



# Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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## WORSHIP TIMES

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

## CONTACT US

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## From the Pastor's Desk

WOW! Can you believe it is already September? It has been a busy summer and seems to have flown by. Now it's time to turn our attention to fall – cooler weather, pumpkins, and the beautiful colors of the trees. We won't talk about raking those leaves, although the piles sure are fun to jump in! The kids have returned to school and that always brings up memories for me of those shopping trips for new school clothes each year.

In the weeks before school started, my mother and I would assess my closet to determine what still fit, what was still wearable, and what needed to be replaced. I always secretly hoped it all needed to be replaced so I could get a whole new wardrobe. That was never the case, which was a good thing because we never could have afforded a whole new wardrobe. But I would get some new things, as the budget allowed. I was always so excited about those new clothes and couldn't wait to wear them. However, in North Carolina, kids usually do have to wait to wear their new school clothes because those clothes are for cooler weather and it's still hot when they go back to school.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, he talks about our new clothes as Christians. In the 3rd chapter verses 9-14, he says:

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“You’re done with that old life. It’s like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you’ve stripped off and put in the fire. Now you’re dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ. So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.” (From The Message)



Paul uses the metaphor of old and new clothes to talk about our old life without Christ and our new life with Christ. Paul tells us to take off the old clothes. Remove the garments of lust, idolatry, greed, bad temper, irritability, and meanness. That stuff is all part of the old life.

It’s easy to want to hold on to old clothes, maybe someday they will fit again. It’s easy to hold on to our idolatry, putting other things ahead of God, being too busy to go to church to worship God or to study His word or to pray. It’s easy to hold on to bad feelings we have toward someone. It’s easy to fall into gossip. It’s easy to pull irritability out of the closet.

But Paul says that’s all part of your old wardrobe. You are done with that. Don’t keep those things around. Burn them.

Fortunately, Paul doesn’t stop there. Paul says WE DO GET A WHOLE NEW WARDROBE, not just a few new clothes. And these new clothes are designed just for you, with Christ’s label on it. Old labels no longer apply. Those labels that we so often want to use – racial labels, religious labels, us and them labels, socio-economic labels, crude labels, ill-mannered labels, and all those other labels – they are gone.

Our new wardrobe has only Christ’s label. That wardrobe consists of: Compassion for all people; Kindness toward others, even if they are not kind to you; Humility; Even-temperedness even if provoked; Discipline in our daily lives in order to make Christ’s label evident in our life; Quiet Strength because you can get through whatever life throws at you; and Forgiveness the same as He has shown you.

And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It’s your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. When we wear the label of Christ, we are wearing the wardrobe of the highest value possible.

- *Pastor Glenda*





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

### IN MEMORY

Lindsay Maples Canupp

Robert and Coretha Ferrell



The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

The family of Nancy Cater upon her recent passing.

The family of Lindsay Canupp upon her recent passing.

Lisa Austin Mace and family upon the recent passing of her husband. Hank Mace.

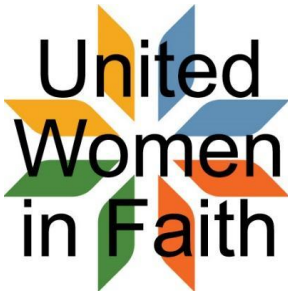
Ray McClure and Steve McClure, and their families, upon the recent passing of their brother-in-law,  
Randy Bannister.

Lynda Elliott and family upon the recent passing of Lynda's sister, Betty Donaldson.

Dianne Godley and family upon the recent passing of Dianne's sister, Kay Merrill.



## News from United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith needs the support of the women of Pleasant Grove UMC. Our organization not only promotes avenues for women, children, and youth all over the world to seek better living conditions, but we are strong supporters of the needs of our church. Like so many organizations, COVID had its effects, and recovery has been slow. It would be a blessing to our work in missions and local outreach to receive some new members. Our two Circles, #3 and #6 would welcome you to join us the first Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm or 6:00pm, respectively. If you would consider joining, it will bless us and you and will positively impact our mission goals.

On Saturday morning, September 23, the United Women in Faith will sponsor a Two-Mile Mission Walk. Anyone can walk with us. We will park at Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church and walk Pleasant Oaks Circle. This walk begins at 9:00am. We need walkers and donations. If it rains, we will walk in our gym. The money received will be used in the Metro United Methodist District with one half of our donations used to support our own church missions right here at Pleasant Grove. We are looking forward to great participation.



*---submitted by Jeannie Upton  
PGUMC UWF President*



Our gym is open to the church 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!



## The Recipe Box

September is upon us with fresh, juicy apples ready to be picked! Apples come in many varieties, though some are better for pie-making than others. Granny Smith apples are perfect for this Apple Crumb Pie, which has been adapted from two separate recipes. We hope you enjoy this scrumptious pie, perhaps with a dollop or two of vanilla ice cream!

### **Apple Crumb Pie**

1 deep-dish pie crust (Frozen is just fine, but homemade works too, if you are feeling industrious!)

#### **Topping:**

- 1 cup flour
  - ½ cup white sugar
  - ½ cup brown sugar
  - 1 tsp. cinnamon
  - 1 tsp. vanilla
  - 1 stick margarine or butter, chilled and cubed
- Mix the above ingredients with a fork until combined and crumbly. Set aside.

#### **Filling:**

- 6 Granny Smith apples, or 8 apples if you are making two pies
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 TBSP. flour
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ TBSP. lemon juice
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg



Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Peel, core, and slice the apples ¼ inch thick. Mix sugar, flour, cinnamon, lemon juice, and nutmeg. Pour in the bowl with apples and toss together.

In a deep-dish pie crust, lay the filling into the pie. Pile higher in the middle and gradually go down to the sides. It will be full! Add the topping to cover the whole pie, patting it down as you go. (You may have more topping than you want to use. Feel free to adjust.)

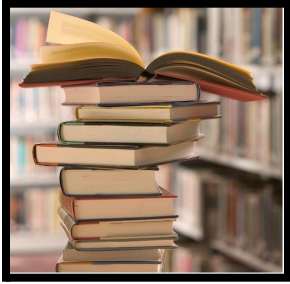
Put pie on a cookie sheet and place in a 450-degree oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake for 45 minutes more. Keep an eye on the crust as you go.

Serve warm or at room temperature. Enjoy!!!

*---submitted by Peggy Green*



## Recommended Reading

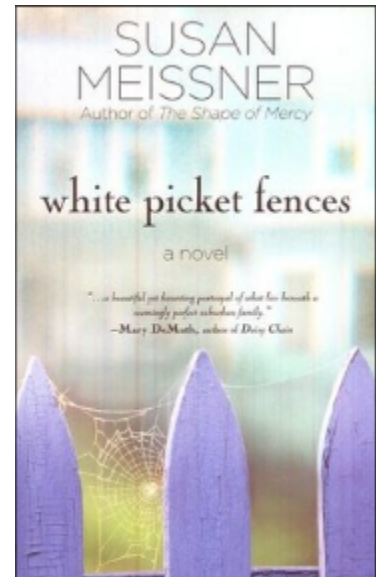


For September we are going to recommend a book by an author that we have written about in months past. Susan Meissner, author of [The Shape of Mercy](#), has another title that we think our church family might enjoy. [White Picket Fences](#) is the story of a seemingly perfect suburban family...stable marriage, nice home, two great kids, a dog, and all the right connections. But, in this novel, Meissner explores the fact that all is not always as it seems. In this instance, as is the case so many times, there is more beneath the surface than we can readily perceive. Family secrets sometimes smolder behind the proverbial white picket fence.

When Amanda Janvier's black sheep brother disappears, she takes in her sixteen-year-old niece. Her niece, Tally, is practically an orphan, having lost her mother at an early age and being raised by a father that parents her from wherever he decides to move next. Amanda thinks that she, her husband, and their two children can give Tally some stability and, for at least a time, a good shot at a "normal" life. Seventeen-year-old Chase hasn't seen his cousin in years. He is curious about her unconventional life, but he doesn't expect that her arrival will have much of an impact on his. As Tally enters Chase's life, he seems to have a growing, and somewhat disturbing, interest in a long-ago house fire that plagues his dreams and eludes his conscious memory. Surprisingly, Chase and Tally bond as they visit with and interview two Holocaust survivors for a sociology project. Through this process they come to realize that the whole family is struggling with hidden secrets, with the shadows of the past, and with the realization that just turning your back on tragic situations will not make them go away. As you make your way through the rich characters and the family connections in [White Picket Fences](#), you will ask yourself if Tally's presence will blow apart the Janvier's perfectly constructed lives, or will she be able to help them find the truth without losing each other. Will keeping the illusion of the white picket fence be more important to this family than finding the truth and dealing with it together?

[White Picket Fences](#) is a great read! The storyline has many layers from current day, a house fire from thirteen years ago, the mystery of Tally's father and what he is really doing while in Europe, and the horror of the Holocaust and all that it cost so many. We think that anyone in our church family would enjoy the read. It is available from the public libraries, any online bookseller, and of course, right here in our own Lending Library! Happy Reading!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown



## Scenes from Summer Camp

Summer 2023 has been a busy one for our Summer Campers! It's also been a great one!!! We only missed one field trip due to the weather...and that is a feat! After the storm on August 7th , our Putt-Putt outing was an adventure. One hole on the course was completely flooded!



The Summer Camp Program would like to give a huge thank you to the staff of our five-day program (aka: The Daycare). Summer Camp had an instance where we had several teachers out for different reasons. We called the Daycare to speak with Ms. Shannon about another matter and let her know what was going on with our staffing concerns. She called back a few minutes later to say that she and Ms. Teri had lined up workers to come help with the children for a few hours. It was so wonderful to have them step up to help us out, making sure that the children did not miss out on their field trip. So, a special thank you to Ms. Teri and Ms. Shannon, and to Ms. Donna for helping with the children and to Ms. Deb for coming in as we returned from our field trip. We are so blessed to have these ladies! They are awesome!

Now, we are ramping up for After School Care. If you know of anyone in need of After School Care, please have them contact Sherrie Cannon at 704.393.7895.



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Summer Camp and After School Care would like to express deep appreciation to everyone who so generously donated to our program. Needs arise...toys break and wear out...plus, to have a new, special item for the kids' enjoyment just lifts their spirits! Thank you to our PGUMC family!!!



Goodbye Summer, and Happy Fall, Y'all!!!!

*---submitted by Sherrie Cannon and the Entire Summer Camp/After School Care Staff*

## Sending Our Love Across The Street

During the month of August, our church has been collecting items for Oakdale Elementary School in preparation for the upcoming school year. These items include school uniforms for the school's "uniform closet" and also individual personal hygiene kits. From time to time, students might need a change of clothing or benefit from one of the hygiene kits, so these items are much needed and are so appreciated by the school. As of now, our church family has donated 28 uniform items and 22 hygiene kits. Way to go Pleasant Grove Family! Wouldn't it be amazing if we could collect 50 of each?!! We will continue to accept items or money donations for these items through Labor Day. Thank you for reaching out to those children who are less fortunate - we can all have a positive impact on their lives!

*---submitted by Mary Usher*







## Christmas Already???

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about Christmas...and, of course, Operation Christmas Child! Each year the sweet family at Pleasant Grove truly embraces the Spirit of Christmas by packing plenty of shoeboxes and sending them on their way to children around the globe. These boxes of trinkets, toys, hygiene supplies, school supplies, etc. are so very exciting for the children who receive them. But more importantly, each child will receive the Gospel story in their own language and will be encouraged to embrace a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior.

The boxes and brochures will be available soon here at Pleasant Grove. Be sure to pick up a box, or two, or ten, and start working on filling them with your gifts, your prayers, and your love. Details on what you can and cannot pack in your shoe boxes are available online. Just look them up when you search for either Samaritan's Purse or Operation Christmas Child. These details are also available in the brochure that you will find in each of our boxes.

What an honor it is to participate in a ministry which reaches much further than we can individually! Loving on God's children is an easy thing to do, and Pleasant Grove is certain to do it in fine fashion once again.



## Welcome, Mandi Ferguson!

Change can be hard...but when change occurs due to happy circumstances, it's so much easier to embrace that change. Becca Winslette has been a faithful volunteer with Pleasant News, handling our design and layout. And she has done an amazing job! Becca has just begun Veterinary School at Louisiana State University and we are tickled pink for her! As she began this new chapter in her life, it became necessary to pass the torch of volunteering with Pleasant News on to someone else. And, that someone else is Mandi Ferguson!



We are so happy to welcome Mandi to our little band of volunteers and look forward to her input and expertise as we continue to publish our monthly newsletter. We know that Mandi already has a busy life as she works full-time, shares household responsibilities with her husband, Randy, and, along with Randy, continues to raise three precious children. And we couldn't be more grateful that she is willing to step in and fill this gap for us along with the hectic schedule that is her life!

As you see Mandi in Sunday School and Worship, or anywhere else around our campus, be sure to thank her for her servant's heart and her willingness to give to our sweet church in this manner. We are blessed beyond measure that Mandi is now a part of the Pleasant News team!!!

Welcome to the Team, Mandi...Welcome to the Team!!!



## 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!!!



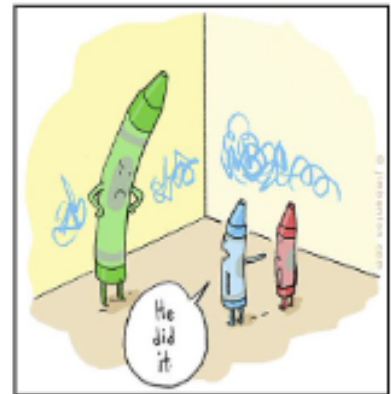
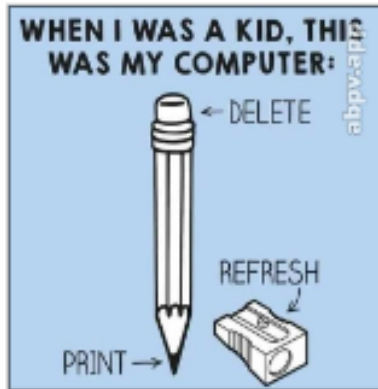
**LUNCH TIME**

***PG Prayer Lunch***

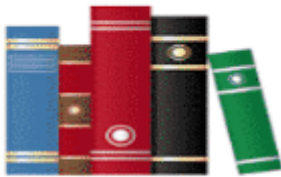
The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our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

**Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard**

# Just For Giggles!!!







# Back to School

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

BOOKS  
DESK  
ERASER  
GLUE  
LUNCHBOX  
MATH

NOTEBOOK  
PAPER  
PENCIL  
PLAYGROUND  
READING  
RECESS

RULER  
STUDENT  
TEACHER  
WRITING

