



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

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From The Pastor's Desk

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Can you believe it's November already? Time really does fly when you are having fun, and I am truly enjoying my time here at Pleasant Grove and give thanks to God for it.

November is the month our thoughts usually turn to giving thanks, and on Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate and give thanks for the saints that have come before us, that now walk among us, and that will come after us. What a wonderful way to begin a month! This year we will remember the lives of twelve saints from here at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church that influenced everyone here and helped shape the congregation into what it is today.

A thankful spirit is one of the key distinguishing marks of a Christian. It's one of the characteristics that sets us apart from the world, it makes us different. I don't know about you, but I find giving thanks in all circumstances to be rather challenging. It's easy to be thankful when things are going well, but not so easy when everything is in upheaval, when there is chaos, hopelessness, and despair all around us, when disease has taken over our body or that of a loved one, when we are trying to survive financial devastation. Life's circumstances are often unpleasant and unfair. We encounter pressures and struggles that seem insurmountable and sometimes

it seems there's just one tragedy after another. The news is full of scandal, dishonesty, and violence. Paul's own situation wasn't great when he was writing this. As he went from place-to-place telling people about Jesus, he was beaten, stoned and left for dead, shipwrecked, imprisoned many times, he's even in prison when he writes these words "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The people of Thessalonica were being persecuted by the Jews that did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. But Paul says despite all the suffering, rejoice, pray, and give thanks. It is important to notice he says to give thanks in all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. The people of Thessalonica were being persecuted by the Jews that did not believe Jesus was the Messiah. But Paul says to them, in spite of all the suffering, rejoice, pray, give thanks.

So how are we to do that? How do we give thanks amid suffering? First, we must understand that joy and happiness are not the same thing. Happiness comes from external circumstances and feelings. But joy comes from within. Joy is a gift God gives us through the Holy Spirit. Joy and the ability to rejoice despite the circumstances, is a direct result of our relationship with God. Jesus said, "if you remain in me, I will remain in you. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." Even when we aren't happy, even when life is at its hardest and most painful, we have joy knowing God still loves us and he is with us through everything.

Second, we pray continually. Sometimes it's just hard to pray. Sometimes it's hard because life is so hard. Grief, illness, depression, and anger are just a few things that can take away our desire to pray. Happiness and good times can make us feel there's no reason to pray. But we are to pray continually, in the bad times and the good times. To pray continually does not mean we are on our knees, head bowed, eyes closed every second of every day. To pray continually is to be in fellowship with God, knowing that it's ok to express our anger and frustrations to him. David did it all the time in the Psalms. It's being aware of God's presence, and it goes beyond words. We don't have to say anything. To pray continually is to live mindful of God's presence with us all the time.

In the same way, giving thanks flows from our relationship with God. We are thankful that God is in the midst of our circumstances and is with us in spite of what's going on.

We overlook so many of God's blessings every day, taking them for granted. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, look for things to be thankful for in the ordinary things of life. Here's a light-hearted list from a colleague to help us get started.

I am thankful for:

- the taxes I pay because it means I'm employed.
- the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.
- my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.
- the lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.
- the piles of laundry because it means we have clothes.

Something to think about!

--Pastor Glenda



News from the United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith's "Mission Walk," on September 23rd, was a tremendous success. Due to the weather, ten members gathered in the family life center here at Pleasant Grove to walk their two miles. Thanks to the walkers and many contributors, over \$800 was raised for missions. These funds will be used entirely for mission projects in the Metro district and mission /outreach projects supported by the UWF unit at Pleasant Grove. Thanks to all who made a contribution and to those who gave of their Saturday morning to walk. All our efforts will make a difference to the women, youth, and children that our ministry supports.

The members of our unit of United Women in Faith will be participating in the Sunday morning worship service on November 19th. They will be leading parts of the service, serving as ushers and greeters before and after the service. All members are asked to sit together and to wear their mission pin if they have received one in the past. At this service the mission pin for 2023 will be presented.

A Bake Sale of items prepared by the women of our local unit of UWF will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 19th as well. Items will be on sale before Sunday school, between Sunday school and worship, and following our worship service. With all the good cooks we have at Pleasant Grove, you know you don't want to miss out on being able to snag some wonderful baked goods! You might find something to round out your Thanksgiving feast or even something to stick in the freezer for the Christmas holidays! What could be better?!!

---submitted by Jeannie Upton



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

IN MEMORY

Lindsay Maples Canupp

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Nancy Cater

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Joan Bowers

Rickey and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund

Kathy Bannister

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Rickey and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund

Randy Bannister

Anonymous – Family Life Center

IN HONOR

Elizabeth Puckett

UMW - Circle #6

Hazel Sanders

UMW - Circle #6

Karen Dellinger

UMW - Circle #6

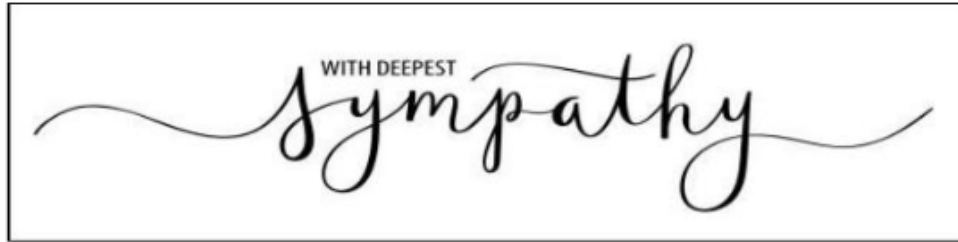
Sherri Brown

UMW - Circle #6

Randy Ferguson's Birthday

Sue Phillips





The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

The family and friends of Shirley Gelsinger upon her recent death.



Christmas In Paw Creek

Arts and Crafts Fair

Sponsored by Troop 70



Saturday, November 18, 2023

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Paw Creek: Presbyterian Church

Christian Fellowship Center

7400 Mount Holly Road

Charlotte, NC 28214

Breakfast

Barbeque sold by Scout Troop 70

If interested in a booth, please call Jan McClure at (704) 394-8481
and leave a message.

www.pawcreekpc.org



Remembering Our Friends

With the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas right around the corner, you are no doubt getting your greeting cards ready to send to those you remember fondly. You are also probably planning to visit with some folks who have been special to you over the years. You might even be getting some small tokens and gifts together just to lift someone's holiday spirit! As you do, please remember the following church members with a card, a small gift, or a visit. Being remembered is such a life-changing thing! You can obtain a list of addresses from Anji, in the church office. Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus in this most thoughtful way!!!

Betty Allen * Tecil and Sue Curlee * Dwight Henry * Reba Henry

Bonnie Johnson * Donnie & Faye Lemmond * Eloise Lockler * Shirley McClure

Tommy Moore * Lib Primm * Daphine Silvey

Bonnie Stikeleather * Robert Tadlock, Sr. * Harriett Tweed



Operation Christmas Child

Although Christmas is still about two months away, it's important to remember that Operation Christmas Child season is here now! If you haven't taken the opportunity to pick up your boxes yet, be sure to do so soon. Our supply of boxes is in the sanctuary. Each box already has a brochure with instructions as well as an adhesive label. You simply fill the box with things that will delight a child, pray for the child who will receive your box, label your box, and if possible, include the shipping fee in the envelope that is attached to the brochure. Bring your filled box back to the sanctuary on or before Sunday, November 19th. On that day, during our United Women in Faith Sunday, we will pray over our boxes together and dedicate them to the glory of God and His will for our gifts. Thanks for being a part of spreading God's love to children around the globe!!!



It's Time to "Deck the Halls!"

Well, we might not deck the halls around Pleasant Grove, but we do decorate our sanctuary in fine fashion! It is always so breathtaking to walk into our worship space on the first Sunday in Advent, and see the candles in the windows, the garland in place, the tree standing tall and majestic, and all the tiny white lights reminding us of The Light of The World, come to save us all from sin and death.

You are invited to be a part of these preparations! On Tuesday, November 28th , at 10:00 AM, we will gather in the sanctuary to bring out the decorations and transform our sanctuary into a beautiful place of worship for the Advent season and Christmastide. No interior design experience is necessary...just a festive heart and willing hands! This is a beautiful time of fellowship as the church family, and we look forward to having you join us as we seek to glorify God together in this simple and love-filled way!

And then, make plans to be in worship on Sunday, December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent, as we participate in our "Hanging of the Greens" observance. This is another time that we share together as a church family in a pure and special way. We hope that we see you in church on this beautiful day as we begin our Advent journey to Bethlehem together.



All Saints Day 2023

On Sunday, November 5th , during our 10:00 AM worship service, Pleasant Grove will once again observe All Saints Day. During this most memorable time together we will remember and honor those of our church family who have gone on to the Church Triumphant in the past year. Please make plans to be with us as we worship God together while also cherishing the influence and impact that these precious souls have had on our lives.





The Recipe Box

Color season is in full swing with bright fall colors and delightfully cooler temperatures! Time for soup!!! This recipe comes to us from *Taste of Home* magazine, and with a few alterations, this is a delicious comfort food! The recipe will yield eight servings but can easily be doubled for a larger crowd. We hope you will enjoy making, serving, and eating this delicious meal in a bowl! Go ahead and slurp!!!

Cheeseburger Soup

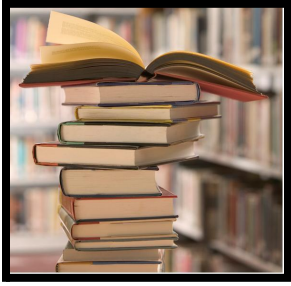
- 1 lb. ground beef (93% lean)
- 4 Tbsp. butter, divided
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup onion, chopped
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup carrots, shredded
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup celery, diced
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. parsley flakes
- 4 cups potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 3 cups chicken broth
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup all-purpose flour
- 16 oz. package of Velveeta processed cheese, cubed
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups whole milk
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sour cream



In a large pot, cook and crumble the ground beef until browned. Drain and set aside. In the same pot melt one tablespoon butter. Saute the onions, carrots, celery, basil, and parsley for about ten minutes. Add the potatoes, beef, and broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer until potatoes are fork tender, about 10-12 minutes. In a small skillet, melt the remaining butter. Add flour. Cook and stir until bubbly, 3-5 minutes. Add to the soup. Cook and stir for about two minutes. Reduce heat. Stir in the cheese, milk, salt, and pepper. Cook until the cheese melts. Remove from heat and blend in the sour cream. This soup is great with the bread and crackers of your choice. Enjoy!

---submitted by Peggy Green





Recommended Reading

Consider this scenario...Three different church members are slightly sick. One has a sore throat. One has an upset stomach. And one has an achy knee. They all go to the doctor. When they get back home, they call each other and find out that they were all prescribed the same medication and course of treatment! If this were to occur, we would probably lose faith in our doctors, and it is quite possible that none of the three would get well!

This same thing has played out in our churches and faith communities for the past 30-40 years! We have a new believer in our midst...they ask how they can grow their faith... how they can go deeper and fuel their passion for Jesus Christ. And, for the most part, we tell every new believer, no matter their age, background, or general personality, the exact same thing. We tell them to establish a quiet time with God. It should be between 30 and 60 minutes in duration, probably first thing in the morning. It should consist of a time of worship, prayer, Bible study, and a time of listening to God. And we feel that this one-size-fits-all approach is right for every believer.

While there is nothing wrong with this approach, we must realize that different people have different pathways to God. Of course, we should all devote our lives to the worship of God. We should pray often, spend time in the Scriptures, and we should allow God to speak to us as only He can. But we all engage with God in different ways, and we should acknowledge this fact and encourage one another to find the pathway that connects us to God in a fuller, deeper, more meaningful way.

Sacred Pathways, by Gary Thomas, details nine different spiritual temperaments and challenges the reader to investigate the ways you most naturally express yourself in your relationship with God. Thomas encourages you to dig into the traits, strengths, and pitfalls in your devotional approach so you can eliminate the barriers that keep you locked into rigid methods that leave you checking your “quiet time” off your list but not feeling excited, engaged, or thoughtful about your relationship with Christ.

As you read through the nine Sacred Pathways, you will begin to identify and understand your own leanings. You will also see friends and family in one or more of the pathways. The nine temperaments outlined in Sacred Pathways are:

- Naturalists - who believe that nature, God’s creation, clearly proclaims that “God is!”
- Sensates - who want to be lost in the awe, beauty, and splendor of God.
- Traditionalists - who worship God best through ritual, symbol, and sacrament.
- Ascetics - who love God in solitude and simplicity.
- Activists - who worship God by standing against evil and calling sinners to repentance.
- Caregivers - who love God by loving others.
- Enthusiasts - who worship God with mystery and celebration.
- Contemplatives - who love God through adoration...with a pure, deep, and bright love.
- Intellectuals – who love God with their mind.

Whatever temperament or blend of temperaments best describes you, rest assured it is no accident. It's by the design of a Creator who knew what He was doing when He made you in His own image. If your spiritual walk is not what you'd like it to be, you can change that, starting here. Sacred Pathways will show you the path you were made to travel...a path that brings you closer to the Savior. And shouldn't that be the goal of every Christ follower?!!! Sacred Pathways is available from many online and brick-and-mortar booksellers. It is also available in Pleasant Grove's Lending Library. We encourage you to check it out and spend some time thinking about your own best pathway to God!

---submitted by Sherri Brown



Mark Your Calendar!



Our Metro District Worship Service will be on Sunday, November 5th at University City UMC (3835 West W.T. Harris Blvd.) beginning at 4:00 PM. During this time together there will be a service of worship and a celebration of the ministries of the Metro District as well as the presentation of our annual Laity Service Awards. Please mark your calendar now and plan to come celebrate together!

Our Lending Library is Here for You!!!



Don't forget that Pleasant Grove has its own lending library! If you are looking for a good read...something that will inspire, inform, entertain, or help you along on your walk with the Lord...then we just may have what you need. We are located in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. Simply choose your title, take it home, enjoy it, and return it for others. Simple, isn't it? The books await. Let's get reading!!!



After School Care Post



Happy Fall, Everyone! We are enjoying the leaves as they start to change and the temperatures as they cool. October has been a fun month. We have worked on jack o' lanterns, bats, and scarecrows. The children have had a great time painting and coloring our fall creations.

Welcome November! First, we want to acknowledge and give thanks for our wonderful veterans and for all they have done for our country. Thank you to all who have served! We also look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and all the blessings that God has so graciously given us. The children have been excited over the new toys. Their faces just light up when we bring out a new toy or game! Their reaction gave us a glimpse of Christmas morning. How blessed we are!!!

We hope everyone has a happy Thanksgiving! Soon we will have to keep an ear out for "Sleigh Bells Ring"... Are you listening??!!!

*---submitted by Sherrie Cannon and
The After School Care Staff*

Happy Veterans Day!

Pleasant Grove wants to acknowledge and thank all veterans, those who served during wartime and peacetime, for their service to their country. We know that serving our country requires a great sacrifice from those who serve and from their families and for that, we are eternally grateful!

There are many ways that we can observe Veterans Day. One way that has become our tradition involves our cemetery. In the days leading up to Veterans Day the cemetery committee will be placing American flags on the graves of all our veterans. It is a moving and memorable sight. But, probably the best way that we, as individuals, can mark this very special day, is to simply thank a veteran. If a relative, a church member, or a neighbor happens to be a veteran, just take a few minutes, and utter a few words of gratitude to them. Ask them a few questions about their time in service. Show your interest and respect for what they have done with their life. Your simple act of thanks will have a big impact.



Thanks to all veterans and their families for their sacrifice of service to our country! God bless you all!

Giving Thanks by Helping Others



Although we should have an attitude of gratitude throughout the entire year, November is that month when we really bring into focus all the ways that we have been blessed. We think about the blessings of our relationship with Jesus Christ, our friends and family, home and community, the clothes we wear and the food we eat. Someone very dear to me always says, “A blessing isn’t a blessing until we pass it on,” and I find this to be so true!

So, let’s pass on the blessing this month. As has become our tradition, we will be helping ten families from Oakdale Elementary School with grocery store gift cards in November. These gift cards can be used to supply a family with a Thanksgiving feast that might otherwise be out of reach. Or the family can use the gift card to stock up on the everyday items that they use week in and week out.

We will be giving each family a \$100 gift card, but you can be a part of this by giving any amount. If you can supply the entire amount for one of the gift cards, awesome!!! But, if you need to give a smaller portion, please know that your gift matters! Simply place your check, or cash in an offering envelope, and be sure to mark it for Oakdale School. You can also turn in your donation to the church office. Let’s be a blessing by passing on a blessing that we have already been blessed with!! Together, we can make a difference in the lives of families with young children...something we are called to do, over and over again! Thanks for being a part of this important ministry! You’ll be blessed!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown



It’s Time to Fall Back!

Don’t forget to “fall back” on Saturday night, November 4th . And we’re not talking about falling back into your recliner, onto your bed, or even into a huge pile of leaves! Before you go to bed that night, be sure to set your clocks back one hour as daylight saving time ends. If you don’t, you will probably arrive at church an hour early! Now there’s nothing wrong with coming to church an hour early...you could spend that hour in quiet prayer, singing praises to God in the privacy of your car, or simply looking out at God’s created world and sensing the wonder and awe of it...But we’re thinking you just might rather come on time with the rest of your church family. So, don’t forget to “Fall Back!!!”



Happy Thanksgiving to the Pleasant Grove Family!!!



The volunteers at *Pleasant News* want to wish our entire church family a Happy Thanksgiving! We consider it such a blessing to be able to participate in the newsletter ministry at Pleasant Grove and it is our prayer each month that our little publication is a blessing to each of you. As we all take a day or two to enjoy friends and family, stuff ourselves with all the Thanksgiving foods, and watch a football game or a parade, let's not forget to pause and really ponder the ways that God has blessed us. Don't let the little things go unnoticed...because the little things are really the BIG things! Let's give thanks for clean water, food, shelter, clothes, and good health. Don't forget about the nurturing relationships in our lives, the education we have received, the community in which we live, and the body of believers at Pleasant Grove that have truly become family. But, most of all, let's give thanks for the beautiful, loving relationship that we have with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Blessed indeed! Blessed indeed!!!

Helping Our Neighbors Across the Street

As a result of the generosity of our church family and in addition to the clothing items, personal hygiene kits and school supplies that were delivered in early September to Oakdale Elementary, over \$500 in monetary donations was also received. These funds were used to purchase additional clothing items along with several large boxes of Band-Aids to help supply the school's medical cabinet, as requested by the school nurse. These items were delivered in the last week of September and were so appreciated by the school staff. Thank you, Pleasant Grove members, for blessing the lives of so many of these young students with your continuous support and prayers and by putting your faith into action!

---submitted by Mary Usher



Holiday Office Hours

Please note that the church office will have altered hours during the week of Thanksgiving. The office will be open from 9:00-3:00 on Monday and Tuesday, November 20th and 21st. The office will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We wish our entire church family a joyous and blessed Thanksgiving as we all enjoy time with family and friends!





On Wednesday, November 8th we will be participating in the Annual Cluster Charge Conference along with several other UM Churches at Huntersville UMC (14005 Stumptown Road). You are invited to please come and celebrate the work that God is doing in our congregations. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the Charge Conference.

Reverse Advent Calendar

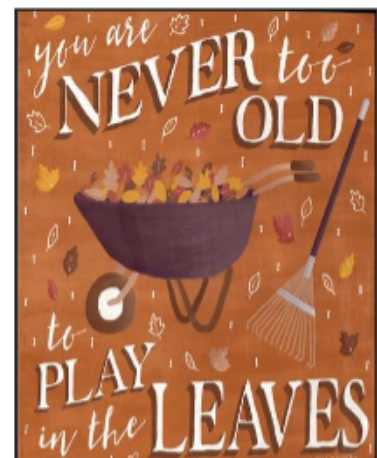
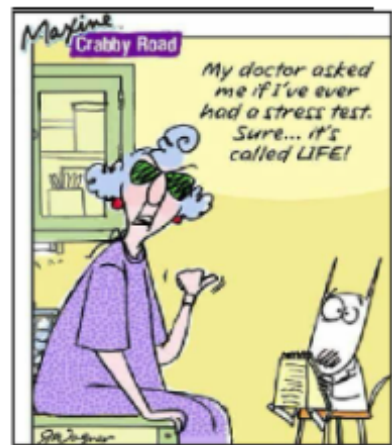
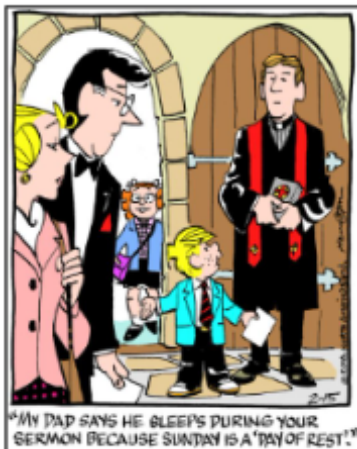
Start by wrapping a large box with some festive gift wrap. Then place these items in your box from December 1 – December 24. On Christmas Eve, bring that box with you to worship. Place your box in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. As you add items to your box each day, read one chapter in the Gospel of Luke.

Join
The
Drive

- December 1 - Box of cereal
- December 2 - Peanut butter
- December 3 - Stuffing mix
- December 4 - Boxed potatoes
- December 5 - Macaroni & cheese
- December 6 - Canned fruit
- December 7 - Canned tomatoes
- December 8 - Canned tuna
- December 9 - Dessert mix
- December 10 - Apple sauce cups
- December 11 - Canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - Cranberry sauce
- December 13 - Canned beans
- December 14 - Box of crackers
- December 15 - Package of rice
- December 16 - Package of oatmeal
- December 17 - Package of pasta
- December 18 - Spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - Chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - Tomato soup
- December 21 - Canned corn
- December 22 - Canned mixed vegetables
- December 23 - Canned carrots
- December 24 - Canned green beans

Pleasant Grove UMC
1915 Oakdale Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

Just For Giggles!!!



Give Thanks



Acorn
Blessed
Gobble
Leaves
Pie
Pilgrims
Pumpkin
Thankful
Thanksgiving
Turkey

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



www.graceandgoodeats.com