



# Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

## **IN THIS ISSUE-AUGUST 2023**

- Pg 1 From the Pastor's Desk
- Pg 2 Memorials and Honorariums
- Pg 3 Thanks and Sympathies
- Pg 3 United Women in Faith News
- Pg 4 Recipe Box
- Pg 5 Recommended Reading
- Pg 6 Scenes From Summer Camp
- Pg 7 Church Council Minutes
- Pg 8 Getting to Know Pastor Glenda
- Pg 9 Volunteers Needed
- Pg 9 Walking in the Gym
- Pg 10 Helping Oakdale School
- Pg 11 Thank You, Becca
- Pg 11 The Future of Pleasant News
- Pg 12 Lending Library
- Pg 12 PG Prayer Lunch
- Pg 13 Just For Giggles
- Pg 14 Puzzle

## **WORSHIP TIMES**

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

## **CONTACT US**

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## **From the Pastor's Desk**

*"Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me."  
(Psalm 31:3)*

Over the last several months, in the craziness of this appointment season, this verse has been the substance of my prayers. Many times I prayed, "God, you are my strength, the foundation of my being, my protector, my defender, and I completely trust you for whatever is to come. Wherever I end up, wherever I am appointed, may it be your will and for your glory."

After having prayed that prayer so often, it is beyond human words to express how happy I am to be your new pastor here at Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church. I am excited to see what God has in store for us as we walk this journey together, and I am eager to get to know each of you. Please feel free to call me or stop by the office, not just for church or pastoral needs, but just to talk. And don't think I will be all serious, I love to laugh! If you have any good preacher jokes, bring'em on!

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My hopes and dreams for Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church is to be united in the love of Christ and to share that love with the community to make disciples for Him. I ask everyone to be in prayer about how we will do that as our church leaders discern the vision for Pleasant Grove.

I am looking forward to our time in ministry together and to our praying together, "Since you are OUR rock and OUR fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide US."

*Pastor Glenda*



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

### IN MEMORY

**Mary Frances McCall**

Covenant Sunday School Class

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Marshall and Brenda Howell

**Lila "Peggy" Collins**

Steve and Karen Dellinger

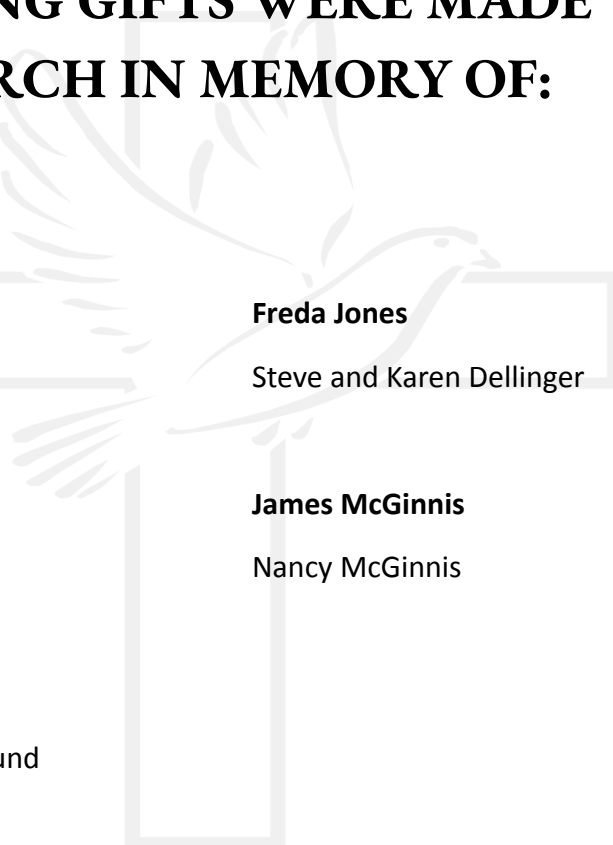
Steve and Maria McClure – Cemetery Fund

**Freda Jones**

Steve and Karen Dellinger

**James McGinnis**

Nancy McGinnis





The church office recently received the following note of thanks:

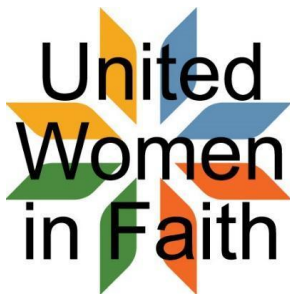
Dear Church Staff,

Thank you so much for allowing the family of James McGinnis to use the church for his service. We are truly grateful. "Blessed are the givers...and grateful are the receivers. Thank you so much."

---Nancy McGinnis



## News from United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith at Pleasant Grove met on Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, for a joint "covered Dish" dinner. Twenty members and five guests enjoyed an evening of fellowship and food. Sherri Brown and Mary Usher gave a brief program on their recent weekend attending the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. This year was the first in over twenty years that Pleasant Grove had been represented at this event. We hope that others will be encouraged to attend future retreats after the great report that was given.

The Metro District UWF Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, at Matthews UMC. Breakfast (optional) will be served from 8:30-9:30 AM. The cost of the breakfast will be \$8.50. The business/worship part of the morning will be from 9:30-11:30. If you are not interested in breakfast, the cost will be \$4.50. Registration deadline is August 14<sup>th</sup>. Jeannie Upton plans to attend and needs to know if you plan to attend with her by the deadline. The hands-on mission project for this gathering is school supplies. Jeannie will have a list at church and at the UWF meeting in August. If you have questions, give Jeannie a call. Hopefully we can have at least four attending this meeting.

Our UWF walk for missions will be on Saturday morning, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 9:00 AM. Plans are to walk Pleasant Oaks Circle. Mark your calendar and plan to walk the two miles. All donations for this event will help us as we support the UWF mission work in support of women and children both locally and globally. Your donation will certainly be appreciated, and it WILL make a difference.



---submitted by Jeannie Upton



## The Recipe Box

Gardens have been planted and hopes are high that there will be a bountiful harvest of fruits and vegetables! One vegetable that has been harvested is the zucchini. Such a versatile veggie...it can be fried, sauteed, baked, and dipped. It can also make a beautiful loaf of bread. Here's a simple but delicious recipe for Zucchini Bread given to me by my neighbor in Currituck County, Jo Anderson. I hope that you will enjoy baking, sharing, and eating this seasonal delight!!! Enjoy!

### Zucchini Bread

3 large eggs, beaten  
1 cup oil  
2 cups sugar  
2 cups grated zucchini  
2 tsp. vanilla  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking soda  
¼ tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
3 tsp. cinnamon  
½ cup chopped walnuts or raisins



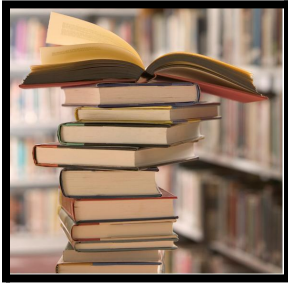
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, beat eggs and add sugar. Then add oil and vanilla and mix well. In a separate bowl, combine all dry ingredients. Then add dry ingredients to the first bowl. Add grated zucchini a bit at a time. Then fold nuts or raisins into the mixture. Spoon batter into one 9 x 5 loaf pan, or two 8 x 4 pans. Bake for one hour. Check for doneness with a toothpick. Cool for 5 to 10 minutes before removing from pan.

\*\*\*Here are some variations that you might like to try: 1) add a cup of chocolate chips to batter, 2) add a cup of blueberries or other berries, 3) make muffins instead, baking for 15-25 minutes, 4) make multiple loaves to use up your zucchini and freeze several loaves for use throughout the fall and winter.

---submitted by Peggy Green



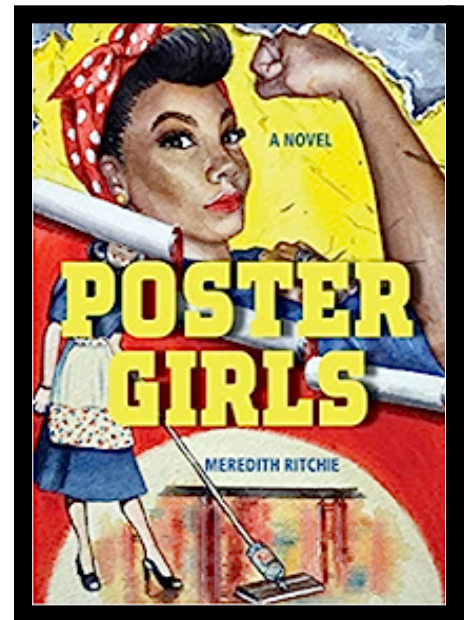
## Recommended Reading



Well, summer certainly has arrived...and with it, the heat that is a Carolina summer. Even with the heat, we still need to get outside to take care of the yard and all those flowers that seemed so essential back in April and May! We also need to visit across the fence with our neighbors, watch the kids in the yard or the pool, and we may even feel the need to wash the car occasionally! But most of us are probably spending much of our time indoors. Oh, we can sometimes steal an hour in the early morning or in the late evening when the sun is not so intense, but, for the most part, we are enjoying the air conditioning, and giving thanks for the luxury of having it!

While indoors, the perfect activity is reading! This month's recommendation comes to us from our own dear, sweet, Lib Primm. During a recent visit with Lib, she shared her enjoyment of Poster Girls, the debut novel of Meredith Ritchie, a resident of Charlotte. This book had been recommended to her by her brother and sister-in-law and it proved to be a great suggestion. Lib shared that the story is set in Charlotte, during World War II, and that it revolved around the Shell Assembly Plant that was in the Steele Creek area. Although it is a work of fiction, Lib told me that it chronicles the daily ordeals of the working women of the time. Most of the employees were wives of servicemen, doing what they could to support their families and to support the war efforts that hit so close to home. Well, needless to say, I was hooked! I went right home, ordered a copy for myself, and then thoroughly enjoyed all the humor, heartache, and heroics woven throughout this novel.

The principal character in Poster Girls is Maggie Slone, a military wife and mother who takes a job at Charlotte's largest wartime employer, the massive and dangerous Shell Plant. Meanwhile, Alabama native, Kora Bell, uses her steadfast determination to navigate the challenges she faces as a Black woman seeking her own employment under Jim Crow. A shared love of books begins an unlikely friendship between Kora and Maggie, and these two women join forces to unify the plant's workforce. Very strict rules are necessary when the air is charged with gun powder and the conventions of polite society in the South. That is, until Maggie and Kora must break some of these rules in order to support their families, work toward ending the war, and bringing both of their husbands home. This entertaining and thought-provoking story, told from two different perspectives, is built upon the true but oftentimes forgotten events and accomplishments of a diverse group of American women. Poster Girls is a beautiful work of historical fiction. It weaves together friendship, loyalty, grief, and the tumult of war, creating a story that will stay with you long after you close the cover on the last page.



You can find Poster Girls from online booksellers, such as Amazon. But you can also find it in our own Lending Library at Pleasant Grove. We encourage you to pick it up, be inspired, enjoy the read, and stay cool!!! Happy Reading!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown (and Lib Primm!)

# Scenes From Summer Camp 2023





## Church Council Minutes

The Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church Council held its quarterly meeting on June 11, 2023, after morning worship. The Council Chair, Buck Green, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:15 AM. A prayer was offered prior to the business session.



The chairman called for committee reports. Parsonage Committee Chair, Margaret Parker gave an excellent, detailed report on the extensive work completed at our parsonage prior to the arrival of our new pastor. Among other things, the work included a complete paint job and replacement of flooring. The parsonage really looks great, and we can be proud of the living space we offer a new pastor. All of this has been accomplished with little or no impact on the church budget, thanks to the generosity of members. We all owe Margaret and the Parsonage Committee a tremendous debt of gratitude! Thanks, Margaret, and Parsonage Committee!

A discussion and update on church finances included input from Finance Chair, Scott Brown, Church Treasurer, Pat James, and Trustee Chair, Steve McClure. Staff-Parish Chair, Todd Holcomb, spoke of the arrival of our new pastor and the need for some “moving” help. Family Life Chair, Julia Grey spoke of fellowship opportunities which included a farewell ice cream social for Rev. Sam Lewis and a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday luncheon which will include a welcome to our new pastor. Thanks to Sherri Brown, Community Outreach Coordinator, for another round of gift cards for needy families at Oakdale Elementary and Jeannie Upton and our United Women in Faith for their efforts for our church! Thanks to our Cemetery Committee and Chair, Rick Elliott, for the flags placed on the graves of veterans buried in our cemetery in observance of Memorial Day.

Rev. Sam Lewis initiated and led a discussion on the relationship between our church and the Child Development Center. It was decided that a committee should be established to explore this topic and make recommendations to the Church Council. Rev. Phil Turner agreed to chair this committee and stated that committee membership would consist of volunteers and “draftees.”

A prayer preceded adjournment.

Everyone should see a distinct improvement in council minutes this coming quarter. Terri Honeycutt has agreed to join the PGUMC Church Council and serve as secretary! Thanks Terri!

## Getting to Know Pastor Glenda!!!



On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we were so happy to welcome Rev. Glenda Bennet to Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church! While we have already enjoyed several Sundays with her, we realize that, as is always the case, we need to get to know our new minister while they are with us and already on the job. This is a process, and one that Pastor Glenda welcomes and looks forward to. *Pleasant News* recently asked her to supply us with some basic biographical information that we might share with the church family. In doing so, we all get a glimpse into Glenda's life

and career thus far. We also can find common ground with Pastor Glenda that will certainly springboard us all into a deep and long-lasting relationship with her that is built on shared interests and the love of Christ, one to another.

Glenda's full name is Glenda Elizabeth Everest Bennett. She was born on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1964. She married Dennis on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1992. Dennis's birthday is March 7, 1964. (These two were born just one day apart!) They have one son, William. He is known as Will to everyone except family. Glenda attended Davie High School and graduated in 1982. She then attended High Point University, graduating in 1998 with a double major: Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. As she responded to God's call on her life, she attended Hood Theological Seminary, graduating in 2004, with a Master's of Divinity. Glenda became a Local Pastor in 1999 and was then commissioned as a Provisional Elder in 2004. (Back then this was called "Probationary Elder.") She was ordained as an Elder in 2007. One note of celebration is that she made it through the Board of Ordained Ministry both times on the first try!!!

Pastor Glenda tells us that she enjoys reading and will frequently allow a good book to keep her up too late at night. She can get lost in the book and just forget about time altogether. (And don't many of us do exactly the same thing from time to time?) She also enjoys crocheting, especially making prayer shawls and scarf and hat sets for children who do not have appropriate clothing for colder weather. She has made many of these over the years and taken them to schools to be distributed, as well as making some in adult sizes to go to homeless shelters. Another creative outlet that Glenda has recently begun to enjoy is watercolor painting. She says that although she is "really bad at it," she finds it fun and relaxing.

We look forward to getting to know Pastor Glenda... both as our pastor and as our friend. As she gets to know us, the sweet church family that is Pleasant Grove, it is our prayer that she finds friends... friends who worship together, who serve together, who share together, who laugh together, and friends who love one another and all of God's children with the love that has been lavished on us all!

*Welcome to Pleasant Grove, Pastor Glenda! Welcome to Pleasant Grove!!!*



# Volunteers Needed

Your church needs you...always...but especially in these two ways, right now!

We are currently seeking volunteers to serve on our Campus Surveillance Team (aka Parking Lot Duty). Sign up sheets are available in the sanctuary, and we currently have several dates for which we have no volunteers. This effort is in response to the recent car theft in our very own parking lot and we would all agree that the safety and security of our facilities is paramount if we are to be comfortable while attending Sunday school, worship, or any other gathering on our campus. While we want to have both Sunday morning hours covered, we would not want to put anyone's health in jeopardy, with regard to the brutal heat that we have been experiencing lately. Thus, bottled water is available in the Fellowship Hall refrigerator, should it be needed. The basic premise of this duty is this: no one should confront a trespasser. Those on duty are only to observe and report any incidents by calling 911. Hopefully, just the presence of someone on duty will deter those who are up to no good! Also, if your Sunday school class, group, or organization has an event scheduled on campus, please remember to plan for Campus Surveillance! Thank you in advance for helping make our campus a safer place for us all!



And secondly...



Volunteers are urgently needed to open and close our campus on Sunday mornings...unlocking and locking doors. This means arriving no later than 8:45 AM and departing once everyone has left, approximately 11:15 AM. Rather than relying solely on the Pastor to take care of this each week, volunteers are preferred. We would like to set up a weekly rotation, so that no one is responsible for more than one Sunday each month. For more information and/or to volunteer, call the church office. Thanks, in advance, for stepping up to take care of this simple, important task.



Our gym is open to the church family and community for indoor walking on Monday and Wednesday mornings between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00. It will never be too hot, too cold, or too wet to walk in our gym! So, you have no excuses! Everyone is welcome to come enjoy the fellowship and movement as we all work toward better health together!

## Two Ways to Help Others



As the new school year approaches, our sweet church family has a couple of different opportunities to help others. We do hope that everyone that calls Pleasant Grove home will choose to be a part of one or both efforts. Both ways of blessing someone else revolve around Oakdale Elementary School. And they both focus on helping the students who are our neighbors.

First, Oakdale School requires their students to wear uniforms and maintains a uniform closet. This closet serves students who might have an accident at school (and accidents take many different forms) which brings about a need for a fresh, clean uniform

replacement. We will be collecting uniform items for Oakdale's uniform closet. Please consider donating the following items:

- White, baby blue, or navy-blue shirts for both girls and boys
- Khaki or navy-blue pants for both girls and boys

Any size will be appreciated but there is a special need for the larger children's sizes. Administration tells us that they even need some adult sizes. Uniform clothing can be purchased at WalMart, Target, Amazon, Kohl's, or any of the department stores. If you are unable to shop for these items and would rather make a monetary donation, you may do so by turning in your contribution to the church office or placing it in the offering baskets. Just be sure to mark your donation for Oakdale Uniforms. We will then take the donations and go on a shopping spree to stock Oakdale's uniform closet!!!

The second opportunity to serve comes in the form of personal hygiene kits. From time to time, it becomes evident that a student doesn't have the hygiene items that they need as they grow and mature. We can put together a simple kit that can be given to students when this need arises. These items can be purchased anywhere and are certainly available at local dollar stores. The assembly of these kits is quite simple. Purchase the needed items and place them in a gallon-sized zip top bag. Please remember that these kits are to be given to both girls and boys, so the items need to be appropriate for both or, if gender specific, marked as such. The items are:

- New wash cloth
- Bar of soap
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Lotion (travel size)
- Wet wipes (travel pack)

### HYGIENE KITS



We will collect the uniform items and the hygiene kits during the month of August. You will find collection bins in the sanctuary, and we look forward to seeing our bins full to the brim before the end of the month!!! Thanks in advance for being a part of these efforts. Together, as we reach across the road with the love of Christ, we can make a difference in the life of a child!!!

## Thank You, Becca!!!

For the past couple of years, you have enjoyed *Pleasant News* largely due to the contributions of one very special volunteer. Becca Winslette has been a faithful member of the newsletter team, handling the design, layout, and publication of each monthly issue. She has been a steady presence, taking care of her volunteer duties while holding down a full-time job that required her to work many evenings and weekends. She even continued to work with *Pleasant News* after her sweet husband, Colin, accepted another ministry position, moving him

from Pleasant Grove to Salem UMC. Next month Becca will begin a new adventure as she starts down an exciting path to her dream career. Becca will be attending veterinarian school at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana!!! Because of the rigorous nature of this academic program, Becca can no longer help with our church newsletter. And while we are very excited for Becca, we certainly will miss her presence on our newsletter team. We are sure that each of you will be praying for Becca, wishing her well, and looking forward to hearing of her future success!



Thanks, Becca, for all that you have done for Pleasant Grove and *Pleasant News*.

We appreciate you and will miss you terribly!

Please know that you carry our love to Louisiana with you!!!



## Help Wanted!

**(Local church newsletter is seeking design, layout, and publishing volunteer!)**

...And the newsletter in need of a volunteer is this one! *Pleasant News* is looking for a volunteer to handle the design, layout, and publishing of our monthly church newsletter. Volunteers submit articles to an inbox as Word documents. The needed volunteer then takes those articles, formats them into an editable Google doc, sends the draft out for proofing, and then forwards the edited newsletter to the church office for duplication and distribution. This process takes several hours and a couple of “back and forths” with the newsletter team, typically happens during the third or fourth weeks of the month, and requires a working knowledge of both Word and Google Docs. If you are interested in seeing this ministry continue and think that you just might be the volunteer that we need, please contact Sherri Brown at 704.562.3914. Thanks in advance for considering this volunteer opportunity as a way that you can give back to your sweet church family.





## Our Lending Library is Here for You!!!



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



LUNCH TIME

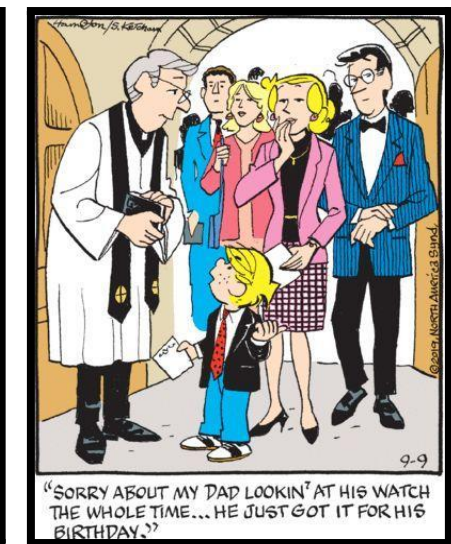
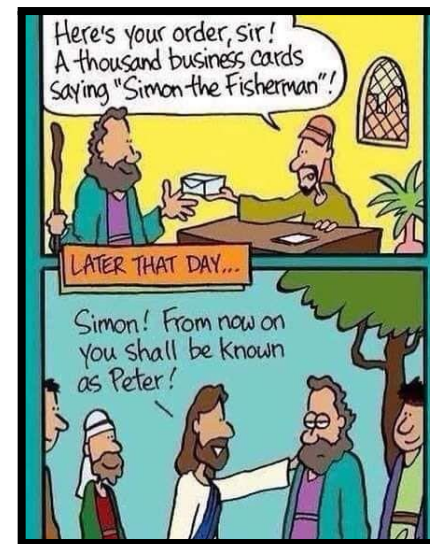
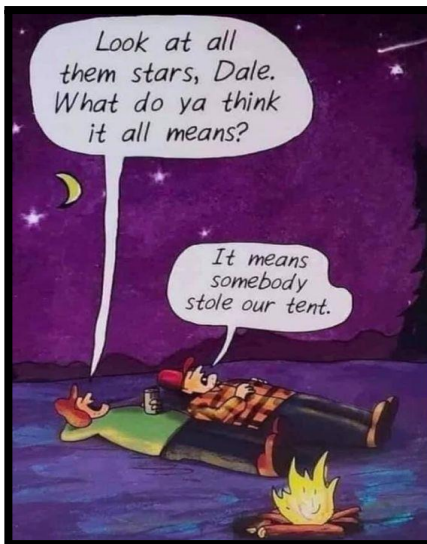
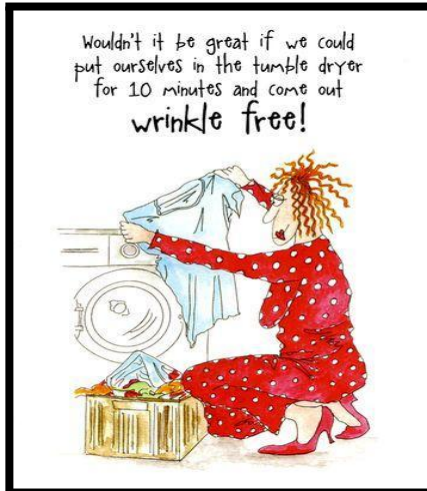
### **PG Prayer Lunch**

The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our lives and in the world around us.

**Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard**



# Just For Giggles!!!







# AUGUST

## Word Search Puzzle



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

**Find these words related to the month of August**

BOAT  
 GARDEN  
 CAMPFIRE  
 BIKING  
 FLOATIE  
 FISHING  
 RIVER  
 AUGUST

KAYAK  
 BARBECUE  
 OCEAN  
 CANOE  
 PICNIC  
 BEACH  
 ICE (as in ice cream)



SUN  
 SHADE  
 VACATION  
 SWIMSUIT  
 SWIMMING  
 POPSICLES  
 READING

WARM  
 LAKE  
 TOWEL  
 POOL  
 PARK  
 CAMPING  
 SUNSET



The words may be hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally.