



THE GRACE MESSENGER

*I think of
all the beauty
still left around
you and be
happy*

Grace United Methodist Church

Mission: To love God completely and to serve Jesus Christ unselfishly

201 S. Church Street, Union, South Carolina 29379
Rev. David Bauknight, Pastor

Office: 427-1266
Cell: 803-480-2153

From the Pastor

APRIL 2020

Knowing We Know That What We Know We Really KNOW!

Here we are standing at the fork in the road knowing the truth of Easter. One fork leads into the vast array of glitz and glamour of everything the world has to offer and encourages us to espouse. The other leads in the direction of what was accomplished for us by Jesus on the cross and at the tomb.

Paul, the apostle, found himself at this same place many years ago and wrote *"I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."* (Rom 1:16) He took an unyielding, unequivocal stand for the Gospel and became a marked man by ungodly people. Paul knew the power of the Gospel because it radically transformed him, and it also transports a fallen world from sin and death to victory and eternal life in Christ. If we've been touched by the power of this gospel, we have the greatest opportunity never to be ashamed and every reason for hope and joy. In Him we have our true identity, legacy and destiny. As we stand at this fork in the road, we have the choice of directions. My prayer is that we choose to live now who we really are in Christ Jesus.

Dr. Robert Morehead tells the story a young man from Rwanda who was forced by his tribe in 1980 to renounce Christ or face death. He refused to renounce Christ, and he was murdered on the spot. The night before he had written the following commitment which was found in his room: *"Can you make this kind of commitment for the Gospel of Christ and become a member of the Fellowship of the Unashamed? I am a part of the fellowship of the Unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit Power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.*

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by presence, learn by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, back up, let up, or shut up until I've preached up, prayed up, paid up, stored up, and stayed up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes.

"And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear for "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)."

These "No Matter What the Cost" disciples of Jesus Christ are the ones who consider the cost of God's call on their lives and then with perfect freedom and a clear understanding that this road will be very difficult, overwhelming at times, they choose to answer by saying, *'Here am I Lord! Send me.'* (Isaiah 6:8)

As we take this step at this juncture of our lives...we have a decision to make... ..which fork will we take?

The Fellowship of the Unashamed are those who like Paul in Philippians 3:5-11 boldly proclaimed, *"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead".*

The "Fellowship of the Unashamed" signup is always available. Let's join today...Pastor David



Community Lenten Services and Luncheons Have Been Cancelled

Our Lenten Worship Services and luncheons have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus concern. Much gratitude goes to those pastors and musicians, as well as our Ladies' Lenten Planning Committee, decorators, cashiers, and dishwashers who worked so well together to provide this wonderful ministry for our church and our community during the three services we had.



UMW Circle Meetings

Johnnie Sanders Circle:
10:00 AM Monday, April 6, 2020
Church Conference Room



Circle of Hope:
3:00 PM Monday, April 6, 2020

Lucy Lee Shuler Circle:
6:00 PM Wednesday, April 8, 2020
in the Fellowship Hall



Administrative Assistants Day is April 22, 2020. Don't forget to express your appreciation to Sheryl, Pat, and Karen for the outstanding job they do for Grace and the community! They are such a blessing to our church family as they give generously of their time and talents every day.

Thank You, Pat, Sheryl, and Karen!



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

Make plans to bring your whole family and a dish to share to the Family Night Supper on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at 6:00 pm. The Clyburn-Whitener Class will be hosting.

THE ~~Young~~ at Heart Lunches

There will be **NO** Young at Heart Luncheon in April. The next YAH luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 13th, at 12:00 pm, at Andy's in Buffalo. We always experience good food, fun, and fellowship, so make plans to join us!!



UCCOM Choir Fest Sunday, April 19, 2020 Duncan Acres UMC 6:30 PM

The Union County Council on Ministries' Choir Fest will be held at Duncan Acres UMC on Sunday, April 19th, at 6:30 pm. and includes other area Methodist church choirs, as well as Grace's Chancel Choir. Please plan to come and support Tommy Bishop, choir director, and our Chancel Choir. Neighbor Helping Neighbor will be taking up a love offering for their ramp projects.

*April showers bring
May flowers*





Chancel Choir and Bells of Grace Rehearsals

Weds., Apr. 1 - 7:30 PM
 Weds., Apr. 8 - 7:30 PM
 Weds., Apr. 15 - 7:30 PM
 Sun., Apr. 19 - 6:30 PM **Choir Fest at
Duncan Acres UMC**
 Weds., Apr. 22 - 7:30 PM
 Weds., Apr. 29 - 7:30 PM

***TBA - Bells of Grace
Rehearsals in April**



BECAUSE WE CARE

Heartland Residential: Mary Jo Rogers
 John Flynn
 Ellen Sagar: Bernard Bishop
 Summit Hills, Sptbg.: Elwood Eason
 White Oak, Sptbg.: Dr. Bob Kincheloe
 Home: Ruth Roof
 Inverness, Sptbg: Hazel Howell
 Cumberland Village, Aiken: Carolyn and Johnny
 Turner



Grace's Lawn Easter Cross

Don't Forget!! On Easter Sunday, April 12th, remember to bring cut flowers and greenery for our beautiful flower cross that will be on the front lawn. We want Grace's Easter cross to be as beautiful as last year's (pictured) was.



MCF/Sonshiners meet on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. The children enjoy a snack supper, hand bells led by Sally Summers, wonderful lessons taught by awesome disciple makers, and recreation. On Palm Sunday, April 5th, our MCF/Sonshiners will enter the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service waving palm branches and will place them on the altar. They will ring their hand bells to "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" during the service. On both April 5th and April 12th there will be no afternoon meetings. Our next meeting will be on April 19th. Children's Fun Day will be held at Buffalo UMC on April 26th from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. Our MCF/Sonshiners plan to attend and will enjoy music, crafts, games, a lesson, and pizza. A fun trip to Big Air Trampoline Park in Spartanburg is planned for early May. Please encourage all children from 4K - 5th grade to join us each week and for these two events!

April Schedule:

April 5, 11:00 AM - Palm Sunday procession waving palm fronds. Hand bells perform. No afternoon meeting.

April 12 - No afternoon meeting (Easter).

April 19, 5:00 PM - Regular afternoon meeting .

April 26, 2:45 PM - Bus ride to Children's Fun Day at Buffalo UMC. Return just after 5:00 pm.



Graduate Sunday, May 24, 2020

Some of Grace's High School and College Masterpieces will be graduating this year. If you have a high school, college, or post-degree student graduating, please let Karen Hibbard or Sheryl Price know as soon as possible. Plans are to recognize these graduates during the worship service on May 24th (note date change) and a wonderful luncheon for the graduates and their families will be held after the service.



THE SON

Author Unknown

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Viet Nam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art."

The young man held out his package.

"I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this."

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the portrait.

"Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected. The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son.

The auctioneer pounded his gavel. "We will start the bidding with this portrait of the son. Who will bid for this painting?" There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted. "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one." But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?" Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!" But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford. "We have \$10, who will bid \$20?" "Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters." "\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the painting of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections. The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!" A man sitting on the second row shouted. "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel.

"I'm sorry, the auction is over. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings. The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave his son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is, "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"



2020
Salkehatchie
 SUMMER SERVICE

The Union Salkehatchie Camp week on June 20 – 27, 2020, has been cancelled, as has the entire Salkehatchie Summer Service Program for this summer.



BOARD of TRUSTEES



6:00 PM Wednesday
April 8, 2020

6:00 PM Wednesday
April 15, 2020



Help Pastor David
to Serve
You and Yours



Please inform the church office (427-1266) or Pastor David (803-480-2153) of any death, illness, or event that touches any family member or friend of our Grace members. We want to be in service to you and provide care and comfort.

APRIL



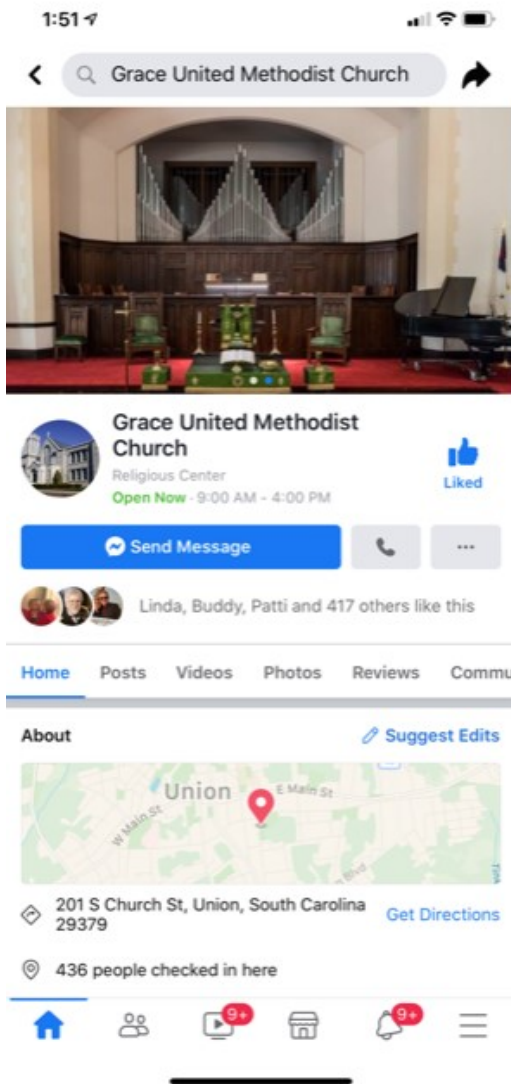
- 2 Frances Kelly
- 4 Blake Berry
- 9 Mike Ham, Jacob McGee, Bruce Parker
- 10 Donna Long, Doug Rinaca
- 11 Mary Katherine James
- 14 Glenn Hibbard
- 15 Harrison Kelly
- 16 Harriett Cohen, Joshua Ham, Kameron Zimmerman
- 17 Joe Lawson
- 20 Harry Parlier
- 21 Gene Childers, Jacob Robbins
- 22 Brooke Valentine, Jacob Gault
- 23 John Simmons Fallaw
- 25 Linda Cassels
- 28 Virginia Blackmon
- 29 Fran Love
- 30 Sheryl Price, Amy Bruce

A Birthday Wish For You

*As you walk your birthday road this day
 May each moment be blessed with
 the brightness of His glory, the goodness of His love,
 the beauty of His peace, and the presence of His hope.
 May you walk in Faith and Believe all
 these great gifts from Him will shine forth in your day.*



Did You Know?...Grace Has A Facebook Page



Dear Church Family,

Social Media has become the number one way to get information out about our church happenings to the most number of people.. If you are a Facebook user, we need your help in spreading Grace's good news! Here's how you can help....

Go to your Facebook page and search for the page for **Grace United Methodist Church Union SC.**

When you find our page, click "LIKE" so you will start to receive messages posted to our site.

When you see information of interest to others, please "like" and "share" to your friends.

It's that easy! The word will spread community-wide!

As a church, it's important to share our "story" with others. By sharing pictures, videos, information, etc. we create a picture of what Grace Church is all about. When an event is happening that you believe is worthy of sharing, please **take a picture/short video clip or write a short message** and send it to Dale Goff in one of two ways:

- Text the pic/video or short message to Dale Goff at 864-426-2037 or E-mail the pic/video or short message to goffd@bellsouth.net.
- Our church family and community only knows our good news if we share it, so thank you in advance for helping with this communication effort! We want everyone to know that GRACE IS AMAZING!

Together in Christ,

Dale Goff



Newsletter News

I hope you enjoy the newsletter as much as I do creating it! But, you know, it takes help from all directions to make it possible! So, please, keep on sending in your information about what is happenin' at and around

Grace so everyone will know just how Amazing Grace Is! And, keep reading the newsletter for all that great Grace information! If you take pictures of activities, those are welcome also. **Deadline for the May Grace Messenger will be Wednesday, April 15.**

Grace Church Family

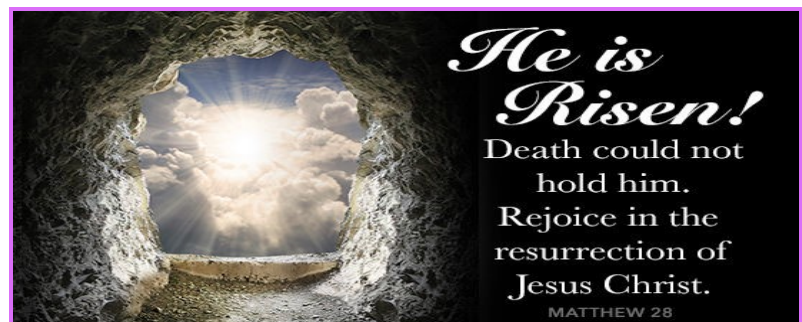
Thank you so much for all of your prayers, cards, calls, texts, emails, food, and memorials since my mother, Jane Hutton Sims Bishop, passed away on Wednesday, March 18th at Ellen Sagar Nursing Center. This has been a very difficult time for my family and me, especially since we cannot visit my 90 year old father in the nursing home because of the current health crisis! We appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this time, and we take great comfort in knowing that we will always have the special family memories of my mother. I pray that we will all be able to worship together again soon!

Tommy Bishop



VBS 2020

VBS 2020 planned for August at Narroway Productions has been placed on hold until Karen Hibbard and Margie Ruff are able to reschedule if the current situation subsides early enough. They will keep the parents of all our 4k - 5th graders informed.





Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church

Bishop L. Jonathan Holston's Released Statement Regarding the Coronavirus Outbreak

"What I am doing for the upcoming COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic"

When I was a professor of pathology at the University of California San Diego, I was one of the first molecular virologists in the world to work on coronaviruses (the 1970s). I was the first to demonstrate the number of genes the virus contained. Since then, I have kept up with the coronavirus field and its multiple clinical transfers into the human population (e.g., SARS, MERS), from different animal sources. The current projections for its expansion in the US are only probable, due to continued insufficient worldwide data, but it is most likely to be widespread in the US by mid to late March and April.

Here is what I have done and the precautions that I take and will take. These are the same precautions I currently use during our influenza seasons, except for the mask and gloves.:

- 1) **NO HANDSHAKING!** Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc.
- 2) **Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches**, elevator buttons, etc., lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.
- 3) **Open doors with your closed fist or hip** - do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on bathroom and post office/commercial doors.
- 4) **Use disinfectant wipes at the stores** when they are available, including wiping the handle and child seat in grocery carts.
- 5) **Wash your hands with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer** whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.
- 6) **Keep a bottle of sanitizer available at each of your home's entrances.** AND in your car for use after getting gas or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands.
- 7) If possible, **cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard.** *Use your elbow only if you have to.* The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for up to a week or more!

What I have stocked in preparation for the pandemic spread to the US:

- 1) **Latex or nitrile latex disposable gloves** for use when going shopping, using the gasoline pump, and all other outside activities when you come in contact with contaminated areas.

Note: This virus is spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing. This means that the air will not infect you! BUT all the surfaces where these droplets land are infectious for about a week on average - everything that is associated with infected people will be contaminated and potentially infectious. The virus is on surfaces and you will not be infected unless your unprotected face is directly coughed or sneezed upon. This virus only has cell receptors for lung cells (it only infects your lungs) The only way for the virus to infect you is through your nose or mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneeze onto or into your nose or mouth.

- 2) Stock up now with **disposable surgical masks** and use them to prevent you from touching your nose and/or mouth (We touch our nose/mouth 90X/day without knowing it!). This is the only way this virus can infect you - it is lung-specific. The mask will not prevent the virus in a direct sneeze from getting into your nose or mouth - it is only to keep you from touching your nose or mouth.

- 3) Stock up now with **hand sanitizers** and **latex/nitrile gloves** (get the appropriate sizes for your family). The hand sanitizers must be alcohol-based and greater than 60% alcohol to be effective.

- 4) **Stock up now with zinc lozenges.** These lozenges have been proven to be effective in blocking coronavirus (and most other viruses) from multiplying in your throat and nasopharynx. Use as directed several times each day when you begin to feel ANY "cold-like" symptoms beginning. It is best to lie down and let the lozenge dissolve in the back of your throat and nasopharynx. Cold-Eeze lozenges is one brand available, but there are other brands available.

I, as many others do, hope that this pandemic will be reasonably contained, BUT I personally do not think it will be. Humans have never seen this snake-associated virus before and have no internal defense against it. Tremendous worldwide efforts are being made to understand the molecular and clinical virology of this virus. Unbelievable molecular knowledge about the genomics, structure, and virulence of this virus has already been achieved. BUT, there will be NO drugs or vaccines available this year to protect us or limit the infection within us. Only symptomatic support is available. I hope these personal thoughts will be helpful during this potentially catastrophic pandemic. You are welcome to share this email.



The Possibility of Cancellations Could Continue into April

We are in the midst of unprecedented times. The changes may continue to affect us further into the year than originally planned. With that in mind, any items currently scheduled for April, such as events, church activities, worship services, etc., may be cancelled due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Pastor David and the church staff, will continue to update everyone as needed. If any cancellations become necessary, we will immediately notify you, our Grace family. Our concerns are for the well-being of our members and the community. We want everyone to stay safe and well. The church office may even have to remain closed if the pandemic continues to spread, causing us to continue working from home. Even though the future might seem uncertain, one thing is for sure, "we are not afraid for God is with us."

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 15:13

WomansDay

I am with you
and will watch over you
wherever you go.

Genesis 28:15

"Let not your heart be troubled" John 14:1



EASTER
Has not been
Cancelled!
JESUS is alive!



Tithes and offerings

Stewardship Report 2020

During this unprecedented time, please continue to send in your tithes by mail or online. Thank you.

Offering Report as of:	March 29, 2020
2020 Budget:	\$ 379,325.00
Needed for 2020 Budget YTD:	\$ TBA
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$ 7,294.71

Please put Grace as a priority in your financial planning. Our combined gifts keep the Church's mission alive and growing. Thank you so much!!

Sincerely, Pastor David



Tabernacle Baptist Church Presents "The Witness"

...an unforgettable Easter Drama!

***Please note date changes from March Newsletter:**

Thursday, April 23 - 7 pm

Friday, April 24 - 7 pm

Saturday, April 25 - 6 pm

Family Life Center

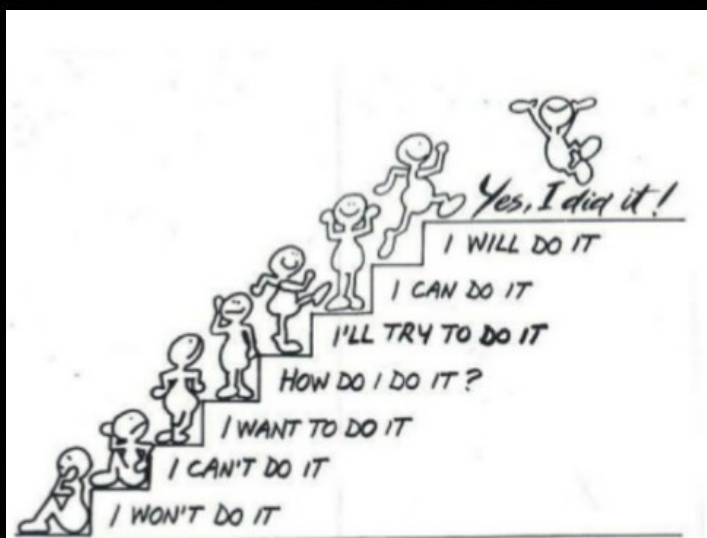
Free Admission

A Love Offering will be received.



Celebrate The True Meaning of the Easter Season

Beneath a beautiful Jerusalem background, over 80 singers, actors, and dancers in authentic biblical costume, enhanced by a fully orchestral soundtrack, professional lighting and sound, bring to life the greatest story ever told as seen through the eyes of Peter the Apostle.



Which Step Have You Reached Today?

BREATHE IN FORGIVENESS

Breathe out grudges

BREATHE IN PEACE

Breathe out conflict

BREATHE IN LOVE

Breathe out hate

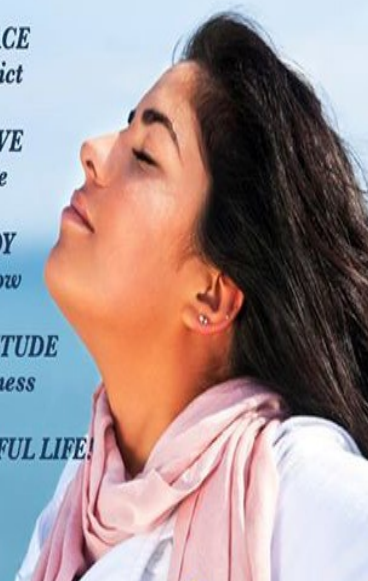
BREATHE IN JOY

Breathe out sorrow

BREATHE IN GRATITUDE

Breathe out bitterness

BREATHE IN A BEAUTIFUL LIFE!





Grace United Methodist Church
201 S. Church Street
Union, South Carolina 29379



Easter Word Search



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

BUNNY
DUCKLINGS
BONNET
BASKET
CHICKS



DAFFODILS
EASTEREGG
HYACINTH
SPRING
EGGS



LAMBS
IRIS
JELLYBEANS
RABBIT
CHOCOLATE



myunentitledlife.com

An Easter Prayer



God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -

And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power -

And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,

And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words

Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair

"Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care."

Author: Helen Steiner Rice

