



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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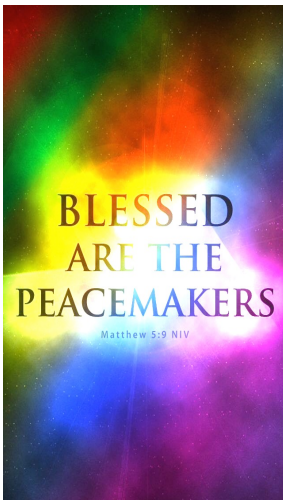
Inspiration Point

Matthew 5: 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

God shall call the peacemakers his sons! We cannot become peacemakers if we do not have peace within ourselves first! Many people kill themselves because they have lost their peace, and without it, they cannot stand to live anymore. People stay up all night because when they lay down, their thoughts are so troublesome that they cannot bear them. They have no peace at all! People get ulcers and worry about all kinds of things; they have to be medicated because their thoughts bring all manner of troublesome situations to their minds. They have no peace! Who is worthy to bring peace to all these people? Where can we find peace?

How can we help others find peace if we have no peace ourselves? The answer to this is very clear. We cannot! We have to be at peace with our God and at peace with ourselves if we are going to be peacemakers! There is no source of peace, except with God. It is He who brings peace into our lives. The world will never be at peace, because the world will not make Jesus Christ Lord, and live by His commandments! You and I, if we want peace in our lives, must truly make Jesus Christ Lord!

Just saying the sinner's prayer will not make peace for you, but it is the only way to begin the process of gaining that peace! We have to admit that we are in spiritual poverty! That means that we cannot be spiritually proud! We have to acknowledge that we are very shallow spiritual people, and we have to take upon ourselves the nature of students of the Bible, and of the Spirit of God to learn those things He has to teach us.



Thinking good thoughts now and again is not the answer. We have to allow the Holy Spirit to reach down into our souls and to cast His light upon those things that He finds there! He must bring them up to the surface of our consciousness in order that we might deal with them. It is not important that some of those things may have happened 50 years ago! They are still down there, deep in our memories, within ourselves! They are like open sores within our souls that have been infected. Oh, yes, they have been covered over for many years, and we try to forget them-to block them out of our memories, but that does not work because when we are quiet and still, they cause us disturbing thoughts and dreams! Like open and infected sores, they need to be brought up into the light and air so they can be faced and treated! We have to think those painful incidents through again, those memories of things that brought us pain and rejection, and forgive those who did those things to us! Then we have to ask forgiveness for the resentment that we have held against them for so many years, and to ask God to forgive us for that resentment and take it from us! God will do it, and you will feel the tremendous burdens of those things being lifted off your shoulders!

The next step is to submit our wills to the Lord Jesus Christ! We have to lay down the need to be first, and the need to gain power, prestige, and material goods for ourselves at the expense of everyone else! Our prayer life has to move from the place of "me first" to intercessory prayer for others because it is in the praying for others that God brings us most of our healing! As we stand praying, learn to show mercy to all, Christians and non-Christians alike! Stop being quick to judge. Stop the gossip about those who are different from ourselves. Begin to look for ways that you might help others by prayer, by words of encouragement, and in the most extreme cases, by material things to help them with their needs.

All these things, with a love toward God and a willingness to allow Him to do his work in your soul, will help you to become "pure in heart!" But most of all, as we learn to walk in this new attitude, peace will come! It will come because we have achieved a place "in right standing with God" and therefore, we have become "in right standing with our fellow man." Being in right standing with God means that you are living a righteous life before him. There is a Scripture that says, "The kingdom of God is not meat nor drink, but righteousness, peace and Joy in the Holy Ghost." The lifestyle that I have described to you brings righteousness and peace! At this point, you have received "joy" as well! As stated in the beginning of this article, Jesus taught us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God!" Among all the things that you can be, be a peacemaker and live in Joy!

Brother Phil

Happy 4th of July!!!



The volunteers at Pleasant News would like to wish you and your family a very Happy 4th of July! No matter how or where you celebrate, we hope that your day is filled with summertime fun and that we can all take a moment to remember the reason we celebrate this very special day in the history of our nation. May we also take time to offer up a heartfelt prayer for the great nation that we are privileged to call our home!

*Lord of all, guide this nation by Your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in You, that our nation may bring glory to Your name and blessings to all people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.*



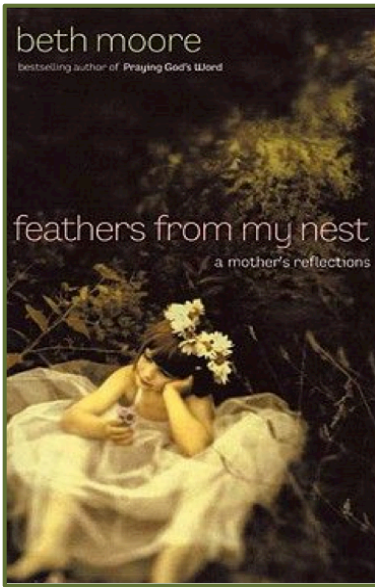
Summer Camp Adventures



Summer Camp at Pleasant Grove started on June 10th this year. We cannot believe that we are already almost a month into our season. We have been to Lineberger Park Pool, Lake Norman Mini Golf and Martha Rivers Park.

During the second week of summer camp we were blessed with great weather and cooler temps! Then, we had a week of vacation Bible school that really had the kids excited. We want to thank all of the Sunday school classes that provided dinner for our campers during VBS. The parents really appreciated it too! We have a very busy seven weeks to go and time flies when you are having fun!!!





Recommended Reading

This month's book selection might be more suited for recommendation around Mother's Day. But, summer is also an excellent time to take stock of life and think about the precious gifts that God has given us in the children in our lives. Feathers from My Nest was given to me in 2005, when it was just making its way onto the Christian literary scene. It was during this season that our daughter, Jessica, was preparing to leave home and begin her college experience. And this book really hit the mark on what I needed to recognize and how I needed to think about my firstborn leaving home for the first time. There were times, as I was reading the book for the first time, that I found myself exclaiming out loud, "YES! Exactly! That is so Jessica!" I would recommend this book to anyone who has a child approaching adulthood...if not for you then maybe you know someone who could benefit from a Christ-centered, contemplative read on this very tender subject. This little volume makes a beautiful and unexpected gift to parents of young adults.

Beth Moore is widely known and respected as an engaging and effective speaker, Bible teacher, and best-selling author. Feathers from My Nest is one of her most personal and revealing works and is a collection of vignettes, as Beth reflects on items belonging to her daughters who have left the nest for college. As she ponders each item, rich in memories, so full of tenderness and emotion, Beth draws from it spiritual significance about such things as authenticity in the Christian home, communication, encouragement, and other affirming, heart-warming insights. This book not only gently tugs on the sentimental heartstrings of parents, it also reminds us all, of the gift of grace that children offer our lives every day.

(Feathers from My Nest has been read multiple times, given as gifts to quite a few, and is recommended this month, by Sherri Brown.)

"Human love is always imperfect love, but God has sentimentally chosen to whisper hints of the perfect through its imperfections. Through the flawed, He kindles faith for the flawless, awakening the mortal heart to a brush with the immortal. For true love is by its nature selfless, sacrificial...and there is nothing in the heart of man so divine."

-Beth Moore in Feathers from My Nest

Did You Know???



Did you know that when tragedy strikes the United Methodist Church responds? Of course you did! We have all read accounts of how the United Methodist Church is often the first on the scene after a natural disaster and in many cases is the last to leave the affected area. Some of us have even served on a team that has been a part of that disaster response. We know that our denomination seeks to reach the hurting with the love and compassion of Christ.

But about two months ago tragedy struck very close to home. A gunman opened fire on the campus of UNCC taking the lives of two individuals and injuring several others. In a case like that most of us feel that we are helpless to offer help and healing. However, we all need to know that the United Methodist Church was not helpless on that tragic afternoon in May. Rev. Stephen Cheyney, UNCC Niner United Campus Pastor, is an Elder in full standing with the Western North Carolina Conference and is assigned as a campus minister at Charlotte. He was there. The relationships were in place. He had an avenue to offer hope and healing. He was able to respond with the love of Christ. As individuals we might not have been able to offer much on face value. But, as a Church we can. We actually have students at UNCC from Pleasant Grove and thankfully, they were all safe. Let's make it our mission to lift up all college students and their campus ministers in our prayers. If we ever have an opportunity to support this very important aspect of college life, let's do it. Together we can make a difference when a difference is needed the most.

We have included a portion of the message that Rev. Cheyney sent out to Niner Nation the day after the shooting. His words were so appropriate and offered much to those who were reeling from this tragedy.

"This wasn't God's plan. Yesterday evening, as you know, our campus became a tragic scene of violence. You may have witnessed firsthand things that can't be unseen. You may know one of the two students who lost their life. You may know one of the four who were injured. You may know the assailant. You may have been in lockdown. You may have been in fear. Whatever you may have experienced, this was a very horrific day for our campus. No matter the horror, this wasn't God's plan. Psalm 46:1 reminds us, that "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." May God be your refuge and strength-your present help during these troubling days. The Gospel of John reminds us that when Jesus heard of his friend's death, he began to weep. In God's strength, God still weeps with us. Nowhere does the Bible say acts of violence like these are part of God's plan. So, may we come together in love and peace and figure out as a community how to help one another, and how to grieve together. May we also know and sense the love of God in and through Christ Jesus who mourns with us, yet also gives us hope."

At the close of his message, Rev. Cheyney gives clear instructions about how to find help and makes himself available to anyone who needs him. As a church, we can thank God for Rev. Cheyney and his presence on the campus of UNCC.



ROAR! VBS... Was a ROARING Success!!!

Our week of Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Thanks to all who volunteered as we connected with sixty children from our campus and community, learning about God's goodness all throughout our lives. Through music and dancing, snacking and playing, experiencing God's word together, serving others together and engaging our mind and imaginations together...we learned that "Life is Wild...And God is Good!" These photos just give you a small taste of the large amount of fun that we all experienced at ROAR!

Thanks, Pleasant Grove, for investing in our kids!!!





Honoring Our 2019 Graduates!!!

On June 9th, during our 9:00 worship service, we once again honored the graduates of Pleasant Grove. Each year we are blown away at the caliber of individual that graduates out of Pleasant Grove. In the past, we have unleashed some unbelievably talented and successful folks into the world. Among our graduates we have teachers, nurses, firefighters, doctors, attorneys, park rangers, successful business owners, coaches, school administrators, and engineers, just to name a few. But, more important than that is the fact that we have blessed the world with graduates who are caring, compassionate, loving and Christ-like in all that they do. We know that the same is true this year as well.

Below you will find the names and some brief information about each of our 2019 graduates. Please take the time to pray for them as they venture further out into the world and when you see them around campus, please offer your congratulations and celebrate with them.



Cooper McDowell Alexander is the son of Byron and Jana Alexander. Cooper graduated from North Carolina State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication with a focus on media. He is currently working in recreation as a Land Sport Guide at the US National Whitewater Center

Faith Caroline Alexander is the daughter of Byron and Jana Alexander. Faith graduated from Brevard College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre with an emphasis in performance. She plans to use her degree by working with local theater companies and groups in and around the Charlotte area.

Kaitlyn Alexis Smith is the daughter of Mark and Trudy Smith. Katie graduated from Western Carolina University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with an emphasis in Literature and a minor in Creative Writing. She is currently working an internship in Charlotte.

Miranda Elizabeth Goodman is the daughter of Randy and Kathy Goodman. Miranda graduated from Western Carolina University with a Master's degree in School Administration. She plans to continue working on the administrative team at Metro School in Charlotte, and aspires to eventually become an assistant principal.

Melanie Kathryn Nance is the daughter of Lee and Marsha Nance and the granddaughter of Pina Nance. Melanie graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master's of Science in Nursing; Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care. She is currently working at Levine Children's Hospital on the oncology floor, and is seeking a position as a Nurse Practitioner.



Continued from previous page

“For I know the **PLANS**
I have for **you**”
declares the **LORD**
“plans to **PROSPER** you
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
HOPE and a
FUTURE.”
Jeremiah 29:11

Caleb Hornbuckle is the son of Mandi Beaudry, the grandson of Tim and Ginger Hornbuckle, and the great-grandson of Shirley Gilsinger. Caleb graduated from the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island on October 5, 2018. He graduated as a squad leader which earned him a meritorious promotion. Caleb has completed Marine Combat, Water Survival Air Crew, and SERE Training. He is currently stationed at New River Air Station as he completes his training as a Crew Chief on a V-22 Osprey.

Graduates, your church family celebrates your accomplishments and we pray God’s blessings upon you as you work toward the next big adventure in your life. We hope that we see you often here at Pleasant Grove and we hope that you know that you always have a home and a family here! Congratulations, Graduates! Congratulations!



What Do You Say When Asked...

Does The Bible Say Very Much About Heaven?

Jesus mentions Heaven about seventy times in the book of Matthew alone. It appears from the very first verse in Genesis – “In the beginning God created the heavens and earth” – to the last reference found at the end of Revelation – “[He] showed the great city... descending out of heaven from God”.

He left a promise to his disciples – “I am going there [to heaven] to prepare a place for you... that you also may be where I am” (John 14: 2-3)

What a promise! What a destiny!

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

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

IN MEMORY

Robert Wilkerson

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Terry Kelly – Cemetery Fund

Steve and Maria McClure

Pina Nance

Dot Lanier

Penny Love

IN HONOR

2019 Graduates

UMW Circle #3

Ed Sing

Rickey and Lynda Elliott – Steeple Repairs

Kappy Canfield

Rickey and Lynda Elliott – Steeple Repairs



Getting To Know You!!!



It is always a good and exciting thing when we have people who wish to make it official and join the church family here at Pleasant Grove! And just this past spring, we have had several who have done just that. One of those new family members is Janice McFadden. Janice has been around our sweet church for quite some time and we couldn't be happier that she is now a full-fledged member! There are other reasons to be happy about Janice and her future, but we will let you read on to find out more about the joyful times to come!

We recently sat down with Janice and asked her a few questions and we would like to share her responses with you as a way for you all to get to know her just a little bit better.

Pleasant News: Where were you born and raised?

Janice: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Pleasant News: Tell us a little bit about your family.

Janice: I am the mom of three handsome, amazing, wonderful boys – well, men now, but they will always be my boys! Jimmy is 25, Jacob is 21, and Josh is 20. I will be a step-mom (but not the wicked kind!) to three awesome young men when Wes and I get married on September 6th. Wes plays the lead guitar in the LifePoint praise band and has been a part of Pleasant Grove for quite some time now! I am also Nana to Abiel and Lily. I love my family. I love our get-togethers. It's a house full and I absolutely cherish those moments. I get to marry my best friend in a few months. I had just about given up and so had Wes. We are so thankful that God has brought us together. I can't imagine him not being a part of my life. My boys love him. They grew up without a good father figure and they found a good example of a father in Wes. They feel comfortable talking with him about anything and they love just hanging around at our house. They still need that in their life. No matter how old you are, you still need your mom and dad. Wes' boys have a mom but I most certainly think of them as my own. I am their friend and I really don't think it hurts to have an extra mama to love you.

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

Janice: I was a stay at home mom until the boys' dad passed away. At that time the boys were ages 8, 5, and 3. Then, I started working in the school they went to as a playground aide, cafeteria aide, and copy room supervisor. I eventually was trained to work with special needs children as a teacher's assistant. I loved working with special needs kids and did that for about ten years. Currently I am working part-time, from home, as a telephone representative for a medical records retrieval company. I also watch my grandson, Abiel, a few afternoons a week.

Pleasant News: What are your hobbies and interests?

Janice: I love to crochet and have made many afghans and scarves. I love to decorate and love baking and trying new recipes. Another thing that I enjoy is going to the mountains and hiking around to visit different waterfalls.

Pleasant News: What is something on your bucket list?

Janice: I would love to travel out west. I hope to see the Grand Canyon, the west coast of the United States and even Alaska!

Pleasant News: What is your favorite passage of scripture?

Janice: I love the story of Ruth. She lost a husband but trusted God would take care of her. After my husband died, I will admit that I didn't have much faith. It took me almost sixteen years to heal from that. I wish that I could have had Ruth's faith at that time in my life. She did what was right and honorable. She worked hard. God rewarded her faithfulness. You can learn a lot about faithfulness, trust and what it takes to make a relationship work from studying the story of Ruth.

Pleasant News: What brought you to Pleasant Grove?

Janice: I started dating Wes and I came to church with him every week. I loved the church family and how welcoming everyone was towards me. It felt like home!

Pleasant News: What is something you dream about, or wish, for Pleasant Grove?

Janice: This is something that I haven't given a lot of thought to yet. I guess my initial response would have to be simply "growth."

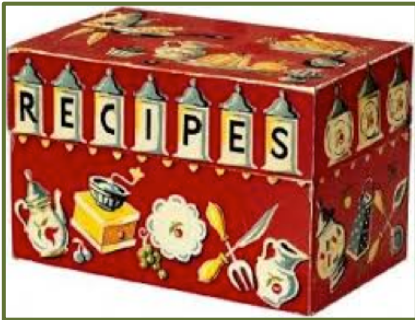
Pleasant News: What do you enjoy most about being a part of Pleasant Grove?

Janice: The family that lives here! There is such a love and friendship that is so evident in this place!

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

Janice: Well, I am excited that Wes and I will be getting married on September 6th in Cherokee and that Pastor Byron has agreed to marry us there. We are just keeping it simple. We will be getting married next to a Bamboo Forest in our favorite little park – Oconaluftee Island Park – surrounded by our six boys, their girls and my parents. We have rented a large cabin in Bryson that's big enough to accommodate everyone for the weekend. Family...that's what it's all about! We are thankful that our boys are the same ages and have similar interests. We love our grandkids and look forward to many more (years and years from now!). I am thankful for the friendships that I have made since coming to Pleasant Grove and I'm looking forward to what is in store for our future!

*Well, Janice, we are just so excited to have you in the family here at Pleasant Grove. We look forward to celebrating life with you as we all journey together in the love, grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. We also look forward to serving Him together with you as we seek to do Kingdom work side by side!
Welcome Home, Janice! Welcome Home!!!*



The Recipe Box

This month's recipe comes straight from our Hungry Herd Café. This snack station was a part of our recent Vacation Bible School experience, "ROAR!" The kids came by the café each night of vbs to enjoy a snack that helped them to understand our Bible point for the night in a new and different way. One night we served "Mystery Mash" and it turns out that it was a hit with both the kids and the adults who were volunteering. "Mystery Mash" taught the kids that, "Even when life is scary, God is good!" Sometimes it can be scary to try new things...especially when you don't know how things will turn out or even what the ingredients are in a new food. But, our brave kids tried it and they loved it! Some even said it was their favorite snack of the whole week!



Now, you might not want to file this in your recipe box under the name "Mystery Mash!" Instead you might call it "Tropical Fluff" or "Roaring Good Fruit Fluff". Whatever you call it, we know that you are going to like it. It is light and refreshing and so very simple to make. Who knows...maybe a bowl or two of this luscious mixture will be found at our next covered dish meal here at Pleasant Grove?!? Enjoy!

Mystery Mash

one 15 ounce can of mandarin oranges (drained well)
one 20 ounce can of crushed pineapple (drained well)
one cup of mini marshmallows
one 8 ounce tub of cool whip

Gently fold all ingredients together until they are evenly combined. For a fun twist on this recipe you could use the multi colored marshmallows and top the whole thing with sprinkles!



Happy Trails!!! Bon Voyage!!! Y'all Come Back Now, Ya Hear!!!



Without a doubt, many of our church family members will do some traveling during these lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer! Whether you travel by car, train, bus or plane, we all pray God's blessings for your travel and safe return. No matter where you go...the beach, the mountains, down South, up North, or out West...whether you stay in this beautiful country of ours or satisfy your wanderlust by going to another...we all send our love and prayers with you!

As you or someone you love strikes out for a vacation adventure, consider praying this simple prayer as the travel miles begin, and throughout the entire time away. If you are praying for someone else, just change a few words to make it a prayer for them. Then, let's look forward to having the whole family back together again as summer draws to its close. This is just one more way that we can love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Travelers Prayer

***O Lord,
May Your love protect me on my journey
and guard me from perils along the way.
May I reach my destination in peace
and fulfill my mission.
Then, by your grace and mercy,
allow me to return to my home with joy and in peace.
Amen.***

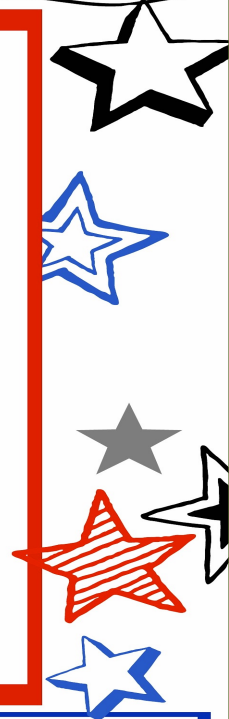
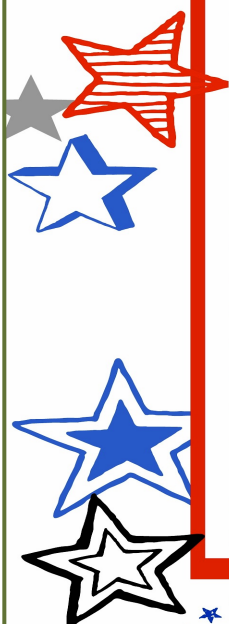
Promises: "God's Promises"

The Bible is packed with so many promises it's hard to count them. One man tried, a schoolteacher named Everek R. Storms of Kitchener, Ontario Canada. He determined to count the promises in the Bible. He had read through the Bible 26 times, so during his twenty-seventh reading, he took a year and a half and as he read he counted he counted all the promises. He came up with over 7,000 promises made by Almighty God to humans – 7,487 to be exact. That's over twenty promises a day throughout the year.

July 4th word search



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



words to find

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| AMERICAN
FATHERS
FOUNDING
HONOR
NATIONAL ANTHEM
STARS
UNITED STATES | CENTENNIAL
FESTIVE
FREEDOM
INDEPENDENCE DAY
PATRIOTIC
STRIPES
VETERANS | CIVIC
FIREWORKS
HOLIDAY
LIBERTY
PICNIC
STAR SPANGLED |
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by Amy Mascott of teachmama.com for Scholastic