# REWSEPEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

#### **Falling for Autumn**

Ah ... autumn — colorful, crisp, beautiful autumn. Another season is upon us, another chance to begin anew, whether for school, job, the harvest or just shaking off the summer doldrums. Time to get into the fall groove.

Pastor Paul Klepees is reveling in the new season that he sees as a visible reminder of the care and provision of our Creator. Read more of his thoughts on fall on page 2.

Also on page 2, we tell you about the latest Fill The Cart campaign. This month, we're collecting canned goods for our food pantry. September is Hunger Action Month, so let's take action to fight hunger in Callaway County!

Pastor Paul recently returned from England, where he and Margie walked in the footsteps of John Wesley on a Methodist heritage tour, courtesy of the United Methodist Church. Feed your armchair travel bug yen through his photos, which begin on page 6.

Macy Storts, our pastor of care and connection, is settling in nicely at Pleasant Grove. This month, she's thinking about the work she loves and how anyone's work can be a daily act of worship. Check out her perspective on page 11.

NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal wants you to know that what happens at camp doesn't stay at camp. He shares the faith lessons of our Pleasant Grove youth as they bring prayer with them wherever they are; read all about it on page 13.

The calendar on page 5 is filling up with events and program reboots. Get the details in the announcements on page 15, then turn the page for more news from the pews.

See who pigged out at the annual Hog Roast this year. Our photos of the eats for a good cause start on page 20.

We've made changes to our prayer ministry. Check out all the ways you can reach out to offer and receive prayer support on page 27.

As always, dear reader, you are the reason for *News from the Pleasant Grove Pews*. Share your news, events, photos and suggestions 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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PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: SPENCER, PAUL, GIBSON BACK: MARGIE, EZRA, AND MAVERICK KLEPEES

#### **Creation and Stewardship**

By Pastor Paul Klepees

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, fall reminds us that God's creation is ever-changing yet always faithful. The beauty of autumn — fiery maples, golden fields and bountiful harvests — offers a visible reminder of the care and provision of our Creator. In these moments, we are invited to pause, reflect, and consider our role as stewards of the world God has entrusted to us.

Scripture reminds us of this sacred responsibility. In Genesis 2:15, we read, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." From the very beginning, God calls us not just to enjoy creation, but to actively care for it. Stewardship is not merely a task — it is a spiritual practice, a way of honoring God by protecting and nurturing the gifts entrusted to us.

Fall offers a unique opportunity to engage in this stewardship. We see it in the harvest, the preparation for winter and the careful tending of fields and gardens. Whether through THE LORD GOD TOOK THE MAN AND

PUT HIM IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

TO WORK IT AND TAKE CARE OF IT.

GENESIS 2:15

planting, composting, conserving resources or simply appreciating the beauty around us, we participate in God's ongoing work in the world. Our actions, both large and small, reflect our gratitude for the Creator's generosity.

As we enjoy the colors, scents and abundance of autumn, may we be reminded that caring for creation is also an act of worship. By being intentional stewards, we not only preserve God's gifts for future generations but also grow in faith, humility and gratitude.

This fall, take time to step outside, marvel at the changing seasons, and consider one way you can honor God through stewardship. In doing so, we join God's work, sustaining the earth while deepening our connection to the One who created it all.

# FILL THE CART

TAKE ACTION!

FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU

GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT,

I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE

ME SOMETHING TO DRINK,

I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU

INVITED ME IN.

MATTHEW 25:35

September is Hunger Action Month and Pleasant Grove is joining the battle to fight hunger in Callaway County.

We want to Fill The Cart with canned goods this month to replenish the shelves of our mobile food pantry site at the church. Excess donations will go to SERVE, Callaway County's local voluntary action agency.

Through our partnership with SERVE, Pleasant Grove distributes food boxes and other essentials on the third Thursday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone in Callaway County who needs help filling their pantries may sign up to participate.

Canned goods are excellent choices for food pantries as they are shelf-stable, convenient and easy to store. Consider donating canned meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, soups, stews, beans, pastas and sauces.

Help stamp out hunger in our community.

# FRIED CHICKEN DINNER September 21, 2025

Serving 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

HOSTED BY WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
AT PLEASANT GROVE





## CALENDAR SEVENTS

September 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	LABOR DAY	YOGA 8 A.M. 2 MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	3	5 4	5	6
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.  SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION 10 A.M.  YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	SISTERS IN FAITH (CINDY FEUTZ'S HOUSE) 5 P.M.	YOGA 8 A.M.  WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	LI.F.T. 6-8 P.M. QUILT GROUP 7 P.M.	) 11	12	13
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. 3 UNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	15	YOGA 8 A.M.  WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.  MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.	KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	BABY GRACE PICKUP 11 A.M2 P.M. SERVE FOOD BOX PICKUP 11 A.M2 P.M. COMMUNITY LUNCH 12 NOON	19	20
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.  SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.  WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FRIED CHICKEN DINNER 10:45 A.M1 P.M.  YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	22	ON THE ROAD AGAIN 3-DAY TRIP 23 TO BRANSON 8 A.M. YOGA 8 A.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.	SEE YOU AT THE POLE NCHS & NCMS 7:30 A.M.  KFJ 6-8 P.M. LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.	25	5TH QUARTER 26 POST-GAME 26 PARTY	27
WORSHIP 9 A.M. & 11 A.M. 28 SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M. YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.	29	YOGA 8 A.M.  WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.  BOARD MEETING 7 P.M.				

# Paul Hongie's Excellent Adventure

Welcome to
JOHN WESLEY'S,
NEW ROOM

MUSEL
CAFE
CHAPE
MESTIN
ROOMS

WELCON

JOHN WESLEY'S NEW ROOM IN BRISTOL, BIRTHPLACE OF METHODISM



The font at Epworth Church where John and Charles Wesley were baptized

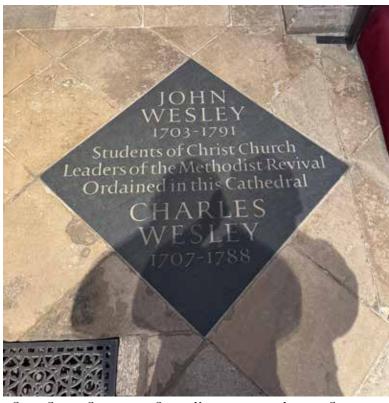
Pastor Paul Klepees and his wife, Margie, spent a week in England last month immersing themselves in the life of John Wesley and the history of Methodism. They made the trip courtesy of the United Methodist Church, which recently named Pastor Paul one of the 50 Young Emerging Clergy in Methodism. The couple also got to see the sights in London before their return to the States. Here are some photos of their favorite moments across the pond.



AT EPWORTH MARKET CROSS, WHERE JOHN WESLEY FREQUENTLY PREACHED OUTDOORS



Paul and Margie at Buckingham Palace



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY, WHERE JOHN AND CHARLES
WESLEY WERE ORDAINED



In the pulpit at St. Andrew's Church in Epworth, John and Charles Wesley's hometown church



John Wesley's Clock, with only one hand



The Chancel at Westminster Abbey



View of London from the London Eye



METHODIST CENTRAL HALL IN LONDON, ORIGINAL SITE OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Sightseeing on the London Eye Ferris wheel, Big Ben below



Bristol, where he submitted to "be more vile"



## SERVE and Baby Grace

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

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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.

<del></del>

#### **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, SEPTEMBER 18, 12 NOON** 





# THREADS OF GARE



KALEB AND MACY STORTS WITH BOONE

#### Work as Worship

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR MACY STORTS

With Labor Day season near, we take time to celebrate and recognize the hard work we do every day to help achieve our goals and continue to support God's calling in our life. Colossians 3:23-24 tells us "whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters ..."

Have you ever heard the phrase "when you do what you love, it isn't really work?" It's pretty common among people who have found what they love to do. What if I told you that working can actually be a form of worship? In the Christian tradition, working is a way to serve God in the context God has called you to be in. Not everyone wants to be a pastor where their job is to literally

work for God. But what if what you already do for work can be an act of worship?

Before I was a pastor, I worked with animals. I have always loved animals! Taking care of them helped me see how magnificent God's work is in

creating unique creatures who show love in different ways than humans do. It starts with the right mindset. Working as an act of worship means that our minds are focused on God and listening to God in our everyday acts. When we get to wake up every day, do what we love, and worship God while we do it, we can find



peace in knowing we are right where God needs us to be.

How can we continue to do what we love while including God in our daily lives? What would it look like to include our daily work in our time with God instead of including God in our daily work? Let's join together to be intentional about our time and prayer with God.

WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AS WORKING FOR THE LORD, NOT FOR HUMAN MASTERS, SINCE YOU

KNOW THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE FROM THE LORD AS A REWARD. IT IS THE LORD CHRIST YOU ARE SERVING.

- PLEASE JOIN US ON -

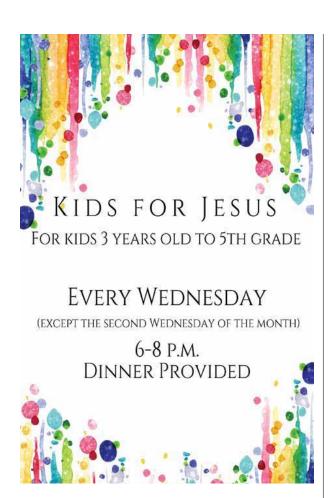
# 5th QUARTER

at Pleasant Grove Church

after

Every HOME football game for pizza, games and fellowship!

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







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

#### Children Leading the Way

BY NEXTGEN MINISTER KRIS O'NEAL

Proverbs 22:6 reminds us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." When paired with Isaiah 11:6, which proclaims, "a little child shall lead them," we see a powerful truth: God often uses children to model the kind of faith and courage we adults need to remember.

Last month, our Limitless youth lived out that model in a big way. Before school began, they joined with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes to pray over classrooms, teachers and students. These young disciples didn't just participate — they led the way in covering their schools in prayer.

What made it even more special is where they learned this. At UNITE camp earlier this summer, our kids began the very first day by praying over the worship space. They carried that same spirit home, showing us that prayer doesn't stay at camp; it goes wherever God sends us.

Watching our children step into leadership reminds me that spiritual formation is not something they are simply waiting to grow into — it's already happening. They are not the "future" of the church; they are the church right now. Their prayers are shaping their schools, their friends and us.

May we, as adults, be humble enough to follow their lead, to cheer them on, and to be reminded that God's kingdom is built when every generation takes its place — sometimes starting with the smallest voices.

TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE

IS OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.



join us in the gym

8:00AM

Every Tuesday

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JULIE HUFFMAN

jfhuffman@hotmail.com

(First yoga session is FREE)

#### Movin' On Up

Promotion Day for Pleasant Grove's Sunday School classes is Sunday, Sept. 7, at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. When everyone is sorted, they'll head into their new classes for the year. For more information on Pleasant Grove's Sunday School program, contact Pastor Macy Storts in the church office or email her at macy@mypgumc.org.

#### **Camp Stories**

Cindy Feutz will host Sisters in Faith on Monday, Sept. 8, in her home at 16807 Audrain Road 953 near Mexico. The group will gather at 5 p.m. for fellowship time before a 5:30 dinner. After dinner, youth campers will share their experiences. For more information about Sisters in Faith, contact Angie Raebel at 573-416-6438 or email Plote.hogan@gmail.com.

#### Women's Bible Study Reboots

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study resumes Sept. 9 with a fall series from author Kristi McLelland called *Feasting on God's Word*. The group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and all women are invited. The book is \$20; order your copy from Becky Stevens, 573-915-9596, or email stevensbecky81@gmail.com.

#### KFJ & Limitless Are Back!

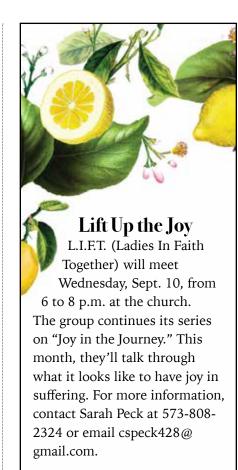
Kids For Jesus and Limitless youth group kick off their new year with some festive fun on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at Pleasant Grove. Kona Ice will be parked here for shaved ice treats!

KFJ is open to children 3 years old to fifth grade and meets every Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. (except the second Wednesday of the month), September through April. Dinner is provided.

Limitless, for students in sixth through twelfth grades, meets every Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 during the school year. Dinner is provided. Additionally, Limitless Youth Bible Study meets every Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We feed them, too.

If you'd like to help feed the crowd on Wednesdays, sign up at www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C084AADA929A5FFC16-58243151-kfiyouth.

Find out more about KFJ from Sarah Kennon at 573-397-8198 or email nanny4cj@yahoo.com. For more information about Limitless and all of Pleasant Grove's youth programming, contact NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal at 417-718-4772 or email nextgen@mypgumc.org.



### Tee Up Another 5th Quarter

Limitless will host the 5th Quarter postgame gathering on Friday, Sept. 26, after the home football game against Palmyra. 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.

#### Men's Group Meets

The Pleasant Grove Men's Group will get together for its Tuesday meetings this month at 7 p.m. on Sept. 2 and 16 at the church. The group continues its study of The Bible Project YouTube series. For more information, contact Cody Jones at 573-826-0926 or Brandon Crawford at 573-220-5347.

# MORE NEWS & PEWS

#### MMM, MMM, GOOD!

Pleasant Grove Women's Ministries will host its annual Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, Sept. 21, serving from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fried chicken with all the trimmings plus homemade desserts are on the menu; to-go boxes are also available.

A free-will offering will benefit Bethlehem Store, our outreach mission to families with young children. Bethlehem Store provides Christmas gifts to local 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.

"Each of us who has sponsored a family has been blessed as well," says Bethlehem Store coordinator Cindy Feutz. "It's all about establishing a relationship with each family we serve. We want them to see the love Christ has for them through us and our church family."

This year's Bethlehem Store opens Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon in the church gym. For more information about this ministry, contact Cindy at 573-473-6316 or email cfeutz53@gmail.com.



#### **MIDYEAR FINANCIAL REPORT**

Pleasant Grove Administrative Board member Dan Cassidy submitted a second-quarter financial report to the board at its Aug. 5 meeting. The report detailed several projects underway at the church and offered a recap of key financial indicators through the second quarter of 2025.

"Our church has been busy with several projects," Dan reported. "The playground was upgraded, walls in the vestibule and sanctuary were repaired and repainted, and installation of a new ceiling in the basement was completed. These projects are in addition to the many ongoing programs budgeted for 2025."

#### **PGUMC Midyear Financial Overview**

	2024	2025
Total Offering	\$108,148	\$112,093
Total Income	\$109,090	\$112,967
Total Budgeted Income	\$121,495	\$121,898
Total Expenses	\$113,070	\$140,523
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$121,495	\$127,426

# The PG App



**Powered by Ministry One** 





## PLEASANT GROVE MEN'S GROUP

JOIN US ON TUESDAYS AT

#### PLEASANT GROVE

3686 STATE ROAD E AUXVASSE, MO

**SEPTEMBER 2 & 16** 7 P.M.

**CODY JONES** 

573-826-0926

BRANDON CRAWFORD 573-220-5347



# HOGWILD

Pleasant Grove celebrated the start of another year of youth programming at the annual Hog Roast in August. Friends and family of Kids For Jesus and Limitless youth group dined on barbecue as they visited, shared summer stories and played games to the beat of music from the Praise Band and a few special guests. KFJ and Limitless start the new year on Sept. 17. Mark your calendars, kids. It's going to be a great year!

















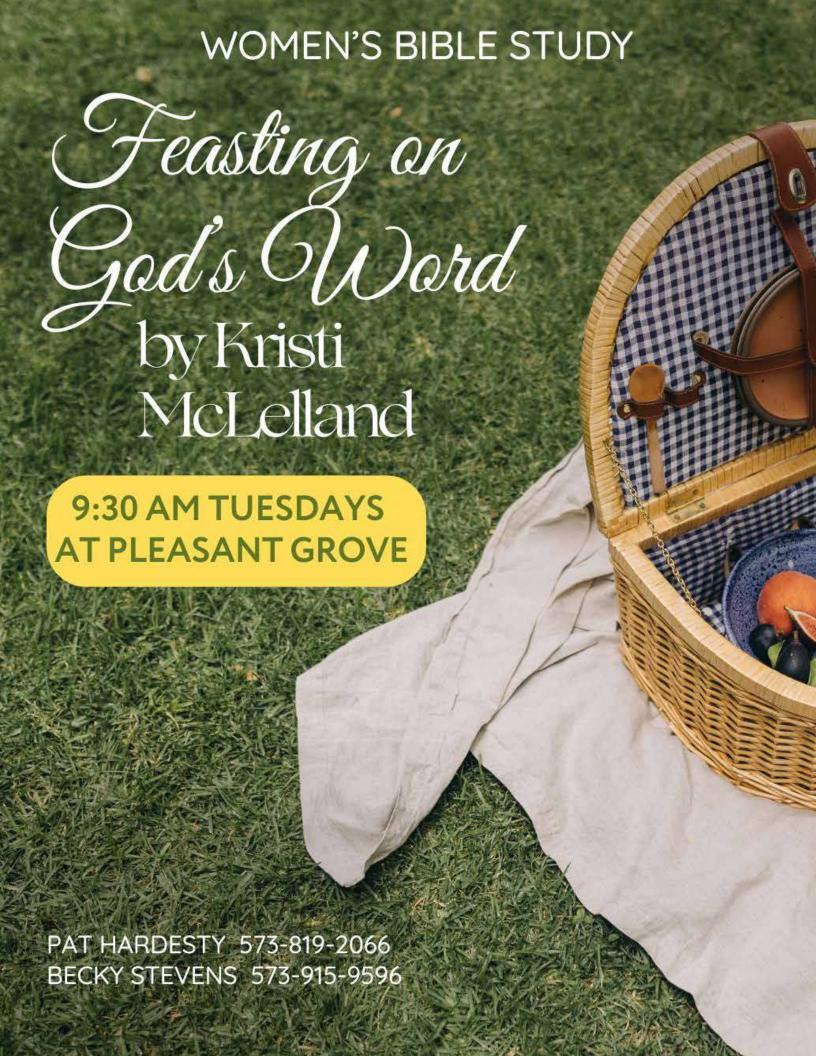












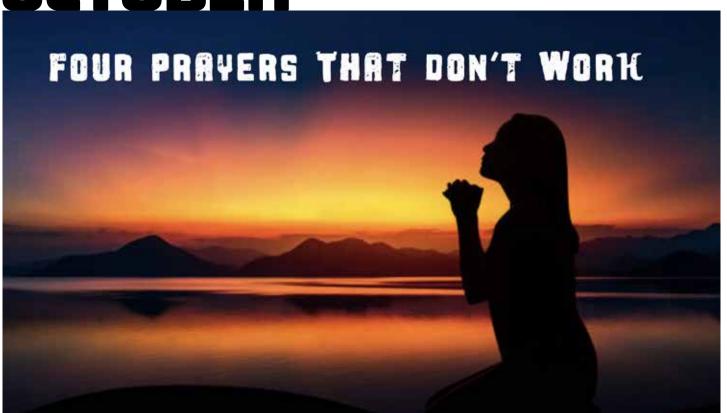


#### **JOIN US FOR NEW SERMON SERIES**

**SEPTEMBER** 



## OCTOBER



# S Z

#### **Connecting with Prayer**

Pleasant Grove has revamped our prayer ministry to better serve your prayer requests. Effective Sept. 2, Pastor Macy Storts will assume responsibility for the Prayer Tree. You can call or text Pastor Macy with prayer requests at 573-597-2102 any time, even after hours, or email macy@mypgumc.org.

You may also request prayer through the PG app. Tap Contact, then the Prayer tab. Fill out the brief form and submit. Requests are accepted through the Pleasant Grove website as well, www.MyPGUMC.org/stay-connected/prayer-concerns.

The Prayer Tree process has changed a bit, too. Prayer Tree members will now receive an emailed prayer list once a day that will include any new prayer needs as well as any updates. This will prevent multiple emails in a day. Emergency prayer will be provided by pastors and a new prayer team we are building. Those interested in joining the prayer team should email Pastor Macy.

Let us continue to support and uplift each other through the power of prayer. Your connection matters, and we look forward to joining you in lifting these concerns to the One who hears and answers. Thank you for being part of our prayerful community!

#### See You at the Pole

Students at North Callaway High School and Middle School are invited to meet at the flag pole in front of the school for the annual See You at the Pole, a time for youth to pray and lift up their friends, families, teachers, school and nation to God. This student-led prayer rally takes place this year on Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 7:30 a.m.

#### Off to College

As some of our Pleasant Grove youth head off to college this fall, it's good to know the Methodist church has their back. In this time of transition, college ministries encourage students to independently choose to pursue and strengthen their relationship with Christ. Wherever your college student's home away from home is, most likely there's a college ministry nearby to offer support and fellowship. To find one near your student, visit www.MoUMethodist.org/college-age-ministries.

#### Take the Quiz

How's your Bible knowledge? Test your chops as a Scripture scholar with the United Methodist Bible Quiz at www.UMC.org/en/content/united-methodist-bible-quiz. If you like that one, there are lots more fun quizzes on all things Methodist. See how you score at www.UMC.org/en/content#tag=quiz.

#### **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.



- 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)

