

Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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Worship Times:

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

Pleasant Grove UMC
P.O. Box 681900
1915 Oakdale Road Charlotte, NC
28216
704-392-2387
www.pleasantgrovecharlotte.com

Inspiration Point

When I was a kid growing up on a farm in northern North Carolina, May was corn-planting time. We always planted about two or so acres of corn to feed the livestock and also to make corn meal of. We always did that around the 10th of May, but always when the sign was in the feet! My Dad always said that you always plant the crops when the sign was in the feet. For whatever reason, things grew better if you did that. He also prided him self in that he planted sweet corn in time that we always had boiled sweet corn by the 4th of July” That was one of his things! The fields were plowed early so that when time to plant came, it could get done as easy as possible. Following the plowing, the field was harrowed to break up the clods, and then rows were laid off. The secret to straight rows was to pick a spot on the far side of the field and aim for that! Rows were about three feet apart. We had a mule in those days, and our corn planter had a wheel in the front, then two metal containers on the top. One held the fertilizer and the other held the corn. Then on the bottom, there were two plows, one on either side of the furrow to cover the seeds. It was hot in NC in May, as it is now. My Dad always filled up a one half-gallon Ball Mason Jar with ice from the refrigerator and water from the well. He would wrap it in a brown grocery bag to keep it cool and place it about half way down the field in the shade. Then the planting would begin. My job was to keep the fertilizer and seed buckets filled.

You know, we don't think much about what seeds do when they are in the ground, do we? The warm, moist soil causes the seed to begin to grow a root. The root draws food from the body of the seed itself until it breaks through the soil, and then the sun takes over! The warm sun acts on the leaves and causes the plant to draw food up through the root, through the stem, and into the leaves! This continues until the plant is mature and can produce seed of its own nature! Over in the New Testament, John 12:24, Jesus says, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.**" One corn seed will grow one stalk, with two ears of corn on it. A healthy ear of corn has maybe 50 or 60 seeds on it, so that one kernel, or seed will reproduce about 100 or so other kernels.

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But the original kernel had to give up its life to do that! Now, Jesus is not necessarily talking about corn or wheat here is he? He is talking about you and me. In my Ministry, I have done many funerals. Some of them were for folks who squandered their lives being mean, drunk, and abusing other people. Those lives were wasted lives, and they did not contribute to the good and well being of others at all! It is hard to find good things to say about those folks, to offer comfort to their families. But there are many good dear saints of the Lord, who lived Godly lives, helping others, sharing their faith stories and bring others into a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. They could have chosen to live for themselves, to get all they could for themselves and to have the attitude that , "Now, I have mine, you get yours anyway you can!" But they did not! They chose to die to self, and to live for the Lord Jesus Christ! Your lives and my life are better and more rich because of them and their chosen lives!

Over in Matthew 16:24 to 27, we read, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, **"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man is he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."** Those weak in the faith have neglected their Christian walk during these days of COVID, and have grown cold, even full of fear. I sincerely believe God is using this time to separate the sheep from the goats. This will be a time of a great apostasy, of falling away! God means it to be a time for those of you who are strong in the faith to step up and share your faith stories now more than ever! Round up the strayed sheep and bring them back into the fold! Love your neighbor and reach out to others! This can be a time of revival if we can believe it and begin to step out! Be bold, be resolute! Let's tell others about the Jesus who saved us and gave us eternal life!

Brother Phil

Congratulations to Colin and Becca Winslette!!!

April 24, 2021



(Photography Courtesy of Catherine and Corley Wilson and Vika Photography.)



From the Pastor's Desk

Don't Take for Granted the Little Things!

In May 2015, I was pastoring at Mays Chapel UMC, Maiden. We did a newsletter there much like the one we do here at Pleasant Grove. I would like to share with you an article that I wrote for them in May 2015.

Since this article's first publishing, here is an update: Both my father and mother-in-law have gone home to heaven. My dad died on December 23, 2015, and mother-in-law on July 24, 2019. Even though they are both gone, they are still alive in Christ and the words of this article are truer now for them, than they ever have been.

May 2015--It is May, and the spring season is finally here! There is new life in the flowerbeds and gardens. The trees are blooming, and warmer temperatures are welcomed friends. Most folks see spring and "a newness of life" being rekindled, and that is what I usually see as well; but at this writing my mind goes elsewhere.

I've been reading Ecclesiastes and my thoughts drift towards my dad and my mother-in-law. They are both in their upper 80's and their health is waning. My father still lives at home with my stepmother; several years ago, a massive stroke took his speech, and left him in a paralyzed body. He only goes out of the house for doctor's visits. My dad always loved working outside, especially in the garden this time of year. My mother-in-law is paralyzed from radiation treatment following a brain tumor and surgery from 15 years ago. She lives in a nursing care facility and her eyesight is fading. Before her surgery, she would walk 2 miles a day. She loves the spring, the flowers, and especially the birds. The words of Ecclesiastes 12 are their reality:

Remember your Creator while you are young, before the days of trouble come and the years when you say, "I find no pleasure in them." When you get old, the light from the sun, moon, and stars will grow dark; the rain clouds will never seem to go away. At that time, your arms will shake, and your legs will become weak. Your teeth will fall out so you cannot chew, and your eyes will not see clearly. Your ears will be deaf to the noise in the streets, and you will barely hear the millstone grinding grain. You'll wake up when a bird starts singing, but you will barely hear singing. You will fear high places and will be afraid to go for a walk. Your hair will become white like the flowers on an almond tree. You will limp along like a grasshopper when you walk. Your appetite will be gone. Then you will go to your everlasting home, and people will go to your funeral. Soon your life will snap like a silver chain or break like a golden bowl. You will be like a broken pitcher at a spring, or a broken wheel at a well. You will turn back into dust of the earth again, but your spirit will return to God who gave it.



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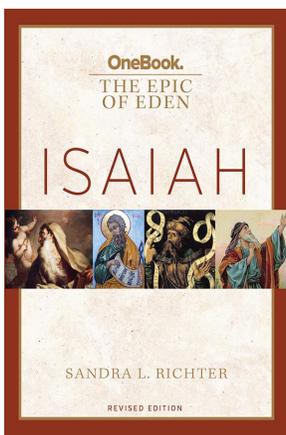
Now, before you say, “Byron this sure is depressing!” Please notice the last 10 words of Ecclesiastes 12 “*...but your spirit will return to God who gave it.*” Both my dad and mother-in-law know Jesus, and they know that a new spring is coming that will never fade or grow cold. Yes, it is tough for them right now, but we all have battles that we struggle with. This spring as you go about your business, “*remember your Creator while you are young...*” Thank God for his blessings, that you can get out and see His creation. Remember those folks who are like my dad and mother-in-law, who can’t get out and about. Say a prayer for those you know for whom Ecclesiastes 12 is a reality.

Christ above all,

Byron

New Bible Study Opportunity

Join the Monday Night Bible Study group for its next study, *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah* by Dr. Sandra Richter.



Often named “the fifth gospel,” the book of the prophet Isaiah has more to say about Israel’s coming Messiah than any other Old Testament book. Brilliant, courageous, uncompromising, this prophet declared that “the year of the LORD” had come and God’s people needed to either step up or stand down. Indeed, when Isaiah spoke, kings trembled.

But too often, when Isaiah speaks today, God’s people have trouble hearing. Why? We often miss the larger context. In *The Epic of Eden: Isaiah*, Dr. Sandra Richter takes participants back to the eighth century BCE. This **eight-week study** explains Israel’s religion and economy, explores the definition and role of the prophets, and helps us to apply the message of this great champion of the faith to our lives today.

The study begins **Monday, May 10, at 6:30 pm**. We meet via Zoom. If you are new to the study, please email Jana at jalexander09@gmail.com so you can get the Zoom link. Books are available through Amazon, or you can join in the group order with the church. Please let the church office or Jana know by May 4 if you would like to join the group order.



The United Methodist Women of Pleasant Grove will be participating in the “Metro District Walk for Missions” by hosting our own walk on Saturday, May 15th. This walk will be done in our community on Pleasant Oaks Circle beginning at 9:00 AM. If you would like to walk, please call Jeannie Upton at 704.399.1693. We need walkers and sponsors. All money raised will go to support mission projects of the UMW and any amount will be accepted and appreciated. If walking, you are asked to park at Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, right across from one end of Pleasant Oaks Circle. The plan is to walk two miles – from one end of Pleasant Oaks Circle to the other and back, including walking Catalina Lane and Rock Haven Drive. Walkers can go the whole distance or choose a stopping point. We just want participation no matter how much you walk. This will be our UMW’s way of participating in a special mission project by not just “giving” but actually “doing”. Not only that; it’s a great opportunity to get outside, get some exercise, and enjoy some top-notch fellowship with your Sisters in Christ! Please consider this opportunity to walk or give a donation and let Jeannie know how you plan to participate. Checks can be made payable to Pleasant Grove UMW.

And looking ahead...Circles #3 and #6 will have their regular meetings on May 11th at 2:00 PM and 6:30 PM.

Then, in June, Circle #3 will have Effie Baily at their meeting to give a program on Pancreatic Cancer. This meeting will be held on June 9th at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our UMW Circles are always open to new members. If you are looking for a way to plug into ministries on a local and global scale, the UMW is the place to be. If you have never been a part of United Methodist Women, now is a great time to check us out. Or, if you have been away from the organization for a while, now is the perfect time to find your way back. Join us for the Walk for Missions, our May meetings, or the special June meeting with Circle #3. You won’t regret it!!!

Happy Mother's Day!!!



The volunteers at Pleasant News would like to wish a "Happy Mother's Day" to all of our mothers and to all who serve in a mothering manner in someone's life! This is such an important role in our lives and many of us question just where we would be in our lives had it not been for those who have mothered us. Thanks for loving us, supporting us, teaching us, guiding us, catching us when we fall, and being our biggest cheerleaders along the way. Because of your impact on our lives, every day should be your day!
Thanks for everything!!!



Happy Memorial Day!!!



The history of Memorial Day dates back to the American Civil War. It began as an observance to honor soldiers who had died during the war. It is believed to be inspired by the way people in the Southern states honored their dead. The original national celebration of "Decoration Day" took place on May 30th, 1868. Over twenty-four cities and towns across the United States claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day but in May of 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared that Waterloo, New York did indeed hold that distinction. In the late 19th century, the holiday became known as Memorial Day and was expanded to include the deceased veterans of all the wars fought by American forces. Originally, the holiday was celebrated on May 30th, regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed and as a result, the day changes from year to year. It is observed on the last Monday of May. This year's date for this most important remembrance falls on Monday, May 31st.

So, at the end of this month, as many of us enjoy a long weekend, some time at the beach or at the lake, or just a backyard BBQ, let's all take a moment to remember and honor those who have given so much to defend and protect our country and all that we hold dear. Let's give thanks to God that there are heroes that have gone before us and have served their country well! Happy Memorial Day to everyone!!!

Did You Know???



...that Oak Grove UMC, right here in Charlotte, has a food pantry that offers assistance to families that find themselves in a food insecure situation? Of course, you did!!! Our church is a regular and consistent donor to their program, and you have probably all given food to this program at one time or another!

But did you know that there is another Oak Grove UMC, in Ellenboro, NC, that is also doing awesome things to help those in need? Maybe not! So, we thought you might like to know about them and their wonderful efforts at feeding the hungry and bringing joy to the lives of

children.

Like us here at Pleasant Grove, Oak Grove UMC in Ellenboro has a couple of dearly loved mission projects that they get behind year after year. They stock a blessing box outside of the church and they participate in a yearly Christmas mission trip to deliver presents, toys, food, and supplies to families in need.

But, in the spring of this year, they had the opportunity to add another outreach effort. They added a feeding ministry for families who are living in local hotels. The church collects food that can be easily prepared with the limited appliances in a hotel room. Their volunteers box up the food and drop it at local hotels in the area. On an average food drop day, the church distributes about 30 boxes of food.

One of the elderly motel residents recently said, “This food is such a blessing I was out of food completely. This sure is a blessing to me.”

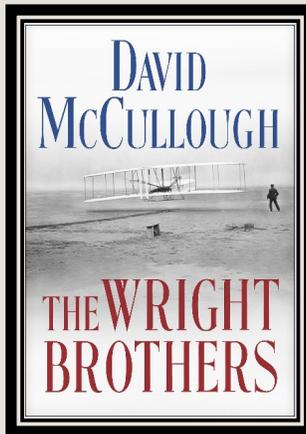
In mid-February, the church was informed that a motel had several families who were really struggling to get by. These families included about 40 children. After delivering food to this motel for several weeks in a row, two of Oak Grove’s members were inspired to bring joy to these children in a very special way. For three weeks prior to Easter, the congregation was asked to donate toys and treats to fill 40 Easter baskets for these children. As is the case so many times when we desire to bless children...the response was overwhelming!!! The basket items came pouring in – stuffed animals, pencils, crayons, coloring books, candy, snacks eggs, and so much more!

In the early hours of Saturday, April 3rd, the Oak Grove Outreach Ministry filled each of the Easter baskets, loaded them up, and delivered them with the regular food drop. The manager of the hotel came back to the volunteers with this report: “I want to make sure they know how much we all appreciate (the members of Oak Grove UMC) and I want them to know how thrilled the kids were. They were so happy with the baskets. One girl said, ‘This is the first time I have had an Easter basket. It has candy and everything!’ The little girl was so happy All of the kids were happy and proud to have their own basket for an Easter egg hunt.”

Isn’t it just amazing that, even in these difficult times, one of our sister churches found a way to expand their ministries and reach out? This is simply a testimony that if we will keep our eyes open for opportunities to bless others with the Love of Christ, God will make a way and He will open the doors for us! May we all be inspired to love our neighbors in any way that we can...even through something as simple as an Easter basket!!!

(The information in this article was first written by Aimee Yeager, WNCC Communications Ministry Assistant and first appeared on the website of the Western North Carolina Conference on April 7th, 2021.)

Recommended Reading



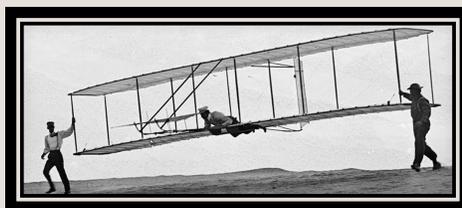
This one's for all the history buffs out there!!! Most of us probably feel a little bit of a connection to the Wright Brothers because of the Kitty Hawk, NC location of their first, heavier than air flight. And some of us would probably like to have a better knowledge of the men, their family, their education, their genius, and their unbelievable courage. The Wright Brothers, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough is the incredible true story of the origin of human flight and it "captures the marvel of what the Wrights accomplished" (The Wall Street Journal).

Two unknown brothers from Ohio traveled to the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and on a winter day in 1903 they changed history. However, it would take some time before the world would believe what had happened on our eastern shore. In this fast-paced and delightful read, McCullough tells the surprising, profoundly human story of Wilbur and Orville Wright. In our reading, we find that the Wright Brothers were far more than a couple of unschooled bicycle mechanics who stumbled upon success. Instead, we see that they were men of courage and determination, of far-reaching intellectual interests and endless curiosity, much of which they credited to their upbringing. Their childhood home had no electricity or indoor plumbing, but it was filled with books, brought home by their preacher father, who encouraged their studying.

The two brothers had different skill sets and passions. But together they excelled at any given goal. They had no more than a high school education, very little money, and no benefactor paving the way for the pursuit of their dreams. None of this stopped them in their goal to take to the air...not even the clear reality that anytime they took off in one of their inventions they risked injury or even death!

Master historian, David McCullough pulls from the immense riches of the Wright Papers, private diaries, scrapbooks, notebooks, and over one thousand private family letters to tell the human side of this story. He also brings to light the contributions of their sister, Katharine, without whom things might have turned out quite differently for Wilbur and Orville. Essential reading, this is "a story of timeless importance, told with uncommon empathy and fluency...about what might be the most astonishing feat mankind has ever accomplished...The Wright Brothers soars" (The New York Times Book Review).

We do hope that you will take the time to read this beautifully written story that highlights the power of a dream, the need for perseverance, the strength of family, and the importance of history. Not only will you be better informed about the Wright Brothers, but you might also learn a little something new about the history of our own state! This one is well worth the read and heartily recommended it to each of you!



The Recipe Box



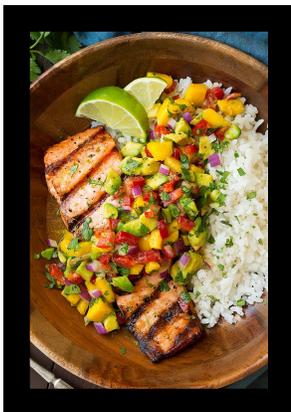
Many of us enjoy foods with Mexican flavor...and since we have a Mexican observance happening during the month of May...we thought we would bring you a salsa recipe that can accompany all your Mexican favorites. Because of our proximity to Mexico and since many of our friends and neighbors are of Mexican heritage, we have begun to enjoy Cinco de Mayo too! For us though, it truly is about enjoying the tasty dishes that originated south of the border! This recipe is a quick and easy side dish that goes great with grilled salmon, tilapia, or flounder, grilled shrimp, grilled chicken, or grilled pork. (If you don't typically grill, you can bake your entrée to go along with the salsa.) It is bright and colorful and packed with all sorts of things that are actually good for us! Dice up the ingredients, stir it all together, and pop it in the fridge well before your meal. You will WOW! your table mates with your creativity and preparedness. But then, when they taste this yummy salsa, they will be so impressed with your culinary skills!!! So, try this one out and enjoy a fresh, new taste for a change!!!

Mango Salsa

- 1 large mango, peeled and diced (or two medium)
- 1 medium red onion, diced
- 1 or 2 avocados, peeled and diced
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of red bell pepper, diced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 T. fresh lime juice
- 1 T. olive oil (optional)
- 1 T. coconut water (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 or 2 jalapenos, chopped, seeds and pith removed (optional)

Simply dice up all the ingredients, stir them up well, cover with a tight-fitting lid or some plastic wrap, and pop it in the fridge until dinner time. A quick stir before serving is all that is needed.

The oil and coconut water add a little bit of moisture. This is best if it is made in the morning for the evening meal, or even made the night before for the next night's meal. This allows for the mango juice to seep out of the fruit and give everything else a sweet and juicy tone. Try serving this salsa with your grilled (or baked) fish, chicken, or pork along with some jasmine rice and steamed broccoli or asparagus. You will have a healthy, and beautiful meal on the table in no time flat!!! You're going to enjoy this one for sure!





Dear Parents,

COVID has issued us all very unique challenges, one of our challenges has been finding strong applicants for our school. We presently have positions open for the hours of 12:00-6:00 or 9:00-6:00. If you or someone you know, has an idea of a good candidate please have them give us a call, (704) 391-0835.

Keep in mind, you want to recommend someone who has a loving and patient heart and outstanding work ethics. It is NOT an easy job and requires energy as well as drive for nurturing and loving children. Don't recommend anyone that you would not want to be with your child.

Our program is unique as we strive to keep three teachers in **most** classrooms that are at full capacity. We already have classes with reduced ratios who do not need three. We appreciate you posting on Facebook, Instagram, or other sources, our hiring request. **Many programs have reduced the hours of operation, we are trying to not reduce hours while keeping our policy for picking up as soon as the work-day is over.**

Thank you for all you do for us and our children. We strive to maintain a program of excellence. With your help we can be even more successful.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hammer
Pleasant Grove Child Development Center
(704) 391-0835

"The Following Gifts Have Been Made In Memory Or In Honor Of"

IN MEMORY

A.G. Brown

Edna Gabriel

Willie Williams

Gene and Nancy Edwards

Bill Watts

Bobbie Watts – Lord's Fund

Mike Tyson

Gene and Nancy Edwards
Hoyt Johnston – Family Life Center
Dianne Lawing

Judy Maples

Gene and Nancy Edwards

Kappy Canfield

Gene and Nancy Edwards

Kelly Roberts

Gene and Nancy Edwards

David McCallum

Gene and Nancy Edwards

Pat Wright

John T. Wright

Nancy Brown

Don Brown

Rolandus and Edna Harwell

Don Brown

Roy and Louise Brown

Don Brown

Roy and Aretter Phillips

Don Brown

Paul Walker

Steve and Karen Dellinger
Marc Gordon

Carson Watts

Steve and Karen Dellinger
Bob and Bonnie Bridges – Family Life Center
Anonymous
Rose (Jessie) Poston
Ray and Trena McClure
Roy and Margaret Parker
Don and Jane Adams
Hazel Sanders
Roger and Patti Beard – Family Life Center
Nadine Williams – Family Life Center
Rickey and Lynda Elliott
Don Brown
Todd and Windy Holcomb
Laura Gilleland
Terry Kelly
Tim and Terri Honeycutt
Steve and Maria McClure
Bobbie Watts – Lord's Fund
Robert and Coretha Ferrell
Ron and Anna Robinson
James Short
David and Dora Sue Smith
Shawn and Jennifer Phillips

IN HONOR

Steve McClure

Rickey and Lynda Elliott



Scripture of the Month

Hey there friends!

Colin here, bringing you another piece of scripture for the month of May! This month I want to bring us a message of preparedness and encouragement for how we can become stronger through God's power. Now this is a set of verses I'm sure we've all heard before, but I want us to dig into them together. Today, let's look at **Ephesians 6:10-17**:

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

We've all heard to "don the armor of God" probably 100 times if we grew up in church! But today, I want to point out how this passage is not just some metaphorical fluff. This passage is Paul writing to show us how we can strengthen ourselves with the power of God. Look at how he describes each piece of armor: "*the belt of truth... breastplate of righteousness... feet with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace... shield of faith... helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*" He isn't just telling us to imagine ourselves wearing a suit of armor, but to actually strengthen our minds in the way we reinforce our body with strong metals for armor. These are practices to put with our thoughts and actions. This will make us more Christlike and more capable of facing the struggles of our faith. If we believe in and speak truth, we will be held up as a belt would hold up a suit of armor. If we are righteous then that will help us to deflect the sin of the world like a breastplate would deflect danger. The peace of God and the truth of his Word helps us to be ready for the return of Jesus like a good pair of shoes would help you to be ready to run. Faith is our counter to any difficulties that may challenge our beliefs and cause us to stumble just as a shield blocks oncoming danger. Finally, the Word of God, that being the Bible, is ultimately our weapon; it is with the Word of God that we strike at sin in order to ultimately defeat the bad things in the world.

So, you see, this is a practical depiction of virtues we should strive for so that we can better prepare our minds... just like how a soldier prepares their body. Let's all practice these virtues together, keeping them refined and strengthened so that we aren't lacking them when a challenge comes. The last thing any soldier should do is wait until the last moment to prepare their armor!! But with that, I'll leave you once again and look forward to speaking to you all next month!

In humble service,
Colin



Preschool Post



Pleasant Grove Preschool may not have been open this year, but don't think for a minute that it is closed for good! The Preschool staff has been meeting regularly throughout the school year to imagine and engineer a Preschool reboot...PG Preschool 2.0, if you will! It has been our goal to reestablish ourselves as an outreach ministry of our sweet church. We want to be vitally connected to the church, its mission, and its ministries. We have worked through and established a new mission statement, a new vision statement, and new goals for our Preschool. We have completely revamped our Family Handbook, including updated policies and procedures. We are updating our web page and will

have it as a part of the church website very soon. We are in the process of setting up a central supply closet for our weekday children's ministries. And we are now working toward getting our Preschool classrooms in tip-top shape for the 2021-2022 school year!

All of this leads us to two important announcements! Preschool registration for the coming school year is now open! If you have a family member, a friend, or a neighbor who is looking for a quality Christian Preschool experience for their 2-, 3-, or 4-year-old child, we would certainly like to hear from them. You can get more information by contacting Sherrie Cannon at 704.393.7895.

Also, we would like for the church to help us spread the word that we have staff positions available for the coming year. If you, a relative, a friend, or a neighbor is looking for a fun, part-time job, we may be just the ticket! When you work at Pleasant Grove Preschool you become part of a loving family. You get to hang out with some of the coolest kids around. You get to watch children grow and learn in some most amazing ways. And you get to do all of this in a caring Christian environment. The typical staff hours are 8:30-12:30, Tuesday-Thursday. You can call Sherrie Cannon at the number above to get more details.

Please hold Pleasant Grove Preschool, as well as our other outreach ministries, in your heart and in your prayers. We hope to open the new year with a full house...fully staffed, lots of children, tons of love...as we strive to live into our mission and vision statements:

"Pleasant Grove Preschool is an extended ministry of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. We seek to provide a nurturing environment for children to feel loved, respected, and valued.

Our Preschool encourages active learning, creative play, intellectual development, and spiritual growth. We accomplish these goals as followers of Jesus, the Perfect Teacher, with a sense of commitment, service, wonder, and love."



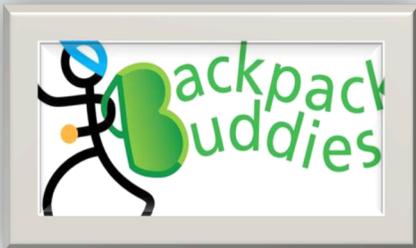
After-School Care Additions



What a wonderful spring break week After-School Care had!!! The nice weather allowed us to spend a ton of time outdoors. We worked on crafts together, played together, and spent time discussing the true meaning of Easter together! The end of the school year is fast approaching and what a school year it has been! Hopefully, we are getting back to normal! Summer Camp will begin on June 1st. We can't wait! This summer, we should be able to go on some field trips! The staff and students are all excited about getting back to field trips. We always have a good time at Summer Camp!

If you know of anyone looking for full-day care for their school age child for the summer, please refer them to our program. We just love making new friends! Everyone stay safe!

Backpack Buddies



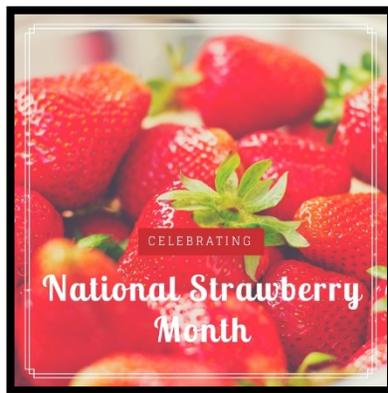
Well...here we are in the last month of the school year! And what a year it has been! Once again, we find our ministry pivoting and working hard to continue to serve our nine families who find themselves in less-than-ideal circumstances. Thanks to all our generous donors, we are finishing the year in good shape, with plenty of entrees, fruits, vegetables, breakfast items, snacks, and drinks to carry us through.

As our students went back to more in-person learning, the Backpack Buddies ministry made another shift. We are now delivering twelve backpacks to the school on Friday mornings to be taken home by the students on Friday afternoon. We then deliver four backpacks to students who have chosen to remain fully virtual through the end of the year. Thanks to all our volunteers, the plan is working smoothly and headed toward the close of the year.

The school year ends on the Friday before Memorial Day this year. It is our hope to be able to give our families one more gift card for groceries at that time. Would you please consider making a donation to help offset this cost? Any amount collected above and beyond the cost of these gift cards will simply carry over for funding next year's ministry.

We are so proud of the way Pleasant Grove UMC and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian have stepped up and stood in the gap for families in need. But we all know that this is not us...it is GOD working through us, showing us how we can love our neighbors. Thanks for being in tune with God's will for His people. Thanks for finding your direction by following His lead. As we wrap up our 11th year of Backpack Buddies, we are in awe of God's love flowing through us as we love on others! Amazing Love!!!

Welcome May!!!



Mother's Day

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



CARING
CHILDREN
DAUGHTER
FAMILY
FLOWERS

FRIEND
FUNNY
GIVING
HAPPY
HUGS

KIND
LAUGH
LOVE
MAY
MOM

MOTHER
PARENT
READ
SON
SPECIAL