



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

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Inspiration Point

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt **MEDITATE** there in day and night, that thou mayst observe to do according to all that is written therein; for **THEN** thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and **THEN** thou shalt have good success.

John 15:7 If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love.

I had taught Sunday School for 19 years before I entered the Pastoral Ministry. I was a Pastor for 23 years, and I have preached on most of the Bible. I have read through the Bible numerous times, and in many cases, can tell you what it says as applied to any given situation. But not once have I ever read that it was not relevant to today's times and situations! Not once have I ever read that we could ignore God's Word and do whatever we want, even if it goes against the teachings of the Bible! If we know what the Word says, and yet we act in contradiction to it, we are sinning! We are saying in our actions that God is a liar!

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If we expect God to answer our prayers and yet we constantly act contrary to His Word, DO NOT expect Him to answer those prayers! Our sin has grieved the Holy Spirit and He has shut us off! The only thing He wants to hear from us is "I have sinned and fallen short of your expectations! Please forgive me!" Then we are to turn from our wicked ways and go and sin no more!

The Bible is full of God's promises to believers. God is no respecter of persons; what He has promised to one believer is a promise made to every believer! If you want God to answer your prayers, search your Bible for a promise that fits what you seek! Commit that Scripture to heart and quote it! Pray specifically for what you need and remind God of His Word as you have found it! But pray for what you need... do not tell God how to answer your prayer. He will do it much better than you have even thought of! Pray until the peace comes, and when it comes, that is your signal that God has heard your prayer and the answer is on the way! Following that, do not ask Him anymore, but thank Him and praise Him for your answered prayer! To ask again is to say you do not believe and shows a lack of faith on your part. Without faith, your prayers will never be answered! Now, when the peace comes, as I have said, the answer to your prayer is on the way! You do not have it in your hand yet, and you cannot see it, but receive it by faith in God because He is faithful! Now, whenever it comes to mind, quote your scripture, and thank God for the answer to your prayer! You will have it in your hand and see it soon enough!

God is a God of Order and has no room for disorder or confusion. Where that exists, the Holy Spirit withdraws because He is grieved. When the Holy Spirit withdraws, Satan moves in to create more confusion! Remember in the Book of Acts when they were all in the upper room and in one accord? There was a mighty display of the movement of the Holy Spirit! That is where we need to be as a church... all in one accord, remembering that our purpose for being together is to give honor and praise to the Lord, our God! It is not about good works, although that is an outflow of the love given us by our Lord! It is not about brick-and-mortar buildings, about replacing roofs, or air conditioning units! The joy we have in the worship of our Lord and the love we exude as we gather spiritually causes others to come and want to participate with us! To worship God is not a spectator sport! God gets no joy out of us sitting quietly and not singing along with the Hymns! If your life is dull and dry spiritually and there is never a sign that God is with you, this tells you something! God inhabits the praises of His people! When we draw nigh to God, He draws nigh to us! If you want more from God, then ask Him for it! He will bless you liberally! But He will not force Himself on anyone! You must ask in order to receive!

Brother Phil

From the Pastor's Desk



THE LEGEND OF FIVE KERNELS OF CORN

In their first few years in America, the Pilgrims faced the challenges of not only a rough winter, but a small harvest. At one point, William Bradford records in his diary a period of 4-5 days when they just had a few kernels of corn to eat.

Over the course of time, this became a legend of there being a ration of five kernels of corn each day, so the practice developed of placing five kernels of corn on each plate, a reminder for all God has provided and to give thanks.

- The 1st kernel reminds us of the autumn beauty around us.
- The 2nd kernel reminds us of our love for one another.
- The 3rd kernel reminds us of God's love and care for us.
- The 4th kernel reminds us of the faithfulness of our friends.
- The 5th kernel reminds us that we are a free people.

I want to take a moment to say THANKS.

My prayer for each of you this year is that you don't have a chance to read this message on Thanksgiving Day, actually ... because you're far too busy celebrating this day with the people you love.

My prayer, also, is that you are filled with gratitude for the countless blessings that God has poured out in your life: your home, your family, your friends, your job, even your material possessions, meager though they sometimes may seem to be.

I'm sure that some of us could easily make a case for why we shouldn't be *that* grateful this year; maybe 2022 has been a rough year for you. Maybe it was a challenge for you in the areas of your finances, or work, or health, or maybe some kind of broken family relationships.

But we still have hold of that which really matters:

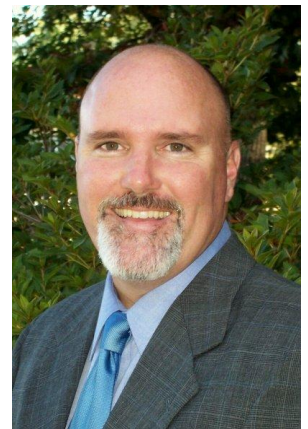
- God is present in our lives, and that will never change.
- We have an opportunity to serve him and serve others — and though the context of our service may change from time to time, the calling itself is irrevocable. How's that for grace?
- And, since we are members of God's family, we can honestly say that there are people in our lives who love us, without hesitation and without condition.

I bet you can think of a few more items to add to this list.

As for me, I'm thankful to be your pastor, thankful that I have the opportunity to do His work with you, thankful that you continue to be active members of our congregation, and thankful that if you have had a tough year, then it will soon be coming to a close, and a new year filled with endless opportunities appears on the horizon.

Happy Thanksgiving, my friends.

Pastor Byron



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

IN MEMORY

Jack Pace

Ted and Jo Mitchell

Horace Nixon

Ted and Jo Mitchel

Bobby Puckett

Nadine Williams

Roy and Margaret Parker

Kathy Alexander

Covenant Sunday School Class

Hazel Sanders

Steve and Maria McClure – Cemetery Fund

Disciples Sunday School Class – Cemetery Fund

Ruth Isenhour

Joel and Vanessa Summerville

Edwin Barnes

Genesis Sunday School Class – Family Life
Center

Tim and Terri Honeycutt

Steve and Karen Dellinger

IN HONOR

Roy and Margaret Parker

Ted and Jo Mitchell



All Saints Day at Pleasant Grove



On Sunday, November 6th, Pleasant Grove will once again observe All Saints Day during our 10:00 worship service. During the worship service, we will have a time of remembrance as we give thanks for the lives of those church members who have gone on to their heavenly reward in the past year. The names of these saints will be read, and a candle will be lit in their memory. Please make plans to be in worship with your church family on this incredibly special Sunday. For All Saints Day 2022 we will remember:

*Louise Cobb ~ Patricia Yonders ~ Clay Todd
Hiram Handy ~ Foy Lee Phillips ~ Glen Reynolds
Yogi Maples ~ Richard Tweed ~ Debbie Zimmerman
Grace Nixon ~ Judy Watts ~ Herby Vanhoy ~ Ruth Isenhour*



The Recipe Box

The holidays are right around the corner... Can you believe that!!! And although this month's recipe can certainly be enjoyed any time of the year, in my family it has been, and forever will be, a part of our Christmas season. Like so many of you, my family has been blessed with a number of great cooks! Some were known for their desserts. Some were known for their "meat and potatoes" meals that always satisfied. Some were known for their appetizers...always coming up with something new and different to tease our taste buds before a bounteous family feast. But most families had that one...that one that could fry the chicken just right, cook the green beans to everyone's liking, and then crown the meal with a show-stopping dessert. And our family was no exception. Helen Green was a whale of a good cook...always...every day...every meal.

But Helen really showed her talent, and her love for our family at the holidays. She started baking right after Thanksgiving and didn't let up until the Fruit Cakes, Fruit Cake Cookies, Stained Glass Window Cookies, Melting Moments, Apricot Foldovers, and Peanut Butter Balls were all ready and arranged oh so beautifully. But, to balance all that sweetness, she made batch after batch of a savory, salty, crunchy treat to go along with the goodies. Now, some of you might call it Trash. You might call it Party Mix or Chex Mix. But Helen called it **Nuts and Bolts**.



In the Green Family, several of us have tried to carry on with some of the family favorites. My sister-in-law, Lisa has mastered the Miniature Cheesecakes. My brother Steve loves to whip up a jar of Bleu Cheese Dressing. My daughter Jessica has almost perfected the Thanksgiving Dressing. My brother Buck loves to cook a mess of Collard Greens low and slow. I make a valiant attempt at the Sweet Potato Casserole. But my sister-in-law Peggy Green has the **Nuts and Bolts** down to a science. She pours not only the ingredients, but also the love into making several batches of this treat each and every holiday season...and we all look forward to it!!!

We do hope that you will enjoy making a bowl full of this special snack. And maybe it's time to look back at some of your family's tried-and-true traditional favorites and give them a spot on your holiday table this year. You just might be amazed at the beautiful memories that can be brought back to mind with the familiar family dish!!! Enjoy!

Nuts and Bolts

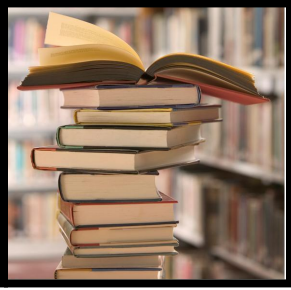
3 cups **EACH** of Corn, Rice, and Wheat Chex cereals
 1 cup mixed nuts
 1 cup pretzel pieces or sticks
 1 cup of cheddar crackers (Goldfish, Cheez Its, etc.)
 1 stick of butter, melted

2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 2 tsp. seasoned salt
 1 tsp. garlic powder
 1 tsp. onion powder
 (Some folks add Cheerios, Bugles, or Crispex cereal...use your imagination!)

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Mix in a big bowl, the cereals, nuts, pretzels, and cheese crackers. Then separately, in a 9x13 pan with tall sides, mix the butter, Worcestershire, seasoned salt, garlic powder, and onion powder. Pour the cereal mixture into the butter mixture and stir until well-coated. Put this in the 250-degree oven and stir every fifteen minutes for an hour. Remove from oven and spread mixture on paper towels to cool. This can be stored in gallon zipper top bags until ready to serve. Delicious!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown

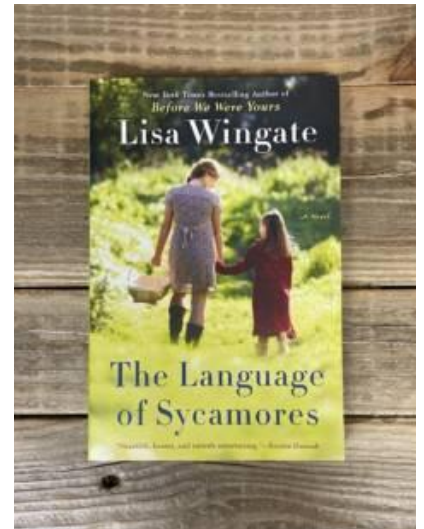
Recommended Reading



November brings chilly mornings and evenings, the need for cozy blankets and a mug of hot chocolate, and some wonderful time for settling in with a good book. And we have just the book you need for times like this! [The Language of Sycamores](#), by Lisa Wingate, is a poignant story that will touch your heart from the first page to the last. It is so easy to get swept up in this engrossing story of sibling love and the toll that secrets can take on that very special relationship, that you will find yourself thinking about these characters even after you have put the book down for the day. It is a positive and uplifting tale that finds itself to be inspirational without being preachy.

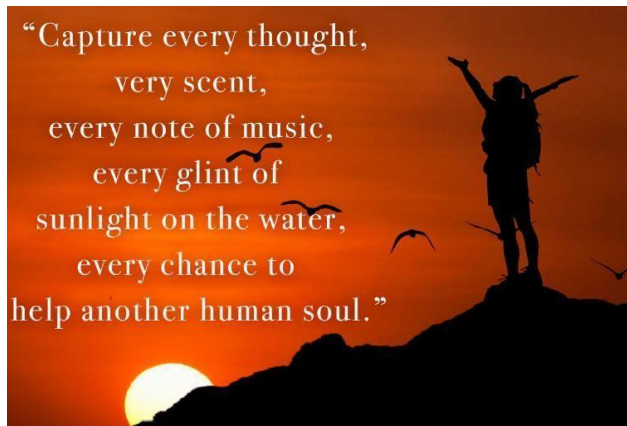
Karen Sommerfield has been hiding from three big areas in her life...the emotional distance between she and her husband, her bout with cancer, and the fact that this cancer now prevents her from having children. To kick these proverbial cans further down the road, she has immersed herself in a high-powered job. This job has provided her with the sense of purpose she yearns for...that is, until the day the company downsizes her out of her coveted job and the doctor tells her that she may be facing cancer once again. It's a double blow that would send anyone reeling, and it certainly does that to Karen.

In the face of this life-altering news, Karen enters into a search for herself as she makes her way back to the music she loves and the last place that she ever thought to look: Grandma Rose's old farm. As Karen's hectic schedule and fast-paced life fall away, she opens up to the unexpected. She finds a lonely child in need of nurturing, answers to the mystery of her family's past, and love and acceptance from an unlikely group of college interns serving the summer with a children's arts camp. In the quiet Missouri Ozarks, she hears once again the soft, secret language of the sycamore trees, an awareness once shared with her Grandma Rose, and discovers answers to life's questions along with a joy that makes her life complete.



We think you will genuinely enjoy [The Language of Sycamores](#)! Although it is one part of a four-volume series, it stands on its own as a thoroughly engaging and inspirational story. Lisa Wingate is an excellent storyteller

who knows how to draw us in as readers, how to keep the pages turning, and how to have us laughing one minute and reaching for a tissue the next. This story will capture your heart as it goes beyond simple hope and healing to exploring how God works in our lives to bring us to the abundant life that he wants for us.



So, go ahead and get your copy of [The Language of Sycamores](#). It is available through any online bookseller, any public library, and of course, in Pleasant Grove's very own Lending Library! You will be glad you read this one!!! Happy Reading!!!

News from United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith had an ideal morning on Saturday, September 24th, as they met for the "Missions Walk". There were twelve members and three children that completed the two miles. Thanks to generous contributions from our participants and other Pleasant Grove members, \$825 was raised for missions. The funds will be divided between the Metro District and our local United Women in Faith unit for mission projects. A BIG thank you to all who had a part in making this outreach event a wonderful success.



November 20th will be our United Women in Faith Recognition Sunday. Pastor Byron will be preaching and the members of the UWF will be helping with other parts of the worship service. This year's UWF Mission Pin will be presented during this worship service. All members of the United Women in Faith are asked to sit together as a group and to wear their mission pin if they have received one in the past. There will be a

BAKE SALE on that Sunday in the fellowship hall. Baked goods will be available for purchase before Sunday School, between Sunday School and worship, and after worship. UWF members will be furnishing the baked items and are asked to have their items in the Fellowship Hall as early as possible. This bake sale is also a mission fund project, and any support will certainly be appreciated.



It's Time to Help Again, Pleasant Grove!

The holidays are right around the corner! As November begins, we are beginning to think about our Thanksgiving Feast and our Christmas Dinner...who will be with us, how we might decorate our table, where people will park, what time we will eat, and most importantly, what we will serve. It's all very exciting...and expensive...even more so this year it seems!!



As has been the case for many years, we have the opportunity to help other families enjoy a Thanksgiving and Christmas meal with their friends and family. We will be providing twelve families from Oakdale School with \$75 in grocery store gift cards for each of these holidays. If you are willing and able to be a part of this ministry, please get your donation, of any amount, into the church office. You can take your gift by the office, or you can place it in the Sunday morning offering. Just be sure to mark your donation as "Oakdale School."

So many times, we feel helpless to make a difference in the lives of others. We think our little bit couldn't make much of an impact. But together we certainly can make a difference. Just imagine how blessed these families will feel when they look around their own tables to see the smiles and satisfaction on the faces of those they love. Thank you, Pleasant Grove, for being the hands and feet of Jesus! How blessed we are to be a blessing!!!

After School Care Post

Fall is here and we love to watch all the beautiful leaves as they change colors day after day. After School Care is going very well! We had such an easy start, and everyone seems to be adjusting to each other nicely. The children have been working on several crafts and now our room is so beautiful! It looks like Autumn has exploded all around us!!! We have wreaths of leaves, scarecrows, bats, pumpkin people, and owls...and that's just so far! A very special thanks to Mrs. Upton for all her hard work with the children to complete these projects.



We love to go to the gym to run and play and get some energy out after being in school for most of the day. We plan to participate in the Operation Christmas Child effort here at the church...receiving several boxes from the families of our group. We have been praying for the people of Florida and that they can begin to get back on their feet after Hurricane Ian.

Thank you, Pleasant Grove, for providing a space for us to be together after school!!!



Remember to Fall Back!!!



Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th, at 2:00 AM. This means that before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th, you should turn your clocks back one hour. If you don't take care of this change, you just might find an empty parking lot and an extra hour to spend in prayer and Bible study before the rest of the church family arrives! However, if you do remember to turn that clock back you get an extra hour of sleep! Sounds great, doesn't it!!!



Save the Date...Plan Ahead!!

On Nov. 20th @ 4pm we will be hosting in our Family Life Center, a Cluster Charge Conference with several other UMC churches. Please come and celebrate with us the work that God is doing in our congregations. We will have a time of fellowship and refreshments following the Charge Conference.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Place these items in a box in your home, December 1 – December 24. On Christmas Eve, bring that box with you to worship at 4:00pm. Place your box in the Lobby area of the Family Life Center.



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

Pleasant Grove UMC
1915 Oakdale Road
Charlotte, North Carolina



Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child is in full swing at Pleasant Grove! But there is still plenty of time for you to pick up a box, or two, or five from our sanctuary. Inside each box is a brochure with a label. Just follow the suggestions for filling your box, fill out the label, include the shipping fee (if possible), attach the label to the top of the box, and return the box to the sanctuary. The deadline for returning filled boxes is **Sunday, November 20th**. We look forward to seeing our stack

of empty boxes dwindle down to nothing as our stack of filled boxes just grows and grows!!! What a blessing it is to have the desire to serve, the opportunity to serve, and the ability to serve! Just imagine the joy that your box will bring to the life of a child! And give thanks to God that your box will also help that same child know of God and His love for each of His children!



Matins Service



Hey church family!

I know it's hard to believe, but we're fast approaching the Christmas season! I know, I know, everyone moves too fast through the holidays and we still have to eat our turkeys and stuffing. If you blink however, it'll be that holly jolly time before you know it! More important than all the lights and hub-bub of the season is that it's one of the most holy seasons of the year: Advent. This is the season where we prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival

of Jesus Christ and the great gift of life that he brings.

I'm always trying to find ways for us to deepen our relationship with Jesus so this year I want us to try something new for the Advent season. Starting on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27th, we will begin having a weekly early morning service in the chapel at 8:30-9:00 am every Sunday through Advent. We are calling it a Matins Service which basically is just a liturgical word for early morning service. These Matins Services will be a time for us to worship together, take communion together, and embrace this holy season together! These services will be short, but I think a worthy way to spend our mornings before we start the day! I hope you'll join me this Advent season for these services and I hope you'll allow this season of Advent to work a miraculous change in your life. With that, I'll see you on November 27!

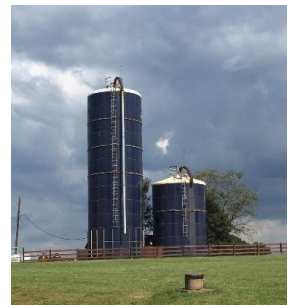


Your humble servant,
~Colin Winslette



A Beautiful Fall Outing

The JOY Group (Joyous Older Youth!) recently went on an Autumn trek to the foothills of North Carolina! On an absolutely gorgeous morning in September, we struck out from the church, heading to Morganton, to enjoy the beauty of Apple Hill Orchard. There was some good shopping here and, of course, plenty of apples (and apple goods), from which to choose. From there, we found our way to J.D.'s Smokehouse. Boy, was that food good! We were also blessed with a lunchtime visit with Gene and Nancy Edwards! Our last stop was in Lincolnton at Riverbend Creamery. Here we found the beautiful countryside and some scrumptious ice cream. All of this sounds like fun, doesn't it? It was...but the most important part of the trip was just being together as Church Family! What a blessing! Thanks to Lynda Elliott for planning our itinerary and for making sure that everything went so smoothly. And thanks to Colin Winslette for being our most excellent chauffeur! If you missed this outing, be sure to stay tuned for the details of our next adventure! You don't want to miss it!!!



The JOY Group Hits the Road to Celebrate Christmas!



The holiday season, with all its festivities, is upon us!!! Before you know it, we will be driving around to find the most extravagant displays of Christmas lights. We will be listening to Christmas music. We will be shopping for gifts, sending Christmas cards, trimming our trees, and preparing special holiday meals to be enjoyed with friends and family. But it's the sharing that carries the most meaning throughout this glorious time of year...sharing food, sharing love, sharing time with one another. And we have an opportunity to share time with

our church family that is sure to warm our hearts and strengthen the ties that bind.

The **JOY** Group at Pleasant Grove, (**Joyous Older Youth**), has a very exciting outing planned for December! We will meet at the church on Friday, December 16th at 8:00 AM to travel by charter bus to Wytheville, Virginia where we will visit the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater. While there we will see "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and have a scrumptious holiday meal. The cost of this trip, including transportation, is \$67 per person. There are only 45 tickets available to our group so be sure to call the church office to reserve your spot. Payment for the trip needs to be into the office before departure and checks can be made out to PGUMC. If you have questions about this outing, you can contact Lynda Elliott or Kathy Alexander.



"I'll Be Home for Christmas" is a heartwarming story of a wife and children missing their husband and father while he is away at war. But with the arrival of a stranger and some heavenly magic, miracles begin to unfold. This beautiful tale is brought to life through the singing of your favorite holiday tunes and brings everything full circle with a nativity scene. We are excited to share this time together and do hope that you will make plans to be with us. The whole experience is sure to get you into the Christmas spirit and will be a special memory for years to come. So come on, get on the bus, and let's celebrate Christmas together!!!



Just a Friendly Reminder

REMINDER

If you expressed an interest in receiving the Advent Devotional book, *God is Here*, by Casey Page Culbreth, they are available for pick-up in the sanctuary. They are located on the table in front of the chancel area. Be sure

to pick up your book so that you can read along with the church family during the season of Advent. The cost of the book is \$12.95 and if you are able to cover the cost of the book, you can make your check out to Pleasant Grove UMC. Be sure to mark your check "Advent Devotional." When paying with cash, be sure to put the money in an envelope and mark it as you would a check. If you are unable to pay for the book, please don't worry about it. We would still like for you to have your copy. Thanks to Pastor Byron for making these available to us. Being focused together during this holy season, on the coming of the Christ Child, will be such a blessing to our church family!



Dinner With Andy

The Church Family here at Pleasant Grove shared a beautiful evening together on September 28th. Our time with one another began with a delicious meal of barbecued pork and chicken, with all the fixin's, served by some very faithful volunteers. The incomparable Andy Lambert then entertained us. His unique brand of Christian comedy using "backwards" stories, jokes with a backwoods, country twang, and his unmistakable quick wit kept us all listening carefully and laughing heartily! It was great to have Andy, all our guests, and our church family together for this wonderful event!





The church office recently received these notes of thanks:

The family of Ruth Isenhour would like to thank you for the many cards, calls, food, memorials, and prayers during the loss of our precious mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Your kindness was very much appreciated.

Love,
Susan Laney, Cheryl Wilson, and Families

We are so grateful for our loving and supportive church family. Thank you for the many cards, prayers, and comforting words in the passing of Gwen's dad, Edwin Barnes.

Love,
Gwen and Walter Abernethy

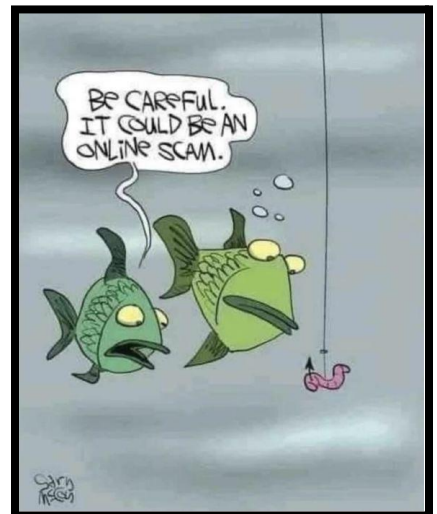
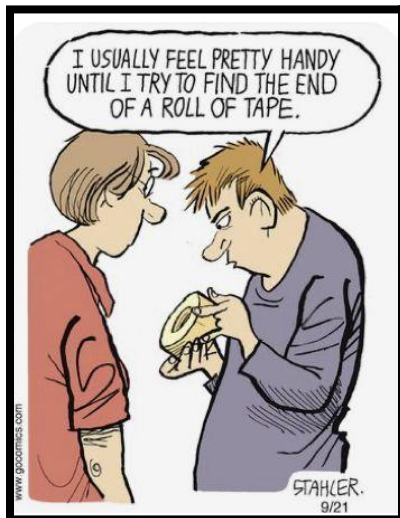
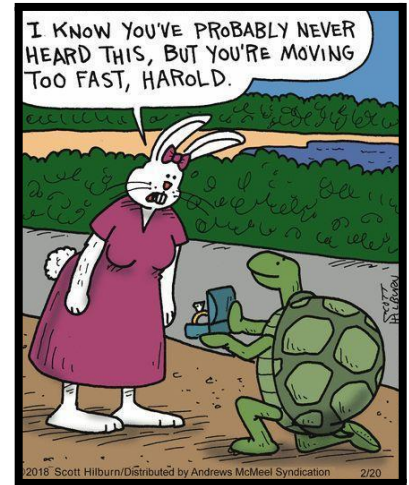
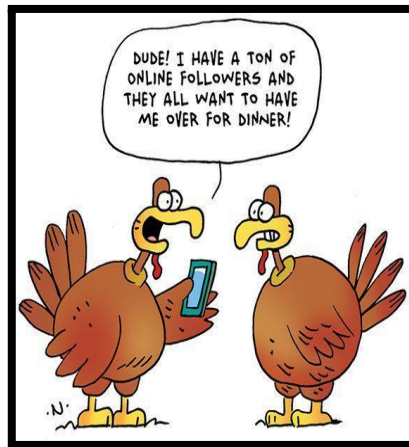
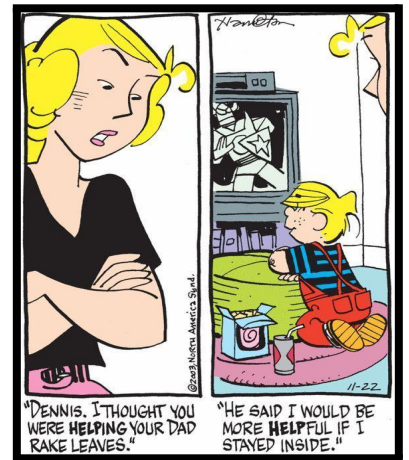


The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

Gwen and Walter Abernethy and Family on the passing of Gwen's father, Edwin Barnes.

The Puckett Family on the passing of their brother, Bobby Puckett.

Just For Giggles!!!



THANKSGIVING DAY

word search



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



CIDER
APPLES
FAMILY
GATHER

NATIVE
HISTORY
PUMPKIN
THANKS

FALL
DINNER
TURKEY
CORN

PILGRIM
PIE
HOLIDAY
NOVEMBER