



Pleasant News

Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church

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WORSHIP TIMES

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

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Inspiration Point

Matthew 28:18 to 20 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"

Because of circumstances beyond our control, our congregation has been pruned back significantly. Maybe it is causing a lot of distress to us as we look back at where we have been in the not too distant past. We have to consider the Scripture Parable where it talks about the Fig Tree that bore no fruit. The Master told the servant to dig it up and get rid of it, but the servant wanted to just pay it some attention. He dug around it, gave it fertilizer and water and gave it a fresh start! In your own gardening, you may have had a plant that was old and way past maturity with limbs sticking out in all directions. So you repotted it in a bigger pot with fresh potting soil, fertilizer, water, and a trimming back! By the end of the season, it had come back fully looking more beautiful than it had in the beginning! That is where we are as a church!

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Now, we can do nothing, and spend our time looking over our shoulder to the past and what was, or we can take a look at where we are and what we are going to be in the future! That is our decision to make. If all we are is a group of people just hanging on to our past then our church will soon close and become a part of some more prosperous church in the area. Or, we can reassess our position and decide that we are the foundation of a new and larger church for our community's future! That will require a new vision of who we are and what we are about! Our area is filling up with new people coming to Charlotte where the jobs are. They have no local church home. They see us as an old established church, content with things the way they are and not desiring new faces or strange people among us. Most of them are young families with children. We are not set up for young families nor children! When they visit they don't come back. We are where we are because we have chosen to not expend the effort to make it different! Let's change that!

I was listening to an interview with Rick Warren on CNN last night. He has built a church of 35,000 members in California. As if that were not enough, he has built three other Mega Churches on three other continents. Now, he is leaving Saddleback Church to begin a new thing that pulls all Evangelical Churches into an organization to combine their efforts to establish one believer, one Bible and one congregation everywhere in the world. I am not proposing that we join that, but I admire his enthusiasm and zeal in doing something to fulfill our above Scriptures. Thinking about that, I ask myself "What can I do?" I have decided that I can teach, so at a time to be announced, due to Church Calendar scheduling, I will teach "The Purpose Driven Life" to all who wish to attend. There will be books to purchase and I will put forth other information as we progress. Notify the Church office to sign up.

Notice in Verse 18 above it says "...go therefore and make disciples..." It did not say go to seminary, or other formal schools, it says **GO!** Come and let's train and then we will organize and Go Make Disciples! Let us do something in obedience!

Brother Phil



From the Pastor's Desk

"A Tale of Two Josephs"

This is the tale of two Josephs. Not fiction, but fact. One Joseph marks a beginning, and the other an end. One was a Christmas Joseph, and the other was a Good Friday Joseph. They stand one each at the ends of the life of Jesus—the one at his birth and the other at his death. Now, Joseph of Nazareth saw the beginnings of a life and heard the first cry of the infant Jesus. Joseph of Arimathaea heard the last cry of a dying man on a cross. The Christmas Joseph, a man and a carpenter, helped Mary, his betrothed, to lay a baby in a manger. The Good Friday Joseph, a distinguished, wealthy legislator, carried a dead body to an empty tomb. He owned it, and it was conveniently near. No one had yet been buried there.

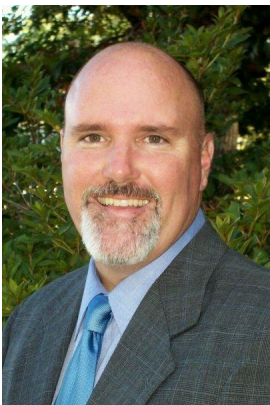


Joseph of Nazareth apparently had little influence with a Bethlehem innkeeper. On the other hand, Joseph of Arimathaea must have possessed considerable influence with the mighty Pilate or else his gold was persuasive. Did that Christmas Joseph assist Mary as she wrapped her first-born in swathing bands, very probably? And for the Good Friday Joseph, the task would be similar, but very different – not swaddling clothes, but a winding sheet called a shroud. Aided by Nicodemus, who had brought an enormous quantity of perfumes and spices to anoint the body, the remains of Jesus were prepared for burial (John 19:40).

Both Josephs were obedient men, one to an angel (Matt. 1:24), and the other to his conscience (John 19:38). The first obedient Joseph fades from history. Joseph of Nazareth is last heard of when Jesus at the age of twelve became a “son of the law”. The time of his death is not stated in the Gospels. Joseph of Arimathaea comes slowly to a forefront in the public life of Jesus. This Good Friday Joseph moved from the life of Christ, to the cross on which He was hung, to the tomb in which Christ was buried. Joseph saw in the Christ of the cross a Messiah, hope for the forgiveness of sin. He knew that without the savior, we will die in our sin. This Joseph looked into the dying eyes of Jesus, and saw the reason for sacrifice. Jesus’ death and resurrection moved Joseph from the cross and the tomb to a new era of discipleship.



So do all, who see in the Christ of the cross their hope of forgiveness from sin. So do all, who in the power of the resurrected Christ find that the barriers to a victorious spiritual life are rolled away. The Good Friday Joseph finds himself the Easter Joseph, newly alive in Christ, resurrected from an existence of sin, and now personally embodying the power he found in the resurrection.



The Christmas Joseph came to realize that Jesus was sent of God as he wrapped the babe in swaddling clothes. The Good Friday Joseph came to see that his wealth and prominent stature were worth risking realizing the untold riches of having your sins forgiven. Let Pleasant Grove join in by becoming the resurrection church where our faith is lived out each day. And let us not take for granted the precious gift that God has placed within our reach, that of salvation for the sinner, even the sins committed by you and I.

Christ above all,

Pastor Byron

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

IN MEMORY

Anna Therrell

Tim and Terri Honeycutt – Family Life Center
Tecil and Sue Curlee

Foy Lee Phillips

Shawn and Jennifer Phillips
Don Brown
Anonymous
Jimmy Crawford
Sue Phillips
Glen Reynolds Family
Scott and Wendy Howarth

Kay and Mike Phillips

Don Brown

Kenneth Alexander

Don Brown

Hiram "Jeff" Handy

Malibu Pointe Lane Friends and Family
Billy and Marie Eanes

Louise Cobb

Rick and Lynda Elliott – Cemetery Fund

Glen Reynolds

Anonymous
John Baucom
David Conaway
Laura Gilleland
Robert Grier
Deborah Taylor
Tracey Loughlin-Young
Steve and Karen Dellinger
Nadine Williams – Family Life Center
Hazel Sanders
Roy and Margaret Parker
Bonnie Johnson

Iola Burns Winesett

Steve and Karen Dellinger
Roy and Margaret Parker

Yogi Maples

Nadine Williams – Family Life Center
Tom and Julia Grey

Judy Jones Smith

Nadine Williams – Family Life Center



The Recipe Box

Spring arrives this month! It's that time of year when we begin to think of lighter dishes to grace our tables. We have spent the winter months enjoying soups and stews, comfort foods, and savory recipes that bring us to the table for warmth and nourishment. With the advent of Spring, we are reminded that the season of fresh flavors has come again! This month's recipe, Mushroom, Spinach, and Swiss Cheese Quiche is a delightful combination of eggs, cheese and vegetables that fits in at breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner and it comes to us from the kitchens of Magnolia Journal. Pair this main dish with a simple salad or a bowl of fresh berries for a colorful and satisfying meal. We hope that you will enjoy trying this recipe and that you invite us over to share it with you very soon!!! Enjoy!!!

Mushroom, Spinach, and Swiss Cheese Quiche

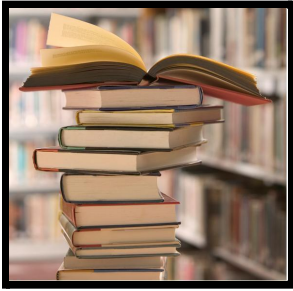
- 2 T. salted butter
- 1/3 cup finely diced white onion
- 12 oz. baby Bella mushrooms, trimmed and sliced (about 4 cups)
- 2 cups baby spinach (about 2 oz.)
- 6 large eggs
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 t. garlic powder
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. black pepper
- 12 oz. Swiss cheese, grated (about 3 cups)
- 1 9-inch pie crust



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large skillet, heat the butter over medium heat until melted. Add the onion and cook until tender, about 6 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook until they have given up their liquid and it has mostly evaporated, 5 to 6 minutes. Add the spinach and cook until wilted, 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from the heat and set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs, cream, garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Stir in the

spinach/mushroom/onion mixture and the Swiss cheese. Pour this mixture into the unbaked pie shell. Bake until the quiche is lightly golden and set in the center when the pan is gently shaken, about 45 minutes. If the crust is browning too quickly, cover it with foil to prevent it from burning. Remove from the oven and let stand for 5 to 10 minutes before serving. Cut into 6 or 8 slices and serve warm or at room temperature. Quiche is best served day of. Tightly wrap leftovers with plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.

Recommended Reading

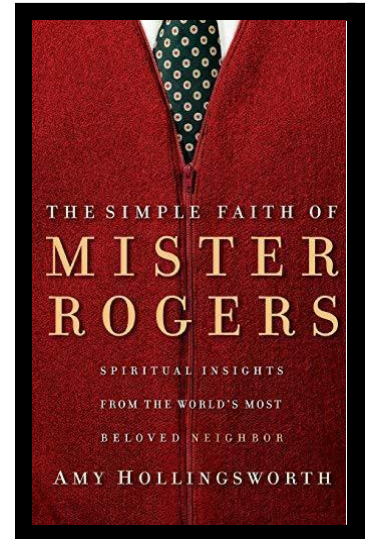


There are people, or characters, that we have all encountered over the years, who we think we have figured out and who we think we know. We can't imagine that we would ever be interested in learning anything else, or for that matter, that there is anything else to learn about them! Many of us have memories of watching *Mister Rogers Neighborhood* either in our own childhood or as our children watched this much-loved television show. And we probably think we know Fred Rogers!

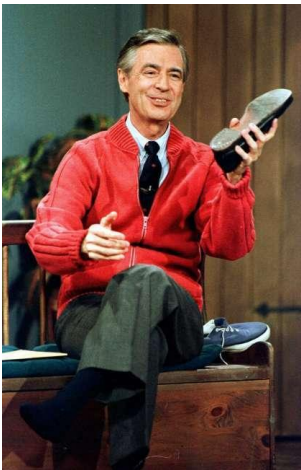
However, as this month's Recommended Reading selection offers us, there really is a lot to learn about this man and his philosophies about life, children, how we are to treat one another, and how we navigate the messiness of life. There is also so much to dig into as far as his Christian life and how he attempted, in his own quiet and intentional way, to gift the truth and beauty of the life of Christ to his television audience.

[The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers](#), by Amy Hollingsworth, is a terrific book, moving and simple and trustworthy all at the same time. What we thought were messages only for children...wisdom, courage, and humility...are now offered to us as adults through this careful and genuine writing. Hollingsworth gives us a deeply moving description of Mister Rogers' radiant faith. Her book is a treasure born out of her correspondence and relationship with Mister Rogers that impacted, not only her, but her entire family.

Amy Hollingsworth, author, educator, and speaker met Mister Rogers eight years before his death. Their relationship began as an interview which quickly blossomed into a beautiful friendship, based on honesty and prayer. This friendship encompassed dozens of letters which detailed the driving force behind this gentle man of extraordinary influence. This book is an intimate portrait of the real Mister Rogers who could be labeled television personality, neighbor, friend, educator, philosopher, psychologist, and even minister.



Tom Brokaw of NBC Nightly News once said of Fred Rogers, "Mister Rogers was an ordained minister, but he never talked about God on his program. He didn't need to." [The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers](#) focuses on the spiritual legacy of Fred Rogers, but it is so much more than that. It shows us a man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "preached the Gospel at all times; and when necessary, he used words."



We think that you will enjoy reading [The Simple Faith of Mister Rogers](#) and that you will be able to glean from it the inspiration to live a more honest, caring, compassionate, and peaceful life. And in the times that we find ourselves living in today, couldn't we all use a little more inspiration and a lot more Jesus in our lives? We believe so! This book is available through booksellers, both online and in store, and through our public libraries. But you will be pleased to know that it is also in Pleasant Grove's Lending Library in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. We hope you will pick it up and enjoy this delightful and life-affirming read!!!

News from Our United Methodist Women



Tuesday, February 8th, was the monthly meeting day for the United Methodist Women. Circles #3 and #6 met at their respective times with 25 members in attendance between the two Circles. This was a great response considering how Covid has prevented so many in-person meetings.

Circle #3 had Pastor Byron come and share the story of "his call to the ministry." He is a member of the UMW, and it was a pleasure having him with us. We also had a first-time visitor, and she plans to join our UMW. We are so happy to welcome Marie Smith!!! In an earlier

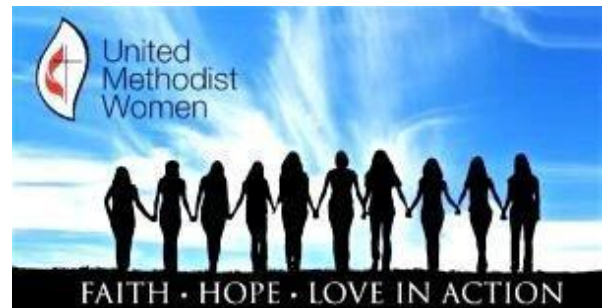
meeting, Martha Honeycutt shared some information with us about Daniel and Stephanie DuZawada, deaf missionaries that work in China. This couple is currently in the United States waiting for the Covid travel ban to be lifted so they can return to China. While waiting, they are working in Tennessee with an organization called Deaf Pathway, making videos of Bible stories for the deaf. Martha has been supportive of this couple for several years and after her sharing this information with us Circle #3 decided to send a donation to their ministry. We are looking forward to hearing more from the DuZawadas.

Circle #6 enjoyed their time together as it had been quite a while since they had held an in-person meeting. The members had some discussion about how to disperse the funds from the annual Country Ham Sale. These decisions will be made in the very near future. Karen Dellinger led the group in a beautiful devotional about the gift of our sisterhood in Christ. She gave the example of Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. In Elizabeth's interactions with Mary, she honored Mary, affirmed her mission, and built her faith. What a great example of how women can minister to other women! In the future Circle #6 looks forward to the day when we can get back to visiting our homebound and shut-in church family members.

The March Circle meetings will involve the once-a-year participation in the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" program. This is the one meeting each year that a special offering is collected. All the funds are sent to a designated mission program. The title of this year's program is "Love, Justice, and Service, Answering the Call."

There will be two Metro District events this spring. The first is the District Mission Study on March 5th, at Zion UMC in Monroe. The second event will be in late April with the location and times to be determined.

As always, we welcome new members to either of our Circles here at Pleasant Grove. In our fellowship we enjoy our sisterhood, seek true community, reach out to those in need, all while drawing closer to Christ together. We would treasure your participation and presence!



Lord, having other women to live life with is a gift. Help me to receive encouragement from older women who are blazing a path of faith. And use me to encourage younger women, too. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

After-School Care Post

After School Care has been a whirlwind. Snow days are so exciting for the children (and the adults too!). And we had them three weeks in a row!!! It was beautiful and it left quickly! That's the best kind of snow there is! According to Mr. Groundhog it may not be over quite yet. The children have been working on Valentine's Day activities. They made heart animals and sun catchers. We had a party complete with cake and punch, and there is always room for JELLO! Presidents Day will be here soon, and we have a few activities planned to commemorate this special day. We are so blessed to have such a great group of children. They have such a good time coming in and playing with one another. Soon Spring will be here and hopefully things will get even better on the COVID front and we will be able to get our children out of their masks. It has been a long time since they have seen their friends' faces and we can't wait to see their beautiful smiles once again! Everyone, please stay safe and well!



Ash Wednesday at The Grove



Ash Wednesday is such a moving and meaningful day in the life of the church. It is a time for all to consider our sinfulness before God and our human mortality while also treasuring the fact that both have been overcome by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will spend this holy time together with an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2nd, at 6:00 PM. During this service we will partake in Holy Communion together and will also observe the Imposition of the Ashes. Please make plans to gather with your church family as we begin the season of Lent with one another.

Scripture of the Month

Hey there church family!

As winter begins to come to a close and the warmth of spring draws ever closer I often think about the renewal of life and the beauty therein. Winter can be a beautiful time of year but it's also a time of death and decline within nature. I think it can be easy to start to feel the drag of this season and feel worn down by life in general. Thankfully we have Scripture to look to and this month our passage comes from the book of Hosea where the Israelites have been experiencing a period of decline but they are assured of a more hopeful future.



Hosea 6:1

“Come, let us return to the Lord.

He has torn us to pieces

but he will heal us;

he has injured us

but he will bind up our wounds.

Hosea 6:2

After two days he will revive us;

on the third day he will restore us,

that we may live in his presence.

Hosea 6:3

Let us acknowledge the Lord;

let us press on to acknowledge him.

As surely as the sun rises,

he will appear;

he will come to us like the winter rains,

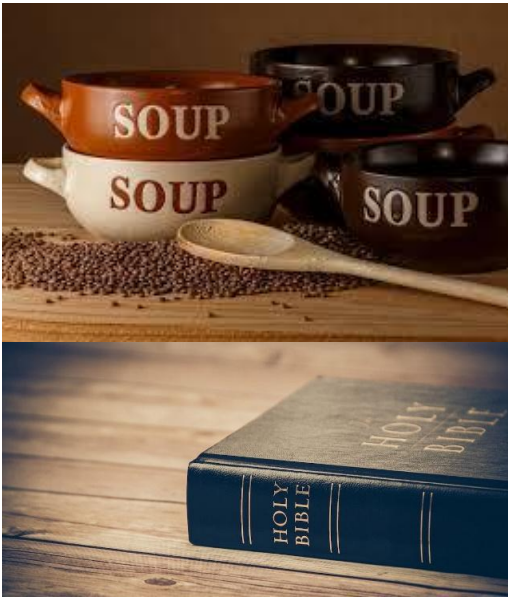
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

Of course if you are familiar with the book of Hosea you would know that the misfortune that fell upon the Israelites was of their own doing. As you can see here in this passage they were “injured” by God, in other words they were punished by God for their faithlessness. Hopefully none of us are in a place where we have rejected God but I have no doubt many of us are in a place of hardship. But here we see a passage of hope despite that, for they know that God will redeem them regardless of whatever may have happened in the past. Like spring is just around the corner, so is the redemption and salvation of God coming for us all. Take heart in knowing that your God is faithful and will provide for us, through all seasons of our lives.

In humble service,

Colin

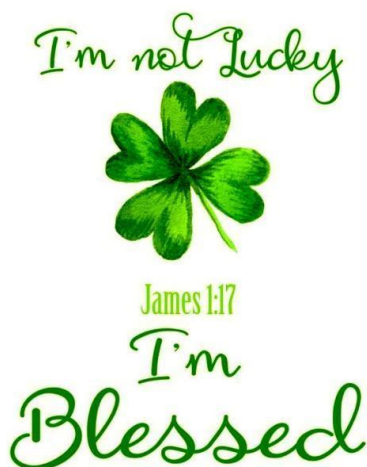
Soup and Study



Something new and exciting is coming to Pleasant Grove! You are all invited to participate in a new Lenten Bible study which begins on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:00 PM in the family life center. This will be a six-week study during which we will be going through a study on the book, [The Case for Heaven: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for Life After Death](#), written by Lee Strobel. The dates for the study are March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th and 12th. The plan is for participants to sign up to provide the soup and the church will provide the salad, bread, and tea. Please let the church office know that you plan to be a part of this study so that the books can be ordered. Along with this book, you will also need to bring your Bible. While we are enjoying our soup and salad, we will study God's word together. It will be a great time of fellowship and study as the body of Christ!! We do hope that you will make plans to be a part of this wonderful opportunity!



Happy St. Patrick's Day to Our Church Family!!!



The volunteers with Pleasant News want to wish our church family a Happy St. Patrick's Day!!! While so much of the world wishes one another "the luck of the Irish," we do hope that you will have fun with that but also remember that we are not just lucky...we are blessed!!! We are blessed by the presence of our Lord God, through the person of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit! No luck needed!!!



A Note of Thanks

Our church family recently received this word of thanks from the Huntersville Emergency Food Pantry for the donation of our Reverse Advent Boxes and we wanted to share it with you...



Dear Friends at Pleasant Grove UMC,

On behalf of the Huntersville Emergency Food Pantry, thank you for your generous donation of 830 pounds of groceries to the Loaves and Fishes program in January 2022. A family of three uses about 60 pounds of groceries each week. With your donation, you have made a difference in the lives of families in need within our own local community, many of whom are working but find themselves in crisis due to unexpected or unforeseen circumstances. The Huntersville Emergency Food Pantry is one of over 24 Loaves and Fishes pantries in Mecklenburg County. We are supported entirely through donations, and your support enables us to continue our mission of serving those who come to us for help. Because of your support, OUR pantry was able to provide a week's worth of groceries to 103 families (297 individuals including 100 kids).

*With Sincere Thanks,
Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!*



The church family extends our deepest sympathy to...

The Hubert "Yogi" Maples Family on the death of Yogi.

Margaret Parker and Family on the death of her sister, Judy Smith.

Oak Grove Food Pantry Needs Our Help



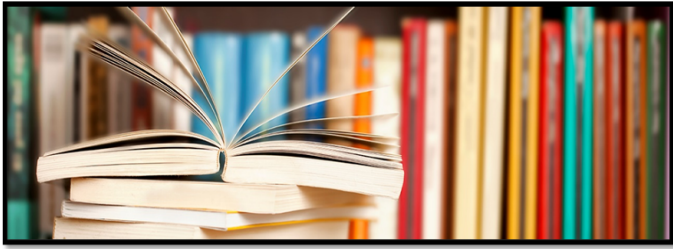
One of the many beautiful partnerships that Pleasant Grove is a part of is the regular support of the food pantry at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. This is an ongoing, day-to-day, regular as clockwork, never-ending partnership. Because it is an on-going partnership, it can sometimes get lost in the shuffle of being one of our many outreach efforts. We want to remind you that we have donation bins in our sanctuary and office buildings to receive your donations to the food pantry. You can bring any shelf-stable, non-perishable food item to these donation bins and

we will make sure that it gets to Oak Grove. Just remember, quality over quantity! We are called to give our best! Not our leftover, out of date pantry items. One good test of this guiding principle is if you would serve it to your family. If so, it is probably a good bet for other families as well. So, tie a string around your finger, write this donation opportunity on your calendar, or call and remind your good friends that it is time to donate! Whatever it takes, let's get behind this opportunity and give to others straight from our hearts!!!



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

Pleasant Grove's Little Lending Library



Just a friendly reminder that our Lending Library is open and available to each and every one of you. We are small in the number of books that we have at this early point in our existence. However, we have an excellent selection of books ranging in category from Christian formation and discipleship, to Bibles, to small group resources, to daily devotionals, to Christian fiction, to historical fiction, to non-fiction. Some of your favorite

authors are on our shelves as well as some of the newer authors that you might not have read yet. Our system is quite simple...just take what interests you and when you are finished with it, bring it back for others to enjoy! That's it!!! Also, we are always accepting donations to enlarge our collection. If you have some really great books at your house that you have already enjoyed, you may place them in the donation bin beside the library in the Gathering Room of the Family Life Center. We just ask that they be clean, unmarked, and in new or like-new condition. Our Lending Library is a great resource for the church family, and we do hope that you will take advantage of the reading opportunities that are available to you!



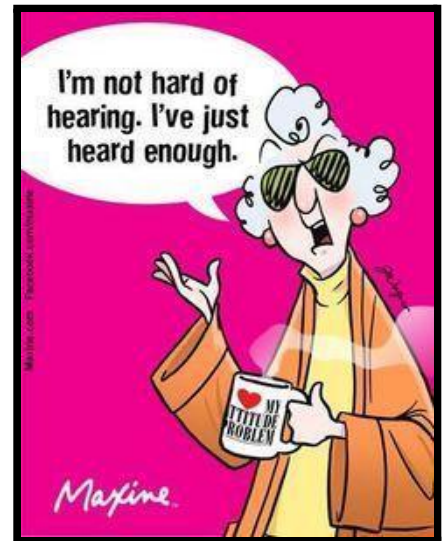
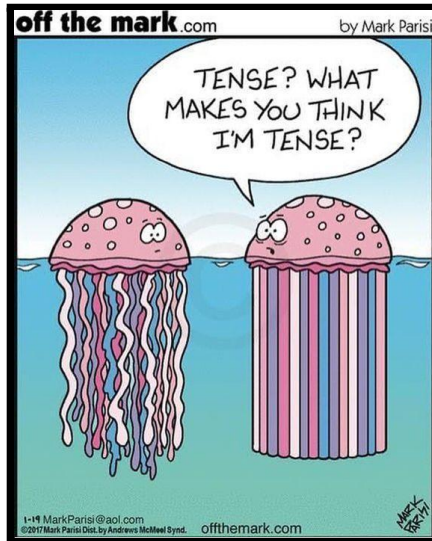
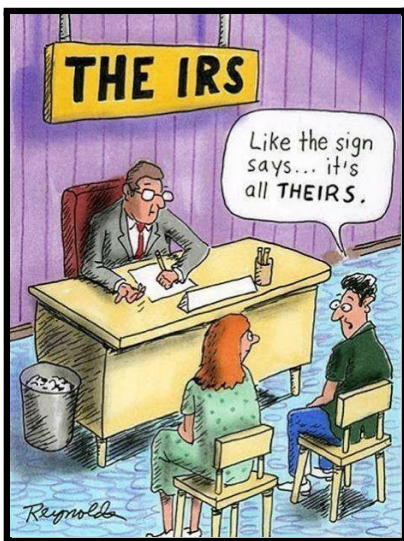
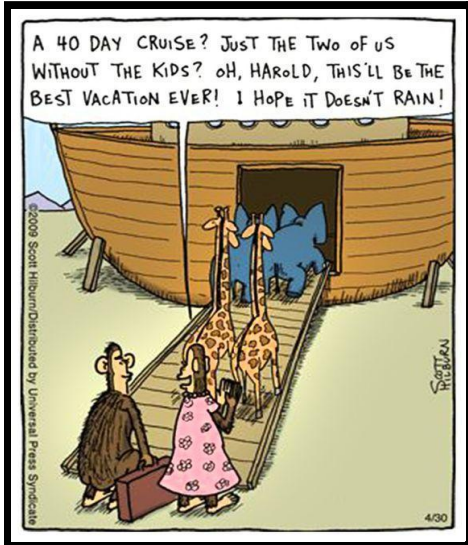
LUNCH TIME

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!!!





Spring



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



BIRDS	CALF	GARDEN	LAMB	SNAIL
BLOSSOM	CATERPILLAR	GRASS	NATURE	SPRING
BUGS	CHICKS	HATCH	NEST	SPROUT
BUNNY	FLOWERS	INSECTS	RABBIT	TULIP
BUTTERFLY	FROG	LADYBUG	ROBIN	WORM

