

## *Pleasant News*

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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### Worship Times:

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

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### *Inspiration Point*

When I think of Christmas Time, I always think of Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the stable following the birth of Jesus. I think about how tired she must have been after riding on the back of a donkey for some seventy-five miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem while she was nine months pregnant! How attentive Joseph must have been to take care of her in her delicate condition. It probably took them four to five days to make the trip (normal travel is around 15 miles in a day). It took so long, there is no wonder that there were no rooms left in the Inn when they arrived! It was only by the grace of God that they found shelter at all!

There were no epidurals back then, and she had to bear the pain! But imagine the joy when it was all over as she looked at her perfect baby boy! I am sure Joseph was very proud also! He had a fine son to carry on the family business when he grew up! Do you suppose that they remembered all the messages they had received from the angels so many months ago? I am sure that they all came back to mind when the shepherds showed up with all their excitement from their own angelic visit!

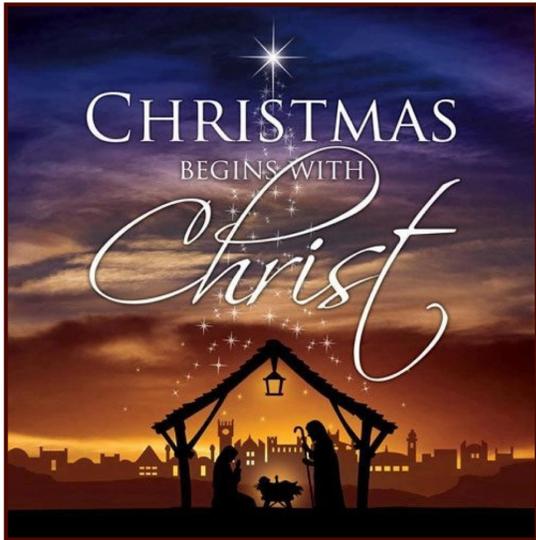
**"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end," Isa. 9:6-7a.**

Let's put aside all the hustle and bustle of the season this year, at least as much as we can, and take time to love on our own dear ones that God has so graciously given us! Let the love that God has poured into you shine out on them! Call them, write them a love letter, if they are close, have a family dinner! But, overall, gather them close and pray blessings over them!

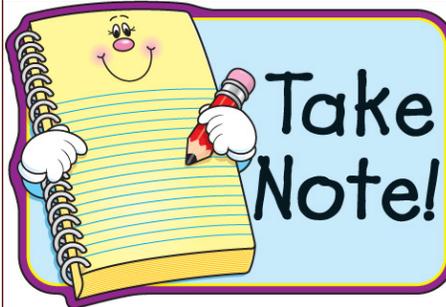
Live in peace with one another, and have a very Merry Christmas!

*Brother Phil*

**Merry Christmas to All!!!**



The volunteers with “Pleasant News” want to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is our hope and prayer that each of us will be touched by the simplicity and the majesty of the real meaning of Christmas...that God loves us so much that He was willing to send His Son to earth, in the form of an innocent baby to rescue us from all of our sins. That is an amazing beginning to the most beautiful life ever lived! May we all, at this most precious and holy time of the year, rededicate our lives to the work of reflecting Christ to the world around us! And may we all be blessed with the peace that comes from knowing the One who loves us still and is always working for our good!!!



Most everyone will agree that we have the best church staff we could ask for and will also agree that if anyone deserves to have some time off with their families, it's our wonderful staff members!

As the calendar year draws to a close, please take note of the following changes to our normal church office schedule.

December 24<sup>th</sup>-Church office closes at 12 noon

December 25<sup>th</sup> thru December 27<sup>th</sup>- Church office is closed

December 29<sup>th</sup>-last day to make a contribution to the church for 2019

December 30<sup>th</sup>-Church office is open

December 31<sup>st</sup>-Church office closes at 12 noon

January 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup>-Church office closed

These closures reflect the Christmas and New Year's holidays as well as time needed to wrap up this year and prepare for the coming year. Please take the opportunity to drop by the church office to wish our staff members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in the days leading up to the holidays!

## ***From The Pastor's Desk***



As I transition from Thanksgiving into the Christmas Season, I'm realizing that it is December and Christmas Day is just a few days away! My mind goes back to this recent trip that I took to the Holy Land a few weeks ago.

From there we moved to the north part of Israel known as Tiberias, in the Galilee region. While there, we visited Caesarea, saw Mt. Carmel, and looked out over the Valley of Armageddon. We visited the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. We then took a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, stopped the boat and read the story about Jesus calming the storm. What a meaningful time that was! Following that we had nice lunch overlooking the Sea of Galilee eating "Peter's Fish". It is a fish that comes from the Sea of Galilee. We also visited the Chapel of the Primacy of Peter and the archeological site of Magdala.

The next day we went to Cana, Nazareth, and Jacob's Well. We traveled the Samaritan Road, the very same road that was used when Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well. From there we moved south into Jerusalem. We stood on top of the Mount of Olives, walked down to the Garden of Gethsemane and visited The Church of St. Peter. This church is built over the place where Jesus spent his last night on earth. It is also the same place where Peter denied Jesus 3 times. I believe this is where Jesus began to experience His separation from His Holy Father. We went down into the pit and read Psalm 88. This Psalm is a prophetic psalm. Standing in that pit and hearing this Scripture was very moving for me. Later, some of our folks had a traditional dinner with a Jewish Family in their home that evening.

Thirty-eight others and I Journeyed Through the Bible by going to the Holy Land this past month. We spent our first 2 nights in Bethlehem, Palestine. The very same place where Jesus was born. We went to the Shepherd's Field where those original shepherds saw and heard from the Angels the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ. We also went to the traditional site where the Church of the Nativity is built to commemorate the place where Jesus was born. Some in our group had supper with a Palestinian family in their home and learned about the life and culture of those who live in the West Bank. One the things that I learned from this trip is that there are Palestinian Christians who live in the West Bank and they are shunned by the Muslims within the West Bank and the Jews who live throughout the State of Israel. The Palestinian Christians I met are very humble/Christ centered families who want nothing more than peace throughout the land. We need to be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live throughout the West Bank.

While staying in Bethlehem, we also visited Qasr el Yehud. This is the site on the Jordan River where John the Baptist did most of his baptisms and it is the area where Jesus was probably baptized. Several of our folks experienced being baptized in the Jordan River or remembering their baptism. It was a special time. We also visited the archeological site of Jericho and some in our group went swimming in the Dead Sea. Qumran was another site that we visited. This is where the Essenes lived and made copies of the old manuscripts of Scripture. This is the place where the Dead Sea Scrolls were recovered.

On our next-to-last day in the Holy Land, we visited the Old City of Jerusalem. We went to the Western Wall Excavations, and sat and read Scripture on the Teaching Steps that lead up to the Temple Mount. We also visited the Antonia Fortress, which was built during the 1<sup>st</sup> century to protect the Temple Mount. We finished the day at the Garden Tomb where Jesus was buried. We had communion and worship. It was very powerful

On our last day we went to Nebi Samuel, where it is said that Samuel was buried. At this site there is an old church & mosque where you can go up on the roof and see a gorgeous panoramic view of the countryside of Israel. We walked in the Valley of Elah where David defeated Goliath.

If you ever get a chance to go to Israel, I would encourage you go. When you are at the various sites, it really makes the Bible come alive and it helps you understand the Biblical stories even more. Yes, there is some walking and it can be crowded with other tourists, but if you were to go, I know that you would be blessed. I hope to do another trip to the Holy Land in 2021. Please start praying about whether you should go. I know you won't be disappointed. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season!

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Byron



## PGUMC's Community Fellowship Meals

Will Return on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**We Wish Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

### ***Just a Reminder!***



**Just a reminder that there will be no hot dog lunch on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your time with your family and friends. We will resume our weekly hot dog lunches on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!**

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

**IN MEMORY**

**Sonny Watkins**  
Susan Kenley  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Helen Green**  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Boyce Nixon**  
Don and Joan Haynes  
Willie and Nadine Williams –  
Family Life Center

**Emerson Edwards**  
Willie and Nadine Williams –  
Family Life Center

**Raymond Auten**  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Dot Lanier**  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Betty Phillips**  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Anne Reames**  
Glen Reynolds Family

**Katherine Sloan**  
Glen Reynolds Family

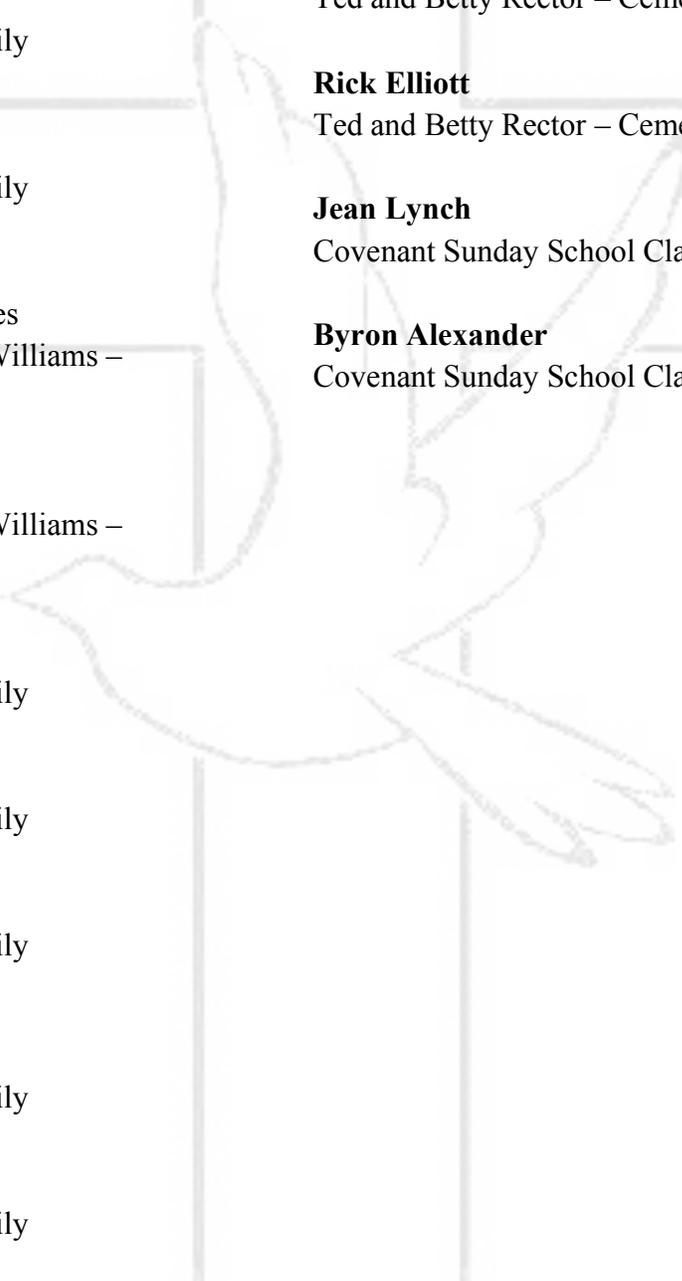
**IN HONOR**

**Donnie Adams**  
Ted and Betty Rector – Cemetery Fund

**Rick Elliott**  
Ted and Betty Rector – Cemetery Fund

**Jean Lynch**  
Covenant Sunday School Class

**Byron Alexander**  
Covenant Sunday School Class



## *The Recipe Box*



Well, the holidays are here! And there are probably a lot of hosts and hostesses who would like to put a new dish on their table for Christmas. But, we really don't want to complicate matters and try a recipe that is very involved and that uses a long list of ingredients! And it would be the icing on the cake if the new dish we put before our guests would be beautiful, a "Wow!" dish, and a showstopper! It has been the experience of many a cook that if you put something in a trifle bowl it can just look amazing and it can bring an element of elegance to the table. So, this month we would like to give you a recipe that does all of that and is delicious too! The simple ingredients and the solid tastes within this "Chocolate Trifle" will not disappoint and we are sure that it will become a favorite among your friends and family. More than likely it will not be a dish that is confined to the Christmas Feast, but will be brought back again and again to everyone's delight!

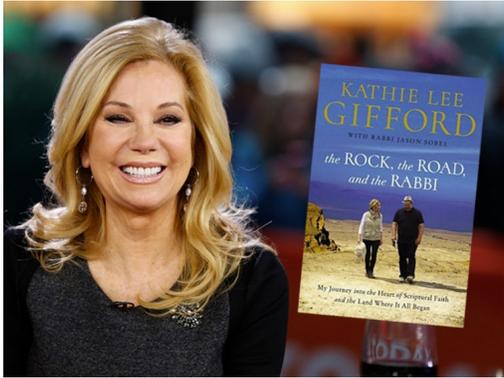
### Chocolate Trifle

- 1 (20 ounce) box of brownie mix  
(along with the ingredients called for on the box)
- 1 (4 ounce) package instant chocolate pudding mix
- ½ cup water
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (1.5 ounce) bar chocolate candy (Think: Hershey Bar)

Prepare brownie mix according to package directions and cool completely. Cut into 1 inch squares. In a large bowl, combine pudding mix, water and sweetened condensed milk. Mix until smooth, then fold in 8 ounce container of whipped topping until no streaks remain. In a trifle bowl or glass serving bowl, layer half of the brownie squares, half of the pudding mixture, and half of the 12 ounce container of whipped topping. Repeat layers. Shave chocolate bar onto top layer for garnish. Refrigerate, covered, for about 8 hours before serving. Enjoy!!!



## Recommended Reading



At the close of October several members of our church family traveled together to Israel to tour the Holy Lands. Many who did not make the trip were with our friends in Spirit. We prayed for the travelers daily and we dreamed of what they were seeing, doing, and experiencing each day. Of course, if we could have, we would have all been on this trip together. But, just because we couldn't physically travel to Israel, doesn't mean that we can't grow and learn in our knowledge of the Scriptures and of the geographical areas that are the setting for Biblical experience and teaching.

the ROCK, the ROAD, and the RABBI, by Kathie Lee Gifford with Rabbi Jason Sobel can certainly help us with this quest for knowledge. As a lifelong student of Scriptures, Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the Biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek, along with actually hiking the ancient areas of Israel, that she was able to fulfill those desires. In this book the reader hears directly from Kathie Lee Gifford about her ever-deepening and life-changing connection with Jesus, THE ROCK. The reader will explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites in Israel, THE ROAD. And the reader is invited to go beyond a "Sunday school" approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of God's Word, THE RABBI.

In this engaging book, Gifford points out that many of us have become so complacent, spoiled, and comfortable that we don't realize we are miserable. She quotes Isaiah 55:2, "Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare." This is one of the ways that our faith can grow stale, our joy can diminish, and our passion for God can run dry. We all know that we will eventually die if we don't eat food. The same is true of our Spirit...we will all die spiritually if we stop feeding on His Word! When we fill our lives with everything but the one thing we need the most to thrive in our faith...His Word...we can become lukewarm. We can become bored and indifferent. We can fall out of love with God.

With a chapter-by-chapter approach, Gifford and Sobel take the reader to En Gedi, Mount Carmel, Bethlehem and Nazareth. Other areas of interest include Cana, Capernaum, Magdala, The Upper Room, The Garden of Gethsemane, The Dead Sea, and The Qumran Caves. Each of these stops plays such a vital role in our understanding of Scriptural Truth and serves as the foundation for our faith life and faith journey.

Gifford's writing style, along with that of Rabbi Jason, is not over the head of the readers nor is it theologically high handed. It is meant to inform and inspire us. Over and over, as you read through the ROCK, the ROAD, and the Rabbi, you are invited to "Come!" In reading this book you will go deeper in your faith as you explore the land of Israel and mine the treasures of God's Word. We recommend this book to all who wish to get to that next level and fall more and more in love with God and His Word. Happy Reading!

## *Operation Christmas Child at Pleasant Grove*

This has been a most exciting Operation Christmas Child season here at Pleasant Grove. We began by folding boxes and setting a very lofty goal for our congregation...400 Shoe Box Gifts for children around the world! After the boxes were folded we began picking them up and filling them at home, or in our Sunday school classes, with gifts that would delight a child who normally wouldn't receive a Christmas gift. But, it wasn't just the congregation at Pleasant Grove packing boxes. We had community families packing boxes. We had preschool, afterschool, and daycare families packing boxes. We had preschool classes packing boxes. We had Girl Scouts packing boxes. But, the cherry on the top of this whole effort was the Shoe Box Packing Party we held on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. In just about an hour, on that beautiful Autumn morning, we packed 204 shoe box gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The love that was oozing out of our church that morning was so easy to see. The joy that we all felt that day was so easy to feel. The compassion that was being expressed was so impactful to all who were there! It was truly a day to remember here at Pleasant Grove! To wrap everything up, we prayed over our boxes and sent them on their way on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Many hands made light work and we were able to load 376 boxes in about ten minutes. They were delivered to Mt. Island Community church later that morning. Since that day, we have had at least 15 more boxes turned in that will be counted in our total number. Before this whole thing is over, we just might eclipse 400 of these beautiful red and green boxes!!!

Pleasant Grove, you have done a good thing with this project this year...more boxes than we have ever collected before! Doesn't it just feel right to be sharing our blessings and the love of Christ with God's precious children? What do you think...how many boxes in 2020...500? 600? 750? Let's start planning now to do all that we can to change lives for the better in the coming year!!!



## ***December at The Grove***



The Advent and Christmas seasons are really special times for us here at Pleasant Grove. Our calendars all fill up with things to do, places to go, and people to see. However, we don't want to miss an opportunity to be together to anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We have many opportunities to worship together with special services, special messages, and special music! Please make note of each of them and let's worship together as often as we can!!!

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>** – On this first Sunday of Advent, we will be putting the finishing touches on our Christmas decorations in both the traditional and contemporary services. Let's all participate in the time-honored tradition of hanging our Chrismons on our trees in both places of worship. Following the contemporary service, we will have a lunch together featuring homemade chicken soup and our legendary grilled cheese sandwiches! Everyone is welcome to join together for both worship services and then for lunch in the family life center as we break bread together.

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** – Our 9:00 service will be blessed to have the string trio from Cook's Memorial Presbyterian. These musicians will be contributing to our worship service through their gift of music on this, the second Sunday of Advent. Our LifePoint Praise Band will be leading the contemporary service as we continue to anticipate celebrating the birth of Christ.

**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** – The Chancel Choir will be presenting our Christmas cantata, Come, Let Us Worship the King, at our 9:00 service. The entire church and community is invited to join together as we celebrate Jesus and what He means to our lives, together. What a great way to mark the third Sunday of Advent! Following the service, in lieu of Sunday school, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a breakfast fellowship. Please bring a breakfast dish to share with the church family. Juice and coffee will be provided.

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Martha Honeycutt, our resident harpist, will bless our 9:00 service with a beautiful musical offering. Our contemporary service will be celebrating the birth of Jesus through the gift of leadership and music, as provided by the LifePoint Band and Pastor Byron. This, the fourth Sunday in Advent, is sure to be special at Pleasant Grove!

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** – Pleasant Grove will once again celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Christmas Eve service at 5:00 PM in the sanctuary. This will be a service of carols, candlelight, and communion. You and your entire family, your neighbors and friends are all invited to this most beautiful of services!

***We hope to see you all at each and every worship opportunity at Pleasant Grove.***



## *Another Opportunity to Help*



At Christmastime we all want to share a meal together with our family. For some of our neighbors, the

traditional holiday feast is not an option because of tight budgets and food insecurities. Our **Backpack Buddy** families will face these circumstances in the weeks to come. However, we have the opportunity to help! We are serving 20 students, in 9 families, through our Backpack Buddy ministry this year. As a church family we will be providing these 9 families with a grocery store gift card. The family can use the gift card to put a nice Christmas dinner on the table or they can choose to use it to stock up on the foods that they normally use that might not be as expensive as those special meal items. The gift card amounts vary, depending on the size of the family, but the average gift is \$65. If you would like to contribute to this effort, simply place your check in the offering plate and mark it for **Backpack Buddy Christmas**. You can also drop your donation by the church office. Donations in any amount are appreciated! Let's come together once more to make sure that God's children know of God's love through our actions!



## *Are You Ready to Serve???*



As a congregation, we have one more opportunity to serve in 2019 through Operation Christmas Child. After packing our own boxes, loading them up, and taking them to the drop-off location, we can now go to the Shoe Box processing center here in Charlotte to serve for an afternoon. This is a great way to get a peek at the bigger picture of what it takes to get all of those boxes delivered to the children who are waiting to know of Christ's love. On Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the church at 1:00 PM, load onto the church van, and go to the processing center for the 2:00 shift. We will work for 3-4 hours and expect to be back at the church by 6:30 in the evening. Please call or come by the church office to sign up for this opportunity. We have limited spaces available and need to know if we are going to fill all of our spots. This opportunity to give will impact your life for the better. So, give us a shout, ASAP!!!







### *United Methodist Women News*

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, after our luncheon of homemade chicken soup and grilled cheese sandwiches, UMW members will be meeting to work on our end-of-year report to the District. Let Jeannie Upton or Karen Dellinger know if you can help with this. We need your input.

On Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, Circle #6 will host their annual Country Ham Dinner in the Family Life Center. (Full information on this event can be found in this newsletter.) Proceeds from this dinner go to support missions, church needs, and church family needs. During this dinner the UMW will hold a holiday bake sale. Be sure to drop by the sale tables, before or after you fill up on Country ham, eggs, grits and biscuits, to pick up a delicious homemade goodie to have in your home over the holidays!

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, both of our Circles will meet for their Christmas gatherings. Circle #3 will meet at 11:30 in the morning in the Family Life Center. Each person is asked to bring a dish to share for lunch and a wrapped gift valued at \$3-\$5. Janelle Upton will be offering a Christmas meditation. This group is looking forward to a morning of spiritual enrichment, fellowship, fun, and food! Later that evening, Circle #6 will come together at 6:00 in the evening at the home of Hazel Sanders. All members are asked to bring a dish to share for dinner. After dinner we will spend some time reflecting and sharing about the true meaning of Christmas.

And finally, on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the UMW will hold a Christmas White Elephant sale during the hot dog lunch. Items for the sale can be dropped off on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and will need to be picked up after the sale if you want them returned to you. All proceeds from this sale will go to UMW sponsored mission projects, both locally and globally.



### *What do you say when asked...*

#### **What is the meaning of Advent?**

**Advent is a season of preparation because it is also a season of *anticipation*—a glorious gift is coming soon and we want to be ready to receive it! In the prologue to his gospel, the apostle John proclaims the miraculous truth of the incarnation, the gift of God with us in human form.**

## ***Did You Know?***



Did you know that, in the span of about 15 days, three major earthquakes rocked the Philippines? This all happened during the month of October. These quakes left at least 20 dead and left a path of destruction from town to town. Even now, United Methodists are sharing refuge and comfort with one another. Among the most severely hit areas were Magsaysay in Davao del Sur and Kidapawan City. The Rev. Jennifer M. Panday, a United Methodist pastor, was among the thousands of Magsaysay residents who fled their homes and sought refuge under tents or in evacuation centers after the third earthquake. In fact, more than 1,100 families, from nine neighborhoods, evacuated their homes within 24 hours after the final earthquake hit. Panday is pastor of Magsaysay UMC in Poblacion.

“With God’s mercy, we are okay,” Panday said. “Almost all of us have lost our homes due to severe damage. We temporarily stay in tents made of tarpaulin material, but others have no tarpaulin yet. Others would seek space from each other as supplies from the government would not suffice.” Panday also stated the families living in tents are frightened and in a fragile state. “We are so frightened to go back to our homes. We are no longer safe there,” she said.

Panday said that tent material, food, medicine, water, and mosquito nets are the most needed items. One conference of the UMC has provided sacks of rice for nutritional sustenance. Other United Methodists have distributed packs of relief goods to some of the hardest hit areas.

Bishop Rodolfo A. Juan of the Davao Area has mobilized prayer warriors to lift in prayer those who lost their loved ones and their property. The Bishop now prays that UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) will come to their rescue. In Kidapawan City, a United Methodist school has provided shelter and counseling to those who have fled their homes and sought refuge. The school has proven to be a safe place during earthquakes, thanks to its low-height, quality structures and open spaces. The school also has competent and well-trained personnel, as well as students who are concerned and compassionate.

As is the case in so many instances of natural disaster, the United Methodist Church has responded. The first form of aid has come from the United Methodist churches within the earthquake zone. These churches are just people doing whatever they can do, with limited resources, to alleviate suffering. Time and time again, the United Methodist church is the first to respond and is the last to leave when tragedy strikes. UMCOR is our United Methodist organization that comes into the affected area as soon as it is possible, keeping the safety of their volunteers as a focus. UMCOR provides hope, healing, restoration, relief, and resources through donations from people just like us. If you feel led to donate to UMCOR, you may do so by visiting the United Methodist Church website or speak with a member of our church staff to find out how to give.

*(This information originally appeared on the United Methodist Church website and was written by Gladys P. Mangiduyos. Photos taken by Rhea Jane Mella Donisa.)*



## ***Getting to Know You***



We are always so excited as a church family when someone decides that they want to join the church! When we have someone join the family, we try to highlight them in our newsletter. This month Pleasant News is pleased to introduce you to Cindy Houser. Cindy joined our sweet church several weeks back. She attends our contemporary service and can be found at any of the Bible studies that are offered on our campus. On the Sunday morning that Cindy officially joined our church, her excitement was so clearly visible. Her face was simply glowing. Her smile was radiant. Her emotions were running high. And her hugs were so heartfelt. It was so obvious that joining the church meant the world to her and that she knew she was at home here at Pleasant Grove.

We recently asked Cindy a few questions and are now so happy to share her responses with you all.

Pleasant News: Where were you born and raised?

Cindy: I was born and raised on a farm in Long Grove, Iowa.

PN: Tell us a little bit about your family.

Cindy: I grew up on the same farm that my Dad was raised on. We have always been a very close family. I was the 4<sup>th</sup> child of 4, and the only girl. SOME say that I was spoiled, but I never noticed! My Mom is from a very large family and we started a number system. My number is 1.4... (My Mom is the oldest, #1, and I am her 4<sup>th</sup> child, sooo...1.4), and my husband was 1.4.0. The numbers go all the way up to 15 as my Mom was the oldest of 15 children. When we sign birthday/Christmas cards or emails, we all sign with our #!

PN: What is your line of work or what sorts of jobs have you had in the past?

Cindy: I have worked in Human Resources for about 20 years. I went to school for early childhood education, but HR is about the same thing...you just babysit adults!!

PN: What are your hobbies and interests?

Cindy: I love family and any time with family is always a treat to me. Living far away from my family only makes the time together that much better. While living in North Carolina, I have been blessed with a group of friends that treat me like family and I couldn't be more thankful.

PN: What is something on your bucket list?

Cindy: I can't think of anything specific. I have been to Mount Rushmore as a child and I would love to go back someday. I just want to live a happy life. I think my path will take me to all the places I need/want to go.

PN: What is your favorite verse or passage of scripture?

Cindy: "And now these three remain; faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love." (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:13) Growing up we didn't have a lot but we had enough and my parents ALWAYS made it very clear to us that as long as we have faith and hope, and know that we will always have a family that always gives love, it is enough. I was very lucky to be raised in such a faithful and loving home.

(Getting To Know You, from previous page)

PN: What brought you to Pleasant Grove?

Cindy: Tody Brown invited me! I was in a transition point in my life and she had been there with me through it all. I met her several years ago through my husband. We instantly hit it off. My husband has since passed and I think he knew that I needed Tody in my life. I feel that she was a gift from my husband, which makes me love her even more. (I know that this was all God's work!)

PN: What do you enjoy most about being a part of Pleasant Grove?

Cindy: That's exactly it...I have always felt I was a part of the church!!! There is something special about this church and I am thankful to be a part of it. The church I was raised in was very much like this. It felt like family. Pleasant Grove is the same way for me.

PN: Tell us anything else that you would like to about yourself or your relationship with the church.

Cindy: Like I said, I was raised in a very religious, loving home. I am #9 of the 89 grand-and great-grand children. The faith that was instilled in us all is honestly what has kept us all together. I love the feeling of being in the presence of God, and Pleasant Grove definitely has that feeling...at the church and through the people!

*We are so tickled that Tody invited you to our sweet church and we are so very glad that you have now made it your home. We look forward to sharing in worship, fellowship, and service with you!*

*So now, all that needs to be said is, "Welcome Home, Cindy...Welcome Home!"*



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.

DECEMBER 1- 2 LB. BAG OF SUGAR	DECEMBER 13- CANNED BEANS
DECEMBER 2- PEANUT BUTTER	DECEMBER 14- BOX OF CRACKERS
DECEMBER 3- STUFFING MIX	DECEMBER 15- PACKAGE OF RICE
DECEMBER 4- BOXED POTATOES	DECEMBER 16- BOX OF OATMEAL
DECEMBER 5- MACARONI AND CHEESE	DECEMBER 17- BOX OF SPAGHETTI NOODLES
DECEMBER 6- CANNED FRUIT	DECEMBER 18- SPAGHETTI SAUCE
DECEMBER 7- CANNED TOMATOES	DECEMBER 19- CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP
DECEMBER 8- CANNED TUNA	DECEMBER 20- BEEF BROTH
DECEMBER 9- CANNED CHICKEN	DECEMBER 21- CANNED CORN
DECEMBER 10- JAR OF APPLESAUCE	DECEMBER 22- CANNED MIXED VEGETABLES
DECEMBER 11- CANNED SWEET POTATOES	DECEMBER 23- CANNED CARROTS
DECEMBER 12- CANNED SPINACH OR CABBAGE	DECEMBER 24- CANNED GREEN BEANS

EACH DAY READ ONE CHAPTER OF LUKE FROM THE BIBLE (THERE ARE 24 CHAPTERS.)  
BY CHRISTMAS EVE, YOU WILL HAVE READ THE ENTIRE LIFE STORY OF JESUS.



## Country Ham & Eggs Dinner

### December 5, 2019

Pleasant Grove UMC  
Family Life Center

**5:00-7:00 pm**

Adults \$8.00  
10 and under \$4.00  
Pre order 11lb ham for the holidays @\$8.00  
pick up on 12/5/2019

Hosted by  
**United Methodist Women Circle #6**

# Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



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

Chicken Scratch NY