

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

Psalm 23:1 – 3 The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Easter has come and gone, and for the most part, we did not get to celebrate it in the manner that we all love and appreciate. I grew up on a farm in Northern North Carolina, and Easter Monday was a very special day in our lives! Maybe not in the way you would imagine, no, but to us kids it was especially great! It was still a little cool, but usually a bright, sunny day! You see in our family tradition that was the day we all went down to the river to fish! And what made that special you may ask? That was the first day of the year that we all pulled our shoes off and went barefooted! Mom, Dad, all of us kids, we gathered our fishing gear and our bucket of worms and then we went down to the river. There were no roads down to the river, so we drove down to about a quarter mile toward it, got out of the car, pulled our shoes off and gathered our stuff! Of course we carried a picnic lunch, ice water to drink, and then headed off through the fields to the river!

We were excited! Lots of laughter, running and jumping and then at the last minute, a wild sprint to race each other to the river's edge! At that point, the river (Mayo River), was about 20 yards wide and about 3 to 4 feet deep. It was still too cold to go swimming, and it took Mom and Dad a while to get us kids settled down and to begin fishing! We used a long cane pole with tobacco twine as line, with lead anchors and hooks. The fish were not very big, so we used small hooks! It did not matter to us how large the fish were, it was in the fun of the moment that counted!

(Continued on next page)

PSALM 23

A Psalm of David.

1 THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

When was the last time you put a worm on a fishing hook? It did not make him very happy did it? He wiggles and squirms but finally you accomplish what you are trying to do. It does matter how you put the worm on the hook! If the fish sees the hook, he will not bite! I did not learn this until about 15 years ago! But that really was not the important thing to us kids! We chased each other, climbed trees, and threw rocks across the river all the while tromping around in our bare feet! When we did settle down to fish, it was time to look around. The sky was a beautiful Carolina blue, with a big white cumulus cloud floating by occasionally! Out of the wind and in the sunshine, it was warm and cozy! The river was not calm and still, but rushing by us to get on its way down to the ocean hundreds of miles away! If you were still and listened, the birds were singing away, busy building their nests

or finding worms and such to feed their babies! The honeybees were flying from one blossom to the next, busy gathering pollen to use in making honey! Wildflowers were everywhere! God knows how to make the earth beautiful even without our help, doesn't He! Then, we would even catch a fish now and then! Squeals of delight and laughter pealed out! If the ground were still a little wet from previous rains, we would have our feet covered with mud by this time! Maybe even muddy all over from how us boys would love to wrestle even when the mud is there!

This was a very special bonding time for us all! The family was altogether; there was good fun and excitement! There was the special sensation of trouncing around in our bare feet in the Springtime. And there was peace! God was good! There was no stress, no worries, no arguing nor fighting each other! Maybe we have gotten away from all those times these days! Maybe we are not building close personal relationships with our immediate families today! It is too easy to bury our faces in our cell phones rather than sitting down together and sharing our stories and memories together! During this period of sequestered time, let's try to bring those times back! Get interested in one another again! Play board games, or cook, or find your old whittling knives and sit down with your kids and carve out something, even if it is just a rounded stick! If you start to stress out, break out your Bible and look up God's many promises and begin to pray them back to Him! It will change your thinking and therefore will change your life! May God Bless you and give you his peace!

Brother Phil

In Times of Anxiety, Worry, and Tension:

According to the Bible, we should "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4: 6)

"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34: 4)



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



A REFUGE OF BITTERNESS -- HEBREWS 12:15

Are you finding yourself these days becoming bitter? Could it be that this COVID-19 virus has brought you to your limits of “staying in place”, and you find yourself being bitter towards your love ones, your employer, or maybe towards government policies in how this whole pandemic is being handled?

In November 1930 The Chicago Examiner reported the story of Harry Havens, who went to bed and stayed there for seven years, with a blindfold over his eyes, because he was angry at his wife.

Havens had always tried to be a good husband. He worked around the house, took care of the yard, carried out the trash, and even helped with the dishes. One day his wife complained that he wasn't doing it right, and Harry decided that enough was enough. He said, "All right, if that's how you feel, I'm going to bed. I'll stay there for the rest of my life and I don't want to see you ever again."

Harry went to bed, put a blindfold over his eyes, and stayed there. He finally got up again when the bed started to feel uncomfortable...*seven years later.*

The article's headline states, "*Man Spites His Wife by Staying Blindfolded in Bed Seven Years.*" Maybe his exile did get on her nerves somewhat, but whom did Harry really spite? Who was the biggest loser in this extended temper tantrum? It was Harry himself.

He lost seven years of his life. He lived seven years in darkness. No reading. No walks in the sunshine. No laughter with friends. Just seven long, miserable years trying to settle a score that maybe was never settled.

The writer of Hebrews said, *See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. (Hebrews 12:15)*

Bitterness can damage a relationship, true. Most of all, it damages you. It destroys your happiness and peace of mind, and it causes you to miss out on the grace that God offers to each of us.

It reminds me of what Nelson Mandela once said: "Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."

It took Harry Havens seven years to decide that his refuge of bitterness felt uncomfortable. How long will you wait to let your bitterness go?

Christ Above All,
Pastor Byron

Happy Mother's Day!!!



Mother's Day 2020 will be observed in the United States on Sunday, May 10th. We all know what to do on Mother's Day...don't we? But instead of just focusing on the "what" let's also take a look at the "why". Why do we celebrate mothers on this particular day and how did we get to this point in our celebration of mothers?

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. However, the official Mother's Day holiday in the U.S. arose as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis. After her mother's death in 1905, Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers have made on behalf of their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia in May of 1908. It then became an official U.S. holiday in 1914.

Although dates and celebrations vary around the world, in the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers. It has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending! One other interesting fact is that more phone calls are made on Mother's Day than on any other day of the year. These holiday chats with Mom often cause phone traffic to spike by as much as 37%!!!

So, somewhere around May 10th, and any other day of the year when inspiration strikes you, be sure to express your appreciation to those who have filled the mothering roles in your life. Let someone know that they have made a difference in your life. This year, maybe more than other years in recent times, letting someone know they matter is the best gift you can give!!!

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

IN MEMORY

Troy Wilson
Cindy Smith – Trustees Memorial
Peggy Pender - Trustees Memorial

IN HONOR

Sherri Brown
Peggy Pace



Living an Inspired Life

Sometimes we look for inspiration to live the kind of life we know that God wants us to live in many and varied places. For lots of us, that inspiration can come from spending time out in



nature... God's created world. Just the right sound, or just the right breeze, or maybe even just the right vision, can remind us of a passage of scripture or a beloved Bible story that maybe we haven't thought of in a while. And before we know it, we are rethinking a decision or possibly feeling a renewed sense of who we are in Christ Jesus. Buck Green, one of our members here at Pleasant Grove, wrote the following devotional in 1973. Take the time to read it now and then get out in nature... watch and listen as God speaks to your heart!

The Fog of Life

Read Matthew 6:25-34

*...and why worry about your clothes? Look at the field lilies! They don't worry about theirs.
Matthew 6:28 (The Living New Testament)*

This past year my wife and I had the privilege of doing graduate work in Education at Western Carolina University. Western Carolina is located in the beautiful Smoky Mountains.

Many mornings a rather heavy fog would greet us as we made our way around the various campus locations. Usually, though, the fog was only a mask of the radiant sunshine, which would beam through the fog yielding a very beautiful day.

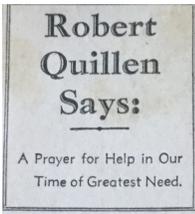
I feel that many of us, including myself, are guilty of allowing many trivial aspects of life to mask out the beauty of God's world and His love for us. God's love, the beauty of His earth, His patience, and His understanding will beam through the "fogs of life" just as the sun beamed through the mountain fog, if we open our hearts to Him and have faith in His navigation of our lives through the "fog."

Thought for the Day: No fog is too great for the beam of God's searching light.

Prayer: Our Father, forgive us of the many times we seek to glorify our own path rather than follow Your way. Help us to put more trust in You for direction and may our every deed glorify Your name. Amen.

(Submitted by Sherri Brown, written by Buck Green)

A Timeless Prayer



Recently, while cleaning out his mother's home, Walter Abernethy and his wife Gwen found a newspaper clipping that caught their eye. It was a prayer written by Robert Quillen in the

1940s. Robert Quillen was an American journalist from Fountain Inn, SC. He was considered by many to be "one of the leading purveyors of village nostalgia." Quillen was editor and publisher of the *Fountain Inn Tribune* and over the years he engaged in the never ending struggle to make the paper pay its own way. Although the paper was probably never profitable, Quillen used the ideas generated in the *Tribune* as the basis for pieces that appeared in scores of leading national magazines and newspapers. By 1932 his work, including editorials, paragraphs, cartoons and one-liners was regularly appearing in four hundred newspapers in the United States, Canada, England, and the Far East. Robert Quillen died in 1948 in Asheville, NC.

The following prayer was written some 75 years ago. It was written during a time of war against a known and visible enemy. Due to the era in which it was written, it has an emphasis on the male dominant roles of the times. If you read this prayer with these notes in mind, you will find that it mirrors some of our own prayers as we face an unknown and invisible enemy today. We believe that this prayer is timeless at its heart and in its meaning...just as appropriate for today as it was in the 1940s.

God of our fathers, in this darkest hour of all our history we turn to Thee again for help. Because our fathers, with Thy help, made us free, and because Thy bounty made this our inheritance a land of incomparable riches, we have lived carelessly and wastefully and wickedly, caring only for material blessings, and self-indulgence has made us fat and soft in body and mind.



Now we are attacked, without warning by enemies as lean and hard and merciless, as hungry wolves and we have no shield but Thee.

Forgive the human frailty and ingratitude that made us forgetful and even scornful of Thee until desperation brought us to our senses.

If this is our well-merited punishment and a trial of our fitness to survive; if our leaders were made blind to the coming disaster so the punishment could strike us in full force, have pity on us now, Father, and help us to endure the trial with humble and contrite hearts, and to comport ourselves like proper men, with fortitude and tireless courage, until in Thine Own good time we have finished our penance and proved ourselves worthy to survive as a nation.

Help us now to see the truth with clear eyes and again accept and honor Thee as our leader, our hope and our salvation. Fill our hearts with consuming zeal for Thy service, and give us strength to battle in Thy name until Christian civilization is saved from those who would destroy it.

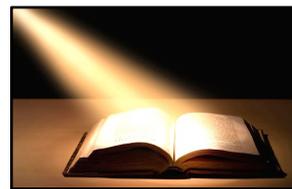
As we are helpless without Thy guidance, so we are a lost and helpless rabble, with no way to make our potential powers effective, unless we have wise and brilliant leaders with cunning to match the cunning of our enemies.

Rise up for us; we beseech Thee, such leaders as we need.

God give us men – steel-hard men with tough minds, incorruptible, free of all self-seeking, unhampered by vanity; men who will dare everything, and neither court applause nor shrink from censure; wise and able men with the skill to weld us into a single instrument of war and use us like a two-edged sword until our hearthstones and our altars and our liberties are safe again.

Give our President the wisdom and humility to appoint and empower such men quickly, for the hour is late and our time of trial is very near.

Make us worthy to be victors, Lord, and Thine be the honor and power forever. Amen.



Happy Memorial Day!!!



Memorial Day 2020 will be observed on Monday, May 25th. Although most of us mark this day as the unofficial beginning of the summer season and celebrate with lake outings or backyard picnics, it is important for us to keep in mind the origins and purpose of this most meaningful day.

Memorial Day honors the brave men and women who have died while serving in the U.S. military and was originally known as Decoration Day. It began in the years following the American Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865. This conflict, which claimed more lives than any other conflict in U.S. history, required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

In 1971, Memorial Day became an official federal holiday. Many Americans observe the day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. This year, it remains to be seen what form and fashion our Memorial Day celebrations may take. But, no matter the size or location of your gathering, be sure to take some time to actually think about the people and sacrifices that the day is meant to memorialize. Take time to think and be grateful!

What Do You Say When Asked...

Why would God allow Covid-19?

God's purposes in trials is to get the world's attention off themselves and onto Him, their Creator and Savior—which is the biggest part of the answer to the question at hand. "Why would God allow COVID-19?" Millions are suddenly asking that question right now, believers and non-believers alike, which means that God is on their minds. God desires for all people to earnestly seek Him and find Him, discovering that He is actually close to us ([Jeremiah 29:13](#); [Acts 17:26–28](#)).

Times of trouble are a prime motivation for us to store up [treasures in heaven](#) rather than cling to treasures on earth ([Matthew 6:19–20](#); [Colossians 3:1–3](#)), and to be good stewards of those blessings God gives us in this life ([Luke 16:11](#); [Matthew 25:14–30](#)). God wants us to trust Him absolutely, knowing that our times are in His hand ([Psalm 31:15](#)).

Something to Think About



A dear friend of hers sent the following to Peggy Green from Currituck County, NC. Although the exact origins of the piece are unknown to us, the fact that it inspires and informs us is not lost on us. While we may not have been quarantined in the strictest definition of the word, we certainly have all been isolated from so much of life as we “stayed at home” in an effort to stave off the Corona Virus. We think this little article gives us all a lot to think about.

World Quarantine

The Latin root of the word “quarantine” is forty. So what does the Bible say about “40”?

The flood lasted 40 days. For 40 years Moses fled Egypt. For 40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments. Exodus lasted 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days. Lent lasts for 40 days.

A group of theologians thinks that the number 40 represents “change.” It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change. Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray. Remember; whenever the number 40 appears in the Bible, there is a “change.”

Please know that during this “quarantine” rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening, and most importantly, people are turning to Christ. The earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

So, during this time, enjoy it with your loved ones and return to the family altar together. Family prayer is a great blessing. Through prayer you will see the changes God can work in you and in your home. Christ promises us that everything works together for the good for those who love God. (Romans 8:28)

Remember that we are in the year 2020, and $20 + 20 = 40$.

Also, 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, was born during a census.

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand.

May these days of “quarantine” bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation, and our world.

The best is yet to come.
Trust in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!



Western North Carolina Conference Annual Conference Update



The COVID-19 crisis that the world has faced in the spring of 2020 has interrupted much of our daily life and many of our normally scheduled spring and summer plans. Our churches, our worship services, our ministries, and the business of our churches have not been immune to these changes. The Annual Conference of the Western North Carolina Conference, of which we are a part, normally meets in the early summer at Lake Junaluska. Bishop Leland and the Cabinet have made the decision to postpone this year's gathering due to the pandemic. Instead of the traditional three-day event, there will be a one-day Annual Conference session on the afternoon of Saturday, August 8th, at Lake Junaluska. Details about the gathering and plans for the clergy session and the ordination service will be announced soon. Other options are still being explored, in case the restrictions on larger gatherings remain in place through the summer months. Updates will be communicated through the Conference website and via our clergy members.

Backpack Buddies Stays Up and Running



During these last six weeks, when so much has changed and so many things have stopped, your Backpack Buddies ministry has continued to serve families who find themselves in an even more precarious food situation. With the help of our family advocate at Oakdale School, the Backpack Buddy families are being reminded each week that they can come by the church to pick up their food bags for the weekend.

When the families arrive on campus they don't even need to get out of their cars.

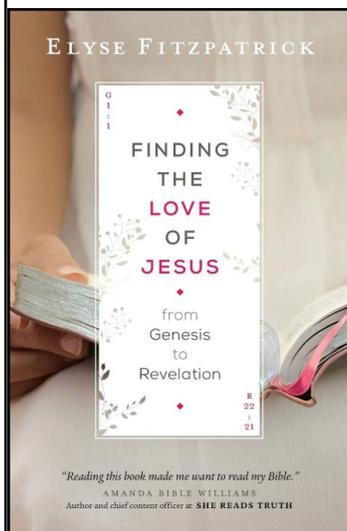
They simply pull up to our distribution point, tell us their student's name, and we then place the food bags in their car. Without exception we are hearing words of thanks and gratitude from the adults and are seeing excitement on the faces of the children!

During this time that the schools have not been in session we have supplied the food bags each and every week. Not only that...we have also been able to supply each family with a small grocery store gift card each week. These last three weeks we have even been able to give each family four rolls of toilet paper! And it is all appreciated very much!!!

These efforts are made possible by your generous donations of food items and monetary gifts. Also, Pleasant Grove Presbyterian has come alongside of us to help with food donations and cash donations to help with the gift cards. Their partnership in serving those who are most vulnerable has been invaluable!!! If you know someone who attends PG Presbyterian, please express our thanks for their participation! In addition, a special thanks goes out to our very own Kaylan Brown who has shown up each and every week to help get the bags packed for that week! She is not only keeping up with her online schoolwork, but she is also finding ways to serve and help...ways to be the hands and feet of Christ!



Recommended Reading



We all know that we need to read our Bibles and that reading the Scriptures should be an integral part of our daily walk with the Lord. Sometimes, though, reading The Word can seem repetitive and just another thing that we can check off our to-do list. We find ourselves seeking out a fresh approach to reading and receiving the Bible. That can sometimes take the form of a group Bible study. Sometimes it takes the form of journaling. Sometimes we take on a Bible study in a very personal and individual way. And although no one approach is the be-all-and-end-all to study of the Scriptures, a fresh approach can give us new insights and new ways of thinking that just might reveal more about the Author of Life than we ever thought possible! We find that the Bible is far more than a boring book of rules and regulations and much more than horrible stories of punishment and plague.

Finding the Love of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation, by Elyse Fitzpatrick, shows the reader that the entire Bible is a love story, and that every chapter is a scene in the beautiful picture of God and humanity. This small volume is a sweeping overview of the Bible in which Fitzpatrick reveals how each section –the Law, history, poetry, and the epistles – points to God’s eternal love for you and the good

news of our redemption through Christ. As you read through this book you will find that you are drawn to the Bible in a new and exciting way. You will begin to see Jesus on practically every page of the Scriptures! The author challenges the reader to find Messianic fulfillment meaning in all Bible passages. Reading the Old Testament this way means that “we often have to hold two sometimes very different meanings in mind at the same time.” She makes it clear that as we do not ignore the original intent of the passage, we can also see Jesus in it too. The Proverbs 31 Woman, for example, does indeed describe a noble and righteous woman, but it also describes the Church as the Bride of Christ. Fitzpatrick asks us to read the Bible sleuthing out two very important facts from each passage...we are to look for the Law (what is required of us) and the Gospel (what has already been done for us through Christ).

This book is definitely written for the female audience. However, all of us can read it to understand that the Bible isn’t simply a buffet that we pick and choose from to suit our current situation. Instead, we can find that it is one huge story of God’s redeeming and restorative love for His children. There are even discussion questions at the end of each chapter that lend the book to study applications...either in group format or on your own.

Elyse Fitzpatrick is a frequent speaker at churches, retreats and conferences. She holds an MA in Biblical Counseling from Trinity Theological Seminary and has authored 23 books on living the Christian life daily.

At the close of Finding the Love of Jesus from Genesis to Revelation, you will find the following paragraph that points up the love that is communicated throughout Scripture, if we will simply look for it in earnest and with consistency.

“You have been forgiven, loved, welcomed, and freed from the Curse of Death for Disobedience. You’ve been given the Holy Spirit, whose job it is to open your eyes to Jesus’ person and work. So now, with confidence and courage, you can begin to read again, asking Jesus to show you how everything written in the books of Moses, the Psalms, and the Prophets are about his suffering and glory. You are His beloved daughter. He has been loving you throughout all eternity, and now that you know how to find him, you can enjoy His words of love to you.”

We believe that you will enjoy reading this book and that as you live your life more fully in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, His Word will come alive to you with love, compassion and promise!!! Enjoy!!!

Did You Know???

...that there are some 400 United Methodist clergy serving as U.S. Military chaplains at this time? Well, it's true! It's also true that the head of the United Methodist Endorsing Agency, the Rev. Mitchell Lewis, considers the United Methodists the utility infielders of the chaplaincy because they can do everything from gospel services to high liturgical services. They are comfortable across the board!

Just a couple of weeks ago, as we were all celebrating Easter in our homes, separated from our church family, Lt. Cmdr. Genevieve Clark, a United Methodist chaplain in the U.S. Navy, was also celebrating Easter in a very different way. She led an Easter sunrise service on the flight deck of the USNS Mercy, a hospital ship deployed to Los Angeles to help in the coronavirus pandemic. Yes, the skies were gray and yes, the faithful had to wear masks and keep their distance. Clark, though, encouraged the sailors by pointing out that even though there was chaos in the world and even though there were clouds literally covering the sunrise, they can still be and are still being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Lt. Cmdr. Clark is one of two chaplains on special deployment related to the coronavirus threat. Maryland Army National Guard Chaplain Capt. Amor Woolsey also led Easter worship at two guard armories. She is a 10-year veteran of guard chaplaincy and was happy to celebrate the Risen Christ even while practicing social distancing.

Genevieve Clark, 47, grew up in Oregon in a United Methodist family. During high school she felt a call to the ministry. She attended Dakota Wesleyan University and Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She became a United Methodist elder in 2000. She began her ministry by serving in local churches, but in 2007 she met a Navy chaplain and began to feel a "call within a call." One year later she was a Navy chaplain herself, a career that has seen her stationed on bases and deployed on ships. Clark says, "I just really felt I wanted to serve God and country. This has been absolutely wonderful. I love it every day."

When the coronavirus pandemic gripped the U.S. the USNS Mercy was tasked with taking on hospital patients to free up bed space for expected coronavirus victims. Chaplains would be needed and Clark was given the opportunity to serve in this capacity. For now, Clark lives on the USNS Mercy, temporarily separated from her husband. "We care for everyone on board, regardless of religious affiliation or no religious affiliation," says Clark of herself and fellow chaplains. "We do that by walking around, visiting with people, hearing their stories. If there's something we can help them with that's specifically spiritual, we try to talk to them in their spiritual language." Clark serves alongside two other Protestant chaplains aboard the 1,000-bed ship.

While hospital patients have come aboard the Mercy, several members of Mercy's crew have tested positive for coronavirus. Clark says that in this anxious time, she and crewmembers have talked about some of the good things happening, such a less smog in Los Angeles due to less traffic. She even counseled a sailor whose wife had a baby in his absence.



Capt. Amor Woolsey, chaplain with the Maryland Army National Guard, distributes food in the Baltimore area.



United Methodist Chaplain Genevieve Clark leads worship in the chapel aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy.

(Continued from page 11)

Capt. Woolsey, a 37-year-old Wesley Theological Seminary graduate and the granddaughter of a Methodist missionary, loves her life in parish ministry. But, she also felt called to part-time military chaplaincy. She felt equipped to help ease the burden of those traumatized by wartime service and separation from loved ones. The Maryland National Guard was called up to provide general support as so many businesses and nonprofits closed because of coronavirus. Woolsey was a part of this, temporarily leaving her husband and son for residence in a barracks. She has served with the guard as it has set up testing sites and substituted for nonprofits in delivering food to those in need. Woolsey says, “The most powerful ministry within the guard is the ministry of presence, being there when they’re doing their thing, even if it’s just filling sandbags. They appreciate their chaplain being with them.” On Easter, she was glad to be wearing fatigues and a stole, bringing what she called a “faith over fear” message to some of those deployed with her. She went on to say, “I reminded them that as Christ brings hope to us, we bring light and hope to those we interact with – especially during this time.”

So, during this unusual time in our nation’s story, as we give thanks for essential workers, let’s not forget to give thanks for those serving in our military, both abroad and in our own states. Let’s remember to pray God’s blessing over all military personnel, especially those who have answered the unique call to serve God and country, our military chaplains.

(The information in this article was first written by Sam Hodges and appeared on the UM website as UM News, on April 14, 2020. Hodges is a Dallas-based writer for United Methodist News.)

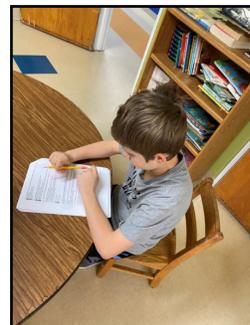
Preschool Post and After-School Additions



We thought it might be a good idea to update everyone on Preschool and Before/After School Care here at Pleasant Grove. We had our last day of Preschool for the year on March 26th. As much as we miss the children and each other we truly felt that this was the best decision we could make. Above all, safety first! We will really miss our end of year programs...these gatherings, which highlight all that the children have learned throughout the year, are always so delightful. Some of our students will begin kindergarten in the fall, and we wish them a wonderful new adventure in “big school”! We will be so excited to see our other students, as well as some new friends, when we all return in September.

The Before/After School Care has been meeting during the hours of 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM since March 17th. Our numbers have gone down, but we remain open for essential workers. The children have been great in these stressful times. We are keeping them busy with crafts, puzzles, games, exercise, and homework!

As the Pleasant Grove Weekday Ministries Staff, we are praying that everyone stays healthy and safe, and that this whole situation comes to an end in the very near future!





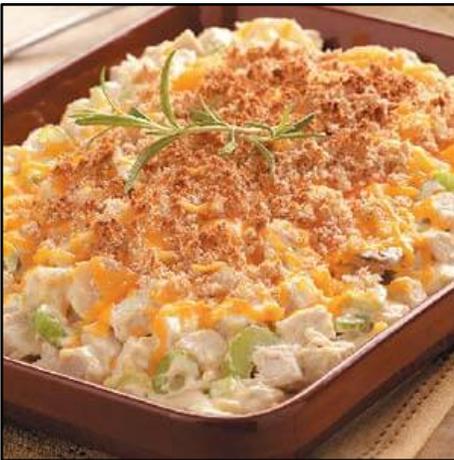
The Recipe Box

There's just nothing like a new recipe idea to get you excited about fixing dinner, is there? No doubt, many of us have been preparing our own food and eating out less, more than ever before! And, many of us might just be getting a bit weary of our usual fare. Well, we reached out to one of our phenomenal cooks at Pleasant Grove for one of her favorite recipes. Julia Grey has supplied us with "Hot Chicken Salad." This yummy sounding selection just might put a little different spin on the "chicken casserole." One of the beautiful things about this recipe is that it doesn't call for any wild, hard-to-find ingredients...and it is simple to prepare. Before you know it, you will be pulling a delicious main course out of your oven! All you will need to do is to complement it with some fresh fruit or veggies and you will be eating like a king at your own kitchen table!!! Hope you enjoy!

Hot Chicken Salad

4 cups chicken, cooked and chopped
 2 cups celery, chopped 1/8" thick
 3 ½ tablespoons minced onion
 1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice
 1 teaspoon salt
 ½ teaspoon pepper
 1 cup mayonnaise, a little more if needed
 1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese
 1 cup toasted slivered almonds
 Potato chips, crushed, enough to cover well

Mix all ingredients together, except the potato chips. Place in a lightly greased casserole dish and cover well with crushed potato chips. Heat for 20 minutes at 375 degrees; just until completely heated through, but not necessarily bubbly.



Bible Wordsearch

The Sealed Scroll 2

Wordsearch 182

Rev.5:8-14

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

AMEN	POWER
ANGELS	PRAISE
BLOOD	PRIESTS
EARTH	REIGN
ELDERS	SANG
FELL	SCROLL
GLORY	SEALS
GOD	SERVE
HEARD	SLAIN
HEAVEN	THRONE
HONOR	TIMES
KINGDOM	TRIBE
LAMB	VOICE
LIVING	WEALTH
NATION	WISDOM
PEOPLE	WORTHY
	THOUSAND
	PURCHASED
	CREATURES
	LANGUAGE
	STRENGTH
	WORSHIPED
	SINGING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 64

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