



THE GRACE MESSENGER



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 2021

Easter Life, Faith & the Resurrection

As certain as the Sunday morning when the tomb was empty, there will be a day when God dwells with His people in a place without even the faintest hint of sin. Thank goodness we will rest in Him forever. But until then, those with resurrection life can persevere in giving, celebrating, and serving because we know we are part of a greater story. We continue, even when there does not seem to be momentum or fruit, because we have joined the resurrection now. We remember that Jesus has been raised as a preview of the life to come. This is the gift of the world-renewing resurrection!

When we are standing on the other side of the river, we know that resurrection life is worth believing in. We sense power in the mundane... ..a creative, life-changing power that resonates the closer we get to others. It motivates us to serve others for the flourishing of humanity, but at the center is a Person. We are now drawn into a relationship with the most powerful, beautiful, creative Person in the universe... ..the risen Christ. The beloved disciple describes Him: *"And in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. The hairs of His head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength."* (Rev. 1:13-16)

The resurrection is like a river that seems impossible to cross when we first come to the riverbank. We can see the other side and it looks good, but we are not sure how to get there. Even though we just cannot see at that point... ..the truth is that God always provides a way. Who knows, there might be a ferry, subtly hidden off to the side. When we cannot see the way or a way, what do we do, turn around and walk away? Or do we "look" for a way. Will we take the ferry of faith across the river of doubt? Will we redirect our faith to the radiant Jesus? As we do, we are transported to the other side, through no doing of our own, but right into the resurrection. Jesus carries us there, where we begin to experience the benefits of the resurrected life right away. By faithfulness we keep stepping forward and we are amazed at what we have been given... ..a new authority (*a gracious King*), a new identity (*truly human*), and a new purpose (*joining God in the renewal of all things*).

My friends, by faith, Jesus' death and resurrection can become our death and resurrection, releasing us to live a truly human life. Best of all, when we turn away from trusting our unreliable selves to turn to the reliable, resurrected Christ, we gain intimacy with the most beautiful, powerful, creative, and gracious Person the world will ever know.

My goodness, how much better life is with Jesus! But it is not simply better, it is the absolutely best and greatest gift we can ever receive! Jesus offers deeper joy, more profound meaning, and true purpose. There is no question that life with Jesus is truer. He is the One for whom we were made. This Easter, as we join Jesus, we join the Person who changes everything, even us. *Praying you have the Happiest Easter ever... ..Pastor David.*





BECAUSE WE CARE

Ellen Sagar: Bernard Bishop
Summit Hills, Sptbg.: Elwood Eason
Home: James and Ruth Roof
Inverness, Sptbg.: Hazel Howell
Cumberland Village,
Aiken: Carolyn and Johnny Turner
Amy Bruce: P. O. Box 15, Fingerville, SC 29338
Ola Jean Kelly: Martha Franks Retirement Home,
1 Martha Franks Drive, Laurens, SC 29360



NO
Chancel Choir
or
Bells of Grace



Neither the Chancel Choir or The Bells of Grace will have rehearsals during the month of April.

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.

Watch Your Flowers and Don't Forget!

We are back to in-house worship, so make sure you keep an eye on all those beautiful flowers in your yard. On Easter Sunday, April 4th, you can bring your cut flowers and greenery to decorate our Living Cross that will be on the front lawn. There will be some volunteers to help you decorate the cross or you may do so yourself. Last year's tree was beautiful, as you can see. Thank You so much for making our Easter Cross special!!



UMW Circle Meetings

Johnnie Sanders Circle
Circle of Hope
Lucy Lee Shuler Circle

There will be **NO** circle meetings during April.
Please remember to make your pledge and contributions. MAIL to: Fran Love



Young At Hearts Luncheons at Andys will **NOT** return until deemed safe enough to join together in fellowship.

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

**Covered
Dish
Supper**



There will be **NO** April Family Night Supper due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. You may still gather at home on the fourth Wednesday and say a brief prayer for our church, its members, and our once again rejoining in fellowship.

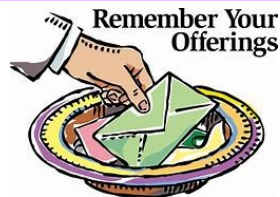
Administrative Professionals Day



APRIL 21, 2021

Administrative Assistants Day is Wednesday, April 21, 2021. 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.





Stewardship Report as of March 28, 2021

Offering Report as of:	March 28, 2021
2021 Budget:	\$ 379,036.00
Needed for 2021 Budget YTD:	\$ 94,759.00
Budget Rec'd YTD:	\$ 68,807.05
Surplus/Deficit YTD:	\$ -25,951.95
Weekly Offering Needed:	\$ 7,289.15

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



There are two other ways to continue tithing during this time: mail to the church or use Vanco (Grace UMC QR Code for online giving on left)



2021
Salkehatchie
SUMMER SERVICE

The Union Salkehatchie Camp usually during a week in June of 2021 has been cancelled for the second year in a row and so has the entire Salkehatchie Summer Service Program for this summer.



"He follows your 'tweets.' That's how God always knows what you're doing."

WE'RE BACK...
AGAIN!

Karen, Pat, and Sheryl
are now back at work
IN THE OFFICE!

Need anything, come
by or give us a call.



Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm



Grace Re-Opens for Worship Services

Grace's Church Council met via Zoom on Tuesday evening, March 16th, to discuss re-opening for worship. The latest reports regarding Union County and the virus are very good at this time and it was felt that with the decline and the vaccine, we would be in a position to re-open safely for worship in the sanctuary. The guidelines will still be in effect: wear a mask, social distancing, use hand sanitizer, and being mindful of everyone wanting to stay safe. We ask that you stop at the entrance to sign in and let the ushers seat you. We also ask that you refrain from getting up and going to speak to others. Although the virus has shown a decline in Union, that does not mean it is gone, and we still need to be careful. Not everyone has had the vaccine yet. We all pray that this is the last time we close our doors. It has been a long and difficult year, with the small Fall break, but we remain hopeful most of the stress and worry is behind us.

Therefore, we re-opened our doors for the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 21st, at 10:30 am. And, starting Wednesday, March 24th, for the Lenten Service we are back in the sanctuary. The service will still be available LIVE via Facebook at 11:00 am and later on YouTube and Grace's website. All other events, meetings, etc. are still on hold until a later date.

Grace has experienced much in the last 12 months, ups and downs, but one thing that has been noticed is that our members, committees, staff, and Pastor David have been striving to keep Grace connected. We will be so glad to see y'all again on Sundays. We all have been praying for this to happen. We hope you plan to come and join us in a meaningful service and find what's been missing for so long...worshipping under one roof together.

The Empty Egg



The Lesson of Easter from an Unlikely Child

A True Story by Ida Mae Kempel

Jeremy was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His [teacher](#), Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool, and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy just irritated his [teacher](#).

One day she called his [parents](#) and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Forresters entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special [school](#). It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue, while her [husband](#) spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read and write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family, she thought. [Lord](#), please help me to be more patient with Jeremy. From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him.

"I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The other students snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically – all except for Jeremy. He listened intently; his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' [death](#) and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My daddy helped me," he beamed.

Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up."

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away.

Three months later, Jeremy [died](#). Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.



**A Candid
Moment**

GOTCHA!!



FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE

The Grace Messenger is attempting to bring you as much information as possible each month. That means I really could use your help. You can help by responding to requests, by giving us any kind of suggestions, or by letting us know if you or your family is involved in something the church would enjoy hearing about. As always, we are deeply appreciative of any newsletter submissions, because it takes all of us working together to have the best possible newsletter.

REMEMBER: Send in your admissions by the middle of the month!

**Deadline for the May 2021
Grace Messenger will be
May 19th.**



For I know that
my redeemer
liveth, and that
he shall stand
at the latter
day upon
the earth:

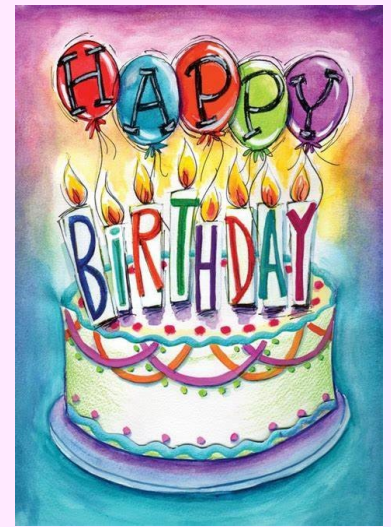


Job 19:25 KJV



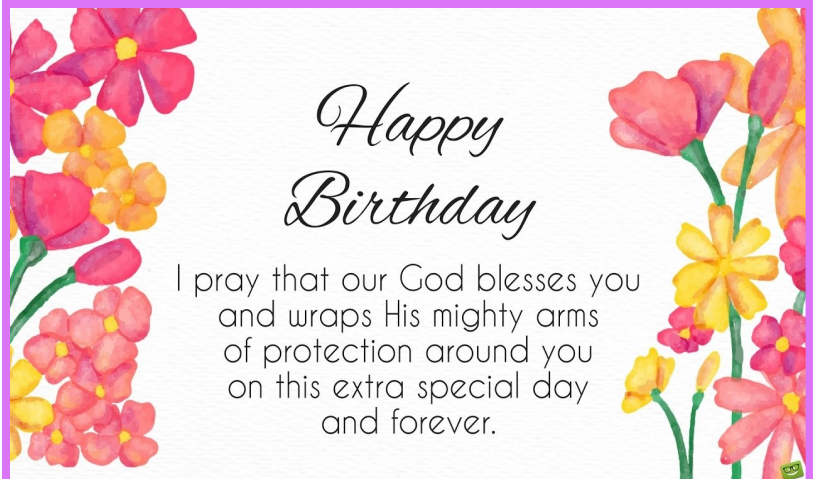
APRIL

- 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



*Happy
Birthday*

I pray that our God blesses you
and wraps His mighty arms
of protection around you
on this extra special day
and forever.



**We're All Here
Because We're Not All There!**



Bee on the Lookout!



I'm Lookin'... For More!



Sweet



Well, Lookie Here!

It's Joey Nichols at work at the corner of S. Church and E. Main Streets as they replace a sidewalk.

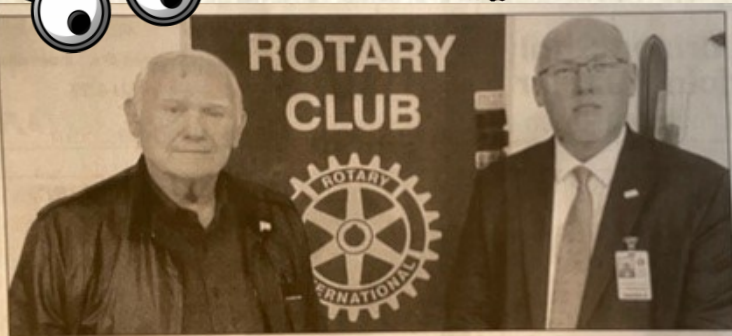
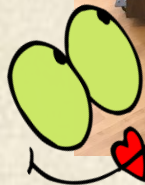
March 18, 2021



Kip Gardner and Pastor David are all happy smiles to see each other again!!

You can tell Pastor David is all smiles as he holds Kip and says "Finally"!!

Sunday Worship Service, March 21, 2021



NEW ROTARY MEMBER - Union County Schools Superintendent Joey Haney (right) was inducted as a new member of the Union Rotary Club. He was sponsored by Frank M. Hart. (Annie Smith photo)

Frank Hart sponsored Joey Haney as he became a new Rotary Club member.

March 16, 2021
Union County News



Sims Middle School Hat Day raised a donation in honor of Tommy Sinclair who was a former principal of then Sims Jr. High. The donations will be given to the Miracle League which Tommy loved helping. Pictured from Grace are: Maggie Berry, Kathie Sinclair, Jennifer McGee, Becca Morrow, and Paul Wilkes.

Union County News

March 23, 2021



DONATION HONORS SINCLAIR - Sims Middle School held a hat day to raise a donation in honor of Tommy Sinclair, former principal of what was Sims Jr. High at the time. Donations will be given to the Miracle League of Union County. Pictured are some of the Sims faculty members who had a connection to Mr. Sinclair during his time with Union County Schools. Front row: Amy Pittman, Kayla Sue Barber, Maggie Berry, Kathie Sinclair, Jennifer McGee, Becca Morrow, Kelly Sanders. Back row: Melissa Gregory, Kelly Jenkins, Tommy Petty, Kay Wright, Ruth Hill, Paul Wilkes.



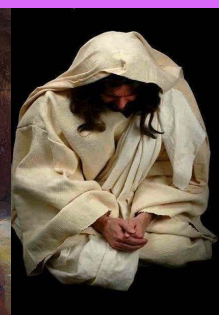
BE NOT AFFRIGHTED: YE SEEK JESUS OF NAZARETH, WHICH WAS CRUCIFIED: HE IS RISEN: HE IS NOT HERE

MARK 16:6



Hallelujah...

Hallelujah!!



I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. AMEN.

Matthew 28:20

Festival of Wisdom and Grace

A CONFERENCE FOR FINDING PURPOSE AND RENEWAL IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

August 2-5, 2021

Theme: Living Abundantly in the Second Half of Life

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. – John 10:10

About the Conference

Worship | Workshops | Recreation | Entertainment | Learning

How do we flourish as we age? How do we navigate transitions, live into our talents and passions, cultivate our relationship with Christ, engage topics that matter with courage and conviction, and care for our loved ones struggling with memory loss? In this conference, we'll hear world-class speakers and leaders address these topics and more as we seek to live abundantly in the second half of life.

Find Out More: Check with Grace's church office for copies of forms

[REGISTRATION FORM \(.pdf\)](#)

[LODGING & MEALS PACKAGE](#)

[DIRECTIONS](#)

[SCHEDULE](#)

[LEADERSHIP](#)

[WORKSHOPS & OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES](#)

REGISTRATION, LODGING AND MEALS QUESTIONS

reservations@lakejunaluska.com

800-222-4930

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

Tammy McDowell, Assistant Director of Programming

tmcdowell@lakejunaluska.com

[828-454-6681](tel:828-454-6681)

[https://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual enrichment/
wisdom and grace/](https://www.lakejunaluska.com/events/spiritual%20enrichment/wisdom%20and%20grace/)



Doris Seals

Connectional Ministries

4908 Colonial Drive

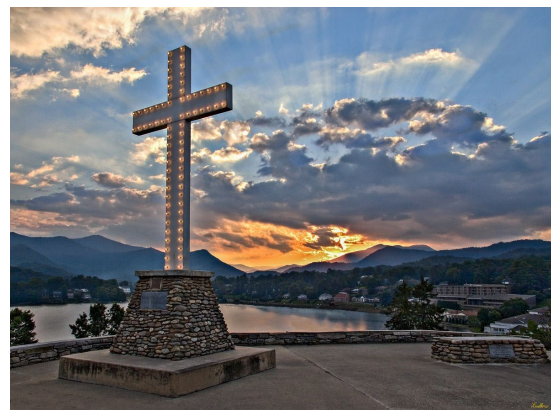
Columbia, SC 29203

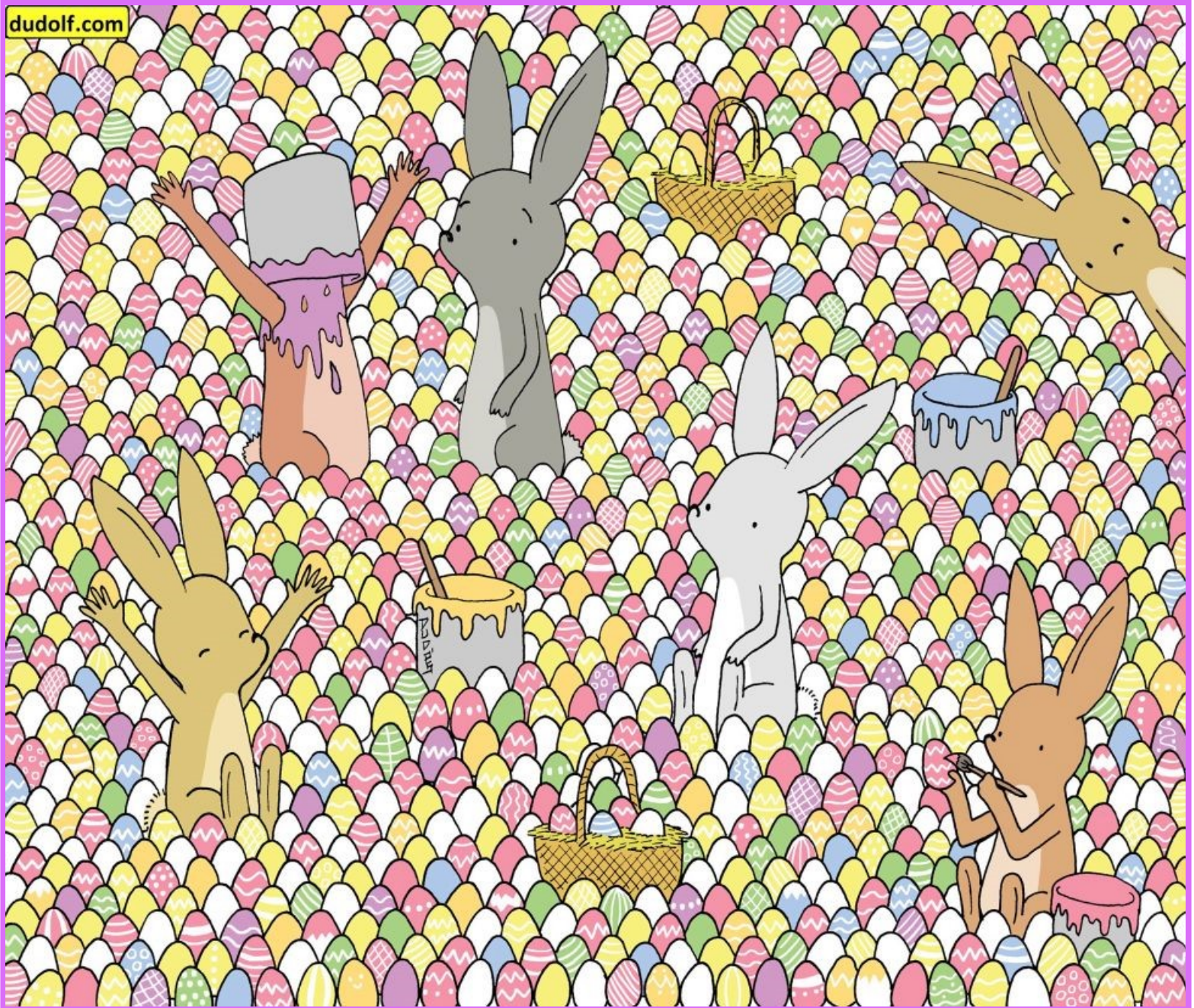
dseals@umcsc.org

803-726-6735 / 786-9486

Fax 803-399-9956

www.umcsc.org





How long will it take you to find the heart decorated egg?



Christian Education/Graduate Sunday Sunday, May 16, 2021

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, we will celebrate a belated Christian Education Day. During our 11:00 am in-person worship service in the Sanctuary, we will honor our Sunday School, Children's Church, MCF/Sonshiners, and Youth teachers, and our Choirmaster.

Although the Pandemic forced the closure of our church activities, we truly appreciate your being disciple-makers for our Christian Education Program at Grace Church. Your dedication is awesome! Our third and sixth graders will also be recognized and presented Bibles by Pastor David. The third and sixth graders receiving Bibles are Gage Love, Quinton Wilkes, Bayla Morrow, and Ben Balkum.

We will also observe Graduate Sunday on May 16, 2021. We plan to honor one Union County High School graduate, Alexa Robbins. Three college graduates include Abbie Valentine, Charlie Long, and Caroline Moss. Also, Blake Berry will graduate with a Master's degree. These proud graduates will receive Bibles or devotional books during our worship service on May 16. We hope to see everyone there!

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please call the church office or Karen Hibbard (864-426-1655) as soon as possible. We don't want to miss anyone!

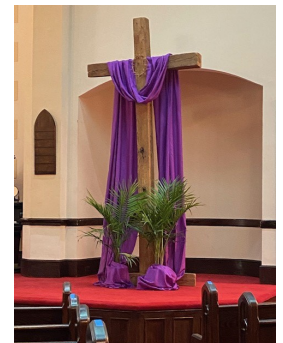


Grace's New Parsonage
213 Glendale Road, Union, SC, 29379



March 8, 2021 – a date that started a new page in history for Grace United Methodist Church. On this date a new parsonage was purchased from Shep Whitener. Our prayer is that our new parsonage will be used for the next 143 years as ministry progresses, lives are changed, and the people called Methodist live out their faith. The Trustees and Church Council have worked hard to make this a reality. We especially thank Mr. Tommy Sherbert for the countless hours he gave in this long and arduous process. After many church meetings and District meetings the process was completed and now renovations are in progress. The house, built in 1968, is a 3 bedroom, 2 ½ bath brick ranch home. The renovations will enlarge the kitchen and the family room and turn the current living room into a nice dining room. There are new appliances, flooring, ceilings, and some walls to complete this transition. You are invited to go by 213 Glendale Road, look at the new parsonage, and the renovation progress being made by Kendall Austin. We are very excited about the new parsonage and know our future parsonage families will have a great home to enjoy.

After one year and two weeks out of the sanctuary, we are finally back!! It was wonderful to be back in worship within our beautiful sanctuary in time for Palm Sunday!! We had 52 members who attended and, although the pews looked a little empty due to social distancing, we were all HAPPY! HAPPY! HAPPY! to be back! ***HALLELUJAH!!***



Miss Barbara and Dedication of USC-U Nursing School Building

Barbara Rippy says she and her late husband, Bobby, were blessed to serve so many people when they owned and operated Smith's Drug Store on Main Street.

Because of her contributions to the nursing program, USC Union named the Science and Nursing Building The Rippy Building. A dedication ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021.

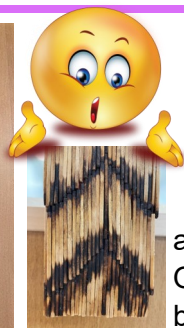
"We believed in enriching the lives of others and making Union a better place to live," she said.

"I'm absolutely certain he would be very proud of our association with the University of South Carolina

Union, in particular, it's nursing program." Excerpt from The Union County News March 30, 2021

*Miss Barbara, We **Love** you for everything you do for Union and the Community! You have such a kind and generous soul. Thank you!

No act of kindness,
no matter how small,
is ever wasted.
- Aesop



MATCHSTICK CROSSES: These beautiful handmade crosses adorn the Pastor's Office door, the Church Office door, and the Conference/ Classroom door. They have been made entirely out of matchsticks and their boxes. These mysteriously appeared upon the doors on Sunday, March 21st. Questions were asked and speculations were made, but we had no answers until we asked Pastor David. Guess what! He made them, each a wonderful reflection of who he is. The time and care he took to make these three... unbelievable! Pastor David, you are awesome!

Grace is Adorned With Crosses

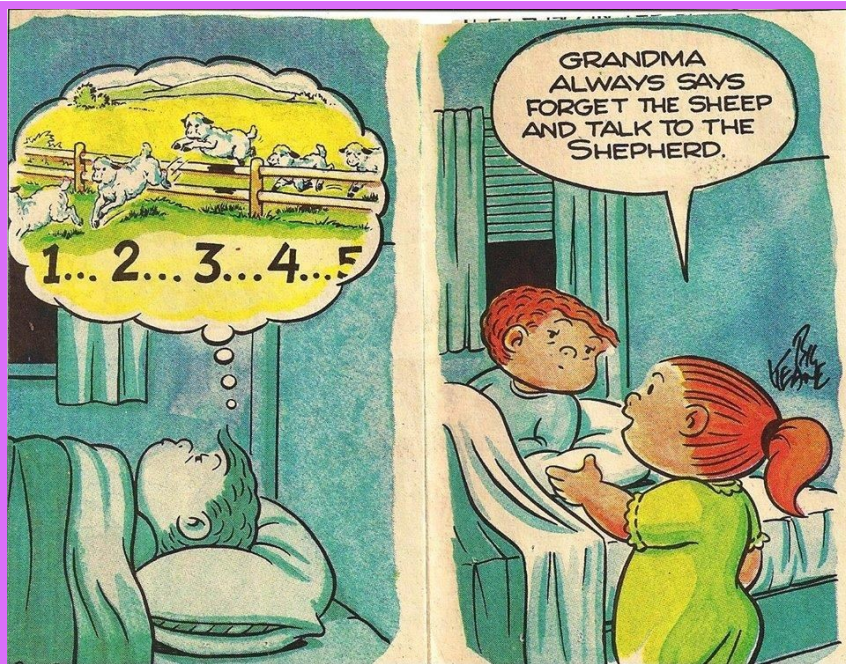


MOSS AND GRAPVINE CROSSES: Our church doors seemed lonely and unadorned, so Pat and Allen Owens made these two crosses out of wire, grapevine sticks, and moss. Pat then embellished them with a beautiful bow and colorful flowers. Have you been by to see them? They are absolutely beautiful and a special addition at Easter Time by fellow members who personify their faith in such a wonderful way. How thankful we are to have such crafty members and Pastor. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!





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



Easter Wordsearch Puzzle

See if you can find all the Easter words in this wordsearch!
The words may be forwards, backwards and diagonal.

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

Basket
Bunny
Celebration
Chicks
Chocolate

Church
Cotton tails
Craft
Daffodil
Easter

Eggs
Flowers
Hot cross buns
Hunt
Parade

Rabbit
Resurrection
Spring
Sunday
Yellow