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Worship Times:

9:00am Traditional (Sanc)

10:00am Sunday School

11:00am KidLife Children

11:00am Lifepoint Service (FLC)

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Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

Inspiration Point

Thinking about all the things in our society that are going on, and then watching the news at night sometimes brings me a lot of frustration! As I have written before, before Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of the true believers, mankind was without the presence of the Holy Spirit in them or in their lives! We made decisions based on our own worldly experiences and some were good and some were bad. We had no absolute right to measure things by! When we become true believers, confessing our sins and repenting, asking Jesus to become our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our spirit and we become God conscious! He becomes our standard for referencing good from bad! (As the Bible teaches us, if we do not have the Holy Spirit, then we are none of His!) Since the Holy Spirit gave the words to the prophets to write down to become what we accept as our Bible, our guide book, we need to pray when we read it's words for His interpretation! Not only will He give us His intentions when He gave the words, but He will be our guide to show us how to live our lives according to its instructions!

The frustrating thing for me is this: How can we say we are Christians and go to church every Sunday and then live our lives like God does not exist? Oh, we enjoy the social aspects of our churches, but we never consider things like holiness, righteousness, love your neighbors as yourselves and on and on! It is "I have mine, now you get yours any way you can!" If someone we know has something that we want, we will calculate and scheme any way we can get it from them, especially if they are weak and cannot defend themselves properly! It is ok for our kids to party with drugs and alcohol, to stay out late under the influence of all that is going on out there in the world!

(Inspiration Point continued from page 1)

We ignore the fact that they are dying in automobile accidents while drunk, or overdosing on drugs, or even robbing people to get the money to buy those drugs! "But they are good kids," we say, "We have raised them and given them everything that money can buy!" we say! "Yes," I say, "but how much of your time did you give them?"

Even in the worldwide church we have problems! This denomination has a major fight going on right now! "You cannot take the Bible literally," they say! "That was written a long time ago when times were different and they had different customs!" It was not more than 40 to 50 years ago when our society's customs and beliefs were in agreement with those of the Bible! Maybe it is time to re-read 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5. Times are bad right now, because we are in the end times! The Bible teaches us about conditions during the end times, and we are sometimes falling right into the trap! Long ago, we stopped believing that the God we serve has power to answer prayer, to change lives, and if we cooperate, to correct our society through our actions and words! The Holy Spirit worked mightily during the first century church, but over the ages, we have neglected Him and His work! Today, we are weak and faithless! We ignore the Holy Spirit and we do not read our Bibles! We argue about which sin is acceptable and which is not! The Bible I read says that no sin is acceptable! Maybe it is time to get our eyes off what is acceptable in our society and back into what the Bible teaches about right and wrong! What I am saying is that we are the problem, and if we, you and I, get ourselves back on track, maybe, just maybe, God can use us to make some changes in our messed up society!

Brother Phil



The Metro District of the Western North Carolina Conference is offering a course in Lay Servant Training. This course is open to anyone who wishes to further their leadership skills within the church. Participants will receive a certification that allows them to assist or fill in for a minister if ever needed. Also, a renewal course is needed every three years to maintain certification. So, these classes are for new Lay Servant Ministers and/or for renewals. You may choose your date and location from the following: March 21&22 @ Central UMC in Charlotte or March 28&29 @ St. Francis UMC in Charlotte. Contact Phil Turner or Hazel Sanders for more information or to register for this class.

From The Pastor's Desk



Looking Ahead

I graduated from Bryan College in Dayton, TN in 1983. Our school motto was and still is, “Christ Above All”. I use that motto on my signature line in the letters I write, and try my best to live it out in my life.

I have been serving in ministry in the United Methodist Church for almost 30 years. I hope others have seen a “Christ Above All” life in my years of service to the UMC. Sadly, the lack of accountability by our bishops regarding the UMC’s Christian doctrine and around human sexuality has created a struggle that has existed for my entire ministry.

Our worldwide denomination is at an impasse, and now the general consensus by many leaders within our denomination is that we are at a point of separation and restructure. Our next General Conference is in May 2020; the delegates that were elected at Annual Conferences last year will vote on how we go forward from here. In the upcoming GC, I will be serving as a page for the 3rd time. (I will not have a vote.)

A “[Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation](https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf)” was released on January 3, 2020. To see the details of the proposal, please refer to the link here: <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/files/websites/www/pdfs/signed+umc+mediation+protocol+statement+-2020.pdf> This is one of several proposals that will be voted on. The Protocol outlines a proposed path for separation of The United Methodist Church into two or more denominations. The mediated proposal was hammered out and signed by sixteen individuals, including eight UM bishops and other UM leaders representing the broad diversity of theology in the church. I am excited to support the protocol and I hope it passes. The protocol appears to me to be a profoundly hopeful opportunity for those who are orthodox, evangelical Christians seeking a renewed Wesleyan church.

I think there are number of positive aspects of this protocol:

- Identifies and acknowledges the deep roots in divergent understandings of “interpretation of Scripture, theology, and practice” behind our five-decade conflict within the UM Church;
- Provides a clear path to end the conflict in a way which provides grace and leaves open the possibility of future positive relationships in new denominations;

- Has the support of eight bishops (including two central conference bishops and the President and President-elect of the Council of Bishops), as well as top leaders from advocacy groups which here-to-fore have been at loggerheads in our on-going debate;
- Focuses on providing freedom for various groups to pursue the primary mission of making disciples guided by their respective biblical and theological understandings;
- Provides a means to effect separation without the difficult process of constitutional amendments, and without years of costly litigation;
- Allows central conferences (UM churches in Africa), annual conferences, and the local church to choose to affiliate with a new “traditional denomination” taking their buildings and assets with them;
- Provides for continued pension security for pastors and an equitable way to address future pension liabilities;
- Calls for a significant distribution of undesignated UM Church reserves to support a new traditional church while signaling support for Africa University and racial/ethnic ministries with a large set-aside amount of reserve funds for these ministries; and,
- Offers the strongest likelihood of passage at the 2020 General Conference of any of the plans offered to date.

This move into the future will be difficult for many of our congregations. I am sorry that we have gotten to this point, but this is where many of our bishops have brought us. There will be pain for many of our churches and annual conferences. I wish I could change that, but this is where we are. What we can do is listen to everyone, acknowledge their very real concerns, and resource them in every way to make this transition less painful than it might be.

I hope people can focus on the positives. Progressive/moderate churches can re-write a new Church doctrine and remain United Methodists. Traditional churches will be free to join a new evangelical Wesleyan movement. They will have lower apportionments. They will have more say in who their pastor is. I hope both sides will bless each other and go the way of their convictions.

Christ Above All,

Pastor Byron

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

IN MEMORY

Sonny Watkins

David and Lynette Primm

Helen Green

David and Lynette Primm

Jacqueline Abernethy

Genesis Sunday School Class – Family Life Center

Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Family Life Center

Roy and Margaret Parker – Family Life Center

Steve and Maria McClure
Steve and Karen Dellinger – Family Life Center

Myra Wright

Joanne Marz – Family Life Center

Mark Morgan

Steve and Maria McClure

Ben Blankenship

Joanne Marz – Family Life Center

Tommy Brown

Steve and Karen Dellinger – Family Life Center

Shirley Gelsing

Kathy Alexander

Rachel Wingate

Steve and Karen Dellinger –
Family Life Center

Peggy Brittain Woodruff

Robert Dallas Brittain

IN HONOR

United Methodist Women

Susan Lybrand

Phil Turner

Anonymous

Byron Alexander

Anonymous

Tody Brown

Kathy Alexander

Bill Parker

Doug and Laura Haynes – Family Life Center

Roy and Margaret Parker

Doug and Laura Haynes – Family Life Center

Horace Nixon

Tom and Julia Grey – Family Life Center

Roy and Margaret Parker – Family Life Center

Don and Jane Adams - Family Life Center

Wayne and Anna Therrell – Family Life Center

Bob and Bonnie Bridges – Family Life Center

James and Barbara Bailey – Family Life Center

Carson and Judy Watts – Family Life Center

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Terry Kelly – Family Life Center

Fred and Karen Hefner – Family Life Center

Randy and Peggy Darnell – Family Life Center

Willie and Nadine Williams – Family Life Center

Linda Theummel – Family Life Center

Rose Poston – Family Life Center

Thurman Ross – Family Life Center

Sallie Eskew – Family Life Center

Hazel Sanders – Family Life Center

Anonymous – Family Life Center

Brenda Watkins – Family Life Center

Ted and Jo Mitchell – Family Life Center

Bible Study Opportunities:

"The Holy Spirit and You"

Pastor Phil (Study Leader)

Thursday, January 9th until February 20th at 7:00pm (meeting every other week)

"Bible Prayer Study Guide"

Pastor Phil Turner (Study Leader)

Begins Thursday, March 5th until June 4th at 7:00 PM (14 Weeks)

"The Unshakeable Truth"

Pastor Byron (Study Leader)

Begins Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30 PM (12 weeks)

"Surprised By Hope"

Don Upton (Study Leader)

Begins Wednesday, March 4th at 10:00 AM (6 Weeks)

*If you are interested in attending any of these studies please contact
the church office to reserve your spot and to order a book.*

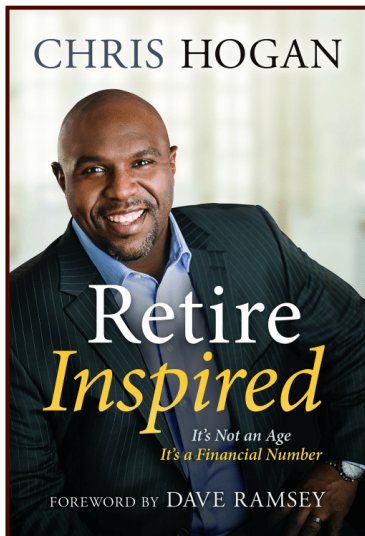
Thank You!

Happy Valentine's Day!!!



On February 14th, we will once again celebrate Valentine's Day. While this is traditionally a day to celebrate romantic love with all of the trappings and trimmings...chocolates, flowers, out to eat, etc.... We would like to challenge the church family to think of this day in a little different way. On Valentine's Day, spend a little time thinking about the greatest love ever given to humankind. Think about God's love for us. Think about the lengths that He was willing to go to in order to bring us to Him. Think of the love that He pours into us. Then, think about the love that you are able to share with others! After all of this thinking and reflecting, put your LOVE into action! Visit someone who is lonely. Make a pot of homemade soup and share it with a neighbor. Sit down and write a heartfelt note expressing your love to a family member. The possibilities for sharing love are endless...just as God's love for us is endless! So, on Valentine's Day, know that you are loved fiercely, and then show others that they are too!!!

Recommended Reading



The quiet months of winter and the beginning of a new year seem to be a great time to pause, reflect, and re-evaluate several key areas in our lives. It is the perfect time to push the reset button on our finances too. This month's Recommended Reading selection comes to us from Scott and Sherri Brown...really the entire Brown family, as we have all spent time reading through this book. Retire Inspired, by Chris Hogan, is your retirement wake-up call. Whether you are twenty-five and starting your first real job or fifty-five and watching the career clock start to wind down, it is always the perfect day to get serious about your retirement. When you hear the word retirement, you probably don't imagine yourself scrambling to pay your bills in your golden years. But for far too many Americans, that's the fate that awaits them unless they take steps now to plan for their future. In Retire Inspired, Chris Hogan teaches that retirement isn't an age; it's a financial number – an amount you need to live the life in retirement that you've always dreamed of. With clear investing concepts and strategies, Chris will educate and empower you to make your own investing decisions, set reasonable expectations for your spouse and family, and build a dream team of experts to get you there.

The Brown family does take one exception with this writing. Hogan never really focuses in on tithing as a basic element to your financial picture. He speaks many times to the beauty of generosity and the importance of giving but never really names the tithe. This is, to us, a crucial part of the financial plan that turns up missing.

However, there is much about this book to take to heart. There is growth to be achieved and wisdom to be gained. One of the tools that has proven to be very helpful to us is the monthly budget meeting that should be happening in each of our homes. This is when you map out your finances for the month...what is coming in, what must go out, your tithe, and what you are able to budget for groceries, dining out, gasoline, clothes, and gifts. In this monthly meeting you name every dollar that will be at your disposal. You give every dollar an assignment, a job to do. This type of budget meeting has proven to be a great way to gain more control over the family's finances. It is also important to point out that this book is written for the average person. It does not speak above our heads and it does not condescend. Hogan drives his key points home using terminology that we can all understand, sprinkled with a good dose of wit and humor! Although there are many resources available on the subject of planning for retirement, Retire Inspired is a great place to start. We recommend it to the entire church family, no matter your age, and hope that you will not only pick up a copy for yourself but also one for the younger people in your life.

Chris Hogan helps people across the country develop successful strategies to manage their money, both in their homes and businesses. He is a popular and dynamic speaker on the topics of personal finance, retirement, and leadership. For over ten years, Hogan has served on Dave Ramsey's team as a trusted financial coach. He lives in Nashville, TN with his wife and three children.

**You don't have to retire broke, stressed, and working longer than you intend to work.
You can retire inspired!**

(Submitted by Scott and Sherri Brown)



Thank You for the world so sweet,
Thank You for the food we eat,
Thank You for the birds that sing,
Thank You for everything!



Amen

knowing-jesus.com



Community Fellowship Meal
February 19th - 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Loaded Potato & Broccoli Cheese Soups
Grilled Cheese Sandwiches, Drinks and Desserts
Please Join Us for a Hot Meal And Great Fellowship!
Pleasant Grove UMC - Corner of Oakdale & Pleasant Grove Roads

Let's Warm Their Toes!!!



During the month of February, we will be collecting new, unused socks to be donated to Urban Ministries. Please

bring your contributions of men's, women's, and children's socks to the collection bins in the sanctuary, the gathering room, or the office building. This simple donation of socks will go a long way toward communicating the love of Christ to our homeless neighbors in the Charlotte community. Let's share His love, Pleasant Grove...Let's warm some toes, and warm some hearts while we are at it!!!



It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!!!



Girl Scout Troop 882, which meets at our church, is gearing up for its 4th year of selling yummy Girl Scout cookies. This year they

have a wonderful new lemon cookie to add to their selection. The new cookie is called "Lemon Ups". This year's cookie proceeds will go towards supporting local charities and supplementing travel costs for our girls to participate in a Girl Scout bridging event in 2021 in San Francisco, California with thousands of other girls. To purchase boxes of your favorite Girl Scout cookies you may call Doe-D Mebane at 704.650.9194. Also, look for the Troop at our February Community Fellowship Meal. Thanks for your support!



Through the years here at Pleasant Grove, we have always been blessed with some of the best cooks anyone could ever imagine. If asked to think back over the years, to the times that we have gathered as a church family to break bread together, there would be certain dishes, certain specialties that would come to mind. And right behind that casserole dish, serving bowl, cake stand, or pie plate would be one of our legendary cooks! Chances are you can picture someone special and something yummy right now!!!

One of the cooks that comes to many of our minds is Lib Primm. Lib has been well known around Oakdale as THE caterer for all sorts of large gatherings, especially weddings. If asked to raise your hand if you, or someone in your family, had Lib as your caterer, most of us would have our hands in the air. Lib has also proven to be an invaluable resource to so many of us. If you need to know how many servings you get from a gallon of tea, ask Lib. If you need an inexpensive menu idea to feed a large crowd, ask Lib. If you need to know how to serve a really nice, almost elegant meal in a church fellowship hall, ask Lib. Lib's wisdom and knowledge about planning, preparing and serving a delicious meal, no matter the size of the gathering, is something we all appreciate and indeed treasure.

Lib knows that all food doesn't have to be fancy. In fact, Lib loves soup! She especially loves a good hot bowl of soup during the winter months. She says it's a meal in a bowl! It is easy to prepare, easy to clean up, and easy to share! She has quite a few remarkable soup recipes and is kind enough to share one of them with us this month. We hope you enjoy this recipe from one of the masters...[Lib Primm's Cream of Broccoli Soup](#).

Cream of Broccoli Soup

- 2 packages frozen broccoli**
- 1 large onion, diced**
- 2 potatoes, diced**
- ½ stick of butter**
- ½ tsp. garlic salt**
- 2 cans chicken broth**
- 1 quart half and half**
- 1 pound (or more) of Velveeta cheese, cut into cubes**
- Salt and pepper to taste**
- Bacon, cooked and diced**



In a large stockpot, cook the broccoli, onion, and potatoes in water until tender. Drain well. Return to stock pot and add butter and garlic salt. Mash all vegetables just a bit. Add chicken broth. Add half and half. Heat thoroughly, stirring frequently. Add cheese, stirring constantly, until the entire soup base is nice and smooth. Add pepper and salt to taste. Top with cooked, diced bacon if desired. Serve with cornbread or bread of your choosing. Enjoy!

Ash Wednesday at Pleasant Grove



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. It marks a forty-day period of penance and reflection. We see in the Bible that sprinkling oneself with ashes was traditionally a sign of sorrow for the sins one has committed. In the Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday also marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the understanding of the death and resurrection of Christ. The particular symbolism of ashes for this day comes from a practice in the Roman Catholic Church in which the ashes from the palms used in the preceding year's Palm Sunday observance are blessed. On the first day of Lent, the sign of the cross is marked on the forehead of each worshiper using these ashes. This practice has become an integral part of the Ash Wednesday observance for many United Methodist churches.

Our Ash Wednesday service will be on Wednesday, February 26th, at 12 noon in the chapel. This will be a time of reflection and meditation, prayer and scripture, and the imposition of the ashes. All are welcome to attend this most meaningful service as we prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent.

Good Job, Pleasant Grove, Good Job!!!



During the Advent season, we were challenged as a church family to participate in a Reverse Advent Food Drive. Now, you know how most Advent calendars work...you open a door, or a drawer, or some sort of little container each day of Advent, and you get a small treat to help mark the days until Christmas. This year, Pastor Byron put something different in front of us. We were asked to get a good sized box, wrap it up as if we were giving it as a gift, and then place one food item in the box each day leading up to Christmas Eve. He gave us a food listing to follow and encouraged us to read through the Book of Luke as we gave the items to the Advent box. Just after Christmas our boxes were delivered to Huntersville United Methodist Church for their food pantry. Pleasant Grove donated 48 boxes of food!!! It totaled to 1451 pounds of food!!! This is enough to feed 24 families for a week!!! How exciting is that??? What a great effort of giving! How humbling it is to be able to give, to have the desire and opportunity to give, and to have the heart to give! Way to go, Church Family, Way to go!!! Now, let's look for the next opportunity together!



Congratulations Becca and Colin!!!



Our church family has something to celebrate! We have all known that Colin Winslette, our director of Student Ministries, and Becca Usher, daughter of Stan and Mary Usher, have been dating for about two years now...and what a cute couple they have become! Well, they have finally made it official! Colin proposed to Becca in January while on a vacation trip with his family at Disneyworld. Of course, Becca said, "Yes!" It seems that Colin, quite the schemer and quite the romantic, made arrangements to have access to one of the rooftops at Disneyworld with a great view of Cinderella's castle and the nightly fireworks display. And that is where he dropped to his knee and asked Becca to marry him. We are so excited for the two of them and look forward to seeing them begin their life together!

The Youth Report



Hey Church Family...Colin here with another update from the Youth Group!

We had an awesome December with things first kicking off with a trip to Lake Junaluska. We had a group of ten that traveled together and we had a great time of fellowship, relaxation, and Bible study. We studied how to pray like Jesus from His Word and we got to do it in a place where we could see the beauty of His kingdom in the mountains!

That's not all we did in December because we also had our annual Youth Christmas Party. It's always a blast and the crowning moment was our video scavenger hunt as always. The party was absolutely jam-packed this year with twenty people in attendance! We really had a great time and it's always a blessing to spend time with these close friends during the Christmas season.

Now we may have taken January off for Youth, but big things are coming soon. We have been hard at work updating the Youth room to make it even better than it was before when our Youth return. We kick off Youth Group again starting February 2nd and from there we have tons of fun events including a winter trip that's in the works. So stay tuned for more updates in the future!

Thank you for all your prayers and support of our youth!



United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove



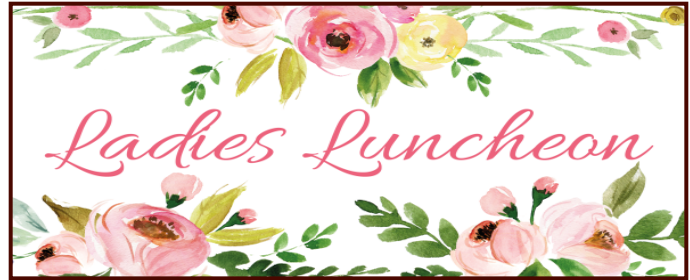
The United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove consists of two Circles which meet monthly for spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. The two Circles have had their first meetings of the New Year but it is never too late to become a part of this dynamic and fun group of women.

The January meeting of Circle #3 was one of planning the calendar for 2020. Seventeen members were present and the planning was quite successful. On February 11th, Margaret Parker will share highlights of her recent trip to Israel. Jeannie Upton will do the annual “Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” program in March. The April meeting will feature a guest speaker from the Pancreatic Cancer Association. Visitors are always welcome to Circle #3, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM at the church.

The January meeting of Circle #6 was also one of planning for the year to come. There were fourteen present, which included three new members. The February meeting will be on **Monday**, February 10th, at 6:00 PM in the family life center. That evening will be one of volunteering in the Backpack Buddy room to learn just what goes on with that ministry each and every week. The March meeting will be the “Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” program given by Jeannie Upton. Going forward, the plans are to visit with shut ins, make visits to several nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and take on some cleaning projects around the church. New members are always welcome to Circle #6.

All members of the United Methodist Women are reminded of the Metro District Mission Study on Saturday, March 14th at Pineville UMC. Also, the Metro District Prayer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th at Christ UMC in Coulwood. Make plans now to attend one or both of these events in order to get plugged into the bigger picture of the United Methodist Women.

An Opportunity for ALL Women of PGUMC!



Each and every woman, both young and old and anywhere in between, are invited to attend Paw Creek Presbyterian’s Annual Ecumenical Luncheon on Saturday, February 15th. The event begins with registration at 10:30, followed by community announcements, a delicious lunch, and a presentation by guest speaker Molly Grantham (Emmy winning anchor on WBTV News). Each attendee is asked to bring a can of food for the Thrift United Methodist Food Pantry and a \$1 donation. If you plan to attend please let Jeannie Upton know by Tuesday, February 11th, so that our number can be registered with the host church. If you would be willing to prepare a salad for the luncheon please let Jeannie know that as well. This is a beautiful gathering of women from all denominations from all across the Charlotte area. You will be glad you set aside a Saturday morning to be a part of this!!!



What Do You Say When Asked

What do I do when I feel discouraged?

Remember:

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. (John 14:1)

And let us not grow weary doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. (Galatians 6:9)

Did You Know???



The Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Ponce, Puerto Rico, suffered extensive damage in a series of earthquakes that have rattled the country since December 28th. (Photo courtesy of the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.)

...that the United Methodist Church is heavily involved in the relief efforts for victims of recent earthquakes in Puerto Rico? Well, we are!

Because of these earthquakes, the people of Puerto Rico are in a constant state of unease and distress. Although the United Methodist Church of Puerto Rico shares in that unease, it is also responding to the disaster through its own response organization and through their partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). “Although this is a time of great hardship, one positive aspect is that we already had a strong disaster response system in place because of our Hurricane Maria work, plus we have an ongoing relationship with UMCOR,” explains Glorymar Rivera-Baez, program director for disaster recovery with Rebuilding Communities With Hope (REHACE).

According to scientific records, more than 500 earthquakes of magnitude 2 or greater have rattled the area since December 28th. Of the hundreds of earthquakes, 32 were magnitude 4 and above, including the ones on January 6th and 7th. News reports indicate that the January 7th, 6.4 magnitude earthquake, the strongest of the series of quakes, left a man dead and injured several others, caused many homes and structures to crumble and cut power and water service to large sections of the island. The island is still struggling with more than 5,000 people still sleeping outside of their homes; 2,200 of them in government-provided shelters and 3,400 sleeping in parks, parking lots and other spaces. The Methodist Church of Puerto Rico has opened the parking lots of its churches in Ponce and Jayuya to families in need of a safe place to sleep.

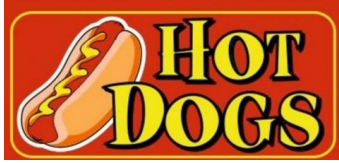
REHACE staff and contractors are still in the process of repairing and rebuilding homes that were damaged by Hurricane Maria in 2017. After the earthquakes, the agency’s structural engineers began to assess the more than 600 homes that REHACE has repaired during the past two years. They also evaluated the condition of camps and host sites where some of the more than 2,500 volunteers from mainland United Methodist congregations have stayed when visiting the island to work on these homes. Early reports indicated that there was little to no damage to these volunteer housing sites.

UMCOR has awarded a solidarity grant to help with immediate needs and has sent a team to the island to determine how best to support the Methodist Church and other helping agencies with their efforts. Even the Girl Scouts have gotten involved by helping to obtain tents and canopies that will be distributed to families affected by the earthquakes.

Along with the physical hurdles that families are forced to deal with, they are also dealing with a tremendous amount of mental stress rooted in fear...as we can all imagine! People are afraid to sleep in their homes, or in any building, for fear of a building collapse. The people of Puerto Rico are going to need support, help, and hope for a long time to come. To support the work of UMCOR and REHACE, donate to Advance #901670. When you make a contribution to UMCOR in this manner, 100% of your donation goes to that particular relief effort. Contact the church office for more information and instructions on making your donation.

(The information contained in this article was originally reported by Dan Curran on January 10th, 2020 through the United Methodist News Agency.)

It's Just a Hot Dog...or Is It???



We all know that our sweet church hosts a hot dog lunch each Friday from 11:00-1:30, right? And, we all know that the Sunday school classes and the LifePoint congregation rotate around serving as hosts for this event, right? And, we are all aware of the fact that it is indeed a fundraiser, with current allocation of funds raised going toward the debt on the Family Life Center, right? Of course we know about all of that!

Many Fridays you might ask yourself, "Oh, what difference would my little \$4 purchase make?" or "Nobody will miss my purchase of a hot dog, chips, drink, and dessert if I don't go and support it today...it can't matter that much, can it?" Guess what...it ALL matters and it matters a great deal!

In 2019, just this past year, our little hot dog fundraiser on Fridays brought in \$18,859.95! Now, that's a chunk of change! This fundraiser makes a difference and it would be hard to come up with other fundraiser ideas to do throughout the year that could generate this kind of income. Sometimes it may seem that your small purchase doesn't make a big difference...and standing alone maybe it doesn't. But, when we all work together, when we all get behind a project and strive for the same goal, it makes a HUGE difference!

So, every chance you get...every Friday that you can...come on out and support our hot dog fundraiser. When you have an opportunity to help serve, do so. Invite your friends and neighbors to come with you for a great lunch and some great fellowship! Let's work together in 2020 to make as much of a dent in that debt as we can! Who knows what God might lead us to work on next!

Sanctuary Flowers



When you enter our beautiful sanctuary on Sunday mornings you are struck by several things that accentuate our worship experience. We have beautiful stained glass windows that remind us of what we have learned from scripture. We have majestic banners that proclaim the truths of our faith. We have candles that point to the fact that Christ is the light of the world and that we are to carry that light into the world in which we live. And we also have an arrangement of flowers each week. These flowers bring a bit of God's creation into our sanctuary. They remind us of God's provision for beauty in the world.

Members of our church family provide the flowers that adorn our sanctuary. You may sign up to provide these flowers by visiting the "flower calendar" just outside of the church office. The cost of a flower arrangement is \$55 and these flowers can be placed in honor or memory of someone, in honor of an anniversary or birthday, to celebrate a marriage or a birth, in appreciation for an act of kindness or a lifetime of service. If you have a reason to celebrate or remember, you can place flowers in our sanctuary. You can even request a particular color or type of flower. Just let Lindsay, in the church office, know of your preference. If you already have a certain date in mind you might want to go ahead and reserve that date on the calendar and with the office. We are blessed by this beautiful addition to our sanctuary each week and we know that you want to be a part of this act of worship.

Backpack Buddies at Pleasant Grove



We are smack dab in the middle of our tenth year in ministry through the Backpack Buddies program! Isn't God amazing!! Each week we send food home with twenty students from Oakdale Elementary School to help their families bridge the gap between Friday and Monday. Many in our congregation donate an assigned item each month to make sure that our shelves stay stocked. All needed items, however, are not donated. That is why you will see an item of the month listed in our bulletin or on our monthly calendar. For example, the item of the month for February is canned beef stew. These donations are critical to the ongoing success of this program and are crucial to seeing that at least twenty students do not have to suffer through food insecurity over the weekend.

Even with all of these great donations, there are still outstanding needs. Each month there are quite a few items that must be purchased and brought in to the Backpack Buddy room. Since our ministry operates completely outside of the church budget, and solely on donations, it is imperative that we receive monetary donations as well as donations of food items. Won't you consider making a monetary donation to support this important community outreach program? Donations in any amount are sincerely appreciated. Simply mark your check or giving envelope for Backpack Buddies. If we all give a modest donation we can continue to make a big impact for Christ in the lives of His children!



Preschool Post

The students and teachers at our Preschool all had a wonderful Christmas break and find it hard to believe that the first month of the year is gone! Everyone seemed glad to be back at school and the growth and development of our children is becoming more and more evident, each and every day. Our three and four year old classes "hibernated" in a cave for story time, all in the comfort of their pajamas! Our younger classes have enjoyed making crafts and doing all sorts of activities that center around winter and its wonderful weather! We have already added four new friends to our preschool and look to add several more during the month of February. How blessed we are to work with children!



valentine word search

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

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| ADMIRER | ENAMORED |
| ADORE | ENDEARMENT |
| AFFECTION | ENVELOPE |
| AMOROUS | FEBRUARY |
| ANGEL | FLAME |
| BALLOONS | FLIRT |
| BELOVED | FLOWERS |
| BOUQUET | FONDNESS |
| CANDY | FRIEND |
| CARD | GIFT |
| CARNATION | HEART |
| CHARMED | HEARTTHROB |
| CHERISH | HOLIDAY |
| CHERUB | HONEY |
| CHOCOLATE | HUG |
| COURTING | KISS |
| COURTSHIP | LIKE |
| CRAZY | LOVE |
| CRUSH | LOVEBIRDS |
| CUPID | PINK |
| DARLING | POEM |
| DATE | RED |
| DEAR | ROMANCE |
| DECORATE | SWEETHEART |
| DESIRE | SWEETS |
| DEVOTION | TENDERNESS |
| DOVES | VALENTINE |
| EMBRACE | |