



# Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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## WORSHIP TIMES

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

## CONTACT US

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## Inspiration Point

It is October already! This is the season of the harvest! The leaves are changing, preparing the trees for their sleepy time during the cold months of winter! The feed corn has been harvested, the corn tops are all cut and shocked, ready to be gathered in the barn! The pumpkin patches are speckled with bright orange orbs of pumpkins, ready to be harvested and used for Jack-o-lanterns, pumpkin pies, and all the many other delightful things for this season! The kids are excited because football season is underway! All of them believe that their team is the best this year! Winter clothes have already been brought out and are being used because it is getting cold in the evenings! There is excitement because there is a change in the air!

That is how I remember those times when I was younger! You probably do too! Fall apples are ready! It takes a good cold snap to cause them to sweeten up! Remember all the goodies we used to make from those apples? How good a big slice of warm apple pie was! Do you remember all the family sitting around the fire in the evening, just talking, or reading, or knitting, or whittling? Maybe this was the time when Dad or Mom would break out the family Bible and read it out loud to everyone.

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Yes, I know, everyone has their own thing going these days. It is a rare thing when everyone sits down to the dinner table together today! No one talks to each other anymore! Even when they are altogether, everyone is doing something on their phone. We used to pick up the grandkids and their friends at the bus stop and take them home. They would sit side by side and text one another! More and more we read or hear of someone's kid OD'ing on drugs. It happened in our family too. It was a daughter of a nephew. They found her the next day! The kids need the comfort and companionship of their family! They need to be able to trust their parents, and to seek advice and counsel from them! Parents need the Wisdom and Guidance of the Bible and their church friends! As someone said, "It takes a village!" What with the Pandemic these days, folks can find themselves isolated, and God knows that we need other people in our lives! We need to encourage others and to be encouraged ourselves! Do not neglect gathering together in Church, Sunday School and other like events! Bring your children, and be involved yourself!

One other thing, we can know everything there is to know about God and the Bible, but not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. You will still miss heaven!

**John 14:6** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

*Brother Phil*



**Men's Fellowship Breakfast**  
**Every Tuesday at 7:30am**  
**Circle G Restaurant**  
**4818 Rozzelles Ferry Rd,**  
**Charlotte**

*Men's Luncheon*  
Every Thursday at 11:30am  
Stockyard Grill  
4925 Rozzelles Ferry Rd, Charlotte

Let's do Lunch!

All men are invited to join for fellowship & good food!

The advertisement is contained within a black-bordered box. The top section features a background image of a stack of waffles on a red plate, topped with blueberries and strawberries, next to a glass of orange juice. The text is overlaid in white and bold. The bottom section has a white background with a yellow sticky note graphic on the left that says "Let's do Lunch!". The text for the luncheon is in a mix of bold and regular fonts.

# From the Pastor's Desk

## LOVE NOTES FROM A CHILD



1 John 3:18

Back in 2009, when 6-year-old Elana Desserich was diagnosed with pediatric cancer, her parents were told she had only 5 months to live. Soon after the diagnosis, she lost her ability to speak, so Elena turned to writing and drawing.

In the final weeks of her life, Elena began the secret habit of hiding love notes throughout the house, intended to be found after she was gone.

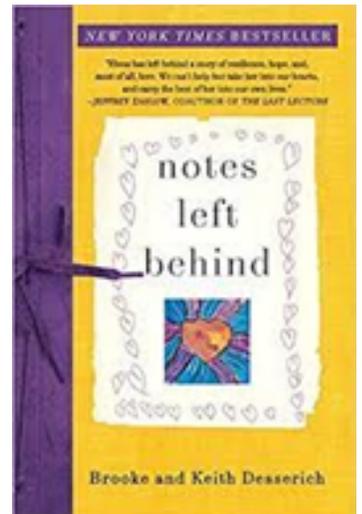
Tucked between CDs, hidden in clothing drawers, placed between stacks of fine China dishes, slipped into boxes of photographs, for months Elena's parents continued to find little notes and drawings long after her death, most of them saying, "I love you Mom, Dad and Gracie."

These notes were assembled into a book called **Notes Left Behind**. Even though the book is an older book, it is a great read for inspiration. The proceeds go to a foundation to help find a cure for cancer.

There is something we could all learn from Elena: Love is most powerful when it is expressed. She had the wisdom to leave behind hundreds of reminders of her love for her family. It makes me wonder if those in my family have any permanent reminders of my love for them? Love is most powerful when it is expressed.

I like the way Franklin P. Jones describes love. "Love doesn't make the world go round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile."

***My dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. (1 John 3:18)***



Christ Above All,

*Pastor Byron*

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

## IN MEMORY

**Nancy Brown**

Don Brown

**Al Godwin**

Anonymous

Roy and Margaret Parker

**Joan Haynes**

Richard and Harriette Tweed

**Betty Guess**

Don Brown

Nadine Williams

Steve and Maria McClure

Anonymous

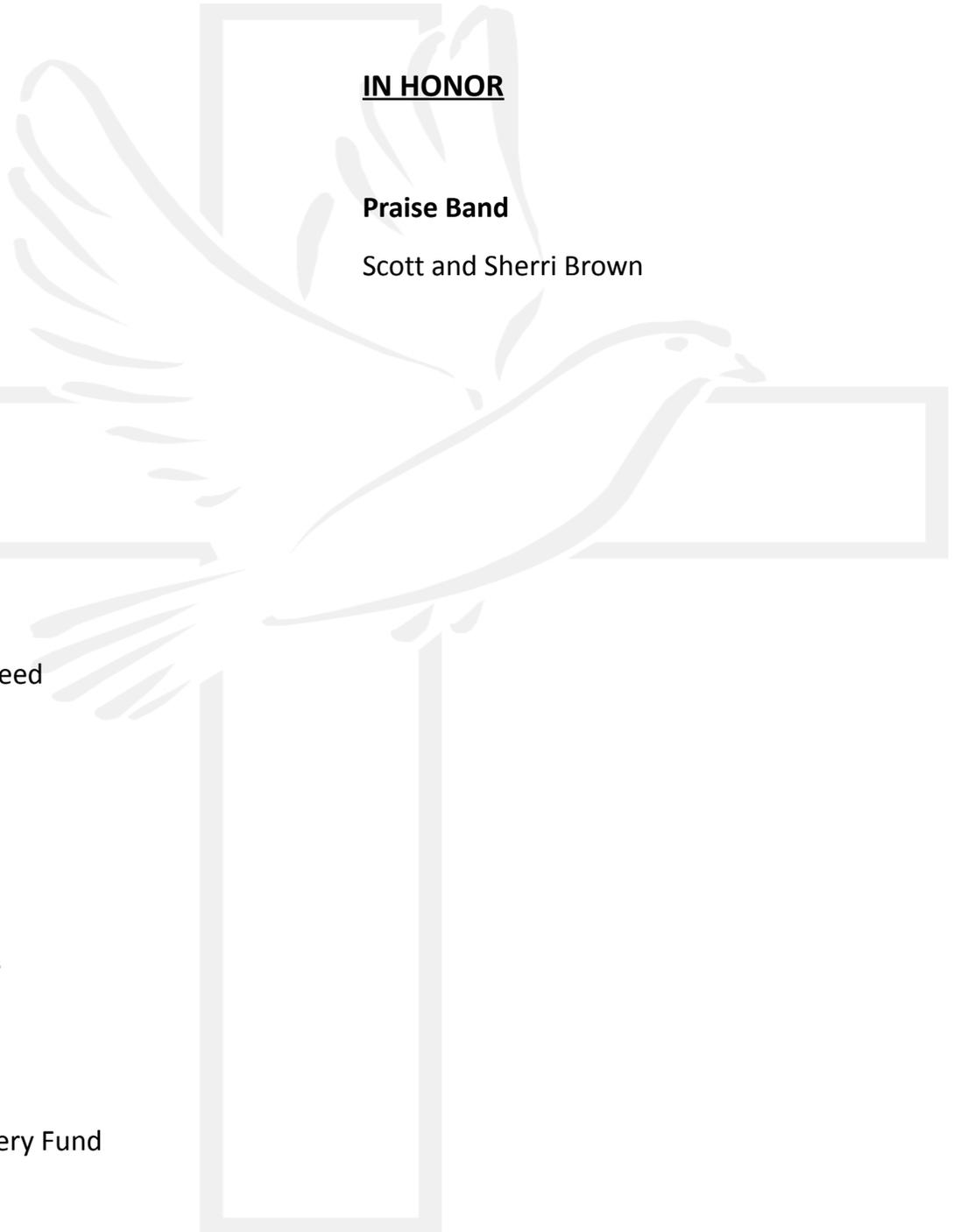
Roy and Margaret Parker

Brenda Watkins – Cemetery Fund

## IN HONOR

**Praise Band**

Scott and Sherri Brown



## Did You Know???

...that the United Methodist Church is always early to respond and sometimes the last to leave when an area is affected by a natural disaster? You have probably heard that before but this month we thought we would give you a reminder of the good that the United Methodist Church is doing in the face of a recent hurricane and the associated flooding.

The Louisiana coastline was hit by category 4 Hurricane Ida on August 29-30, leaving at least 15 dead and widespread power outages. Ida then moved slowly north and east, causing at least 50 additional deaths in six other states, and causing tornadoes and torrential rains that trapped people in their cars and homes.

When disaster strikes, our churches are usually a source of relief and comfort to their surrounding communities. But, in this case, many of our United Methodist Church campuses sustained substantial damage that had to be mitigated before they could begin to help those in need. What has become abundantly clear is how the United Methodist church comes together to support one another through our connectional relationships. The Alabama-West Florida Conference has given \$100,000 to the Louisiana Conference for Ida relief. Additionally, the Texas Conference has trucked in two full loads of nonperishable foods and other targeted supplies to a staging area at Broadmoor UMC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. These are just two examples of the assistance that has been given to these areas.

As Ida made her way into the northeast, churches and communities experienced widespread damage. United Methodist Church of Bound Brook, of the Greater New Jersey Conference, had extensive flood damage. Bound Brook's thrift store was flooded, and the water and mud had to be mucked out to assess the true damage.

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*United Methodist Church of Bound Brook, in Bound Brook, N.J., is dealing with Hurricane Ida flood damage, including to its thrift shop.  
Photo courtesy of the Rev. Chuck Coblentz.*



*Texas Conference Bishop Scott Jones carries boxes of Cheerios, among two truckloads of supplies the conference brought to Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, La., on Sept. 6, as part of Hurricane Ida relief.  
Photo courtesy of the Texas Conference.*

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The store had containers that were five feet up from the floor that were full of water! The church's boiler was lost to the flooding and a dumpster floated out to a nearby creek. The fellowship hall at Bound Brook had just been remodeled to house a daycare and that was all taken away by Ida's flooding rains. However, with help from neighboring UMC pastors and parishioners, Bound Brook has begun to make its way back from the destruction. Other churches are finding ways to be of help in the recovery process too. Centenary UMC, in Lambertville, New Jersey, has become a temporary home to the flood-damaged Delaware Valley Food Pantry. Along with monetary donations, response teams have been deployed to the affected areas and the work will continue for months to come. It is so important to send willing people into areas affected by disaster.



*Members of United Methodist Church of Bound Brook, in Bound Brook, N.J., haul out church items that ended up in a nearby creek during Hurricane Ida. Photo courtesy of the Rev. Mcwilliam Colon.*

The monetary help is needed and necessary. However, to see people roll up their sleeves and work alongside those in need, communicates God's love for His people in a real and tangible way.

Rev. Godfrey Hubert, Disaster Readiness Coordinator for the Texas Conference, as well as a founding partner of Hope Disaster Recovery, recently related the following: Hubert joined Bishop Scott Jones of the Texas Conference in delivering supplies to Baton Rouge. He has also made other post-Ida trips to Louisiana, bringing some 50,000 diapers, among other essential supplies. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, he drove a truck filled with supplies that had been loaded by a Catholic church in Houston. But, on the way to southeast Louisiana, he got word that the church he was headed to wasn't prepared for the task of distribution. By communicating with several resources while rolling on down the road, he was redirected to two United Methodist families in Bourg, Louisiana who were heading up a grassroots effort for neighbors in great need. "I pulled up and they were out of supplies," Hubert said. "Before I left, their trailer was loaded, and they were leaving to hand out everything. It was just nice to see, all the way around." Isn't it amazing to see how God just goes before us and works things out so that we can do the most good with what we have to offer?

So, how can we help? The United Methodist Committee on Relief is the denomination's best-known vehicle for helping after natural disasters. They are providing solidarity grants and technical assistance to conferences affected by Ida, as well as working closely with response teams at work in the affected areas. If you would like to give to UMCOR, you may do so by designating it through Advance #901670. Our church office can help you make sure that your donation is directed properly.

The level of destruction and the response in relief has exceeded all expectations. And while we might be tempted to sit back and simply thank God that we were not in the path of this ferocious storm, we cannot ignore God's call on our lives to help those in need. Please continue to support our brothers and sisters in the faith with your prayers, your good wishes, and also your resources. God's people blessing God's people. That's the United Methodist Church in action!!!

*(The information in this article was originally written by Sam Hodges and was published by United Methodist News on September 8, 2021. The article in its entirety can be found on the United Methodist website.)*



## The Recipe Box

With the cooler weather promising the return of Autumn, and maybe a bit of fatigue over sandwiches and grilling, our thoughts turn to what many refer to as “comfort foods.” Most of us would probably say that we are looking forward to using our crock pots more often, simmering a pot of soup on the stove on a crisp Fall Day, and indulging in the satisfying tastes of richer, more savory dishes. With all of this in mind, we are pleased to bring y’all a Southern favorite with a new spin that is sure to please your family as well as your own palette. From the kitchens of [Our State Magazine](#) this Shrimp and Grits recipe has a couple of surprise ingredients and a relatively easy preparation. Serve with a simple salad or vegetable of your choice. We encourage you to give it a try and just see if it isn’t an instant hit with those who share this dish at your table. Enjoy!

### Shrimp and Cheese Grits Casserole

4 cups chicken broth  
 1 ½ tsp. salt  
 1 cup yellow stone-ground grits  
 ½ cup half-and-half  
 ¼ cup cooking sherry  
 1 cup sharp cheese, shredded  
 1 cup Gouda, shredded  
 2 large eggs, lightly beaten  
 2 Tbsp. olive oil, divided  
 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, divided

6 green onions, chopped  
 1 medium sweet onion, chopped  
 1 celery stalk, chopped  
 1 red bell pepper, chopped  
 1 clove garlic, minced  
 1 tsp. black pepper  
 1 lb. medium fresh shrimp, peeled, tails left on  
 1 tsp. smoked paprika  
 ¼ tsp. nutmeg

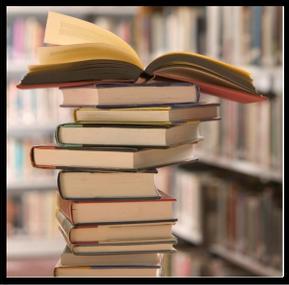
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large saucepan, combine broth and ½ tsp. salt. Bring mixture to a rolling boil; stir in grits. Cover, reduce heat to medium, and cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid is absorbed, and grits are tender, about 20 minutes. Stir in half-and-half, sherry, and cheese; remove from heat. Gradually whisk in eggs until smooth.



In a 10-inch cast-iron skillet, heat 1 Tbsp. butter and 1 Tbsp. olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onions, celery, red bell pepper, garlic, ½ tsp. salt, and ½ tsp. pepper. Cook, stirring frequently, until tender, about 5 minutes. Add grits mixture to onion mixture; stir to combine. Bake in skillet until set, about 30-35 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to sit for about 10 minutes.

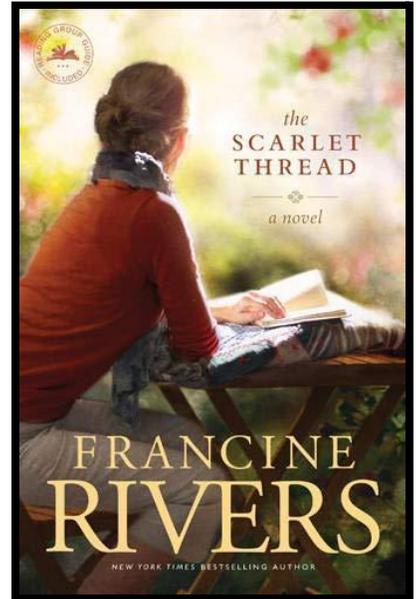
Meanwhile, in a nonstick skillet, heat remaining olive oil over medium-high heat. Sprinkle shrimp with ½ tsp. salt, ½ tsp. pepper, paprika, and nutmeg. Add shrimp to skillet; cook until pink and cooked through, 3-4 minutes. Spoon shrimp and 1 Tbsp. melted butter over grits. Garnish with green onion and serve immediately.

## Recommended Reading



For the month of October, we are recommending another book by *New York Times* bestselling author, Francine Rivers. From the writer of [Redeeming Love](#) and so many other beloved works of Christian fiction, comes the powerful story of two women, centuries apart, who come together through a tattered journal and a handcrafted quilt, as they both contend with God, their marriages, and even themselves. [The Scarlet Thread](#) is a masterfully- told story of two women, years apart, whose lives are connected by heartfelt words and the scarlet thread that weaves a beautiful story of love, provision, and trust together.

Sierra Madrid, a woman of recent times, has just had her life turned upside down. She cannot believe that her husband, Alex, would take a new job and uproot the family to Los Angeles, without even so much as discussing it with her. In her righteous anger, Sierra turns their home into a battleground, even after their move. While she seethes with anger, Alex chases success, both business and social, in an effort to compensate for his insecurities and his Hispanic immigrant roots. As they both become so caught up in themselves, neither tries to understand the other or to seek God’s will for their life and marriage. When it seems that their marriage is hurtling down a dead-end road, Sierra’s mother gives her the journal of her female ancestor, Mary Kathryn McMurray, and a quilt made by the same hands. Mary Kathryn’s life was uprooted from her own home only to endure harsh conditions on the Oregon Trail as she was just a young woman like Sierra. As Sierra dives into the journal and studies the quilt, she discovers that their lives are very similar. Though separated by time and circumstance, Sierra begins to understand that by uncovering Mary Kathryn’s story, her ancestor may help to write the next chapter of her own life. By following the example of her ancestor, she learns to surrender to God’s sovereignty and unconditional love.



Here is an excerpt from *The Scarlet Thread*. It is a prayer that Sierra prays as she realizes that she is falling in love once again...with Jesus.

*“Oh, Lord Jesus, do that for me. Please. You know me better than I know myself. Open my doors and windows and let the Holy Spirit move through me. You are welcome in my house. Come into me, into my foyer and my living room. Wander at will through my parlor and kitchen. Be with me in my bedroom and bathroom. Go through every closet and every drawer, from the basement to the attic of my life. I belong to you, Father. Stay with me forever. Jesus, please remove everything in me that doesn’t glorify You. Make me Your vessel. Oh, God, You are my God. I seek You. My soul hungers and thirsts for You. My body longs for You as dry land beneath a heavy rain. Your love is better than life.”*

Beautiful words, aren’t they? And shortly after this prayer, the significance of the quilt, it’s story-telling squares, and it’s revealing red thread, comes to light. But, we won’t spoil it for you! You will just need to read this inspiring and uplifting tale to get those details! [The Scarlet Thread](#) is now available in our very own Lending Library for you to borrow. And we do hope you will read it for yourself! Enjoy!

## News from Our United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women continue to have monthly meetings despite the raging Pandemic. It is amazing to see the determination of the UMW organization in keeping a positive attitude as they continue to support the needs of women, youth, and children throughout the world.

At the recent Metro District UMW Annual meeting (via Zoom), the Pleasant Grove UMW Unit was recognized in three areas: Five Channels of Mission Giving, Increase in Membership, and Mission Today Status-Silver Award. We are very proud of these recognitions, especially the Silver Status of Mission Today. Considering the challenging times we are living in, and the efforts it took to achieve the completion of certain goals, our Women are to be complimented! Thanks to all our members for their continued support and dedication!



In November, the UMW will be having a bake sale to support our mission giving to local, district, and national organizations and projects. This event will be on November 14th, before Sunday School, between Sunday School and Worship, and after Worship. If you would like to contribute a baked item to help with this event, please let Jeannie Upton or Karen Dellinger know. We hope to have many yummy and useful items for you to select from to take home and enjoy immediately, or stash away in your freezer for the holidays. November 14th is also UMW Sunday at Pleasant Grove and

members of both Circles will be helping Pastor Byron with the service that day. So, mark your calendars for Sunday, November 14th! It's going to be a great day!

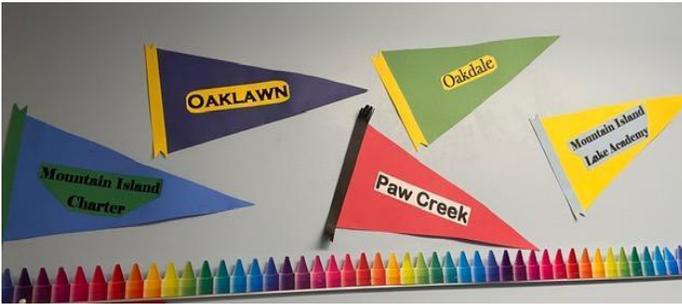
Membership in United Methodist Women is always open. We would love to have more of our women involved. Please give this invitation some thought and come to one of the meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. We have one Circle meeting at 2 PM and one meeting at 6:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you then!!!



## After-School Care Post



At After School Care we are settling into our routine...bus schedules, homework, hanging out with friends. We would like to thank our parents that have entrusted their children to us. We would also like to thank the church for all that is being done for our program. As we have wound the summer months down (and hopefully the temperatures!), we are really looking forward to some Fall fun...leaves changing, cooler weather, and Halloween fun! The students love to talk about costumes, parties, and trick-or-treating! We are being diligent about our masks and keeping our building clean, as we have been doing since the COVID-19 crisis began. We are simply trying to keep everyone as safe as possible. We continue to pray that everyone stays well and that our schools can remain open. We hope you enjoy seeing these photos as we share our fun with you!!!



## Nursery Volunteers Still Needed

As a church family, we are still in the midst of restaffing our nursery ministry during Sunday school and Worship. So many times, we think about how we might be able to serve in the work of the church and we come up empty. We think that we are past the point of putting in the good work of serving our neighbors, serving our community, and serving our church. OOOHHHHH...but that's where we are wrong! God still has a plan for us, and He still has a plan for

how we are going to do His work right here in Oakdale! Can you love on a child? Can you rock a baby? Can you communicate God's love through a smile and a loving touch? Can you be an instrument in allowing young families to attend worship and get plugged in here at Pleasant Grove? Of course, you can!!! We need you in our nursery for an hour or two, once a month...that's all! Please answer this call on your life, call the church office, and let Dawn know of the Sunday that you can be in our nursery each month. You can sign up to do Sunday school, worship, or both! We may not have kids in need of childcare each and every Sunday, but we need to be prepared and open-armed when the children are here! See you on Sunday!!!



## Operation Christmas Child Swings into High Gear At PG



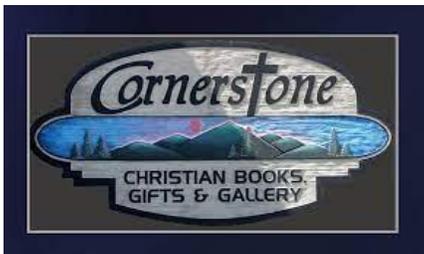
It's October! That means we are in the middle of our efforts to reach children with the Love of Christ through Operation Christmas Child. And...that means that you have a tremendous opportunity right in front of you! Please be sure to pick up your green and red box from the sanctuary, read the brochure for tips and suggestions on filling your box, shop for and fill your box, label your box, and include the shipping with your box. That's the nitty-gritty of this process. The shopping part is fun! Working the puzzle to fit everything

in is so satisfying! But the real privilege comes after all of that is completed. Lay your hands on your box. Visualize a child receiving your box. And pray for that specific child! How awesome is it that we get to pray for a specific child that we haven't, and might not ever, meet! But we are assured that God will hear our prayer and will honor our prayer. Let's get involved in the business of loving God's children...your opportunity is just waiting in an empty green and red box!!! Get yours today!



# The PG Travelers Head Further Up the Mountain!!!

The PG Travelers recently went to Hendersonville, NC and the trip was so much fun! The fellowship, the meal we shared, and the APPLES were absolutely awesome! This month, another adventure awaits!!! On Thursday, October 21st, we will leave the church parking lot at 8:30 in the morning to head to Boone.



Our first stop will be Cornerstone Christian Bookstore. They have a variety of things for all ages and for all occasions that will encourage your faith as you walk with the Lord. This might be a good chance to start on your Christmas shopping, if you haven't already done so. After shopping at Cornerstone, we will be on to Banner Elk for a delicious lunch at The Pedalin' Pig. Their menu has a variety of meats and sides including hot, fresh pork rinds! Our next stop will be the Original Mast General Store. Here you can browse around enjoying the unique items they have for sale. More Christmas shopping? Maybe!!! Oh, and don't forget the candy! They have so much candy! After we are shopped out and sugared up, we will get on the Blue Ridge Parkway back to Blowing Rock. On this ride we will enjoy God's beautiful canvas of fall color as we take in the fall foliage. Then finally, before heading home, we will stop at the Blue Deer in Blowing Rock for cookies and ice cream. Yummy! Doesn't this sound like a delightful day!?!



And we hope that you will plan to join us. The PG Travelers is open to anyone who wants to travel with us...church member, friend, neighbor, former college roommate, long-lost eighth cousin! All are welcome! Please call the church office to let Dawn know that you plan to go with us and if you would like to hitch a ride on the church van. We will also be carpooling and caravanning. This trip will be a wonderful way for you to see the mountains of North Carolina in all their splendor, enjoy some great time with the church family, and enjoy some good food...obviously! Come on...join us...as the PG Travelers head out again!!!

## Pleasant Grove Continues to Support Oak Grove Food Pantry



As we strive to follow Christ's example of providing food for those in need, we continue to deliver food to Oak Grove UMC for their food pantry. We have had a bin outside of the church office for these donations for quite some time now. And we do a good job of filling that bin up! But now, we are going to up our game!!! You will now see donation tubs in the narthex and in front of each wing in the sanctuary. Please bring your donation of non-perishable food items to these bins (or to the one by the church office) whenever you can. If you need to, mark your calendar for a specific week in the month to make your contribution. If the first Sunday of

the month is easy for you to remember, then just plan on bringing a couple of items on that Sunday. If the last Sunday works better for you, that's fine! The main thing to remember is that out of our abundance we are called to share! Let's also encourage one another to bring in these food items. Let's remind one another. Let's all get excited about how much love we can share from our sweet church family here at Pleasant Grove!



### Take Note!!!

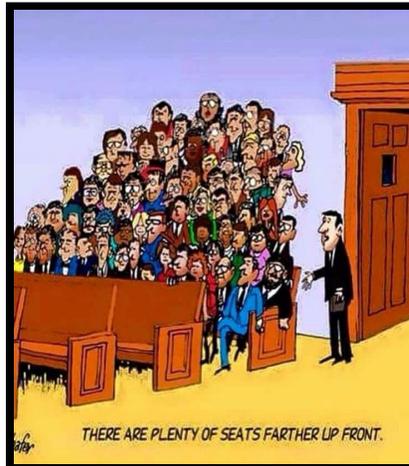
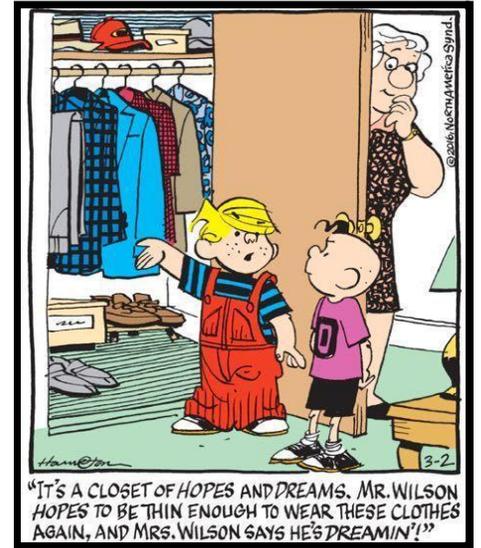
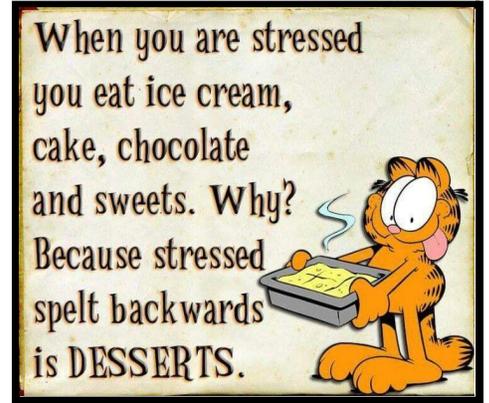
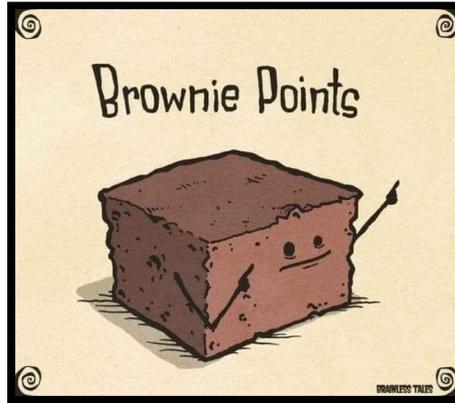
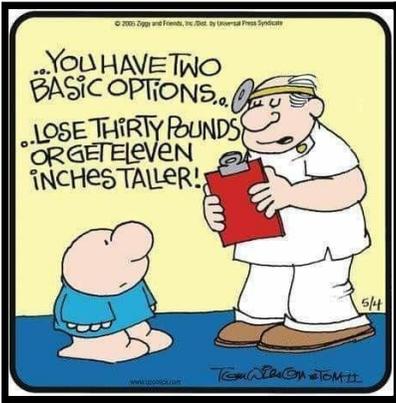
As members of Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church, we must always keep in mind the fact that **We** are the church! The work of the church is not left up to one individual or even one committee. Everything that this church does to bring honor and glory to God, is done because we care about doing Kingdom work. Because this is a group effort, it is vitally important that we all persevere and stay committed to the work at hand. If you said "yes" to being on a committee here at PGUMC, then please do all that you can to honor that pledge and attend all the scheduled meetings. Your voice is important here at the corner of Pleasant Grove and Oakdale Roads! We need your input, and we need your service! All this being said, please check the scheduled meetings for October listed below. If you are on one of these committees, please put the meeting on your calendar and plan to be in attendance. Thanks for loving our church with your faithfulness and your devotion.

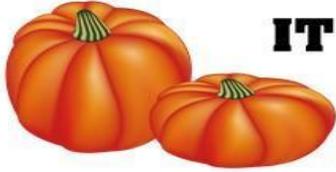


Nominations Committee  
Finance Committee  
UMW Circle #3  
UMW Circle #6

Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM  
Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM  
Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00  
Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30

# Just For Giggles!!!





# IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN

## WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

APPLE  
AUTUMN  
BELIEVE  
CANDY  
CARTOON  
CHARLIE BROWN  
COSTUME  
DANCE  
FOOTBALL  
HALLOWEEN  
KICK  
LETTER  
MAILBOX  
MOON  
MUSIC  
PARTY  
PATCH  
PEANUTS  
PIANO  
PUMPKINS  
ROCK  
SALLY  
TRADITION  
SHADOW  
SLEEP  
SNOOPY

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

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.

