



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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From The Pastor's Desk

Ahhhh – spring! The flowers are blooming, adding brilliant color to our world. The trees are cheerfully budding, reminding us summer will soon be here. The grass is turning to vivid green and soon (if not already) will need mowing. Beautiful butterflies, a Christian symbol of new life, will soon abound. It's at this time of the year we think of everything coming to life again. Through the cold of winter, everything seems so bleak and unpromising, but spring always comes bringing energy, excitement, and LIFE!

On Good Friday, everything seemed bleak and unpromising. Jesus' disciples, and so many others, had put so much hope in Jesus as the Messiah. But they had watched him die on a cross. He had been placed in a tomb with a huge stone sealing the opening to the tomb. End of story. Jesus was dead. At dawn on the first day of the week, some women went to the tomb and found it empty! JESUS WAS ALIVE! In an instant their lives were changed! There was energy, excitement, and LIFE! Jesus had risen! And that is the foundation of our faith today. Jesus is risen! Jesus is alive! And he still changes lives today.

Sometimes our lives can feel like the cold of winter. Everything is bleak and unpromising. Maybe it's because of our own actions, or maybe life circumstances have just landed us there. But we feel all dead inside. No energy. No excitement. No life. Because of the resurrection, Jesus offers us spring for those times in our life.



In his letter to the Romans, Paul says, “Because of our sins he was given over to die, and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God.” (Romans 4:25) It doesn’t matter what we have done in the past, it doesn’t matter who we have been. Through the resurrection we are offered God’s love and forgiveness, his mercy and grace, so that we too may experience a resurrection in our own life and begin life anew – a life filled with his love, peace, hope, and joy. That doesn’t mean everything will always be perfect. There will still be pain in this life. Tragedy will still come our way. We will still face death, our own and the death of those we

love. But through the power of the resurrection, we can rise above all we face in life and live joyful, hope-filled lives. Enjoy the beauty of spring and the wonders of resurrection this Easter Season. The Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday, March 31st and goes through Ascension Sunday, May 12th. During this time, we will be talking each week in worship about how Jesus resurrects our lives. Can’t wait to see you there!

--Pastor Glenda

A photograph of a breakfast meal on a white plate, including scrambled eggs, a sausage link, a slice of toast, and a piece of fried chicken. In the background, there is a glass of orange juice and a white coffee cup. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

Men’s Fellowship Breakfast
Every Tuesday at 7:30 am
Lowesville Cafe
1610 NC-16
Mt Holly, NC 28120

News from the United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith Circles met on Tuesday, March 12th , with twenty members and one guest attending. "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" was the focus of the program for both groups. A special offering was taken with one hundred percent designated to support social justice initiatives on behalf of women, youth, and children world-wide.

The next district event will be the Spiritual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday morning, April 27th , at North Davidson United Methodist Church. We had four members from Pleasant Grove attend the district mission study in March. It would be great to have four or more attend the Prayer Breakfast. This event begins around 9:00 AM and will conclude before lunch. The district, and Women in Faith unit at North Davidson, will offer a nice event and a good meeting. Please let Jeannie know if you plan to go.

Our United Women in Faith Circles are always open to new members. We welcome church members, as well as their friends, family, and neighbors. If you are not yet participating in Women in Faith, please consider attending either our afternoon or evening Circle on the second Tuesday of each month. Together we support and love one another, while we make a difference in the lives of women, youth, and children around the world.

---submitted by Jeannie Upton



Pleasant Grove Helps Again

Thank you, church members, for being so generous with your monetary donations to help provide gift cards to ten Oakdale Elementary families that are financially struggling. With your help, we were able to purchase Food Lion gift cards in the amount of \$100 each. Our prayer is that these families will enjoy a nice Easter meal and restock on pantry items while the children are home during spring break. Child hunger is a real issue in every community and no child should ever go hungry! When we serve those in need, we are also serving Christ. You are truly a blessing to these children and their families!

A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor. (Proverbs 22:9)



---submitted by Mary Usher



After School Care Post

Here at After School Care the students were busy during the month of March, getting ready for Easter. They had loads of fun making chicks, rabbits, Easter eggs, and a beautifully embellished cross. Now, they are ready to dive into their Spring crafts!



At school, the children will begin preparing for end-of-year testing. At the same time, we will be preparing for Summer Camp. We are now open for registration. If you, or someone you know, is interested in registering their student for Summer Camp, please contact Sherrie Cannon at 704-393-7895 between the hours of 2:30-6:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the staff at After School Care for all that they did so that I could go to Florida for the birth of my second grandchild, Miss Wriely. I was able to stay for several weeks to give the new parents support and a helping hand. It was a wonderful experience! And I thank everyone for all that they did to make this possible for me!



---submitted by Sherrie Cannon



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



Foster Village Charlotte **Supporting Those Who Are Supporting Others**

During the month of March, our sweet church family collected Amazon gift cards for Foster Village Charlotte. This local organization has been an enormous help to our very own Randy and Mandi Ferguson, as they love on and provide for their three children. Foster Village Charlotte believes that strengthening the systems that support children experiencing foster care leads to a resilient next generation that breaks the cycle of childhood adversity and trauma. And our support of Foster Village Charlotte gives children experiencing foster care and the families caring for them the village of support they need to thrive. Being that village can be the simple act of showing up. And BOY! Have we shown up! Your contributions of Amazon gift cards will go a long way in providing welcome kits for each child entering foster care.

On Sunday, April 14th, we will welcome Emma Lyons of Foster Village Charlotte to Pleasant Grove for our 10:00 worship service. During our time together, Emma will explain more fully, and from a firsthand perspective, the good work that Foster Village Charlotte does. We will also pray over our donation of gift cards and present them to her for use by their organization. Please make plans to be with us on this very special Sunday as we reach out beyond the edges of our church campus with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Your presence matters as we welcome Emma and offer our support of Foster Village Charlotte!



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!!!

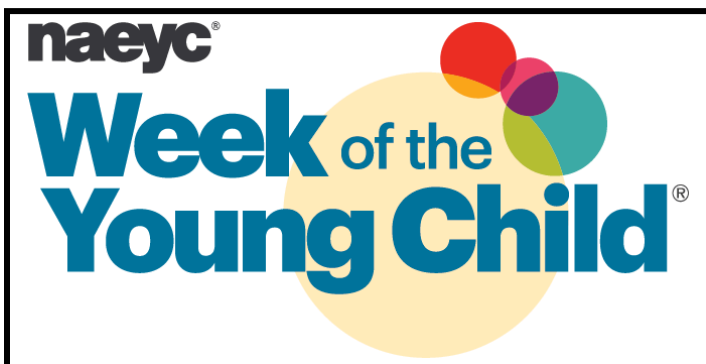
Pleasant Grove Child Development Center News

Greetings from your Pleasant Grove Child Development Center! We know that although we are housed on the same campus together, it can sometimes be hard to keep abreast of the happenings in our happy little building. We are excited to now be able to share what is going on with us each month through *Pleasant News*. So, look for our updates in the months ahead.

We will be observing Autism Awareness each Wednesday in April by wearing "Blue." We will even be wearing cool t-shirts, with a special autism logo, which remind us of our need to include all of God's children in our family, no matter our "able-ities."

The week of April 8th – April 12th , we will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child (WYOC). During this week we will have special activities that point to the beauty and joy of the young children in all our lives.

And looking forward...Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6th – May 10th . We are so blessed to have the teachers that we have at PGCDC. If you, or your group within the church, would like to do something to show our staff how much they are appreciated, please contact the CDC and we will work with you in any way that we can.



The Flower Calendar is Available for 2024

Are you celebrating a milestone or special event? Is there a special someone you would like to honor or remember? The Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board in the Office building for Sunday arrangements for the Altar. You will be contacted the week of that Sunday for more information on how your listing will be in the bulletin. We look forward to serving you with this beautiful expression of love and devotion.



General Conference 2024 **Be Informed...Be in Prayer!**

General Conference is coming soon! Meeting every four years, General Conference is the only entity that speaks for the denomination. The United Methodist Book of Discipline, updated every four years, incorporates changes made by General Conference.

The General Conference theme is "... and know that I am God" from Psalm 46:10. The entire verse (NRSV) reads: "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth." The verse number may vary in non-English translations. The General Conference Worship and Music Team plans to create a new focus each day by pairing the theme with different words, such as "love" and know that I am God, or "believe" and know that I am God.

Delegates from Africa, Europe, Asia and the U.S. will attend the 11-day gathering, which could attract as many as 7,500 people. Some 862 delegates, elected from around the world, will gather to set policy and direction for the church, as well as handle other important business.

The changing global nature of the church is due in part to the rapidly growing membership in central conferences. Voting delegates will come from the United States (55.9%), Africa (32%), the Philippines (6%), Europe (4.6%) and concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church (1.5%). Half will be clergy, half laity. The percentage of delegates from central conferences, which was 16% in 2000, has increased significantly since the start of this millennium. The percentage of delegates from central conferences for the most current four quadrenniums was 29% in 2008; 38%, 2012; 42%, 2016; and 44%, 2020.

The coming General Conference faces multiple proposals aimed at shaping the future of The United Methodist Church. A listing and brief description of those proposals will be available to you within the next couple of Weeks.

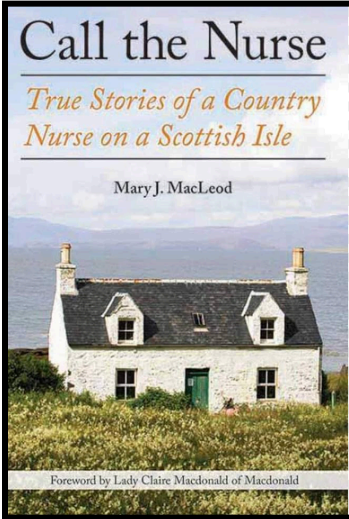
Many things will be happening at General Conference, of which, the media likes to focus on the controversial. Please remember, controversial issues are only a small part of our General Conference. Much good goes on too. Each day opens with worship. Countless individual, small group, and corporate prayers are said. Numerous praises and thanksgivings are given to Jesus Christ in various languages. There is lifting up and encouragement as delegates try their best to follow Jesus. You won't hear these stories from the media. But they are there, more plentiful than the controversies.

Please keep our General Conference in your prayers. Delegates from around the world face a difficult task with long days. May God be glorified!

---submitted by Pastor Glenda



Recommended Reading



Do you like to read true stories? Are you enamored with things related to the British Isles, and in particular Scotland? Do you enjoy a book that dabbles in the medical field? When you read a good, descriptive narrative, are you transported to the very setting of the story? Well, if any of these describes you as a reader, then we have just the selection for you!

Mary J. MacLeod, also known as Julia, along with her husband, had grown tired of the pace and noise of life near London, England. They were longing for a better place to raise their young sons. They stumbled upon their dream while vacationing on a remote island in the Scottish Hebrides. Taken by its wind-swept terrain, they were soon the proud owners of an almost derelict croft house (a farmer's stone cottage), on a "small acre" of land. Being trained as a nurse, Mary assumes the duties of the island's district nurse in short order. Call the Nurse is her account of those first enchanted years that she and her family spent in Papavray, getting to know its folks as both patients and friends.

At the close of the book, Mary is reminiscing about the island that she has grown to love. As you read her words below, allow yourself to see and feel and smell all that she is remembering...

"I can almost see the snow on Ben Criel, the ice on Loch Annan, and the tall plumes of peat smoke rising from little white croft houses in the still frosty air. I want to smell again the heather and bog myrtle, feel soft summer rain on my face, and watch the fierce fire of a setting sun as it paints the sky with orange, gold, and crimson light, lending its mirrored glory to the sea and its surreal splendor to the shimmering slopes of distant mountains. Later, I would be left in the peace of the long Northern twilight, to dream of the days when we lived and loved and worked in this blessed place."

Call the Nurse is the debut offering of Mary J. MacLeod. Within its pages, Call the Nurse combines a nurse's compassion with Gaelic fortitude to give us a collection of wonderful, true stories from rural Scotland. It is a treasure trove of nostalgia, community, humor, beauty, and the human condition. I think that so many times we tend to picture the rest of the world living just as we do. It is when we read first-hand accounts of life in another part of the world, in a different time, that we realize that life continues for others in a much different way from our own experience.

I think that just about anyone would enjoy reading Call the Nurse! Yes, you are introduced to a few new words from the Gaelic language. And yes, you will need to understand that this is a different life, in a different place, in a different time. But, if you pick it up, you will find yourself immersed in a beautiful, rich, deep, and moving account of life in Papavray. This incredible journey is well worth the read! Call the Nurse is available from any online bookseller and can also be found in our own Lending Library at Pleasant Grove. Happy Reading!!!

---submitted by Sherri Brown





The Recipe Box

History is full of interesting factoids about chocolate and its introduction to the Middle East. Jesus' time did not include chocolate. But aren't we glad that we live in a world with chocolate! Today's recipe includes that wonderful ingredient that reminds us of the word, "Choco-holic!" Enjoy!!!

Chocolate Chip Cake

- 1 package of yellow cake mix
- 1 cup of water
- ½ cup of canola oil
- 4 eggs (large or extra-large)
- 1 large package of instant vanilla pudding
- ½ bar of bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate
- 1 package of chocolate chips



Mix together the cake mix, water, oil, eggs, and pudding. Grate the chocolate bar and add to the mixture. Fold in the package of chocolate chips. Spray your bundt pan with cooking spray and then dust the pan with flour. Pour the batter into the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-55 minutes. Use a toothpick to check for doneness. Cool on a rack for 15 minutes or so, then turn onto a plate. For a festive look, sprinkle the top of the cake with powdered sugar.

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt."

---Charles Schulz (The Peanuts)

---submitted by Peggy Green



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!

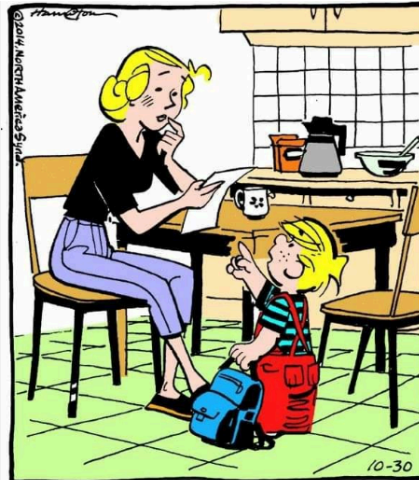
Just For Giggles



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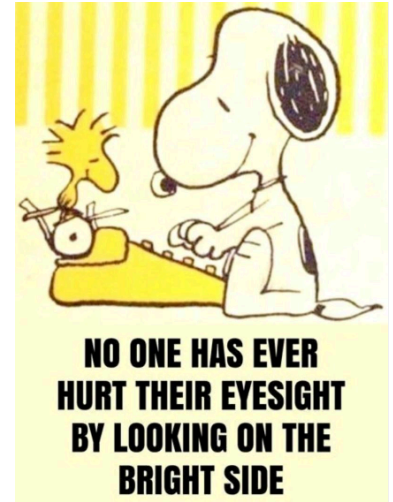
Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

"When I say my prayers my fingers like to hug each other."

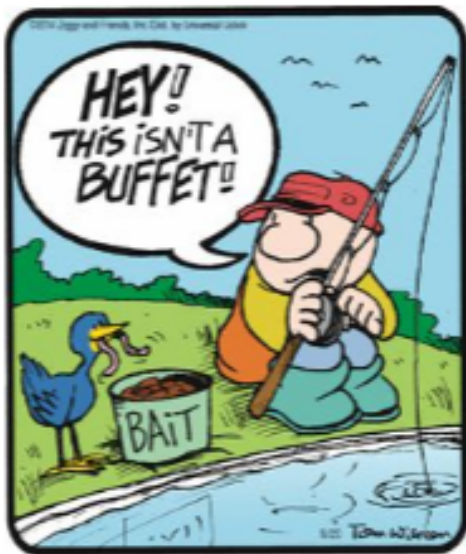


10-30

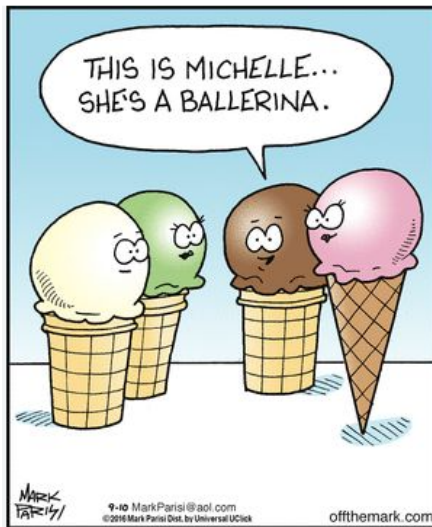
"DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT THE TEACHER SAYS. SHE'S BEEN IN KINDERGARTEN FOR 15 YEARS."



NO ONE HAS EVER HURT THEIR EYESIGHT BY LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE



HEY!
THIS ISN'T A
BUFFET!



THIS IS MICHELLE... SHE'S A BALLERINA.

9-10 Mark Parisi@aol.com
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JUST WHEN I THINK I'M DONE, I ROTATE IT AND FIND ANOTHER SPOT I MISSED!



IT WAS MUCH EASIER TO EAT HOMEWORK WHEN IT WAS ON PAPER

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Maria Scrivan

I finally did it!
Bought a new pair of shoes with memory foam insoles.
No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.



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SPRING WORD SEARCH

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



BLOSSOM
BLUEBIRD
BOOTS
CHICKS
DAFFODIL
FLOWERS

GARDEN
GRASS
GREEN
KITE
MUD
NEST

RAIN
SEEDS
TULIPS
UMBRELLA
WARM

