



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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Worship Times:

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

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United Methodist Church
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704-392-2387
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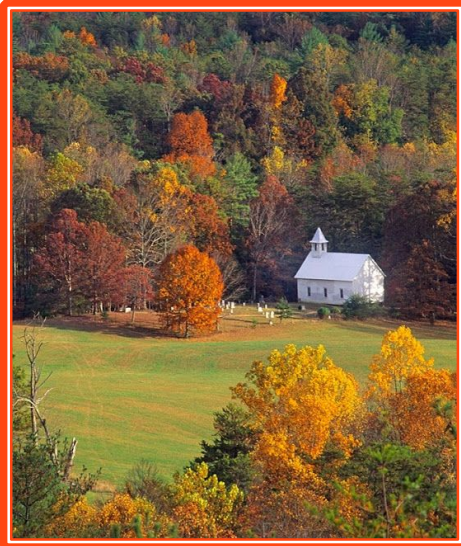
Inspiration Point

Years ago, when I was a child about six years of age, my parents bought my older brother and I military outfits. His was of a soldier and mine was of a sailor. The Second World War was going on, and it was a patriotic thing. Well, it made an impression on us, as later he would go into the Army and I went into the Navy. I liked the Navy so much that I stayed for twenty-one years to retire from there.

Well, years later, during my oldest son's younger years, we had a picture hanging on the living room wall. It was a harvest scene from a valley somewhere in the Smoky Mountains. In the picture, on the left side stood an old, weather beaten house, and beside that was a fence with farm animals inside. In the right side of the picture was a cornfield with shocks of corn standing all tied up. In that field scattered all around were large orange pumpkins, and a farmer with a horse and wagon was out there harvesting the pumpkins. While it was a homey type of picture, it was very cheap and not very durable. Unknown to me, that picture made a very large impression upon my son. Later in his life, following the completion of his education, he moved to Washington DC to live and work. Once settled, he went down to Luray, VA, in the Shenandoah Valley and purchased a second home. The setting and the view were similar to that in the old picture. Then he came to me and asked if he could have that old picture. Unfortunately, it had not survived the many moves we had made, and had been destroyed and discarded.

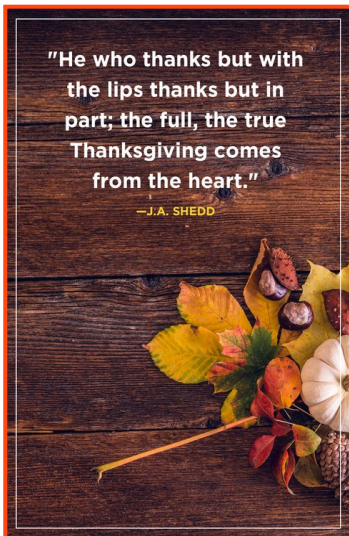
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My point in all this is this: The environment in which we raise our children makes a life long impression on them and aids in the shaping of who they are and who they become. You and I are our children's role models and they watch us night and day! They may not always do what we say, but be assured that they will do what they see you do! So surround them with positive things, and live your life like you want them to grow to be like! If you do your job well, your payday will come at the time your grandchildren come running up to you and throw their loving arms around your neck! Our Scripture for this article comes from Proverbs 22:6, **Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.**

Brother Phil



Happy Thanksgiving, Pleasant Grove Family!!!

Can you believe that the holiday season is upon us? Where does the time go?

The volunteers at Pleasant News would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving! Please know that as you pause to give thanks for the many ways in which God has blessed you, we are counting our blessings too...and there YOU are!!! God is Good, All the Time...and All the Time, God is Good! Let's remember that, not just at Thanksgiving, but each and every day that we are given!



From The Pastor's Desk



Looking Back, While Looking Forward

The other day I was looking over some old letters that had been written to me during my second year in ministry. I was truly blessed after re-reading those letters, most of which hadn't seen the light of day since they were written 15 years ago.

It is nice to go through old letters and mementos and see how different folks have blessed you, and how you have blessed them by sharing your life with them.

When I think about the early church, I realize how important the letters contained in our Bible were to early believers. They needed encouragement and instruction in the face of tough times such as slavery, persecution (to the point of death), and a pagan culture that wasn't friendly to Christian ideas. I think of the words found in the book of Deuteronomy that read,

***“Serve only the Lord your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.”
(Deut. 13:4 NLT)***

This world can so easily get us distracted and overcome with fear or uncertainty in our personal lives as well as our church lives, that we end up just sort of shutting down and become complacent. Individually, and as a church; we need to re-claim Moses' words in Deuteronomy and trust God to lead us to where we need to go.

The way before us has already been traveled by many over the millenniums. Those words in Deuteronomy lay out a tried and true path that our Christian forefathers and foremothers actually dared to lived out.

When we are feeling stretched and unsure, we also have God's Word to guide our every step. We only need to dig into God's word and seek His will. Joshua 1:8-9 reads:

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

My desire for our church is to soar and lift Jesus up, however God chooses to do that! May we all claim these verses for ourselves as we seek to follow our Lord and Savior.

See you in church!

Pastor Byron

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

IN MEMORY

Sonny Watkins

Sandra Sing
David and Dora Sue Smith - Cemetery
Fund

Ed Sing

Frank Morrow Sunday School Class
David and Dora Sue Smith – Cemetery
Fund

Helen Green

Paul Reinhardt

Asa Winslette

Covenant Sunday School Class
Hazel Sanders
Anonymous – Lord's Fund

Mark Morgan

Steve and Karen Dellinger
Glenn and Karen Dedrick

David and Julia Wormwood

Anne Boyd

Anonymous – Lord's Fund

IN HONOR

Pina Nance (90th Birthday)

Maggie Bond
Anonymous – Lord's Fund

Ted Mitchell

Double Ring Sunday School Class

The Recipe Box



Imagine greeting your friends and family with something just a little more than the standard glass of orange juice on Thanksgiving morning! Wouldn't that be so much fun?

We often think of punch recipes when we are giving a shower for a bride or a mom-to-be, or maybe for a party around the holidays. This month, though, we would like to shift your thinking about the way we serve punch and when we normally think to serve it. Most would agree that punch is a special event type of beverage...however, special events happen each and every day; especially days that find our friends and family gathered around our table.

What would be nicer than beginning your Thanksgiving Day with a festive punch? Just think of having a pitcher of "Autumn Harvest Punch" to greet your guests as they begin their day with you. Or, just think of having a glass to sip on as you prepare your Thanksgiving meal for later in the day.

Either way, we think that this recipe will add an air of celebration to your day as you take the time to remember your blessings and the One who has blessed you so!

Autumn Harvest Punch

64 ounces of apple juice

12 ounce frozen orange juice concentrate

16 ounces of 100% cranberry juice

8 ounces of pear nectar (or white grape juice)

A sliced apple, orange, and/or pear, along with a handful of fresh cranberries for decoration

Optional: Add some ginger ale or lemon lime soda for a little fizz

Pour the apple juice, orange juice concentrate, cranberry juice, and pear nectar or white grape juice into a large bowl or pitcher. Stir to combine. Add fruit slices, if using. Add soda to each serving, as desired. Enjoy...and Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Recommended Reading



For the month of November, we would like to recommend Max Lucado's newest book, How Happiness Happens.

Many of you are familiar with Max Lucado and his books but for those of you who might not be...Max Lucado is America's bestselling inspirational author with over 140 million books in print. He entered the ministry in 1978 and has served churches in Miami, and San Antonio, as well as Brazil. He is currently serving as Teaching Minister of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio.

Worldwide, people are professing that happiness is their most cherished goal. The marketers of today's society understand this goal. They suggest that to attain this happiness we should eat at this restaurant, drive this car, and wear these clothes. To so many, happiness depends on what you can mount on your

trophy wall, deposit in your bank account, experience in your bedroom, or serve at your dining table. We are forced into thinking that happiness will happen when we lose the weight, get the date, find the mate, or discover our fate! This definition of happiness is wide. But, for all of its promise, it turns out to be a fragile joy...here one day, and gone tomorrow ... a victim of the comparison game, our own disappointments, or unmet expectations.

What if there is a different, unexpected path to happiness? What if it doesn't require a credit card, a monthly mortgage, or a stroke of fortune? What if age, looks, and ethnicity aren't even factors at all? What if the road to JOY is less about "getting" and more about "giving"?

In How Happiness Happens, Max unpacks a proven happiness plan, based on ten key principles found in the Bible...the "one another" statements. These others-oriented directives, such as love one another, serve one another, and forgive one another, bring to light what the Bible teaches and what research confirms: doing good does good for the doer! In this book, Max shares with readers how to discover what true joy looks like and where to find it (hint: don't look on social media!), how to learn to see people as a source of joy rather than pain and frustration, how to reject the notion that happiness is selfish or unbiblical, and how to find the secret to happiness that outlasts loneliness, disappointment, and the daily trap of comparison.

Does this sound like a book that you might need, and even enjoy reading? Do you want to experience a personal, lasting joy? Do you aspire to increase the happiness level of an entire generation? Max responds to your desires with these words, "You and I cannot solve every problem in society, but we can bring smiles to a few faces. And, who knows, if you brighten your corner of the world and I do the same in mine, a quiet revolution of joy might break out!"

For an easy read, backed by Jesus' teachings and modern research, we highly recommend How Happiness Happens for your November enjoyment!



On Sale Now

AutoBell Gift Cards

\$20

Fundraiser sponsored by The Genesis Class

Operation Christmas Child



We are off and running here at Pleasant Grove with our Operation Christmas Child efforts. It just might be that this is the year that we shatter all records for Christmas Child generosity at our church. With everyone's help we could very possibly collect over 400 gift-filled boxes for children around the world. As you are filling your boxes at home, please keep the following dates in mind:

Sunday, November 10th – Church-wide Shoe Box Packing Party! At 10:00 AM (yes, during the Sunday school hour!) meet your church family in the fellowship hall where we will attempt to pack 200 boxes together. Everything will be supplied...just bring your willing, servant heart!

Sunday, November 17th – Last call for shoe box donations! This is the deadline for turning in your shoe boxes here at Pleasant Grove. We will dedicate and pray over our shoe box donations during our worship services and then our boxes will leave the premises and begin their journey to the children that will receive them!

Monday, December 9th – We will take a field trip to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte to volunteer for the afternoon. Plan to be in the church parking lot at 1:00 PM. We will take the church van and have a great time together as we give our hands and feet to Jesus for His use. Space is limited. Call the church office to reserve your spot.

Isn't it wonderful to have the desire to serve, the opportunity to serve, and the ability to serve!!!

What Do You Say When Asked...

How do I share my faith with those who don't know God?

The most powerful way to share our faith in God is through our lives – being positive example to all in how we live every day. When others see the faith, hope, and love in our lives, they are drawn to live the same way. After paying attention over time, they will notice our confidence in and a relationship with the one true God.

Our Awesome After-Schoolers!!!

Thanks to our awesome After-Schoolers for their help with our Operation Christmas Child efforts! These amazing students got right to work and folded together about 75 boxes. They are excited to see the boxes they folded filled and on their way to children who will now hear of the love of Christ that is working in their lives. Way to go, After-Schoolers! Way to go!!! God Bless You All!!!



Preschool Post

We are finally enjoying some Fall-like weather around here and the children are having fun with Fall and Halloween crafts. (Think bats, cats, and jack o'lanterns, oh my!) They are also learning some fun Fall-themed songs and poems that they are ready to share with our Senior Lunch Bunch! Our older classes enjoyed their first Chapel of the year with Pastor Byron! They enjoyed singing with him and learning about Jonah through Pastor Byron's awesome story telling. Our classes have really come together and the students all seem to know that they have good friends here at Pleasant Grove. Thanks to all of our wonderful teachers for the awesome job they are doing communicating the love of Jesus with our precious kids!



We Celebrate our Veterans!!!



We would like to wish all of our Veterans a very Happy Veterans Day as we celebrate your service and offer our thanks for all that you have sacrificed on behalf of our country. We encourage each family member here at Pleasant Grove to thank the Veterans in your life and acknowledge their contributions to the freedoms that we enjoy each and every day.

Veterans Day is a well-known American holiday, but there are a few misconceptions about this very special day. Here are some important facts that we should all take note of and remember,

1. Veterans Day does NOT have an apostrophe. A lot of people think it's "Veteran's Day" or Veterans' Day," but that would be incorrect. The holiday is not a day that belongs to one veteran or multiple veterans, which is what an apostrophe implies. It's a day for honoring all veterans.
2. Veterans Day is NOT the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a day to remember those who gave their lives for our country, particularly in battle or from wounds they suffered in battle. Veterans Day honors all who have served the country in war or peace, dead or alive, although it is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service.
3. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War I. "The war to end all wars" officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, the fighting had ended about seven months before when the Allies and Germany put into effect an armistice on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Because of this, November 11, 1918 was considered the end of World War I and it became an official holiday, primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, "Armistice" was changed to "Veterans" so that the day would honor American veterans of all wars. In 1968, Congress signed the Uniform Holiday Bill to ensure that a few federal holidays would be celebrated on Mondays. But, after much confusion over the date, it became pretty evident that most US citizens wanted to celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, since it was a matter of historic and patriotic significance. So, in 1975, President Gerald Ford signed the law, which returned the annual observance to its original date beginning in 1978.
4. Other countries celebrate Veterans Day too, but in their own ways. World War I was a multinational effort, so it makes sense that our allies also wanted to celebrate their veterans on November 11. The name of the day and the commemorations differ, of course. Canada and Australia both call November 11 "Remembrance Day." Canada's observance is similar to our own, except many of its citizens wear red poppy flowers to honor their war dead. In Australia, the day is more like our Memorial Day. Great Britain also calls it "Remembrance Day," but observes it on the Sunday closest to November 11 with parades, services and two minutes of silence in London to honor those who lost their lives in war.

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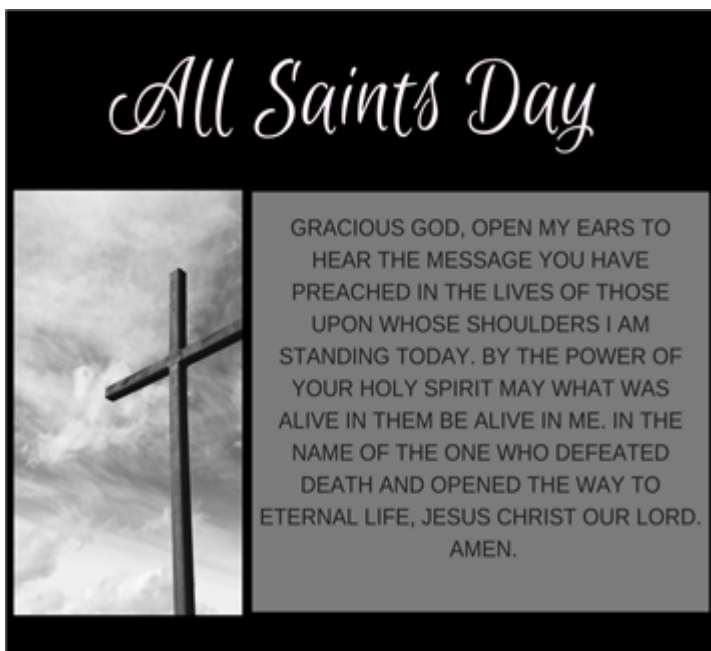
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To all of our veterans, we offer our heartfelt gratitude for the sacrifices that you endured for the sake of freedom for us all. Words will never begin to express all that we feel as we consider your commitment and dedication to the core values of our nation. Thank you, Veterans, Thank you!!!

(This information originally appeared on the US Dept. of Defense website on November 5, 2018 in an article written by Katie Lange.)



All Saints Sunday at Pleasant Grove



All Saints Day will be observed at Pleasant Grove on Sunday, November 3rd. We have invited the families of all of our members who have passed away since the last All Saints Day to join us during the 9:00 worship service. During this service we will recognize each Saint by having their family and friends stand as we call out their names, toll out a bell and light a candle in remembrance of each of them. Colin will bring the message on this very special Sunday and at the end of the service, we will celebrate Holy Communion! Please make plans to be in attendance for this momentous occasion as we honor the lives of those with whom we have shared the Christian journey.

Church Office Closed – November 28th and 29th

Christmas Cantata – December 15th - 9:00AM Service

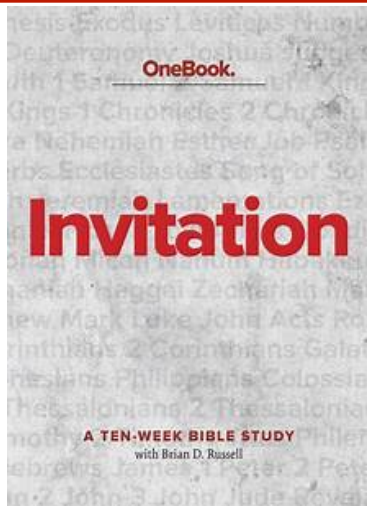
Christmas Eve Service – December 24th – 5:00PM



Mark Your Calendars

Dec 3 – 5, 2019 Adult Beach Retreat at Beach Cove Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC. Cost: \$219 per person. Price includes Carolina Opry Christmas Show, Dinner at Chesapeake House, 1 buffet breakfast, Classes on: Doctor of Pharmacy on Medications, Art, & Health and Wellness Today. Walks on the beach, morning swim in 3 pools, fun, fellowship and solid teaching in living our your faith.

(Contact Church Office if Interested)



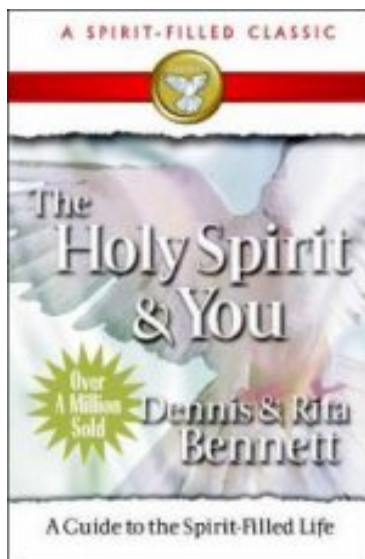
“Onebook: Invitation”

Monday Nights: Oct 7, 14, 21, 28; Nov 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec 2.

6:30pm to 8:30 pm in the Family Life Center

Led by Jana Alexander

**If you are interested in attending a Bible Study
Please contact the Church Office**



“The Holy Spirit & You”

**Thursday Nights: Oct 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov 7, 14, 21;
Dec 5, 12, 19**

7:00pm in the Family Life Center

Led by Phil Turner

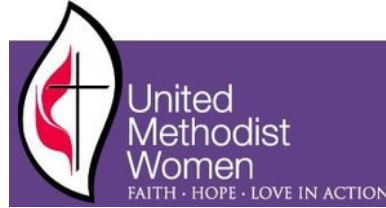
Deck The Halls!!!



We have a time-honored tradition around Pleasant Grove of being together as a family as we prepare our worship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The manner in which we have done this has varied throughout the years, but our togetherness has been the constant. The same will be true this year as well! On Saturday, November 30th, at 4:00, we are asking for volunteers to decorate both the sanctuary and the family life center. Everything will be decorated that day, with the exception of placing the Chrismons on the trees. On Sunday, December 1st, during our worship services, we will adorn the Chrismon Trees with our beautiful handmade ornaments. This time as a family always proves to be one of the sweetest times of sharing during the church year. Following the contemporary service, at about 12:00 noon, the entire church family is invited to share a meal together in the family life center. We will have our legendary grilled cheese sandwiches and homemade chicken noodle soup. Mark your calendar now to be a part of the Christmas preparations at Pleasant Grove. There couldn't be a better way to enter into this most holy season than being together with your church family!!!



The United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove



It is a busy time of the year for our United Methodist Women here at Pleasant Grove! We are just finishing up

our five-week, white elephant sale to benefit the local and global missions that are supported by the UMW. To date, we have raised just over \$570, of which 100% will go to missions in support of women and children everywhere! Keep your eyes open for a Christmas white elephant day that will wrap up this effort! Also, the UMW have plans to sponsor a bake sale in December. Now, you know you don't want to miss out on the scrumptiousness that will be on display then!!!

Circle #3 will meet again on Tuesday, November 12th, at 2:00 in the afternoon. Then on Tuesday, December 10th, these Sisters in Christ will meet for their annual Christmas luncheon. Please feel free to join Circle #3 on either of these dates and get to know all of the good that happens when these ladies gather together.

In October, Circle #6 visited five of the church's homebound members. After the visits, the ladies of this Circle met at Chick-fil-a for a time of fellowship and food! Circle #6 will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, but at 6:00 PM. As a way to serve our church, and in place of their regular meeting, Circle members will work to clean and beautify our sanctuary in preparation for our Advent and Christmas seasons. This group of Christian Sisters will once again be sponsoring their annual Country Ham Supper on Thursday, December 5th, from 5 -7 PM. Proceeds from this event will benefit missions and outreach both locally and abroad. Mark your calendars now for this wonderful meal and opportunity for fellowship!!!

The United Methodist Women is one of the driving forces for good here at Pleasant Grove. Anyone who is interested, church member or community member, is encouraged to check out one of our Circle and become a part of this ministry! You are needed... You are wanted... You are important... You matter!!!

Getting to Know You!!!



It is such an exciting thing when someone decides to officially join the membership at Pleasant Grove! And, each time someone does this, and becomes one of our brothers or sisters we celebrate!!! This past Spring several folks joined our sweet church and we always want to help you get to know our newest members by highlighting them in Pleasant News. This month we want to introduce you to Faith Alexander. Now, we know that you all know Faith as the daughter of Byron and Jana but there is more to Faith than just the fact that she's the preacher's daughter. We recently asked Faith a few questions and would like for you to get to know her a bit better by hearing her responses.

Pleasant News: What are your full name and your birthday?

Faith Alexander: My name is Faith Caroline Alexander and my birthday is June 28th.

PN: Tell us a little bit about your family.

FA: Well, I think a lot of people know my family already, especially my Dad...ha-ha! My mom is Jana Alexander and I consider her my absolute best friend. I have one brother, Cooper, who is older than me by two years.

PN: What sorts of jobs have you held in the past and what is your hope for your future career?

FA: I've worked as a housekeeper, activities director, life guard, and swim instructor...just to name a few. For my future career, I just pray that I follow God's will for whatever He wants for me. Hopefully something in the creative arts!!!

PN: What are your hobbies and interests?

FA: The things I enjoy are listening to and playing music, playing video games, and knitting.

PN: What is one thing on your bucket list?

FA: I have a big bucket list! Aside from practical ones like owning my own home one day or getting married, I would love to go to New Zealand and see the areas where they filmed "The Lord of the Rings."

PN: What is your favorite passage or verse of scripture?

FA: My favorites are Psalm 23 and Romans 8:28... "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."

PN: What brought you to Pleasant Grove?

FA: I came to Pleasant Grove with my family in the summer of 2018 when my Dad was appointed as the lead pastor. We previously attended Mays Chapel UMC in Maiden, NC.

PN: What is something you dream about, or wish for Pleasant Grove?

FA: I wish that Pleasant Grove will continue to reach out into the community, helping others and showing God's love to them.

PN: What do you enjoy most about being a part of Pleasant Grove?

FA: The people! I truly felt welcomed and at home when I came here. When people ask me how I am doing, I can tell that they genuinely want to know.

PN: Tell us anything else that you would like to share about yourself or your relationship to the church.

FA: To my church family... Thank you for opening your arms to my family and me! It has been an absolute blessing getting to know everyone here. It's also been wonderful being able to serve on the worship team and playing every Sunday in the LifePoint service. I look forward to many more years with Pleasant Grove!

*We couldn't be more tickled to have Faith as a member at Pleasant Grove!
Her faithful and committed service to our church serves as a great example to all of us.
We look forward to many more years with you, Faith! So now, all there is to say is simply this...
"Welcome Home, Faith, Welcome Home!"*

Did You Know...



...that a United Methodist lay person in the Philippines is developing an amphibious vehicle that can help with rescue and relief operations during the frequent floods that plague that country? Well, that is exactly what is happening!! Severe Weather Amphibious Navigator, or SWAN, is a research initiative by Ryan John de Lara, a member of United Methodist City Temple in Cabanatuan City.

This vehicle will be able to seamlessly move from land to water and back again. This will speed up rescue and relief operations, says De Lara; and as is generally the rule, the lesser the time of response, the greater the chance of rescue and survival of flood/typhoon victims.

SWAN is a prototype of an amphibious navigator made of abaca fiber composites woven into fabrics. Molded with a fiberglass-reinforced composite hull, SWAN is lighter than steel and just as strong. The vehicle is a conversion of an existing truck, with the chassis and engine mounted to the newly formed hull to form the new vehicle. Using these natural fibers instead of synthetic makes it more environmentally friendly. The vehicle utilizes a single engine for both land and water travel.

The on-road, off-road capabilities of the vehicle will enhance disaster relief and response to flooding. It can carry up to twenty people and two hundred packs of relief goods.

Central Luzon is regularly devastated by typhoons and monsoon rains, which hit flood prone areas particularly hard. It then becomes especially difficult to transport relief goods. In transporting these relief goods it has been necessary to move the goods from truck to boat and back to truck, which usually costs more time in response. The vehicle is now being praised as a valuable addition to the limited resources being utilized for disaster response in the Philippines. This is just another example of how the people of The United Methodist Church put their hands and hearts to work in showing the love of Christ to all of God's children.



(This information first appeared in an article by Gladys P. Mangiduyos and appeared on the United Methodist Church website on October 17, 2019.)



Trunk-or-Treat 2019

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

APPLE PIE
 BEANS
 BREAD
 CORN
 CRANBERRY SAUCE
 GRAVY
 HAM
 MASHED POTATOES
 MILK
 PUMPKIN PIE
 ROLLS
 SQUASH
 STUFFING
 SWEET POTATOES
 TURKEY



Chicken Scratch NY

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