



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

IN THIS ISSUE-APRIL 2022

- Pg 1 Inspiration Point
- Pg 2 Holy Week Schedule
- Pg 3 From the Pastor's Desk
- Pg 5 Memorials and Honorariums
- Pg 6 Recipe Box
- Pg 7 Recommended Reading
- Pg 8 UMW News
- Pg 8 Spring Break Help for Oakdale Families
- Pg 9 After School Care Post
- Pg 10 Calling All Graduates
- Pg 10 Our Partnership Goes Both Ways
- Pg 11 Nursery Volunteers Needed
- Pg 11 Fresh Start Kits Summary
- Pg 12 Happy Easter Greeting
- Pg 12 Lending Library
- Pg 13 Thanks and Sympathies
- Pg 14 Men's Breakfast
- Pg 14 PGUMC Prayer Lunch
- Pg 14 Walking in the Gym
- Pg 15 Just For Giggles
- Pg 16 Puzzle

WORSHIP TIMES

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

CONTACT US

Pleasant Grove UMC
P.O. Box 681900
1915 Oakdale Rd
Charlotte, NC 28216
704-392-2387

www.pleasantgrovecharlotte.com

Inspiration Point

It was in September of 1976 and I was blessed to receive a trip to the Holy Land via the USS South Carolina. I had prayed for a trip to Israel when I learned that my next cruise would be to the Mediterranean Sea. My God had answered my prayer! Several of us had taken a tour of the Southern Part of Israel, which included a tour through the Garden Tomb! That day was a beautiful day, clear and warm. Our group had just departed from the tomb, but my Christian Friend and I had lingered behind to look and to worship! (At that time one could enter the tomb.) As we gazed upon the empty space where the body had laid, we began to worship! Then in the quietness of my heart, I was reminded of the words that Mary had heard, "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here, He has risen!" Joy streamed up from our hearts, and we worshiped more strongly! You see, the tomb is empty! No one is there! The tomb could not hold Him! Death could not hold Him! Hades could not hold Him! He himself, Jesus, is the mighty one! He is the giver of life! He breathed the breath of life into mankind in the beginning! **Matthew 28:5 and 6 "But the Angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.""**

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Today, Jesus is seated on the throne beside God in heaven. It is from there He intercedes to the Father for us! When it is our time to stand before God to be judged, Jesus will lean over to the Father and speak in His ear, **“That one is one of mine!”** Then God will smile at you and respond, **“Well done My good and faithful servant! Come and enter! Receive your reward!”**

On Easter Sunday, the grass will be green this year, the flowers will be in bloom, the leaves will again show themselves, and a newness will be in the air! We will gather in our houses of worship and give thanks and reverence to our Lord and our God for the new beginnings that He has gifted us with! Rid yourselves of those things that have been holding you back from the peace and joy God has for you, you have been burdened and bound up for too long now! It is your bitterness and unforgiveness that has bound you! It keeps you depressed and heart sick! Give forgiveness to others, you do your part first, not waiting on the others! You deserve to experience the love, joy and peace that comes from a newly awakened Spring season this year! Jesus gave Himself for you that you may have life and have it more abundantly! But it is not yours until you receive it for yourself! He did His part, now it is up to you to do yours! Pray about it!

Brother Phil



PLEASANT GROVE
HOLY WEEK

APRIL 14TH
6:00PM - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE IN THE FLC

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
7:00AM- SUNRISE SERVICE @ THE HUT
8:00AM - BREAKFAST IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
9:00AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:00AM - WORSHIP

A simple wooden cross made of two weathered branches, positioned in the lower right corner of the poster.

From the Pastor's Desk

The difference between controlling the future and predicting it. . .

1 Peter 1:2 NIV

who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

CONSIDER THIS

Foreknowledge. We don't really grasp the biblical concept of foreknowledge. Something in us wants God's foreknowledge to be determinative and even controlling. So, what if God's foreknowledge is not determinative but rather predictive? Here's my thesis: God doesn't control the future as a predetermined outcome. He accurately predicts the future according to how one responds to His Word. I know this may ruffle some feathers so suspend your judgment at least to the end of the entry.

The Greek word behind "foreknowledge" is "prognosis." When a doctor gives a prognosis, they tell you what the expected outcome of a disease and prescribed remedy. Aunt Mildred has cancer. We want to know, "What's the prognosis?" The doctor said they think they caught it early and with radiation and some chemotherapy they can beat it. A doctor's foreknowledge or prognosis is tentative and subject to being wrong. The foreknowledge or prognosis of God, while predictive, is a certainty. God the Father gives a prognosis for anyone who will follow Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Their life will flourish, and as Peter's letter will show us—even in the midst of great difficulty.

I want you to hear Psalm 1, which is a perfect example of the whole concept of foreknowledge or prognosis as accurately predictive.

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law, day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

POP QUIZ:

1. What is the prognosis (aka God's foreknowledge) for the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord and who meditates on his law, day and night?

2. What is the prognosis (aka God's foreknowledge) for those who walk in step with the wicked, stand in the way of sinners, and sit in the seat of mockers (aka "the wicked")?

O.K., one more example of how Divine prognosis or predictive foreknowledge works. This one comes as the closing words of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

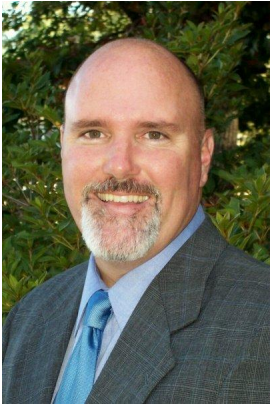
“Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

Now re-read 1 Peter 1:2 in this light:

who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood...

Pray this Prayer

Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Thank you for the grace of your prognosis and for revealing it to us. You tell us what will happen. You give us the choice of life or death, of blessing or curses. Oh, that I would hear your voice and not harden my heart. Holy Spirit would you soften my heart and attune my ears to hear your voice today and to respond to your grace. Praying in Jesus name, Amen.

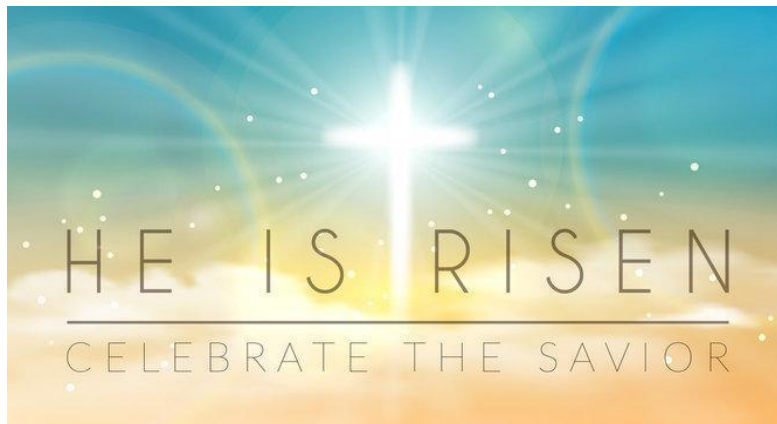


The take home question:

What is it about us that wants to equate the concept of predictive foreknowledge or prognosis with determinative omniscience and control?

Christ above all,

Pastor Byron



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

IN MEMORY

Foy Lee Phillips

Eloise Lockler

Robert and Coretha Ferrell – Family Life Center

Pina Nance

Thurman Ross

Glen Reynolds

Brenda Watkins – Cemetery Fund

Robert and Coretha Ferrell – Family Life Center

Terry Kelly – Cemetery Fund

Clint Reynolds

Iola Burns Winesett

Brenda Watkins – Cemetery Fund

Anonymous

Judy Smith

Steve and Karen Dellinger

Anonymous

Terry Kelly – Cemetery

Yogi Maples

Robert and Coretha Ferrell – Family Life Center

Pina Nance

Anonymous

Ron and Anna Robinson

Steve and Karen Dellinger

IN HONOR

Ray McClure

Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Parsonage Fund



The Recipe Box

If you have been around Pleasant Grove for more than a minute, you know that we are blessed with some of the best cooks around! When you think back to the many church family gatherings that we have had here at church, you, no doubt, associate certain dishes with certain cooks. That Asian version of coleslaw...she always brings it, and you love it! That chicken dish with the unusual name...he always shows up with that one! And that banana pudding, it's always in her same bowl and you make a beeline for it!

This month we bring you a recipe from one of those legendary cooks. Pina Nance is well-known for the dishes she brings to our church gatherings, but she is also known for the family meals she hosts at her home. It's nothing for her to put on a spread for her big family, sometimes fifteen or more in attendance. They come together to celebrate engagements, weddings, new babies, graduations, and even just a normal Sunday afternoon! And although the food is second to none, it is the love Pina pours into her family that can be sensed most plainly.

The recipe below, known to Pina's family as Mom's Cookies, has been in the family for as long as anyone can remember. Pina's Mom found the recipe in a copy of Progressive Farmer magazine sometime in the 1950s. She convinced her grandsons, Terry and Rick, that it was just like eating candy. (Lee wasn't even born yet!) After her mom's passing, the cookies became a staple in Pina's kitchen. Lee says that his friends always looked forward to Mom's Cookies, as have Pina's grandkids and great grandkids. He also says that college care packages from Pina never lasted very long when there were Mom's Cookies included.

This simple, no-bake cookie recipe uses ingredients you probably already have in your kitchen. When you combine ingredients with the same love that Pina puts into her cooking, your efforts become a labor of love! We are excited to share this recipe with you. Who knows? Mom's Cookies just might become a steady presence in your own kitchen!!!

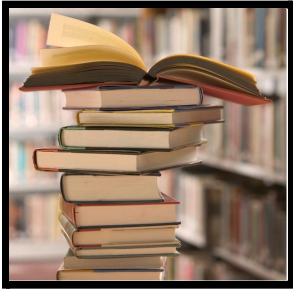
Top-of-the-Stove Cookies (Mom's Cookies)

- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa
- ½ cup butter or margarine (one stick)
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup peanut butter, creamy or crunchy
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 cups quick oats, uncooked OR 2 cups oats and 1 cup flaked coconut

In a saucepan, bring cocoa, butter, sugar, and milk to a boil. Stirring constantly, boil the mixture for two minutes. Remove from heat. Add peanut butter and vanilla. Mix well. Add the oats OR oats and coconut and mix well. Working quickly, drop mixture in rounded teaspoons onto wax paper to cool. The cookies will firm up. (Don't make these in damp weather as they will not set up.) Makes about two dozen cookies.



Recommended Reading



This month's Recommended Reading selection offers a good read to both men and women who like a good story and who need a little inspiration. *Courageous*, by Randy Alcorn, Alex Kendrick, and Stephen Kendrick, has as its tag line, "Honor Begins at Home." And while the story does give the reader insights into the professional life of a policeman on the streets of a tough city, it does indeed focus on the life that a policeman leads after he removes his badge for the day.

From two screenplay writers and a novelist comes the inspirational story of everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their own children. This theme of family leadership is examined through the lens of a Biblical perspective but is then applied in a current-day environment. These men grapple daily with the question, "What happens to a fatherless home?" They come to realize that it takes more than having children to be a father. It takes courage!!! And when fathers fail to follow the will of their Heavenly Father, the results are disastrous. Police officers Alex, Nathan, Shane, and David continually deal with gang related crime in Albany, Georgia. They see car-jackings, drug deals, theft, and gun violence. They are witnesses to the pain and brokenness that result when fathers are absent. And, even in the face of sobering circumstances, these four policemen consistently give their best while on the job.



But it seems that good enough is all they have to offer to their own children. They quickly discover that their standards are missing the mark when it comes to fatherhood. They know that God desires to see their hearts turned to their children, but their own children seem to be drifting farther and farther away from them. They turn to their faith in God and their study of His Word to find a way to serve and protect those who are most dear to them. When tragedy hits home, they are left struggling with their hopes, fears, faith, and fathering. With a newfound urgency, and a strong sense of resolution, these dads draw closer to God and closer to their own children simultaneously.

With heart-pounding plot twists and affirming story lessons, *Courageous* is hard to put down. It is an excellent read for anyone who has influence on today's youth...especially anyone who is living life as a father to a young person. You can find this book from many online booksellers but it can also be found in our Lending Library at Pleasant Grove. We encourage everyone to read *Courageous* and be reminded of the enormous impact we can all have for Christ in the lives of young people today.

"I've read a couple of those books you gave me." Adam pulled out a battered volume that he'd borrowed from Tom. "The Knowledge of the Holy is really something: What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us." "Very good. You see how it feeds your mind and heart in ways the newspaper and television never will?" Adam nodded. "But I'm no theologian." "We're all theologians, Adam. Either good ones or bad ones. I'd rather be a good one, wouldn't you?"

News from Our United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women of Pleasant Grove met on Tuesday, March 8th, for their regular, monthly meetings. Circle #3 met in the afternoon, avoiding the evening rain that practically washed out the meeting for Circle #6. Twelve members were in attendance for the special “Call to Prayer” program and \$124 was collected for the mission work of deaconesses and home missionaries.

Circle #6 will continue to collect an offering to contribute to this worthy cause at their next meeting.

The Metro District Prayer Breakfast will be on Saturday, April 30th, in Kannapolis at Trinity UMC. Jo Boyd, Spiritual Life Coordinator of the Metro District, is planning the meeting. More details will be available by April 1st. Jo is also the District Nurturing Partner for Pleasant Grove this year. She is planning to visit us later in the year.

The next Circle meetings here at Pleasant Grove will be on Tuesday, April 12th. Circle #3 will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 PM. Circle #6 will meet at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. At that time, the members will serve our church by giving our worship space a good, deep cleaning. If you are able to attend, please bring your cleaning rags, multi-surface cleaners, furniture polish, and anything else that you think might come in handy as we ready our sanctuary for Easter Sunday.

As always, both of our Circles welcome visitors and new members. Please feel free to attend either gathering. We would love to have you join us as we seek to put our faith, hope, and love into action.



Spring Break Help for Those In Need

Spring Break is right around the corner for our neighbors at Oakdale School. While this news is met with unbridled glee from the students, and even the faculty and staff, it presents a challenge for families who struggle to put food on the table. With their children at home for about ten days, the grocery budget is stretched, since these families rely on the breakfast and lunch that the school provides. But, once again, we can help these sweet families!

Pleasant Grove will be providing grocery store gift cards to twelve families so



that they can put a nice Easter feast on their family table and can stock up on some of the essentials they need each and every day. If you would like to be a part of this effort, you can place your donation in the offering on Sunday morning or you can turn your donation in to the church office. Donations in any amount are welcomed. Just follow God’s lead in your heart! Be sure to mark your contribution as “Oakdale School Outreach.” We are so fortunate to be a conduit of God’s love and provision as we reach out to those in need with care and compassion!!!

After-School Care Post



Our students are out of their masks! Please continue to pray that we stay on a good community health pathway and that we can keep the masks put away!! These sweet children have been so excited to see their friends' faces!

We have been very busy at PG After School Care. We had pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and celebrated St. Patrick's Day with green cake topped

with gold glitter. We also had the required JELLO that kids of all ages always enjoy. We have made rainbow door hangers with a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and have painted some exceptionally beautiful kites. We are now looking forward to Easter! After School Care will be open for Spring Break from April 11th through April 22nd, except for our being closed on Good Friday, April 15th. We have lots of crafts and games planned and do hope that the weather will be nice so that we can all spend some time out of doors.

We are also gearing up for Summer Camp 2022! Can you believe it??? Registration will open on April 11th. We can't wait to get everything planned, including our field trips! We always have such a great time. If you know of anyone needing summer care for their children, please have them contact us at 704.393.7895. We would love to have them join us for a fun-filled, friendship-making, always learning, always growing, summer together!!!



Calling All Graduates!!!



Pleasant Grove has a rich history of graduating some of the most amazing Christian students from both high school and college! And 2022 will be no exception! On Sunday, June 5th, we will honor our graduates during worship and send them off to the next chapter of their lives with our love, our prayers, and our pride! But we need your help to make sure that we honor each and every one of our graduates. If your student is graduating from high school, college, a certificate program, or an

advanced degree program, please call the church office to let us know. We look forward to honoring these beautiful young members of our church family and hope that the entire church family will join us as we celebrate their accomplishments.



Our Partnership with Oakdale Elementary School



The partnership between Pleasant Grove UMC and Oakdale Elementary School goes both ways across Pleasant Grove Road! Over the years, our sweet church has poured so much love into the school across the street. We have fed the faculty and staff, helped to beautify their campus, helped put school uniforms on the students, collected school supplies for the students, provided lunch buddies, reading buddies, mentors, and tutors. Most recently, we have helped Oakdale families who struggle to put food on the table through our Backpack Buddies ministry. And now, the giving is going to come back across the street, from one neighbor to another, helping others!!

During the first two weeks of May, Oakdale School students will be participating in a canned food drive to benefit Oak Grove Food Pantry, partnering with us in this ongoing effort. The classes will be competing to see which class can collect the most items. The food items will then be brought to our church, combined with what we collect, and delivered to this great community resource. Go ahead and make plans now to double down on your efforts to support Oak Grove. Let's see just how much we can collect as the students at Oakdale do the same. And, as you come in contact with the students, faculty, or staff from the school, be sure to give them a great big high-five to let them know what this partnership means to us. Together, we can have a significant impact in our community as we come alongside one another to help those in need!



Nursery Volunteers Needed!!!

Our nursery ministry is up and running once again...and we need YOU!!! We have a great slate of volunteers who are serving during Sunday school and



worship on the first three Sundays of each month. But we still need volunteers for that fourth Sunday of the month! If you are willing to be in the nursery, sharing God's love with our youngest family members, then this is the volunteer opportunity for you. When you sign up to share and care in this way, you will be the one who is blessed! Call Sherri Brown (704.562.3914) for details and to become a part of this very important ministry! You won't regret it!!!

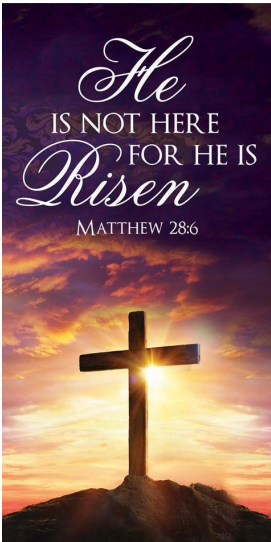


You Did It Again, Pleasant Grove!!!

During the months of January and February the Pleasant Grove Family has been busy gathering Fresh Start Kits for Roof Above. And just recently we delivered twenty-two of these kits! The kits are gifted to individuals and families who qualify for transitional housing but have yet to find employment. They are filled with essentials like toilet paper and paper towels, laundry and dish detergent, trash bags and basic hygiene items. Imagine moving into a place with nothing more than what you are wearing and what you might have in a backpack. And then, in comes one of our Fresh Start Kits!!! What a blessing! Just think, because of God's generosity, through our sweet church family, twenty-two individuals or families will now have these basic essentials, as they themselves get a Fresh Start! God bless you all for your unending generosity and your giving hearts!!!



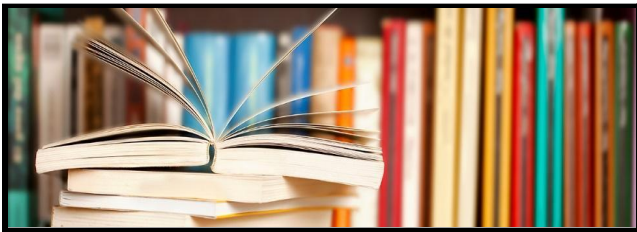
Easter Greeting, One and All!!!



The volunteers with Pleasant News want to wish a very happy Easter to each and every member of the Pleasant Grove Family! As we remember the miracle of Jesus' resurrection, we are grateful for all that He has given, and continues to give, to the world. We hope that you have a blessed Easter filled with love, peace, joy, and a profound sense of gratitude! God bless you all!!!



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!!!





Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the cards, thoughts, and prayers during my recent surgeries and recovery. I love you all!

Judy Rector Kearns



The church family extends our deepest sympathies to:

Dwight and Reba Henry on the passing of Reba's brother-in-law, Richard Tweed.



Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Every Tuesday at 7:30am
Circle G Restaurant
4818 Rozzelles Ferry Rd,
Charlotte



LUNCH TIME

PG Prayer Lunch

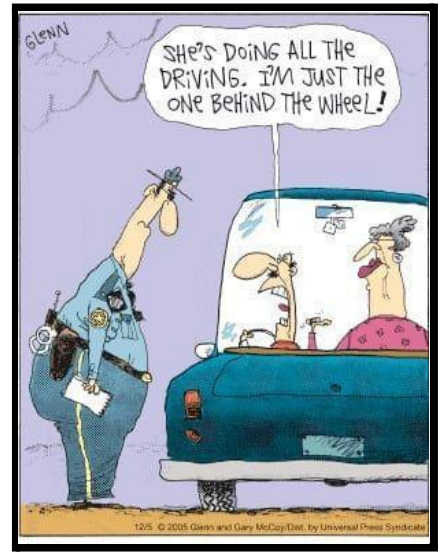
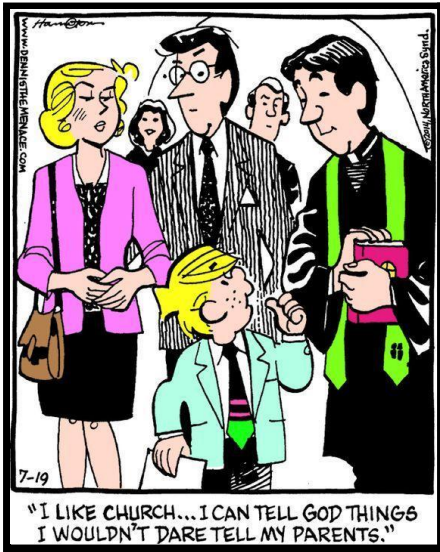
The PG Prayer Lunch meets every Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Stockyard Restaurant. Everyone...men and women, church members and friends, are welcome to join us. We would love to have you with us for this time of food, fellowship, and prayer as we come together seeking God's power and presence in our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

Thursdays - 11:30 AM - The Stockyard



Walking in the Gym
Monday-Thursday · 9:00-11:00am
Everyone is Welcome!

Just For Giggles!!!



Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB

