NEWS PEWS

OCTOBER 2025

Our October Odyssey

So here we are in October already, and it promises to be a busy month at Pleasant Grove from the first week to the very last day. It's all in these pages so you won't miss a minute of the fun and fellowship.

Pastor Paul Klepees is looking forward to spooky fun in October but pauses to remind us that when we walk in faith, there is no fear. Read his take on page 2.

Also on page 2, find out why we're stocking up on Halloween candy this month to Fill The Cart with treats for the troops. All donations will go to Operation Gratitude for inclusion in care packages sent to soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines deployed overseas.

Pleasant Grove's Sunday School started a new year in September with a new superintendent and a shuffling of classes. See who got promoted and where everyone is sorted on pages 6 and 7.

Associate Pastor Macy Storts recalls John Wesley's words on "works of mercy" as she urges us to put our faith into action and shine the light of Christ. Read

more on page 9.

The merry travelers of the On The Road Again gang just got back from Branson. Check out their photos on pages 10-11.

Prayer brings a harvest of faith, writes NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal. Pray boldly, faithfully and confidently, he says. You'll find his three-word formula for prayer time on page 13.

If you noticed how full the calendar on page 5 is, you'll want to take in all the details in the announcements on page 15. This month we have golf, a hayride, a bonfire, Walt Disney and Halloween fun. There's even more news from the pews on page 16.

Our youth took the lead last month at See You At The Pole, the global student prayer rally. See it in photos on pages 20-23.

Read about our outreach plans for Craft Day on page 27.

As always, dear reader, you make *News from the Pleasant Grove Pews* what it is. Share your news, events and photos with Kathy Casteel at kcasteel@ktis.net and Betsy Bell at mammabell003@gmail.com. We can't wait to hear from you!

PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3686 State Road E Auxvasse, MO 65231 Office: 573-387-4822 MyPGUMC.org

Our Mission: To know Jesus Christ and to make Him known.

PASTOR
Paul Klepees
pastor@mypgumc.org

PASTOR OF CARE & CONNECTION

Macy Storts macy@mypgumc.org

NEXTGEN MINISTER Kris O'Neal nextgen@mypgumc.org

For prayer requests, our Prayer Tree number is 573-597-2102, email macy@mypgumc.org.

For announcements or Information Tree: nalinville.church@gmail.com.



News from the Pleasant Grove Pews is published monthly by Pleasant Grove United Methodist Church.

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THE PASTOR'S PEACE



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: SPENCER, PAUL, GIBSON BACK: MARGIE, EZRA, AND MAVERICK KLEPEES

Walking in Faith, Not Fear

By Pastor Paul Klepees

October is here — the season of crisp air, colorful leaves, and yes, a little spooky fun. Ghost stories and haunted houses remind us how easily fear can sneak up on us. But as followers of Christ, we're invited to a different kind of adventure: walking in faith, not fear.

Scripture reminds us, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7) Fear may be thrilling in a haunted hayride, but in life, it can paralyze us. Faith, on the other hand, anchors us in God's promises and steadies our steps even when the path ahead feels uncertain.

Think of the heroes of Scripture — Abraham stepping into the unknown, Moses facing Pharaoh, Peter stepping out of the boat to meet Jesus. Their courage reminds us that following God often asks us to move forward even when it's a little scary. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE

THE RACE MARKED OUT FOR US, FIX-

ING OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE PIO-

NEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.

HEBREWS 12:2

Faith is active, not passive. It shows up in small, daily decisions: trusting God with your worries, choosing love over anger, and stepping into opportunities for service. When fear creeps in — like a shadow in a dark hallway — we are called to look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, and take the next step with courage.

This October, embrace the season of spooks as a reminder: fear may knock, but it doesn't get to take the lead. Walk boldly, laugh a little, trust fully and leave fear behind — because God's Spirit equips you for every step of the journey.

If you're looking for a practical way to strengthen your faith this month, consider joining a Sunday School class or Bible study group. It's a safe space to explore God's Word, share questions and encourage one another as we walk in faith together.

FILL THE CART

SWEET INSPIRATION

As you stock up on Halloween sweets for trick-or-treaters, toss some extra candy in your shopping basket and bring it to Pleasant Grove in October. We're going to Fill The Cart with sweetness this month to show our appreciation for American service members. The candy we collect this month will go to Operation Gratitude for inclusion in care packages sent to soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines deployed overseas.

Operation Gratitude honors the service of U.S. military forces and first responders by saying thank-you and showing them that the folks back home appreciate all they do. Since its founding in 2003, Operation Gratitude has sent more than 4 million care packages to troops and first responders. The organization serves deployed troops, mobilized National Guardsmen, first responders, military children, recruit graduates, veterans, wounded warriors and their caregivers. Volunteers write letters, craft handmade gifts, collect Beanie Babies, plush toys and other interesting items to send. Visit OperationGratitude.com to find out more.

Let's show our heroes we care and give them a sweet reason to smile.



Ol' Fashioned HAUDINI

HAYRIDE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12 4-7 P.M.

HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, ICE CREAM, GAMES!

PLEASANT GROVE





SERVE and Baby Grace

Pleasant Grove is a mobile site for SERVE food pantry and Baby Grace.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 11 A.M.-2 P.M.

(We are open every third Thursday of the month.) If you are in need of a food box from SERVE, please stop by! You can register that day and participate in the food pantry.

The Baby Grace store offers free diapers, wipes and gently used or new clothing for ages birth through 5 years.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

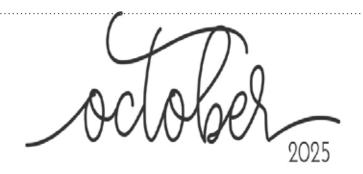
The Discipleship Sunday School class invites you to join us for a homemade meal.
Stay for a game of cards, dominoes, or bring a suggestion!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 12 NOON





CALENDAR BEVENTS



SUN	MON	TUE	WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
			KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	1	MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	2		3	CRAFT DAY 9 A.M4 P.M.	4
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	SISTERS IN FAITH 6	YOGA 8 A.M. 7 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.		8		9	5TH QUARTER POST-GAME PARTY	10	L.I.F.T./HOME BUILDERS FALL BONFIRE (AT TH CRAWFORDS') 5 P.M.	<u> </u>
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. HAYRIDE 4-7 P.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	13	YOGA 8 A.M. 14 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	15	BABY GRACE PICKUP 11 A.M2 P.M. SERVE FOOD BOX PICKUP 11 A.M2 P.M. COMMUNITY LUI 12 NOON MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	16 nch		17		18
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. 9 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	20	YOGA 8 A.M. 2] WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	ON THE ROAD AGAIN DAY TRIP TO MARCELINE 8 A.M. KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	22		23	5TH QUARTER POST-GAME PARTY	24	MEN'S GROUP AT MIDWAY GOLF & GAMES 6:30 P.M.	25
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. 26 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	27	YOGA 8 A.M. 28 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M. BOARD MEETING 7 P.M.	KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M. QUILT GROUP (AT AGNES HATCHER'S) 7 P.M.	29		30		31		

SCHOOL PAYS

BUT AS FOR YOU, CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU

HAVE LEARNED AND HAVE BECOME CON-

VINCED OF, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THOSE

FROM WHOM YOU LEARNED IT.

for nine Pleasant Grove youth.

Pleasant Grove's Sunday School kicked off another year in September with a new superintendent, a bit of reorganization, and new classes

2 TIMOTHY 3:14

Sunday Schoolers Move Up

Kudos to these youth who moved into new classes in September.

To 1st/2nd Grade

Boone Crawford Charlotte Holloway Spencer Klepees

To 3rd/4th/5th Grade

Lorelei Marshall Thatcher Nichols

To Junior High

Keeley Holloway

To High School

Layne Evans Sawyer Gilliam Jude Shryock











2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL

Find your fit in one of our classes this year.

Superintendent

Associate Pastor Macy Storts

Nursery

(Newborn to 3 years old) Various volunteers nurture this class of our youngest parishioners.

Beginners

(Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten)
Taught by Gretchen Smith

Primary

(First & Second Grade) Taught by Laura Stinson

Intermediate

(Third, Fourth & Fifth Grade) Taught by Bill & Angie Marshall

Junior High

(Middle schoolers in sixth, seventh & eighth grade)
Taught by Stephanie Gilliam

High School

(Ninth through twelfth grade) Taught by NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal

Homebuilders

(Young Adults)
Taught by Cody Jones

Discipleship

(Adults) Led by Sterlyn Stevens

Commissioners

(Adults) Led by Ann English

PLEASANT GROVE MEN'S GROUP

JOIN US AT

MIDWAY GOLF & GAMES

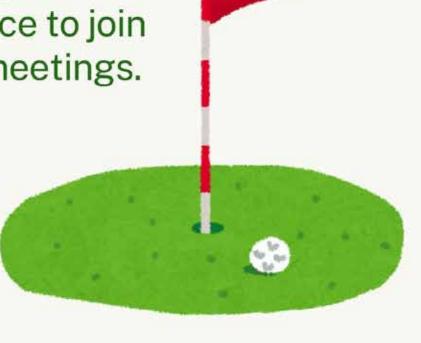
5500 W. VAN HORN TAVERN ROAD, COLUMBIA

Saturday, October 25 6:30 pm

Come on out for fun, food & fellowship, even if you haven't had a chance to join one of our earlier meetings.

RSVP FOR GOLF

CODY JONES 573-826-0926







HTTP://MYPGUMC.ORG/YOUTUBE

Pleasant Grove is on YouTube! Check out this channel if you can't make it to church!



KALEB AND MACY STORTS WITH BOONE

Faith Lives in Works of Mercy

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR MACY STORTS

Within the last year, I have learned to make a lot of chunky-knit blankets. I calculated the amount of yarn it takes for a blanket, gathered the materials needed to piece it together, and made time to do it! So, if I had all the materials I needed but didn't actually use my hands to knit the blanket, would that make a good blanket? No! It would be like having all the ingredients to make dinner but not actually cooking. Faith is quite similar. It's a very personal journey that shouldn't be kept personal; it's supposed to be shared with others! Becoming a follower of Jesus is something you can work at to enhance, to strengthen, to mend or to shape, but what do we do when our faith is strong and ready for the world? We put our faith into work!

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, often spoke of "works of mercy"— feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, comforting the grieving. He believed these were not optional extras to our faith, but vital ways of living it out. In serving our neighbors, we serve Christ himself (Matthew 25:40). When we know better, we do better (or, at least, we try). Knowing that God loves everyone around us and that God loves us is foundational to serving God through serving other people.

This month, let's ask ourselves: Where is God calling me to put my faith into action? It may be something small — a kind word, a shared meal, a helping hand — or it may be something larger, like joining a ministry of mercy. Whatever the step, it is through these works of love that faith comes alive and shines the light of Christ into the world.

WHAT GOOD IS IT, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IF SOMEONE

CLAIMS TO HAVE FAITH BUT HAS NO DEEDS? CAN SUCH FAITH

SAVE THEM? ... FAITH BY ITSELF, IF IT IS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY

ACTION, IS DEAD.

On The Road Again TOBRANSON

Pleasant Grove's intrepid travelers spent a fun-filled few days in the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World" last month. The group's Branson experience included stage shows Frankie Valli's New Jersey Nights, David at Sight & Sound Theater, and Clay Cooper's Country Express, plus a tour of School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout and a sampling of iconic eateries.

The group has more adventures planned this fall — an October day trip to Walt Disney's hometown of Marceline and a November jaunt to St. Louis to see Irving Berlin's musical *White Christmas*. Jan Hankinson has all the details, 573-999-2139 or email janhankinson@gmail.com.

















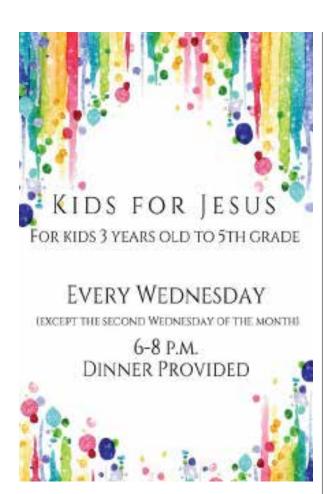
















PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: KOURTNEY, KIERSTYN BACK: KAYLA, KRIS O'NEAL

Ask, Seek, Knock: Prayer Changes Us

BY NEXTGEN MINISTER KRIS O'NEAL

In Luke 17 and 18, Jesus teaches His disciples about faith, perseverance and prayer. In chapter 17, He reminds us that even faith the size of a mustard seed can do great things. Then in chapter 18, He tells the parable of the persistent widow who never gave up asking the judge for justice. Jesus ends the story by asking, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Prayer isn't just about saying the right words. It's about trusting that God hears us, even when the answer doesn't come right away, or is hard to understand, or is not what we expected it to be. Sometimes prayer feels like planting seeds — we don't see the results immediately, but something is happening beneath the surface. Our students face challenges every day — tests, friendships, sports, decisions about their future. It can feel overwhelming. But Jesus invites us to bring it all to Him in prayer.

Pray boldly, like the widow who refused to give up. Pray faithfully, like the disciples were challenged to do. And pray with the confidence that God is listening and working for your good. Here's the truth: prayer changes us as much as it changes our circumstances. It builds our faith, shapes our character and reminds us that we are never alone. So, this month, set aside time to talk with God honestly. Ask, seek, knock — and trust that He is faithful.

THE APOSTLES SAID TO THE LORD, "INCREASE OUR FAITH!"

HE REPLIED, "IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD

SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MULBERRY TREE, "BE UPROOT-

ED AND PLANTED IN THE SEA," AND IT WILL OBEY YOU.

- PLEASE JOIN US ON -

5th QUARTER

at Pleasant Grove Church

Every HOME football game for pizza, games and fellowship!

Kris O'Neal nextgen@mypgumc.org 417-718-4772

Men's Group Changes Up for October

The Pleasant Grove Men's Group is changing its meeting nights this month to Thursdays. The group will gather at 7 p.m. on Oct. 2 and 16 at the church. An outing to Midway Golf & Games is on tap for Saturday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. All men are invited to enjoy food, fellowship and fun, even if you haven't been to one of the earlier meetings. For more information, contact Cody Jones at 573-826-0926 or Brandon Crawford at 573-220-5347, or visit the Pleasant Grove Men's Group Facebook page.

Fire It Up

L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Faith Together) and the Homebuilders Sunday School class will gather for a bonfire on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the home of Brandon and Jessica Crawford, 3882 State Road E in Hatton. The adults-only event begins at 5 p.m. Roast hot dogs and brats are on the menu; bring a side dish to share, lawn chairs and your favorite drinks. L.I.F.T. will not meet on Oct. 8 this month.

Hitch a Ride

Pleasant Grove's second annual hayride is set for Sunday, Oct. 12, at the church. Festivities begin at 4 p.m. with games for children and adults, including horseshoes and corn toss. We'll eat around 5; hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and dessert are on the menu. Hayride departs at 6:15 and will return by 7 p.m. No need to bring anything; everything for this event is provided, courtesy of Women's Ministries.

On The Road Again ... to Disney's World

The On The Road Again gang plans to visit Marceline, Walt Disney's hometown, on Wednesday, Oct. 22. The itinerary includes the Walt Disney Family Museum, the town's quaint Main Street that serves as the model for Disney parks, Walt's childhood home and the Dreaming Tree. Meet at Kingdom City Hall at 8 a.m. to carpool. For details, contact Jan Hankinson at 573-999-2139 or email janhankinson@gmail.com.

Trunk or Treat

Come to Pleasant Grove for Halloween fun on Friday, Oct. 31. Food, treats, candy, crafts and games are on tap from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gym. Contact the church office (573-387-4822) if you would like to volunteer.



Sisters in Faith Gather

Angie Raebel will host Sisters in Faith at Pleasant Grove on Monday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. Learn more about Sisters in Faith from Angie at 573-416-6438 or email Plote.hogan@gmail.com.

Quilt Group Reschedules

Agnes Hatcher will host the Country Friends Quilt Group at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, in her home at 2849 County Road 233 near Kingdom City. This replaces the regular Oct. 8 meeting.



MORE NEWS E PEWS

PAINTING PARTY



Several volunteers — including Suzie Baldwin — showed up Sept. 17 to put a fresh coat of paint on Pleasant Grove's interior. Some cleanup was in order afterward. There's more painting still to do! Contact the church office to volunteer.

A DECADE OF YOGA



Pleasant Grove's yoga class celebrated with doughnuts to mark 10 years of flexibility and fellowship in September. The class, taught by Julie Huffman (front center), meets every Tuesday at 8 a.m. in the gym. All are welcome.

CHICKEN DINNER IS A WINNER



Women's Ministries hosted their annual Fried Chicken Dinner on Sept. 21. The after-church feast attracted 115 diners plus several to-go orders. Donations totaled \$1,800 to benefit Bethlehem Store, our outreach mission to families with young children, providing Christmas gifts to the children and nurturing relationships with the families year-round. The ministry began in 2017 and in the past eight years has served 146 families with 288 children.

HELP WANTED

We're hiring! Pleasant Grove is looking for a part-time church administrator to join our team. This 20-hour-a-week role includes welcoming visitors to the church office, managing phones, organizing the office, keeping church and pastor calendars, handling deposits and office organization, maintaining records, preparing bulletins and communications, and supporting ministry teams and volunteers.

Compensation will be discussed during the hiring process. To apply, please submit a résumé and cover letter to Pastor Paul Klepees via email at pastor@mypgumc.org.

L.I.F.T. + HOMEBUILDERS





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 5:00 PM

Brandon & Jess Crawford's 3882 State Road E



PLEASANT GROVE MEN'S GROUP

JOIN US ON THURSDAYS AT

PLEASANT GROVE

3686 STATE ROAD E AUXVASSE, MO

OCTOBER 2 & 16 7 P.M.

> CODY JONES 573-826-0926

BRANDON CRAWFORD 573-220-5347







SEE 40U AT THE POLE

North Callaway teens proclaim their faith in a special day of prayer.

Fueled with doughnuts, North Callaway students gathered around the flagpole to pray before class at the high school and the middle school early on Sept. 24 for See You At The Pole, a global student prayer rally. They were among the millions of students around the country who came together at their school flagpoles to pray for their schools, teachers, principals, fellow students and the nation.

At North Callaway High School, students broke into small groups and shared what they needed prayers for and then prayed for each other. Nick Drake, pastor at Richland Baptist Church, closed with prayer for all.

The North Callaway Middle School service included a devotional from student Eliza Peck. Despite the rain, turnout was impressive at both schools.

See You At The Pole is a student-initiated, student-organized and student-led event that occurs annually on the fourth Wednesday of September.

BUT YOU, DEAR FRIENDS, BY BUILDING

YOURSELVES UP IN YOUR MOST HOLY FAITH

AND PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, KEEP

YOURSELVES IN GOD'S LOVE AS YOU WAIT

FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

TO BRING YOU TO ETERNAL LIFE.























ON THE ROAD AGAIN

VISITS MARCELINE, MO

Walt Disney's Hometown

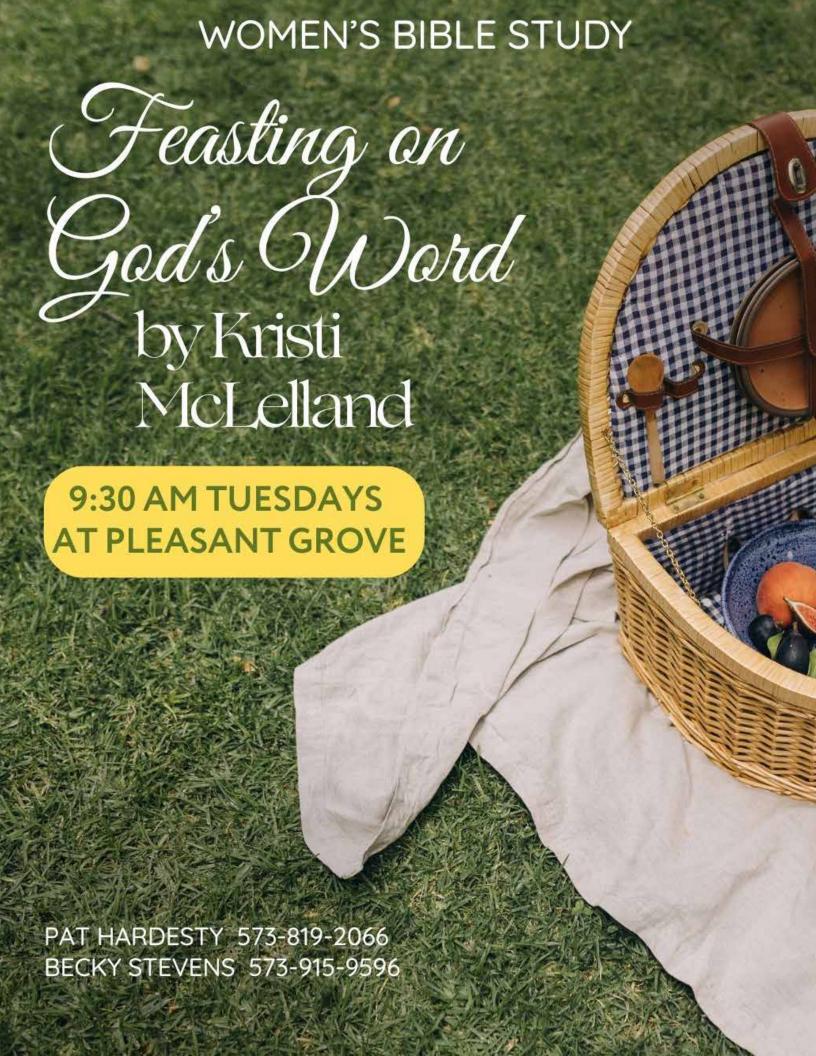
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Carpool from Kingdom City 8 A.M.

JAN HANKINSON

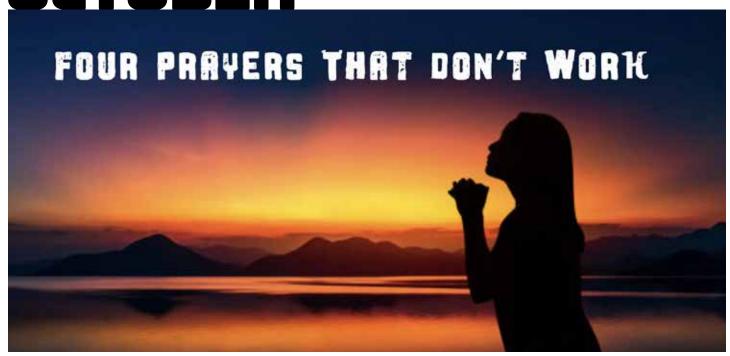
573-999-2139 janhankinson@gmail.com



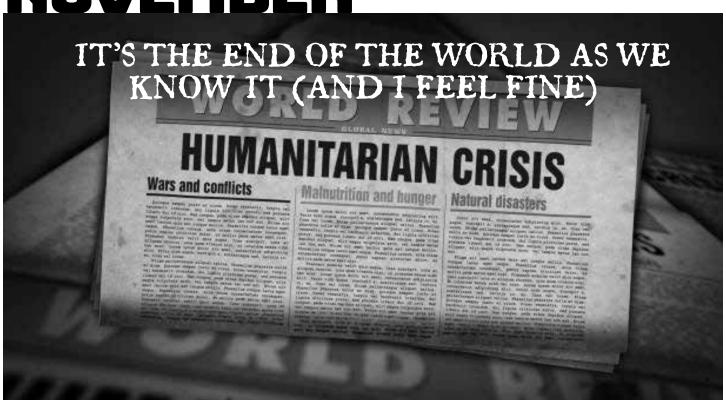


JOIN US FOR NEW SERMON SERIES

OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



Poppin' for Christ on Craft Day

Much more than pies are on tap at this year's Craft Day on Saturday, Oct. 4, in downtown Hatton. Pleasant Grove will set up a prayer booth called Poppin' for Christ on Buchanan Trail from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The booth crew will hand out Tootsie Pops along with faith-based paraphernalia such as "Jesus Loves You" bracelets and other items. A prayer basket will be in the booth for those who need prayers — they can add their names to the basket (but do not have to share their concern). Pastor Paul Klepees will pray over the basket at 2 p.m. when the booth closes. If someone needs prayer right away, booth staff will pray with them.

The booth is a threefold effort of Pleasant Grove, Prairie Chapel and St. James United Methodist Church in Fulton as part of the North Central District Fulton/Mexico/Centralia Hub's Mission Blitz. Pleasant Grove's Cindy Feutz will be manning the booth along with representatives from Prairie Chapel and St. James. For more information, contact Cindy at 573-473-6316 or email cfeutz53@gmail.com.

Limitless youth group will also be on hand at Craft Day, hosting a bounce house as a fundraiser for next year's summer camp. NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal has the details (417-718-4772, nextgen@mypgumc.org).

Craft Day runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Hatton with booths and vendors spread throughout town, from the old store and Hatton Hall to Pleasant Grove's grounds and basement.

5th Quarter Fun

Limitless will host two more 5th Quarter postgame gatherings this season: Friday, Oct. 10, after North Callaway's Homecoming game against Mark Twain, and Oct. 24 after the home game against Wright City. All youth are invited to hang out at Pleasant Grove for food, fun and fellowship. Find out more from NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal at 417-718-4772 or email nextgen@mypgumc.org.

Quilt Preview

The Festival of Sharing Quilt Auction is set for Nov. 2-8. Proceeds benefit the Church World Service Blanket program, which helps people rebuild their lives after difficult times. Get a sneak peek of the quilted items up for bid later this month at www.FestivalOfSharing.org/quilt-auction.

BLESSINGS

BRING THE WHOLE TITHE
INTO THE STOREHOUSE
... AND SEE IF I WILL NOT
THROW OPEN THE FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR
OUT SO MUCH BLESSING THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM
ENOUGH TO STORE IT.

MALACHI 3:10

Join us in our mission to know Jesus Christ and make Him known. Your generosity enables us to help more and more people experience a life-changing relationship with Him. We are truly grateful for your donations and hope the convenience and simplicity of our ways of giving are helpful to you.

1. Try scanning our QR code.



- 2. To use mobile giving, download the "Church By Ministry One" app to your mobile device. Search for Pleasant Grove by entering the zip code 65231.
- 3. Online giving can be found at www.mypgumc.org/donate.
- 4. Text "GIVE" to 573-312-2909.
- 5. Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates during worship services or mailed to the church office at 3686 State Road E, Auxvasse, MO 65231.
- Give through your Venmo account through our electronic giving platforms.

Consider becoming a recurring giver. Church statistics show that churches with high numbers of recurring givers experience the most growth.

If you need assistance or have questions about our digital giving methods, please reach out to the church office by phone at 573-387-4822.



Morshy Times

First Service 9:00-10:00am

Sunday School 10:10-10:50 am

(Children's Choir 10:40-10:50am)

