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Worship Times:

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

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Inspiration Point

John 12:23 – 26 But Jesus answered them saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

A Sunday School Teacher, Mr. Kimball, in 1858 led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist and in England in 1879 awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F. B. Meyer, preaching on an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J. Wilbur Chapman. Mr. Chapman engaged in YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work. Mr. Billy Sunday held a revival service in Charlotte, NC. A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another campaign, bringing Mr. Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

Because of their enthusiasm one man began to hold all day prayer meetings in his pasture, inviting all the Christian Business Men to attend. In those prayer meetings, a Mr. Vernon Patterson prayed that out of Charlotte, NC, God would raise up someone to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth! It was not long after that the Rev. Mordecai Hamm came to Charlotte to preach his revival services. It was during those revival services that a young farm worker by the name of Billy Graham came to know and accept Jesus Christ as the Lord of his life!

Now, we all know of Rev. Billy Graham, and of the huge work that he and his evangelistic group have done in this century! He is a very visible man of God! But how many of you know of that Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball? We do not know whether he led all his students to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, or if he only led just one man! We do know that that just one man, Mr. Dwight L. Moody, a shoe clerk at the time, a nobody, would make a big difference in the Kingdom of God! Every one counts! This Mr. Kimball took the time to share his faith story with someone. He was an ordinary man with an ordinary job.

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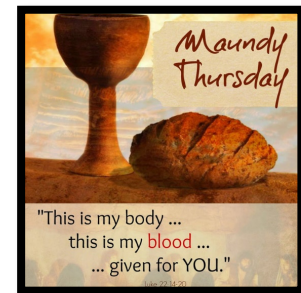
Jesus left us with a simple command, "Go into all the world and preach, teach and make disciples!" Someone shared their faith story with you! As a result, Jesus met you at your point of need and you accepted Him as your Lord and Savior! Wherever you go, whatever you are doing, be prepared to share your faith story! Your disciple may be no Billy Graham, no Billy Sunday, maybe the little widow woman next door, or the struggling single mom with 3 children down the street, but they need Jesus just as much as you did when you found Him! Let the love Jesus poured into your heart come rolling out as you reach out to your neighbors and friends! Let's make a difference!

Brother Phil

Holy Week at The Grove



The days leading up to Easter are incredibly special to those of us in the Christian Church. We refer to the week leading up to Easter as "Holy Week." The Sunday before Easter is called "Palm Sunday" and is the time when we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Many of us have such fond memories of this Sunday from our childhood...picturing Jesus, riding into



Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, palm branches waving in the air, shouts of "Hosanna" ringing out, and singing songs describing this beautiful scene. But then, as we progress through the week, we remember Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples, the agony of His prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the sacrifice of God's Perfect Lamb on a cross atop Calvary. But, Hallelujah! We know how the story ends! Death does not have the last word and Christ is resurrected! He waits for us in eternity with The Father and we can celebrate this victory on Easter Sunday morning! We invite everyone to join us as we remember and celebrate these defining moments in our story. Please take part in any or all of the following observances. All are welcome!

Palm Sunday, March 28th

Worship at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, with Sunday school at 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 1st

Holy Communion and Worship at 7:00 PM in the Family Life Center

Easter Sunday, April 4th

Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM at the Scout Hut Property on Pleasant Grove Road

Biscuit Breakfast at 7:45 in the Family Life Center

Sunday School at 9:00 AM

Worship at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

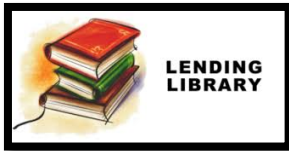


Worship Update

We certainly have ridden a roller coaster over the past twelve months, haven't we? We have stopped meeting corporately for worship. We have met virtually for worship. We have met in the parking lot for worship. We met for a while with just one service in the Family Life Center. And most recently, we have stopped meeting in person again. We are now pleased to announce that on Sunday, March 7th, Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church will return to its normal Sunday worship schedule. We are so excited to (safely) gather together again! We encourage everyone to continue to wear their masks and practice responsible social distancing. We can't wait to see everyone at church again!

9:00 AM -- Worship in the Sanctuary
10:00 AM -- Sunday School/Small Groups
11:00 AM -- Worship in the Family Life Center

Pleasant Grove's Lending Library is Up and Running!!!



When next you enter our Family Life Center through the Gathering Room, you will notice something new on the rolling cubby shelves there! Our new lending library is open and available! On these shelves you will find a variety of books that are just waiting for someone to take them home. As of the end of February we have Bibles, devotionals, group study resources, individual spiritual growth resources, non-fiction selections and Christian fiction selections.

The process for using our library is simple...look at the books on the shelves, choose one to read, take it from the shelf, take it home with you, read and enjoy it, and bring it back for someone else's pleasure. That's it!!! No sign out, no card file! The way we see it, we are all adults here, we love one another, and we enjoy sharing with each other every chance we get. So, take advantage of this new resource on our campus and get to reading!!!

If you are in need of a Bible, or know someone who is, we encourage you to take a Bible from our shelves without the expectation of returning it. Our goal with these Bibles is to get the Word of God into as many hands and homes as we can. The Bibles are gifts to anyone who wants one!!!

We are always looking to enlarge our collection of offerings so we have placed a donation bin beside the library shelves. Please donate books in good condition, with no markings in them. And we would appreciate it if the books you donate are not extremely out of date. We can't guarantee that all donations will make it into our library but if they don't we will be sure to pass them along through another donation site.



The other day I was looking at the calendar and realized that spring begins on March 20, 2021 at 5:37am. It seems early this year. That is almost 2 weeks before Maundy Thursday (the Thursday of Holy Week). In past years spring has occurred on Maundy Thursday or if it was a leap year, on Good Friday. Regardless of the actual date of spring, each year I can't help but notice the paradox presented by this timing of spring to Easter weekend.

Spring is that time of year when we think about budding trees, blooming flowers, hatching birds, and all the other forms of new life represented in nature. Grass that has been dormant for many months begins its transition from lifeless pale yellow to vibrant, luscious green. In the country we see fields of corn and wheat sprouting in barren fields.

In contrast, Maundy Thursday (with Judas' betrayal of Christ) and Good Friday (with the crucifixion and death of Jesus) are seemingly the lowest points of the Christian year. For the followers of Christ, that twenty-four-hour span must have been one of the darkest days experienced in their lives.

At first glance the arrival of spring and Maundy Thursday/Good Friday seems to be at odds with one another. However, at the same time, it seems most appropriate that the first day of spring occurs in close proximity to Holy Week. After all, Maundy Thursday/Good Friday was not the end of the story. Easter Sunday would follow. God would follow the darkest days of despair with the brightest day of hope.

Winters can be tough. The lack of sunlight on short days, the cold and its limit on our outdoor activities, and the starkness of nature can wreak havoc on our minds and emotions. Not to mention how COVID has added stress and anxiety to the mix.

The good news is that life-filled spring takes the place of dormant winter. Even better news is that resurrection and life follow crucifixion and death. May God bless you as we transition from winter into spring.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

Christ above all,
Pastor Byron





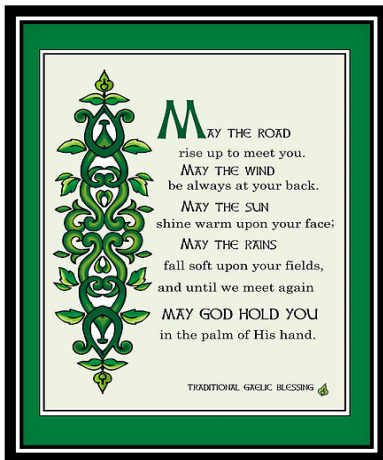
After School Additions

Our After School Care program continues to pivot and respond to the ever-changing school schedules for the 2020-2021 school year. Please continue to hold our staff and students in your prayers as we work our way through one of the more difficult school years on record. We truly do hope that everyone in our church family is doing well. Now that Mountain Island Charter School is back to in-person education we hope to remain open for the remainder of the school year. We will begin registration for our Summer Camp this month. If you, or someone you know is interested in enrolling their student in our Summer Camp program, please call the Children's Building at 704.393.7895. Last summer was different, to say the least, with the absence of field trips but we still managed to have a fun summer together! We hope that everyone continues to stay safe and hopefully we will turn the corner on this situation in the very near future!!!



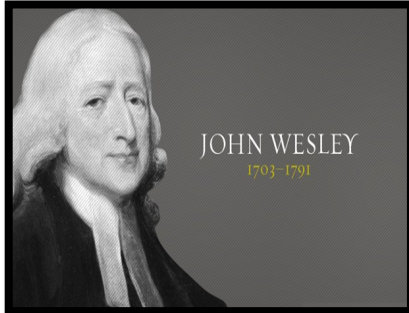
Daylight Savings Time Reminder!

Just a friendly reminder from your friends at Pleasant News to set your clocks forward by one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 13th. When you wake up on Sunday you will be right on time and you will enjoy an extra hour of daylight in the evening as we move closer and closer to Spring! Don't forget!!!



The volunteers with Pleasant News would like to wish our entire church family a Happy St. Patrick's Day! As you take part in all of the fun and festivities...wearing green, eating corned beef and cabbage, giggling over leprechauns and rainbows, looking for a four-leafed clover amongst all the shamrocks... we would like for everyone to remember that as members of the Family of God, we aren't just lucky...**WE ARE BLESSED!!!**
And that is something to celebrate!!!

Did You Know???



...that education is one of our core values as United Methodists? And that our commitment to education dates to the earliest days of the Methodist movement in 18th century England?

Well, you may or may not have known that we have been committed to the accessibility of high-quality education for such a long time, but you probably did know that education is important to The United Methodist Church as evidenced by the existence of Methodist colleges and universities. Let's take a quick look at the history of the Methodist Church and our involvement in the field of education!

John Wesley believed that education was the key to a richer, fuller life. "Knowledge, for him, was not so much a purely intellectual attribute but rather a channel of self-understanding, which is crucial for salvation," writes Richard Heitzenrater in a summary of the educational principles of Wesley.

Wesley believed that all should have access to education, no matter their gender or socio-economic class. In 1748 he made changes to a school that he had opened for the children of coal miners near Bristol, England. He named the new version of this school Kingswood School. Wesley's goal was to give young people a quality education so that they could aspire to Oxford, or to Cambridge, or to the professions.

As the Methodist movement grew and spread across the United States, Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke took Wesley's lead and founded Cokesbury College. Cokesbury was the first of many colleges begun by our denomination. "The General Conferences of 1820 and 1824 charged annual conferences with the establishment of schools, literary institutions, and colleges. By the Civil War, Methodism had established or was affiliated with some 200 such institutions," writes Russell Richey.

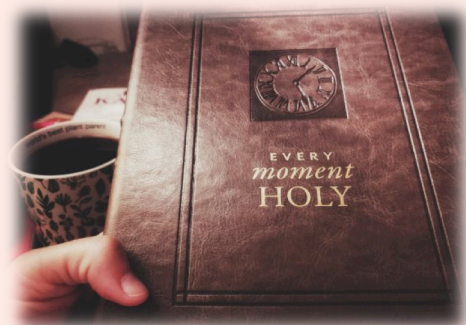
Many educational institutions have been founded by the church because of John Wesley's vision of making higher education accessible to all. Nineteenth century church leaders established colleges that gave degrees to women and African Americans. The Methodist Church initiated strong programs of scholarships and loans to give financial support to students who demonstrated true need beginning in the 1860s and continuing even today. As a denomination, we reaffirmed our commitment to education accessibility in the 1970s with the creation of the Black College Fund and the HANA Scholars program. The same commitment was visible in the 1990s with the establishment of Africa University.

As of 2021, The United Methodist Church supports a network of 117 United Methodist related schools, colleges, and universities in the U.S. This includes 13 schools of theology. We also have relationship with more than 700 institutions of education in the Methodist tradition around the globe.

And to think, this all started with one man's vision of education for all!!! If you have the time, why don't you do a quick search of Methodist colleges and universities and take a look at all the good that is being done in the name of The United Methodist Church? And, when you have questions about why a church would be involved in early childhood development, through daycare, preschool, and after school care/summer camp, just keep in mind that this desire to impact young people from an educational perspective comes from many years back and from the mind and heart of our founder John Wesley. It seems as if his vision continues to come to pass as our denomination affects the lives of young people from birth to adulthood through the process of high-quality education. It is this very attitude that makes us all proud of our heritage and hopeful for our future!!!

(The information in this article was produced by Ask the UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications, and first appeared on the website of the United Methodist Church.)

Recommended Reading



This month's book recommendation isn't so much a "good read" as it is a "great resource" for each of us. Every Moment Holy by Douglas McKelvey is a book of liturgies for the ordinary events in our daily lives. By definition, a liturgy is a communal response to, and participation in, the sacred through activities reflecting praise, thanksgiving, remembrance, supplication, or repentance. This volume of over 100 liturgies, or prayers, serves as a way of reminding us that our lives are filled with sacred purpose even when, and especially when, we are frantically busy and too caught up in our own busyness to notice. Some of the prayers included in this beautiful book are "A Liturgy for Laundering", "A Liturgy for Sunsets", "A Liturgy for the Sound of Sirens", and "A Liturgy for Waiting in Line". There are also table blessings for each day of the week and prayers for times of sorrow and lament.

Some of the liturgies found in Every Moment Holy are meant to be read in a call and response format, with a leader and people. Others are intended for personal use, either silently or aloud. Some of these prayers have multiple speaking parts and some are written to be read as a part of the daily routine.

Some are for use on special or memorable occasions, and some when faced with difficult or tragic situations. Some are even designed to be memorized so that they can be recalled when needed. But all of them can be used in any way that brings the Sacred into the mundane. These verses will serve as prayers to encourage us in the practice of being mindful of the constant presence of God. They will draw us toward a greater recognition of the echoes of eternity that resound in every moment of our lives.

Russell Moore, author of Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel, writes of Every Moment Holy, these liturgies help me to "seek God's blessing in everything from starting a new book, to setting up a Christmas tree, to marking a birthday. These prayers also help when words are hard to find – in a night of suffering, or after a house fire, or a friend's death. It's filled with Biblical wisdom and beautiful writing."

As one example, here is a *Liturgy Upon Hearing Birdsong*: "You draw praise from the frailest of things. So also draw praise from me." And then, hear these beautiful words *Upon Randomly Thinking of Another Person*: "God, as I hold _____ a moment in my thoughts, I ask that you would hold them eternally in yours, remaining ever at work in their heart and life, even now directing their paths toward your good ends."

We do so often let the holy of life slip by unnoticed. This little volume of beautifully written words will help us all to grasp the holy, to invite the Holy One into our everyday lives, at ordinary times, for extraordinary blessings. We encourage everyone to get their own copy of Every Moment Holy, refer to it often, and incorporate this practice into daily life. It can be found on Amazon, Christian Book Distributors, or at many local booksellers. There are many books that we read once and then pass on to others for their enjoyment. This one, Friends, is a keeper, for sure!!!

The Recipe Box



This month, St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated around the globe. In the United States that means shamrocks, rainbows, leprechauns, and Irish foods. Now, many of us think of Corned Beef and Cabbage around St. Patrick's Day, even if we don't prepare it or even eat it!!! Before we share a recipe for *Old-Fashioned Cabbage Casserole* (Our apologies to the Purists...we aren't including the corned beef with this recipe!) we thought it might be fun to share a little bit about the history of this iconic St. Paddy's Day dish.

You might think that corned beef and cabbage is the national dish of Ireland...but you would be mistaken! You wouldn't even eat it on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland. It is typically only eaten around the holiday here in the U.S. But this dish is synonymous with the Irish...right? Well, during the time of the Irish immigration to America, these first generation Irish-Americans wanted the comforting tastes of their homeland. For them, St. Patrick's Day meant boiled bacon. However, the immigrants were too poor to afford the high price of pork and bacon. So, they turned to the cheapest cut of meat available: beef brisket. We all know that New York City was a melting pot for immigrants from around the world, so instead of boiling the beef, the Irish adopted cooking methods from some of the other cultures that had filtered into their New York society. Brining was an Eastern European technique, which is a method of salt-curing the beef. And how about the "corned" part of the beef? Well, "corned" has nothing to do with corn but instead refers to the corn-sized salt crystals used during the brining of the meat. In fact, corned beef is sometimes called "pickled beef" as you are quite literally pickling brisket with this particular brining process. The corned beef was then paired with cabbage, as it was one of the cheapest vegetables available to the immigrants. So...Ta-Da...there you have it...corned beef and cabbage!!!

The recipe that we are highlighting this month will give you an interesting way to serve cabbage. You can go ahead and have it with some corned beef if you wish, or you could pair it with a grilled pork chop...heck! You can have it as a side with most any main dish! Cabbage is still affordable and is available year-round. *Old-Fashioned Cabbage Casserole* is a southern favorite with a creamy cabbage filling topped with buttery crackers and cheddar cheese. What can be wrong about that?

So, without further ado, we give you, from spicysouthernkitchen.com, *Old-Fashioned Cabbage Casserole!*

Old-Fashioned Cabbage Casserole

- 1 small head green cabbage, coarsely chopped
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 8 T. butter
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 can condensed cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup
- 1/3 c. mayonnaise

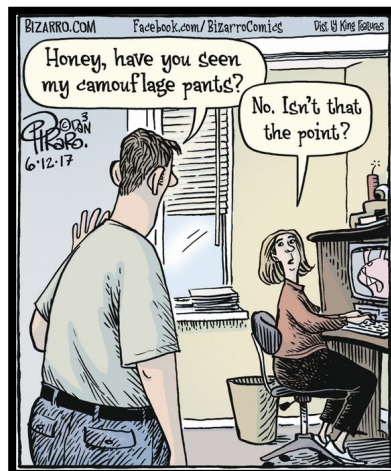
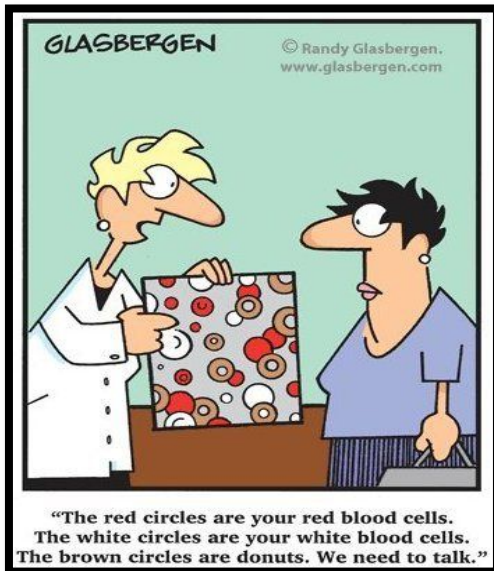
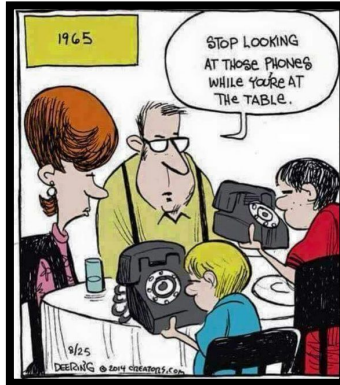
Topping:

- 3 T. melted butter
- 1 c. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 sleeve Ritz crackers (about 30), coarsely crushed



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease or spray a 2-quart casserole dish. Melt butter in a large nonstick pan. Add chopped cabbage and chopped onion and cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring frequently, or until it is partially cooked down. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer cabbage mixture to prepared baking dish. In a small bowl, stir together the soup and mayonnaise. (Do not follow soup directions on can. Do not add water. Mayonnaise is the only thing you add to the soup.) Spread mixture over the cabbage. In bowl, stir together melted butter, cheese, and crushed crackers. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake for 30 minutes or until the topping is browned. Remove from oven and enjoy!!! And, Luck O' The Irish to ya!

"Just For Giggles"



“The Following Gifts Have Been Made In Memory Or In Honor Of”

IN MEMORY

Nancy Brown
Don Brown

Brian Lynch
Nadine Williams – Family Life Center
Tracy Godfrey
Laura Gilleland
Covenant Sunday School Class – Family Life Center
Steve and Karen Dellinger
Eddie and Jane McCarver
Bob and Sylvia Bradshaw
Hazel Sanders
John and Linda Riggins
Anonymous

A.G. Brown
Roy and Margaret Parker
Genesis Sunday School Class – Family Life Center
Steve and Karen Dellinger
Michael McClure
Ray and Trena McClure
Anonymous

IN HONOR

Roy and Margaret Parker
Don and Joan Haynes

Jo Mitchell
Double Ring Sunday School Class

Carson Watts
Double Ring Sunday School Class

Martha Honeycutt
Double Ring Sunday School Class

Terry Kelly
Rickey and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund



You've Done It Again, Pleasant Grove!!!



Once again, Pleasant Grove, you have let God's goodness and generosity ooze out of you, to be felt by those who find themselves in less-than-ideal situations! For the last three weeks we have been collecting items for Roof Above (formerly Men's Shelter of Charlotte and Urban Ministry Center), to be distributed to those being served by the Statesville Road winter shelter. While we have not been meeting in person for worship, you still went out of your way to purchase and provide for those in need, bringing your donations to our Gathering Room whenever you could. And your efforts showed up in a big, big way!!!

As a church family you gave:

- 116 tubes of toothpaste
- 106 toothbrushes
- 136 washcloths
- 41 cans of shave cream
- 335 disposable razors
- 53 bottles of shampoo and body wash
- 55 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 94 face masks
- 16 packs of hand wipes
- 12 pairs of underwear
- 34 pairs of socks
- 6 tee shirts
- 11 deodorants
- ...and a small box of assorted other supplies

Your care and compassion are to be commended. But we all know that the glory belongs to The Lord. It is because of His care and compassion for us that we can respond to the needs of His people in this way! Thanks for being the love of Jesus in our world today!



Scripture of the Month



Hey there church family!

Colin here with another short passage of scripture for this month, to bring you encouragement and peace. This month our passage comes from **Philippians Chapter 4: verse 4-7**

**"Do"
Not Be
Anxious
- about -
Anything**

Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

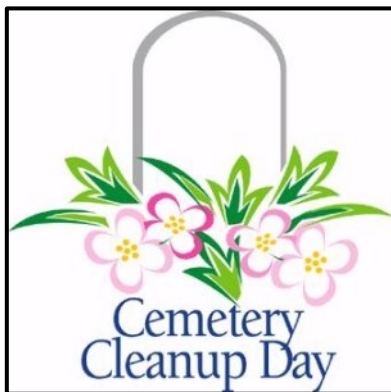
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is a passage about finding peace in the Lord no matter our situation. But not just peace, we are told to rejoice! Imagine that, rejoicing even when things are tough or we are struggling. We are called to celebrate even through our own suffering because we have a wonderful God who brings us peace and comfort no matter what is happening in our lives. If you (like me) struggle to do this... don't worry this passage gives us clear instruction on how we can be better at doing this. "...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." When we struggle and it becomes hard to see a reason to rejoice we can seek peace through our Lord through prayer and we can ask on our behalf for God's help and He will bring us peace, and yes, even joy! We aren't expected to be some rock hard fortress against struggles, but instead we are given God to "guard our hearts."

So this month if you are struggling, seek out the Lord in prayer and he will not only protect you, but bring you joy (even if we still continue to struggle). I hope that brings you some encouragement and strength in the times to come and I look forward to sharing more with you next month!

See you next time!

~Colin



The Cemetery Committee is planning a clean-up day on March 20th. If you have flowers on a loved ones grave that you want to keep, please remove them by that date. We will be removing all flowers that are badly faded after that date. Thank You!

What Do You Say When Asked???

Could You Use Some Unshakeable Hope?

The promises of God serve as an apothecary shelf of remedies. Just as the doctor might prescribe a medication for your body, God has given promises for your heart. He shares them as gifts from friend to friend. “Friendship with God is reserved for those who reverence him. With them alone he shares the secrets of his promises” (Ps, 25: 14 TLB).

Taken from; Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado



St Patrick's Day

WORD SEARCH Search across, down, and diagonally



Find the following words:

LEPRECHAUN	RAINBOW	GOLD
ST PATRICK	CLOVER	LUCK
SHAMROCK	GREEN	
IRELAND	MARCH	

