \$7.50 and will need to be sent in with a registration. Jeannie will take care of this closer to the time of the meeting date. And as is the norm, we will have a hands-on mission project. More details concerning this will be available soon.

We hope to see all of our members on Tuesday evening, July 11th, for the covered dish meal and meeting!!!

---submitted by Jeannie Upton



Welcome, Pastor John Yeager!



In the United Methodist Church, June can be the month for saying “Good-bye” and packing up, and July can be the month for saying “Hello” as pastors and their families move to fulfill the itinerant nature of their ministry. This year, we are pleased to welcome Rev. John Yeager and his family! John, his wife Aimee, and their two children, Henry and Thea, will be moving into our parsonage and settling in during the first couple weeks of July. This time of transition would be a great time to drop by the parsonage, offer a helping hand, possibly bring this sweet family a batch of cookies or a refreshing treat, and welcome them to the Pleasant Grove and Oakdale community. Their first official Sunday with us will be July 9th. Let’s all plan to be in worship on this special, “new beginning” Sunday, as we join with Pastor John in ministry together, continuing to do what we have done for more than 130 years...reaching our neighbors with the love of Christ!

Thank You, Brother Phil!!!

In 2015, Rev. Billy Towery charged Rev. Phil Turner with the task of creating, launching, and overseeing the publication of a newsletter for the church family at Pleasant Grove. He served in this capacity while Associate Pastor with us, and then continued to lead the newsletter staff, write for each issue, proofread the newsletter each month, and mail out a copy of *Pleasant News* to each of our shut in and homebound members, even after his retirement. He has been a faithful servant and a consistent leading presence as we have worked through eight years of publication.



Brother Phil recently let the newsletter volunteers know that the time has come for him to retire from his duties with *Pleasant News*. Although we are very sad to lose his leadership and presence with us, we realize that times change, life changes, and we must change with it. We wish Phil all the best, including good health and happy times, in the days to come. He will be missed for sure. Although he won't be working with us directly, we are pretty sure that he will be one of our greatest cheerleaders and that he will have this ministry in his prayers each and every day.

There isn't much that we can say to one who has been so faithful and committed. But we are forever grateful for all that he has poured into *Pleasant News*, and we are so appreciative of his professionalism, his dedication, and his love. So, we will just say... "Thank you, Brother Phil, and God Bless You!!! We love you!"



Congratulations to Our Graduates!



On Sunday, May 28th, Pleasant Grove honored our graduates in a very special worship service. Erin Holcomb graduated from Mountain Island Charter School and will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Fall, majoring in marketing. Samantha Tadlock graduated from Central Piedmont Community College with an associate degree and will be working in the field of Physical Therapy. Sydney Tadlock graduated with her master's degree from East Carolina University and

will be working as a Physical Therapist. We are so proud of these three young ladies and look forward to seeing what God has in store for them in the future. Congratulations, Graduates!!!



CPR Certification Class

On Saturday, June 3rd, several of our church family members gathered together to participate in a CPR Certification Class. These life-saving techniques are vital for each of us to know and we appreciate this group giving up their Saturday morning to learn how to save lives. Any time we are together, it will be comforting to know that someone knows how to respond in case of an emergency. Several of those in attendance work with our Summer Camp and After School Care programs. What a blessing to have such dedicated employees who are invaluable to the success of our ministries.



Happy Independence Day!!!



Once again, on Tuesday, July 4th, our nation will pause to observe Independence Day. Many of us will enjoy the day off from work. We will spend time with family and friends, or just simply revel in a quiet day at home. Some might light the grill and serve up a platter of burgers and dogs, decked out with all the fixin's. A day on the lake or the whole week at the beach might be on the calendar for some. Watching fireworks and putting sparklers in the hands of little ones is always a fun way to celebrate. Whatever you do and however you celebrate, there is sure to be lots of images of our flag, Uncle Sam, and all things red, white, and blue!

But, in the midst of the celebrations, let's all be sure to remember the reason for this special day. Let's give thanks for our independence and for those who fought to be sure that we were. Let's be grateful for life, liberty, and the opportunity to pursue happiness. While our country continues to struggle with issues of equality and justice, we must still acknowledge and thank God for all that is good, and pleasant, and right about America. In short, let's be certain to express our thanks to God for this great nation that we are blessed to call home! God Bless the United States of America!



Happy Independence Day, Pleasant Grove!!! Let the celebration begin!!!



Let's Break Bread (and Hamburgers) Together Again!!!

The church family is once again invited to share in a fellowship meal together! On Sunday, July 30th, we will come together after our morning worship service, for a good old fashioned summer cookout! We will enjoy hamburgers with all the trimmings, chips, baked beans, tea, and lemonade. We ask everyone who can do so to bring a dessert to share with the whole family.

Not only do we see great value in spending time together over a shared meal, but we also want to use this time for everyone to formally welcome our new pastor, Rev. John Yeager, and his entire family. Although The Yeagers will have been with us for about a month by the time the cookout rolls around, it will be the perfect time to roll out the official Pleasant Grove welcome mat and treat them to our special brand of hospitality! Not to mention, the "miracle mile" of Pleasant Grove desserts!!!



So, make plans now to be a part of this very special time in the life of our sweet church! You don't want to miss the meal or the chance to welcome Pastor John. It's our chance, once again, to be blessed and to be a blessing!



Our gym is open to the family and community for indoor walking on Monday and Wednesday mornings between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00. It will never be too hot, too cold, or too wet to walk in our gym! So, you have no excuses! Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the fellowship and movement as we all work toward better health together!



Our Lending Library is Here for You!!!



Don't forget that Pleasant Grove has its own lending library! If you are looking for a good read...something that will inspire, inform, entertain, or help you along on your walk with the Lord...then we just may have what you need. We are located in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. Simply choose your title, take it home, enjoy it, and return it for others. Simple, isn't it? The books await. Let's get reading!!!





LUNCH TIME

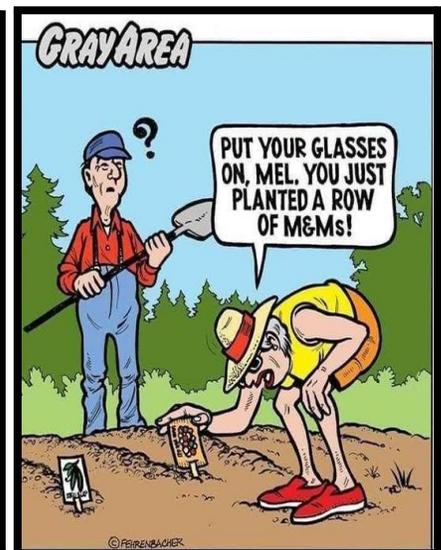
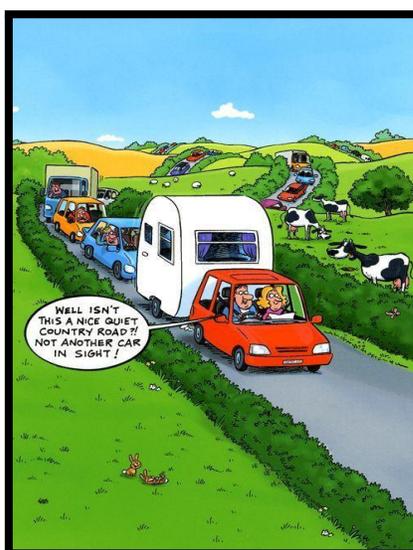
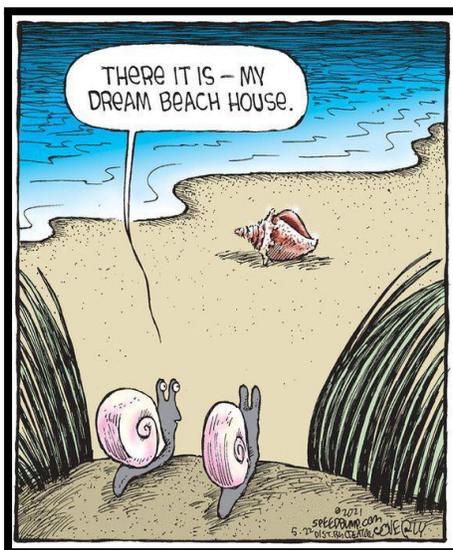
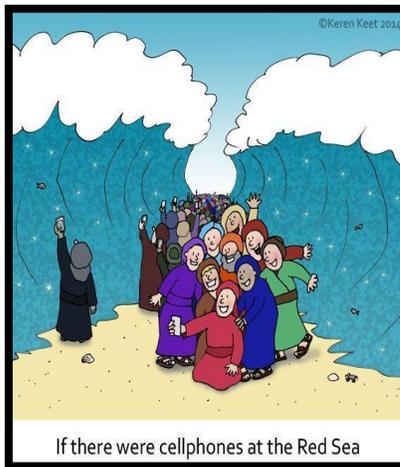
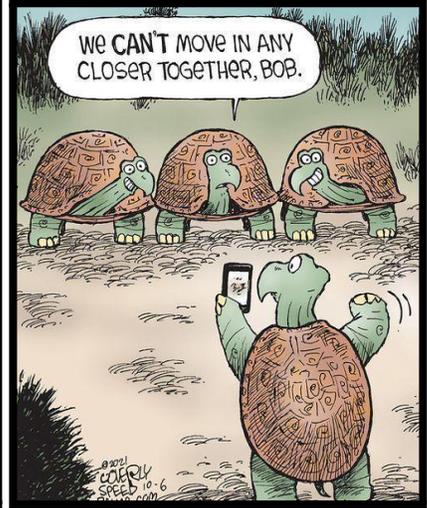
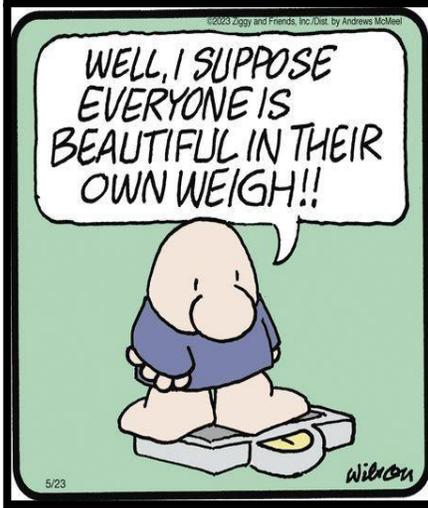
PG Prayer Lunch

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



Just For Giggles!!!



4th of July Word Search



Adams
America
July
Liberty
Nation
Parade
Anthem
States
United



Boston
Patriot
Flag
Franklin
Summer
Freedom
Picnic
British
Virginia